

CHURCH JUST SOUTH OF
NEW HILL, WARECO, NC

Visited by RDU 19 NOV 1978
This is a Colored Church
No US found.

A man in the yard said it
operates on the 4th Sunday.

- By Robert P. Yehuda

APEX, WAKE CO, NC NEW HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

☉ The Apex Herald WED 4 DEC 1996 Apex, NC

NEW HILL BAPTIST CHURCH—Old U.S. 1, New Hill. Located in the New Hill Historic Dis-

trict, this frame Gothic Revival-style church was built in 1888, on what was then a stagecoach road. The church seats 200. An annex was added in 1924, and an education wing built in 1971.

NEW HILL, WAKE CO, NC

○ The Apex Herald WED 22 NOV 1995 APEX, NC

Visit historic structures in Apex

Plans set for annual Christmas tour

By MARK TODD
Herald Editor

The Apex Historical Society has made plans for its ninth annual Christmas Homes Tour, which will be presented Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1 to 5 p.m.

This year's tour will feature five local turn-of-the-century homes and one church. Tour visitors will be able to tour these structures and enjoy the Christmas decorations in historic settings, as well as gain a greater appreciation and knowledge of the heritage of historic Apex.

Tickets, \$5 each, will be sold on the day of the tour at Victorian Seasons, 221 N. Salem St., where a cider and cookie reception will be held during tour hours. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Victorian Seasons and the Apex Chamber of Commerce.

One of the featured homes is the Aley Lawrence Home, Old U.S. 1, New Hill.

The home can be seen where the old highway rounds a curve south and westward.

Built around 1915 by Aley Lawrence and his wife Carra, the one story house sat on 80 acres of farmland, and was complete with pyramidal-shaped hip roof, three chimneys, multiple gables and a wrap-around porch.

Their grandson, Hal Lawrence, who now owns the house, has

Featured in the book, Historic Architecture of Wake County, this beautifully restored home reflects the interests and talents as well as the history of Hal Lawrence and his family.

Also on the tour is the Apex United Methodist Church, 100 S. Hughes St.

The church building is a Gothic-styled wooden structure built in 1917 on property deeded by Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Cunningham.

When originally completed, the restored most of it to mint condition.

The current owner has filled his home with many antiques and collectibles. In particular are an old restored church organ, a wooden postmaker mail sorting desk from the local post office, beautiful chandeliers, handwoven baskets and old ceramic jugs.

Visitors will enjoy the beauty of the original garden shed, smokehouse and tobacco barn that remain standing on the property.

The sanctuary contained three large memorial stained glass windows. Over the years, additional stained glass windows have been added as memorials by church members.

Inside are two silver communion cups and a pump organ that were used at the earlier site of the Methodist church on Saunders Street where the old Methodist cemetery

is still located, as well as at the current site.

The pump organ has recently been restored and was played as recently as this past April.

In recent years the 1917 sanctuary has undergone expansion and extensive renovations to accommodate a growing congregation. Particular care has been taken to preserve the original character of the church building, while providing the necessary space and comfort demanded by present-day church functions.

