

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cedarrock Park Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number North and South sides of SR 2409 ___ not for publication

city, town Coble Township ___ vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Alamance code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alamance County

Alamance County Recreation and Parks Department

street & number 610 North Main Street

city, town Graham ___ vicinity of

state North Carolina 27253

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alamance County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Graham

state North Carolina 27253

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Carl Lounsbury

title Alamance County Architectural Heritage has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina 27611

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Cedarock Park Historic District is a 414 acre natural area park with a historical focus. The park is located in a rural area east of Friendship-Patterson Mill Road, approximately six miles southwest of Graham, the Alamance County seat. Created in 1973 from two adjoining farms, Cedarock is the second largest county park in the state, after Tanglewood in Forsyth County. Approximately 100,000 people visit the park annually to enjoy hiking the nature trails, fishing and wading in scenic, winding Rock Creek, picnicking, tent camping, and horseback riding on the extensive bridle paths.

Situated in the foothills of the Cane Mountain range which lies to the south, the rolling parkland consists of great expanses of old, cleared pastures and fields interspersed with large rock outcroppings and stands of mature hardwood forest. The park was originally the site of two substantial early nineteenth century farmsteads, a small c. 1830 cotton mill (replaced by a c. 1850 grist mill, repaired or rebuilt in the 1880s and continuing in operation until c. 1930), and two post offices which served the rural area. Original structures remaining on the tract include the c. 1835 G. W. Garrett House with its full complement of farm outbuildings including a log kitchen, and the c. 1820 Curtis House; both houses are two-story, frame, vernacular Greek Revival style farm houses. Also located in the district are a twelve foot high rock dam which may date to the early nineteenth century; the ruins of the rock foundation of the Huffman Mill, a c. 1880 water powered grist mill constructed on the site of a brick antebellum cotton mill; and the c. 1893 Carney Post Office, a small one-story frame building. A few other non-contributing buildings are found in the nominated area. These include the Stevens House, constructed in 1940 on the foundation of an early nineteenth century house; twentieth century park-related structures such as small equipment or picnic shelters; and the Spoon House, moved here in the 1930s and considerably altered in recent years.

The park tract is roughly rectangular in shape, approximately 1.1 miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide. The cedar tree-lined, paved access road, which runs approximately east-west and extends along a ridge running nearly the full length of the park, lies in the northern one-third of the tract. The G. W. Garrett House and outbuildings stand on the south side of this road approximately one-third of a mile east of the park's western boundary. The Curtis House, Stevens House, (former) Carney Post Office, the Huffman mill dam and site, and small equipment sheds are all clustered on the north side near the road's dead end, approximately four-tenths of a mile east of the Garrett House.

G. W. Garrett House and Outbuildings

The c. 1835 G. W. Garrett House, sited on a rise in the center of a large meadow, faces north, is shaded by large persimmon and maple trees, and partially surrounded by a recent picket fence. The two-story, three-bay wide, single-pile, mortise-and-tenon, frame Greek Revival style house now serves as the Park Ranger's office. The house has a full basement, brick foundation, weatherboard sheathing, simple corner boards, replacement six-over-nine sash windows, two small windows near the eave lighting the attic space, shallow-pitched gable-end roof covered with standing seam tin, and a

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single-bay gabled entry porch with replacement posts and railings. The house was originally bracketed by stepped, single-shoulder, exterior end, common bond brick chimneys. The east chimney collapsed and was removed in the early 1970s. The west chimney survives and still carries the April, 1868 date painted on a brick denoting the completion date of the now destroyed rear ell. This H-shaped rear wing, derelict by the mid-1970s, was razed and replaced by a dogtrot connecting a small frame addition which houses two restrooms. When the Garrett House was surveyed during a county-wide historic structures inventory in 1978, the foundation of the rear ell survived. The surveyor's sketch plan indicates that the rear wing contained a single large room at the east; two rooms at the west were heated by a brick chimney which stood in the center of the wall dividing the older house from the new wing. Connecting the two rooms in the ell was a small passageway which sheltered an exterior staircase to the basement and the second story.

The interior of the Garrett House exhibits a hall and parlor plan. The walls of the two first story rooms are sheathed with 12"-14" horizontal pine boards which were stripped of paint and sanded when the building was renovated as the park office. The mantelpiece in the west room features a simple pier-and-lintel design with a heavy, plain shelf over a wide, plain frieze supported by flat pilasters with crude, gouged fluting tapering to form an inverted V. There is currently no interior access to the second story. The location of the stairs was altered, probably when the 1868 wing was built. An exterior door centered in the rear (south) wall opens onto a straight flight of stairs which rise to a square hallway between the two second story rooms. The walls and ceilings of these rooms are covered with early twentieth century narrow, beaded tongue-and-groove boards. A small closet was added to a corner of each of the second story rooms. The west room retains the original pier-and-lintel mantel with plain pilasters set on molded bases. Attic access is via a scuttle located in the hallway.

