

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Riverside

other names/site number Jones, John Langdon, House

2. Location

street & number Southwest side SR 1552, 0.3 mile southeast of junction with NC 268 N/A not for publication

city or town Grandin vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Caldwell code 027 Zip code 28645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 7/9/04
 Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Riverside
Name of Property

Caldwell Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

EDUCATION/school

1

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

ca. 1860

1882-1894

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

1882

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Riverside
Name of Property

Caldwell Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 22.6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 6 0 9 6 0	3 9 9 0 2 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 7	4 6 1 1 1 0	3 9 9 0 2 6 0

3	1 7	4 6 1 2 7 0	3 9 9 0 1 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 7	4 6 1 2 8 0	3 9 8 9 9 2 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date April 23, 2004

street & number 637 N. Spring St. telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Eliza Frazier Bishop

street & number 5335 Grandin Road (P. O. Box 1846) telephone 828/758-8619

City or town Lenoir state NC Zip code 28645

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Riverside
Caldwell County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION

Summary

Riverside is the name of both a farm and a ca. 1860 two-story, brick, Greek Revival-style house located off the southwest side of Grandin Road (SR 1552) nearly a half mile southeast of its junction with NC 268. In the area of northeastern Caldwell County known as Happy Valley, Riverside is situated on the south side of the Yadkin River, from which setting it derives its name. The nominated property surrounding the house consists of approximately 22.6 acres, the northeastern corner of the 500 total acres of Riverside farm. Included in this acreage are the ca. 1860 house with its now-attached brick kitchen; a small 1985 pump house west of the brick kitchen; a 2002 house for the family cats behind (south of) the brick kitchen; a chain-link-fenced dog pen with a concrete-slab floor and three small dog houses located around 150 feet east of the house; and a combination equipment shed and workshop, built in 1985 but more than doubled in size and remodeled in 2003, located approximately 150 south of the house. The built environment of Riverside is surrounded by a rural landscape that helps the property retain its historical sense of place. Note: An outbuilding shown on the USGS map between the branch and the driveway southwest of the house no longer exists.

Landscape

Contributing site

The landscape associated with the nominated portion of Riverside farm consists of approximately 22.6 acres of rural land that forms an appropriate setting for Riverside house. The property is bounded by Grandin Road (SR 1552) on the northeast, the Yadkin River on the north, a branch on the west, a southwest-northeast lot line across the south, and a branch that intersects the lot line and continues northward to Grandin Road. It consists primarily of flat bottomlands, but includes a hill near the south end. The property is lush with trees at its north end near the river and around the house, but the south and east sections are open agricultural fields. Entering the property from Grandin Road (SR 1552) close to the Yadkin River on the north, a gravel and dirt lane curves far in front of the house and continues in a curve around its west side. There it splits to form a driveway to the house and equipment shed and a lane that runs southwest and uphill to an upland meadow (not part of the nominated property). These lanes are roughly paralleled by a north-south branch that leads to the river. Within the curve of the entrance lane, an expansive lawn dotted by large trees spreads northward from the front of the house. Several of the trees line the curve of the drive, while others are the survivors of rows of trees that

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tradition claims once radiated northward from the house. Behind the house and its associated outbuildings, a rounded, grassy knoll interrupts the agricultural field at the south end of the nominated property. At the top of the hill a central depression gives evidence of the ice hole that once occupied the hill. In the early twentieth century, owner D. R. S. Frazier had a hole dug that was about ten feet in diameter and about twelve to fifteen feet deep. The hole was used to store river ice, cut in the winter and insulated with sawdust, for use in the summer by his and neighboring families (Deal, 1, 8).

House

ca. 1860

Contributing building

Exterior

Riverside is a stately, brick, Greek Revival-style house that faces the Yadkin River to its north. Built ca. 1860, the house exhibits a typical nineteenth-century vernacular form: two stories tall and one room deep with a symmetrical three-bay facade and a centrally positioned two-story rear ell that is one bay wide and two bays deep. Originally an open, east-west passage ran between the main house and the ell at first-story height, while, on the second story, the brickwork was continuous between the two parts. The breezeway was enclosed in 1985. The house has a brick foundation, seven-to-one common-bond brick walls, and an asphalt-covered gable roof. Fenestration includes six-over-six sash windows with molded surrounds and louvered wood shutters and two-panel doors with molded surrounds and three-light glass transoms. The front entrance and its second-story counterpart are each emphasized by sidelights and a seven-light transom that carries across both the door and the sidelights. Interior chimneys with brick stacks rise from the rear of the main body of the house and from the rear of the rear ell.

The Greek Revival style is expressed in the details of the house, both exterior and interior. On the exterior, the Greek Revival style is seen primarily in the symmetrical facade; the cornice with its plain, wide frieze beneath overhanging boxed and molded eaves; the low-pitched, boldly pedimented gables; the two-panel doors with sidelights and transoms; and the center-bay, two-tier, front porch.

The porch is the decorative focal point of the house and is composed of latticework balustrades and posts and sawnwork anthemion capitals and swan's neck brackets, the whole crowned by a pediment. The porch detailing is probably an allusion, in wood, to the fancy ironwork porches often seen in cities during the period. It is also related to the wood porches of several other houses in piedmont North Carolina, including the ca. 1855 Johnson-Hubbard House (NR, 1981) in Wilkesboro

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and the ca. 1855 Gwyn-Foard House (NR, 2000) in Elkin. Both of these houses are located in towns on the Yadkin River in the eastern sections of Happy Valley in Wilkes and Surry counties.

