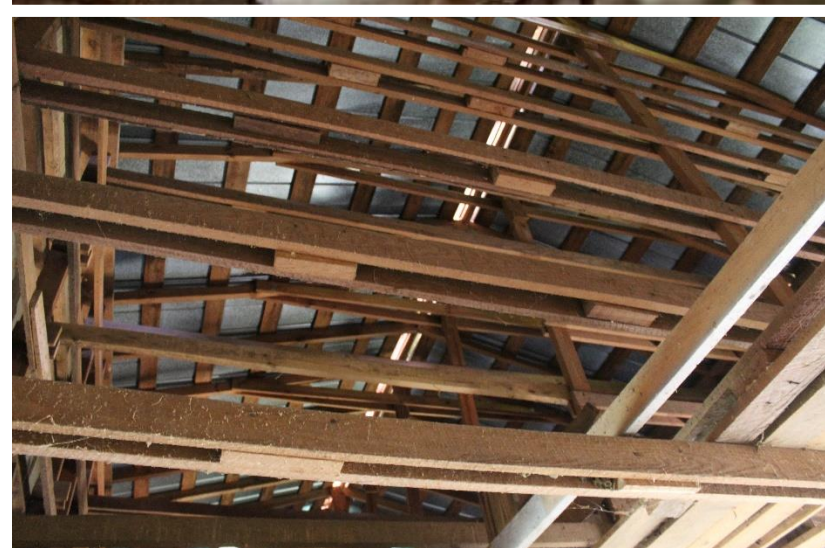
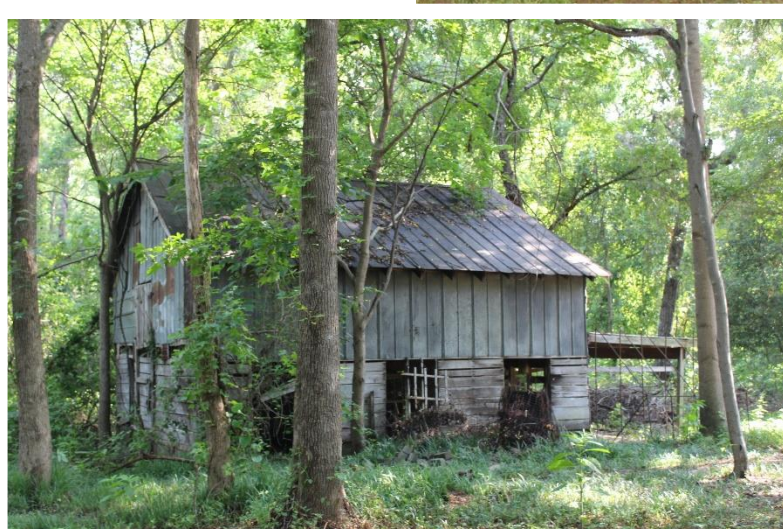


a history of
Beech Bluff
County Park





F I R E F L Y
PRESERVATION CONSULTING

a history of **Beech Bluff County Park**

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Prepared for
Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
Raleigh, North Carolina

Prepared by
Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski, M.A.
Founding Principal and Architectural Historian

Text and layout by Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski
Images by Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski unless otherwise noted

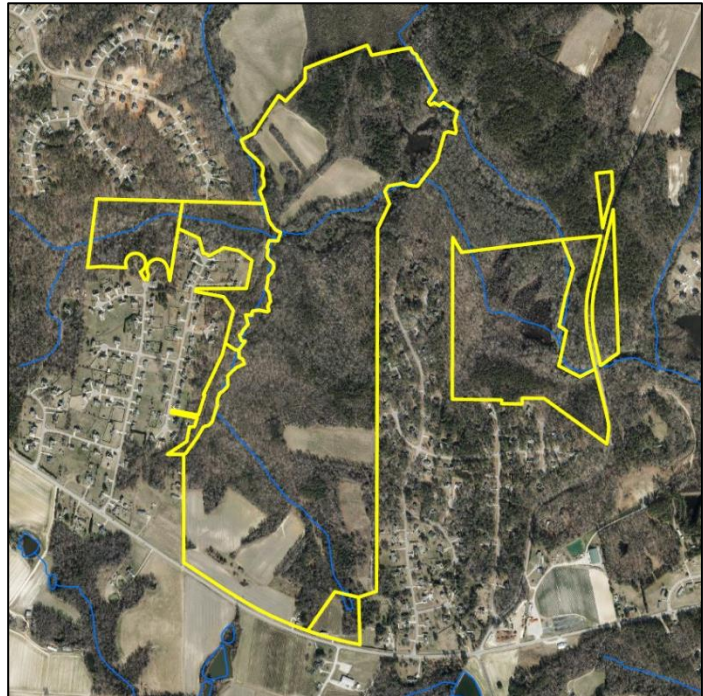
Front page images, clockwise from top left:
a Wake County tobacco field, tobacco pack house at Beech Bluff County Park, muscadine grapevines at Adams Vineyard, a Wake County cotton field (courtesy of Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space), tobacco curing barn tier poles at Beech Bluff County Park, sweet potato field at Beech Bluff County Park, hog barn at Beech Bluff County Park, sweet potato curing barn at Beech Bluff County Park