A significant group of farm outbuildings is located in the rear yard of the Garrett House. Buildings of particular interest include a log kitchen, a frame smokehouse, and a small frame building which served as a community post office in the 1870s. The small, square log kitchen faces east and stands a few yards southwest of the Garrett House. The v-notched logs rest on a rock foundation and the gable-end roof is covered with replacement wood shakes. This building was the original Garrett homeplace in the early nineteenth century before the two-story frame house was constructed c. 1835. The log structure served as the kitchen until at least 1870. A large fireplace opening is located on the north end. The present rock chimney is a replacement, constructed in the late 1970s. The original rock chimney was removed sometime in the mid-twentieth century by a Garrett family descendant and taken to Greensboro where the stones were incorporated into a modern house. A small frame gable-front building which stands directly south of the Garrett House served the community as a post office during the 1870s. A shallow wooden box divided into about two dozen pigeon holes, used for sorting mail, remains attached to the interior of the west wall. Also of interest is a small smokehouse, located a short distance south of the house. The walls of the pole-frame smokehouse are formed by wide, thick planks with unusual dovetail notch corners; the gable-front roof with wide overhangs is

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covered with tin. A sizeable two-story frame corn crib stands a short distance south of the smokehouse. A substantial two-story gable-front frame livestock barn of uncertain vintage stands a short distance southwest of the corn crib. A small frame open gable-roof shed, probably used to shelter buggies or farm equipment, is located at the western edge of the lawn. A short distance south the of Garrett House is a rock-lined well, substantially rebuilt in recent years.

The c. 1820 Curtis House faces south and is located close to the terminus of the park's paved access road. The rear yard of the Curtis House slopes downhill toward nearby Rock Creek; across the road, the land slopes to the south toward a branch of the creek. The house is shaded by large cedar trees; a six foot high evergreen hedge defines the front yard and extends several hundred feet to the east. The peaceful setting is enhanced by the sound of water falling over the Huffman mill dam, located about 300 yards to the northeast.

The rather austere, two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, weatherboard-clad vernacular Greek Revival style dwelling survives relatively intact, with the exception of replacement front and rear porches. The house exhibits a shallow pitched gable roof with boxed eaves; tall, six-over-six sash windows set in plain two-part surrounds; simple, narrow corner boards; slightly offset, four and five-to-one bond, single shoulder brick exterior end chimneys ornamented with randomly placed glazed headers; and a stone and brick foundation. A small, pyramidal roof entry porch supported by triangular brackets shelters a two-panel Greek Revival style main entrance door; a c. 1890 shed-roof porch carried by turned, and some replacement plain, posts wraps around the rear, northeast corner of the house. A small, one-story later addition, centered on the rear elevation, houses a bathroom. On the interior, the Curtis House exhibits a hall and parlor plan. Narrow, enclosed stairs located in the southeast corner of the west room rise to a center hall partially sheathed with very wide vertical planks and two, second story bedrooms. The walls of the first and second story rooms feature a variety of replacement wall coverings including early twentieth century, narrow tongue-and-groove sheathing. Original two-panel Greek Revival style doors survive throughout the house, as do the original mantels which are a very plain pier-and-lintel type with wide flat friezes and pilasters.

The Garrett and Curtis houses are representative Greek Revival farm houses, similar in form, symmetrical composition, and materials. The Curtis House, with its offset chimneys, taller elevations and windows appears to predate the Garrett House.

Immediately west of the Curtis House stands the much altered one-story W. L. Spoon House. This house was moved here in the 1930s from the Mt. Hermon Church Road area a few miles to the east, and used by Paul Stevens as an office; the building is now in use as a concession stand for the park. The only clue to the former dwelling's possible late eighteenth or early nineteenth construction date is the flush sheathing found under the porch on the present rear (north) elevation. The main (south) elevation of the tin-clad, gable roof structure has replacement, paired four-over-four sash windows flanking the plank front door. The main entrance is sheltered by a pyramidal-roof entry porch supported by triangular brackets, like that of the neighboring Curtis House.

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A dilapidated gable-front center-passage v-notch log barn with loft and shed-roof saddlebag additions stands a few hundred feet at the rear of the Spoon House. A group of small, twentieth century shed-roof park equipment maintenance sheds is located a short distance east of the Curtis House and adjacent to the road. A short distance east of this row of sheds stands the c. 1890 Carney Post Office. This modest, rectangular, one-story building faces south and is two-bays wide and one-bay deep with a small one-room addition appended to the rear, northwest corner. The post office is sheathed with wide, German siding. A squat, rebuilt central interior chimney pierces the tin-clad gable-end roof with exposed rafter ends. The most prominent feature of this structure, used as a community post office from the early 1880s until 1902, are the paired entrance doors composed of six horizontal panels; the south door retains its original screen door with decorative sawn work and spindles. Flanking each door is a small window with four narrow vertical panes, a window type which also lights the small addition. In the gable ends of the structure's main block are four vertical pane over one sash windows. Mill wheels, formerly located in the Huffman grist mill, serve as entrance stoops for each door. The interior of the former post office has been heavily remodelled in recent years for use as the park maintenance office.

