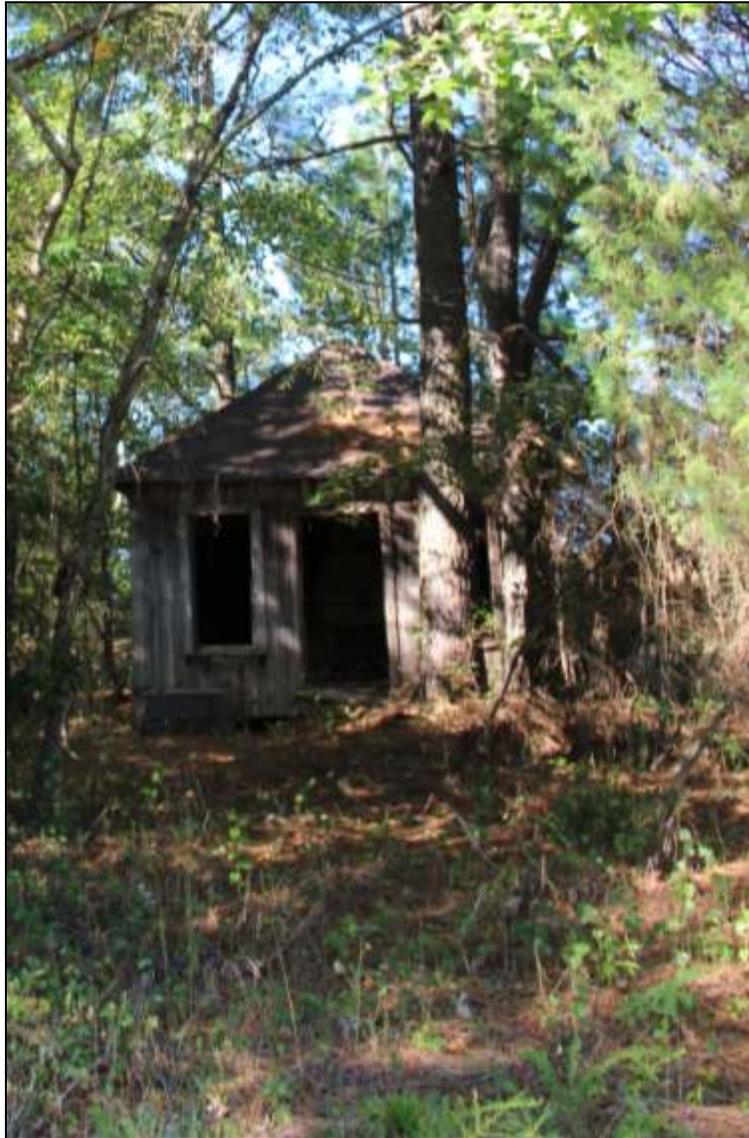


Bunch-Honeycutt House at Turnipseed Nature Preserve



Resource Survey



F I R E F L Y
PRESERVATION CONSULTING

Bunch-Honeycutt House at Turnipseed Nature Preserve Resource Survey

A publication of Firefly Preservation Consulting
Cheri Szcodronski, Owner/Principal
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Text and layout by Cheri Szcodronski
Images by Cheri Szcodronski except where otherwise noted



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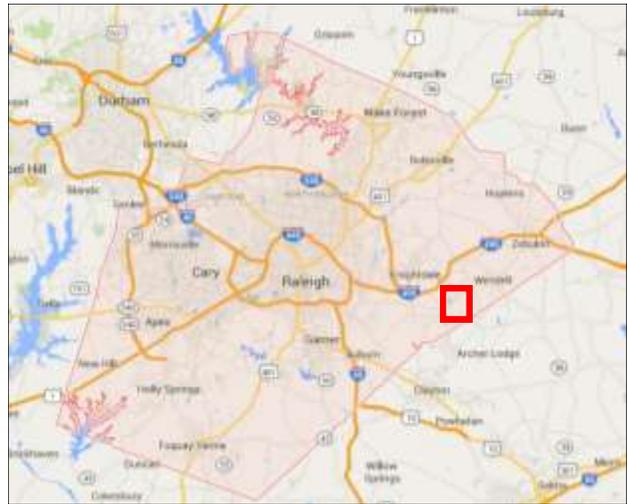
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Introduction

The Bunch-Honeycutt House is a late nineteenth century farm structure located adjacent to the proposed Turnipseed Nature Preserve, owned by Wake County and managed by Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS). The county holds approximately 575 acres in southeastern Wake County, on the Wake-Johnston county line.

In 2010, PROS completed an Open Space Management Plan for the preserve, which included 221 acres at the time and did not include the Bunch-Honeycutt House. The plan identified exceptional natural features of the site, as well as a small cemetery of unmarked graves. The management plan recommended the addition of parking, restrooms, and trails to open the site to the public for nature-based recreation.¹