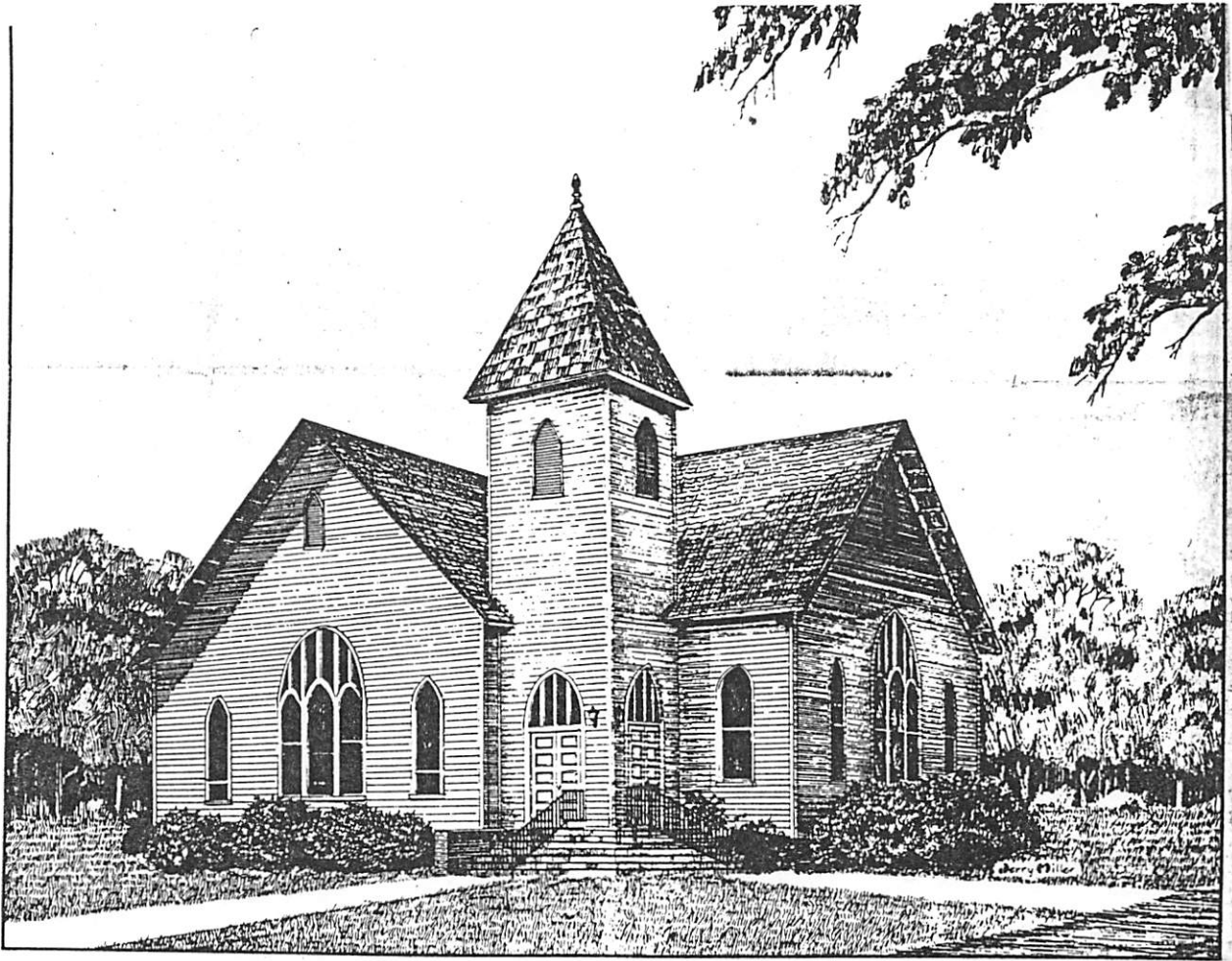
For more information on the tour, call Pat Shankle at 362-1072 or Mary Bondos at 261-5066.