Table of Contents

Project Description.....	1
Historical Narrative	
Summary	2
Family Tree	3
First Generation: Caroline Matilda Collins and James Adams, 1779-1859	4
Second Generation: John “Jack” William Adams and Susan Smith Adams, 1859-1877	5
Third Generation: Susanah Adams and James Adams, 1877-1916.....	5
Fourth Generation: Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams, 1916-1981.....	6
Third Generation: John Quinton Adams and Annie Blalock Adams, 1877-1926.....	6
Fourth Generation: Charlie B. Adams and Blannie Medlin Adams, 1926-1998	7
Fourth Generation: John Quincy Adams, Jr., and Beulah Honeycutt Adams, 1923-1965	8
Fifth, Sixth, & Seventh Generations:	
John Quincy Adams, III, and Joyce Clark Adams, 1965-2017	9
Architectural Resources	
Summary and Map	11
Cabin.....	12
Livestock and Crop Barns	13
Horse Stable	13
Hog Barn	14
Potato-Curing Barn.....	15
Crop Fields and Pasture	15
Pack House	16
Tenant House	17
Storage Barn.....	17
Adams Home Place	18
Endnotes.....	19
Bibliography	23

Project Description

Beech Bluff County Park is located near Willow Springs in southeastern Wake County. It encompasses 295.5 acres over seven separate parcels, which are surrounded by late-twentieth- and early-twenty-first-century housing developments. It is located on the north side of Highway 42, near the intersection with Barber Bridge Road. Middle Creek runs through the northern section of the park, and there are several smaller streams and ponds within the park boundary as well. The topography is generally flat, with the exception of the characteristic steep bluffs adjacent to Middle Creek that give the park its name. There is a combination of second growth forest, feral farm fields, rocky outcrops, and low-lying wetlands.



*Beech Bluff County Park tax parcel boundaries
(courtesy of City of Raleigh and Wake County iMAPS)*

The land that makes up the park was originally owned by the Adams family, who received the first acreage through a land grant in the late 1700s. Since then, seven generations of Adams have farmed the land. The park is the culmination of Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space efforts to establish a park in the southeastern part of the county where no county-operated park facilities currently exist. Wake County PROS began plans to identify available land in 2003 and purchased property from several members of the Adams family between 2004 and 2019. The Master Plan for the park was approved in 2019 and includes wildlife observation areas, hiking trails, open meadows, community gardens, a visitor center, picnic shelters, and a playground. Construction could begin as early as 2021, and the park could be open to the public as early as 2022.

Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space values both cultural and environmental resources, and to that end, funded this project to conduct an oral history interview with Joyce Clark Adams, former owner of much of the land that now makes up the park; to conduct additional historical research and develop a historical narrative of the property; and to document the remaining buildings within the park boundary. Firefly Preservation Consulting, LLC, conducted an oral history interview with Joyce Clark Adams in June 2019 with Matt Fryar from Wake County PROS. The historical narrative included in this report was developed using the oral history interview, census and genealogical records, historic maps and photographs, and other Wake County history resources. A site visit was conducted in June 2019 during which all remaining buildings were documented for inclusion in the architectural resources section of this report.

Historical Narrative

Summary

The land that makes up Beech Bluff County Park has been farmed by members of the Adams family for seven generations. The park is seven separate parcels that have passed through different branches of the family tree over time, as land has been divided and inherited through the generations.



The first generation to farm the land was Caroline Matilda Collins and James Adams, who owned the farm from 1779 to 1859. They were subsistence farmers who likely raised corn, hogs, and other vegetables and livestock. They were also slaveowners with at least eight enslaved people working their farm. The second generation to farm the land was John “Jack” William Adams and Susan Smith Adams, who owned the farm from 1859 to 1877. They too began as subsistence farmers, but they introduced cotton cultivation to farm operations and, as a result, the farm expanded significantly under their ownership. They became middle class farmers with several hundred acres of land and at least ten enslaved laborers.



The first division of the farmland that makes up Beech Bluff County Park took place in the third generation. The eastern two parcels were inherited by Susanah Adams and her husband, James Adams, who owned this portion of the farm from 1877 to 1916. They grew cotton, corn, peas, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes, and raised chickens, hogs, and milk cows. The fourth generation to own the eastern portion of the farm was their unmarried daughters, Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams, who owned the land from 1916 to 1981. All three women were schoolteachers, but they also did some farming. These two parcels were sold to Wake County in 2004 and 2007, after the deaths of the Adams sisters.



The third generation to own the western parcels of the park was Susanah Adams’ brother, John Quinton Adams, and his wife, Annie Blalock Adams, who owned this portion of the farm from 1877 to 1926. Their farm was similar to the eastern section, and produced cotton, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, hogs, chickens, dairy cows, butter, and timber.



