E-1 Apex

notes:

legend

- BICYCLE SHOP
- FLORA AND FAUNA
- FOLKLORE
- CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL SITE
- RESTAURANT
- HISTORIC SITE
- SCENIC AREA
- RECREATION AREA
- CAMPGROUND
- RECREATION AREA/ CAMPGROUND

- BICYCLE ROUTE
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- DIVIDED HIGHWAY
- N.C. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- ROUTE ON SECONDARY ROAD
- 3257 SECONDARY ROAD NUMBERS
- SEGMENT MATCH LINES
- RIVER OR CREEK
- CANAL
- LAKE/SOUND/OCEAN
- RAILROAD
- COUNTY LINE
- FOREST/PARK BOUNDARY
- TOWN
- CITY
- ENLARGEMENT
- BASIC SERVICES
- HAZARDOUS AREA
- FULL SERVICE CITY

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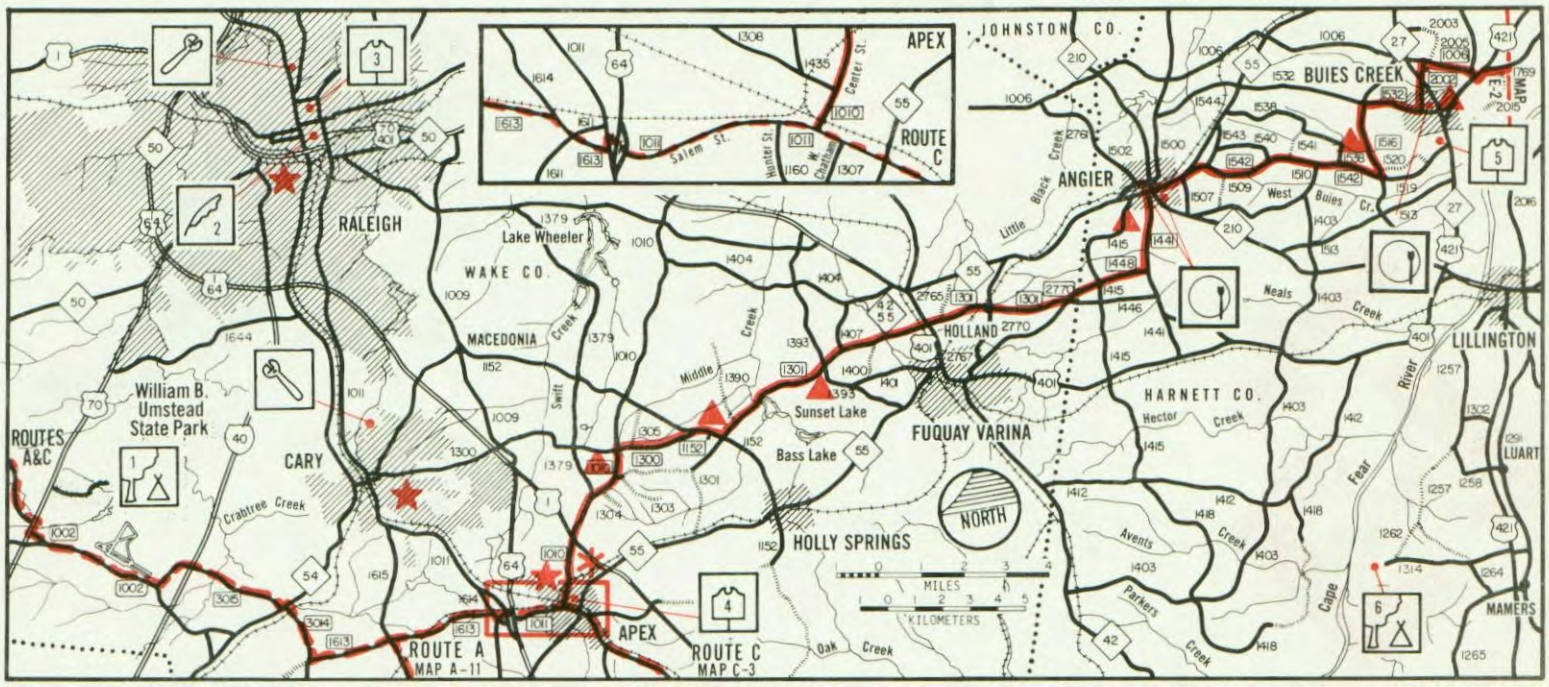

Apex

E-1

General Description

This segment is characterized by gently rolling farm and forest lands, interspersed with a few short, steep hills.

Originating in Apex, the route intersects with segment C-3 of the north-south Carolina Connection route. Segment A-11 of the east-west Mountains to Sea route also connects nearby.

Approximately 30 miles/48 kilometers.

Hazardous Areas

SR 1010 from Apex to the intersection of SR 1300 carries a high volume of traffic during morning and afternoon commuting hours. 4 miles.

Roadway Conditions

The roads throughout this segment are in good condition, although of a rough surface treatment.

Services

Numerous country stores provide needed services. Full services are available in Raleigh, Cary and Apex, with bicycle shops in Raleigh and Cary. Camping facilities are provided at Umstead State Park. Primitive camping is permitted at Raven Rock State Park.

