

State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

Chatham COUNTY

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

New Hill QUAD

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Goodwin Farm Complex
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side SR 1900, .4 miles east of jct with SR 1901,
near Bells

CITY, TOWN

Bells

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

STATE

North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Chatham

CODE
037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Earl Goodwin

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2, Box 234

CITY, TOWN

Apex, NC 27502

VICINITY OF Bells

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE
North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ray Manieri

July 1, 1983

ORGANIZATION

Urban Research Associates

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Cornwallis Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greensboro

STATE

North Carolina

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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A number of outbuildings of varying uses and construction types are located around the main house. The site plan of these buildings is shown on map #2. One of the most important of these structures is a one-story triple-A frame house reportedly built around a log structure during the early years of the twentieth century. This structure is similar to the main house in that it has the appearance of having been enlarged with a number of porches and rear additions over a period of several decades. The surrounding outbuildings are of weatherboard, board-and-batten, log and clay block construction. The wooden buildings feature iron strap hinges and log structures feature square corner notching. One of the largest of these outbuildings is a central passageway, weatherboard barn with shed additions on either side. This barn features a large projecting hood over the loft opening. These outbuildings were probably constructed at different times during the nineteenth century and with the main and secondary house structures provide an excellent documentation of the social and physical evolution of the Goodwin Farm Complex.

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NOTES

1. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodwin, Interviewed February 3, 1983.
2. Ibid. These buildings, according to the Goodwin family, were log, but that cannot now be confirmed by visual inspection.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL _____ STATE X LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Various dates through- BUILDER/ARCHITECT John and W. H. Goodwin
~~out last half of nineteenth century.~~

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Goodwin Complex demonstrates the establishment and expansion of small family farms in central North Carolina during the nineteenth century. The original section of the main house was built by John Goodwin during the middle of the nineteenth century. As the farm and Goodwin family grew, outbuildings were added. The complex eventually passed to W. H. Goodwin who constructed the newer, larger section of the main house ca. 1900. His son, Earl Goodwin, current owner, and the third generation to occupy the complex, also built a home and outbuildings on the complex. Following the death of W. H. Goodwin and in accordance with tradition, Earl Goodwin moved into the main house.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Characteristic of the establishment and development of small family farmsteads in central North Carolina throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

C. Representative of the vernacular architectural traditions popular in the rural areas of central North Carolina during the nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Goodwin Farm Complex was established by John Goodwin (1831-1865) during the period 1850-1860. Family tradition states that John Goodwin built a log cabin with detached kitchen on the property prior to the Civil War. This log cabin and kitchen is believed to be incorporated in the main house now occupying the property.

Goodwin had married Lucy Vick just prior to his construction of the log residence and the newly married couple lived and raised their family in that structure. One of these children, W. H. Goodwin (b. 1859), eventually assumed control of the farmstead.

Little information about Goodwin's activities as a small Chatham County farmer during the period prior to the Civil War was found. No deeds or other local records were discovered to show how or when Goodwin received the land now occupying the complex, or how much land originally comprised the complex. No records have been found to show that Goodwin owned any slaves and his farming activities were probably of such a scale as to make slave ownership unnecessary and unaffordable. In this respect, Goodwin was similar to many of his neighbors who did not own slaves. Slave owning families were in the minority in Chatham County. Only 27% of North Carolina families owned slaves in 1850 and by the end of the Civil War less than one-third of Chatham County's families had slaves. John Goodwin seems to have served the Confederate cause in the Civil War. Family tradition states that Goodwin served until he contracted dysentery and returned home to die.

Following Goodwin's death, the farmstead remained in the Goodwin family. His widow, Lucy, and four children occupied the farm in 1870. At that time the farmstead's land was valued at \$300 and the family's other property was valued at \$200. By 1880 the Goodwin farm, which then contained eighty-two acres, was valued at \$250. Compared to other farms in the state, the Goodwin farm was a small one. The average North Carolina farm in 1880 contained 142 acres.

Continued on Attached sheet...