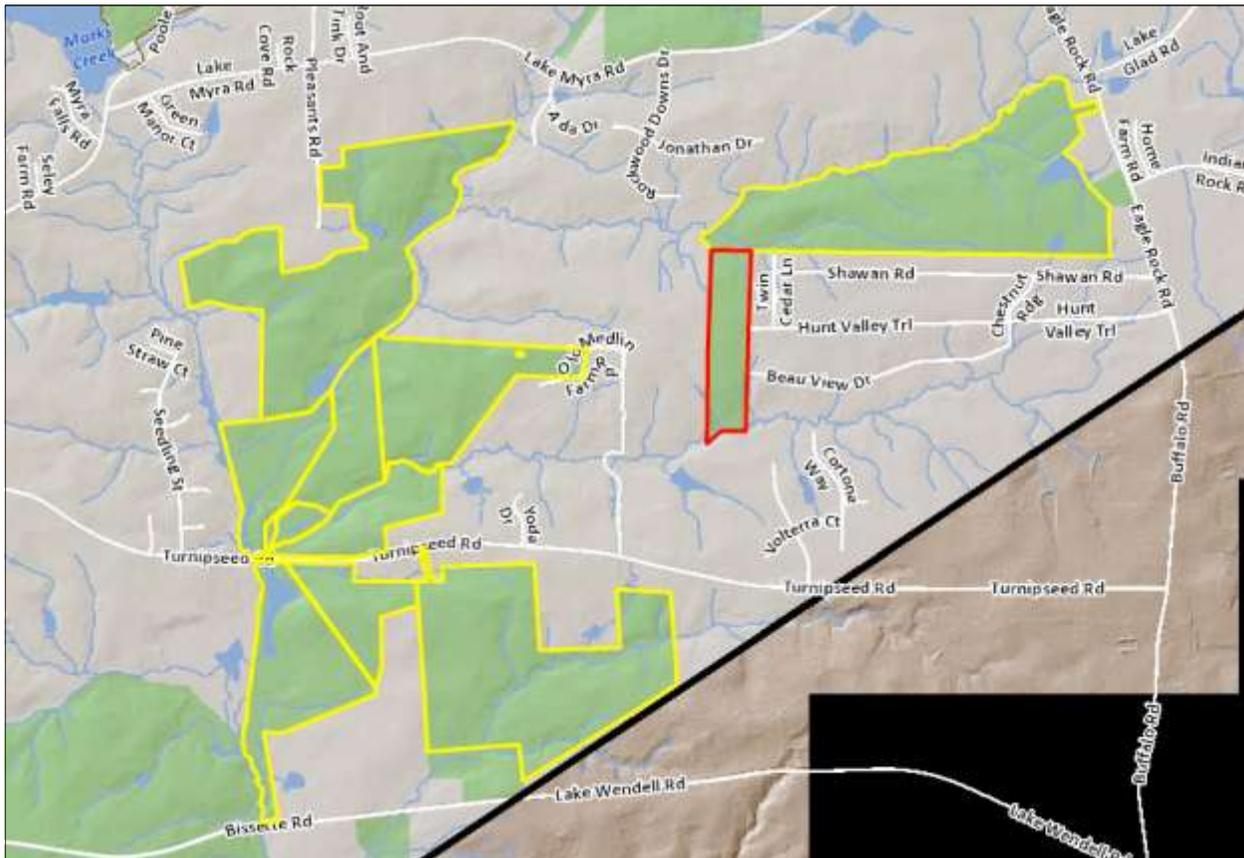
Map of Wake County showing approximate property location.
Google Maps, 2015

The Bunch-Honeycutt House tract was acquired and added to the preserve in 2014. PROS determined the house to be of cultural significance and a valuable contribution to the public experience at the preserve, and therefore hired Firefly Preservation Consulting to complete this resource survey.

¹ Wake County Parks, Recreation, & Open Space, "Turnipseed Road Unit #1 at Marks Creek, Open Space Management Plan, January 2011-December 2013," November 2010, Raleigh, North Carolina.



Firefly Preservation conducted historical background research, provided architectural description and documentation, and recommended potential areas for interpretation. The project focused specifically on the Bunch-Honeycutt House, and did not include any archaeological investigation of the cemetery, which should be completed by an appropriate archaeological or geological team in order to date or interpret the site. The project also did not include a structural assessment of the building or recommendations for stabilization for public access. The building and surrounding landscape should be considered unsafe for public access until further investigation and stabilization take place.

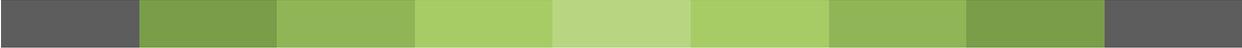


The proposed Turnipseed Preserve includes several parcels on the Wake-Johnson county line south of Wendell (boundaries marked in yellow). Wake County PROS continues to acquire additional properties to improve connectivity between individual parcels within the preserve.

The Bunch-Honeycutt House parcel (boundary marked in red) was added to the preserve in 2014.

Map provided by Wake County PROS, 2015





History



The Bunch Family (1873-1900)

The earliest deeds for the Bunch-Honeycutt House record the purchase of 186 acres on Marks Creek by Samuel Jordan Bunch from Little Berry Richardson and his wife Sarah Pierce Richardson. The property had passed to Sarah, probably as an inheritance, and may have been an 18th-century land grant to the Pierce family. **Unfortunately, Sarah's father's name is unknown, and since records from that time period are almost exclusively in the names of men, further records are impossible to trace at this time.** The small cemetery of unmarked graves west of the house **was also part of the Pierce's original property. It is unclear whether the cemetery holds the remains of the Pierce family, an unknown property owner/occupant prior to the Pierce family, enslaved African American laborers, or Native American inhabitants.**²

Samuel Bunch (1818-1885) belonged to one of the earliest Wake County families, who settled on a large plantation on Buffalo Creek near Eagle Rock in Marks Creek Township by the 1700s. Bunch married Rutha Perry Pace (1821-1863) in 1838, and they had six children: Henry Vaden Bunch (1840-1920), Irvin Bunch (1843-**1860**), **Mary "Mollie" Bunch (born 1845, death date unknown)**, Sarah Bunch Honeycutt (1846-1921), William Harvey Bunch (1848-1917), and Edward Stanley Bunch (1850-1921).³

² "L.B. Richardson & wife to Samuel J. Bunch," April 19, 1873, Deed Book 68, pages 615-617, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; "Sarah Elizabeth Richardson," North Carolina State Board of Health Standard Certificate of Death, November 1929, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); Medlin Family Interview by Cheri Szcodronski, January 16, 2016 (hereafter referred to as Medlin Family Interview).

³ Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Volume I Prehistory through Centennial*, (Capital County Publishing Company: Raleigh, North Carolina, 1983), 26-29; United States Fed-





Bunch operated a small farm of mostly subsistence crops without the assistance of slave labor. In 1850, the Bunch farm included fifty acres of wheat, Indian corn, peas, sweet potatoes, and hay, along with one horse, one cow, and sixteen hogs. Bunch also produced 174 barrels of raw turpentine valued at \$261 - a fraction of the \$1000 he invested in the business, and the only year he reported any manufacturing activities.⁴

By 1860, the farm had grown to sixty acres and also included rye, cotton, and butter. The livestock population increased to include two horses, four milk cows, five cattle, and sixteen hogs. Sadly, the family suffered the death of son Irvin, taken by typhoid fever at just seventeen years old. There is no record of his sister **Mollie's death, and although she was counted in the 1860 census, it is possible** that she also died around the same time as Irvin from typhoid fever.⁵

The farm continued to grow, and by the 1870 census, Bunch had expanded operations to include wheat, oats, and honeybees. He also was able to acquire mules and working oxen to assist with the labor, although he did not hire any additional farm workers.⁶

eral Census Population Schedules, North Carolina, Wake County, 1840-1880, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); 1860 United States Federal Census Mortality Schedules, North Carolina, Wake County, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); United States Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); North Carolina Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015).