I. ALEY LAWRENCE
A. — — LAWRENCE
I. HAL LAWRENCE

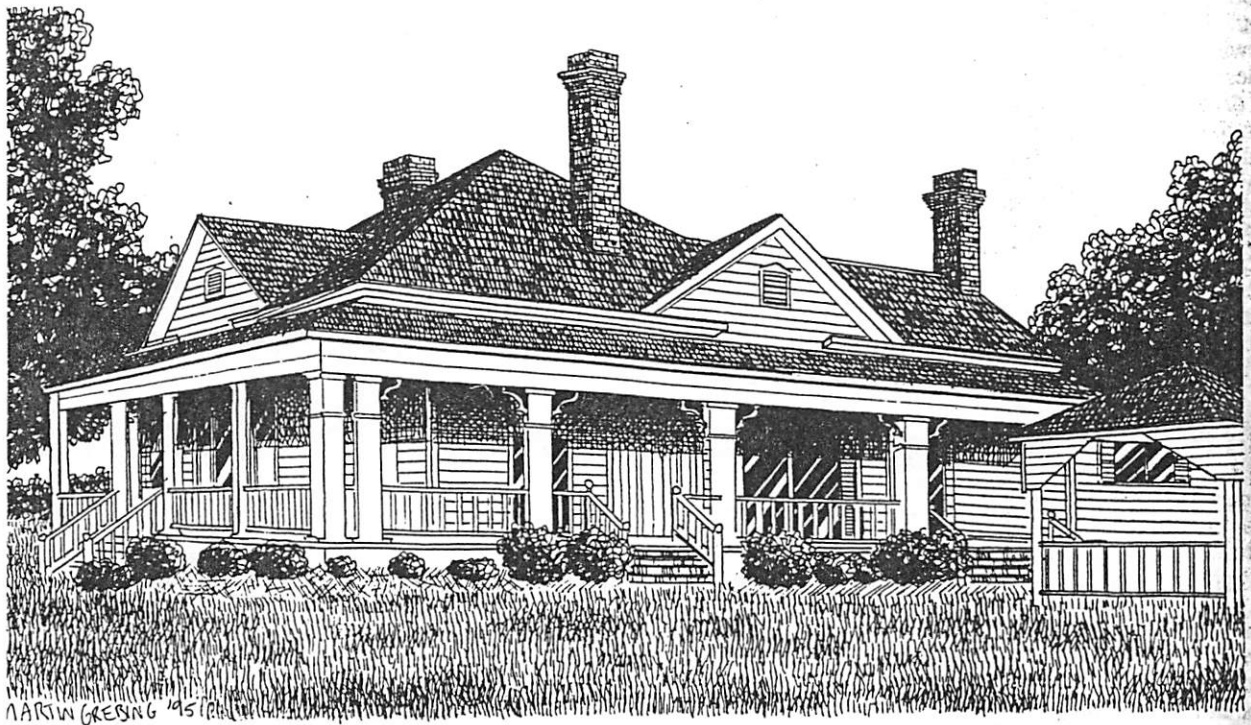
NEW HILL, WAKE CO, NC ↑

J. R. CUNNINGHAM

APEX, WAKE CO, NC



Apex Methodist Church will be visited during the Christmas homes tour. (Drawing courtesy James Miller)



Return to the past

The Aley Lawrence house, built in 1915, will be featured on the Apex Historical Society tour Dec. 3.

Western Wake Herald WED MARCH 1988 Apex, NC

Town sported mayor, but no saloon

By Carl Holleman,
Special to the Western Wake
Herald

For a decade early in this century the village of New Hill is known to have had a mayor who doubled as a judge, a board of commissioners, town limits, a constable, but no saloon.

New Hill prospered at its present location after the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad started moving freight and passengers past Lashley's Crossroads in 1869. Then known as the Chatham Railroad, the road bed was constructed before the Civil War; however, since iron was needed for the war effort the tracks were not laid until later.

The coming of the railroad to Lashley's and the relocation of the New Hill Post Office to the crossroads area made it a promising center for commerce. The crossroads was an intersection of two major highways: one being the Fayetteville-Hillsborough Road and the other the Raleigh-Haywood Road which incidental-



J. B. Ragan

ly was paralleled by the construction of the railroad.

For miles around, the community had become populated with rural folk owning small to medium size farms. Several businesses were established and families began moving in to be near the railroad. In March 1907, the Town of New Hill was incorporated by act of the legislature. The town limits embraced a defined area 1-½ miles long running with the railroad and one mile wide, the center of the Fayetteville Road crossing serving as the geographical center of the town.

Included in the new town limits were all of the village of Lashley's or Lashley's Crossroads, the railroad station house, both the Baptist and Christian churches and several stores and other businesses including possibly a planer mill and a turpentine distillery. Town officials named by the act of incorporation were T.L. Gardner, Mayor, and C.J. Bright, D.D. Lashley, W.C. Bright and C.C. Olive, Commissioners. In keeping with the times the charter

declared it unlawful to manufacture or sell any "spirituous, vinous, malt or intoxicating liquor in the town."

By 1914 the population had grown from 95 in 1910 to an estimated 200, according to North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, which also lists four stores, two hotels or boarding houses and a school taught by Stella and Will Johnson. J.B. Ragan, the postmaster, served as mayor for a number of years before the town fathers elected to have the corporate charter repealed in 1917. His modest one story frame building located in the south-west quadrant of the railroad crossing housed the post office, his general store, his undertaker business and the town office where the commissioners' meetings were held as well as sessions of the Mayor's court.

WAKE CO, NC - NEW HILL
Western Wake Herald WED 23 OCT 1991 Apex, NC



Approach to New Hill from Bonsal provides a scenic vista; Troy's Tearoom sign is holdover from "motoring days."

By STUART WELLS
Herald Staff Writer

Does Apex have any scenic byways, pleasant vistas for travelers willing to forego the interstate?

The question came up during a recent meeting of the Apex Appearance Commission.

Town Planner Patt Crissman suggested that Apex's tree-lined streets east of downtown, while perhaps not of scenic byway status, certainly have a distinctive charm.

Other observers have pointed to the historic buildings along sections of Old U.S. 1 and to the views of horse and tobacco farms one can get by driving through the Green Level community.