The 1940 Paul Stevens House is located at the end of the park road, a short distance east of the (former) Carney Post Office. The house faces east, is situated at the top of a knoll, and approached by an informal stair-path made from granite mill stones taken from the Huffman Mill when it was razed in the 1930s. The Stevens House is a substantial, rectangular, two-story, three-bay wide, two-bay deep vaguely Colonial Revival style house with a painted stone first story, a board-and-batten covered second story, and massive brick exterior end chimneys. This is the second Stevens house built on this foundation. The first house, constructed in 1936 and reportedly incorporating a portion of the now destroyed Huffman house, burned in 1939 and the present house was built the next year. While this house was being built, the Stevens family lived in a small frame guest house located in the rear yard.

Down the hill to the west of the Stevens House, are the remains of a 12' x 25' rock foundation of the c. 1850 David Huffman grist mill (mill rebuilt in the early 1880s by his descendant, Seymour Huffman) and a remarkably handsome twelve foot high stone dam. The grist mill was reportedly built on the site of an antebellum, small, brick cotton mill constructed by brothers Clint and Chris Curtis. The coursed rock dam, which rises straight and true, has been partially rebuilt at least twice in its history. Seymour Huffman repaired the dam when he built his mill; about 1945 Paul Stevens did major repair work on the dam which, according to his daughter, included concreting the upstream side and making a hole at the base which controlled water flow and sedimentation. It is known that Stevens used German prisoners of war, quartered near Burlington, to construct several scenic rock walls which remain in a few places in Cedarrock Park, but it is not known if they helped rebuild this dam. The dam spans Rock Creek and curves slightly on the north side of the river where the dam joins a large natural rock outcropping. The skeleton of the frame grist mill was still standing when Stevens bought the property in the mid-1930s. The mill stones were

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removed and used elsewhere on the property as stepping stones and the mill frame was razed. Some of the timbers were used in the construction of a rustic hip-roof summer house/gazebo which stands near the mill, located in the southeast corner of the mill foundation ruins; a portion of the rock foundation serves as crude steps to the gazebo.

There are twelve pivotal or contributing structures and sites in the Cedarrock Park Historic District; there are five non-contributing structures in the district.

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The following inventory list includes all properties located within the Cedarock Historic District, keyed by number to the inventory map.

Assessment: All properties are coded by letter as to their relative significance within the district, and these assessments are in turn, coded on the inventory map. The following is the assessment key:

- P - Pivotal Those properties which, because of their historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics, play a primary, central or pivotal role in establishing the qualities for which the district is significant.
- C - Contributing Those properties which, while not pivotal, are supportive of, and contribute to the historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics for which the district is significant.
- NC - Non-contributing Those properties which have neither an especially positive nor an especially negative impact on the general characteristics of the district. They may be similar in form, height, and materials to contributing buildings in the district, but cannot be considered contributing because of the date of construction or radical alterations (in the case of buildings which meet the 50 year age criterion).

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Inventory List

1. P G. W. Garrett House, c. 1835
- G. W. Garrett outbuildings:
 2. C log kitchen, c. 1830
 3. C shed (former post office), c. 1860?
 4. C smokehouse, c. 1850?
 5. C corn crib, late nineteenth century?
 6. C barn, late nineteenth century?
 7. C open shed, early twentieth century?
 8. NC well, rebuilt, c. 1983
9. P Curtis House, c. 1820
10. NC W. L. Spoon House, late eighteenth-early nineteenth century; moved here
c. 1930
11. C log barn, date unknown
12. NC 20th century park maintenance sheds
13. C (former) Carney Park Office, c. 1890
14. NC Paul Stevens House, 1940
15. C rock foundation and site of the Huffman grist mill, c. 1850
16. C stone dam, c. 1840?
17. NC summer house/gazebo, c. 1950