⁴ 1850 United States Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, Marks Creek Township, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; 1850 United States Federal Census Manufacturing Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, Marks Creek Township, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

⁵ 1860 United States Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, North Eastern Division, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; 1860 United States Federal Census Mortality Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015).

⁶ 1870 United States Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, North Eastern Division, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.





Soon after the 1870 census, Samuel Bunch added the Bunch-Honeycutt property to his land holdings, at that time 186 acres. In the 1880 agricultural census, he reported new agricultural products: 51 apples trees, an acre of Irish potatoes, and 18 chickens. It is probable that at least some of these were located on the newly acquired property.⁷

Samuel Bunch died in 1885, and left his property to his three sons. Edward, his youngest son, received the western portion of the land; Henry, his oldest son, received the middle portion including the home place; and William received the eastern portion of the property, including the Bunch-Honeycutt House.⁸

By the time of his inheritance in 1886, William Bunch was married to Bettie Jane Scarboro (1847-1910) and they already had two children, Clyde born in 1878 and Gracie born in 1883. A third child, Annie, was born after the purchase, in 1891. William Bunch farmed his own **22-acres near his parents' home, where he grew** similar crops to those he raised growing up: Indian corn, cotton, peas, sweet potatoes, and honey, as well as keeping sheep, hogs, and chickens. Since there are no deed records for the purchase of this property, it is likely he was already **farming the parcel he inherited prior to his father's death.**⁹

⁷ **“L.B. Richardson and Wife to Samuel J. Bunch,” Deed Book 68, Pages 615-617**, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; 1880 United States Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, Marks Creek Township, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

⁸ **“Last Will and Testament of Samuel J. Bunch,” North Carolina Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998**, Wills, Inventories, and Estates, Book A-B, 1878-1891, Page 34, October 10, 1884, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015).

⁹ **Wake County Register of Deeds, “William Harvey Bunch and Bettie J. Scarboro,” North Carolina Marriage Records, 1741-2011**, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); 1880 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); 1880 United States Federal Census Agricultural Schedule, North Carolina, Wake County, Marks Creek Township, Davis Library Microform Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Records indicate William was not an especially savvy farmer. He was indebted to a number of people for farming supplies, and was forced to sell a mule and some land to settle his debts. Almost immediately upon receiving his property inheritance, he had to mortgage it against debts to IJ and WC Allen. In 1892 he defaulted on his payments, and the Allens acquired the property. It appears that Bunch became a tenant farmer for a few years, but by 1900 he had moved his family to Danville, Virginia, where he practiced carpentry as a wage laborer and took in boarders.¹⁰

Although it is clear the house remaining on the property was built by the Bunch Family, the details remain unclear. It is possible that Samuel Bunch needed a structure to serve as a farm office after he purchased the new acreage in 1873, however, there are no records to indicate he employed a farm manager who might need such a



1877 Shaffer's Map of Wake County, Mark's Creek Detail
University of North Carolina Digital Map Collection

structure. It is most probable that it was built by William Bunch to serve as his **family's home while he farmed the surrounding land in the early 1880s.** The rustic appearance and recycled materials are appropriate to a financially burdened family, and William acquired a number of debts before finally losing the land in 1892.

¹⁰ "J.N. Holding, Trustee, to Mrs. I.J. Allen," Book 151, Page 673, February 22, 1892, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; 1900 and 1910 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); Also, a search of "WH Bunch" reveals approximately fifteen records of Bunch's debts and losses in agriculture, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.



The Martin Family (1900-1930)

After a few years, the Allens sold the property to Jutsey and William Martin. William (1856-1925) immigrated from England in 1870, and married Jutsey Vallesia Rhodes (1860-1932) in 1880. They had eight children: Charles (1883-1967), Marcus (1885-1957), Ella (1887-1952), Lillie (1891-1978), Emma (1894-1976), Henry (1896-1967), Dewey (1898-1972), and Coy (1900-1969).¹¹

Although the Martins initially farmed the land, by 1910 they were operating a sawmill. In 1903, the Raleigh and Pamlico Railroad had announced plans to expand through Eagle Rock, leading to a dramatic increase of sawmilling in the area. Several new lumber milling operations sprang up both to build the railroad and later to export along it, including the mill of Derrickson and Martin. The exact location of the mill is unknown, but it is unlikely it was on the Bunch-Honeycutt House property.¹²

After William Martin's death in 1925, his sons Dewey and Coy continued to operate the sawmill. In 1930, two years before her death, Jutsie Martin sold the property to her youngest son, Coy Martin, who sold it to Onnie Coe Medlin the following year.¹³

¹¹ "W.C. Allen & wife to Jutsey Martin," Deed Book 174, Page 225, March 20, 1900, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015).

¹² 1910 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); Elizabeth Reid Murray and K. Todd Johnson, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina Volume II: Reconstruction to 1920* (Wake County, North Carolina, 2008), 573.

¹³ North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1976, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); North Carolina Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998, Administrators Bonds, 1925-1929, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); "Mrs. Jutsey Martin and husband to Coy L. Martin," Deed Book 606, Page 5, October 30, 1930, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; "Coy L. Martin to O.C. Medlin," Deed Book 592, Page 602, March 21, 1931, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.



The Medlin Family (1930-2014)

Onnie Coe Medlin (1896-1948) was born on his family farm in Marks Creek, immediately west of the Bunch-Honeycutt House property. He was the youngest child of Helen and Presley Medlin and the great-grandson of Samuel Bunch, the property's original owner. In 1915, he married Ellen Agnes Phipps (1894-1964), and they had two sons, Leonard (1917-1959) and Haywood (1921-1995). Medlin built a white frame house on Turnipseed Road, which burned to the ground in 1947. Within two days of the fire, even before it had stopped smoking, the community had come together to build a two-room house for the Medlins to live in while the debris was removed and a new house constructed. This temporary home became the rear of the rebuilt house, which is still extant today. The house and two surrounding acres were sold out of the Medlin family holdings in 2010.¹⁴



Onnie Coe and Ellen Medlin
Medlin Family Collection

As the boys grew up, they both married and farmed the family homestead together. Leonard Medlin married Gladys Boykin (1909-1987) around 1934 and they had three children, Helen (1935-2004), Margaret (1936-1999), and Leonard Jr., “Pete.” Haywood Medlin married Della Pleasants (1924-2011) in 1942, just days after being drafted into the army. He completed his basic training at Fort McCoy in



Haywood Medlin in his truck
“Doodle-Bug” during World War II
Medlin Family Collection

¹⁴ 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); North Carolina Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Ancestry.com (accessed October 2015); Medlin Family Interview.