Originally, narrow, one-story, shed-roofed porches with simple lattice posts lined the east and west sides of the rear ell. These were expanded, probably in the late nineteenth century during the Folk ownership, to the edge of the main block of the house. The west porch retains this configuration. The east porch was enclosed in the 1930s by John Frazier for use as a new kitchen and dining area. In 1985 the present owners replaced the 1930s' enclosed porch with a two-story, one-bay-wide, frame addition with weatherboard siding and a shed roof that fills the space between the east side of the rear ell and the south elevation of the main block of the house. At the same time, the first story was expanded eastward from the two-story frame addition to form a shed-roofed sun room with modern windows opening to a concrete terrace that was covered with ceramic tiles in 2003.

Also in 1985, a one-story, weatherboarded-frame garage was added to the rear of the ell and east addition, connecting the house with the original brick kitchen, which had been completely detached from the house. An exterior brick chimney rises on the east side of the garage to vent a water stove. A door is located at each end of the east elevation. On the west elevation are a door adjacent to the rear ell and two garage doors.

The former kitchen, running east-west parallel to the main body of the house, is a one-story brick structure with a gable roof and a corbeled brick cornice. In 1995 the storm-damaged roof was replaced by one with overhanging eaves, so that now the corbeled cornice is less visible than it once was. At each gable end of the brick kitchen is an original exterior brick chimney. The cap of the west chimney has been rebuilt. Fenestration includes a door on the west half and a window on the east half of the south elevation. Originally the window had a nine-over-six sash, but in the late twentieth century it was replaced by a smaller window with six-over-six sash. On the north elevation (now enclosed within the garage) a door originally stood opposite the door on the south side, but it was enclosed in the late twentieth century. At the east end of the north elevation is a door and a window. A lattice-fenced enclosure to hide garbage cans and a small fuel tank was added to the east end of the south elevation in 2002.

Interior

The interior of Riverside is symmetrical in form and exhibits simple Greek Revival-style detailing. The front section of the house has a central stair hall with a single room on either side on both floors. On the first floor, the parlor is east of the center hall, and a bedroom is west of the hall. The second floor contains two bedrooms. The rear ell consists of a dining room on the first floor and a

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Caldwell County, North Carolina

bedroom on the second. The ell runs perpendicular to the main body of the house and is connected to it by an enclosed breezeway on the first floor; the second floor is continuous with the main body of the house. The frame addition built on the east side of the ell in 1985 includes a first-floor bathroom and closet that abut the rear brick wall of the main east wing of the house. The remainder of the addition has a largely open plan on the first floor that includes a kitchen, a sitting room, and a sun room. A bath/dressing area is on the second floor of the addition. When the addition was built, the north window on the east side of the ell, now enclosed within the addition, was converted to shelving.

The detailing of the interior is consistent throughout the house. Floors are wood, walls and ceilings are plastered, and doors and windows have molded surrounds. Doors are two-paneled in the Greek Revival style; some are wood-grained. The doors from the hall to the enclosed breezeway and from the breezeway to the ell dining room have glass transoms like the exterior doors, which, of course, they were until the breezeway was enclosed. Mantels, located in every room of the brick portions of the house, are of the classical post-and-lintel variety, typical of the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style. The mantel in the dining room is flanked by a pair of two-panel doors that open to small closets. The center hall features an open-string stair with curved stair brackets that create a wave effect, rectangular-in-section balusters, and a graceful, turned handrail that ends in an under-turned spiral atop a turned newel.

Originally, the brick kitchen was designed to accommodate several functions. The eastern third of the building appears to have been a servant's room that was divided from the rest of the building by a board-and-batten partition. Today the room is a remodeled guest bedroom and bath. The fireplace at the west end of the kitchen building is believed to have been used for cooking during first several decades after the house was built. Probably during the Folk ownership in the late nineteenth century, a cookstove was installed near the center of the south elevation. Most likely after the cook stove was installed, so that the fireplace was no longer used for cooking, the west end of the kitchen building was converted to a cold storage room. It was separated from the rest of the building by a board-and-batten partition with a door in the center. Shelves for storing canned goods lined the west side of the partition. West of the partition, the floor was about two feet lower than in the remainder of the building. A water basin where dairy and other perishable products could be kept cool ran along the west wall. Initially the water came from a well, but after the end of the nineteenth century, D. R. S. Frazier piped water to the room from halfway up the mountain to the south. When water overflowed the basin, a pipe carried the excess water out the north side of the building, where the roof had a wide overhang until the 1940s. During D. R. S. Frazier's ownership, the basin was extended along the south side of the kitchen, where it formed a cooling space approximately two feet wide, two-and-a-half feet long, and two feet deep with a raised wall above the floor level. A small half door at the south end of the board-and-batten partition

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opened to the basin from the center room of the kitchen, allowing someone to retrieve an item from the basin without having to go entirely into the room (Bishop Interview, April 5, 2004). Today, the kitchen and cool storage room have been converted to a sitting room/study. The door that once opened at the west end of the north elevation has been enclosed and converted to book shelves.

