

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Farmington Historic District

Farmington, Davie County, DE0532, Listed 12/27/2010

Nomination by Heather Fearnbach

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, May 2009



Johnson-Smith House, 1798 Farmington Road



Farmington School Auditorium, Cafeteria and Home Economics Building,
1723 Farmington Road



Williard Garage, 1890 Farmington Road



Farmington Methodist Church, 1939 Farmington Road

**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 Farmington Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Farmington Road, NC Highway 801 North, Cemetery Road, Roland Road, and Hartman Lane **N/A** not for publication
city or town Farmington **N/A** vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Davie code 059 zip code 27028

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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:

<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:)	_____	_____

Farmington Historic District
Name of Property

Davie County, 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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
87	46	buildings
2	0	sites
0	3	structures
3	0	objects
92	49	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 Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE: Processing

AGRICULTURE: Storage

AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

AGRICULTURE: Processing

AGRICULTURE: Storage

AGRICULTURE: Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

OTHER: I-House

Queen Anne

Bungalow/Craftsman

Colonial Revival

Dutch Colonial Revival

OTHER: Minimal Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

METAL: Aluminum

roof METAL

other BRICK

STONE

WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Farmington Historic District
Name of Property

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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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Settlement
Commerce
Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1850-1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Davie County Public Library, Mocksville Branch

Farmington Historic District
Name of Property

Davie County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 324 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>542260</u>	<u>3986060</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>542760</u>	<u>3984860</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>542600</u>	<u>3985520</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>542240</u>	<u>3984480</u>

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 Heather Fearnbach
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 1/8/2010
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-768-6551
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

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 Multiple—see continuation sheet
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 listing. 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 20303.

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Farmington Historic District
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Section 6. Function or Use (continued)

Historic Function

COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
EDUCATION: School
FUNERARY: Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument
RELIGION: Religious Facility
RELIGION: Church-related Residence

Current Function

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
SOCIAL: Community Center
FUNERARY: Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument
RELIGION: Religious Facility
RELIGION: Church-related Residence
GOVERNMENT: Fire Station
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7. Description (continued)

Architectural Classification (continued)

OTHER: Ranch

Materials (continued)

foundation: STONE
walls: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
ASBESTOS
roof: ASPHALT

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Farmington Historic District
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Section 7. Narrative Description

Location

The Farmington Historic District, located about six miles north of Interstate 40 in northeastern Davie County's Farmington Township, encompasses approximately 324 acres surrounding the intersection of NC Highway 801 North and Farmington Road. The district contains the most cohesive collection of historic residential, agricultural, commercial, religious, and educational buildings associated with the unincorporated community. Farmington is situated about halfway between Yadkinville, the Yadkin County seat, to the north, and Mocksville, the Davie County seat, to the south. Farmington Road (the district's central north-south corridor) and US Highway 601 to the west connect the municipalities. NC Highway 801 North runs east-west through the district between Interstate 40 to the east and US Highway 601.

Landscape, Contributing Site

The district's landscape—which consists of buildings, ornamental plantings, fences, roads, creeks, fields, pastures, tree stands, and woodlands—conveys the visual character typical of rural Piedmont communities during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The topography is gently rolling, allowing for the location of principal resources on higher ground. Most buildings have deep setbacks and several, including the Wiseman-Kennan House, the Dr. Lester P. and Helen Bahnson Martin House, the Johnson-Smith House, the James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House, and the Johnson Family House, feature boxwood-lined paths planted in the late nineteenth century leading to their main entrances. Deciduous trees flank the Farmington Methodist Church walkway, which extends almost four hundred feet west from Farmington Road. This formal entrance approach, although somewhat unusual for a rural community, was a popular landscape treatment during the Victorian era and reflects Farmington's prosperity during this period.

Unpaved farm roads lead from the buildings lining the district's principal roads to the outbuildings, fields, and pastures behind them. Three short roads extending west from Farmington Road have been paved. Hartman Lane, near the district's north end, provides access to three recently constructed dwellings. Cemetery Road, originally an unpaved drive to the Farmington Community Cemetery, now also serves Farmington Methodist Church, the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265, and four dwellings. Roland Road, at the district's south end, terminates at a historic farm complex and a modern Ranch house.

Creeks and drainage ditches follow the same paths in many cases as the windbreaks surrounding the fields. Bryan's Mill Creek, a Yadkin River tributary, runs through the district's northeastern quadrant. Sugar Creek, on the district's southeast side, and Cedar Creek, which winds along the district's western edge through a historically African American community of the same name, converge and feed into Dutchman's Creek at their southern terminus.

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Comparison of aerial photographs from 1950 to the present indicates that the field patterns (relationship of tilled land to woodland) and road systems within the Farmington Historic District have been consistent during this time. Soil type, drainage, topography, crop rotation plans, and farming methods dictate field and pasture number, size, and location. Some land fronting the main roads has been subdivided to create additional residential lots, but the irregularly-shaped fields and pastures behind them are intact and conform to the landscape contours.¹ Although farm production decreased after the 1950s, area farmers harvested crops including corn, wheat, hay, tobacco, cotton, beans, and Irish and sweet potatoes for most of the twentieth century, rotating fields on a regular basis. The soil's high clay content helps to retain moisture even in times of drought.

Modern post-and-rail and electric fences enclose livestock pastures. Tree stands serve as windbreaks bordering cultivated fields and pastures. Forested areas, which provide Farmington's residents with firewood and lumber, surround the district's improved acreage.

Population growth has fostered subdivision and road construction that continually swallows Davie County's historic buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes. Although farms, country crossroads, and small towns remain as evidence of the county's rural history, these landscapes have become increasingly fragmented. The Farmington Historic District is one of Davie County's largest and most intact rural communities, containing sixty-seven primary and seventy-four secondary resources, sixty-five percent of which are contributing.

Inventory

The inventory list is arranged alphabetically by street name. For streets that run north to south, the east side of the street is presented first. For streets that run east to west, the north side of the street is presented first.

Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the district's historic significance and integrity. The evaluations are based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings constructed in or before 1960 are considered contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity from the period of significance. Contributing resources must retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Noncontributing buildings postdate 1960 or were built before 1960 and have been heavily altered by the application of synthetic siding, replacement of original windows, enclosure of original porches, and/or the construction of large additions, and therefore have lost their architectural integrity.

Fields and pastures are noted. Each significant secondary resource within a property is described in the inventory list. Small prefabricated outbuildings are not included in the inventory list due to their modest size and impermanence.

¹ Davie County Aerial Photograph, Farmington vicinity, North Carolina Geological Survey Photograph Collection, 1950, housed in the NCGS Archdale office at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N. C.; Davie County Aerial Photograph, Farmington vicinity, 2007, accessed online at <http://maps.co.davie.nc.us/gomaps/map/Index.cfm>.

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Each historic property in the inventory is assigned a name, where possible, based on the first-known and/or a long-term occupant. Architectural historian Kirk Franklin Mohney surveyed most of Farmington's earliest resources during his Davie County architectural survey in 1985, and his survey files and 1986 publication, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, provided invaluable background information. Additional sources incorporated into the National Register nomination include interviews with descendants of early Farmington residents and long-time Farmington property owners, Federal Census records, North Carolina Farm Census reports, and Davie County marriage, birth, and death records. The vertical files in the Martin-Wall History Room at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library yielded newspaper articles and additional documentation on the Farmington community and residents.

A building's actual or approximate construction date and the date or dates of any major alterations or additions follows the property name. Construction dates are based on Davie County property record cards (available online through the GIS website), interviews with local residents, newspaper articles, information in Kirk Mohney's Davie County architectural survey files, and the building's style and form. Property record card dates are occasionally inaccurate, and may indicate a construction date later or earlier than that suggested by the resource's architectural style. In these instances, an estimated construction date is based on style and any other available information from primary source documents or interviews.

Cemetery Road, North Side

Farmington Methodist Church Parsonage **1961, 1971** **Noncontributing Building**
124 Cemetery Road

The Farmington Methodist Church congregation constructed this parsonage in 1961 at the west end of the lot containing their first parsonage. The frame Ranch house has a recessed central entrance, replacement windows, and a rectangular interior chimney. Much of the exterior is sheathed with brick veneer; some sections, originally wood-sided, are now covered with vinyl siding. An attached carport with a rear shed room extends from the west elevation. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1971.

Shed - general storage **ca. 1990** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, frame, prefabricated, gambrel-roofed shed.

Max and Lottie Brock House **1890, 1962** **Noncontributing Building**
132 Cemetery Road

One-story, front-gable-roofed, frame dwelling with an engaged screened porch and a small hip-roofed addition on the east elevation and a shed-roofed addition on the west elevation. Replacement two-over-two-horizontal sash, perhaps installed at the same time the additions were constructed, illuminate the interior. A brick end chimney rises from the west elevation. The window replacement, porch enclosure, vinyl siding, and rear

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additions have compromised this building's architectural integrity to the point that it no longer contributes to the district's significance.

Max and Lottie Brock constructed this house. Max, a farmer, died at a young age, but Lottie resided in the house for many years.² Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was constructed in 1890 and updated in 1962.

Carport **1990** **Noncontributing Structure**
One-story metal carport with a low gable roof.

Otis and Virginia Holt Jr. House **1966** **Noncontributing Building**
142 Cemetery Road

Brick Ranch house with an inset front porch, much of which has been enclosed as a sunroom. A solarium extends across the façade's west end and a one-story vinyl-sided addition projects from the east elevation. Replacement one-over-one sash windows illuminate the interior. Brick interior chimneys serve the main block.

Otis Holt Jr. and his wife Virginia constructed this house. Mr. Holt was a general contractor and also built Charles and Barbara Allen's house at 156 Roland Road.³

Otis Holt Sr. House **1972, 1982** **Noncontributing Building**
162 Cemetery Road

Frame Ranch house with a front-gable addition projecting from the façade's center. A shed-roofed, L-shaped porch supported by square posts wraps around the addition's east elevation and the façade's east side. Replacement one-over-one sash windows illuminate the interior.

Otis Holt Sr. constructed this house.⁴ Davie County property record cards indicate that the dwelling was constructed in 1972 and updated in 1982.

Carport **ca. 1980** **Noncontributing Structure**
One-story, front-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided, two-bay carport.

Garage **ca. 1980** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, front-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided, two-bay garage.

² John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Barbara Allen, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 3, 2009.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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Outbuilding ca. 2000 **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, front-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided, outbuilding.

Cemetery Road, South Side

Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265 1963 **Noncontributing Building**
149 Cemetery Road

Two-story, brick, side-gable-roofed building with a gabled entrance portico at the southwest corner, two-over-two horizontal sash, and a brick interior chimney. A one-story metal carport extends from the west elevation.

Prominent Farmington residents including Dr. J. W. Wiseman, Charles Frederic Bahnson, Francis Marion Johnson, and W. O. Smith chartered the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265. The fraternal organization met for the first time on April 26, 1867 in a room they rented from George Wesley Johnson. Dr. Wiseman served as the first lodge master. The Farmington lodge was active throughout Davie County, participating in the annual Masonic picnic in Mocksville, which was first held in 1879. Charles Bahnson was active in the statewide Masonic organization, publishing *The North Carolina Lodge Manual*, which outlined Masonic procedures, in 1892. When Francis Marion Johnson built a three-story brick commercial building, he sold his adjacent two-story general store at 1896 Farmington Road to the Farmington lodge. The Masons expanded the building with an addition on the façade in 1922. The Masons shared the second-story meeting space with the Grange and the Order of the Eastern Star until they built this new lodge in 1963.⁵

In 1960, George Wesley Johnson's wife Marian G. Johnson donated an acre of land for a new Masonic lodge in memory of her husband's father, Dr. William Gaston Johnson. Lodge leaders appointed a building committee composed of James M. Brock, George A. Hartman, and D. K. Bennett that summer. The new lodge was completed in 1963 and a commemorative cornerstone was installed in April 1967. Dr. J. W. Wiseman's (1825-1899) gravemarker stands east of the entrance.⁶

Farmington Community Cemetery 1881 **Contributing Site**
Cemetery Road, West End

The six-acre Farmington Cemetery, situated at the west end of Cemetery Road, is one of the district's earliest resources. George Wesley Johnson donated the property to the Farmington community to serve as a burial

⁵ Jimmy L. Myers, "Farmington Lodge No. 265 A. F. & A. M.," *Davie County Heritage, North Carolina* (Waynesville, N. C.: Davie County Heritage Book Committee and Don Mills, Inc., 1997), 67.

⁶ "Land for New Masonic Temple," June 27, 1960; "Commemorative Stone Placed in Temple of Farmington Lodge 265," April 1967.

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ground in 1881, the same year he conveyed the adjacent property to Farmington Methodist Church.⁷

Paved roads currently divide the cemetery into three large rectangular parcels. A 1950 aerial photograph illustrates that curving roads bordered the cemetery's southwestern and eastern sections and the central and northwestern areas were wooded at that time. Tree stands still create a buffer between the cemetery, the adjacent residential lots to the east and west, and the agricultural property to the north. A wooded lot separates the cemetery from NC Highway 801 North to the south.

The cemetery's topography is rolling and the markers arranged in rows on the higher ground at the parcel's east and west ends. The majority of the late-nineteenth-century graves are clustered in the northwestern quadrant. Granite and stone borders outline family plots including those of the Hartman/Lashley and Bowles families in the cemetery's eastern section. Most markers are granite or marble headstones and footstones, but some obelisks and picturesque monuments are present, reflecting the influence of the nineteenth century Romantic Movement, which extolled nature and sentiment, as well as the mechanization of the industrial age. Monument makers inspired by a broad range of pattern books created a great variety of markers with figural images and geometric forms. The obelisk—a tapering shaft on a pedestal—was an extremely popular marker type due to its “association with Egyptian sepulchral monuments signifying eternal life beyond the earthly realm,” thus embodying “the Christian belief in the eternity of the spirit.”⁸ George Wesley Johnson's family selected an obelisk, one of the cemetery's largest monuments, to mark his grave in 1889. J. D. McClamrock's gravemarker, a tree trunk with ivy and a calla lily at the base, memorializes his association with the Woodmen of the World. Other monuments, such as that of Confederate veteran Greenbury P. Harding (1842-1932), commemorate military service.