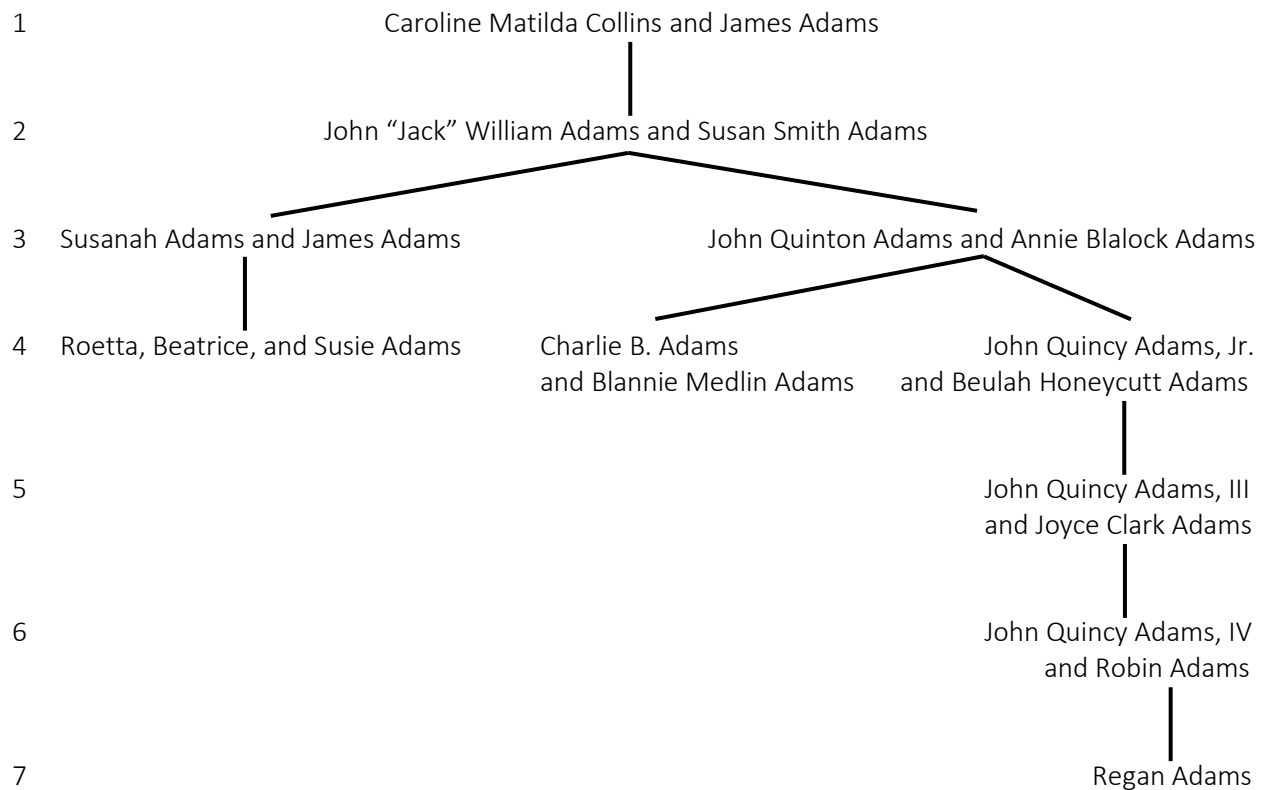
The western parcels were divided again in the fourth generation, with the western three parcels and the portion of the center parcel north of Middle Creek falling under the ownership of Charlie B. Adams and his wife, Blannie Medlin Adams, who owned this land from 1926 to 1998. After their deaths, much of this land was sold for housing developments. However, the remaining land, which could not be developed, was sold to Wake County in 2004 and 2005. Later, the parcel north of Middle Creek was recombined with the acreage south of the creek to form one central parcel.



The fourth generation to farm the land south of Middle Creek was Charlie B. Adams' brother, John Quincy Adams, Jr., and his wife, Beulah Honeycutt Adams, who owned the land from 1923 to 1965. They shifted the cash crop on the farm from cotton to tobacco, and also produced corn, soybeans, rice, cows, hogs, and vegetables. The fifth generation to farm this land was their son John Quincy Adams, III, and his wife, Joyce Clark Adams, who owned the farm from 1965 to 2017. They continued to grow tobacco, corn, soybeans, and sweet potatoes, and to raise hogs, chickens, and cows, and they relied heavily on the labor of tenant farmers. Their son, John Quincy Adams, IV, was the sixth generation on the farm, and he raised horses and operated a pick-your-own strawberry patch. His daughter, Regan Adams, was the seventh generation to work the farm, and she assisted with various farm activities as a teenager. In 2005, John Quincy Adams, III, and Joyce Clark Adams participated in the tobacco buyout, dramatically decreasing their farming operations. They shifted farm production to muscadine grapes and wine, which were produced on their acreage south of Highway 42, and they sold their acreage north of Highway 42 to Wake County in 2017 and 2019.