Wisconsin. He deployed to Europe in 1943 where he served as a Technician Fifth Grade driving supply trucks during World War II. After returning from war, he was stationed at Fort Custer, Michigan. He and Della had four children, Stephen, Glen, Shirley, and James.¹⁵

The farm's primary cash crop was tobacco, although they also grew corn, soybeans, wheat, and raised hogs. The tobacco growing season began in January or February each year with preparing the plant beds, and the selling period lasted from October until well into November. Not far down the farm road west of the Bunch-Honeycutt House are the collapsed remains of a five-room tobacco curing barn, an unusually large tobacco barn for that time.¹⁶

The Medlins took their crop to market in Durham in the 1940s and 1950s, where Leonard Medlin worked at the Roycroft Warehouse during the harvest season. The Medlins owned one of the only large farm trucks in the area, and farmers hired them to haul their tobacco to Durham for 5 cents per pound, while the warehouse paid them an additional 5 cents per pound. They also owned two



Roycroft's Tobacco Warehouse,
Durham, on sale day in the 1940s
Open Durham

¹⁵ 1930 and 1940 United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com (accessed November 2015); North Carolina Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Ancestry.com (accessed November 2015); U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946, Ancestry.com (accessed November 2015); *World War II Young American Patriots, 1941-1945*, (Richmond, VA: National Publishing Company, 1946), Ancestry.com (accessed November 2015); U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010, Ancestry.com (accessed November 2015); Medlin Family Interview.

¹⁶ Medlin Family Interview.



combines, so they harvested neighboring farmer's wheat from May until July, then started corn in October, followed by soybeans until late December.¹⁷

In 1950, the Medlins participated in a crop diversification program in which they were encouraged to try their skill with crops other than tobacco. That year, Leonard and Haywood grew five acres of cotton and one acre of sweet potatoes. However, when it came time to pick the cotton, they were unable to hire farmhands to bring in the harvest and had to pick it themselves. The same was true for the sweet potatoes, and after harvesting their potato crop, they decided to remain tobacco farmers.¹⁸



The Medlin's Store is now vacant, but remains standing at the corner of Eagle Rock Road and Lake Glad Road

They did diversify their business, though, when they opened a general store in 1954 at the corner of Eagle Rock Road and Lake Glad Road, just east of the Bunch-Honeycutt House. They sold basic necessities, including dry goods and animal feed, and Haywood and Leonard Medlin took turns tending to the farm and the store. Most people in

the community only had money to get supplies in Wendell during the crop sales at the end of the year, so for most of the year, they bought their supplies on **credit at the Medlins' store.**¹⁹

¹⁷ Medlin Family Interview.

¹⁸ Medlin Family Interview.

¹⁹ Medlin Family Interview.



By 1965, Onnie Medlin, Ellen Medlin, and Leonard Medlin had passed away, and Haywood inherited thirty acres, including the twenty-acre parcel containing the Bunch-Honeycutt House. He continued to operate the farm and store with **Leonard's son, Pete Medlin. By that time, chain grocery stores were becoming** increasingly common and the farm was growing significantly, so they sold the store around 1967.²⁰

Around 1963, Eppie Honeycutt became a tenant farmer for his cousin Haywood Medlin and lived in the Honeycutt-Medlin House. Before coming **to the Medlins' farm, he had been drafted in** World War I, trained in South Carolina, and then was a tenant farmer on Henry Hobbs farm in Wendell after the war. After Hobbs death, he moved to the Medlin Farm where Haywood gave him about an acre of tobacco to farm. Unfortunately, Eppie was a poor farmer and spent his time tending his cows, even though he had no pasture for them, or visiting with **neighbors at the Medlins' store, rather than** seeing to the care of his tobacco crop.²¹



Eppie Honeycutt during World War I
Medlin Family Collection

The Bunch-Honeycutt House was never connected to plumbing or electricity, so Honeycutt heated the house using the fireplaces and wood stoves, got water from a well adjacent to the house, and

²⁰ “Gladys B. Medlin et al to Haywood L. Medlin,” Deed Book 1670, Page 168, August 9, 1965, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; Medlin Family Interview.

²¹ Medlin Family Interview; US Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918, Ancestry.com (accessed January 2016); US World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Ancestry.com (accessed January 2016).



utilized an outhouse near the rear door. The south entrance was his main entrance, and he used the south room as a sitting room and bedroom. The north room was the kitchen, and Medlin family members recall the table being full of cooling biscuits that were covered in flies. A pantry was attached to this part of the house at one time, but has since been removed. After a few years, Honeycutt got a job at a hotel in Durham, where he remained until his death in 1969.²²

Until his death in 1995, Haywood Medlin continued to grow tobacco with his **nephew, Pete Medlin. After Della Medlin's death in 2011, the land passed to her children, who conveyed the property to HL Medlin Farms, LLC in 2012, then to Wake County in 2014.**²³



Tobacco farming operations at the Medlin farm, c.1980s
Medlin Family Collection

²² Medlin Family Interview; North Carolina Death Indexes, 1908-2004, Ancestry.com, (accessed January 2016)

²³ North Carolina Death Indexes, 1908-2004, Ancestry.com (Accessed October 2015); "Stephen L. Medlin et al to H.L. Medlin Farms, LLC," Deed Book 15074, Page 1386, December 5, 2012, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; "H.L. Medlin Farms, LLC to Wake County," Deed Book 15682, Page 958, June 6, 2014, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; Medlin Family Interview.





Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (2014-present)

Wake County began acquiring parcels for the Turnipseed Nature Preserve in 2005, with the Bunch-Honeycutt parcel being the most recent, acquired in 2014. A management plan was put into effect in 2010, which included a three-year work plan to prepare the preserve for public access. In 2014, a Nature Preserve schematic design was developed to include the six core parcels, approximately 265 acres, with the remaining parcels to be incorporated at a future date. The preserve is scheduled to open in 2016 for hiking, picnicking, and nature exploration. Two to three miles of trails are currently planned, which will explore the natural wetlands and granite outcroppings of the preserve, and future trails will provide historical interpretation of the Bunch-Honeycutt House and Bunch-Martin-Medlin farm site.²⁴

²⁴ “H.L. Medlin Farms, LLC to Wake County,” Deed Book 15682, Page 958, June 6, 2014, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina; “Turnipseed Road Unit #1 at Mark’s Creek Open Space Management Plan, January 2011-December 2013,” November 2010, Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, Raleigh, North Carolina; “Turnipseed Nature Preserve, Wake County, North Carolina, Schematic Design,” June 2014, Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, Raleigh, North Carolina; “Turnipseed Nature Preserve,” Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/about/projects/Pages/turnipseed.aspx> (accessed January 2016); Email exchange with Deborah Fowler by Cheri Szcodronski, July 2015-January 2016.