Pump House

1985

Non-contributing structure

The pump house is a small, rectangular, frame structure located approximately three feet west of the brick kitchen's west chimney. It has wide weatherboard siding, an east-west gable roof, and a small weatherboarded door facing the kitchen chimney.

Cat House

2002

Non-contributing building

Directly behind (south of) Riverside's brick kitchen and just northeast of the site where the smokehouse stood until ca. 2001 is the house where the owners' cats live. It is a square, brick building, laid in seven-to-one common bond, with a pyramidal roof topped by a "belfry" with a cat-shaped weathervane. The east elevation has a pair of French doors, the west elevation has a single French door, the north and south elevations have five-panel doors, and all doors are headed by a transom. Latticed porches project from the south and west sides of the building. Inside, the cat house is divided into several rooms, and a narrow stair on the north side leads to a sleeping loft.

Equipment Shed/Workshop

1985; 2003

Non-contributing building

Located approximately 150 feet south of the house is a large combination equipment shed and workshop, which more than doubled the size of the equipment shed built on the site in 1985. Sheathed in vinyl German siding and sheltered by a broad gable roof, the building rests on a concrete-block foundation. The building's size is deceptive, because the north wall encompasses not only the portion of the building that is enclosed, but also its broad open sheds, supported by poles, which run along the east

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and west sides of the building. The sheds remain open at the south end. The north elevation has a door flanked by two six-over-six sash windows per side. The west elevation has two six-over-six sash windows, and the east elevation has two large vehicle doors. The south elevation has no fenestration.

Integrity

Like most historic properties, Riverside has experienced some change from its nineteenth-century period of significance. Except for the brick kitchen, period outbuildings have been lost. Three outbuildings—the pump house (1985), the cat house (2002), and the equipment shed/workshop (1985/2003)—have been added. Other significant changes include the frame addition on the east side of the house (1985), the frame garage connecting the house with the kitchen (1985), and the remodeling of the interior of the kitchen building (late twentieth century). Although the east frame addition is large, its impact is diminished by the placement of its two-story section within the spatial void created by the rear of the front east wing of the house and the east side of the ell. Only the one-story sunroom projects beyond the east end of the house, but its shed roof gives it the feel of a porch. The impact of the frame addition is also diminished because it is barely visible from the drive leading to the house from Grandin Road and is not at all visible from the west side where the driveway approaches the house. The frame garage is clearly of modern construction, but its design, material, and positioning allow the original house and kitchen to be easily distinguished as the historic resources that they are. Although the interior of the brick kitchen has been remodeled, the exterior remains largely intact.

The changes that have taken place through the years at Riverside are easily overshadowed by the well preserved and little altered character of the brick portions of the house—on both exterior and interior. Likewise, the landscape associated with Riverside retains its strong rural character. The house's placement facing the Yadkin River to the north, its curved drive—partly tree-lined—leading from Grandin Road to the house, its broad expanse of front lawn interspersed with large trees, its fields to the east and south and its hill with an ice-storage hole south of the house combine to provide a setting that supports an understanding of Riverside as a mid-nineteenth-century plantation house. For these reasons, it can be said that Riverside retains strong historic integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Riverside
Caldwell County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

In 1858 John Langdon Jones (1823-1867) purchased 110 acres from the heirs of his father, Catlett Jones. The land was located on the south side of the Yadkin River in the northeastern section of Caldwell County known as Happy Valley. From 1859 through 1862, John Langdon Jones and his brother, Calvin Catlett Jones (1813-1896), together purchased several additional tracts amounting to 452 acres on the Yadkin River that had belonged to their grandfather, William B. Dula. During the 1850s, John and Calvin Jones had lived in Lenoir, where they operated a mercantile business. They apparently determined to switch from commerce to farming and thus purchased their several tracts of land in the fertile river valley.

Around 1860 John Jones built a substantial brick house on his individual tract of 110 acres. Calvin Jones, who was unmarried at the time, lived there with his brother's family, and he and John jointly farmed their land. The house, called Riverside for its location, has a traditional form—two stories tall and one room deep with a symmetrical three-bay facade, a center-hall plan, and a centrally positioned two-story rear ell—and chaste Greek Revival detailing on both exterior and interior, including boldly pedimented gables, overhanging boxed and molded eaves, two-panel doors, post-and-lintel mantels, and a graceful stair. The two-tier entrance porch is the decorative focal point of the house and hints at nineteenth-century romanticism in its use of airy latticework balustrades and posts along with anthemion capitals and swan's neck brackets, the whole crowned by a classical pediment. As one of Caldwell County's best preserved examples of a traditional house form with Greek Revival-style detailing, and as one of a small group of substantial brick houses from the mid-nineteenth century, Riverside is architecturally significant, fulfilling Criterion C for listing in the National Register.

John Langdon Jones died in 1867, and it took several years to settle his estate. John and Calvin Jones had incurred some sizeable debts, and Riverside had to be sold to cover them as well as other expenses. With Edmund Walter Jones, John and Calvin's first cousin, serving as administrator of John Jones's estate, arrangements were made for a number of years that allowed Sarah Jones, John's widow, and her children to continue living on the property.