While a section of Old U.S. 1 has been marked as a scenic bike route by the state, it doesn't yet have any other official status.

Mrs. Crissman thinks the designation could be good for Apex area businesses, but she suspects that other, more untouched sections of Old U.S. 1 would be designated before the Apex-Sanford stretch.

"In Wake County, the rural landscape is disappearing so quickly," she said. "This would be a way to say we appreciate this."

While the state does have a scenic byways coordinator, funds have not been appropriated to even so much as put up road markers.

Along Old U.S. 1 there are still signs of the time when the highway flourished as the nation's Maine-to-Florida link. A faded green sign for Troy's Tearoom in New Hill serves as a reminder of that golden age of motoring.

W.T. Roundy Jr. says his father built the eight-cottage motel soon after moving to New Hill from Chatham County in 1928. His mother, Eursula Goodwin Roundy, ran the tearoom.

Mrs. Roundy would rise at 4 a.m. to begin preparing breakfast for the overnight guests, her son recalls.

As the first tourist court from here to Henderson, Troy's was a popular stopover. Motorists in the '30s would pay \$3 a night for a cabin and covered garage.

"It was real nice back then," Roundy said. "Lots of times it filled up every night."

Most of the cottages are still standing, although permanently vacant and padlocked. Before they began to fall into disrepair a few years ago, the furnished cabins were rented by the month, mostly to construction workers at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant.

Photographer Bruce Dale, in his 1984 article for National Geographic on the 2,500-mile Old U.S. 1 route, compared it with a museum, "an open-air exhibition whose displays change with the seasons."

An abandoned gas station across the road from Farmer's Supply is a typical sight along many sections of the highway. When the Interstates came, many shops went out of business.

If you look carefully, Dale wrote in his article, you can still see traces of the original Route 1 in the old stone bridges and other vestiges of an earlier type of road engineering.

Mrs. Crissman says it's no acci-

dent that the downtown portion of Salem Street is raised so high. When U.S. 1 was first built, the concrete was poured several inches thick, and so today, there is still a substantial sub-base under Apex's main street.

There is a good chance that the culture represented by Route 1 - the "Happy Motoring" kind of lifestyle - will become a cherished part of American history. Indeed, the Smithsonian already conducts "commercial archaeology" tours along the highway north of Washington.

Meanwhile, a National Scenic Byways Program is in the works, part of the federal highway reauthorization bill passed earlier this year.

Scenic byways

Historic country routes could be

Landmarks reveal

By Carl Holleman

origins of New Hill

The New Hill we know was named for a post office rather than a hill. What is not clear is the hill for which the post office was named and why any hill would be referred to as "New."

The New Hill post office was established December 30, 1850 with Robert M. Brown as first postmaster. Squire Brown was succeeded by A.J. Blanchard in 1866 and by David H. Gardner in 1868. This Gardner was the grandfather of the late Orus T. Gardner who filled the office for several years in recent times.

The late Miss Margaret Bright (1885-1969), a lifelong resident of New Hill and a good observer of the local scene, suggests that when Robert H. Brown, the first postmaster settled on his land and established his merchantile business, he noted that one of his neighbors had named his place Suggs Hill, and another was Bennett Hill, so Squire Brown, being the newcomer, named his place New Hill.

In 1868 the first Mr. Gardner in his report to the Post Office Department stated that the New Hill office was located at Lashley's Crossroads, "a voting precinct in Buckhorn District." At that time the crossroads we know as New Hill was known as Lashleys and the post office was located about a mile to the west at a store owned and operated by David H. Gardner. This old store site revealing the corner stones, some rotted sills and the water



Bungaloes at Roundy's Motor Court in New Hill, which once gave overnight lodging to travelers along U.S. 1, are now rented as single-family residences. (Staff photo by Wells.)

well can still be seen through a heavy growth of briars and honeysuckle.

James P. Battle was postmaster in 1895 and in one of his reports located the post office "about 150 yards" north of the railroad. That location would place it about right for David Gardner's store. However, the Fendol Bevers map of Wake County (1871) places New Hill on the railroad about one mile southwest of Lashley's Crossroads at a crossing of the Haywood Road in front of the old

West Wake School site. This is about one-third mile west of the David Gardner store; however, David Gardner's site is on a discernible knoll which one might call a hill and no hill is apparent at the other site.