Local residents organized the Farmington Cemetery Association in 1921, with Maggie Hartman serving as the first president, E. L. Furches and Elsie Clarence James vice-presidents, and J. F. Johnson as treasurer. The Association appointed a working committee composed of George Wesley Johnson, Mary Nell Hartman, M. B. Brock, Elsie Clarence James, and Jettie Graham to work with the cemetery trustees to maintain the cemetery.⁹

Farmington Road, East Side

Wiseman-Kennen House
1696 Farmington Road

1873

Contributing Building

This two-story, three-bay, frame, center-hall plan house occupies a 3.65-acre lot at the Farmington Historic District's south end. Two long rows of enormous boxwoods line the grass path leading from concrete steps

⁷ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

⁸ Elizabeth Walton Potter and Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992), 12.

⁹ “Farmington News,” *Davie Record*, July 6, 1921.

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near the road to the I-house, which has a deep setback. Narrow sidelights and a transom surround the front door beneath a hip-roofed, three-bay porch. The square porch post's bases were missing in 1985, when Kirk Mohney documented the house as part of the Davie County architectural survey, but have been reconstructed. The house has also been updated by the installation of a new standing-seam metal roof, vinyl-clad windows, vinyl siding, and a stuccoed foundation and chimneys since that time. The Greek Revival-style corner boards with capitals and portions of the window and door trim are still intact.

Queen Bess Kennen added a second story to the original one-story rear gabled ell in 1938. A one-story shed addition with a small room at the east end and a small entrance porch at the west end projects from the ell's north elevation and a one-story wing and a flat-roofed carport extend from the east elevation. The bay window on the main block's south end was incorporated into a small addition that wraps around the main block's southeast corner. A gabled portico shelters the rear entrance. Stuccoed chimneys on the north gable end and the east elevation serve the main block; an interior chimney stack pierces the gabled ell's roof. Interior features recorded in 1985 include vernacular Greek Revival-style post-and-lintel mantels, two-panel doors surmounted by transoms, and a staircase with a heavy turned newel post, molded handrails, and turned balusters. The one-story frame office that stood near the house is no longer extant.

Davidson County native James Washington Wiseman (1825-1899) attended medical school in Philadelphia, after which he lived and studied with physician Burgess L. Beall in southern Davidson County for a few years before purchasing 462 acres in Farmington Township in 1852. He soon built a residence on his property and established a medical practice, seeing patients in a small office that stood near his home. Wiseman married Alphonsine "Senia" Douthit (1837-1890) on November 18, 1857. Census takers valued their real estate at \$7,000 and personal property at \$11,700 in 1860. Their household included his mother, Nancy Wiseman, who was a seamstress; W. P. Tague, a student; and A. Grimes, a laborer, that year. Dr. Wiseman owned four slaves: two men (ages 40 and 21), a young woman (16) and a one-year-old boy. The family struggled during the Civil War years, when Dr. Wiseman served as an assistant surgeon for the 42nd Regiment.¹⁰

Upon his return, Dr. Wiseman helped to charter the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265 in 1867, serving as the first lodge master. The decline in the family's holdings to \$5,500-worth of real estate and \$1,500-worth of personal property in 1870 reflected the difficulties of the Reconstruction era. Two domestic servants, Julia Dunn and Samuel Jones, resided with the family at that time. Samuel Chase Rich, a farmer, who owned real estate valued at \$500 and personal property valued at \$250, is also listed in the household. After a fire destroyed the Wiseman home in the early 1870s, they erected another dwelling at same location. Local tradition asserts that the new house was completed in 1873; Davie County property record cards indicate that

¹⁰ Kirk Franklin Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County, North Carolina* (Winston-Salem: Winston Printing Company, 1986), 141; Federal Census, Population and Slave Schedules, 1850, 1860; Davie County marriage records. Dr. Wiseman's land included a 392-acre tract he purchased from Charles Hartman, the same property Spencer Taylor had conveyed to Hartman in 1839. Flossie Martin, "Farmington Settlement," July 22, 1961, manuscript in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

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the building was erected in 1878.¹¹

Wiseman was active in the community and local politics, and served one term, beginning in 1885, as a senator in the North Carolina Legislature. His wife Alphosine passed away in 1890 and he married Forsyth County native Ellen L. Conrad. Dr. J. W. Wiseman died in 1899 and is buried east of the Masonic lodge entrance. Ellen Wiseman owned the family property until her death in 1918.¹²

Queen Bess Kennen (1885-1979) subsequently inherited the house and 120 acres through the estate of her first husband, Yadkin County native Sydney F. Shore, a two-term state senator and government employee, who passed away four months after their 1906 wedding. Her great-grandfather, George W. Sheeks, once owned a four-thousand-acre plantation on the west side of the Yadkin River in Davie County, but she grew up in Indiana, where her parents had moved. After her husband's death, Queen Bess returned to Indiana and resided in Indianapolis, where she met and married interior decorator William Earl Kennen (1875-1934) in 1914. The couple moved to North Carolina after World War I.¹³

Kennen advertised his interior painting and wallpaper installation services in local publications including the 1924 *Farmington Cook Book* using the slogan "Don't put it off—put it on." He designed interiors including the Robert E. Lee Hotel and the S. Clay Williams residence in Winston-Salem, the Lexington Post Office, and the Mocksville Lodge. Mr. Kennen also served as Davie County coroner for approximately two years and was a Justice of the Peace, a Farmington Methodist Church steward and pianist, a master of the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265, and member of the Order of the Eastern Star.¹⁴

Queen Bess taught school and was politically active, serving as a national committeewoman for the Republican Party in 1928 and attending President Herbert Hoover's inauguration in 1929. She was also involved in local politics and civic endeavors, becoming Davie County Superintendent of Public Welfare and helping to organize Farmington's Village Improvement Society. She promoted telephone service and rural electrification, securing electric lines for Farmington in 1921, four years before Mocksville, the county seat, was electrified. Queen Bess raised her niece, Dorothea Norrington Skinner, who attended Salem Academy and Greensboro Woman's College and returned to Farmington to teach for several years before her marriage. The Pino-Farmington Development Association honored Queen Bess Kennen with a "Woman of the Year" award in 1962 for her many years of community involvement.¹⁵

North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that the couple owned a 100-acre farm tract in 1925, cultivating 26

¹¹ Mohny, *Ibid.*; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1870.

¹² Mohny, *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ "W. E. Kennen Passes," *Davie Record*, 1934; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 100.

¹⁵ Velma Jean Clary, "She's a REAL Queen Bess," *Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel*, March 24, 1963; "Queen Bess Kennen Touched Many Lives," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 3, 1980.

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acres of cotton, corn, rye, hay, other grasses, and field truck crops, and raising 40 hens of laying age, 12 milk cows, and a pig. Queen Bess Kennen employed tenant farmers to operate the farm after her husband's death in 1934. The property is not listed in the 1935 farm census reports, but in 1945 her farm tract consisted of 107 acres, 57 of which were planted in corn, soybeans, hay, and a home garden. She owned 1 milk cow and 38 hens.¹⁶

Queen Bess Kennen occupied her dwelling, which became known as "Kennen Krest," until her death in 1979, supplementing her income by boarding Farmington School teachers. Lifelong Farmington resident John Caudle remembers that Queen Bess Kennen began selling property in 1952 in order to generate extra income, but also as a means of encouraging young people to remain in Farmington. She had previously rented her fields to local farmers. Farmington residents including John and Rose Caudle and Charles W. and Barbara Allen purchased lots from her, upon which they built new homes.¹⁷

Barn (general)**1920s****Contributing Building**

One-story frame barn with a front-gable metal roof. Board-and-batten siding sheathes the central portion; weatherboards cover the flanking shed additions.

Wellhouse**1920s****Contributing Structure**

One-story frame wellhouse with a metal hip roof supported by square posts and diagonal braces.

**Charles W. and Barbara Allen House I
1716 Farmington Road****1960****Contributing Building**

Hip-roofed brick Ranch house with a projecting central perma-stone-veneered bay and an attached garage on the north end. Replacement picture windows and four-over-four and six-over-six sash illuminate the interior. Two full-height windows flank the entrance on the façade's north side, while a small patio with a metal railing extends from the entrance on the façade's south side.

Charles W. Allen, the son of Charles Glenn and Esther Sofley Allen, and his wife Barbara purchased a lot from Queen Bess Kennen and constructed this house in 1960, moving into Farmington from his family's approximately two hundred-acre farm on NC Highway 801 North. Charles attended Smith Grove School, and, when he was still a young boy informed Queen Bess, who was his teacher, that he was going to build a house next to her residence some day. Amazingly, that actually transpired. Barbara, also a Davie County native, grew up about twelve miles away. When the couple decided to build a house she searched for a plan she liked for some time, ultimately deciding to use the plans from an acquaintance's home in Mocksville, which she modified slightly. The Allens selected Davidson County builder Cletus Swing to construct their home. They

¹⁶ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945.

¹⁷ Harvey Dinkins, "House Radiates an Atmosphere of the Old South;" "Queen Bess Kennen Dies at Age 94," *Winston-Salem Journal*, December 27, 1979, page 25; John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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considered moving back to the Allen farm in the late 1960s, but instead purchased a lot directly across the road and built a new residence. The Allens' daughter Tammy and her husband M. Alton Fleming now own their first house and rent it.¹⁸

John and Rose Caudle House
1728 Farmington Road

1955, 1965

Contributing Building

Frame Ranch house with a projecting front-gabled bay on the façade's south side and a sunroom addition on the north elevation. Tennessee crab orchard stone veneer covers the projecting bay and the kneewall that wraps around the house's northwest corner. Replacement one-over-one sash windows and a bay window illuminate the interior. A small shed-roofed porch supported by a metal post shelters the front entrance.

A Mocksville builder constructed this house for John and Rose Caudle in 1955 on a lot that had been part of the Wiseman-Kennen Farm. Queen Bess Kennen began selling property in 1952 in order to generate extra income, but also as a means of encouraging young people to remain in Farmington. She had previously rented her fields to local farmers. The Caudles both grew up in Farmington and graduated from Farmington High School, John in 1943 and Rose in 1944. John served in World War II and then worked at C. C. Sanford's Department Store in Mocksville. He was employed by a plumbing and heating business from 1954 until 1965, when he was one of Ingersoll-Rand's first hires when they opened a Mocksville office in November 1965. Mr. Caudle remained with the company until his retirement. John and Rose Caudle lived in several homes along Farmington Road with their families and after they married. When they decided to build a new home, they selected a plan from a magazine and then adapted it to meet their needs.¹⁹ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1965.

Gilmer and Frances Ellis House
1736 Farmington Road

1953, 1963

Contributing Building

Brick Ranch house with a front-gable bay on the façade's south side. Original casement and picture windows illuminate the interior. A brick and concrete patio with a metal railing extends from the central entrance to an entrance flanked by jalousie windows in the short side-gable hyphen that connects the main block's north end to a front-gable garage with a rear entrance. A flat-roofed carport has been added to the garage's north elevation. A central chimney serves the main block.

Gilmer and Frances Ellis erected this house in 1953 through a combination of their own labor and that of contractors. Mr. Ellis was a partner in the Bennett-Ellis Store; Mrs. Ellis was a teacher. The Ellises are

¹⁸ Barbara Allen, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 3 and December 29, 2009.

¹⁹ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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deceased, but family members still own the property.²⁰ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1963.

Dr. Lester P. and Helen Bahnson Martin House 1936, 1987 Contributing Building 1746 Farmington Road

Two-story, two-bay, side-gable-roofed house with a replacement flat-roofed metal front porch supported by square posts. Two Rustic Revival-style stone end chimneys serve the dwelling. The one-over-one sash windows are replacements and the house has been sheathed in vinyl German siding. A deck extends across the rear elevation's second story, creating a shallow porch below. The house has a deep setback from Farmington Road. Massive boxwoods, probably planted in the late nineteenth century, line the front walk. A post-and-four-rail fence encloses the pasture in front of the house and boxwoods.

Samuel Chase Rich, who purchased acreage including this tract in 1885, was born in 1845 to Isaac Newton and Catherine Eaton Rich (1818-1854). In 1840, Isaac's household contained a woman in her thirties, presumably his wife, three girls under the age of ten, and a free African American male under the age of ten. In 1850, census takers valued Isaac's farm at \$1,000 and his household included his wife and their four children—Nancy (10), Sarah (8), Samuel (4), and Joseph (2)—as well as tobacconist Wilson R. Etchison (21) and his wife Martha J. (19), laborers Giles Houdson (18) and James C. Russel (17), Angeline Weldon (18), and a six-year-old male slave. In 1860, Samuel (18), who was a student, is enumerated with Isaac N. Rich (31), Isaac's wife Rebecca C. Johnson (33), Sarah A. Rich (16), Joe P. Rich (13), Isaac D. Rich (10), and Sarah A. Eaton (17). Mid-nineteenth-century census records do not include the relationships of household members, but, given Isaac and Rebecca's ages and the fact that they married on April 16, 1857, it appears that their household contained Isaac's siblings rather than their children. Sarah Eaton may have been Isaac's cousin. Isaac owned a farm valued at \$2,500, \$580-worth personal property, and two slaves, a sixty-nine-year-old male and a sixty-eight-year-old female.²¹

The order in which census takers recorded households typically reflects their physical proximity. Only four households were listed between Samuel Rich's family and that of Dr. James Washington Wiseman in 1860, so they had likely known each other for some time before Samuel and Dr. Wiseman served together in Company F of the 42nd Regiment during the Civil War. It appears that Samuel resided with the Wisemans after the men returned home, as he was enumerated with the Wiseman household in 1870 as a farmer who owned real estate valued at \$500 and personal property valued at \$250. By 1880, Samuel had established his own household and lived with his twenty-five-year-old wife Bettie Caroline McMahan, their six-year-old son Joseph, their four-

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Federal Census, Population Schedules, 1840, 1850, and 1860. Samuel's mother Catherine Eaton Rich inherited "Flat Branch" from her father, Benjamin Eaton, upon his death in 1829. Isaac Newton Rich and his wife rented the property, and after she died Isaac married Catherine Eaton. The couple had seven children, including Samuel Chase Rich (1845-1900) before Catherine passed away in 1854. Lester P. Martin Jr., correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 2010. Census records spell "Etchison" incorrectly, with a plural "s." Betty West, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 5, 2010.