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, N. C. (subgroup: Deeds, wills Estate Records, Marriage Records, Tax Records).

Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Interviewed February 2, 1983.

continued on attached sheet...

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY App. 57 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,8,4	2,4,0	3,9,5,4	8,2,0	B	1,7	6,8,4	2,8,0	3,9,5,4	4,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	1,7	6,8,4	4,5,0	3,9,5,4	1,9,0	D	1,7	6,8,4	8,1,0	3,9,5,4	5,6,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E	1,7	6,8,4	7,8,0	3,9,5,4	8,0,0
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The nominated area consists of approximately 57 acres on the south side of SR 1900 as described in Chatham County Tax map #0701, Chatham County Tax office.

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W. H. Goodwin assumed control of the farm sometime between 1880 and 1892, probably after his mother's death.¹¹ Goodwin's management of the small farm must have been successful, for at a time when the size of the average farm in North Carolina was decreasing, W. H. Goodwin was adding to the family's farmstead. Between 1880 and 1900, the size of the average farm in the state decreased from 142 acres to 101 acres.¹² The Goodwin farm, however, increased in size from eighty-two acres to 157 acres during the period 1896-1898.¹³ No deeds have been found that show how Goodwin obtained this land.

Goodwin probably began to make some of the many additions and remodelings that have changed the complex's main house during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century. As his family grew and he became a successful and prosperous farmer, the older log cabin and detached kitchen were combined and covered with weatherboards. Goodwin built the two-story section which now comprises the front of the main house ca. 1900.¹⁴ Perhaps this was done as the size of the farm expanded. As the family and farm grew, the main house was expanded and outbuildings were probably constructed around the main house.

Earl Goodwin, W. H. Goodwin's son, built the weatherboard residence just west of the main house ca. 1910 at the time of his first marriage.¹⁵ Earl Goodwin eventually assumed control of the farm and moved into the main house at his father's death. Earl Goodwin and his present wife did much of the interior and some exterior remodeling in 1950.¹⁵

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NOTES

1. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodwin, Interviewed February 2, 1983. Family tradition states that Goodwin built a log cabin on the farm prior to the Civil War. The Goodwin Family Record records John Goodwin's birth year as 1831. He would not have been twenty years old until 1851, so 1850-1860 is a logical time period for construction of the log house.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodwin, February 2, 1983.
3. Ibid.
4. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Chatham County, N. C., New Hope Township, p. 43. By subtracting the ages of the Goodwin children from 1870, birth dates can be determined.
5. Examination of 1850 census and 1860 census does not show Goodwin as a slave owner.
6. G. G. Johnson, Ante-Bellum North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1937), p. 469.
7. Wade H. Hadley, Jr., et al. Chatham County 1771-1971, (Durham; Moore Printing Company, 1971), p. 354.
8. Mr. & Mrs. Goodwin, February 2, 1983. Goodwin Family Record records Goodwin's death year as 1865. although family tradition states Goodwin fought in the Civil War, neither the card file to Moore's Register in the archives search room or North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster compiled by L. H. Manarin, provides any documentation.
9. The Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Chatham County, North Carolina, New Hope Township, p. 43.
10. Hugh T. Lefler and Albert R. Newsome, The History of a Southern State, North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), p. 522. Hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, The History of a Southern State, North Carolina.
11. The 1880 Census lists Lucy Goodwin as head of household, but by 1892 Chatham County Tax Records show W. H. Goodwin as owner of the eighty-two acre farm.
12. Lefler & Newsome, The History of a Southern State, North Carolina, p. 522.

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13. Chatham County Tax List, 1896 and 1898.
14. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodwin, February 2, 1983. No deeds have been found to document this oral tradition.
15. Ibid.

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Hadley, Wade H., Jr., et al. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham:
Moore Printing Company, 1971.

Johnson, G. G. Ante-Bellum North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University
of North Carolina Press, 1937.

Lefler, Hugh T. and Albert R. Newsome. The History of a Southern State,
North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, Press,
1973.

Ninth Census of the United States, 1870. Chatham County North Carolina,
New Hope Township.