At Lashley's Crossroads two major thoroughfares crossed. Running generally East and West was the Haywood Road and from North to South was the Fayetteville-Hillsborough Road. Haywood, which is now hardly recognizable at a town sits where the Haw and Deep Rivers merge

to form the Cape Fear near Moncure. In the eighteenth Century it was seriously considered as the site for the state capital.

After the post office moved to Lashley's Crossroads which may have been as late as the turn of the century, the community became known as New Hill, albeit for a while both names were used. A station house was built on the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad for passengers as well as freight. Warehouses were built along the tracks and several stores were established. New Hill became the base for the extensive C.J. Bright merchandising business. His large two-story frame storehouse still stands.

A residential and commercial subdivision was laid out and in 1907 the village was incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly as New Hill. The corporate charter was suspended, however, ten years later.

Seaboard's famous passenger train, the Shoo-Fly, made daily streaks through New Hill and was known to stop on occasion to pick up and discharge passengers. For a period of several years, the early morning quiet of the community for miles around was broken by a passing engineer who had learned to play the tune "O Happy Day" on his engine whistle sounding like a gigantic calliope.

The old Haywood Road became U.S. Highway No.1 and brought traveling people speaking with interesting accents to and through the village in large



New Hill resident Eric Ignaszewski, left, a student in the industrial plant maintenance program at Wake Technical Community College, and A. C. Dailey, department head, study hydraulic equipment in lab.

automobiles. Troy's Tourist Court and Tea Room was established to accommodate the tourists. The Tea Room is now gone but some of the cabins are still in use. Many noted people are known to have stopped there including the great Babe Ruth. Mrs. Ursula Roundy Pierce, the operator of the Tea Room, tells of the times the Sultan of Swat

would stop unexpectedly and order whole chicken, which she would prepare from "scratch." First, she had to run the chicken down, and kill and pluck it, before cooking it to his taste. Also, according to Mrs. Pierce, once a pair of notorious outlaws spent the night in one of the cabins before they were captured the next day in Rockingham by the FBI.

Western Wake Herald WED 1 JUN 1988 Apex, NC

New Hill church plans celebration

A birthday party is one thing but a year-long celebration for New Hill Baptist Church's 100th year has required planning from many of its members.

A six-member centennial committee, with the help of others in the congregation, has been writing a book about the church's

past, present and future.

"We'll have about 50 family pictures taken for the book," Rev. James Cagle said. "Why, I guess that will about be the whole membership."

Under the direction of the Baptist Bookstore which has contracted a photographer, the

centennial committee hopes to have the book finished by September. The members of the committee, Chairman Andy Poe, Ileana Seagroves, Linda Barker, Mabel Lawrence, Wallace Womble, Pansy Womble and Rev. Cagle, will each write about part of the church's history, the centennial celebration, or the congregation's hopes for the future.

"We're just a simple, country church," Rev. Cagle said, "but we're proud of our heritage. Of course we'd like to keep growing and bringing in new members."

Many of the congregation members have been involved in collecting memorabilia of the church's and the town's past. The church, as an integral part of the community, has been greatly affected by the history of the town of New Hill. Founded on February 22, 1888, New Hill Baptist Church came to be known as the "train and truck church when Old U.S. 1 served as the main route between New York and Florida and trains frequently interrupted the church services.

Some of the pieces of history now on display at the church include a memento of the train's heyday, a railway pass issued by the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company in 1917 to Mrs. T.L. Gardner, whose descendants still belong to New Hill Baptist Church.

Another church member donated a 1970 edition of Life Magazine to the display. Featured in the magazine is a

photograph of the late H.C. Sears, one of the church's 27 pastors. Sears' grandson, Leslie Todd took the picture at Sears' birthday party.

Also on display are several photo albums, an antique Bible, confederate money and the original deed of the church.

Other special events planned for the year include services led by former New Hill pastors, visits from past members, a Sunday to be celebrated as Old Fashioned Day and a service dedicated to burying a time capsule.

Old Fashioned Day, scheduled for Sunday, July 3, will include the regular service to which people are invited to wear historical clothing and later in the evening, a chance to make home-made ice cream and participate in various activities. The church members will also release 100 balloons to which invitational messages will be attached.

"We want to spend an evening like people used to at church," Rev. Cagle said. "It will be real turn of the century with hand-turned ice cream and old-fashioned games like horseshoes."

On Sunday, September 11, the culmination of the year-long celebration, former pastor Rev. William Mills will preach a homecoming message and the congregation will bury a time capsule to be opened in February 2038, 50 years from now. The capsule will contain letters, pictures, and newspaper clippings.