Family Tree

The following seven generations of the Adams family have farmed the land that now comprises Beech Bluff County Park:





First Generation: Caroline Collins Adams and James Adams, 1779-1859

According to Adams family oral history, the land that makes up Beech Bluff County Park has been in the family for seven generations, starting with a land grant.¹ Although there are several Adams family members who obtained land grants in nearby Johnston County in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, none could be found in Wake County.² Instead, the land may have been part of a land grant awarded to Andrew Harrison Collins (b.1740, d.1791). Collins' family was from Texas, but he was born in Wake County, North Carolina, and served in the Revolutionary War with North Carolina's militia. In 1779, he was awarded 290 acres "on the south side of Middle Creek." By the time of his death in 1791, Collins had two plantations totaling 640 acres on Middle Creek and additional land holdings on Black Creek, Black River, and Black Mingo Creek. He and his wife, Martha, had ten children, and he bequeathed his land on Black Creek to his oldest sons, Lewis, Reddick, and Urias, while his plantations north and south of Middle Creek went to his "youngest six children," Cader, Branch, Merrill, Creed, Matthew, and Caroline. His daughter Charlotte was already married by the time of his death, and did not inherit any land.³

The land that became Beech Bluff County Park was inherited by Caroline Matilda Collins (b.1784, d.1859), who married James Adams (b.1790, d.1850) around 1809. They had at least six children: John "Jack" William (b.1810, d.1877), Edith (b.1812, d.1880), James (b.1812, d.1887), William (b.1814, d.1888), Lynn (b.1818, d.1892), and Caroline (b.1823, d.1907).⁴ Wake County at that time was characterized by small subsistence farms, most of which grew corn and raised hogs, as well as horses, cattle, wheat, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables and livestock.⁵ James and Caroline Adams were likely operating a similar farmstead, and they had the assistance of at least eight enslaved people: a man named Doctor, a man named Peter, a woman named Amy and her children, Elizabeth, Penny, and Margaret, a woman named Patience, and a girl named Esther.⁶

Most farmers' neighbors were also members of their family. They typically shared surplus goods among one another, built houses, barns, and community buildings together, and attended churches and schools together.⁷ This was the case for the Adams-Collins family, since Caroline Collins Adams and her siblings divided their father's property after his death, and the trend continued after James and Caroline Adams passed away as well. Adams bequeathed all of his property to his widow, then to his children after her death, which included his crops, eight enslaved laborers, livestock, land, furniture, and farming equipment. After Caroline Adams' death in 1859, her children divided the plantation, and John "Jack" William Adams inherited the land that became Beech Bluff County Park.⁸



Second Generation: John “Jack” William Adams and Susan Smith Adams, 1859-1877

John “Jack” W. Adams married Susan Smith (b.1815, death date 1880-1888) in 1838, and they had five children: Leonard Henderson (b.1839, d.1912), Alexander (b.1841, death date before 1860), Salina (b.1843, death date before 1860), John Quinton (b.1846, d.1926), and Susanah (b.1849, d.1912).⁹ By the time Adams inherited his portion of the family farm in the mid-1800s, over one quarter of farmers in Wake County were middle class planters who owned plantations with several hundred acres, stylish homes surrounded by farming outbuildings, and as many as twenty enslaved laborers.¹⁰ John W. and Susan Adams’ were a part of this middle class of planters. Their home, a two-story Greek Revival house with chimneys on each end, remains standing at the northwest corner of Highway 42 and Barber Bridge Road. Construction began on the house prior to the Civil War, but it was not finished until 1865. The house was originally surrounded by agricultural outbuildings, including a smokehouse, milk house, storage sheds, and animal barns, although few remain.¹¹ In 1850, they owned 220 acres of land where they grew corn, beans or peas, sweet potatoes, wheat, and oats, and they raised hogs, sheep, and dairy cows for milk and butter. They relied on the help of three enslaved laborers, an eighteen-year-old girl, a sixteen-year-old boy, and a nine-year-old girl.¹² By 1860, their farm had grown to 545 acres, including the 287 acres that make up Beech Bluff County Park today. By that time, they also produced cotton, Irish potatoes, cheese, and honey, and relied on ten enslaved laborers, including two women, one man, six girls, and one boy.¹³

Two of Jack and Susan Adams’ children, Alexander and Salina, are absent from the documentary record by 1860 and likely passed away by that time. The Adams’ oldest child, Leonard, left the farm in 1866. He bought a home in Raleigh, where he raised seven children with his wife, Sarah Mitchiner (b.1840, d.1907), and ran a grocery store until his death in 1912.¹⁴ When Jack Adams died in 1877, his property was therefore divided between his widow Susan, his daughter Susanah, and his son John Quinton.