Points of Interest

1 Umstead State Park

This 5,000-acre park offers camping, boating, fishing, nature study and hiking.

2 North Carolina State Museums

The North Carolina Museum of Art is one of the nation's top-ranked art museums and boasts of the finest collection in the Southeast. Among its treasures are an impressive collection of Renaissance and earlier Italian paintings, one of the best collection of Spanish still life paintings in the country, a strong representation of Dutch and Flemish 17th century works, as well as a fine group of English portraits.

The Museum of Natural History began in 1879. Fossils and other rare items are exhibited to show the animal and the plant life which has lived in this area. There are also live specimens of poisonous snakes, earth science exhibits, and exhibits of prehistoric Indian tools and artifacts.

The North Carolina Museum of History was established to promote and encourage a knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina history. A "stone age to space age" exhibit chronicles North Carolina history from 11,000 B.C. to the present. Other exhibits feature life styles of the past, communications, and North Carolina folk art.

3 Raleigh Historic Sites

In 1792, the City of Raleigh was founded as one of the few cities in America planned from the beginning to be a capital city.

Significant historic sites abound in the area. The North Carolina State Capitol building completed in 1840, is one of the finest and best preserved examples of a major civic building in the Greek Revival style of architecture. Restoration of the building is in progress and upon completion the non-office areas will serve as a historic shrine.

Of particular historic interest is the Governor's Mansion, which was built in 1891. An excellent example of Victorian architecture, the executive mansion with its gables and balconies, its spacious halls and reception rooms, its grand stairway and sixteen-foot ceilings is a gem from a by-gone era. Tours are available daily, Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m.—12 noon, October through May.

Other sites of historic significance include Mordecai Historic Park, a restoration of an eighteenth century country manor complete with kitchen garden; Oakwood historic district a residential area near the Governor's Mansion, which provides a glimpse into the past with its many restored period homes; the Joel Lane House, oldest house in Raleigh; and Christ Church, an impressive Gothic Revival structure built in the 1840's.

4 Apex History

This area had been called Log Pond but was renamed Apex because it was the highest point along the railway line. Throughout the early 1890's turpentine was the important industry but this later gave way to the lumber industry. Soon after the turn of the century tobacco became the chief money crop. The first tobacco market in Wake County was established in Apex in 1905.

5 James Archibald Campbell Residence

This picturesque frame house was built in 1891 for James A. Campbell, who had founded nearby Buies Creek Academy four years earlier. In 1926, the school became a junior college and was named for Campbell, who served as president until his death in 1934. Over the years, the school has continued to grow and now enjoys a University status.

6 Raven Rock State Park

Raven Rock, a 152-foot stone outcrop at the fall line of the Cape Fear River, is the outstanding geological feature of this park. Mountain-type trees and shrubs mix with typical piedmont vegetation to create an interesting natural habitat. This park offers ten miles of hiking trails, family wilderness camping, canoe wilderness camping, fishing and a small picnic area.

notes:

legend

- BICYCLE SHOP
- FLORA AND FAUNA
- FOLKLORE
- CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL SITE
- RESTAURANT
- HISTORIC SITE
- SCENIC AREA
- RECREATION AREA
- CAMPGROUND
- RECREATION AREA/ CAMPGROUND

- BICYCLE ROUTE
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- DIVIDED HIGHWAY
- N.C. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- ROUTE ON SECONDARY ROAD
- 3257 SECONDARY ROAD NUMBERS
- SEGMENT MATCH LINES
- RIVER OR CREEK
- CANAL
- LAKE/SOUND/OCEAN
- RAILROAD
- COUNTY LINE
- FOREST/PARK BOUNDARY
- TOWN
- CITY
- ENLARGEMENT
- BASIC SERVICES
- HAZARDOUS AREA
- FULL SERVICE CITY