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year-old daughter, Mattie, and his seventeen-year-old nephew, Charlie Spry, who worked on their farm.²²

Dr. Wiseman sold Samuel 143 acres on the north end of his property in 1885, and the Richs erected a two-story dwelling, residing there until they moved to "Flat Branch," a 158-tract on Dutchman's Creek southwest of Farmington that Samuel had inherited. Their daughter, Martha (called Mattie) Frances Rich (1876-1967) was an elocution and art teacher at Farmington Academy in the mid-1890s and married Francis (known as Frank) Henry Bahnson on June 3, 1896. The couple lived in her parent's former home at what is now 1746 Farmington Road until it burned around the turn of the century, after which they moved in with his parents, Charles and Jennie Bahnson, who lived less than a mile to the north. Frank and Mattie inherited the Bahnson House after Jennie passed away in 1926 and resided there until their deaths.²³

Frank and Mattie conveyed 2.85 acres of the Rich tract to their oldest daughter Helen and her husband, Dr. Lester P. Martin, in 1933. The couple lived in Mocksville, but built a house on the site of her grandparents' two-story in Farmington and summered there until World War II. They occasionally rented the house to Farmington School principals and teachers during the school year, as it was conveniently located just across the road. Their son Judge Lester P. Martin Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Weaver Martin became the property owners in 1987, removed a section of the house, and updated the remainder, which they used as a second home. Their oldest son, Captain Lester P. Martin III, is the current owner and uses the house when he is in North Carolina.²⁴

Shed - general storage **ca. 1936** **Contributing Building**
One-story German-sided shed with a metal side-gable roof and a small shed-roofed wing.

Garage **ca. 1936** **Contributing Building**

One-story, vinyl-sided, side-gable-roofed garage with two garage bays with clipped upper edges. One bay retains the original double-leaf, board-and-batten doors; the other has a replacement roll-up garage door.

Modular Home **1981** **Noncontributing Building**
1760 Farmington Road

One-story prefabricated house with a side-gable roof that extends to create a carport on the north elevation. A small gabled hood shelters the entrance in the central front-gable bay. The house is sheathed in T-111 siding and illuminated by six-over-six and one-over-one sash.

This house stands on the site of a circa 1930s, one-story, frame, five-room dwelling. A barn, chicken house,

²² Federal Census, Population Schedules, 1870 and 1880.

²³ Lester P. Martin Jr., "1746 Farmington Road," correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 2009.

²⁴ Ibid.; Farmington Academy, "promotional brochure printed by Stone & Reid, Job Printers, in Greensboro, N. C. in 1895, from the Farmington Academy file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

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and other outbuildings stood to the rear.²⁵

Outbuilding

ca. 1985

Noncontributing Building

One-story front-gable-roofed outbuilding with rustic wood siding and a door and window in the west elevation.

Allen Rental House

1948, 1978

Contributing Building

1778 Farmington Road

One-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, frame Minimal Traditional-style house with a front-gable bay projecting from the façade's south side and a gabled dormer on the front roof slope. Square posts support the engaged front porch. Replacement one-over-one sash windows illuminate the interior. A shed-roofed sunporch addition extends from the south elevation east of the brick end chimney that serves the main block. The house has been sheathed in vinyl German siding.

Oscar Roy Allen purchased 1780 Farmington Road in 1947 to generate rental income and constructed this house in 1948 to serve the same purpose. Farmington School faculty members including Agriculture teacher Mr. Sherrill resided in the house over the years.²⁶ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1978.

Garage

ca. 1950

Contributing Building

One-story, German-sided, two-bay garage with sliding wood doors and a front-gable metal roof.

Shed - general storage

ca. 1990

Noncontributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roofed, prefabricated shed with T-111 siding, a double-leaf entrance, and small windows.

Cash-Smith-Allen House

ca. 1850, 1920s

Contributing Building

1780 Farmington Road

This two-story, side-gable-roofed, three-bay, frame dwelling has been remodeled several times. Features such as nine-over-six first story windows and the molded cornices with gable-end returns suggest a mid-nineteenth-century construction date, while the central roof gable and the gabled front porch and shed-roofed porte cochere on the south elevation appear to have been added in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The tapered porch posts on brick piers reflect the influence of the Craftsman style. End chimneys serve the main block. The one-story rear ell has been enlarged since 1985, but retains decorative gables on the side elevations and a central stovepipe chimney.

²⁵ Lester P. Martin Jr., "1746 Farmington Road," correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 2009.

²⁶ Ibid.

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Architectural Historian Kirk Mohney's 1985 photographs illustrate plaster walls and wood ceilings in the main block and wide boards sheathing the walls and ceilings in the rear ell. Simple post-and-lintel mantels with molded shelves frame the chimney fireboxes. The window and door surrounds consist of flat boards with applied molding at the outer edges.

According to local tradition, this house once served as a dormitory for Farmington Academy's female students. Farmington Academy principal Leon Cash and his wife Fannie, a music teacher, owned the property in 1892 and used it to secure a mortgage from Mrs. Francis M. Johnson, who subsequently took ownership. Enos C. Smith purchased the house from the Johnsons in 1894 and resided there for five years before moving to the adjacent Johnson House. In 1947, the Smiths conveyed the property to Oscar Roy Allen, who constructed a new rear ell and sheathed the house in asbestos siding, which was covered with vinyl siding after 1985. Allen never occupied the house, but his widow Effie Jones moved to the property from their farm after his death.²⁷

Shed - general storage ca. 1910 Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable-roofed shed with horizontal and vertical board sheathing, a metal roof, and an engaged equipment shed on the south elevation. A board-and-batten door and three windows with board-and-batten shutters pierce the façade.

**Johnson-Smith House
1798 Farmington Road**

1880

Contributing Building

This Italianate-style I-house is one of Farmington's most distinctive late-nineteenth-century buildings. A full-height entrance bay surmounted by a steeply-pitched gable projects from the façade's center. Sidelights and a transom surround the original four-panel front door. The single-leaf, multi-light, replacement doors on the entrance bay's north and south sides open onto hip-roofed porches with original lattice trellises.

Decorative sawnwork brackets ornament the cornices and the flat-roofed hood above the entrance. Tall, narrow, paired, one-over-one sash illuminate the main block. Bay windows project from the north and south gable ends. Quatrefoil-shaped sawnwork surrounds embellish the small square attic windows. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the main block's rear roof slope and two one-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation; the north ell is longer. The main block's standing-seam roof is original; the ells' metal roofs were replaced after storm damage, as were portions of the porch that shelters the rear entrance. Like several other Farmington residences, large boxwoods line the path to the front door.

²⁷ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 134; "Farmington Academy," promotional brochure printed by Stone & Reid, Job Printers, in Greensboro, N. C. in 1895, from the Farmington Academy file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

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The interior retains original plaster walls and ceilings, ornate plaster ceiling medallions, lighting fixtures, mantels, wood floors, tall baseboards, paneled doors surmounted by transoms, and simple board window and door surrounds with applied moldings at the outer edges. Much of the woodwork is walnut and the ceilings are eleven feet tall. All of the post-and-lintel mantels are different, with the two in the main block's first-floor rooms displaying geometric panel designs. These rooms also have plaster arches framing the bay windows and the recesses on either side of the chimneys. Decorative wooden consoles support the arches. A stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail rises from the center hall's west end and turns at a landing above the door that opens into the rear ell. The second floor bedrooms are simply finished. A steep stair with a sawnwork balustrade leads from the second-floor hall to the attic.

The rear hall separates the north ell, which now functions as a bedroom, from the south ell, which contains a small dining area and kitchen. Large folding four-panel doors occupy most of the kitchen's north elevation. Two closets flank the paneled mantel on the kitchen's west wall. This room has been extensively remodeled.

Francis Marion Johnson (1837-1918), the eldest son of George Wesley and Martha Williams Taylor Johnson, and his first wife Amanda L. "Minnie" Douthit (1844-1892) built this house in 1880. Johnson operated a general store across from his parents' home beginning in 1873 and was active in local politics, serving as a Davie County Commissioner from 1876 to 1878 and 1880 to 1892, a member of the State House of Representatives from 1879 to 1881, and Farmington's postmaster from December 3, 1874 to August 30, 1878 and from January 30, 1883 to November 13, 1890. He was appointed to the Farmington Methodist Episcopal Church's Building Committee in 1881 and the Davie County Board of Education at some point between 1885 and 1900. After Minnie's death, Francis married Lizzie Spencer Stone (1861-1946).²⁸

The Johnsons moved to Mocksville in the early 1890s and local surveyor and farmer Enos Calvin Smith (1854-1917) and his wife Thursa Cordelia (1863-1944) purchased their former residence as well as the house next door at 1780 Farmington Road and fourteen acres from Mr. Johnson in 1894. Mr. Smith had acquired 71.5 acres on the west side of Farmington Road from other members of the Johnson family in 1892. The Smiths and their large family were active members of Farmington Methodist Church. Several of their children, including their son Grady Holden Smith (1899-1992), eventually operated farms in or near Farmington.²⁹

Grady Smith owned a 42-acre farm in 1925 but did not report his crop production. He planted 14 acres of a 37-acre farm in corn and hay in 1935. Cordelia Smith is not listed in the 1925 farm census, but was enumerated as the owner of two farm tracts in 1935. No one lived on her 74-acre tract (probably the property directly across the road), where tenant farmers, sharecroppers, or day laborers cultivated 29 acres of corn, hay, and oats, as well as 12 fruit trees, but 18 people resided on her 10-acre tract (likely the property at 1798 Farmington Road), where no crop yields were delineated. Grady and his wife Bertice H., known as Bertie, inherited both tracts

²⁸ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 139; Federal Census, Population Schedules, 1910, 1920.

²⁹ *Ibid.*; Davie County Deed Book 14, page 94; See Davie County Deed Book 13, pages 405 and 412 for descriptions of the acreage Enos Smith purchased on the west side of Farmington Road in 1892.

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after his mother's death in 1944. Bertie worked as a registered nurse, while Grady operated a 103-acre farm, planting 32 acres in hay and corn and harvesting four fruit trees in 1945. The family kept three milk cows and four chickens.³⁰

Grady enclosed the breezeway that extended from the rear porch to the original kitchen, a gable-roofed building with a brick end chimney. He also built a shed-roofed porch around the well on the kitchen's north elevation. A gable-roofed log smokehouse stood in the rear yard through the 1980s. The kitchen was destroyed in a May 5, 1989 tornado that also removed the house roof and uprooted most of the trees in the yard. Grady passed away on December 10, 1992 in a Yadkinville nursing home.³¹

Wellhouse **ca. 1930** **Contributing Structure**
Hip-roofed wellhouse with stripped log posts, a metal roof, and a square brick well cover.

Forge **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, gable-roofed forge with an enclosed shed room on the north elevation and an open equipment shed on the south elevation, T-111 siding, and a metal roof.

Stable **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, gable-roofed stable with projecting open sheds, T-111 siding, and a metal roof.

Shed/Carport **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing Building**
Front-gable-roofed shed with metal siding, a metal roof, and flat-roofed carport on the south elevation.

Jim and Nan Ward House **1966, 1976** **Noncontributing Building**
1804 Farmington Road

Brick Ranch house with a front-gable addition on the north elevation. Replacement one-over-one sash windows illuminate the interior. A small gabled porch supported by metal posts shelters the main entrance.

Jim and Nan Ward built this house. Mr. Ward had retired from his position as ground supervisor at Tanglewood, property originally owned by the Johnson family, purchased by William Neal Reynolds, brother of tobacco magnate R. J. Reynolds, and deeded to Forsyth County for use as a public park in 1951.³² Davie County property record cards indicate that this house was constructed in 1966 and updated in 1976.

³⁰ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945; Marie Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 16, 2009.

³¹ "The Grady Smith Home of Farmington Dates Back to 1880," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, July 12, 1984; Frank Tursi, "Farmington is Hard Hit," *Winston-Salem Journal*, May 7, 1989; "Grady Holden Smith," NC Department of Health North Carolina Deaths, 1988-92, accessed on ancestry.com on November 29, 2009.

³² John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; "The History of Tanglewood," Tanglewood Park Information Packet, Forsyth County Department of Parks and Recreation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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Garage **ca. 1980** **Noncontributing Building**

A large frame two-bay garage with a one-story shed-roofed western section, a two-story eastern section, and a short one-story shed extending from the north elevation stands behind the house. The building is sheathed in T-111 siding and has a standing-seam metal roof.

Pasture

An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that these two .6-acre tax parcels south of the James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House were cleared and bordered by windbreaks to the east and south at that time.

James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House **1892** **Contributing Building** **1832 Farmington Road**

This Italianate-style I-house is distinguished by decorative sawnwork brackets at the cornices and a steeply-pitched, Gothic Revival-style central gable on the front roof slope. A slightly larger gable rises from the center of the hip-roofed porch, which features bracketed, chamfered posts, paired at the entrance bay and spanned by an elaborate sawnwork balustrade. Original elements include two-over-two sash, the sidelights and a transom surrounding the front door, pointed-arched gable vents, and the standing-seam metal roof. Two chimneys rise from the rear (east) elevation to serve the main block. Two one-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation; the north (kitchen-dining room) ell is longer and has an end chimney. The south ell is a bathroom, added by Sears in 1934. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1945. A porch, enclosed in 1978, shelters the rear entrance. George Johnson sheathed the house in vinyl siding, stuccoed the chimneys and foundation, and added insulation and central heat and air conditioning since 1985.³³ Like several other Farmington residences, large boxwoods line the front walk.

