

NPS Form 10-900-b
(March 1992)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Archaeological Sites within the John H. Kerr Reservoir Area

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Settlement and Agriculture within the John H. Kerr Reservoir Area, 1750-1940

C. Form Prepared by

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city or town Norcross state GA zip code 30071

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Hussen April 26, 2002
Signature and title of certifying official _____ Date _____

A DEPT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date _____

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

E. Statement of Historic Contexts (Document historic contexts on one or more continuation sheets. If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

E-1 — E-6

F. Associated Property Types (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements on one or more continuation sheets.)

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G. Geographical Data

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing on one or more continuation sheets.)

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I. Major Bibliographical References (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

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

I-24 — I-25

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: _____

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E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The history of the Kerr Reservoir region shares many traits in common with the rest of the Virginia and North Carolina Piedmont. The Kerr Reservoir area was probably first inhabited by prehistoric Indian groups from the Paleoindian period of approximately 12,000 years ago. By early historic times Indian groups were sedentary agriculturalists, organized primarily in small and large chiefdoms. These groups were contacted by English explorers and traders operating out of Jamestown in the early to mid-1600s. In the mid-1600s the Kerr Reservoir area was dominated by the Occaneechee Indians, living in a town on Occaneechee Island (now flooded by the Reservoir) near present-day Clarksville, Virginia. The Occaneechee Indians controlled a large trading network because of their location on a major north-south trading path. In 1676 the power of the Occaneechee Indians was broken by an attack on their town by Nathaniel Bacon and a Colonial militia force. Settlement by European colonists began slowly after this, with scattered pioneer farmsteads established by the early 1700s. Early settlers in the Kerr Reservoir area were primarily English, but significant numbers of Scots, Welsh, French, Irish, and German immigrants were also part of the 1700s population growth.

The historic settlement pattern within the Kerr Reservoir area was based upon a riverine orientation; rivers were considered major transportation routes, and crops were grown on the *bottomlands*, terraces, and surrounding upland ridges. The local economy was agriculture based, and rivers were depended upon to ship cash crops (first corn then tobacco) to market. Increasing the overland road network was a constant concern throughout the 1700s and 1800s. Like other areas in the Southeastern Piedmont, few non-agricultural economic opportunities were available, although a small number of Scots-Irish and German immigrants owned and operated gristmills and tanneries. A few other trades which proved necessary in the isolated communities included carpenters, wheelwrights, tailors, hatters, and blacksmiths.

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These settlement and economic patterns are typical within the North Carolina/Virginia Piedmont. The relative poorness of the land compared with soils in the Coastal Plain prohibited farms (in the initial period of their establishment in the 1700s and early 1800s) from reaching the massive proportions plantations did in the North Carolina Lowcountry and the Virginia Tidewater regions. As a result, farms were usually small, and slavery was used only minimally. The majority of farmsteads were maintained by a household head, with the assistance of his family and, in rare cases, one or two slaves.

A number plantations did exist, however, especially after the introduction of Bright Leaf tobacco. Although a few plantations were large, most consisted of relatively small landholdings, with the employment of two to ten slaves, and were only slightly larger than the more common farmsteads. The owner usually worked in the fields along with his slaves. The Lowcountry/Tidewater practice of absentee ownership with a hired overseer was not common within the project area. After the end of the Civil War and the removal of slavery, the residents within the project area were not as economically devastated as those within the Coastal Plain since they were not as dependent on slave labor.

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Tobacco was the most important cash crop in the Kerr Reservoir area since early settlement of the region. Prior to the 1830s, tobacco was either cured by heat from an open fire or dried by air for five to six weeks prior to being pressure packed into barrels for shipment and storage. The leaf produced by this method was dark in color and had a very coarse taste when smoked. Experimentation began around 1820 to produce a light-colored (bright) leaf with a mild, aromatic flavor. A breakthrough in these experiments happened by accident in 1839 when a slave, named Stephen, in Caswell County, North Carolina fell asleep while tending an open fire to cure the tobacco from Abisha Slade's farm. The fire had nearly died out and, in order to revive the flame, Stephen heaped an abundance of hot coals on the floor of the barn. This action caused the heat to rise very quickly within the barn and the tobacco to turn a bright yellow color. Afterwards the technique of raising and lowering the heat on the leaf was perfected and resulted in the consistent production of a "bright leaf" tobacco.