New Hill history is evident in vacant store.

Squire Robert Brown, the man who named New Hill

By Carl Holleman

The village of New Hill has produced a number of citizens who made significant contributions to the community and to the state. Perhaps none was more noteworthy than Robert M. Brown, well known in the middle of the last century as Squire Brown.

Squire Brown grew up in Raleigh with a childhood acquaintance named Andrew Johnson, who would become the 17th President of the United States. His family business, known for cabinet making also made coffins. In fact, according to Elizabeth Reid Murray's *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, the coffin and undertaker business began in 1816 by his father, Joel, continues today as Brown-Wynne Funeral Home. It was one of the few businesses in Wake County which survived the Civil War.

Just when and why Robert M. Brown moved to western Wake County to a place he later gave the name New Hill is not clear. It

is known, however, that he married Avarilla Holleman, daughter of Davis Holleman, in 1833, and settled in the area between what is now New Hill and Bonsal near the Davis Holleman homeplace back of the West Wake School site. There he operated a store, served as a postmaster for 16 years, functioned as a Justice of the Peace, and raised a family of twelve children.

In September 1850 a post office was established in the community with Robert M. Brown as postmaster. Mr. Brown is credited with giving it the name "New Hill," and this is the first time the term is known to have been used.

For some time during the Civil War Squire Brown served the county government as a commissioner representing the New Hill District to "superintend the wants of indigent and soldiers' families." In November 1863, he was appointed sub-agent in the District to return to the county government each quarter "a complete and full return of each soldier's family in his district . .

. names, ages, and situations (so that provisions may be distributed to them)."

After the war, Mr. Brown used his boyhood friendship with President Johnson to intercede on behalf of the war ravaged people of his district by addressing a letter to the President. President Johnson's prompt reply was warm and considerate. He thanked Brown for his kind letter and acknowledged their boyhood friendship. Then he wrote, "I regret as much as any can regret, the sad devastation and havoc occasioned by the war, and I trust that now all our people will devote themselves to the pursuits of peace and to cherishing a love for the government which our fathers founded. If they do so, our nation cannot fail to have a growth and grandeur greater than that of any nation that has preceded it in history."

FROM: WAKE - CAPITAL COUNTY OF N.C. VOL I

137 Elizabeth Reid Murray - Pgs 658-659

New Hill ↑ In Wake's southwestern corner, the antebellum community of New Hill was experiencing new growth as a result of the locating of the new Chatham Railway through its neighborhood. W. H. Matthews, local retail grocer there, and general store proprietor R. M. Brown, were joined by at least three other merchants by 1872. They were J. W. Collins, Thomas Harton, and John Wilburn. At nearby Lashley's Crossroads a sawmill powered by two fifty-horsepower steam engines was in 1870 keeping twenty-five men employed. Its proprietors were J. McC. Ellington, J. C. Hunter, C. H. Beckwith, and D. B. Holland. The town of New Hill was to become an incorporated town early in the twentieth century, but only for a brief decade.⁴⁶

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Crossfile Thomas HARTON as possibly THOMAS HORTON

Lashley's Crossroads as LASHLEY FAMILY

NEW HILL - WAKE CO, NC

Item in Itg 23 AUG 2005 Ann Pae to RPA
FROM: The News & Observer 20 AUG 2005

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Condemnation Triangle upsets farm owners

A New Hill family owned the 221-acre tract for decades; Cary plans a sewage plant there.

BY RYAN TEAGUE BECKWITH
STAFF WRITER

A New Hill family has not decided how to respond to the town of Cary's condemnation of its farm, according to a legal representative.

The town plans to use the 221-acre property for a controversial sewage treatment plant.

After negotiations stalled last month, Cary officials filed the condemnation in Wake Superior Court on Aug. 11 and took control of the land for \$3.38 million.

Retired Apex police Officer Al Seymour III and several relatives owned the property, which had been in the family for decades. "The family is pretty upset," said Caroline Pedersen, a para-

legal for Raleigh attorney Emmett Boney Haywood, who is representing them. "They just want the dust to settle as they try to digest it."

The family has until mid-December to contest the price, which was based on an appraisal last year by an Apex company. They could also choose to fight the condemnation, though those cases are difficult to win, said County Attorney Mike Ferrell.

The town will now begin the

plant's design, surveying the site, testing the soil and engineering the treatment plant. It will also apply for a permit from the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Residents of the New Hill area, an unincorporated community in southwestern Wake County, have protested the sewage plant, which is being built in partnership with the towns of Apex, Morrisville and Holly Springs.