In 1882 Riverside was sold to George N. Folk and his wife, Elizabeth Councill. George Nathaniel Folk (1831-1896) was one of the area's most prominent attorneys and had represented Caldwell County in the state senate, where he served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. From 1882 to 1894, Folk operated a law school, which he called the Blackstone Law School, at Riverside, first out of his office in the house, and after 1885 in a separate building (no longer standing) near the house.

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Folk's school represents one of the available methods for gaining a legal education in North Carolina during the nineteenth century, and it was successful in producing numerous prominent lawyers and judges in the western Piedmont as well as a North Carolina Attorney General and two Congressmen. Riverside is a rare physical reminder of these private law schools in North Carolina. Because of its significance in education, Riverside meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register.

In 1895, George and Bettie Folk sold Riverside to Daniel Robert Steele Frazier (1847-1919), who added to Riverside's land until he had nearly 1,500 acres. More than a century later, Riverside remains in Frazier family ownership.

The house is being nominated with approximately 22.6 acres—a part of the 500 total acres that today make up Riverside farm—that immediately surround the house and form an appropriate historic and current setting for it. The locally significant property has two periods of significance—ca. 1860, when the house was built, and 1882-1894, when George N. Folk owned Riverside and operated the Blackstone Law School there.

Historical Background

The death in 1856 of wealthy Happy Valley land owner Catlett Jones lead to the distribution of his estate among the members of his large family that included fourteen children. On November 9, 1858, one of Catlett Jones's sons, John Langdon Jones (1823-1867), purchased 110 acres of land from Catlett Jones's heirs. This land, a portion of the 300 acres owned by Catlett Jones on the south side of the Yadkin River, included the site of Riverside house (Deed Book 4, pp. 160 and 725; Bishop Interview, April 5, 2004). From 1859 through 1862, John Langdon Jones and his brother, Calvin Catlett Jones (1813-1896), purchased several additional tracts totaling 452 acres on both the north and south sides of the Yadkin River that had been part of the estate of their grandfather, William B. Dula (Deed Book 5, pp. 47, 51, and 224).

During the 1850s John Langdon and Calvin Catlett Jones lived in Lenoir, where they operated a mercantile business known as C. C. and J. L. Jones and Company. On April 14, 1852, John Jones married Sarah Llewellyn (1833-1910) at St. James Episcopal Church, where her uncle, the Reverend Thomas S. W. Mott, was rector. Born in Hillsborough as the only child of Dr. Elijah and Ann (Phillips) Llewellyn, Sarah moved to Caldwell County after her father's death in 1846 to live with her mother's sister, who was married to Mott. Sarah received a substantial inheritance from her father, and her uncle, the Reverend Mott, became her guardian. It is speculated that Sarah Llewellyn Jones's inheritance helped fund the construction of Riverside (Poe letter; Bishop Interview, 4/16/99; *Heritage of Caldwell County*, 392).

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Riverside
Caldwell County, North Carolina

Around 1860, John Langdon Jones had a substantial brick house built on his individual tract of 110 acres on the south side of the Yadkin River in the area of northeastern Caldwell County known as Happy Valley. When the Greek Revival-style house, appropriately called Riverside, was completed, John and Sarah Jones, their two young children, and John's brother, Calvin, moved from Lenoir to the country (Poe letter).

Unfortunately, John Jones was able to enjoy his handsome country home only a few years, for he died in 1867, leaving his wife and six children (*Heritage of Caldwell County*, 392). The records associated with settling John Jones's estate provide clues to life at Riverside during the 1860s. Although the home tract at Riverside was owned by John Jones alone, he and his growing family shared the home with his brother, Calvin. This seemed only fitting, for during the 1850s, while the Jones brothers jointly operated a mercantile company in Lenoir, John and Sarah Jones and their young family occupied a house in town owned by Calvin. (It is not known whether Calvin lived there as well.) When John and Calvin Jones decided to shift from commercial endeavors in town to agriculture, Calvin—who remained unmarried until 1872—lived with his brother's family in their large home on the Yadkin River. John and Calvin Jones operated the plantation together and jointly owned assets pertaining to the farming operation. At the time of John Jones's death, these included one mare and colt, fourteen head of cattle, ten sheep, sixteen hogs, one wagon, one large and two small plows, and a variety of other farm implements. Their crops consisted primarily of corn, but also wheat, rye, potatoes, oats, and cabbage (Estate Records).

John and Calvin Jones were apparently dogged by debt, including both money they owed others for loans related to their farming and other expenses as well as a long list of notes owed them, but unpaid, by numerous customers of their Lenoir mercantile business. When John Jones died, his debts and those owed jointly by John and Calvin Jones had to be settled. To do this, it became necessary to sell all of John Jones's real estate. Edmund Walter Jones, a first cousin of John and Calvin Jones, served as administrator of the estate. In the course of settling the Jones estate, he purchased the interest of Calvin Jones in the real estate he owned jointly with John, and ultimately, through an agent, he purchased the Riverside tract at public auction on December 28, 1871, to help recover money he had expended in the settlement of the estate (Estate Records).

In 1873 Edmund Walter Jones sold Riverside to J. J. Mott, a cousin of Sarah Jones, and Rufus Lenoir Patterson, who apparently allowed Mrs. Jones and her six children to continue living on the property. In 1882, Patterson's executor conveyed his interest in the Riverside property to Mott (Deed Book 20, pp. 102 and 104, as reported in Hood, 34).