Third Generation: Susanah Adams and James Adams, 1877-1916

Susanah Adams inherited her childhood home and the eastern half of her parents’ farm, including the two easternmost parcels of Beech Bluff County Park, accessed by Barber Bridge Road. Her mother, Susan Smith Adams, continued to live there until her death in the 1880s.¹⁵ Susanah Adams married James Adams (b.1847, d.1916) in 1878, and they were likely related not only through marriage were also first cousins. They had four daughters: Roetta Sophie (b.1879, d.1975), Vallie Dean (b.1882, d.1959), Beatrice Cleveland (b.1886, d.1976), and Susie Matoaka (b.1889, d.1981). In 1880, their farm was 169 acres. By that time, much of the county had shifted from subsistence farming to cash crops, either cotton or tobacco. James and Susanah Adams grew some cotton, and they also raised chickens, hogs, and milk cows, and grew corn, peas, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes.¹⁶

Of their four daughters, only Vallie Dean Adams married. In 1907, she married Delphus M. Peddy, Sr., and they lived in Raleigh with their four children.¹⁷ Meanwhile, Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams remained on the farm, which they inherited following Susanah and James Adams' deaths in 1912 and 1916.¹⁸



Fourth Generation: Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams, 1916-1981

Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams managed their farm together, and all three also served as school teachers. After Delphus Peddy passed away in 1924, Vallie Adams Peddy moved back to the farm with her sisters. She passed away in 1959, followed by Roetta Adams in 1975 and Beatrice Adams in 1976.¹⁹ Susie Adams sold the house and farm that year to James and Brenda Hall of nearby Harnett County, with a life estate for herself. After her death in 1981, a portion of the land was sold for development, and Oak Hollow Estates was built in the late 1980s and early 1990s, followed by the Willow Chase subdivision in the early 1990s. Sixty-one acres of the Adams' farm were sold to Wake County in 2004 and 2007, and now comprise the easternmost section of the Beech Bluff County Park.²⁰



Third Generation: John Quinton Adams and Annie Blalock Adams, 1877-1926

John Quinton Adams inherited the western half of John W. and Susan Adams' farm, including most of the land that makes up Beech Bluff County Park today. He married Annie Blalock (b.1856, d.1943) in 1878, and they had six children: Charlie B. (b.1879, d.1975), Alonzo B. (b.1881, d.1904), Nelia E. (b.1883, d.1918), Zacheus C. (b.1888, d.1926), Annie M. (b.1891, d.1985), and John Quincy, Jr., (b.1893, d.1965). They also had a foster daughter, Elizabeth Jones (b.1911, death date unknown), who came to live with them by 1920, and about whom little is known.²¹ Adams purchased additional land on the south side of Highway 42, where he lived in a house just west of his childhood home. The house was destroyed by fire in 1899, and the following year, the Adams completed a new house built on the same foundation as the previous one, using the original chimneys and replicating the original floor plan. The house is a two-story I-house that remains standing today at the corner of Highway 42 and John Adams Road.²²

Following the Civil War, crossroads communities began forming all over Wake County, usually near rural churches. Willow Springs was one of these communities, and formed around the Willow Springs Primitive Baptist Church, which had been established west of the Adams' farm in 1826. These crossroads communities grew as the railroads spread across the county. Again Willow Springs followed this trend when it received its first post office in 1899 after the Cape Fear & Northern Railroad was constructed through the village. Soon after, new sawmills and stores began to open, benefitting from the new connectivity to larger markets. Rural Wake County also saw changes in farming, which shifted from

subsistence farming to cotton and tobacco.²³ John Quinton Adams raised hogs, chickens, and dairy cows; produced butter; and cultivated Indian corn and sweet potatoes. He also dedicated ten acres of his farm to cotton and cut timber on the wooded areas of his farm.²⁴ In 1904, he joined his brothers-in-law, John W. Blalock and Nathan M. Blalock, in leasing and operating Alfred Myatt's cotton gin, which later operated under the name J.W. Blalock & Sons, along with a nearby sawmill.²⁵

The documentary record suggests that two of John Quinton and Annie Adams' children died before they began to consider their estate plans, Alonzo in 1904 and Nelia in 1918.²⁶ In the early 1920s, prior to his death, John Quinton Adams divided his farm among his surviving children. Charlie B. Adams received the acreage that makes up the westernmost and northernmost portions of Beech Bluff County Park.²⁷ John Quincy Adams, Jr., received the homestead, including his childhood home on the south side of Highway 42 and the southwest tract of what is now Beech Bluff County Park.²⁸ Annie Adams married James Herbert Akins in 1924 and left the farm, but she inherited seven tracts of land south of her brothers' tracts on Black Creek, adjacent to Mt. Pleasant Church, and at the Wake-Johnston county line. She retained most of the land until her death in 1985, when nearly all of the remaining acreage was sold out of the family, with the exception of a 183-acre tract that remains under Adams family ownership today.²⁹ Zacheus Adams also received a 162-acre inheritance, which was located east of Charlie Adams' and John Quincy Adams, Jr.'s farms, and north of Roetta, Beatrice, and Susie Adams' farm (northeast of Beech Bluff County Park). Zacheus Adams died just months later, and his portion of the family farm became part of John Quincy Adams, Jr.'s, farm. After his death, this land was allotted to John Quincy Adams, Jr.'s, children, and it remains under family ownership today.³⁰