Meanwhile, the family is

mourning the loss of a place where Seymour took his border collies swimming in the pond, fed geese and grew day lilies and timber.

"Their heritage has been taken away from them," Pedersen said. "Their choices and options on what they wanted to do on the land have been taken away."

Staff writer Ryan Teague Beckwith can be reached at 836-4944 or rbeckwit@newsobserver.com.

NOTE: In an earlier phone call Ann had told me of her concern about how this development would damage the historic nature of the New Hill Area.

She is concerned in general but also about how historic roads will be disturbed with a new road pattern being laid out. However, Ann seems to feel nothing can be done to stop the planned action.

CROSS FILE:

NEW HILL - WAKE CO, NC ↑

A. T. SEYMOUR, III

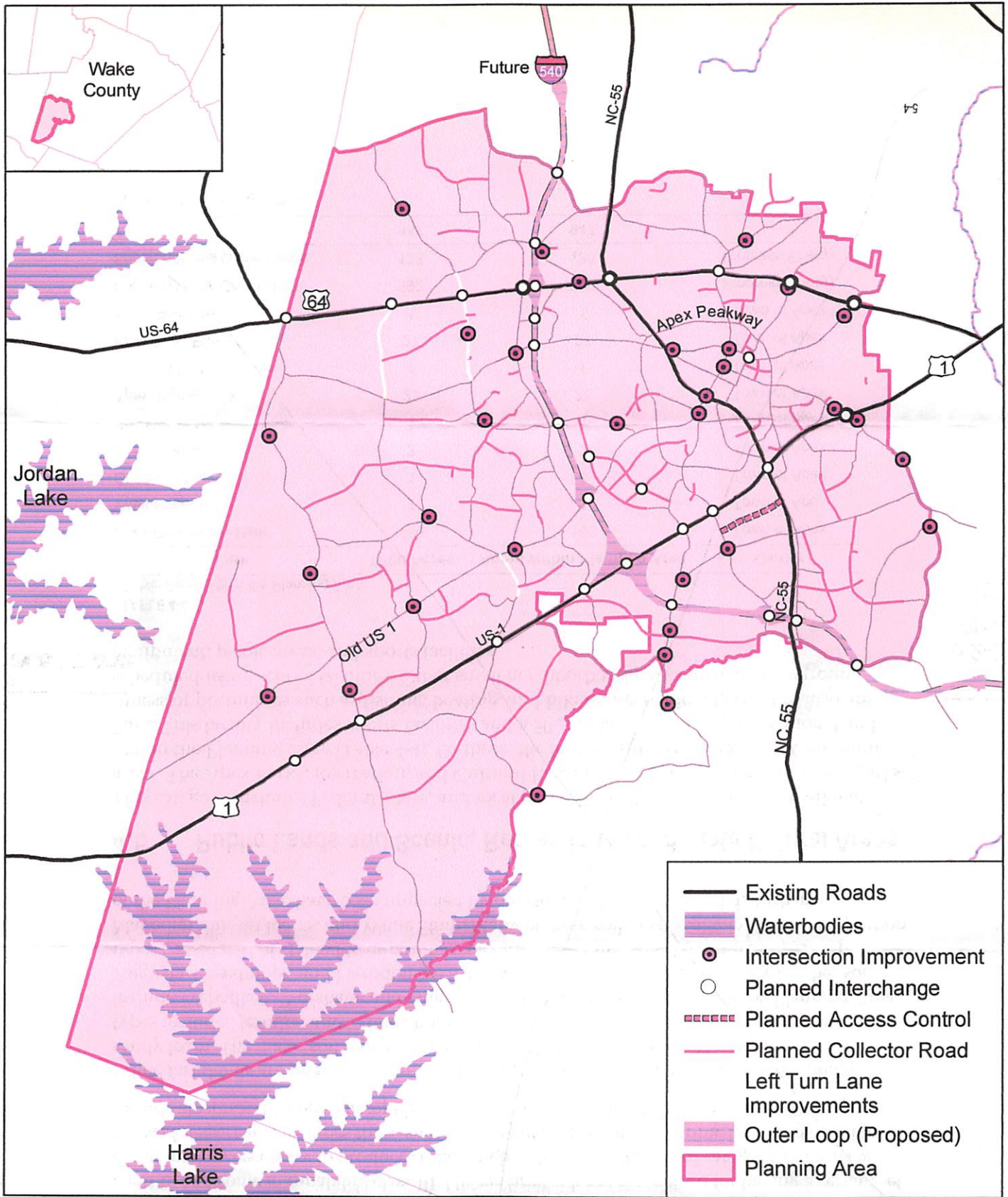


Figure 2-3
 Town of Apex - Transportation Plan
 Secondary and Cumulative Impacts Master Mitigation Plan

