



Figure 68. NCDOT Survey #51, Reece House (GF-8209), 5917 Burlington Road, Guilford County, detail of arched windows on south face of entrance tower, looking north.



Figure 69. NCDOT Survey #51, Reece House (GF-8209), 5917 Burlington Road, Guilford County, garage, west elevation and south façade with resized garage doors, looking east; City of Greensboro water tower is in background.

B. Cordial (GCDB 3653:1010). In 2003, Herman Cordial sold the property to Darrell D. Levan, the current owner (GCDB 5643:1827). The house is currently unoccupied.

Statement of Integrity: The Reece House is vacant and in somewhat deteriorated condition, but retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The prominent City of Greensboro water tower located on the immediately adjacent property impacts its integrity of setting. The application of vinyl siding to the garage and alteration of its garage doors and its windows impacts its integrity of materials and workmanship.

NRHP Criteria Assessment: The Reece House is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion A. According to the NRHP: “[t]o be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property’s specific association must be important as well” (NPS 1990:12). Archival research has not established any important event or pattern of events associated with this property.

The Reece House is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion B. According to the NRHP: “[f]or a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person’s productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person’s historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group” (NPS 1990:15). Neither its original owners—the Reece family—nor its subsequent owners are known to have been individuals significant in our past.

The Reece House is recommended **eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion C on the local level as embodying the elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style of architecture. According to the NRHP “[f]or a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction” (NPS 1990:18). The Spanish Colonial Revival Style (as well as its variants, the Mediterranean and Mission Revival Styles) was nationally popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century, particularly in Florida, California, and the Southwest and somewhat less so in the South and Mid-Atlantic regions. First used in the design of large resort hotels in these states, the style also appeared on railroad depots, gas stations, post offices, and other public buildings, as well as large- and small-scale residences and in residential subdivisions.

In Guilford County, most of the notable high-style examples of this style are found in Greensboro or High Point. The George Lowe Buick Agency, the 1918 J.H. Adams House and several apartment buildings in the North Main Street illustrate the adaptability of the style to a variety of building types and functions (Smith 1979:50–62). Built in 1926 as a country home for the Bumpass family, the Sydney Bumpass House has the barrel tile roof, rounded arch windows and metal grillwork typical of this style, although the basic form is a traditional symmetrical Colonial Revival Style house.

The former Cowan Sinclair Station in Whitsett, located a few miles east of the Reece House, was a rare example of the use of this style for a service station in rural Guilford County. No longer standing, the building featured a stuccoed exterior and a *porte cochere* with openings with rounded corners. The use of

the Spanish Colonial Revival Style for a home in rural Guilford County is rare; there are no examples of this style recorded in the 1979 Guilford County survey publication (possibly because some of them were less than 50 years old at the time of the survey). A search of the NC HPO files also reveals no known examples outside of the examples cited above.

Elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style evident on the Reece House are the low-pitched roof clad with barrel tiles, the metal windows set within blind arches, the flat-roofed entrance tower with arched windows, and the patio with its wall integrated with the main house. Although a stucco exterior was more common, colored brick was also a characteristic of this style, particularly in areas that had a tradition of brick architecture. Even the cypress trees planted to the southeast of the main house give the house a Mediterranean feeling. Although vacant and somewhat deteriorated, the Reece House retains the integrity necessary to convey its significance under Criterion C.

The Reece House is **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion D. According to the NRHP: “[f]or a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important” (NPS 1990:21). The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology.

NRHP Boundary Justification: The NRHP boundary for the Reece House has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*. The boundary corresponds to the tax parcel boundaries containing 1.7 acres (Figure 70; see Figure 63). The southern boundary is the northern right-of-way of US 70.



Figure 70. NCDOT Survey #51, Reece House (GF-8209), 5917 Burlington Road, Guilford County, aerial photograph (2010) showing recommended NRHP boundary.

PROPERTIES EVALUATED AND RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

**NCDOT Survey #11, Joseph Bason Whitsett House
(GF-2148)
7241 Burlington Road, Whitsett vicinity
Guilford County PIN 7652-31-9214**



NCDOT Survey #11, (GF-2148) Joseph Bason Whitsett House, looking northeast.

Location and Setting: The Joseph Bason Whitsett House stands on the north side of US 70, east of its junction with NC 61 in Whitsett, Guilford County (Figures 71–81). The formerly rural surrounding landscape has seen some recent residential and commercial development, and a large office park is located on the other side of US 70. The Whitsett property has been extensively landscaped and improved, with a sweeping front lawn, large shade trees planted near the house, and many specimen shrubs and flowers close to the house. The house and its large attached rear wing now function as an insurance office and a paved driveway leads from US 70 to a small visitor parking area to the southeast of the dwelling and then to a much larger employee parking lot at the rear. None of the buildings were accessible for interior inspection or photography.

Property Description: The Whitsett House exhibits a two-story T-plan with a three-bay façade configuration. The balloon-frame house is clad with modern brick veneer set in a common bond and has numerous modern rear additions that have dramatically altered the scale and massing of the original dwelling. With additions, the interior square footage totals approximately 6,980 sq ft of living space.

An exterior double-shouldered brick chimney breaks the eave on the gable end, and an interior brick chimney pierces the ridge of the front-gabled mass; both chimneys feature decorative corbelled coping. The roof, clad in asphalt shingles, exhibits closed eaves with decorative, scroll-sawn brackets and prominent cornice returns. All windows are flanked by non-historic louvered wood shutters and feature a rowlock slip sill.

The house has a porch with half-hip roof set within the ell formed by the intersecting gabled masses. A series of squared wood posts flanked by ornamental scroll-sawn brackets support the roof, which shelters the primary entrance, consisting of a single-leaf door that opens onto the brick porch deck, and a single 8/8 double-hung wood sash window. A built-in brick planter box lies below the window opening. Above each first story opening is a single window opening with 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows.

The façade of the front-gabled ell exhibits a first-story rectangular bay with 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows. Like the roof of the primary mass, a series of decorative brackets are below the eaves. Above, a single window bay features a 4/4 double-hung wood sash window; the opening is capped by a decorative wood hood.

The east elevation of the original house is divided by the exterior mass of the chimney. On either side, in each bay of the first and second story, is a single 6/6 double-hung wood sash window. The west elevation exhibits two first story bays, the north of which houses a pair of 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows flanked by 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows. To the south is a single 6/6 double-hung wood sash window. Three second-story bays each contain a single 6/6 double-hung wood sash window.

A series of mass-altering additions were carried out to the rear of the building in the late 1980s when the building was converted to commercial use. These additions, while of a comparable character, greatly