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1820 - c. 1930 **Builder/Architect** John F. Garrett, owner/builder, c. 1835, 1868; and various or unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cedarock Park Historic District is composed of 414 acres of undeveloped wooded hills and green meadows, two relatively intact antebellum farm seats, and an early nineteenth century rock dam and grist mill foundation. The rural district, located in southwest Alamance County, evokes a strong sense of local historical significance due to its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and associations. Today the land remains much as it was throughout the nineteenth century and well into the second half of the twentieth century, when it was primarily used to grow small grain crops and to pasture livestock. Similarly, the c. 1835 Garrett House with its substantial complement of outbuildings and the c. 1820 Curtis House, both two-story frame vernacular Greek Revival style dwellings, survive basically intact and are representative of nineteenth century farm seats located throughout piedmont North Carolina. A post office was located at both the Garrett and Curtis farmsteads at various times in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, making them something of a community center in the rural area. The location of a large natural rock outcropping a short distance northwest of the Curtis House, and the constant flow of Rock Creek which winds throughout the hilly terrain, made it a good site for the construction of the mill dam which reportedly first powered a small, brick antebellum cotton mill and later, from c. 1850 until the early 1930s, the Huffman grist mill which served the local farmers. Today the buildings and sites in the Cedarock Park District serve a wider community. In 1972 Alamance County purchased the 414 acre tract and created a natural area county park with a historical focus. Cedarock is the second largest county park in North Carolina (after Tanglewood in Forsyth County) and it will become an increasingly important rural enclave in the rapidly developing piedmont region of North Carolina.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Representative of the agrarian economy and society of rural Alamance County throughout the nineteenth and well into the twentieth centuries; also associated with long-lived milling operations which processed the agricultural products of the self-sustaining farmsteads.
- C. The Garrett House and Curtis House embody the distinctive characteristics of vernacular Greek Revival style architecture and are good representative examples of the seats of typical nineteenth century piedmont North Carolina farmsteads. A significant group of representative farm outbuildings associated with the Garrett farm also survive. These include a log kitchen, a smokehouse, corncrib, barn, and various sheds.

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Much of what is known of the Cedarrock Historic District's early history was compiled within the last ten years by various Garrett family historians and genealogists for the Alamance County Historical Society and the Alamance County Historic Properties Commission. These documents include the "Albright Family Records" by the Reverend David Isaiah Offman and a Garrett family history prepared by Martha Riggins Brown for publication in the 1984 volume entitled Alamance County: The Legacy of Its People and Places. Important primary documentary sources include the Alamance County Census Schedules and Agricultural and Manufacturing Schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. These provide an idea of the scope of these antebellum farms and mills, and an indication of how well the farmsteads survived the Civil War and the Reconstruction years. However, perhaps the most evocative and valuable information source for the district is a lengthy oral interview with Garrett family descendant Cleta Murray conducted in 1978 by park ranger Bill Knapp. Mrs. Murray, born in 1893, still lives near Cedarrock Park in the Martin Moser House. She has vivid memories, not only of the Garrett family members she knew personally, but also of many earlier family stories told to her by her mother, Martha Vestal Patterson, who was born c. 1860 and "reared across the creek" from the present Cedarrock Park. The tape recordings and typed transcript of this remarkable interview are on file at the Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department.

According to Cleta Murray and other sources, the Garrett and Albright families have been intertwined for generations in Alamance County. Brothers Ludwig (b. 1731) and Jacob Albright (b. 1748) settled in the Cedarrock vicinity in the mid-1750s, reportedly on land grant property on Alamance and Rock creeks.¹ Jacob Albright's great-granddaughter Polly Albright (1815-1884), to whom the land passed, married John F. Garrett (1811-1882) and they settled in the western portion of the present Cedarrock Park. Garrett's property was located adjacent to and west of her family's land grant. Sometime in the early 1830s Polly and John F. Garrett constructed a small log house which survives as one of the earliest structures in the district. According to Cleta Murray the log house was nearly contemporary with the Fleet Iseley House (destroyed) formerly located near Cedarrock Park, which had a chimney dated 1828.² About 1835 they constructed the two-story vernacular Greek Revival style house now known as the George W. Garrett House (George was their son); thereafter, the log house continued in use for many years as a kitchen. Cleta Murray remembered her mother Martha Vestal Patterson's stories of visits to the Garrett House "when mother was a small girl" in the 1860s and of "picking up the mail there in the 1870s."³ According to the 1850 Census and Agricultural Schedules, John Garrett (age 39) and Polly Garrett (age 31) lived at the house with their children David (11), Henry W. (9), George W. (7), Mary (2) and Sophia (1 month). They owned five slaves: an adult male and female (ages 45 and 39 respectively) and their sons (ages 7, 6, and an infant). John Garrett's farm, valued at \$1,150 and comprised of 85 improved and 30 unimproved acres, was typical in size and value with many found then in Alamance County; he was also typical in that he owned only a few slaves and probably did much of the farm work himself.⁴ He owned four horses, nine cows and other cattle (which produced 100 pounds of butter), five sheep (which produced fourteen pounds of wool), and twenty swine (total livestock valued at \$283); Garrett grew eighty-five bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of corn, 150 bushels of oats, twenty bushels of potatoes and four tons of wheat.⁵