WHITE OAK SCHOOL, NEW HILL, WAKE CO, NC

FROM: DISPATCH JAN 2008 P 5 & 6 NEWSLETTER OF APEX, NC HIST. SOC

HISTORY OF WHITE OAK GRADED SCHOOL

Written by Mammie Luther when she was principal at White Oak School.

[Editor's Note: This is exactly how Ms. Luther typed it.]

△△△ The history of this school begins a good many years before the Civil War. It was then a private school, some of the teachers being Sidney Holloman, Johnson Olive and Robin Williams (the latter being the great-grand father of the present principal of the school) The attendance was large until the school at Olive Chapel claimed a large number of its pupils.

△ After the war this school was changed into a public school and a new house was built. The school was then called "Rocky Springs". It remained here for several years. About 70 to 80 pupils attended school here while Mrs. S. C. Perry and daughter were teachers.

△△ The district was made larger and the school house in 1878 was moved about one mile west to center of district. It was then known as the "Jenks School" taking its name from Hinton Jenks who served faithfully many years as a committee of this school.

During the following years there were many faithful teachers, much progress was made and the school had great influence for good on the community at large, as well as training many of the boys and girls, who have since become the patrons of the present school, for higher citizenship and nobler aims in life.

△△ From this school have gone out teachers, preachers, soldiers, successful farmers, men successful in other votations of life. Mr. L. J. Sears, Chairman of Wake County Board of Education and J. H. Sears, Sheriff of Wake County received early training in the school,

In 1905 the district was changed. The school voted. local tax, 35 & 90 giving the school the honor of being the first school in Wake County to vote a special tax. The school was moved to the present site, a new building was erected, costing \$1250.00. The school has been known since then as the White Oak Graded School.

Perhaps the greatest progress in the history of the school has been made since local tax was voted. The school has been fortunate in securing well-trained teachers and each year there has been marked progress. In 1908 a Betterment Association was organized. This association has done much good in helping to beautify school house and grounds, lengthening the school term, working school farm, etc,

This history would not be complete without mentioning the faithful work done by our present principal who has done four years of her best work in our school. It is quite a coincidence that she should make the eighth member of her family who has taught in this school (Great-grand-father, three great-ants, grand-mother, an aunt and one cousin.

△ [Per an e-mail from Molly Weston: "Miss Mamie Luther was a fixture in Apex. She lived on Salem Street in a house that was torn down many years ago. It was either beside Holland's Jewelers or one house down. Miss Mamie walked everywhere, but all the kids said she stomped!"]

Per RPK call 6 FEB 2008 At Ann Pae who reports white oak school was in New Hill on 7 acres acquired from the BRIGHT Family - later the school was consolidated into Apex school as the bricks were used in the Apex school. Bright descendants got the land back

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In 1905 the district was changed. The school voted. local tax, 35 & 90 giving the school the honor of being the first school in Wake County to vote a special tax. The school was moved to the present site, a new building was erected, costing \$1250.00. The school has been known since then as the White Oak Graded School.

Perhaps the greatest progress in the history of the school has been made since local tax was voted. The school has been fortunate in securing well-trained teachers and each year there has been marked progress. In 1908 a Betterment Association was organized. This association has done much good in helping to beautify school house and grounds, lengthening the school term, working school farm, etc,

This history would not be complete without mentioning the faithful work done by our present principal who has done four years of her best work in our school. It is quite a coincidence that she should make the eighth member of her family who has taught in this school (Great-grand-father, three great-ants, grand-mother, an aunt and one cousin.

△ [Per an e-mail from Molly Weston: "Miss Mamie Luther was a fixture in Apex. She lived on Salem Street in a house that was torn down many years ago. It was either beside Holland's Jewelers or one house down. Miss Mamie walked everywhere, but all the kids said she stomped!"]

Per RPK call 6 FEB 2008 At Ann Poe who reports white oak school was in New Hill on 7 acres owned from the BRIGHT Family - later the school was consolidated into Apex school and the bricks were used in the Apex school. Bright descendants got the land back