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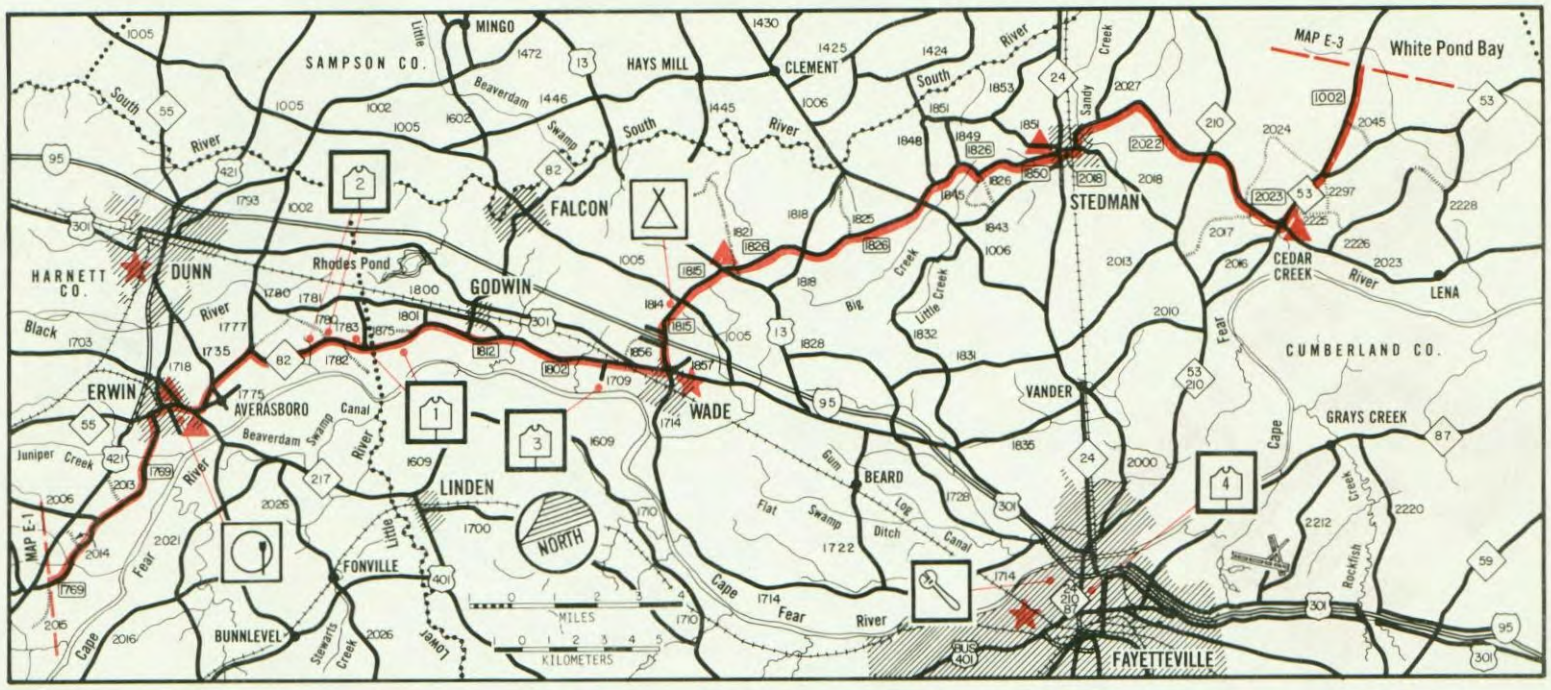
E-2 Slocum's Advance



Slocum's Advance E-2

General Description

Gently rolling hills give way to the flat land of the coastal plain as you ride through fresh-scented longleaf pine forests.

Approximately 40 miles/66 kilometers.

Hazardous Areas

There are no unusual hazards along this segment.

Roadway Conditions

The roads in this segment are well-paved and well-maintained and of good quality.

Services

Well-spaced country stores provide periodic rest stops. Full services are available in Dunn, Wade and Fayetteville with several bicycle shops in the latter. A campground is located just off the route, near Wade.

Points of Interest

1 Averasboro Battlefield

During the Civil War, in mid-January, 1865, General William T. Sherman's Union Army invaded North Carolina from South Carolina. Sherman captured Fayetteville on March 11, and destroyed the Confederate arsenal there. Leaving Fayetteville, Sherman moved toward Goldsboro. He sent the left wing of his army, commanded by General H. W. Slocum, to make a pretended move toward Raleigh in order to confuse Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Johnston sent Confederate General W. J. Harder Hardee with 6,500 men to check Slocum's advance toward Raleigh and to determine whether Sherman's main army was actually moving toward Raleigh or to Goldsboro, the leading railroad junction in the state. The forces collided near Averasboro and the bloodiest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil ensued. The battle lasted two days, ending in defeat for the Confederates.

Historic markers line the highway in this area, outlining strategy and details of the battle.

2 Lebanon and Oak Grove

These two plantation houses are of particular significance because of their use as hospitals during and after the Battle of Averasboro. Built by the locally prominent Smith family, these properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

3 Old Bluff Presbyterian Church

Old Bluff was organized in 1758 by the early Scottish settlers of the region. The two story Greek Revival style building is essentially unaltered from its original form. This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

4 Fayetteville History

The site of present-day Fayetteville was a logical spot for early inland development. Located at the head of navigation on the Cape Fear River, the area quickly became a trade center for dispersing goods from the port at Wilmington to the western regions of the colony.

Originally incorporated as Campbellton in 1762, by Highland Scots who had settled the area, the name was later changed to Cross Creek after the two nearby Creeks which apparently crossed without their currents mixing. In 1783, the name was permanently changed to Fayetteville in honor of the distinguished French General, Marquis de LaFayette, whose services aided the American Colonies in their struggle for independence from the British.

Fayetteville has survived two major disasters in her history. In May of 1831, fire broke out, destroying 600 houses and businesses, leaving one-third of the population homeless. During the Civil War, the infamous General Tecumseh Sherman destroyed most of the factories in the area. After both disasters, the citizens rallied and rebuilt the town.