The interior retains original plaster walls and ceilings, lighting fixtures, wood floors, tall baseboards, paneled doors surmounted by three-light transoms, and simple board window and door surrounds with applied moldings at the outer edges. A stair with a turned newel post and turned balusters rises from the center hall's west end and turns at a landing above the door that opens into the rear ell. All of the mantels are different, with the two in the main block's first-floor rooms encompassing mirrored overmantels. The second floor post-and-lintel mantels have bracketed shelves. The north rear ell originally contained two rooms—dining area and kitchen—but George Johnson opened it into one large space that serves the same function. The vernacular mantel on the ell's west wall features four applied half-circles that extend across the center. The board from which they were cut is attached beneath them.

This house was constructed for James Millys Johnson (1824-1892) and his second wife Rachel Ann Smith (1847-1930). The couple married on August 25, 1879 and subsequently had five children, George Marvin, John Frank, Annie Williams, Lena Galloway, and Vada. The Johnson household was already large, consisting of

³³ George Johnson, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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James, Rachel, and three children from his first marriage to Sarah Rosamond Williams (1829-1877)—Sarah E. (20), a music teacher, and James Monroe (18) and William Lee (15), both students—and five domestic servants in 1880. Mariah Latham (65) was the family's resident nurse, and Green Clement (17), Charlie Foster (14), and two African American men—Monroe Smith (20) and Henry Williams (21)—provided farm labor. Mr. Johnson passed away the same year the house was finished.³⁴

James and Rachel's son George was born in 1880, graduated from the Salem Boys School in 1900, and became a leading salesman for the Brock Candy Company in Atlanta. John Frank (1882-1950) attended business college in Atlanta and also worked as a salesman for Brock Candy Company, returning to Farmington in 1925, where he married Bertha Green (1895-1973), a teacher. Annie married a Methodist minister. Lena married a Greenville, North Carolina tobacco farmer and resided in eastern North Carolina.³⁵

Vada (1889-1977) Johnson graduated from Greensboro Normal College (now UNC-Greensboro) and returned to Farmington, where she taught school, advocated for community improvements, and attended Farmington Methodist Church, where she developed plays and pageants. She was a very active member of the Democratic Party, in staunch contrast to her good friend and neighbor Queen Bess Kennen, who served as the Republican Party's national committeewoman in 1928. The two women were renowned for their cooking skills, and coordinated the Farmington Ladies Aid Society's publication of a cookbook in 1924. Vada inherited the family property, which was valued at \$4,000 at the time of her mother's death in 1930. She never obtained a driver's license, but when she was forced to retire from the Davie County school system due to her age she taught in neighboring counties. The Pino-Farmington Development Association honored Vada with a "Woman of the Year" award in 1963 for her many years of community involvement. She moved to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1971 after marrying T. Herbert Nicholson.³⁶

Vada's brother George Marvin and his family spent a week or two at Christmas and during the summers with her in Farmington. His son George participated in those visits from 1918, the year he was born, until around 1932. He remembers playing with local boys Frank Bahnsen, Ed Johnson, and Joe Williams, who taught him to ride a bicycle. George subsequently joined the Air Force and traveled the world. He inherited the Farmington house upon her death.³⁷

³⁴ Davie County marriage records; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1880; "Williams Family," typed notes from a 1941 conversation with James M. Johnson regarding the Williams family lineage in the Williams family vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

³⁵ George Johnson, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1930; Davie County marriage records; "John F. Johnson," *Davie Record*, February 8, 1950; "Mrs. John F. Johnson," *Winston-Salem Journal*, June 20, 1973.

³⁶ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140; "Mrs. Vada Johnson Nicholson," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, September 29, 1977; George Johnson, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

³⁷ Johnson, *Ibid.*

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Smokehouse**ca. 1900****Contributing Building**

One-story weatherboarded smokehouse with a metal roof and a board-and-batten door on the west elevation. Small round holes pierce the gable ends.

Privy**ca. 1930****Contributing Building**

One-story, German-sided, shed-roofed privy with a concrete slab foundation, a concrete toilet base, and a metal roof.

Shed**ca. 1930****Contributing Building**

One-story shed with a very low-pitched gable roof and vertical board siding.

**Richard C. and Emma B. Brown House
1842 Farmington Road****1886, ca. 1900****Contributing Building**

This weatherboarded I-house retains original features including a hip-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns that wraps around the façade and south elevation, boxed cornices with gable end returns, and diamond-shaped gable vents. Six-over-six sash illuminate the main block; the ell's window sash configurations vary. The front door and sidelights are replacements. Two chimneys rise from the main block's rear elevation. A metal roof protects the house. The gabled ell consists of two rooms with a central chimney, a small rear addition, and an enclosed porch on the south elevation. Concrete steps lead to a small shed-roofed entrance porch at the east end.

The interior is simply finished. A stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail rises from the center hall's east end and turns at a landing above the front door. Flush boards sheathe the main block's interior walls and ceilings, flat boards with butt corners surround the windows and original five-raised-panel doors, and wide boards cover the floors. The Classical Revival-style chimney piece in the south parlor has a mirrored overmantel. The other mantels are less elaborate, ranging from an unadorned post-and-lintel mantel in the first floor's north room to a mantel with a high shelf and turned pilasters in the ell's east room. The ell has been remodeled and now contains a large central bathroom, a dining room at the east end, and a kitchen on the south side.

Richard Clingman (1852-1938) and Emma Brock Brown (1862-1963) constructed this house in two phases, beginning in 1886 with a small one-story building, now the rear ell, and subsequently adding a two-story block to the west. Mr. Brown was from the Huntsville area in Yadkin County and moved to Farmington, where he became a successful farmer, in 1873. Mrs. Brown was a great-granddaughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Eaton Brock, who settled in what would become Davie County around 1800. Her parents were also farmers, and although she was just a young child when Union soldiers raided her family's property during the Civil War, she vividly remembered the experience. Richard and Emma married on September 23, 1886, and had four children,

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Kate (1887-1992), Margaret (1893-1974), and two boys who died in infancy.³⁸

Richard Brown owned a 14-acre farm in 1925, upon which he grew 6 acres of wheat. In 1935, he reported production on five farm tracts ranging in size from 3 to 72 acres and totaling 199 acres. The Brown family cultivated 99 acres, while tenants planted and harvested 35 acres. Fourteen people resided on the smallest tract, where tenants grew hay and the family kept three horses and a milk cow. Richard passed away in 1938, and Emma held onto the 208-acre farm, but reported no production as her tenant had moved.³⁹

Richard and Emma's daughter Kate taught in a two-room school near Hickory for nine years before leaving North Carolina for Washington, D. C., where she worked for the Internal Revenue Service from January 1918 until June 1948. She then returned home to care for her widowed mother, who passed away in 1963. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1965. Margaret, a retired civil service employee, died in a Clemmons nursing home in 1974. Kate conveyed the house to William Johnson by 1985, but resided there until she passed away in 1992 at the age of ninety-five.⁴⁰

Tobacco Packhouse **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**

One-story, side-gable-roofed packhouse with a corrugated metal roof, flush board sheathing (wide horizontal siding and vertical boards in the gables), and a board-and-batten door. The corn crib that projected from the west elevation in 1985 has been removed and much of the siding is missing.

Smokehouse **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**

One-story, front-gable-roofed smokehouse with a metal roof, flush board sheathing (wide horizontal siding and vertical boards in the gables), and a board-and-batten door. The woodshed that projected from the west elevation in 1985 has been removed.

Garage **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**

One-story, front-gable-roofed, concrete block garage with a metal roof and a roll-up door.

Pastures, Fields, and Wooded Areas

This property belonged to George Wesley and Martha Johnson from around 1837 until they conveyed it to their daughter Jennie and her husband Charles Frederic Bahnson upon the occasion of the couple's 1865 marriage. The acreage served as pastures and fields for the family's farms. During the 1920s, when Frank Bahnson operated the farm, the community baseball team used the pasture south of the Graham-Williard House at 1910

³⁸ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 133; Kathy Tomlinson, "Kate has done a lot of living in 92 years," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, August 16, 1979; Gordon Tomlinson, "Mrs. Emma Brown: 100th Birthday Anniversary," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, February 22, 1962.

³⁹ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945; "Richard C. Brown," obituary from the *Davie Record*, 1938.

⁴⁰ Kathy Tomlinson, "Kate has done a lot of living in 92 years;" Gordon Tomlinson, "Mrs. Emma Brown: 100th Birthday Anniversary;" "Miss Margaret Brown," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, November 11, 1974.

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Farmington Road for practices and games. An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that more land was cultivated at that time than at the present, with windbreaks bordering large fields and pastures. A small section of the 56.42-acre tract's northeastern quadrant is now wooded. The Bahnson Family Trust currently owns the property.

Farmington Fire Station No. 23
1880 Farmington Road

1981

Noncontributing Building

One-story brick fire station with a low front-gable roof and four garage bays sheltered by a projecting metal parapet.

The Farmington Volunteer Fire Department, established in October 1953, covers northern Davie County. Community residents converted a front-gable-roofed brick garage on Farmington Road into a fire station and local farmers served as the department's first fireman. Neither Wade Groce, who served as the first chief, nor any of the twenty-nine fireman he supervised, had any experience when they began fighting fires, but charter member John Caudle remembered that the team saved a house less than two months after they purchased a GMC high pressure water pumping truck in 1954.⁴¹

Ed Johnson, the son of George Wesley and Marian Johnson, grew up in the Johnson family home across the road from the fire station and he and his wife Esther operated a service station, grocery store, and sandwich shop at the crossroads. Given his proximity to the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department, Ed led the response to daytime fires.⁴² Davie County property record cards indicate that the new fire station was erected in 1981.

Shed - general storage

late 1950s

Contributing Building

One-story weatherboarded shed with a front-gable metal roof and an open equipment shed on the south elevation.

Williard Garage
1890 Farmington Road

1920s

Contributing Building

This two-story, hip-roofed commercial building retains original pressed-metal sheathing that imitates stone and a standing seam metal roof. Sidelights flank the front door. Vinyl-clad windows have replaced the original windows, the board-and-batten shutters on the second-story, and the double-leaf garage door on the façade since 1985. The interior was remodeled in 2006 with the installation of new floors, walls, and ceilings.

⁴¹ Dwight Sparks, "Farmington Fire Dept. Celebrating 50th Anniversary Saturday," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, October 28, 2004.

⁴² Dwight Sparks, "Farmington's New 'Mayor'; Club Honors Johnson Couple for Years of Community Service," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 30, 1986.

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The one-story rear wing was also reconfigured in 2006 to serve the building's current retail function. The sliding door on the south elevation was replaced with an entrance flanked by windows and the window and door at the east end was enclosed. The ell's rear (east) elevation originally contained three windows, all of which were enclosed and a rear entrance added. The east window on the ell's north elevation has also been enclosed.

John Williard constructed this commercial building in the early 1920s and his sons, Fletcher and Ralph Williard, operated an auto repair shop at this location through the late 1940s. The property belonged to the Graham family, who also owned the adjacent two brick commercial buildings. John's daughter-in-law Elizabeth Graham Williard purchased the garage from her brother James Ray Graham around 1942.⁴³

Francis Marion Johnson Store 1896 Farmington Road

1873, 1922

Contributing Building

This two-story, hip-roofed, brick commercial building features a central double-leaf door with a large two-light transom flanked by tall two-over-two sash. Six-over-six sash windows illuminate the rest of the building. A shed-roofed hood supported by rectangular braces shelters the front entrance. A metal stair leads to the south elevation's second-story entrance. A brick chimney rises from the north elevation. The interior had been remodeled several times by 1985. The one-story, weatherboarded, gable-roofed frame addition that extends from the rear elevation has been sided with T-111 panels since 1985.

Francis Marion Johnson, the son of George Wesley and Martha Williams Taylor Johnson, built this store directly across the road from his parents' home in 1873. According to local tradition, Holden Smith made the brick and executed the masonry walls.⁴⁴

Johnson subsequently expanded his business and built a larger, no-longer-extant, three-story store to the north in 1881. He then sold the first building to the Farmington Masonic Lodge, who added a single bay-deep extension onto the façade in 1922. The Masons shared the second-story meeting space with the Grange and the Order of the Eastern Star until they built a new lodge in 1963. Cicero Columbus Williams operated a general store on the first floor through the mid-1930s, after which Elsie Clarence James ran the store and the Farmington Post Office from the late 1930s until 1951. Northwest Dairy Company occupied the first floor from 1956 until the mid-1990s. The company, now owned by Roland and Betty West, is still in business, selling, installing, and maintaining equipment for local dairy farmers. Davie County property record cards indicate that the building was updated in 1978.⁴⁵

⁴³ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140; John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009.

⁴⁴ Mohney, 139.

⁴⁵ Ibid. The three-story store had a brick at the top with the date "1881" inscribed on it, which seems logical given the building's history and appearance. John Graham Williard, correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 9, 2009; Gene Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 16, 2009; Betty West, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, February 5, 2010.