Architectural Description

The Bunch-Honeycutt House is the only structure remaining of this portion of the original farm, and being out of its original context this way makes it difficult to understand. The building also appears to use primarily cheap, recycled materials, and seems to have been constructed to serve an immediate purpose without intention for long-term use or survival of the structure. Although it does not fit any known architectural patterns in Wake County, and although it is in a deteriorated state, important information can be inferred from what remains intact.

Exterior Description

The building is oriented north-south with entrances facing the main farm road to the south, and the remains of a smaller farm road to the east. The building has a hipped roof replaced sometime in the twentieth century with barn tin, but originally wood shingles. There is a small gable over the east entrance, where some of the original wood shingles remain in place. The exterior cladding is **3.5" vertical tongue and groove paneling**, but lacks the usual wall sheathing and horizontal lap siding. The foundation has been wrapped in the same barn tin as found on the roof and was probably added around the same time.



Southwest elevation.
Note the barn tin roof and tin-wrapped foundation.



East elevation.
Note the original wood shingles in the gable.



Interior Description

The building employs balloon framing, with corner braces, sawn boards, double-hung sash windows, and both square and round nails. However, the building lacks lap siding, interior sheathing, plaster or interior finish of any kind, resulting in a rustic appearance.

The building is oriented in a saddlebag floor plan around a central chimney. The chimney is roughly parged stone, and at one time the stack was encased with **6-8" unfinished boards with the exposed** outer firebox whitewashed.

There are no interior walls, and no clear indication that any interior wall was ever constructed aside from the chimney enclosure and a small closet. This closet was west of the chimney serving the south room, and is now indicated only by the remaining square cut nails in the frame and the threshold. The building retains the original flooring, **made up of 5" boards, probably pine.** The ceiling is constructed from the **same 3.5" tongue-and-groove** paneling as the exterior cladding.



North Room.
Note the corner braces and lack of interior finishing.



South Room. Note the roughly parged stone chimney and remains of the stack enclosure.



Closet serving the south room.
Note the framing and threshold.



Landscape Description

Immediately adjacent to the Bunch-Honeycutt House, there is a well situated between two pine trees and a persimmon tree. The well has not been filled and is not covered or marked. There was also an outhouse located near the north end of the house, which has also not been filled or marked.²⁵

The surrounding landscape is typical of a large tobacco farm, with areas of cleared land and wooded patches, primarily pine. In the mid-1900s, a path **connected the Medlin family's store** on the corner of Eagle Rock Road and Lake Glad Road to the Bunch-Honeycutt House and further west to the original home place near the unmarked cemetery. The path was large enough for farming equipment, but the eastern portion has been lost due to residential development on Hunt Valley Trail and Shawan Road. The remains of this farm road now connects the Bunch-Honeycutt House west through the future Turnipseed Nature Preserve to



Tobacco fields and pine forest dominate the landscape surrounding the Bunch-Honeycutt House



The original farm road travels west of the Bunch-Honeycutt House toward the cemetery and home place.



A cleared area east of the Bunch-Honeycutt House may be the remains of farm road serving the original main entrance.

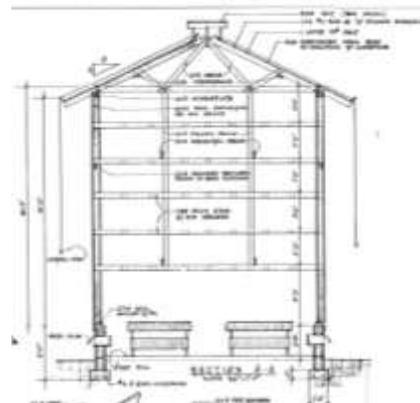
²⁵ Medlin Family Interview.



the old home place, which leads to Old Medlin Farm Road and Turnipseed Road to the south.²⁶

Across the farm road from the Bunch-Honeycutt House was a small stable for farm mules, but the Medlin family now believes it was demolished and bulldozed into the woods to clear the land for tobacco. Just west along the farm road are the collapsed remains of a five-room tobacco barn used by the Medlins for curing tobacco for market in Durham and Wendell.²⁷

Further west along the farm road, near the original home place, there is a small cemetery. The cemetery contains at least 30 graves, most of which are marked with simple field stones. Although it is unclear who is buried there, it is probable that the cemetery served the occupants of the property prior to the Bunches.²⁸



Schematic of a five-room tobacco barn, similar to the collapsed barn near the Bunch-Honeycutt House.
The University of Florida



There is an unmarked cemetery in the woods near the original home place.



A field stone marker in the unmarked cemetery.

²⁶ Medlin Family Interview.

²⁷ Medlin Family Interview.

²⁸ Medlin Family Interview; Email exchange with Deborah Fowler by Cheri Szcodronski, July 2015-January 2016.



Southwest of the original farm, Marks Creek and Turnipseed Road intersect. The original bridge was located at the base of an s-curve south of the current **bridge's location. The road was straightened** in the mid-1900s, and the proposed road, which used the original bridge, was planned to run alongside the Turnipseed Farm and much nearer to the farmhouse than the original road. The Turnipseed family strongly opposed the changes, so the bridge was moved slightly north, and the newly straightened road was named Turnipseed.²⁹



Marks Creek near its intersection with Turnipseed Road, southwest of the Bunch-Honeycutt House.



Former home of Onnie and Ellen Medlin on Turnipseed Road, c.1980s
Medlin Family Collection

On Turnipseed Road, south of the original home place, is the Onnie Medlin Home Site. The existing house was constructed in 1947 after fire destroyed the first house. It originally featured three dormers. These were removed during a later renovation that also added the brick veneer and carport. The house and two acres of adjacent land are no longer held by the Medlin family.³⁰

²⁹ Medlin Family Interview.

³⁰ Medlin Family Interview.