Experimentation using heat curing was already in progress prior to the incident in Caswell County. A process using heat generated from an external source was in development in Virginia around 1830. This method depended on flues which brought heat from an outside furnace into a tightly closed curing barn. The use of an external source of heat and a flue system gradually replaced open fires on barn floors as the preferred method of curing. Sheet metal flues were introduced during the early 1860s, and a general replacement of the old method was complete around 1872.

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The soil of choice used to grow the new bright leaf tobacco was thin, sandy, and generally infertile for most other crops without heavy use of fertilizer and lime. Yellow Orinoco (seeds that produce the finest yellow leaf tobacco) grew best in Granville County, North Carolina. The Bright Leaf Belt was a strip on both sides of the North Carolina-Virginia state line. Impoverished farmers in the Kerr Reservoir area, and the surrounding region, found new and improved economic conditions through the production of this strain of tobacco; a former liability (poor soils) became an advantage, and an era of relative prosperity began.

Additional prosperity came to tobacco farming during the period between 1870 and 1885 with the development of cigarettes. Cigarettes were first used in New York in 1864. By 1880, there were four cigarette factories in Durham, North Carolina alone. By 1885 cigarette smoking surpassed the use of tobacco for pipes and cigars. This increase in tobacco usage, prompted by the innovation of cigarettes and the subsequent introduction of automated rolling machines, greatly increased the demand for tobacco. This demand was met with an increase in production over time.

Tobacco farming continued to be prosperous for inhabitants of the Kerr Reservoir region until the 1920s and 1930s. Devastating diseases arose in the late 1800s to adversely affect tobacco production and grew worse through the 1930s. The "Granville Wilt" was first detected in Granville County, North Carolina in 1881. The "Wilt" was a bacterial disease that attacked the plant in all stages of development, causing the plant to wilt and die in the field. By 1930, this disease had caused widespread economic hardship across the region. The "Black Shank" fungus appeared in Georgia in 1915 and spread to North Carolina by

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1931. This fungus was extremely difficult to control and required the use of chemical soil treatment, the development of resistant species of plants, crop rotation, and the destruction of all of one's old crops, all at great expense to the farmers. The "Blue Mold" was a highly contagious fungus that affected both plant beds and maturing plants in the field. Plants with this condition lost up to 50 percent of their growth. This fungus was originally found in Georgia and Florida in 1921. Within ten years the fungus had spread into North Carolina and Virginia, carried on the hands of workers and on machines. By 1932, the crop had suffered considerable losses due to Blue Mold. These processes plagued farmers until disease resistant strains of tobacco were developed in the 1940s.

A second major problem was the general market shrinking and financial problems of the Depression of the 1930s. Prices were low, and capital was not readily available. The tobacco farmers of the region were greatly affected.

Floods on the Dan, Staunton, and Roanoke rivers had historically been devastating for the region. After World War II, a flood control and hydro-electric power production program was developed for the Roanoke River Basin; the major component of this plan was the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir at Buggs Island on the Roanoke River. Construction on this dam began in 1946, with completion in 1953. Approximately 300 families were displaced by the Reservoir; most of these lived on small farmsteads. Many of these farmsteads were simply abandoned and are now archaeological sites within the upland portion of the government-owned lands surrounding the flood pool.

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Historically and archaeologically, the Kerr Reservoir region has a number of defining traits which are typical of the Virginia/North Carolina Piedmont.

1. A riverine settlement pattern which concentrated populations in river valleys (and adjacent upland ridges).
2. A late eighteenth/nineteenth century adoption of tobacco agriculture.
3. Self-sufficiency and generally limited participation in market systems, excepting tobacco production, in part linked to a general lack of capital.
4. Generally poor soils of minimal productivity, except for tobacco.
5. A preponderance of small farms and a general lack of major postbellum landholdings.
6. Industrial/commercial facilities primarily limited to subsistence related mill operations and tobacco processing.
7. A period of prosperity from the mid-1800s to the 1920s preceded and followed by less prosperous conditions.