Fourth Generation: Charlie B. Adams and Blannie Medlin Adams, 1926-1998

Charlie B. Adams inherited the land that now makes up the northwestern portion of Beech Bluff County Park. Around 1930, he moved the former Cannon Grove Baptist Church from its original location on Old Stage Road, south of the Adams' farm, to the north side of Highway 42 near his childhood home. He disassembled the church to move it, then rebuilt it on the new location and renovated it for use as a house. The building remains standing today, just west of Beech Bluff County Park.³¹

In the early 1930s, Charlie Adams married Blannie Ann Medlin (b.1914 d.1998). By 1940, there were three hired laborers in their household: Wade Prince, a thirty-year-old white man from Burlington, North Carolina, and Allen Pitman, a fifty-nine-year-old African American man, both served as farm laborers, while Pitman's wife, sixty-eight-year-old Alice Pitman, worked as a domestic servant.³²

After Charlie Adams' death in 1975, his land passed to Blannie Medlin Adams, who remained on the farm until her death in 1998.³³ Since Charlie and Blannie Adams had no children, she left the land to her brother Arthur L. Medlin (b.1934, d.2001) and his family. The westernmost portion passed to her neice, Diane Medlin Allen, and her husband, Thomas Earl Allen. In 2001, they sold the land to developers and the first phases of the Legacy at Forty Two subdivision were built immediately afterward.³⁴ The portion immediately adjacent to the east passed to her nephew, Linwood Earl Medlin. In 2003, he also sold his portion of the farm for development, and it became the later phases of the Legacy at Forty Two

subdivision.³⁵ These parcels could not be developed because of wetlands caused by Middle Creek and its tributaries, unstable alluvian soils, and riparian zone protection requirements.³⁶ Therefore, they were sold to Wake County in 2004 and 2005, and now are the westernmost part of Beech Bluff County Park.³⁷

Meanwhile, the northern part of Charlie and Annie Adams farm passed to her brother Arthur L. Medlin, his wife Betty Brooks Medlin (b.1938, d.2018), their daughter Diane Medlin Allen, and her husband Thomas Earl Allen.³⁸ This land was also unsuitable for development due to steep slopes and periodic flooding, so in 2004, it was sold to Wake County and now makes up the northernmost portion of Beech Bluff County Park.³⁹



Fourth Generation: John Quincy Adams, Jr., and Beulah Honeycutt Adams, 1923-1965

In 1923, John Quincy Adams, Jr., inherited the south-central portion of what today makes up Beech Bluff County Park, as well as his childhood home and significant acreage south of Highway 42. John Quinton and Annie Adams continued to live with him until their deaths in 1926 and 1943.⁴⁰ He married Beulah Honeycutt (b.1909, d.1989) in 1930, and they had four children: Kay, John Quincy, III, (b.1944, d.2010), Elizabeth Ann, and Nelia.⁴¹

Cotton and tobacco remained the top agricultural products in rural Wake County at the end of the nineteenth century, but cotton prices had dropped to only five cents a pound in 1894 and remained dramatically low through the turn of the century. As a result, many long-time cotton farms, the Adams' farm included, began to produce bright-leaf tobacco instead. In spite of the bottomed-out cotton prices and relatively high prices for tobacco, the family recalls that John Quinton Adams was surprised that his son was planning to make the change in the farm's primary cash crop, but around 1920, John Quincy Adams, Jr., began growing primarily tobacco.⁴² The Adams built a pack house and tobacco curing barns, several of which remain standing on the north side of Highway 42 within Beech Bluff County Park.

The Adams were a part of Wake County's early-twentieth-century middling farmer class. These prosperous farms had a balance of food crops (usually corn, soybeans, or sweet potatoes), livestock (usually cattle, dairy cows, or hogs), and cash crops (cotton or tobacco).⁴³ John Quincy and Beulah Adams grew primarily corn and soybeans, but also cultivated rice for a time on the creekbed of Middle Creek. They raised cows and hogs, and also had numerous vegetable gardens.⁴⁴

Middling farms usually relied on the labor of at least one tenant family.⁴⁵ The Adams' farm had at least six tenant houses at the farm's peak. Of these, only two remain standing, and both are in deteriorated condition. One is located adjacent to the Adams House on John Adams Road, south of Highway 42. The second is located on the north side of Highway 42, just inside the western boundary of Beech Bluff County Park. Other tenant houses were located near the remaining barns inside the current park boundary, near the home place on the south side of Highway 42, and north of Middle Creek, however these tenant houses were all destroyed by fire or demolished.⁴⁶

One of the most memorable hired hands was Ellis Parker, who came to the farm in the 1930s. He was born in 1886 in Moncks Bend, South Carolina, and came to North Carolina sometime before 1930. He worked on a farm in Durham, then went to Raleigh looking for work. He arrived at the Adams' farm while they were reroofing the main house, dressed in a serge suit in the heat of summer, and requested a job cleaning roofing debris from the yard. The Adams hired him and allowed him to board in a room in the main house. He proved a hard worker, and was responsible for assisting with the livestock and crops, collecting firewood, and other tasks around the farm. He later moved into the tenant house immediately south of the main house. Sadly, he was killed in a tractor accident on the farm in 1963.⁴⁷