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A decade later Garrett had expanded his farm to 100 improved and 250 unimproved acres valued at \$1,800 and he owned personal property worth \$2,000. His son, David, had apparently moved away from home (later family genealogies list his name as "Daniel") and another son, John (age 7), had been born since the last census. Garrett's livestock holdings, valued then at \$1,000 remained largely the same with the addition of ten more swine and two oxen, and no sheep or wool listed. In 1860 he grew 150 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of corn, forty pounds of potatoes, produced about the same amount of butter and hay, and had planted an orchard valued at \$100.⁶

John and Polly Garrett built a large H-shaped ell on the rear of their house in April, 1868 and painted the date on the chimney. The addition was finished the same month their son George W. married Mary Elizabeth Vestal (Martha Vestal Patterson's sister and Cleta Murray's aunt).⁷ The newlyweds moved in and set up housekeeping. Cleta Murray recalled:

He went through the war, Uncle George [W. Garrett] did, all four years and then they married and old man Johnny [F. Garrett] built that ell for him--it was built well. . .for Aunt Mary and Uncle George to live in. . . after John and Polly Garrett built the big house, they had still been cooking in that old log one out there. Then when they built Uncle George's two rooms there, they fixed the basement up and fixed that for their kitchen and dining room. It was nice, my mother said, in those days and they had a stairway that went down to it somewhere in there.⁸

Following the Civil War, the political turmoil of the Reconstruction era and the imposition of martial law in the south in 1867 helped create the climate for the growth the Ku Klux Klan, a secret and sometimes violent society that "sought to counteract the influence of the Republican's own secret societies."⁹ By 1870 the Klan had 70,000 members, and many other apologists, in the state and the violence escalated. In Alamance County Wyatt Outlaw, a black official of the Union League, an organization working for Negro suffrage, was murdered, and in neighboring Caswell County, State Senator John W. Stephens, a close ally of unpopular Governor William W. Holden, was murdered in the Caswell County Courthouse by Klan members. Governor Holden placed both Alamance and Caswell counties under martial law, with occupying troops under the command of Colonel George W. Kirk. Holden's Republican Party lost the legislative elections of 1870 and the next year he was impeached and removed from office.¹⁰ Cleta Murray remembered her aunt Mary Garrett's stories about this "different party":

. . .Old Man Johnny let the KKK meet there [at the Garrett House] and they kept their costumes up in the attic. . .And Aunt Mary, you see, she knew what went on. Now I don't know whether Uncle George knew, but Uncle George didn't take any part in the KKK. . . and old man Johnny didn't go out with them, but they met there and they rode up the drive with their horses. . .and they would use, I believe, two windows upstairs--those little ones on each

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side of the chimney. They used the one over to the right. Old man Johnny would go upstairs [via an attic scuttle, where it was] big enough for a man to go up in there. And he went up there and handed their clothes out on a pole to them to dress. Nobody else went up there. Aunt Mary said she didn't know whether Uncle George did or not. I am just quoting my mother. She used to laugh about it, but she says they never had any fusses about it.¹¹

The Garrett farm survived the Civil War, but the 1870 Agricultural Schedule reveals that its value, like that of many other farms in the county, was considerably lessened. In his 1949 centennial history of Alamance County, historian Walter Whitaker wrote:

At the time of the Civil War, this county was recognized as an agricultural area with large grain fields and plenty of live-stock. During the War, the livestock were almost destroyed. Horses were seized by the army and cattle, sheep and swine were slaughtered for meat.¹²

The size of the Garrett farm was reduced to 75 improved and 192 unimproved acres (deed research does not reveal whether Garrett sold part of his land). The value of his livestock fell to \$400 compared with \$1,000 ten years earlier. In 1870 he owned only one horse, one mule, two sheep, five cows (producing only 30 pounds of butter), and 13 swine compared to 30 he owned on the eve of the war. Wheat production dropped only slightly, but Garrett harvested only 200 bushels of corn compared with 1,000 bushels in 1860.¹³

During the 1870s and into the early 1880s a post office was located either in the Garrett House or in a small outbuilding nearby in the rear yard; the outbuilding still retains wooden "pigeon holes" for sorting the mail. It is not known how many people the post office served, but it may have been a small number since another post office was located from 1882-1894 in Patterson Mill, about two miles northwest of the Garrett House.¹⁴ Cleta Murray recalled that "old man Johnny (d. 1882) was living yet in my mother's day when she would go over to get the mail and visit her sister."¹⁵

At some point in the mid to late 1880s the community's post office was moved to the neighboring Curtis farmstead, which comprises the eastern portion of Cedarock Park. Little is known about the early history of the c. 1820 Curtis House and farm. According to Cleta Murray and local tradition, brothers Clint and Chris Curtis

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operated an antebellum cotton mill there, on Rock Creek. "Only one of the brothers lived there. One lived close by, toward Mt. Hermon."¹⁶ Mrs. Murray never saw the cotton mill, but she understood that it was "a small brick building. They didn't build houses like Bellemont and Alamance [textile mills] did for the hands. It was just a small place. . . When the Curtis' gave it up, the mill went under."¹⁷

There is some evidence that a few small cotton mills in Alamance County produced a coarse cotton yarn for the local market in the early 1830s. Documented mills include the Cane Creek Mill and the Bill Falls Mill, both c. 1832, but the cotton mill industry really did not begin in earnest until Edwin M. Holt constructed the Alamance Factory in 1837.¹⁸ By contrast, at that time there were a number of grist mills located on various streams throughout the county.