On April 20, 1882, J. J. Mott contracted with George N. Folk to convey, as Folk directed, the Riverside plantation. Folk agreed to pay Mott \$4,500 for the property and to assign \$1,000 worth of the

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Riverside
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land (eighty-eight acres) to Sarah Jones and to pay her \$500. Mott agreed to convey the remainder of Riverside not assigned to Mrs. Jones to George B. Council of Watauga County to hold in trust for Bettie Folk, wife of George N. Folk, and after her death for her son, George B. Folk (Deed book 14, p. 500). On September 29, 1884, Sarah Jones sold her eighty-eight acres to Bettie A. Folk for \$1,000, after which she and her three youngest children moved to Kansas to start a new life. However, Sarah was unhappy in Kansas and eventually returned to North Carolina, living the remainder of her life in Burke County (Deed Book 16, p. 124; Poe letter).

By the time of the Folks' purchase of Riverside, George Nathaniel Folk (1831-1896) was considered one of the area's most prominent attorneys. Born in Isle of Wight, Virginia, Folk was educated at the College of William and Mary. When he was twenty, Folk moved to Charlotte, studied law for a year—under whom is not known—and was admitted to the bar in 1851. He then moved to Boone, where he practiced law and twice, in 1856 and 1860, was elected to represent Watauga County in the North Carolina House of Commons. While living in Boone, Folk married Elizabeth A. Council. During the Civil War, Folk served in the Sixty-fifth North Carolina Regiment, where he attained the rank of colonel (Powell, 215).

In 1866 Folk moved to Lenoir, where he established his law practice, opened a law school, and became a dominant member of what was then known as the old Burke bar. For some years, Folk also operated law schools in Boone and Blowing Rock during the summer months. In 1876 he was elected to the state senate representing Caldwell County and served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee (Powell, 215-216; *Lenoir Topic*, May 20 and 27, 1896).

In 1882, the *Lenoir Topic* carried notices that Col. Folk had purchased the "beautiful and fertile" Riverside farm and that the Folk family had taken up residence there that summer (*Lenoir Topic*, April 19 and July 5, 1882). In 1885 the Lenoir paper reported that "Col. G. N. Folk has added greatly to the beauty and convenience of his noted place, Riverside, by the erection of several handsome offices [no longer standing] for the accommodation of his numerous law students" (*Lenoir Topic*, November 12, 1885). Indeed, when Folk moved from Lenoir to Riverside, he also moved his law school there. He called it the Blackstone Law School, in honor of the famed English jurist Sir William Blackstone, whose multi-volume *Commentaries on the Laws of England* were among the basic texts studied and referred to by law students and lawyers in America. Initially Folk taught in his office, located in the west wing of the house, but later he constructed a one-room frame building [no longer standing] west of the house for classes. The "offices for the accommodation of his numerous law students" noted in the November 12, 1885, issue of the *Lenoir Topic* were one-room cabins located along the drive that curves around the north (front) and west sides of Riverside house. For more than a decade the Blackstone Law School served aspiring lawyers from Caldwell and neighboring counties. Many of Folk's students became

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prominent lawyers and jurists in the state. Among his students were William Horton Bower of Caldwell County, who later served as state legislator and senator and as a representative in Congress; William W. Barber, Thomas Isbel, Judge Thomas B. Finley, Gwyn Finley, and Congressman Richard N. Hackett from Wilkes County; A. H. Eller from Ashe County; Marshall Mott from Iredell County; Superior Court judges E. B. Cline and H. R. Starbuck; state Attorney General Frank I. Osborne; and others (*Heritage of Caldwell County*, 224; "County Legal Profession," *Lenoir News-Topic* [no date]; *Lest We Forget*, 7).

Folk's failing health was probably the cause of the closure of his law school and the return of Folk and his wife to Lenoir in 1894. He died two years later after an extended illness (*Lenoir Topic*, May 20, 1896).

On March 12, 1895, George N. and Bettie Folk sold Riverside to Daniel Robert Steele Frazier (Deed Book 27, p. 501). D. R. S. Frazier (1847-1919) was born in Watauga County. As a young man he traveled to the West, where for a number of years he was engaged in the mining business in Montana and elsewhere. Upon returning to Caldwell County, Frazier married Eliza Catherine Miller on August 15, 1893 ("Death of Mr. D. R. S. Frazier;" Poe letter). A year and a half later, he purchased Riverside, where he took up farming on a large scale. At the time of Frazier's initial purchase, Riverside contained approximately 400 acres (Deed Book 27, p. 501). By the time he died in 1919, Frazier had amassed close to 1,500 acres. During D. R. S. Frazier's ownership of Riverside, his wife, Eliza, received boxes of clothing and Christmas gifts from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Boston, which she delivered to needy families in the lower Happy Valley area of Caldwell County. During her lifetime, this was known as the Blackstone Mission by church officials. After Eliza's death, the mission work based at Riverside was carried on by her daughter-in-law, Goldie Frazier. When Goldie died in 1971, her daughter, Eliza Frazier Bishop, continued to deliver the clothing and gifts from St. Peter's until 1973, when it was determined that there was no longer sufficient need (Bishop Interviews, April 16, 1999 and April 5, 2004).