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F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

I. Name of Property Type

Late eighteenth/nineteenth century tobacco related farmstead/homestead archaeological sites within the Kerr Reservoir Region.

II. Description

A number of late eighteenth/early nineteenth century homestead/farmstead archaeological sites have been recorded within the Kerr Reservoir area. Farmsteads are defined as residential building sites in association with definite farm outbuildings. Homesteads are defined as residential building sites only, in conjunction with no definite outbuildings. However, these two classes have been grouped because it is suspected that these homesteads were indeed working farms, and outbuildings did exist. Since these property types are archaeological sites, outbuilding site locations are sometimes difficult to identify due to the distance they may have been from the primary residence and the little amount of physical evidence left behind.

Sites typically contain the archaeological remains of a residence and several outbuildings. Tobacco curing barns constitute a major outbuilding form (and thus a property subtype). Graveyards/cemeteries are often present at the sites. Farmstead/homestead archaeological sites thus usually contain several property subtypes.

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III. Significance

Architectural types and styles are poorly known since the sites included are archaeological and have not yet been studied in detail. It is estimated from available evidence that a variety of vernacular styles and substyles are represented, although log and frame construction involving brick and natural stone pier supports and chimneys would appear to be common. Further, more detailed archaeological study would allow documentation of the architectural variety present and its correlation with function, status, and changing temporal styles and trends.

Historic farmstead/homestead archaeological sites within the Kerr Reservoir project area are typical of those found throughout the Southeastern Piedmont. Study of these resources could reveal broader patterns in Southeastern Piedmont tobacco related farmsteads. Several major research questions can be posed to illustrate the significance of archaeological data from these sites.

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1. What is the range of variation among the tobacco farmstead/homesteads within the study area in terms of style, mode of construction, date of construction, and materials used? What were the sizes and architectural characteristics of the residences? What types/functions of outbuildings were present and what was their layout? Were specialized activity areas present? Were graveyards/cemeteries present on the farmsteads, and do their characteristics correlate with aspects of the farmsteads (e.g., architectural layout, identified ethnic tradition)?
2. What accounts for the variation observed? Factors to be considered include ethnic traditions, the primacy of the farming function, general economic concerns, and raw material constraints.
3. What were the effects of tobacco production on the economy of the study area? Did reliance on a single cash crop determine the form and layout of farmsteads? Are the periods of tobacco related prosperity reflected in the size, form, or arrangement of farmsteads?
4. Are changes in the physical characteristics of these homestead/farmstead archaeological sites over time a result of improvements in technology, population increase, or other factors?
5. What is the variability among occupants of these farmsteads in terms of ethnicity, status, and participation in a national market? Are ethnicity, status, and market participation correlated with each other or with farmstead layout, size, or other site characteristics? Do these correlations change over time?

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IV. Registration Requirements

A list of generalized regional research realms and data categories was used, along with specific site attributes (integrity, clarity, artifact frequency, and artifact diversity) in order to regulate the NRHP evaluation process of historic archaeological sites within the Kerr Reservoir area. Relatively high potential for archaeological data within these general categories allowed determination of a specific site as eligible for inclusion in this Multiple Property Listing. The research realms and data categories are listed below.

Plant Diet
Faunal Diet
Husbandry/Subsistence/Economy

Class, Status, and
Ethnic Indicators
(various artifacts)

Intrasite Settlement
Structure Form and Proxemics
Activity Areas

Dating from Artifacts
Dating from Records
Site Occupants Identified

Burial Ritual
Demographics
Ethnic Relationships
Osteological Diet Study

Assemblage Variation/
Site Function
Feature Analysis/
Site Function

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I. Name of Property Type

Late eighteenth/nineteenth century tobacco related plantation archaeological sites within the Kerr Reservoir region.