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Graham-Williard House 1910 Farmington Road

1850s, 1920s

Contributing Building

This one-story, three-bay, frame side-gable-roofed house faces NC Highway 801 North but has a Farmington Road address. Two gabled ells extend from the main block and a one-story gabled room projects from the eastern ell's southeast corner. Wooden steps and a wooden railing lead to the new front door, which replaced a paneled door and flanking sidelights. The Grahams removed the front porch, which extended across the façade and wrapped around the building's east side, in the 1930s. Large original six-over-six sash illuminate the main block and ells. The bay window projecting from the west elevation and the rear gabled room, both added in the 1920s, retain original two-over-two sash. The three one-over-one sash on the rear elevation are replacements. An asphalt-shingle roof has replaced the standing-seam metal roof, vinyl siding has been installed, and some of the north ell's windows have been enclosed since 1985. Although Davie County property record cards indicate that the building was erected in 1913, family tradition maintains that the house's main block and ells date to the mid-nineteenth century. The large six-over-six sash and the no-longer-extant front door and sidelights support this assertion.⁴⁶

Galeanus Howell Graham (1871-1937) married Jettie Ray James (1881-1940) on August 15, 1900. Mr. Graham was a prominent merchant, operating a dry goods store and serving as Farmington's postmaster from November 8, 1897 until April 30, 1904. He was also politically active, holding two-year posts as Davie County's road supervisor and tax supervisor and two terms on the County Board of Commissioners. The Grahams had four children: Leona (1902-1965), Gilmer Harold (1905-1968), Sarah Elizabeth (1907-2001), and James Ray (1912-1985).⁴⁷

Their daughter Elizabeth graduated from Meredith College in 1926 and was a teacher in eastern North Carolina and Stokes County before returning to Farmington, where she taught high school-level English and French classes beginning in 1931. Her son, John Graham Williard, was born that year. Mrs. Williard purchased the family home from her siblings after their parents passed away and raised her son in the house, where she resided until the late 1980s, remaining active in the community, teaching in Davie County schools, and attending Farmington Baptist Church. She retired around 1975.⁴⁸

The Grahams' store was located on the southeast corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North in a three-story brick commercial building with a corbelled façade constructed by Francis Marion Johnson in 1881 as an expansion of his general store. C. C. Sanford and Son of Mocksville owned and managed the store for

⁴⁶ John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009.

⁴⁷ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 136; "Jettie James Graham" and "Galeanus Howell Graham," ancestry.com, accessed on November 24, 2009; Davie County marriage records; "G. H. Graham passes," *Davie Record*, June 9, 1937.

⁴⁸ John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009; Farmington School, Davie County, "Principal's Annual High School Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1934-35.

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several years before selling it around 1893 to local potter William F. James, who conveyed the property to his daughter Jettie and her husband G. H. Graham. Local farmer Charles A. Hartman initially partnered with the Grahams, but sold them his interest in G. H. Graham and Company on January 16, 1916. Frank Stroud and Gene Miller remember that the store also served as the local community center, housing political meetings and social gatherings.⁴⁹

The Grahams operated the store for approximately forty years, remaining open even during the Great Depression, which almost bankrupted them as they extended store credit to so many local residents. Their magnitude during this difficult time was much appreciated, however, as reflected in a 1937 Western Union telegram from Winston-Salem attorney Frank W. Williams, formerly of the Cedar Creek community, on behalf of the store's African American patrons who resided in the Farmington vicinity. Williams expressed their condolences after Mr. Graham's death, stating: "From childhood to the time of his departure Mr. Graham was a friend to and was dearly loved by the colored people."⁵⁰

A few years after her mother's death in 1940, Elizabeth Williard purchased the store from her siblings for \$1,325.00. Her mother's brother, Elsie Clarence James, subsequently operated the business for twelve years, followed by their brother C. D. James. After the store closed, Elizabeth's brother, James Ray Graham, started an irrigation business in the building. He moved his operation into a new building on the northeast corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North in the late 1970s and the brick store was demolished around 1980.⁵¹

John Graham Williard inherited the family home and two commercial buildings upon his mother's death. Mr. Williard attended Mocksville High School, where he met his wife, Patricia Grant (1931-). The couple married in 1951 and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, both graduating in 1953. They moved to Winston-Salem in 1956, and Mrs. Williard was a teacher for a short time. Mr. Williard, a certified public accountant, began working at Wake Forest University in 1958 and subsequently served as acting treasurer (1966-67), treasurer (1968-76), and vice president for financial affairs (1976-94) before his retirement in 1996. Mr. Williard recently renovated his family home, which currently serves as a beauty shop.⁵²

⁴⁹ Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks," April 8, 1956; C. A. Hartman, "Dissolution Notice," *Davie Record*, March 13, 1916; Frank Stroud, "Good Old Days," *Davie Record*, September 28, 1955, quoted in Flossie Martin, "Farmington Settlement," July 22, 1961, manuscript in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library; Gene Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 17, 2009.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² John Graham Williard, correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 9, 2009; "John Graham Williard," Wake Forest University Archives, Treasurer's Office Record Group, <http://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/jspui/handle/10339/42315>.

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Charles F. and Jane A. Bahnson House **ca. 1878** **Contributing Building**
1948 Farmington Road

This I-house features a projecting, full-height, gabled central entrance bay with a double-leaf door and a hip-roofed front porch with a gable over the entrance. Turned porch posts have replaced the original square, bracketed posts and a square vent now pierces the front gable in place of the original decorative gable vent, but the house retains Italianate-style elements such as the heavy sawnwork brackets that ornament the boxed cornices and the original two-over-two sash that illuminate the interior. A bay window projects from the north elevation's first story, and a bracketed flat-roofed hood shelters the south elevation's first-story window. Six-over-six sash light the attic. A standing-seam metal roof protects the house.

The rear ell consists of two small gabled sections. The two-room western section is slightly taller and has a central brick chimney and a bay window on the north elevation. The shed-roofed porch on the south elevation has been enclosed to create a sunporch. According to family tradition, the ell's east end was originally a detached kitchen and has been remodeled to serve the same function. A small room in the southeast corner, which served as a pantry, has been converted into a laundry room, while the adjacent room, originally a meat storage closet, is now a bathroom. The shed-roofed porch on the south elevation has been enclosed to serve as a garage.

The interior retains original plaster walls, tall baseboards, plaster ceilings, and a stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail that rises from the center hall's east end to a landing above the front door. As in several other Farmington dwellings, plaster arches frame the recesses on either side of the chimney and the bay window in the northwest room, which served as the parlor. The parlor and south second-floor bedroom mantels feature circular medallions incised from the central panels. The southwest first-floor room has been converted into a bedroom, but retains a plaster arch on the chimney's south side. The north arch was enclosed when a door opening providing access to the master bathroom was created. The mantels in this room and the north second-floor bedroom are of simple post-and-lintel construction.

Molded trim surrounds the windows and original two-raised-vertical-panel doors. Two-light transoms surmount each door that leads into a hall. Electric light fixtures, probably installed about the time Farmington received electric service in 1921, remain in several principal rooms. The brass chandeliers in the dining room and hall were removed from Farmington Methodist Church when the interior was updated in the late 1980s. Carpeting covers the original wide cypress floors in the halls and bedrooms. Central plaster medallions ornament the parlor and dining room ceilings. The south second-floor bedroom ceiling features decorative plasterwork in each corner.

Charles Frederic Bahnson (1840-1911) and his wife Jane Amanda Johnson (1842-1926), known as Jennie, erected the two-story main block after inheriting money from his mother's uncle Israel George Loesch's estate in 1878, but the one-story ell is older. Jennie's parents, George Wesley and Martha Williams Taylor Johnson, gave the couple land in Farmington that included two small houses (formerly slave quarters according to oral

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tradition) at the time of their marriage on December 6, 1865. The Bahnsons initially resided on Johnson family property (which is now Tanglewood Park), but moved to Farmington and joined the two existing dwellings to create their home, which they occupied in August 1867.⁵³

Charles Bahnson was the eldest son of Moravian Bishop George Frederic Bahnson and his second wife, North Carolina native Anna Gertraut Paulina Conrad. George Bahnson, born in the Moravian congregation town of Christiansfield, Denmark, taught school in Nazareth, Pennsylvania before serving as Bethania's pastor from 1834 until 1838, where he met Paulina following the death of his first wife in 1837. The couple married on February 20, 1838 and subsequently relocated to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where Charles was born on February 15, 1840.⁵⁴

The family returned to North Carolina when George Bahnson was called to serve as Salem's minister in 1849. Charles attended the Salem Boys School and apprenticed in the shop of prominent Salem businessman Elias Vogler, a silversmith, watchmaker, architect, artist, and cartographer. Soon after Paulina Bahnson died in childbirth in 1858, Charles moved to Philadelphia, where he continued to study the jeweler's trade as well as optometry. He remained active in the Moravian church and celebrated his father's consecration as a Moravian bishop in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on May 13, 1860. By 1861, increasing tensions and blockades made travel between the Northern and Southern states difficult, but Charles and his friend Alexander Meinung returned to Salem by way of Nashville, Tennessee in September 1861.⁵⁵

Charles immediately enlisted in the Confederate Army, serving with Captain William H. Wheeler, whose troops became Company G of the Second North Carolina Battalion, and achieving the rank of captain and assistant quartermaster by the war's end. Charles traveled to Philadelphia in the fall of 1865 to address some business matters, and soon after his return to North Carolina married Jennie Johnson. The young couple established a successful farm on the land her parents gave them in Farmington, and Charles opened a small office and jewelry shop in a one-room building adjacent to their home. He also traveled throughout the region offering watch repair and optometry services in county seats on court days. Charles and Jennie had three children: George William (1866-1895); Martha Johnson (1869-1927), known as Mattie; and Francis Henry (1873-1952), called Frank. In 1880, the Bahnson household also included two African American domestic servants, Louisa Poindexter (22) and John Gorman (15), and John Nichols (40), an African American farm laborer.⁵⁶

⁵³ Charles Frederic Bahnson, correspondence with George Frederic Bahnson, August 9, 1867; Helen Bahnson Martin, correspondence with Mrs. C. J. Miller, July 27, 1970; Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 133; Sarah Bahnson Chapman, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 30, 2009; "Loesch Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/bahnsnson.html>, accessed on November 30, 2009.

⁵⁴ Sarah Bahnson Chapman, ed., *Bright and Gloomy Days: The Civil War Correspondence of Captain Charles Frederic Bahnson, a Moravian Confederate* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003), xi; "Bahnson Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/bahnsnson.html>, accessed on November 19, 2009.

⁵⁵ Sarah Bahnson Chapman, ed., *Bright and Gloomy Days*, xi-xii.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, xiii; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1880.

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Jennie converted to Methodism while attending Greensboro Female College and joined Davie County's Olive Branch congregation, which became Farmington Methodist Church, where she was a charter member of the Ladies Aide and Woman's Missionary societies. Although Farmington Methodist Church was located directly across the road from the Bahnson home, Charles was a lifelong Moravian, worshipping, tithing, and serving on committees at nearby Macedonia Moravian Church. He became a prominent community leader, helping to establish Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265 in 1867 and publishing *The North Carolina Lodge Manual*, which outlined Masonic procedures, in 1892. Jennie was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, a fraternal organization that supports Masonic activities. Charles passed away in Farmington on February 16, 1911, after suffering a stroke while carrying out Masonic business in Four Oaks, a small Johnston County community. Moravian Bishop Edward Rondthaler conducted his funeral.⁵⁷

Charles and Jennie's son George graduated from the Salem Boys School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before marrying South Carolina native Mattie Barber in 1889. The couple had four children, three of whom died soon after they were born in the early 1890s. Only Hal Barber Bahnson survived to adulthood. George and Mattie both passed away in 1895.⁵⁸

Charles and Jennie's daughter Martha Johnson Bahnson attended Salem Female Academy and returned to Farmington, where she married Oliver Lafayette Williams in 1894 and subsequently had five children: Laurie, Louise Bahnson, Frank, Martha, and Jane. Oliver and Martha's brother George operated a tobacco manufacturing company. After George's death Oliver established a veneering mill in Mocksville, where he also produced porch columns. The Williamses moved to Sumter, South Carolina, in 1919, where Oliver opened a factory that evolved into one of the South's largest veneer, furniture, and chemical producers.⁵⁹

North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that the Bahnson family owned three large farm tracts in 1925. Jennie Bahnson held a 266-acre tract, while her son Frank owned a 143-acre parcel and an 84-acre parcel. One tenant lived on each farm and was responsible for crop production, cultivating 23, 20, and 36 acres, respectively. The Bahnsons reported tobacco, cotton, corn, wheat, hay, and other grasses as their primary crops that year. Frank's farms also contained 1.7 acres dedicated to truck crops, a small home garden, 12 pecan trees, 65 hens of laying age, and 1 milk cow.⁶⁰

After Jennie's death in 1926 Frank and his wife Martha (known as Mattie) Frances Rich (1876-1967) inherited the Bahnson House. The couple married on June 3, 1896. Mattie, the daughter of prosperous local farmers Samuel Chase and Bettie McMahan Rich, was an elocution and art teacher at Farmington Academy in the mid-1890s. Frank was an active Mason, serving in all offices including lodge master. The couple attended

⁵⁷ Ibid.; Helen Bahnson Martin, correspondence with Mrs. C. J. Miller, July 27, 1970; "Mrs. Jane Amanda Bahnson," *Mocksville Enterprise*, April 1, 1926; Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 133.

⁵⁸ Sarah Frances Bahnson, "The Bahnson Family in Davie County," *Davie County Heritage*, 128-129.

⁵⁹ Ibid.; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 330.

⁶⁰ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925.

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Farmington Methodist Church, where he was a steward and trustee as well as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent. Frank became renowned statewide for his agricultural expertise.⁶¹

In 1935, Frank reported production on two farms. The first, which encompassed 140 acres, appears to be the family farm as 67 acres of corn, wheat, oats, and hay, and 20 fruit trees were cultivated by the owners. Five people were in residence that year. Four tenants planted 57 acres in corn, cotton, wheat, rye, and hay on his second farm, which contained 143 acres. By 1945, Frank's holdings were slightly reduced to 277 acres, with 110 acres planted in corn, wheat, oats, and hay. Five people resided on the farm and tended 2 milk cows and 3 hens. The orchard contained 25 trees.⁶²

Frank and Mattie Bahnson had six children: Frances Helen (b. 1898), Elizabeth (b. 1901), Jane Amanda (b. 1906), Charles Frederick (b. 1912), Frank (b. and d. 1914), and Francis Henry (b. 1918). Davie County property record cards indicate that the Bahnsons updated their house in 1950. Jane Amanda married Robie D. Shore and resided in the family home with her son, Roby Frank, until her death. C. J. Miller purchased the property in 1970.⁶³ The current owners, Carol and Jim Hutchins, bought the property at an auction in November 2008 and are in the process of renovating it. The one-story, weatherboarded wellhouse with a front-gable metal roof that stood in the rear yard was in such poor condition that it was demolished in late 2009.