A number of interesting structures remain from the various periods of Fayetteville's history. Heritage Square maintained by the Fayetteville Woman's Club, contains several fine examples of early 1800's dwellings. The Market House, focal point of downtown Fayetteville, is architecturally unique in North Carolina. Built in 1838, using the town hall-market scheme commonly found in England, local farmers sold meat and produce beneath its arches, while the second floor served as the town hall. Liberty Row, a collection of fourteen brick row buildings, dating from as early as 1791, serve as a reminder of Fayetteville's importance as an early trade center.

E-3 Crater Lakes

notes:

legend

BICYCLE SHOP	HISTORIC SITE
FLORA AND FAUNA	SCENIC AREA
FOLKLORE	RECREATION AREA
CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL SITE	CAMPGROUND
RESTAURANT	RECREATION AREA/ CAMPGROUND

BICYCLE ROUTE	CANAL
PAVED ROAD	LAKE/SOUND/OCEAN
UNPAVED ROAD	RAILROAD
DIVIDED HIGHWAY	COUNTY LINE
N.C. NUMBERED HIGHWAY	FOREST/PARK BOUNDARY
U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY	TOWN
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY	CITY
ROUTE ON SECONDARY ROAD	ENLARGEMENT
3257 SECONDARY ROAD NUMBERS	BASIC SERVICES
SEGMENT MATCH LINES	HAZARDOUS AREA
RIVER OR CREEK	FULL SERVICE CITY

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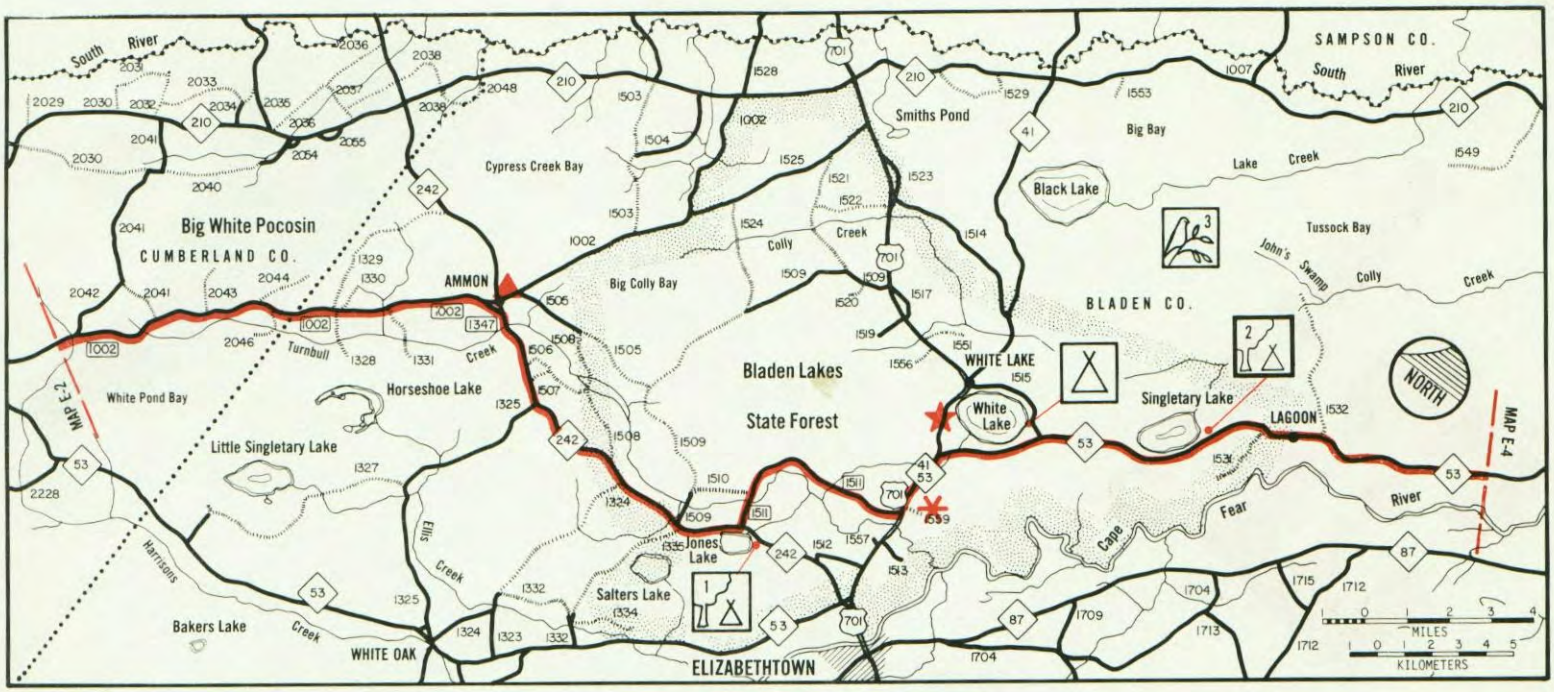

Crater Lakes

E-3

General Description

Well into the coastal plain, the terrain in this segment is virtually flat. The white-sand soil gives credence to the theory that this land was once ocean bottom.

Approximately 40 miles/66 kilometers.

Hazardous Areas

U. S. 701 between the intersection with SR 1511 and White Lake has a slightly, higher than desirable traffic volume.

Approximately 1.5 miles.