D. R. S. Frazier died intestate; consequently, his property was divided among his three sons, though his widow, Eliza, continued to live in the home until her death in 1932. Oldest son John Alexander Frazier (1894-1991) received the homeplace and around one thousand acres, approximately half in farm land and half in timber land. During the Depression, he sold off the timber land on the north side of the river (Bishop Interview, April 16, 1999). John Frazier was in the first class of students to enroll at Patterson School in Happy Valley when it opened in 1909 and later received his bachelor's degree from what is now North Carolina State University. He was both a civil engineer and a farmer. Frazier was a veteran of World War I, a member of Mariah's Chapel Church, and served for twenty-four years on the Caldwell County Board of Education (*Lenoir News Topic*, July 15, 1991). In 1935 he married Goldie Cook, and they had two daughters. After Goldie's death in 1971 but prior to his own

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death in 1991, John Frazier deeded various portions of the Riverside property to his daughters, Eliza Frazier Bishop and Nancy Frazier Anderson (Bishop Interview, April 16, 1999). Today, more than a century after their grandfather purchased Riverside, Eliza Bishop and Nancy Anderson retain ownership of the now 500-acre Riverside farm, which is managed as a single farm by Eliza and her husband Tyrone R. Bishop. Eliza F. Bishop is owner of Riverside house and the 22.6 acres surrounding it that are being nominated to the National Register.

Architecture Context

One of the most popular nineteenth-century architectural styles in North Carolina, as in much of the rest of the country, was the Greek Revival style. Based, if sometimes loosely, on the classical architecture of ancient Greece, the style brought changes in the form and details of domestic architecture. Among these changes were an overall massing that was more horizontal than vertical in proportion, symmetry of design coupled with the use of a center-hall plan, larger windows with fewer panes of glass—typically six-over-six sash—a lower-pitched roof with overhanging boxed eaves, and bold classical detailing. In North Carolina, the Greek Revival style was popular primarily from the 1830s to the 1870s. Some Greek Revival-style houses were bold reflections of the style that utilized a sophisticated and unified collection of classical details integrated with a symmetrical plan. More houses, however, continued to use traditional building forms while adding some decorative elements that modestly reflected the pervasive influence of this mid-nineteenth-century style.

The finest houses constructed during the mid-nineteenth century in Caldwell County were brick. The most sophisticated example of the Greek Revival style in the county is Clover Hill (NR, 1973), built in Happy Valley on the Yadkin River in 1846-1847 by Edmund Walter Jones, first cousin of John and Calvin Jones. Clover Hill is a two-story, double-pile, brick mansion with a low hipped roof and a five-bay facade that displays the Ionic order on its three-bay porch and both main and upper doorways (Bishir, Southern, and Martin, 143). The construction of Clover Hill probably influenced Jones's brother-in-law, Samuel Finley Patterson, to enlarge and update in the Greek Revival style Palmyra, his Federal-style brick house built in Happy Valley by General Edmund Jones (Hood, 27). Palmyra was destroyed by fire in 1924. Another brick house, the John Eli Corpening House, was built in the Gamewell vicinity in 1856. A double-pile house with a pedimented side-gable roof and a two-tier classical entrance porch, it is representative of the more conservative dwellings that utilized some Greek Revival detailing in conjunction with a traditional house form (Bishir, Southern, and Martin, 143; Mason, 16).

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One of Caldwell County's best preserved and representative examples of a traditional house with Greek Revival-style detailing is the ca. 1860 Riverside (Mason, 16). The two-story, single-pile, brick house has a three-bay facade, a center-hall plan, and a central two-story rear ell. The Greek Revival style is expressed most prominently in Riverside's details, seen on the exterior in the symmetrical facade; the cornice with its wide frieze and overhanging boxed and molded eaves; the low-pitched, boldly pedimented roof gables; the large six-over-six sash windows with molded surrounds; the two-panel doors with transoms; and the center-bay, two-tier, entrance porch; and on the interior in the two-panel doors, the classical post-and-lintel mantels, and the graceful center-hall stair with its wave-like stair brackets and handrail that terminates in an Ionic-like under-turned spiral atop the turned newel. Unlike other Greek Revival-style houses in Caldwell County, Riverside also reflects the influence of mid-to-late nineteenth-century romanticism in its entrance porch where, instead of solid classical columns or posts, it has light and airy latticework balustrades and posts combined with sawnwork anthemion capitals and swan's neck brackets. An allusion in wood to the fancy ironwork porches often seen in cities during the period, Riverside's porch is related to the wood porches of several other houses in piedmont North Carolina, including the ca. 1855 Johnson-Hubbard House (NR, 1981) in Wilkesboro and the ca. 1855 Gwyn-Foard House (NR, 2000) in Elkin. Both of these are located in towns on the Yadkin River in the eastern sections of Happy Valley in Wilkes and Surry counties.

Although the most significant Greek Revival-style houses in Caldwell County were brick, frame houses with Greek Revival trim were also erected. Two good examples are the 1856 Thomas Hoover House and the ca. 1859 T. J. Dula House (Mason, 17).

Education Context

Col. George N. Folk's Blackstone Law School represents one of the ways in which education for the legal profession was acquired in North Carolina during the nineteenth century. A department for the study of law was not instituted at the University of North Carolina until 1845, so until then—and for many young men thereafter—those desiring to become a lawyer had to pursue other means of acquiring a legal education (Farmer, 282).