Corncrib/Granary **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**

One-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded corncrib/granary with a front-gable metal roof. The corncrib on the building's east side has slatted walls to allow for air circulation. The west side contains wooden grain bins.

Barn (general) **1913** **Contributing Building**

Frank Bahnson erected this gambrel-roofed, weatherboarded barn around 1913.⁶⁴ The building is constructed into the grade, allowing for stalls on two levels. Four exterior doors provide access to the stalls on the barn's west side. A large sliding door on the west elevation's north end allowed equipment access. Additional stalls line the lower level's east elevation.

Equipment Shed **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**

One-story, frame, three-bay equipment shed with a metal roof and metal siding.

⁶¹ Sarah Frances Bahnson, "The Bahnson Family in Davie County," 128-129; "Services Tuesday for F. H. Bahnson, 79," *Mocksville Enterprise*, September 25, 1952; "Mrs. Bahnson Dies Wednesday Morning," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, June 1, 1967; "Farmington Academy," promotional brochure printed by Stone & Reid, Job Printers, in Greensboro, N. C. in 1895, from the Farmington Academy file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

⁶² North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935 and 1945.

⁶³ "F. H. Bahnson," *Mocksville Enterprise*, October 1, 1952; Sarah Bahnson Chapman, ed., *Bright and Gloomy Days*, 191; "Farmington Dates back to 1800," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, April 15, 1976, 1B.

⁶⁴ Helen Bahnson Martin, correspondence with Mrs. C. J. Miller, July 27, 1970.

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Equipment Shed **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**
One-story, frame, three-bay equipment shed with a metal roof and metal siding.

Outbuilding **ca. 1950** **Contributing Building**
One-story, asbestos-sided outbuilding with a front-gable metal roof, open equipment bays on the southeast and southwest corners, a room on the north end heated by a stovepipe chimney, and a concrete block chimney.

Garage **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**
One-story, weatherboarded garage with a metal hip roof.

Pasture

This property belonged to George Wesley and Martha Johnson from around 1837 until they conveyed it to their daughter Jennie and her husband Charles Frederic Bahnson upon the occasion of the couple's 1965 marriage. The land remained in the Bahnson Family, along with the house and outbuildings at 1948 Farmington Road, until 1970. An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that the land utilization has been the same since that time, with windbreaks bordering large fields and pastures.

Jarvis-Horne Store **ca. 1870, 1910, 1940** **Contributing Building**
1986 Farmington Road

This two-story, weatherboarded store has a front-gable roof behind a false parapet and shed-roofed front and rear porches. The façade originally consisted of a double-leaf front door flanked by two large twelve-light storefront windows; the north window opening was enlarged to create a second double-leaf door after 1985. Six-over-six sash illuminate the second story, while three high, square, four-light sash on the south elevation light the store. A narrow, one-story, shed-roofed addition extends the north elevation's full length. A shed-roofed porch projects from the addition's façade beneath a false parapet and the shed-roofed auto service bay at the northwest corner covers a grease pit. The interior had been remodeled several times by 1985.

Although local tradition asserts that Simeon A. (1843-1904) Jarvis constructed this store in the late 1870s, Davie County property record cards indicate that the building was erected in 1870 and updated in 1940. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* first lists Jarvis as a merchant in 1878-78 and a tobacco factory operator in 1890. Jarvis's son-in-law, Lonnie J. Horne (1873-1956) became his business partner and built the one-story addition to store oats, grain, and produce in 1910. Horne ran the store until 1944, when he sold the property to E. S. Lakey, who then conveyed the store to Gilmer Ellis and D. R. Bennett in 1946. Ellis and Bennett sold kerosene from a hand-operated pump at the rear of the store and later installed a gasoline pump out front. The store housed the Farmington Post Office for a short time and served as a community center. Ellis stated that the store owned Farmington's second TV set, and stayed open late so customers could watch sporting

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events. Terry Spillman acquired Bennett's half-interest in 1980 and Ellis's in 1984.⁶⁵

Walker-Hendricks House 2000 Farmington Road

1913, 1985

Contributing Building

This frame I-house retains its overall form, but has been altered by the replacement of the original two-over-two sash with one-over-one sash, the removal of the standing-seam metal roof and the installation of asphalt shingles, and the application of vinyl siding over the original weatherboards since 1985. The windows flanking the front door are paired. A one-story shed room and a one-story gabled ell with a shed-roofed addition at the east end extend from the rear (east) elevation. A brick end chimney on the north elevation and an interior chimney at the ell's center serve the house. Both chimney stacks have been reconstructed.

William F. Walker (1859-1942), known as Frank, purchased 1.96 acres from Charles A. and Maggie M. Hartman on August 22, 1907 for \$350.00. The acreage was north of Lonnie Horne's store and south of the Hartmans' farm. Mr. Walker soon constructed the house at what is now 2000 Farmington Road, as Davie County property record cards state that the dwelling was completed in 1913. The 1920 Federal Census enumerates sixty-one-year-old William F. Walker at this location (between the Lonnie Horne and John James households). At that time, Mr. Walker's household consisted of his wife Emma C. and their children Evola (19), Kenneth P. (16), and Mildred F. (8). The 1925 North Carolina Farm Census indicates that Mr. Walker owned a 100-acre tract where a tenant farmer planted 20 acres of tobacco, cotton, corn, hay, and other grasses and harvested six pecan trees. This property was likely the same Farmington Township farm where Walker resided with his wife and their seven children in 1900. He retained the acreage after moving to South Fork in Forsyth County, where he owned property (not a farm) valued at \$10,000 in 1930. The 1935 farm census enumerates him as the owner of 100 acres in Farmington Township but did not report any production for his farm.⁶⁶

The disposition of the Farmington Road house after the Walkers moved to Forsyth County is unclear. According to long-time local resident John Caudle, the Hendricks family occupied this dwelling during the 1930s and early 1940s. A superior court judgment involving J. Wade Hendricks et. al. of Woodleaf and Melverine Hendrix [sic] resulted in the sale of the house and 1.96 acres at a public auction on January 3, 1944, when W. P. and Lala Ruth Cornatzer purchased the property. Kirk Mohney stated subsequent owners John Dwight and Frances Hiatt Jackson remodeled the house in the 1970s. The Jacksons sold the house to Peter S. and Susan G. Copenhaver on February 13, 1976.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 137; "Everything from Eggs to Bolts," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, August 6, 1981.

⁶⁶ Kirk Mohney, survey file, 1985; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1920; Davie County Deed Book 31, page 28; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925 and 1935.

⁶⁷ John Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, August 25, 2010; Davie County Deed Book 40, page 622 and Deed Book 97, page 706; Kirk Mohney, survey file, 1985.

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- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Equipment Shed | ca. 1900 | Contributing Building |
| One-story, front-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided shed with a five-panel door on the west elevation, two flanking equipment sheds, and a metal roof. | | |
| Outbuilding | ca. 1980 | Noncontributing Building |
| One-story, flat-roofed, metal outbuilding with an inset corner entrance porch. | | |
| Shed - general storage | ca. 2000 | Noncontributing Building |
| One-story, gambrel-roofed, prefabricated shed with a double-leaf door. | | |
| Barn (general) | ca. 2000 | Noncontributing Building |
| One-story, front-gable-roofed barn with vertical board siding and a metal roof. | | |

Simeon A. and Betty Belle Jarvis House **1870s** **Contributing Building**
2010 Farmington Road

This weatherboarded I-house retains original features including boxed cornices with gable end returns above a plain frieze, four-over-four sash, and a front door surrounded by sidelights and a transom. A one-story shed room and a one-story gabled ell with a shed-roofed addition at the east end extend from the rear (east) elevation. The gabled ell consists of two rooms with an enclosed porch on the south elevation. The shed-roofed porch at the intersection of the shed room and the ell was a later addition. Two chimneys rise from the main block's rear elevation and two stovepipe chimneys serve the rear ell. A metal roof protects the house. The original full-width front porch had been removed by 1985.

The interior is simply finished. A stair with a square newel post, rectangular balusters, and a molded handrail rises from the center hall's west end and turns at a landing above the rear four-panel door. Flush boards sheathe the main block's interior ceilings and flat boards with butt corners surround the windows. The main block's walls have been covered with wallboard panels trimmed with narrow flat boards over the seams. Narrow horizontal boards sheathe the rear ell's walls, while its central partition wall consists of tall vertical boards. Post-and-lintel mantels are visible in the main block's south room and the rear ell's west room.

Simeon "Sim" A. Jarvis (1843-1904) and Betty Belle Smith (1853-1891) married on November 28, 1871 and, according to local tradition, constructed this house in the mid to late 1870s, soon after they opened the adjacent general store. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was erected in 1889. The family also operated a tobacco factory by 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis resided in the house until their deaths, at which time their daughter Mentora (1878-1942) and her husband Lonnie J. Horne (1873-1956) inherited the property. Lonnie Horne became Sim Jarvis's business partner and ran the store until 1944. Ray Harding subsequently

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acquired the property and occupied the house for approximately fifteen years.⁶⁸ The dwelling has been vacant for almost forty years; a metal mobile home stands northeast of the house.

Outbuilding

ca. 1900

Contributing Building

One-story, gable-roofed outbuilding with board-and-batten siding and a metal roof.

Shed

ca. 1910

Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable-roofed shed with two flanking equipment sheds, vertical and horizontal board siding, and a metal roof.

Equipment Shed

ca. 1930

Contributing Building

One-story, three-bay equipment shed with vertical board siding and a metal roof.

Mobile Home

ca. 1970s

Noncontributing Building

2024 Farmington Road

One-story, metal-sided mobile home with a low gable roof. Wood steps with a wood railing lead to the entrance.

John C. and Lola B. James House

ca. 1930s

Noncontributing Building

2026 Farmington Road

One-story, weatherboarded, side-gable-roofed house with a gabled entrance porch supported by latticework posts, six-over-six sash, brick end and interior chimneys, and a rear shed addition. The house is in ruinous condition; the front porch has collapsed and weatherboards have been removed from the side elevations, exposing the interior to the elements. Several frame outbuildings, also in ruinous condition, stand in the woods behind the house.

John Clingman James (1879-1967) married Lola Betsy Beck (1875-1967) on November 16, 1901. John learned the carpentry trade from his father Doc James, who operated a coffin shop out of a small shed addition on the side of his brother W. F. James' store in Jamestown, just north of Farmington. Around 1900, John purchased a covered wagon and a mule to deliver coffins and transport them to gravesites. He charged twenty dollars to build and deliver a walnut coffin. Around 1906 or 1907 John began painting houses. The 1920 Federal Census lists John's occupation as a house carpenter, and enumerates his wife, and five of their children—seventeen-year-old twins Clarence and Clara, fourteen-year-old Milton F., twelve-year-old Odell, and ten-year-old Lillian B. By the mid-1920s, John and his sons Ralph, Milton, and Odell erected houses, fabricated architectural elements such as mantels, and constructed and upholstered furniture. The family undoubtedly collaborated to build Ralph and Elva's Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence at 1811 Farmington Road in 1926, as well as

⁶⁸ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 137; Davie County marriage records.

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John and Lola's house in the 1930s.⁶⁹

Hartman Tenant House
2032 Farmington Road

1913, 1942

Contributing Building

One-story, weatherboarded, L-form dwelling with a front-gabled wing at the north end and a side-gabled wing extending to the south. A one-bay, shed-roofed porch extends from the north wing's south side to shelter the main entrance, which is surrounded by sidelights and a transom. A matching porch projects from the north wing's opposite side at the side entrance. Two-over-two sash illuminate the main block; six-over-six sash light the north wing's east end. The house features deep eaves with exposed rafter ends, gable end returns, plain frieze boards, and scalloped wood shingles in the front and side gables. Two interior chimneys pierce the metal roof.

According to local tradition, neighboring farmer Charles Alexander Hartman built his two-story residence across the road around 1880 and constructed this tenant house about the same time for his farm laborers. However, Davie County property record cards indicate that dwelling was erected in 1913 and updated in 1942. The house served as a rental property for many years and was owned and occupied by Curtis Campbell in 1985.⁷⁰

Equipment Shed

ca. 1920

Contributing Building

One-story weatherboarded equipment shed with three enclosed bays on the north elevation and a metal roof.

Outbuilding

ca. 1930

Contributing Building

One-story, gable-roofed, concrete block outbuilding with German-sided gables and a metal roof.

Farmington Road, West Side

Bobby Gene and Lou Jean Lakey House
1711 Farmington Road

1954, 2009

Contributing Building

Vinyl-sided Ranch house with a central inset front porch, a gabled rear wing, and a gabled screened porch and carport wing extending from the north elevation. Original two-over-two horizontal sash and plate glass windows illuminate the interior, which was updated to serve as a residence for Lou Lakey Tollison and her husband Leroy in 2009. A concrete-lined culvert runs through the back yard.

⁶⁹ Sallie Ruth James, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 18, 2010; Oscar Rich, written correspondence with Sallie Ruth James regarding Farmington's history, 1968; John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 125-126; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1920; Davie County marriage records. Although Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was built in 1903, it appears to have been erected in the 1930s.

⁷⁰ Kirk Mohny, survey file, 1985.