Roadway Conditions

The roads are generally of good quality throughout this segment.

Services

Country stores are infrequent in this area. Full services are available in White Lake. Camping accommodations are available at Jones Lake State Park and at private campgrounds in the White Lake area.

Points of Interest

1 Jones Lake State Park

Jones Lake State Park, which covers over 2,000 acres of land, offers camping, swimming, boating (rental boats available), fishing, and picnicking. A three-mile hiking trail around Jones Lake enables visitors to explore the unusual habitat of this area. Rows of bald cypress, laden with Spanish moss, line the shore; wild blueberries and wax myrtle grow among the stands of towering pines; and the beautiful loblolly bay, a member of the tea family, abounds.

2 Singletary Lake Group Camp

This 1,200-acre state park facility is available for organized group camping only. Boating, fishing and swimming are some of the activities which are offered. Reservations are required and can be made by writing to the park superintendent at Route 1, Box 63, Kelly, North Carolina 28448.

3 Carolina Bays

An unusual physiographic feature of this area is the Carolina Bay, so named because of the evergreen bay tree which commonly grows in a dense mass within its bounds. These bays generally occur in a northwest-southeast line on the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Northern Virginia to Southern Georgia. There has been considerable controversy as to the origin of these shallow, elliptical depressions, which number in the thousands. According to one geological theory, all the basins were formed at the same time by a large shower of meteorites striking the earth from the northwest. Another theory proposes that the basins were first dug out by underground springs and then enlarged by wind and wave action. Whatever their origin, similar basins are not found anywhere else in the world.

Today, except for a few of the Bay Lakes, such as the above mentioned Jones Lake, the depressions no longer contain water, having gradually filled with peat.

E-4 Spanish Moss

notes:

legend

BICYCLE SHOP	HISTORIC SITE
FLORA AND FAUNA	SCENIC AREA
FOLKLORE	RECREATION AREA
CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL SITE	CAMPGROUND
RESTAURANT	RECREATION AREA/ CAMPGROUND

BICYCLE ROUTE	CANAL
PAVED ROAD	LAKE/SOUND/OCEAN
UNPAVED ROAD	RAILROAD
DIVIDED HIGHWAY	COUNTY LINE
N.C. NUMBERED HIGHWAY	FOREST/PARK BOUNDARY
U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAY	TOWN
INTERSTATE HIGHWAY	CITY
ROUTE ON SECONDARY ROAD	ENLARGEMENT
3257 SECONDARY ROAD NUMBERS	BASIC SERVICES
SEGMENT MATCH LINES	HAZARDOUS AREA
RIVER OR CREEK	FULL SERVICE CITY

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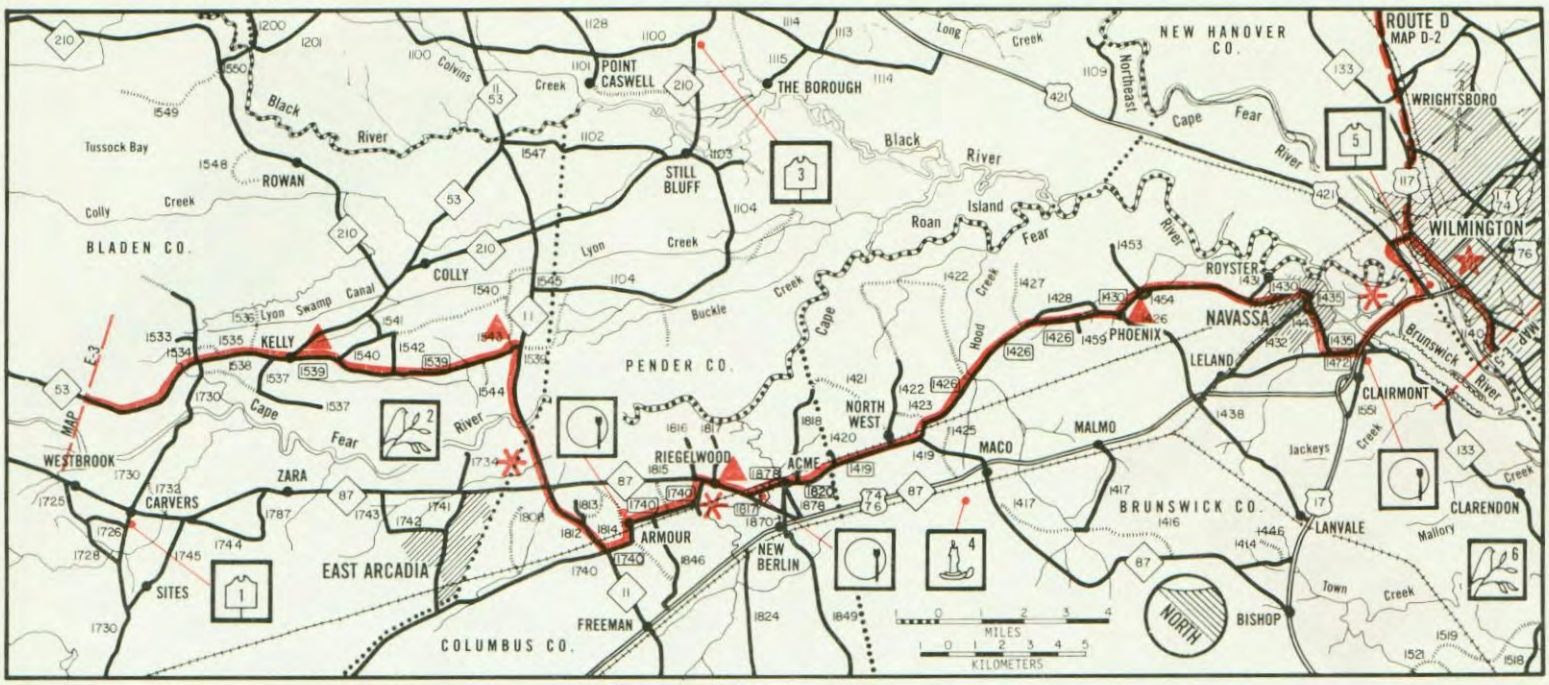