Numerous farms. . . relied heavily on wheat flour for cash income, so grist mills sprang up, as a matter of course. These mills which turned the grain harvest into barrels of flour were built on convenient streams and operated by water power. Each mill served several farms. . . .¹⁹

Because the ink on the pages of the 1830 Industrial Schedule is so faint and the handwriting virtually illegible, it is not possible to document whether the Curtis brothers operated a cotton mill there. However, a strong local tradition supports this contention, although it is possible that the Curtis Mill was in fact a grist mill.

In addition to operating a mill, apparently Chris Curtis was also a small farmer. According to the 1850 Agricultural Schedule, he owned sixty improved and thirty-two unimproved acres valued at \$600. He also owned livestock valued at \$600 which included two horses, two cows, four other cattle, fourteen sheep, and twenty-five swine; he harvested eighty bushels of wheat and 400 bushels of corn.²⁰ By 1870 Curtis apparently was no longer farming since no livestock or crops are recorded by the census takers. The 1880 Census notes that he is a "house carpenter."²¹

The Curtis brothers had abandoned milling operations by 1850: that year David Huffman appears in the Manufacturing Schedule as the operator/owner of a grist mill located on Rock Creek, site of the former Curtis Mill. Huffman's Mill, one of twenty-nine small grist mills in the county at that time, was capitalized at \$1,800. That year the water-powered mill ground 2,000 pounds of wheat valued at \$500 and 1,000 pounds of corn valued at \$500, producing 1,000 bushels of meal and flour. Huffman employed one mill operative who was paid \$10.²²

Huffman's Mill prospered: in 1860 he produced 5,000 bushels of flour and corn meal valued at \$5,500, and his one employee got a raise to \$15. According to the 1860 Census Schedule, David Huffman was also a farmer with \$3,000 worth of real estate and

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\$6,000 worth of personal property. His son, Adam Huffman age 22, may have worked with his father: the same schedule describes Adam as "a miller."²³ By 1880, David Huffman's mill employed ten workers and produced seventy-five bushels of meal a day. The Manufacturing Schedule for that year records that the mill's power was provided by a breast wheel four feet high, and the dam had a twelve foot fall.²⁴

In the late 1880s Seymour Huffman (whose relationship to David Huffman is unknown) rebuilt or perhaps repaired the frame grist mill and continued its operation. According to Cleta Murray, Seymour Huffman "never owned a foot of land down there--he leased the Curtis farm."²⁵ (The grist mill was razed in the 1930s, but the rock foundation survives, as do a few timbers which were used by later owner, Paul Stevens, to construct a gazebo.) Cleta Murray and her sister Swannie Huffman, who was married to John Huffman, Seymour's first cousin, walked "across the woods" to Huffman's mill to pick up their mail and talk to "Miss Lillie", the postmistress, until a rural mail route was established and home delivery began in 1902.²⁶ Seymour Huffman continued running the mill "long after the post office quit." The mail was first distributed at Huffman's house located on the knoll overlooking the grist mill (house destroyed by fire, 1939). By 1893 the post office was located in a separate building which still stands a few yards east of the Curtis House. An 1893 map of Alamance County drawn by W. L. Spoon indicated that the building was called the Carney Post Office. "The Carney Post Office was down at Huffman's," Mrs. Murray recalled, "but I don't know why it was called Carney. That's a peculiar name. I never heard of anybody named that."²⁷

During the 1880s a third generation of Garretts came to live at the neighboring Garrett family homeplace. After George W. Garrett's death, his nephew James Cicero Garrett (1857-1900) and his bride Elmina Jane Williams (1862-1932, m. 1884) moved to the Garrett House. Prior to his marriage James Cicero lived at his father, Jerry Rudy Garrett's, farm which adjoined his brother George W. Garrett's farm at the southwest. Elmina and James Cicero Garrett cared for four aging relatives who lived with them in the house: these included his mother, the former Letitia Ann Stockard (1825-1906), a daughter of Colonel John Stockard who served intermittently in the state legislature for sixteen terms from 1826-1850; father, Jerry Rudy Garrett (1824-1905); spinster aunt, Sarah Jane Garrett; and aunt, Mary Elizabeth Vestal Garrett, George W.'s widow.²⁸