II. Description

Late eighteenth and nineteenth century plantation archaeological sites have been recorded within the Kerr Reservoir area. The difference between plantations and simple one-family farmsteads was not as great within the Kerr Reservoir region as between those in the Coastal Plain of Virginia and North Carolina. The primary distinction between plantations and farmsteads within the project area was the presence of slaves. Usually, plantations also had larger residential structures than farmsteads (although this is not always the case). Plantations are identified as residential building sites in association with various support and agriculturally related outbuildings, slave residences, and cemeteries. The number and specialized function of outbuildings, and especially the presence/number of slave residences are determinative in identification of plantations (as opposed to farmsteads). This property type thus has a number of possible subtypes, e.g., owner residence, manager residence, slave residence, tobacco barn, other outbuilding types, cemeteries.

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III. Significance

Like farmstead sites, the architectural types and styles of plantation archaeological sites within the project area are poorly known. It is likely that vernacular construction techniques were fairly common in even reasonably wealthy residences of the period. This suggestion could be proven correct or incorrect after a detailed examination of the archaeological evidence. It could also be possible that plantation owners attempted to show their affluence by using different architectural types and styles as well as imported building materials. The archaeological record could also show significant differences in lifestyle between plantation and farmstead residents. Intensive archaeological study would allow documentation of the architectural variety present and its correlation with function, status, and changing temporal styles and trends.

Ethnicity and status on plantations are important research foci for archaeology. Although status and ethnicity are highly correlated generally, i.e., Euro-Americans were high status, while African Americans were low status, there has been a recent research concern with documenting and understanding the importance of status differences among smaller segments of plantation populations. Field slaves, slave overseers, domestic service slaves, and skilled-trade slaves (e.g., carpenters, blacksmiths) probably had different status within the plantation population, and this status might be observed not only in architectural characteristics of residences as described above, but also in diet, in clothing, in personal possessions, in burial patterns, and in the nature of allowed activities (e.g., possession of firearms for hunting). Identification of these plantation subgroups and their status relationships are possible with archaeological data. Similarly, it is expected that status differences would be recognizable for subgroups of the Euro-American families on plantations. It is expected that Euro-American owners would be of the highest status, with lesser status assignments for managers and their families.

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Historic plantation sites within the Kerr Reservoir area are generally similar to those found throughout the Southeastern Piedmont. Study of these resources could reveal broad patterns or specific differences for Southeastern Piedmont tobacco related plantations. Of particular importance for the Kerr Reservoir region are the relationships between farmsteads and plantations. Are plantations distinctly different from the predominant farmstead form for the area? That is, are plantations relatively unique "islands" in a "sea" of farmsteads? Or, are the differences among plantation and farmstead sites incremental and quantitative, with transitional, intermediate forms? The preservation and study of archaeological remains of plantations in the area are necessary to address these questions. Specific research questions which address these archaeological resources within the Kerr Reservoir region are:

1. What is the range of variation among the tobacco plantations within the study area in terms of style, mode of construction, date of construction, and materials used? What were the sizes and architectural characteristics of the plantation main houses? Were other high status residences (e.g., guest houses) present?

What types/functions of outbuildings were present and what was their layout? Were specialized activity areas present? Were graveyards/cemeteries present on the plantation, and were these associated with distinct plantation subgroups?

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2. What accounts for the variation observed? Factors to be considered include ethnic traditions, the primacy of the cash crop production function, general economic concerns, and raw material constraints.
3. What were the effects of tobacco production on the economy of the study area? Are tobacco related plantations distinct from those focusing on other cash crops (i.e., cotton, rice, indigo, sugar). Are the periods of tobacco related prosperity reflected in the number, size, form, or arrangement of plantations?
4. Are changes in the physical characteristics of these plantation archaeological sites over time a result of improvements in technology, population increase, or other factors such as immigration of plantation owners from earlier settled areas (Lowcountry/Tidewater regions)?
5. What is the variability among occupant subgroups of these plantations in terms of ethnicity, status, and participation in a national market? Are ethnicity, status, and market participation correlated with each other or with plantation layout, size, or other site characteristics? Do these correlations change over time?