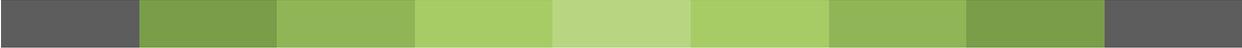
Conclusions

The north room appears to originally have been public space, with more formal features including the gable over the entrance and large, double-hung windows in each wall. The south room has a simpler entrance, with double-hung windows flanking the entrance door. This combination of public and personal space, as well as the hipped roof, suggest the building may have served as a farm office when it was constructed. The building was later used as a house with the main entrance and sitting room shifting to the south entrance on the main farm road.

Balloon frame construction became common in the early to mid-1800s, and the presence of sawn boards, round nails, and, most importantly, narrow tongue-and-groove paneling suggests the building was constructed in the late 19th century. When the documentary record is taken into account, the building can be dated approximately to the late 1870s or early 1880s. The unusually rustic construction, including the complete absence of interior finishing, suggests the building may have been built rapidly for temporary use. The growth of trees around and above the structure has likely preserved it long past its intended life-expectancy. However, the floor is compromised in both rooms, with the most severe damage to the north room with the floor and ceiling both collapsing, making the building unsafe for public access at this time.

The immediate landscape should be explored to rediscover the well and out-house locations, and both should be filled and marked for public safety. In the mid-1900s, the back room of the house served as a kitchen, and there was a pantry attached to the building that has now been removed. Any remains of this addition, or debris from its removal, should be cleaned up prior to allowing public access.





Interpretive Recommendations



Current plans for the Turnipseed Nature Preserve include a minimalist approach that does not incorporate on-site staff or facilities. Therefore, the greatest potential for interpretation of the Bunch-Honeycutt House will be self-guided options that do not require an interpretive center or staff for visitors to access.

OnCell

The OnCell mobile phone tour is currently being implemented at other Wake County PROS sites, making it an ideal option for interpretation of the Bunch-Honeycutt House. OnCell allows the client to upload audio recordings for playback on a mobile phone or smart phone, photographs or videos for viewing on a smart phone, as well as providing maps, links, and other tools to aid the visitor in learning about and using a particular site. See Appendices for images and maps.

Recordings of basic historical information provided in this report, would be **greatly enriched with audio recordings of the Medlin family heirs. Leonard “Pete” Medlin, Jr.**, in particular, having worked the farm through the mid-1900s with his father and uncle Haywood Medlin, has a number of exceptional stories, including:

- Attempting to grow cotton and sweet potatoes in 1950
- **Hauling the neighbors’ tobacco to the Durham market**
- Haywood Medlin protecting children in the neighborhood from bullies
- Neighbors going to Wendell to spend money but buying from the Medlin store on credit





The OnCell tour should be linked to the Turnipseed Nature Preserve website, which allows visitors physically at the site quick access, as well as providing people unable to come to the site an opportunity to experience the preserve. A printed guide to accompany the tour is suggested to provide on-site advertising for the program, a list of tour stops, and other useful information for users.

Once developed, the OnCell tour requires little maintenance except to add additional content as it become available, although any printed material accompanying the tour requires stocking periodically.

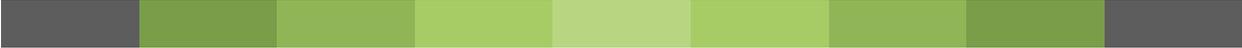
Self-Guided Brochure

Another useful tool for self-guided interpretation is a self-guided brochure. Similar to the OnCell mobile phone tour, the self-guided brochure may be provided digitally through the Turnipseed Nature Preserve website or in hard copy on site. Unlike OnCell, the self-guided brochure does not provide audio content or link to outside websites, but it is a simple and cost-effective means of interpretation. See the Appendices for images and maps.

Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage is a commonly used method of interpretation typical to sites with relatively high visitor traffic. It could be an effective means of interpreting the Bunch-Honeycutt House, as well as providing a base from which brochures and other information may be distributed. However, signs have relatively little space, which results in limited information being provided to the visitor. Interpretive signage is best used in conjunction with either the OnCell mobile tour or self-guided brochure options. See the Appendices for images and maps.





Website

The Turnipseed Nature Preserve website should provide overview information about the cultural history and recreational opportunities of the site, following suit with other PROS websites. To increase interpretive potential, all interpretive materials should be made available digitally through the website, as well as on-site methods of distribution. See the Appendices for images and maps.

Future Projects

The limits of resources and time for this project have left some questions still unanswered, but interpretation can be enriched by future research projects. In particular, it would be worthwhile to do an in-depth archaeological investigation of the cemetery west of the Bunch-Honeycutt House. Methods including core sampling, ground penetrating radar, electrical resistivity, ground probing and more could help to identify the number of internments and pinpoint a more accurate date, possibly leading to the identification of those buried there.

The original owners of the land is still a mystery as well. Although the land was likely a land grant, it is unclear who may have received it. Sarah Pierce Richardson **is the earliest known owner, but as her father's name is unknown, and** documentary records are limited, it is unclear how she acquired the land. An **in-depth research study may yield more information about the property's earliest** decades, but it is also possible that this information is simply lost to time.





Oral history interviews with Medlin heirs may also yield more information about the history and use of the site, as well as providing audio recordings to enrich future interpretation.