James Cicero Garrett enjoyed a local reputation as a progressive farmer and was "proud to possess either the first or second cream separator in the county."²⁹ In addition to farming he also taught school at nearby Friendship Academy. He died of a heart attack in 1900 and was buried at Mt. Hermon Methodist Church, about a mile east of the Garrett homeplace, near the graves of his maternal and paternal grandparents, and paternal great-grandparents. His widow Elmina Jane continued to care for her husband's parents and aunts and raised her eight children on the homeplace. An energetic, capable woman, she "championed the cause of education. . . and in 1902 was the first woman in Alamance County elected to the school board."³⁰ When her children were high school age, she moved with them to the town of Graham, about six miles north

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of the family farm. She made arrangements for one of the Albright relatives to care for the homeplace and work the farm. In 1910, after three of her children graduated from Graham High School, she moved back to the farm. The younger children graduated from Friendship Academy and daughter Verna later taught there for many years. After all the children left home, Elmina Jane moved into Burlington and lived with her youngest daughter Polly.³¹

The Garrett and Huffman families owned or lived on the land which later became Cedarock Park until the early 1930s when Paul and Mary Elizabeth Niles Stevens began purchasing the adjoining farms.³² Paul Stevens, (1897-1969), a successful New York industrialist, moved to Alamance County to work with his wife's uncle, Edward Holt, in Holt's Burlington cotton manufacturing mill. Mary Elizabeth Stevens (1904-1973) was originally from Oxford, North Carolina. Paul Stevens soon established his own cotton mill, the Stevens Manufacturing Company, located on Elmira Street in Burlington.³³

Stevens purchased the first parcel of what became his 414 acre estate which he called "Road's End Farm," from Seymour Huffman. This parcel included the Curtis House and Huffman's mill and dam. His second major purchase was the Garrett farm.³⁴ The last family members who lived in the Garrett House were William Garrett and his adopted son, George. After they left in the early 1950s, Stevens installed his childrens' tutor in the Garrett House. Stevens, in addition to being a mill owner, was a "gentleman farmer." He leased some of the crop land to neighboring farmers, but used most of the land for cattle grazing. Both he and his wife were avid riders and they kept a number of horses at the estate. According to his daughter, Ann Stevens Butler who lives in Burlington, the skeleton of the Huffman Mill was still standing when her father bought the property. Stevens removed the mill stones and used them for a stepping stone path up the hill to the small Huffman house which he enlarged and remodelled in 1936-1938.³⁵ In the mid-1930s Stevens moved the old Spoon homeplace from the farm which adjoined his property at the east, next to the Curtis House. He used the Spoon House as a farm office. It survives, but has been considerably altered in recent years. Caretakers Elmo and Opal Clark moved into the Curtis House in 1943; Mr. Clark died in the 1970s and Opal Clark still lives there. In 1939 a furnace malfunction caused a fire and the former Huffman House burned completely. Stevens built a new, larger house on the same site reportedly utilizing a portion of the old foundation.³⁶ This house, renovated by a later owner, still stands, and is presently in use as Cedarock Park Center, a meeting, party, and conference center. About 1950 Paul Stevens rebuilt the deteriorated Huffman mill dam, razed the derelict mill, and utilized some of the mill timbers to construct the rustic summerhouse located next to the dam. Mrs. Stevens planted an extensive spring bulb garden within the low, stone, mill foundation. Also in the early 1950s, she supervised construction of a sizeable fishing pond located on the north side of the park road about midway between the Garrett and Curtis Houses.³⁷

In 1956 and 1957 the Stevens' sold a portion of the estate to William S. and Hazel Foster and the Fosters bought the remainder of the 414 acres in 1969 after Paul Stevens' death.³⁸ The Fosters renovated the Stevens house, resided there and raised cattle on the land.

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On August 9, 1972 Alamance County purchased the 414 acres from Foster for \$330,000 for use as a county park.³⁹ The park's name, Cedarrock, was chosen at "a citizen's suggestion" to describe the abundance of cedar trees and rock outcroppings on the land.⁴⁰ The County Parks and Recreation Department intends minimal development of the parklands. In the early 1980s the deteriorated Garrett House was renovated for use as the park ranger's office; this renovation included a replacement, but sympathetic, front porch, replacement sash windows, removal of the derelict 1868 rear ell and its replacement with a dogtrot and a small addition containing restrooms. The access road was paved then, also.⁴¹ The Curtis farm remains much as it was when Paul Stevens acquired it. A small picnic shelter was built near the Curtis House. A few inconspicuous parking areas have been established near the main buildings and a narrow exercise/fitness/walking trail was cut in the southern and eastern portions of the park. An extensive bridle trail, begun by the Stevens family, extends around the park's perimeter. To date no archaeological investigations have been conducted within the district, but given the undisturbed condition of the land and the number of relatively intact antebellum structures present, it is likely that significant archaeological remains may be present. Alamance County has an active Historic Properties Commission and in 1985 this group was accorded Certified Local Government status. As part of its preservation planning efforts, Alamance County requested the nomination of the Cedarrock Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Albright Family genealogical chart on file at the Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department, Graham, North Carolina; see also "Albright Family Records" prepared by Rev. David Isaiah Offman, 1974 on file with The Alamance County Historical Association, Burlington. Copy located at Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department.