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6. How were plantations in the region affected by the loss of slave labor after the Civil War? Did plantations continue as a business enterprise through hiring of wage laborers? Or, did they become subdivided into a number of independently owned farmsteads or rented to tenants? If rented to tenants, what kinds of renting (e.g., sharecropping) were used?

7. How does the post-Civil War plantation system (or its replacement) compare to changes in the plantation economy of other areas of the South? Did the relatively high post-Civil War prices for tobacco allow development of a different system for the Kerr Reservoir area than systems evolving elsewhere?

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IV. Registration Requirements

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Site Occupants Identified

Burial Ritual
Demographics
Ethnic Relationships
Osteological Diet Study

Assemblage Variation/
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G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir is located in the Roanoke River Basin within Mecklenburg, Charlotte, and Halifax Counties in Virginia and Warren, Vance, and Granville Counties in North Carolina. Approximately 104,237 acres (42,201 hectares) are contained within this facility, with 800 miles of shoreline. The inundated portion of the reservoir covers a total of 50,237 acres (20,339 hectares) when measured from the conservation pool (300 feet above mean sea level). The study area consists of the remaining 54,000 acres (21,862 hectares) of land within the Corps of Engineers property boundaries that are not inundated by the flood pool.

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H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

Archaeological sites listed as part of this Multiple Property Listing were identified and evaluated as part of the ongoing Historic Properties Management Plan for John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir under development by the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers, managing agency for the Reservoir. Two major contract studies (Garrow et al. 1980; Brockington et al. 1992) sponsored by the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers provided much of data for this Multiple Property Listing. Internal studies by the Wilmington District were also important (Kimmel 1989, 1991). Mr. Richard Kimmel of the Wilmington District was technical representative/manager of these contract studies. The Multiple Property Listing Form and associated Registration Forms were prepared by Brockington and Associates, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia under contract to the Wilmington District.

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The Garrow et al. (1980) study was the first major survey focused, in part, on historic period archaeological sites in the Kerr Reservoir project area. That study involved a shoreline examination of the entire Reservoir and intensive survey of a number of recreation areas proposed for development. The Brockington et al. (1992) study involved testing of a number of archaeological properties discovered by Garrow et al. (1980), and a three percent stratified random sample survey of upland portions of the Reservoir lands. Archaeological sites proposed for listing at this writing are several identified by Garrow et al. (1980) and further documented by Brockington et al. (1992), except for Occoneechee Plantation, which was documented by Kimmel (1989, 1991).

Archaeological sites discussed in this Multiple Property Listing were located through intensive archaeological survey. Intensive survey was accomplished through the pedestrian traverse of regularly spaced transects. Visual inspection of surface exposure along transects was supplemented with the excavation of small (30 cm by 30 cm) shovel tests placed at regular intervals (usually 30 meters) along each transect. All fill removed from shovel tests was sifted through .25 inch (6.35 mm) mesh hardware cloth to enhance the probability of artifact recovery.

Shovel test intervals were (infrequently) lengthened (i.e., spaced at intervals greater than 30 meters) in areas deemed to possess a low probability for buried archaeological remains (e.g., slopes steeper than 15 percent or extremely eroded areas). In such locations, shovel tests were excavated at a maximum of 60 meter intervals along each transect.

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Once a locus of cultural remains was encountered, additional inspection and recordation of this locale was made. This inspection involved the excavation of additional shovel tests, spaced at smaller intervals (e.g., 5-15 meters) over the area suspected to contain cultural remains.

Sufficient information concerning each archaeological site was recorded to permit the completion of North Carolina or Virginia state site forms, and to permit an informed evaluation of the site with respect to its potential National Register significance. Such information included the horizontal and vertical distribution of cultural remains, the potential for presence and distribution of intact cultural features, and the relationship of the site to the present topography and natural environment. Scaled site plans, profiles, more detailed drawings of features, and photographs were employed to assist in the recordation of sites. The locations of all sites were plotted on USGS topographic maps (7.5 minute series).

Archival research was undertaken at appropriate facilities to determine the chain of ownership, dates of occupation, and functions of the sites in question. Information regarding structures on these sites was collected and used to guide the fieldwork.