Spanish Moss

E-4

General Description

The terrain through this low lying area is very flat. Spanish moss drapes the stately oak trees and the rare Venus flytrap grows in the bogs. The route closely parallels the Cape Fear River, crossing it twice. Two bridges lead into Wilmington. The newer U. S. 421 North bridge is preferred, as it is wider and safer for bicycles. In Wilmington, the route intersects with segment D-2 of the Ports of Call route, a north-south coastal route.

Approximately 43 miles/70 kilometers.

Hazardous Areas

N. C. 11, between S. R. 1539 and S. R. 1740 has a higher than desirable traffic volume, including a good deal of truck traffic. 5.6 miles.

N. C. 87 carries a high volume of traffic. 2.4 miles.

U. S. 17, from S. R. 1472 to the US 421 North bridge turn-off has a high volume of traffic, but the road is wide and has paved shoulders. 2.1 miles.

Roadway Conditions

Most of roads in this segment are in good condition, although there are some short stretches of rough pavement.

Services

Periodic country stores provide basic services. Full services, including a bicycle shop, are available in Wilmington.

Points of Interest

1 Oakland Plantation

This well-preserved, post-revolutionary plantation is one of the few of its type and period remaining in the state. This privately-owned property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 Spanish Moss

Spanish Moss is a flowering plant that hangs in drooping, hair-like masses from trees, particularly cypress and oaks. The plant, which is in the pineapple family, is neither a true moss nor a parasite; it has no roots and absorbs water directly from the air.

3 Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge

On February 27, 1776, Patriot and Loyalist armies clashed at Moore's Creek Bridge in a short but decisive battle, which frustrated British plans to invade North Carolina.

According to a strategy devised by royal Governor Josiah Martin, Scottish Highlanders and former Regulators who were loyal to the crown were to join forces with British troops in order to crush the Revolution in the South.

In mid-February, some 1,600 Highlanders had gathered at Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, from which they were to begin their march to Wilmington.

The Patriots, who learned of the British plan were determined to stop them. They ordered forces to several strategic points along the route the Highlanders would follow on their march. The Highlanders eluded battle at most of those points but were finally forced to battle at Moore's Creek Bridge.

A Patriot trap was set and after a battle of only three minutes, the Highlanders retreated, leaving 50 killed or wounded. The Patriot force pursued the Tories and captured some 850 soldiers, several officers, and a significant number of guns, rifles, swords and wagons, along with 15,000 pounds in gold.

When the British commanders arrived in Wilmington in May, and found no troops to welcome them, they sailed on to Charleston.

4 The Maco Light

Sometimes, on dark, moonless nights, an eerie light can be seen floating along the railroad tracks near Maco. Some folks believe that it is the ghost of Old Joe Baldwin, looking for his head.

As the tale is told, old Joe, who worked as a trainman, fell from a train one night in 1868 and got his head cut off. Ever since that time, his ghost has been trying to get his head and body back together, and that's his lantern which can be seen glowing along the tracks.

For a while, people claimed that the ghostly light was swamp gas and reflections. But now, most people in the area agree that it's just the ghost of old Joe.

5 USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial

At the time of her commissioning on April 9, 1941, and for many years afterward, the USS North Carolina was the greatest sea weapon ever built by the United States. Her magnificant battle record included participation in every major offensive engagement in the Pacific during World War II.

The USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial opens at 8:00 a.m. seven days a week, all year. During the summer months a Sound and Light Spectacular portraying the history of the battleship is presented nightly. A fee is charged for admission.

6 Venus Flytrap

The Venus Flytrap is the most dramatic of all carniverous plants. Secretions inside the margin of the leaf act as a lure for insects; tiny-hairs, sensitive to touch, trigger the closing of the two-lobed leaf, trapping the insect inside. Digestion takes 5 to 10 days, after which the leaf opens again, ready to trap the next victim.