When John Quincy Adams, Jr., died in 1965, his farm was about two hundred acres on both sides of Highway 42. The land first passed to his widow, Beulah Honeycutt Adams.⁴⁸ She served on the Wake County School Board in the 1960s, the first woman to hold a position on the board.⁴⁹ She married Bevie Franklin Barber in 1968, who had also farmed in southern Wake County before selling his farm and moving to Raleigh.⁵⁰ After Beulah Adams Barber's death in 1989, the two-hundred-acre Adams farm passed to her son John Quincy Adams, III.⁵¹



Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Generations: John Quincy Adams, III, and Joyce Clark Adams, 1965-2017

Prior to his father's death, John Quincy Adams, III (known as Johnny), moved into a brick house on John Adams Road near his childhood home. He lived there with his wife, Joyce Clark Adams, and their children, Cynthia, John Quincy, IV, and George, and they helped John Quincy and Beulah Adams operate the farm. When Johnny Adams took over management of the farm from his parents, he moved into the main house with his wife and children. They continued to grow the same crops, rotating tobacco, corn, sweet potatoes, and soybeans, as well as raising cows and hogs, on the acreage north of Highway 42 where Beech Bluff County Park is today. They also continued to grow vegetables in the gardens, which they took to farmers markets in Raleigh.⁵²

In 1972, Johnny and Joyce Adams turned over their farming operations to tenant farmers and local farmers who rented their acreage and crop allocations. Dave Woolard and his family were one of the tenant families, and lived in a home on John Adams Road.⁵³ Farming activities began to taper off in the early 2000s, and in 2004, the Adams sold ninety-three acres north of Highway 42 to Wake County for use as a public park.⁵⁴ The Adams also participated in the tobacco buyout program in the early 2000s, planting their last field of tobacco in 2005. The following year, in an effort to keep the farm viable with the decline of tobacco production, Johnny Adams began planting muscadine grapes on fifteen acres south of Highway 42. John Quincy Adams, IV (known as Quincy), his wife Robin, and their daughter Regan also remained active in the farm operations. Quincy Adams raised horses on the farm, and he also offered pick-your-own strawberries for twelve years.⁵⁵

At the time of his unexpected death in 2010, John Quincy Adams, III, owned fifty-five acres surrounding the Adams House, which he bequeathed to his widow, Joyce, as well as 145 acres north of Highway 42, which he bequeathed to his children.⁵⁶ On the land south of Highway 42, Joyce Adams and her son Quincy

expanded the vineyard operations. She operated a tasting room constructed east of the Adams House, assisted by her granddaughter Regan Adams, while her son cultivated the grapes and blended the wines. By 2017, the vineyard produced eighteen varieties of wine, as well as pears, apples, peaches, and blackberries.⁵⁷ Some of the first wines they produced were named for people important in Johnny and Joyce Adams' lives, including their mothers, Beulah Adams and Clara Clark, as well as hired hand Ellis Parker.⁵⁸

Joyce Adams, her daughter Cynthia Adams Wester, and other family members retain ownership of the Adams home place and vineyard. The Vineyard closed in 2019, and the tasting room is now occupied by Life Point Community Church. With the end of agricultural operations at the farm, the remaining acreage north of Highway 42 was sold to Wake County for use as a public park in 2017 and 2019.⁵⁹

Architectural Resources

Several of the Adams' outbuildings, crop fields, and pastures remain in place on the north side of Highway 42, within the boundary of Beech Bluff County Park. The Adams House and several additional outbuildings also remain extant on the south side of Highway 42, on land still privately owned by the Adams family.



Cabin

A 1970s cabin is located on the south side of Middle Creek, overlooking the bluffs to the creek bottom. The cabin was built by Johnny and Joyce Adams, and they hauled the materials into the woods on trucks. It was used as a quiet retreat by the family, and also to host youth groups for fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. The cabin is a one-room building with a brick, exterior chimney on the east end. It is clad with wide wood siding and sits on cement block piers. It had six-over-six windows, most of which are missing, and the door, which does not latch, is a nine-light-over-three-panel wood door with the glass missing. The interior features dressed timbers supporting the roof, and once had a sheetrock ceiling and sheetrock walls above a wood paneled wainscot, much of which has been removed. The building envelope is not secure, and the cabin is in deteriorated condition.



Top Left: cabin exterior, south elevation
Top Right: looking north from the cabin toward Middle Creek
Bottom: cabin interior

Livestock and Potato Barns

A small cluster of livestock and potato barns remains extant near the center of Beech Bluff County Park. A horse stable, potato-curing shed, and hog barn remain extant, while tobacco-curing barns and a tenant house have been lost.

Horse Stable

A large, former tobacco-curing barn was converted to a stable to house Quincy Adams' horses. Likely built in the 1930s, the stable has two doors on both the north and south elevations, with the south elevation providing immediate access to the adjacent pasture. It sits on a concrete block foundation, has a dirt floor, and is clad with metal sheeting. The tier poles for hanging tobacco remain in place, although stalls have been constructed and the flue removed. Small rabbit hutches are attached to the east elevation. The stable is in good condition.