In addition to studying at the University of North Carolina after 1845 or attending a collegiate law school out-of-state, there were three common ways to train for the bar in North Carolina during the nineteenth century. Some chose to study on their own. This was usually a trying ordeal, for these students had to locate books to buy or borrow, they often maintained full-time work in addition to pursuing their studies, and they had little guidance (Farmer, 271-272).

Others arranged to study under the tutelage of an experienced practitioner. Nearly all of the

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leaders of the bar and bench taught law students. However, even these students received little formal instruction; instead, other than reading the lawyer's books, they experienced a very practical education. They assisted with office work, learned to prepare legal instruments, and became acquainted with the process of handling cases in their entirety, from gathering evidence to trying a case in court. Study in a law office tended to be more haphazard than systematic because lawyers typically had to spend much of their time away from the office in court (Farmer, 275-277).

The third means of gaining a legal education in nineteenth-century North Carolina was to attend a private law school. Several of the most successful lawyers and judges in the state organized schools for teaching groups of students. The first of these schools was conducted by John Louis Taylor in Raleigh beginning in 1822. Two of the outstanding early schools were those taught by Leonard Henderson in Williamsboro and Archibald D. Murphey in Hillsboro. John L. Bailey opened a law school in Elizabeth City but later moved to Hillsboro where, at mid-century, he and Frederick Nash, justice of the state Supreme Court, conducted a law school. After Nash died, Bailey moved in 1859 to Black Mountain, where he and his son established a law school. This school continued until it was interrupted by the Civil War, but after the war, Bailey resumed teaching (Farmer, 278-281). In 1878 John H. Dillard and Robert B. Dick opened the Greensboro Law School. It was much larger than most of the private schools, listing between fifty and eighty-seven students during the two-year period 1880-1881 (Coates, 10).

William Horn Battle and Richmond M. Pearson were two of the most outstanding teachers of law schools during the mid-nineteenth century. Battle operated a school in Chapel Hill that was loosely associated with the university until, in 1845, he was named to the first law professorship at the university when it initiated a department for the study of law. Richmond M. Pearson opened a school in Mocksville soon after he was elected a judge of the superior court in 1836. In the late 1840s he moved the school to his newly built home, Richmond Hill (NR, 1970), located in a secluded spot on the Yadkin River in Yadkin County, where it operated until the 1870s, during which time Pearson also served as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court (Farmer, 281-282; Zehmer). Pearson selected a quiet place for his school away from the excitement of society so that his students would have little to take their minds from their books (Coates, 9). Also located in a rural setting on the Yadkin River, Folk's Blackstone Law School offered the same advantage. Both schools had a classroom building separate from the house, although at Folk's school, classes were initially held in his house. Pearson lectured for a two-hour period about twice a week. His students were encouraged to read, think, discuss, and digest the law (Farmer, 290).

After the mid-nineteenth century, law schools—both private and state-supported—tended to emphasize the principles and theories of law rather than simply the practical aspects, and they generally

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offered more systematic instruction with assigned readings and connected lectures. In this learning environment, books became more and more important (Farmer, 296-297). This later approach must have been to Col. Folk's liking, for at his death he was described as being "above all things a student. He lived in his books" (*Lenoir Topic*, May 27, 1896). In fact, Folk had a large library, reported in 1889 to include 600 volumes (Powell, 216).

The Blackstone Law School that Col. George N. Folk operated at Riverside between 1882 and 1894 was not the largest of the private law schools in nineteenth-century North Carolina. Nor was it the most famous. However, it represents well one of the available methods for gaining a legal education in North Carolina during the nineteenth century, and it was successful in producing numerous prominent lawyers and judges in the western Piedmont as well as a North Carolina Attorney General and two Congressmen. Riverside is also a rare physical reminder of these important schools, for although numerous small nineteenth-century law offices remain where aspiring lawyers may have studied, key structures associated with private law schools are almost non-existent—or have not yet been identified—except for Riverside and Richmond Hill.

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"Many Members of County Legal Profession Have Attained State-National Prominence, 1841-1941," no date, clipping in possession of Eliza F. Bishop.
"Local Deaths: John A. Frazier." July 15, 1991.

Lenoir Topic.

"Local News," April 19, 1882; July 5, 1882; November 12, 1885.
"The Great Lawyer Passes Away at Greensboro on the 14th last," May 20, 1896.
"Tribute to George N. Folk," May 27, 1896.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References Cont'd.

5. Zone 17 Easting - 460940 Northing - 3989840

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is approximately 22.6 acres of the northeast portion of Lot 5 in Block 1 of Map 4, Township 5 (Kings Creek). It is bounded by Grandin Road (SR 1552) on the northeast, the Yadkin River on the north, a branch on the west, a southwest-northeast lot line across the south, and a branch that intersects the lot line and continues northward to Grandin Road. The boundary is precisely indicated by the heavy black line, with interspersed three dots along the branches, on the accompanying property map labeled "Riverside Farm." The map is drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

A part of the 500 total acres that make up Riverside farm, the nominated property consists of approximately 22.6 acres that immediately surround Riverside house. Composed primarily—in addition to the ca. 1860 Riverside house and its outbuildings—of flat bottomlands, the nominated property is lush with trees at its north end near the Yadkin River and around the house, has an expansive lawn in front of the house, and, to the south and east of the house, is characterized by agricultural fields and a single knoll which once contained the ice storage hole for the house. While the 22.6 acres are only part of the historic setting for Riverside farm, they form an appropriate historic and current setting for the nominated Riverside house.