The Venus Flytrap is native to a very small area in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

E-5
Brown Pelican

notes:

legend

- BICYCLE SHOP
- FLORA AND FAUNA
- FOLKLORE
- CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL SITE
- RESTAURANT
- HISTORIC SITE
- SCENIC AREA
- RECREATION AREA
- CAMPGROUND
- RECREATION AREA/ CAMPGROUND

- BICYCLE ROUTE
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- DIVIDED HIGHWAY
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- TOWN
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- BASIC SERVICES
- HAZARDOUS AREA
- FULL SERVICE CITY

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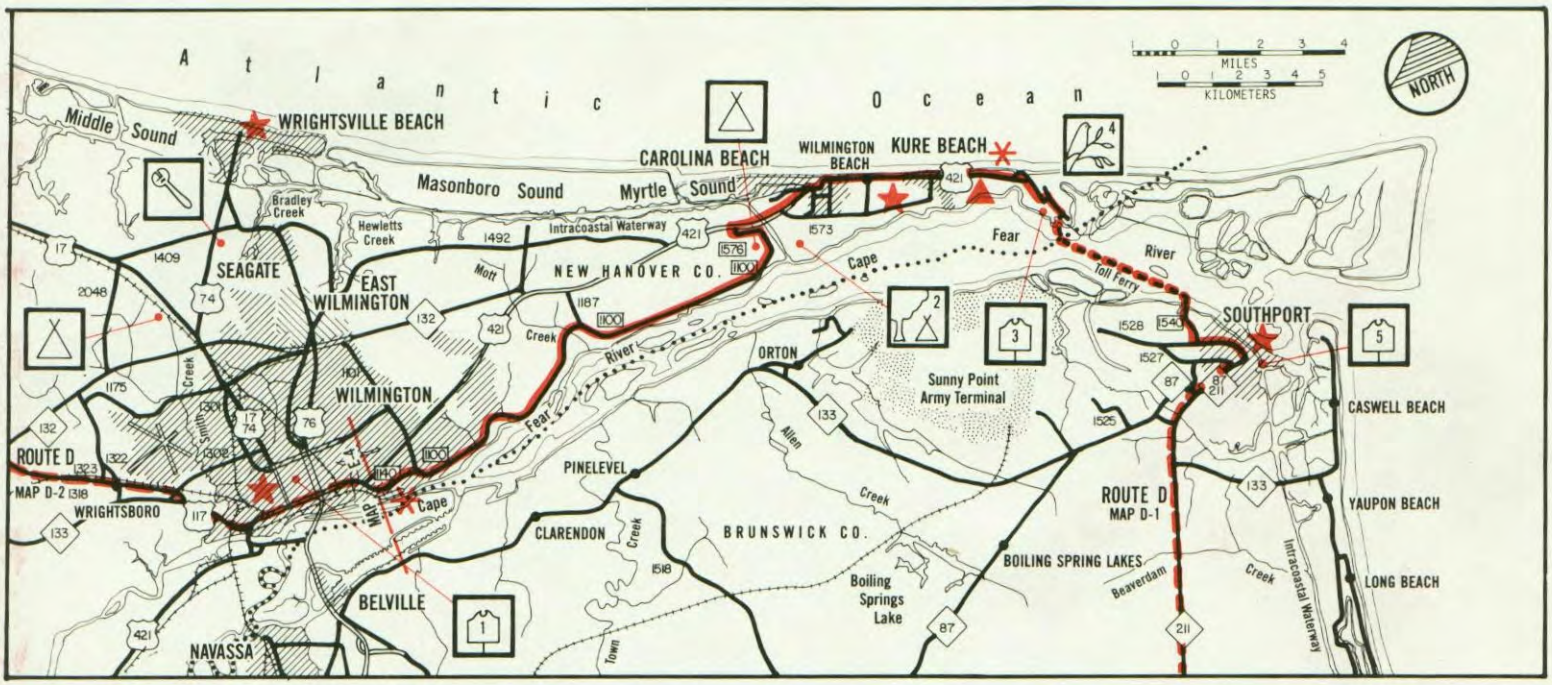

Brown Pelican E-5

General Description

Turning south, the route parallels the Cape Fear river to its mouth, where a toll ferry (see schedule below) takes you to Southport, the terminus of the route. There you can pick up segment D-1 of the Ports of Call route to the South Carolina border.

Approximately 23 miles/38 kilometers.

Hazardous Areas

S. R. 1140 and 1100 are frequently crossed by non-parallel railroad tracks and have a broken surface in places. 2.5 miles.

U. S. 421 along the beach is heavily traveled, especially during summer months. 8.2 miles.

Roadway Conditions

The roads are generally well-paved and well-maintained, except for a short stretch of S. R. 1140 and 1100, as mentioned above.

Services

Once you leave Wilmington, there are no stores or services until you get to the beach area. Full services are available in Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach, Wilmington Beach, Kure Beach and Southport. There is a bicycle shop in Wilmington. Overnight camping facilities are available at Carolina Beach State Park and at private campgrounds in Wilmington and near the U. S. 421 bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway.

Points of Interest

1 Wilmington Historic District

Recorded history of the Wilmington area began in 1524 when Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano landed nearby. The Spanish came next, in 1526, but no serious attempt was made to settle the area until the English landed at Town Creek in 1664.