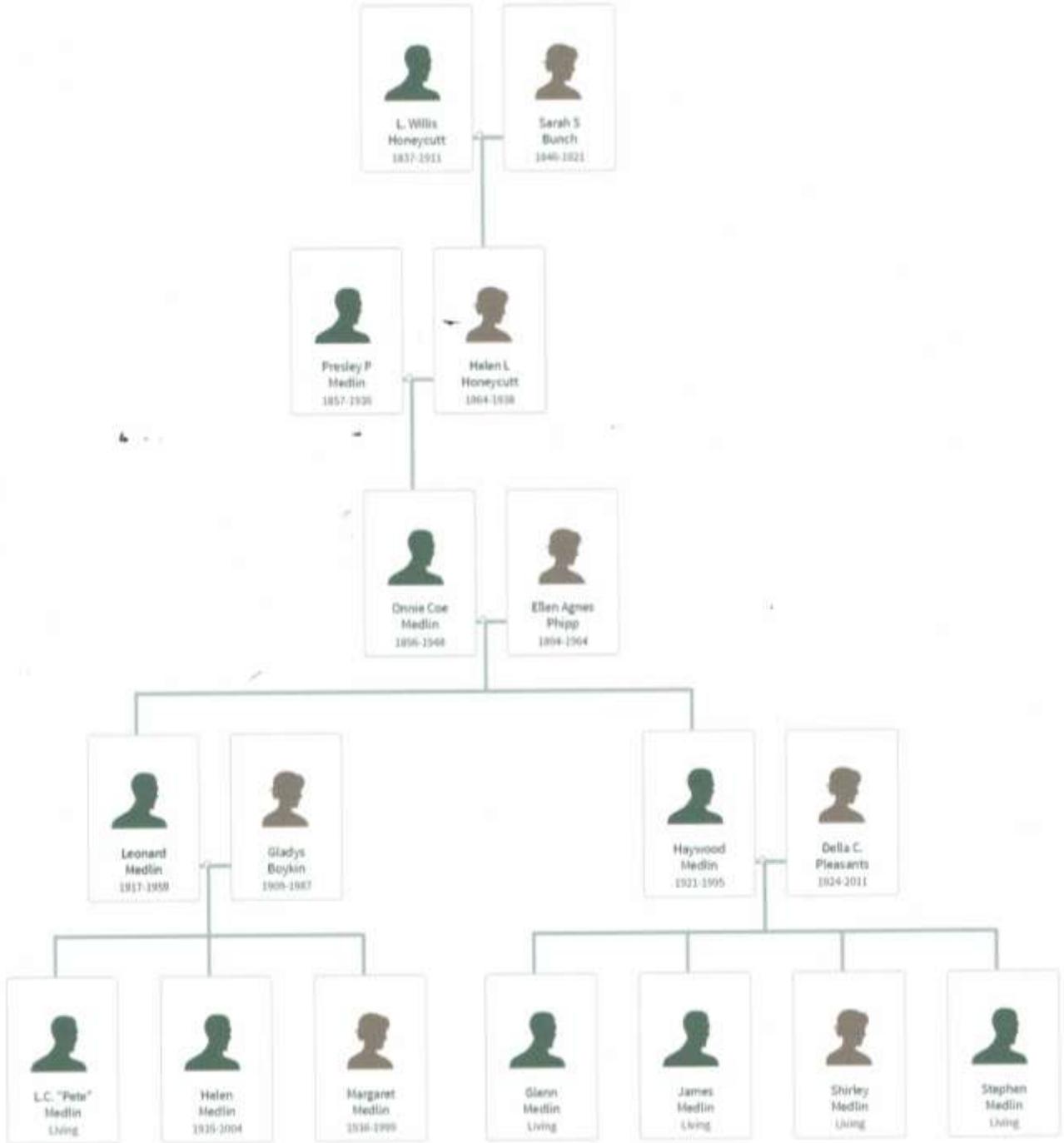
Future research could include Eppie Honeycutt's World War I service, Haywood Medlin's World War II service, the farm diversification program the Medlins participated in, and deeper research into the Martin family's sawmilling operations. Additional contextual topics include the history of the Wendell community, the Medlins' and others' general stores, Clyde's Chapel Baptist Church, Wendell's tobacco market, milling activities in the area, and more. For all of these topics, limited documentary resources are available, and some may require significant travel and time to uncover.





Appendix 1:
Bunch-Honeycutt-Medlin
Family Tree







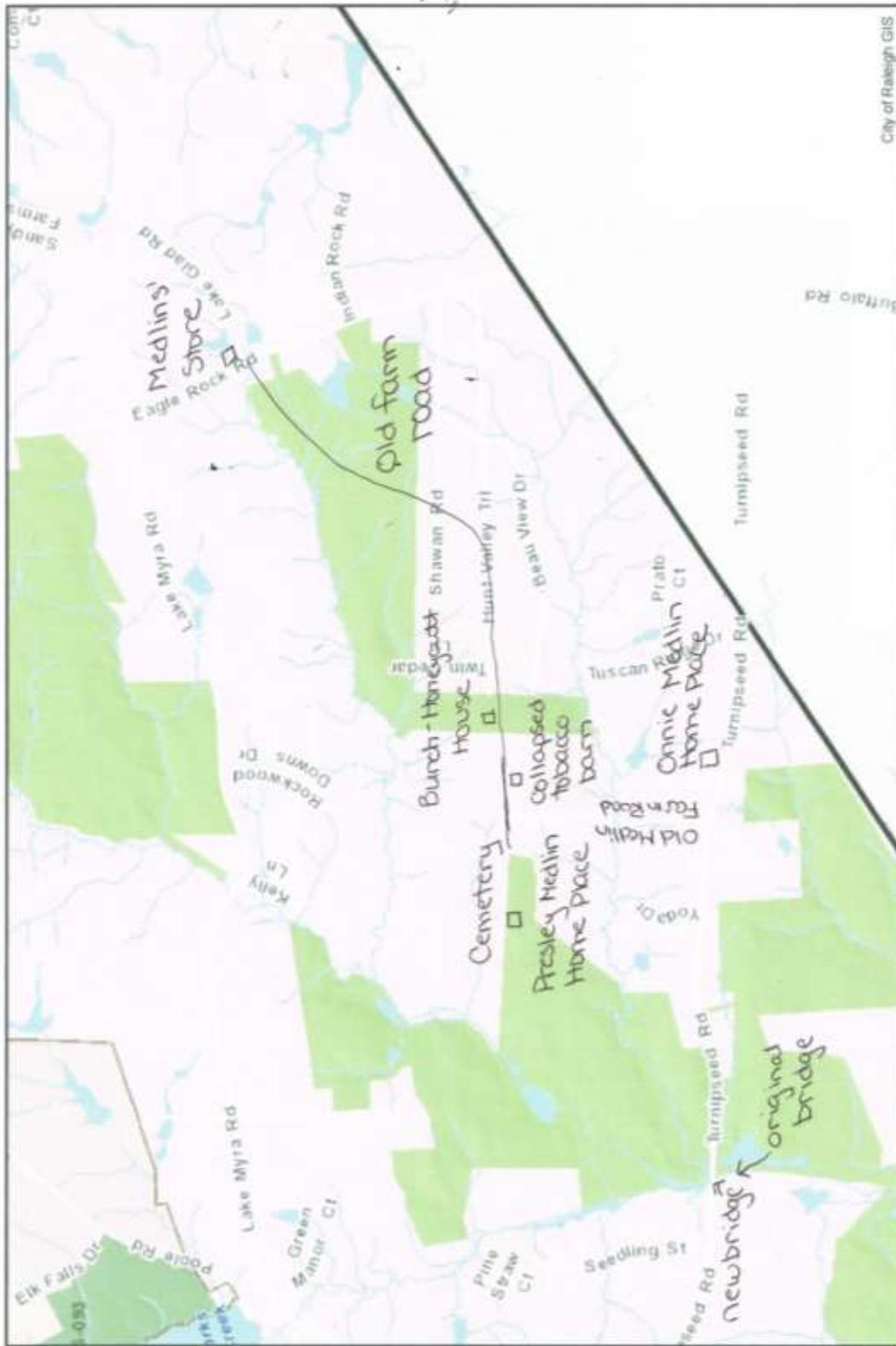
Appendix 2:
Medlin-Honeycutt
Family Tree



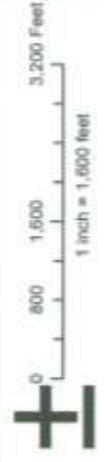


Appendix 3: Site Map





Disclaimer:
 MGA makes every effort to produce and publish the most current and accurate information possible. However, the maps are produced for information purposes and are NOT surveys. No warranties, expressed or implied, are provided for the data therein, its use or its interpretation.