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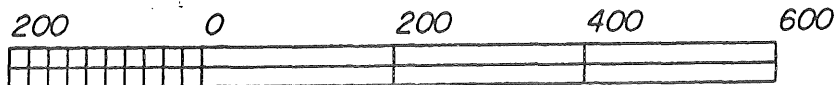
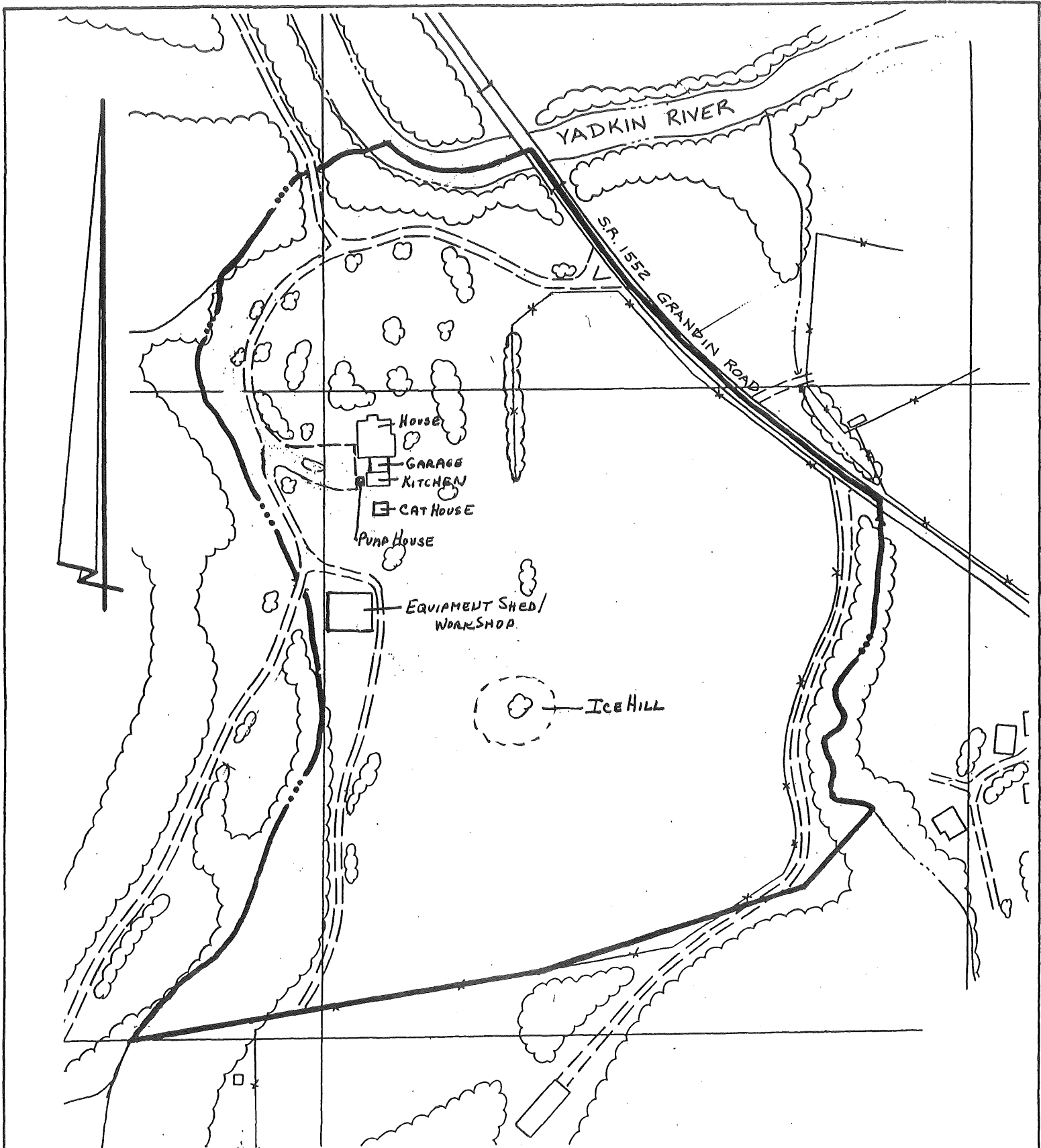
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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all photographs, except as noted:

- 1) Riverside
- 2) Caldwell County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) A-I: April, 1999. These photos are true to the current (April, 2004) appearance of the property, as verified by a site visit.
J-K: April, 2004
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: Facade, view to SW
 - 1: Facade in setting, view to S
 - 2: Porch detail, view to S
 - 4: W elevation, view to SE
 - 5: W elevation with garage and kitchen, view to NE
 - 6: E elevation with frame addition, garage, and kitchen, view to W
 - 7: Entrance and front of stair hall, view to NW
 - 8: Rear of stair hall, view to S toward breezeway and dining room door
 - 9: Mantel, view to S
 - 10: Equipment shed/workshop, view to NW
 11. Setting with lane and water branch, view to N toward Yadkin River



GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET

"RIVERSIDE FARM" - GRANDIN VIC., CALDWELL COUNTY