Wilmington, the first permanent settlement in the area, was founded in 1733. Because of its strategic location at the junction of two branches of the Cape Fear River the town became a trading center for inland settlers. Over the years the river has continued to play an important role in the development of the town. Today, Wilmington is North Carolina's busiest port.

Wilmington's Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been the subject of an on-going effort toward purchase and restoration of significant buildings from Wilmington's long and varied history.

2 Carolina Beach State Park

A naturalist's delight, Carolina Beach State Park is home of the rare venus fly trap and five other species of insect-eating plants. Over thirty trees, shrubs and flowering plants associated with the coastal environment are identified along a self-guided nature trail. The trail enables the park user to see and compare areas such as salt marsh, sandhills, large rain water ponds and swamp lands. Overnight camping facilities are also offered at the park.

3 Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Fort Fisher was the largest Civil War earthwork fortification of the Confederacy. Until the last few months of the Civil War, the fort kept the port of Wilmington open to the blockade-runners which supplied the Confederate armies. When the fort fell after heavy naval bombardment in January, 1865, its defeat helped seal the fate of the South.

In the Visitor Center, exhibits and a slide-lecture acquaint the visitor with the Fort Fisher story. The remains of the fort, a restored palisade fence and a preservation laboratory are located on the site. The center is open to the public, free of charge, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

4 Brown Pelicans

Although pesticide residues in some of its primary food sources have endangered the brown pelican, the bird has managed to survive as a breeding species on the North Carolina Coast. Brown Pelicans frequently can be seen in this area, gliding above the waves or diving for fish.

5 Southport History

This quaint fishing village at the mouth of the Cape Fear River was first settled in the late 1700's. A fort had been established in the area in 1748, and the town slowly grew up around that site. In the late 1800's Southport was a popular resort area and was served by a steamer which made regular runs from Wilmington.

Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry Schedule

Leave Southport	Leave Fort Fisher
Summer Schedule—May 16 thru September 15	
7:00 am	8:00 am
9:00 am	10:00 am
11:00 am	12:00 Noon
1:00 pm	2:00 pm
3:00 pm	4:00 pm
5:00 pm	6:00 pm
Winter Schedule—September 16 thru May 15	
8:00 am	9:30 am
11:00 am	12:30 pm
1:30 pm	2:30 pm
3:30 pm	4:30 pm

Bicycle Camping in North Carolina

Touring by bicycle has become more and more popular as a way to see and experience North Carolina. Many bicycle tourists have come to prefer the added flexibility afforded by camping. Whether your destination for the night is a state park, a private campground or an impromptu roadside location, self-contained bicycle travel is the way to go. But in order to fully enjoy the experience, you must be well-prepared.

In North Carolina, a tent with a fly is a must. Rain showers are frequent and sometimes occur at night. Mosquitos abound. Raccoons, possums and other small creatures roam the woods at night looking for food. A good tent provides shelter from all these problems.

A lightweight stove and cookset are other nice conveniences. Because most of our bicycle routes follow lightly-traveled back roads, restuarants are not always readily available. But, there is usually a country store near your evening's destination, where you can obtain the items necessary to prepare a simple, nutritious supper.

Campgrounds along our routes are generally spaced a day's ride apart. If, for some reason, you must seek a campsite on private land, be sure to ask permission first. Most landowners are very cooperative. Always leave the area clean and express your appreciation to your host before you leave. A good impression will make it easier for the next touring cyclist who might need help.

Wherever you plan to camp, try to reach your destination well before nightfall. Your evening will be much more enjoyable if you have time to set up camp, prepare your meal and clean up while there is still light. Early arrival also reduces the chance that the campground will be full when you get there. This occassionally happens on summer weekends at the more popular state parks.

We hope you will enjoy bicycle camping in North Carolina. If you have any additional questions about touring in the state, contact the Bicycle Program or the Division of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce, PO Box 25249, Raleigh, NC 27611.

NC Dept. of Transportation Bicycle Program
PO Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611, (919) 733-2804

NC BICYCLING HIGHWAYS
CAMPGROUND DIRECTORY

Cape Fear Run Campgrounds

Segment E-1

Umstead State Park
Rt. 8, Box 130
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 787-3033

open all year

Raven Rock State Park
Rt. 3, Box 1005
Lillington, NC 27546
(919) 893-4888

primative camping only
open all year

Segment E-2

Fayetteville KOA
Box 67
Wade, NC 28395
(919) 892-5605

open all year

Segment E-3

Jones Lake State Park
Rt. 2, Box 945
Elizabethtown, NC 28337
(919) 588-4550

open all year

Silver Sands Camp Ground
Rt. 2, Box 453
White Lake, NC 28337
(919) 862-8116

open all year

Singletary Lake Group Camp
Rt. 1, Box 63
Kelly, NC 28448
(919) 669-2928

organized group camp facilities,
only open April 1—November 1

Segment E-5

Wilmington Safari Campground
7415 Market St.
Wilmington, NC 28401
(919) 686-7705

open all year

Rainbow KOA
Rt. 2, Box 261-B
Wilmington, NC 28401
(919) 791-9976

open all year

Carolina Beach State Park
P. O. Box 475
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
(919) 458-8206

open all year

North Carolina Bicycle Route System