Potentially significant historic sites were revisited and mapped using a transit. All measurements were made using the English system while collecting data on historic sites. Each site was surface collected and, where warranted, additional shovel tests were dug to reveal foundation lines or other features. Shovel tests were augmented and/or their locations guided by probing with a flexible metal rod. Selected above-ground structural features or elements (foundations, etc.) were photographed.

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Test excavations, when required, were implemented using one of several types of subsurface excavation units. These units consisted of the following types: five by five foot excavation unit, three by five foot trench, a trench three feet in width with a length determined in the field, a strata cut, or a series of test pits 15 inches square. These units were excavated in either arbitrary levels, or levels dictated by natural or cultural stratigraphy. Culturally derived stratigraphy and/or features were excavated to a point where positive identification could be made. All levels within any given unit were photographed and drawn to scale on appropriate unit documentation forms. The profile of at least one wall was photographed and drawn to scale. All measurements and units were located with respect to a permanent datum and located on the prepared site map. The fill removed from all excavations was screened through .25 inch mesh screen to enhance artifact recovery.

The historic context developed as part of this Multiple Property Listing is focused on the economic history of the rural portions of the Kerr Reservoir area for the late 1700s to the early 1900s. The rural population in this area was economically based on tobacco agriculture. It is hypothesized that environmental and economic factors were very important in shaping the architectural forms, cultural geography, and general lifeways of this rural population. Study of archaeological sites represented by the property types of this Listing can provide significant data for understanding themes and patterns of adaptation of historic populations to a relatively poor, relatively isolated, rural area. The property types presented here are defined on the basis of function and general historic period. It is expected that additional property types (e.g., mills, industrial sites) will be developed for future inclusion within this Listing. Additional property types might require expansion of the historic context presented here or development of additional historic contexts. It should be noted that a National Register listed Multiple Property Listing, Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina (Brown and Esperon 1987), touches on several themes discussed in this Listing. That Multiple Property Listing was developed for standing buildings and thus differs from the present Listing, which involves archaeological resources and their potential for research study.

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National Register of Historic Places evaluation under this Listing considered the following factors.

1. The presence of intact architectural features likely to yield data on subsistence or architecture of the period 1750-1940.
2. The integrity of surface and/or subsurface artifacts and ecofacts likely to yield information regarding diet, subsistence or architecture of the period 1750-1940.
3. The presence of patterned variability in either cultural features, artifacts, or ecofacts within the site likely to yield information on intracommunity economic, ethnic, or social differences, and/or attendant extracommunity social and economic relations during the period 1750-1940.
4. The presence of horizontally or vertically stratified remains likely to yield information on changing subsistence, social relations, or ideology during the period 1750-1940.
5. The presence of intact structural remains, features and related artifact deposits of the period 1750-1940 likely to yield information on the role of commercial or residential sites in the evolution and development of the local or regional community.
6. The presence of intact structural remains, features and related artifact deposits of the period 1750-1940 likely to yield information on the relationship between any early road systems and the distribution of sites (settlement patterns) in the general area, and the effects of this on the early historic development and subsequent evolution of the Roanoke River Basin.

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7. The presence of intact structural remains, features and related artifact deposits of the period 1750-1940 likely to yield information on the nature of slave, freed black and Afro-American economic, social, and religious life.
8. The presence of stratified, multiple occupation sites likely to yield information regarding the chronological sequence of artifact style in the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia.
9. The presence of human burials, if these burials should contain data sufficient to override the standard prescription against cemeteries, graveyards, and other burial areas being eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing. Such data might include information on population mortality rates and demographic (age/sex) structure, disease and dietary patterns, and burial practices as related to cultural/ethnic traditions, status assignments, or economic factors. Study of grave markers, observable grave goods/offerings, grave layout within cemeteries, and patterns of cemetery maintenance may provide significant sets of data without disturbance or exhumation of buried human remains.

These criteria were developed in consideration of presently accepted regional research goals, the guidelines established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Section 106), 36 CFR 800, and the criteria outlined in 36 CFR 60.6.

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