Medlin Family Interview
 by Cheri Szcodronski
 January 16, 2016





Appendix 4:
Photo Proof Sheets
Szcodronski Site Visits



August 1, 2015 — Exterior



August 1, 2015 — Interior



August 1, 2015 — Cemetery



October 11, 2015 — Exterior



October 11, 2015 — Interior





October 11, 2015 — Landscape



January 16, 2016 — Landscape





Appendix 5:
Photo Proof Sheets
Medlin Family Photos





Presley and Helen Medlin



Onnie and Ellen
Medlin



Home of Onnie and Ellen Medlin
on Turnipseed Road



Eppie Honeycutt
during World War I





Haywood and Della
Medlin



Haywood Medlin
at boot camp
in Wisconsin



Haywood Medlin and his truck
"Doodle-Bug"
during World War II





Tobacco plant beds at the Medlin farm, c.1980s



Tobacco farming activities at the Medlin farm c.1980s





Appendix 6: USDA Aerial Photos





1938 USDA Aerial Photo Detail





1959 USDA Aerial Photo Detail



1971 USDA Aerial Photo Detail





Appendix 7:
Historical Maps





1871 Map of Wake County, Fendol Bevers, Mark's Creek Detail
 (courtesy of UNC Digital Map Collection)



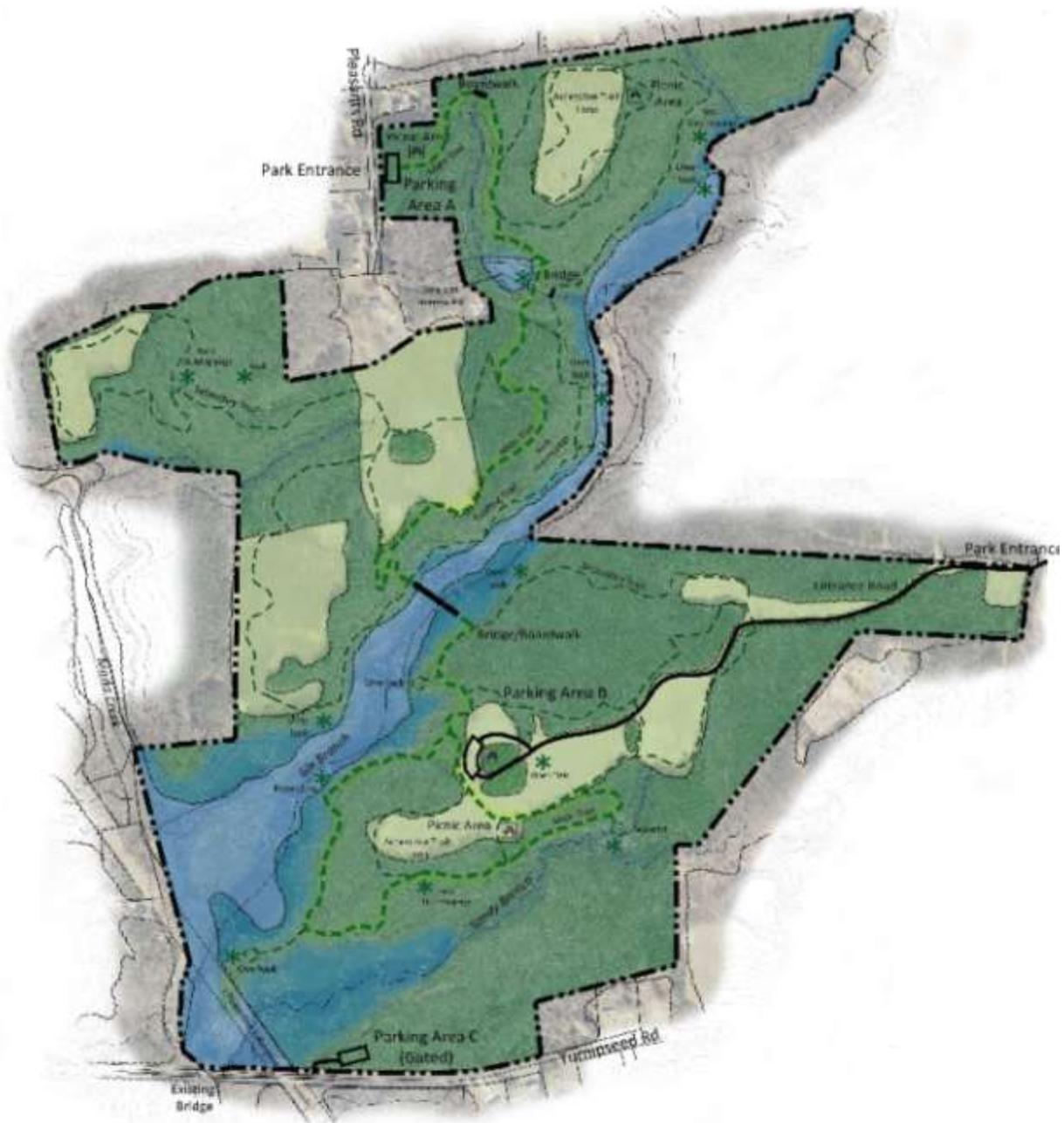
1887 Shaffer's Map of Wake County, Mark's Creek Detail
 Note "Medlin's Branch"
 (courtesy of UNC Digital Map Collection)





Appendix 8:
Turnipseed Nature Preserve
Schematic Design
June 2014





Susan
Hatchell
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TURNIPSEED NATURE PRESERVE Wake County, North Carolina Schematic Design - June, 2014