²Interview with Cleta Murray conducted in 1978 by Bill Knapp. Tape recording and typed transcript on file at Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department, Graham, North Carolina. Hereinafter cited as Murray.

³Murray.

⁴Walter Whitaker, Centennial History of Alamance County, 1849-1949. (Burlington: Burlington Chamber of Commerce, 1949), p. 85; Alamance County Census Schedules and Agricultural and Manufacturing Schedules for 1850, on microfilm at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Wilson Library.

⁵Agricultural Schedule, 1850.

⁶Census and Agricultural Schedules, 1860.

⁷Genealogical chart and Murray.

⁸Murray.

⁹H. G. Jones, North Carolina Illustrated, 1524-1984 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1983), p. 256.

¹⁰Jones, p. 257.

¹¹Murray.

¹²Whitaker, p. 182.

¹³Agricultural Schedule, 1870.

¹⁴Elinor S. Euliss, ed., Alamance County: The Legacy of Its People and Places (Greensboro: Legacy Publication, 1984), p. 336. Hereinafter cited as Legacy.

¹⁵Murray. John Garrett, age 69, is listed in the 1880 census as a "farmer." His wife Polly is 64 years old, and daughter, Mary age 32 is also living at the home.

¹⁶Murray.

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¹⁷Murray.

¹⁸Andrew W. Pierport, "Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, North Carolina," Diss. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1953, pp. 20-21.

¹⁹Whitaker, p. 87.

²⁰Agricultural Schedule, 1850.

²¹Census Schedules, 1870 and 1880.

²²Manufacturing Schedule, 1850.

²³Census Schedule, 1860.

²⁴Manufacturing Schedule, 1880.

²⁵Murray. Apparently, at a later undetermined date, Huffman did purchase the property. Ann Stevens Butner, daughter of the property's later owner Paul Stevens, recalled that her father bought the tract from Huffman in the 1930s. No deed for this purchase has been located.

²⁶Murray.

²⁷Murray; also, William Luther Spoon, "Map of Alamance County" (Cleveland, Ohio: H. B. Stranaham Company, 1893). A copy of this map is located at the Stevens House, Cedarrock Park.

²⁸Martha Riggins Brown, "Garrett family settled on land grant property," Burlington Times News, April 16, 1984. Hereinafter cited as Brown. A version of this newspaper article also appears in Legacy, p. 173.

²⁹Brown.

³⁰Brown.

³¹Brown.

³²Telephone interview with Ann Stevens Butler, February 14, 1986. All of the deed references to the Cedarrock parklands which can be located are cited in footnote numbers 38 and 39. Inexplicably, a great number of recorded Alamance County deeds contain no references to prior deeds. Neither the County Attorney, nor the County Tax Office were able to provide other references; a thorough search of the Grantee/Grantor Indexes was generally fruitless.

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33Butler interview.

34Butler interview.

35Butler interview.

36Butler interview.

37Butler interview.

38Alamance County Register of Deeds. Deed Book 246, p. 306; Deed Book 292, p. 328; Deed Book 339, p. 283; Deed Book 347, p. 570; Deed Book 246, pp. 306, 317.

39Alamance County Register of Deeds. Deed Book 389, p. 659; Deed Book 400, pp. 174, 447, 452.

40Park brochure, Alamance County Parks and Recreation Department.

41Interview with Park Ranger, Bill Knapp, February 6, 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 414 acres

Quadrangle name Snow Camp, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>117</u>	<u>6410</u> <u>51613</u>	<u>319</u> <u>814</u> <u>91010</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>17</u>	<u>640</u> <u>183</u>	<u>398</u> <u>2820</u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

B	<u>17</u>	<u>641</u> <u>420</u>	<u>398</u> <u>39810</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>17</u>	<u>639</u> <u>580</u>	<u>398</u> <u>3440</u>
F	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
H	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Alamance County Tax Map 2-19, Block 33
The nominated area includes the acreage associated historically with the G. W. Garrett House and farm, the Curtis House and farm, and the Huffman Mill Site and Dam

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, Consultant

organization _____

date June 1, 1986

street & number Rt. 2, Box 1034

telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough

state North Carolina 27278

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. King, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 15, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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