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Bobby Gene (1926-2001) and his wife Lou Jean (1929-1996) Lakey built this house in the northeastern corner of his parent's (Roland and Bernice Lakey) farm. Bobby Gene worked at in Winston-Salem, first at Piedmont Aviation and then at Roadway Express, whose offices eventually moved to Kernersville. He also helped his father on the farm. Lou Jean was employed by Western Electric for about a year around 1947, right after she graduated from high school, and was then a homemaker, raising the couple's two children, Lou (born 1951) and Roland Winfrey Lakey II (1955-1983). Lou Jean was the secretary at Farmington Elementary School from 1964 until 1968, and then at the Agricultural Extension Service office in Mocksville from 1975 until 1989. Their daughter Lou Lakey Tollison inherited the property.⁷¹

Garage

ca. 1980 Noncontributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roofed, three-bay garage with a brick-veneered kneewall, metal sheathing and roofing, and roll-up garage doors.

Brock Marker

ca. 1925

Contributing Object

Farmington Road

The Boone Trail Highway Association memorial to Nathaniel Brock and his wife Sarah Eaton Brock stands on the grounds of what was formerly the Farmington School. The monument consists of an arched granite slab with a metal tablet enframed by a classical pediment and fluted pilasters on plinth bases. The inscription states "The memorial erected to Nathaniel Brock, farmer, preacher, woodman, soldier under Col. Thomas Elliot, 4th VA. Reg. He lived and learned theology in Davie County 1765-1818--Sarah Eaton Brock his wife. Pioneers of the Yadkin whose remains are interred one mile S. W. in family graveyard. Coming from VA. 1785." According to James Brock, Nathaniel Brock was born in Princess Anne County, Virginia in 1757; moved to Currituck County, North Carolina; and relocated to Davie County around 1800. Sarah Eaton (1755-1851) was his second wife. The couple had six boys and four girls, several of whom established farms in the Farmington area. Their son Moses became a well-known Methodist preacher and, along with other members of the Methodist North Carolina Conference, helped to secure the charter for Greensboro Female College from the State Legislature in 1838.⁷²

Teacher, newspaper publisher, and salesman Joseph Hampton Rich, Wachovia executive A. H. Eller, and textile magnate P. H. Hanes, all of Winston-Salem, collaborated with Wilkes County residents Lynn Vyne, W. C. Wright, and Judge T. B. Finley to incorporate the Boone Trail Highway and Memorial Association in North Wilkesboro in 1913. The men sought to improve western North Carolina's road system through the

⁷¹ Lou Lakey Tollison, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 30, 2010.

⁷² James Brock, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 8, 2010; J. Hampton Rich, "Historic Sites in the Piedmont Area are Uncovered and Marked," undated newspaper article from a Winston-Salem newspaper, page 4-D, in the Brock vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library; "A Relatively Short History of Greensboro College from 1830-1941," http://museum.greensborocollege.edu/beyondbooks_briefhistory.htm.

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commemoration of the region's history as manifested in the trail blazed by pioneer Daniel Boone. The organization's mission soon expanded beyond North Carolina, however, as the Boone Trail Highway eventually extended across the United States—from Virginia Beach, Virginia, to San Francisco, California—honoring Boone as well as other local and national leaders.⁷³

J. Hampton Rich's interest in Daniel Boone was thought to have stemmed from his personal connection to Boone's story, as the Rich family owned Davie County land that had not only belonged to the Boone family, but was said to be where Daniel met Rebecca Bryan, who he married in 1756. Rich also had a personal connection to the Brock family, as Jane Brock McMahon was his maternal grandmother. Rich raised funds to erect distinctive stone markers, often in the shape of arrowheads, inset with tablet plaques containing metal salvaged from the U. S. S. Maine, a battleship whose sinking in Havana Harbor in 1898 precipitated the Spanish-American War. The United States Navy reclaimed the wreck in 1912 and he procured four hundred pounds of salvaged metal in 1916. He selected an image of Boone seated with his rifle and dog, created by New York illustrator Alonzo Chappel in 1861, to use on his plaques, which were designed by an unidentified Washington, D. C. sculptor.⁷⁴

In 1924, Rich began publishing a newsletter, *The Boone Herald*, detailing the Boone Trail Highway and Memorial Association's work, which included portraying Daniel Boone and presiding at marker unveilings nationwide. The Association erected 358 monuments in city centers and at private residences, public schools and libraries, courthouses, National Parks, colleges and universities, hotels and motels, and at local and state museums along the Boone Trail Highway. As the organization's records were destroyed in a fire, the exact location of every marker is unknown. Everett Gary Marshall began an effort to document the Association's monuments in 1996 and has "registered" 142 markers in his catalog as of November 2009. Mr. Marshall believes that the Brock monument was erected in 1925 as the tablet's script and style is comparable to the Boone Trail Highway Marker in Mocksville, dedicated on March 16, 1925.⁷⁵

Farmington School Auditorium, Cafeteria, and Home Economics Classroom 1950, 1955 **1723 Farmington Road** **Contributing Building**

This Classical Revival-style building was erected to serve as the Farmington School auditorium, cafeteria, and home economics classroom. The building encompasses a front-gable auditorium block with a pedimented entrance portico supported by square posts, and a flat-roofed, L-shaped rear wing that contained the cafeteria and the home economics classroom. A triangular pediment and four-light transoms surmount the three-part auditorium entrance. Some original metal casement windows illuminate the interior; others have been replaced or the window openings infilled with brick. Ray Daniels built the flat-roofed, open, metal breezeway that

⁷³ Everett G. Marshall, *Rich Man, Daniel Boone* (Dugspur, Virginia: Sugar Tree Enterprises, 2003), 14-17, 26.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 9, 117, 131.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 21, 27, 162, 301-303; Everett G. Marshall, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 26, 2009.

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covers the sidewalk leading from the auditorium's south side to the rear wing in 1955.⁷⁶

A frame gymnasium stood south of the school and auditorium, where a walking track is currently located. After a May 5, 1989 tornado damaged both buildings, a gymnasium floor was installed in the auditorium. State and Federal Emergency Management Agency funds helped to subsidize the repairs, but the gymnasium damage was so extensive that it was demolished in February 1991. The current tennis court was constructed in the late 1980s to replace an earlier court and was refurbished around 2008.⁷⁷

A special bond issue supplemented by Davie County Board of Education funds made the construction of a public consolidated school in Farmington possible. Planning began in 1917, and a two-story, hip-roofed, brick building with a recessed central entrance and large six-over-six sash windows was completed in 1921 at a cost of \$7,735. The Board of Education also purchased two buses to serve the school. O. B. Eaton served as the first principal. By the fall of 1925 additional classroom and laboratory space was needed and local resident Fred R. Lakey was awarded the contract to erect a freestanding frame building for that purpose. A new classroom wing was added to the building's south elevation in 1932 and a frame gymnasium completed by the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration in 1933 at a cost of \$2,471.78. A frame agriculture building was erected in 1936.⁷⁸

By the mid-1940s Davie County schools were once again in need of improved facilities, and county commissioner passed an \$800,000 school bond issue. The Board of Education selected Salisbury architect John R. Hartlege to design the new buildings, including the Farmington School auditorium. The brick-veneered concrete block building, containing an auditorium with a seating capacity of 480, a home economics classroom, and a cafeteria, was completed in March 1950.⁷⁹

The new building encompassed all of the most up-to-date features available at the time. The auditorium contained "the latest style" seats, a stage, dressing rooms, an audio visual balcony, and an office. The home economics classroom had three kitchens with cabinets, sinks, and stoves; seven work tables; five sewing machines; and a built-in ironing board. The cafeteria featured new kitchen equipment and chairs and Formica-topped tables to seat 150 students. The campus improvements also included upgrading the 1921 building by installing a central steam heating system, a large metal water tank, and new playground equipment; and

⁷⁶ Polly Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," unpublished manuscript compiled in 2007, on file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library, 28.

⁷⁷ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Karen Jarvis, "Farmington Still Rebuilding," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, July 13, 1989; Ronnie Gallagher, "Farmington Dome: Old Gymnasium was the Place to be for Basketball," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, February 21, 1991.

⁷⁸ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 472; Marie White and Frances Beck, "Farmington High School," *Davie County Heritage*, 29.

⁷⁹ Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 26-27.

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renovating the bathrooms and science laboratory.⁸⁰

A stage still occupies the auditorium's south end, but the seating was removed when the space was converted into a gymnasium with two basketball goals. The home economics classroom has been updated to serve as a senior center and retains one U-shaped kitchen and built-in storage closets on the north wall. The southernmost closet encompasses twenty-four drawers where students stored their sewing projects. The cafeteria is in the process of being renovated, beginning with the windows, which were replaced in 2009. The kitchen is in the southeast corner and the former lunchroom at the west end.

Farmington High School remained in operation through the spring of 1956. That fall, Farmington, Mocksville, Cooleemee, and Shady Grove high schools were consolidated into Davie County High School, located on US Highway 601 south of Mocksville. The Farmington campus then served as an elementary school until the spring of 1970, after which Smith Grove and Farmington elementary schools were consolidated into Pinebrook Elementary School, which opened in the fall of 1970. The 1921 Farmington School building was soon demolished, but the rest of the campus has functioned as the Farmington Community Center since 1971, when the Farmington Community Association, formed to facilitate the building's use for community programs and events, acquired the property.⁸¹

Farmington Community Center Picnic Shelter **1980** **Noncontributing Structure**
Gable-roofed picnic shelter with brick posts and kneewalls and a concrete floor. Terry Spillman designed this structure and community volunteers erected it. The Farmington Community Association, the Ruritan Club, and local residents funded the project. The shelter's ceiling and lights were added in 2000.⁸²

Farmington School Agricultural Building **1936** **Contributing Building**
1723 Farmington Road

One-story, side-gable-roofed, German-sided, two-room building with a gabled entrance portico supported by narrow square posts. Concrete and brick steps and a landing provide access to two central entrances surmounted by three-light transoms. Large six-over-six sash windows illuminate the interior. A shallow hipped hood shelters the large double-leaf door on the façade's south side. A central brick stovepipe chimney serves the building.

The Farmington School Agricultural Building had two classrooms where students learned farming, gardening,

⁸⁰ Gordon Tomlinson, "Farmington School Receives New Auditorium, Other Improvements," undated newspaper clipping, circa 1950.

⁸¹ "Farmington Adapts School Property to Community Service," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, August 26, 1971; Wall, *History of Davie County*, 230; Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 28.

⁸² Terry Spillman, email correspondence with Beth McCashin, August 19, 2010; John Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, August 23, 2010.

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and livestock management.⁸³ Davie County property record cards indicate that the building was constructed in 1940, but Gene Miller, who graduated from Farmington High School that year, remembers that the building was erected in 1936 and was originally used for storage and a music classroom.⁸⁴

Farmington School Baseball Field 1767 Farmington Road

ca. 1940

Contributing Site

Cordelia Smith sold the 3.5-acre tract upon which the baseball field is located to the Davie County Board of Education for \$437.50 on March 12, 1936. Farmington School students played baseball in front of the 1921 building (at the approximate location of the picnic shelter) until around 1940, when the Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided funds and labor to create a baseball field at its current location, which was leveled by mules pulling drag pans. The local community team, which practiced and played games in Frank Bahnson's pasture south of the Graham-Williard House at 1910 Farmington Road beginning in the 1920s, also utilized the new field, particularly in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The community team was known as the "Tobacco Worms and Boll Weevils" and the "Farmington Sluggers" in the 1920s. Little League baseball teams began playing at the Farmington School field in the 1950s and the community softball teams in the mid-1960s.⁸⁵

Concession Stand

ca. 1966

Noncontributing Building

The original lights and the flat-roofed, brick-veneered, concrete block concession stand were erected around 1966. Deep overhanging eaves, supported by wood posts on the east elevation, shelter the concession stand's three entrances and two sales windows. The roof and the field's fencing and lighting were damaged and the bleachers destroyed in a May 5, 1989 tornado. State and Federal Emergency Management Agency funds helped to subsidize the repairs.⁸⁶

Concrete Block Dugouts

ca. 1975

Noncontributing Buildings

Terry Spillman and Benny Hartman constructed the two flat-roofed concrete block dugouts around 1975.⁸⁷ Wood posts support the frame roof systems, which shelter benches constructed of wood seats on concrete block piers. Each dugout's rear elevation consists of a concrete block kneewall below three large openings.

Fields, Wooded Areas, and Creek

This acreage belonged to George Wesley Johnson (1810-1889) from around 1837 until 1892, when local surveyor and farmer Enos Calvin Smith (1854-1917) purchased 71.5 acres from Johnson's heirs. Smith's wife

⁸³ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

⁸⁴ Gene Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 16, 2009.

⁸⁵ John and Rose Caudle, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009 and August 23 and 25, 2010; "Farmington News," *Mocksville Enterprise*, June 12, 1924; Davie County Deed Book 35, page 500.

⁸⁶ Ibid.; Frank Tursi, "Farmington is Hard Hit," *Winston-Salem Journal*, May 7, 1989; Karen Jarvis, "Farmington Still Rebuilding," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, July 13, 1989; Terry Spillman, email correspondence with Beth McCashin, August 19, 2010; John and Caudle, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, August 23 and 25, 2010.

⁸⁷ Terry Spillman, email correspondence with Beth McCashin, August 19, 2010.

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Cordelia (1863-1944) and the couple's son Grady (1899-1992) owned the property throughout most of the twentieth century. An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that the land utilization has been the same since that time, with large fields to the east and wooded areas to the west flanking the creek.

Enos and Cordelia's grandson Louis Calvin Smith was born in Richmond, Virginia and lived in Apex, North Carolina for most of his life. He was a surveyor and real estate broker. Louis and his wife Martha Smith purchased 60 acres of the family property in Farmington in 2006 and conveyed it to the Farmington Community Association, Inc. in 2007. Mr. Smith passed away on January 31, 2008.⁸⁸

Redmon-Williams House 1799 Farmington Road

1906, 1940

Contributing Building

This one-story weatherboarded dwelling manifests elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical massing, high hip roof pierced by a hip-roofed dormer on the front roof slope, projecting gable bays on the façade and side elevations, and a wraparound front porch supported by square posts spanned by a wood railing. Sidelights flank the front door. Two gabled wings and a hip-roofed wing with an enclosed room and a rear porch extend from the west (rear) elevation. A combination of replacement one-over-one sash and original two-over-two sash windows illuminate the house, which rests on brick piers. A tall brick interior chimney stack rises from the north roof slope. Asphalt shingles have replaced the original metal shingle roof since 1985.