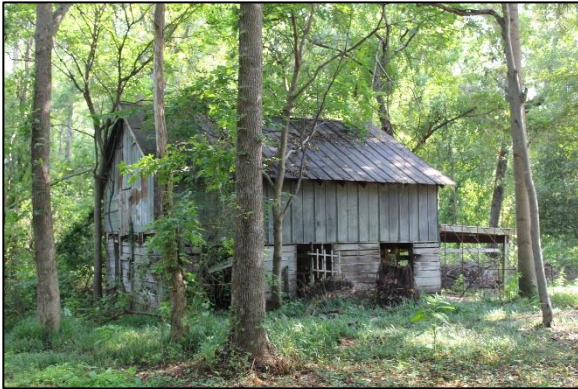
Top Left: horse stable exterior (southeast elevation), chute to pasture, and rabbit hutches

Top Right: tier poles for hanging tobacco during curing

Bottom: horse stalls have been constructed below the tier poles

Hog Barn

South of the horse stable, a large hog barn remains extant. The two-story, gabled barn is clad in wide, horizontal wood sheathing at the first-floor level, and metal sheets at the second-floor level. The roof is 5v metal. The first floor of barn has a dirt floor and is divided into two pens, which are currently used for storage. The barn is in fair condition.



Top Left: hog barn exterior, southwest elevation

Top Right: hog barn loft

Bottom: hog barn first floor – wood storage on north, farm equipment storage on south

Potato-Curing Barn

Adjacent to the livestock barns, a potato-curing barn remains extant. The barn is clad in vertical wood siding with a batten door. The ceiling sits very low and a flue remains in place. The barn sits on a fieldstone foundation with a dirt floor and has a 5V metal roof. The foliage and trees near this barn are significantly overgrown and have damaged the building, which is in deteriorated condition.



Left: potato-curing barn exterior, east elevation
Right: potato-curing barn interior

Crop Fields and Pasture

Two fields adjacent to the barns remain cleared. The field north of the barns was used for crops, and John Quincy and Beulah Adams, and later Johnny and Joyce Adams, rotated tobacco, corn, soybean, and sweet potatoes. The field south of the barns was primarily used as pasture for the horses, cows, and hogs housed in the adjacent barns.



Left: crop field
Right: pasture

Pack House

A 1930s tobacco pack house sits on the north side of Highway 42 at the southern boundary of Beech Bluff County Park. The pack house is a front gabled, two-story building with later one-story wings extending on either side. It is clad in weatherboard with plywood doors, a 5V metal roof, and exposed rafter tails. An open shed extends from the east end of the building. The pack house is in fair condition.



Top Left: pack house exterior, southeast elevation
Top Right: pack house exterior, rear (north) elevation (courtesy of Matt Fryar)
Bottom: pack house interior (courtesy of Matt Fryar)

Tenant House

A c.1950 tenant house is located on the north side of Highway 42 in the southwestern corner of Beech Bluff County Park. The house is a one-story, side-gabled cottage with a small gabled stoop supported by square wood posts. It retains eight-over-eight wood windows, has a replacement door, and is clad in vinyl siding. The rear wing of the house has collapsed and it is in deteriorated condition. A small crop field is adjacent to the house.



Left: tenant house exterior, south elevation
Right: adjacent crop field planted with sweet potatoes

Storage Barn

A c.1950 storage barn is located west of the tenant house behind the crop field. The batten barn is clad in 5V metal with a gabled 5V metal roof and concrete block foundation. The foliage and trees near this barn are significantly overgrown and have damaged the building, which is in deteriorated condition.



Left: storage barn exterior (courtesy of Matt Fryar)
Right: storage barn interior (courtesy of Matt Fryar)

Adams Home Place

South of Highway 42, the John Quinton and Annie Adams House remains standing on private property. The house was built in 1900 and replaced an earlier identical home. It is a two-story I-house with a triple-A roofline and a c.1951 Mount Vernon-style porch addition. One-story wings were added to the south elevation in 1939 and to the north elevation in 1954. The house is clad in weatherboards, has two-over-two wood windows, and features Victorian detailing. A washhouse, shed, and well house related to the Adams House also remain extant.

A c.1950 tenant house, once occupied by Ellis Parker, remains extant south of the Adams House on John Adams Road. The house is a small, one-story, side-gabled building with wood siding, six-over-six wood windows, and a small gabled stoop. A shed wing extends from the rear of the building. Much of the siding has been removed from the northeast corner of the house, which was offered to members of Ellis Parker's family in South Carolina.

The Adams Vineyard tasting room is a pole barn located across John Adams Road east of the Adams House. Johnny and Joyce Adams, and later Quincy Adams, grew muscadine grapes on acreage extending south of the tasting room. The vineyard closed in 2019 and the tasting room is now occupied by Life Point Community Church.



Top Left: John Quinton and Annie Adams House

Top Right: tenant house

Bottom Left: Adams Vineyard tasting room

Bottom Right: Adams Vineyard muscadine grapevines

Endnotes

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