A Statesville contractor built this house for Thomas Hampton Redmon (1874-1954), a feed and flour salesman, and his wife Mabel Ellis (1883-1959) in 1906. North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that T. H. Redmon owned three farm tracts in 1925. Two parcels were small—3 acres called the "home place" and 4.3-acres designated by the census taker as a "mill tract." According to James Brock, Redmon operated a saw and grist mill. The third parcel encompassed 170 acres, where tenant farmers cultivated 63 acres of cotton, corn, wheat, hay, field truck crops, and a small home garden, and raised 20 hens of laying age, 4 milk cows, and a pig.⁸⁹

In 1930, the Redmon household consisted of Thomas, Mabel, and their two daughters, Frances C. (19) and Flora E. (14). The census taker assigned the family's property a value of \$5,000. The Redmons subsequently moved to Winston-Salem and sold the house and some acreage to Cicero Columbus Williams (1872-1945) and his wife Lizzie Smith Williams (1885-1969). Mrs. Williams' family lived directly across the road. C. C. and Lizzie had two sons, Hugh and Joe, and a daughter, Elva. Hugh moved to Miami, Florida, but Elva and her husband, cabinetmaker John Ralph James constructed a home just north of the Redmon property in 1926, and

⁸⁸ Davie County Deed Book 13, pages 405 and 412; Deed Book 38, page 599; Deed Book 685, page 168; Deed Book 696, page 301; Laura Mathis, "Farmington News," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, February 21, 2008. See Johnson-Smith House (1798 Farmington Road) entry for more information regarding the Smith family.

⁸⁹ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925; James Brock, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 8, 2010.

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Joe and his wife Leona built a house in between his mother's and sister's dwellings in 1954.⁹⁰

Mr. Williams operated a general store in the two-story brick building at the southeast corner of NC Highway 801 and Farmington Road through the mid-1930s. The North Carolina Farm Census indicates that C. C. Williams owned four farm tracts totaling 84.25 acres in 1935. Ten people resided on the largest tract—a 45-acre farm. The Williams family cultivated 20.7 acres and tenants planted and harvested 37 acres in corn, cotton, wheat, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes. The farms included an orchard with 25 fruit-bearing trees, 2 milk cows, and 4 horses and mules. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1940. By 1945, the Williams farm had decreased in size to 11 acres and the family reported no production.⁹¹

C. C. and Lizzie Williams' grandson Ronald purchased the property in 1990 and repaired the exterior, replacing the porch floor and the roof and installing new windows in 2009.⁹²

Joe and Leona Williams House
1805 Farmington Road

1954, 1964

Contributing Building

One-story, frame, front-gable-roofed house with a front-gable wing extending from the façade's south end and a shed-roofed front porch supported by metal posts spanned by a metal railing. Original two-over-two horizontal sash illuminate the vinyl-sided house. An auxiliary entrance flanked by jalousie windows provides access from the south elevation. A brick central chimney serves the main block.

C. C. and Lizzie Williams' son, Joe Williams (1916-2009), lived in Winston-Salem with his wife Leona Foster and worked for Piedmont Airlines after serving in the military during World War II. Joe and Leona moved to Farmington in 1954 and constructed a house next to his parent's home on the family farm at 1799 Farmington Road. Their son Ronald purchased the property in 1990.⁹³ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1964.

Garage

ca. 1955

Contributing Building

One-story, two-bay, concrete block garage with roll-up doors, a metal front-gable roof and a three-bay frame equipment shed addition extending from the rear elevation.

⁹⁰ Ibid., Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1930; "C. C. Williams," *Davie Record*, March 21, 1945; "Mrs. Williams of Davie County," *Winston-Salem Journal*, October 9, 1969; "Mrs. Lizzie Williams," *Enterprise-Record*, October 16, 1969.

⁹¹ John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935 and 1945.

⁹² Nancy Williams (Ronald Williams' wife), telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, September 30, 2009.

⁹³ Ibid.

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John Ralph and Elva W. James House **1926, 2010** **Contributing Building**
1811 Farmington Road

Two-story, frame, gambrel-roofed, Dutch Colonial Revival-style house with a small arched hood above the entrance, a bay window at the façade's center, and almost full-width shed dormers extending across the front and rear roof slopes. One-story wings project from the south elevation and the northwest corner of the rear elevation. A brick end chimney rises from the south elevation. A new owner replaced the original six-over-six sash windows with smaller vinyl-clad replacement windows, removed the one-story flat-roofed wing and replaced it with a shed-roofed wing, and installed vinyl siding in the spring of 2010.

John Ralph James (1901-1946) learned the carpentry business from his father John C. James. He worked at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem for several years before marrying Elva Williams on December 29, 1923. The young couple soon returned to Farmington, first residing in a home owned by the Williams family. Ralph, his father John, and his brothers Milton and Odell erected houses, fabricated architectural elements such as mantels, and constructed and upholstered furniture. The family undoubtedly collaborated to build Ralph and Elva's residence in 1926. According to family tradition, they purchased certain elements of the home, such as the stair railing, from a lumber supply company.⁹⁴

Ralph was a well-known cabinetmaker, and advertised that cedar chests and porch furniture were his specialty. He initially stored his woodworking materials in a small outbuilding that stood beside the garage behind his house, but later moved to a shop that was located between the Richard C. and Emma B. Brown House and what is now the Farmington Fire Station No. 23. His son Gene (born 1924) began assisting his father in the carpentry shop when he was around nine years old. After Ralph was killed in an accident, Elva remarried and remained in her house until 1984. Ralph's father John, who lived to the north in the now ruinous dwelling at 2026 Farmington Road, and his brothers Milton and Odell James continued to operate the family's carpentry business. Ralph and Elva's son Gene and his wife Sallie Ruth acquired the property and subsequently sold it.⁹⁵

Garage **ca. 1926** **Contributing Building**

Two-story German-sided garage with a double-leaf board-and-batten door, exposed rafter ends, and a clipped-front-gable, asphalt-shingled roof.

Camer A. and Thuresy A. Long House **1913, 1960** **Contributing Building**
1817 Farmington Road

This one-and-one-half-story, vinyl-sided, frame dwelling is characterized by a gabled wall dormer at the façade's center above a hip-roofed porch supported by square posts. Hip-roofed bays with three windows

⁹⁴ Sallie Ruth James, telephone conversations with Heather Fearnbach, January 18, 2010 and February 12, 2010.

⁹⁵ Ibid.; John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; *Farmington Ladies Aid Society, Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 125-126; Davie County marriage records.

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project from the side (north and south) elevations. Replacement one-over-one sash illuminate the main block; three short rectangular sash pierce the rear elevation above the one-story rear shed-roofed wing. Original two-over-two sash light the room at the wing's north end. The wing's south end has been extended, the windows enclosed, and a small shed room added to the southwest corner since 1985. Two interior chimneys with corbelled stacks pierce the main block's metal roof.

Camer (also spelled Came and Cane in census records) A. Long (1863-1940) married Thuresy (spelled Thirza in census records) Ellis on September 7, 1884. According to local tradition, he erected this house in 1913 with lumber milled from local pine trees. The 1910 Federal Census indicates that his household included his wife, his son Albert A., and Ben H. Foster, an unrelated brickmason who was no longer living with the family in 1920. North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that Long owned a 81-acre farm in 1925. He cultivated 6 acres that year and tenants planted 26 acres, producing cotton, corn, wheat, hay, other grasses, berries, and a small home garden. Farm livestock included 50 hens and 3 milk cows. The farm size and crop production decreased slightly in 1935, when 5 people resided on the property and tenants planted and harvested 29 acres of corn, wheat, oats, hay, and 12 fruit-bearing trees. Mr. Long passed away in Durham, North Carolina, in 1940 and his estate is not listed in the 1945 farm census. Subsequent owners included Ann Johnson Williams (1883-1974; John Wesley Williams' widow and James Millys and Rachel Ann Smith Johnson's daughter) and Ray Harding. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1960.⁹⁶

Shed - general storage **ca. 1920** **Contributing Building**

One-story shed with a side-gable metal roof, board-and-batten siding, and an equipment shed addition on the west elevation.

Equipment Shed **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**

One-story, gable-roofed equipment shed with an enclosed room at the north end, two open bays at the south end, and an open shed across the rear (west) elevation.

Pump House **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**

Small concrete block pump house with a metal gable roof.

Shed - general storage **ca. 1990** **Noncontributing Building**

One-story, gambrel-roofed, prefabricated storage shed.

Shed - general storage **ca. 1990** **Noncontributing Building**

One-story, front-gable-roofed, prefabricated storage shed.

⁹⁶ Kirk Mohney, survey file, 1985; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945; Federal Census, Population Schedules, 1910 and 1920; "Johnson Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/johnson.html>; Davie County marriage records.

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John Starnes House
1827 Farmington Road

1970, 1980

Noncontributing Building

Two-story, frame, side-gable-roofed house with a brick-veneered first story and a vinyl-sided second story. Bracketed square posts spanned by turned balustrades support the two-story shed-roofed front porch. Sidelights flank the main entrance and six-over-six sash illuminate the interior. A brick end chimney with a corbelled stack serves the house. A one-story, side-gable-roofed garage extends from the north elevation.

John Starnes built this residence on the site of the Jess and Emma Johnson Smith House, a one-story, frame, five-room dwelling that was moved to a new location on Bobbitt Road.⁹⁷ Davie County property record cards indicate that this house was constructed in 1970 and updated in 1980.

(former) Farmington Baptist Church
1835 Farmington Road

1882

Contributing Building

This one-story, frame, front-gable-roofed sanctuary features tall, double-hung windows with opaque stained-glass sash. A gabled portico supported by narrow square posts shelters the double-leaf, paneled front doors. Although the portico was a later addition, the cornice returns emulate those of the church's gable ends. A concrete stoop with a metal handrail provides access to the entrance. The steeple was replaced and rear addition constructed after a 1989 tornado.

Electric light fixtures, probably installed about the time Farmington received electric service in 1921, illuminate the portico and sanctuary. A gas lamp hangs in the entrance vestibule, which has flush-board sheathing on the walls and ceiling. A steep corner stair leads from the vestibule to the loft, which has been enclosed. Two small rooms, accessed from the sanctuary, flank the vestibule. The interior doors have two tall vertical panels. A carpeted altar platform stands at the central aisle's west end. Doors surmounted by opaque stained-glass transoms open into the rear addition.

Thirty-nine former members of Eaton's Baptist Church organized a new congregation on December 29, 1878, first meeting at Union Academy near Farmington. R. W. Crews served as the first pastor. In 1881, George Wesley Johnson donated land to local Baptist and Methodist congregations to allow for the construction of new sanctuaries in Farmington. B. F. Eaton, Dr. J. W. Wiseman, Daniel Eaton, L. A. Furches, and S. C. Rich served on the Farmington Baptist Church building committee. The new sanctuary was dedicated in June 1882. As the congregation grew, eight Sunday School rooms and two restrooms were added to the rear, and the building was remodeled, receiving an entrance portico, hardwood floors, carpeting, and new pews.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

⁹⁸ Carolyn McBride and Mrs. Luther West, "Farmington Baptist Church," *Davie County Heritage*, 100; Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 134.

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The original parsonage burned in the early 1940s, and the congregation replaced it with the Minimal Traditional house at 1841 Farmington Road, which was moved to its current location northeast of the original sanctuary in 1960. The dwelling now serves as adult Sunday School classrooms. The church was heavily damaged by the wind and rain associated with a tornado on May 5, 1989. The sanctuary roof and steeple were destroyed, and the interior and furnishings almost destroyed by water. The Farmington Fire Department and other community volunteers assisted with the initial clean-up, and the congregation decided to restore the original building and replace the rear additions with a new fellowship hall, kitchen, and bathrooms. The work was completed by May 6, 1990, when the sanctuary was re-dedicated. In 2003, the church exterior was clad in vinyl siding, the interior painted, and storm windows installed. A new sanctuary was erected to the northwest in 2006-2007, and the original building now serves as the children's worship center.⁹⁹

Shed - general storage **ca. 2000** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, prefabricated, frame, front-gable-roofed storage shed.

Farmington Baptist Church Parsonage **1946, 1956, 1960** **Contributing Building**
1841 Farmington Road

One-story, side-gable-roofed, frame Minimal Traditional-style house with a front-gable bay projecting from the façade's center and an engaged front porch supported by square posts. Replacement six-over-six sash illuminate the interior. Two brick end chimneys serve the main block. A shed-roofed sunporch extends from the west elevation north of a small projecting gabled bay. The house has been sheathed in aluminum siding.

Davie County property record cards indicate that this house was constructed in 1946 and updated in 1956. Thomas Hampton Redmon, who had moved to Winston-Salem, returned to Farmington to build this house, but sold it soon after it was completed and moved back to Winston-Salem. First Baptist Church moved this dwelling to its current location in 1960 to replace their two-story, frame parsonage that burned in the early 1940s. The building now serves as adult Sunday School classrooms.¹⁰⁰

Farmington Baptist Church **2006-2007** **Noncontributing Building**
1855 Farmington Road

Farmington Baptist Church erected this expansive building, which contains a sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday School classrooms, and church offices, in order to meet the growing congregation's needs. Construction began in April 2006 and the building was completed and dedicated in April 2007.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Ibid.; "History of Farmington Baptist Church, 1878-2009," from church files; Frank Tursi, "Farmington is Hard Hit," *Winston-Salem Journal*, May 7, 1989.

¹⁰⁰ "History of Farmington Baptist Church, 1878-2009," from church files; John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Sallie Ruth James, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 18, 2010.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

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Metal siding sheathes the side and rear elevations of the two-story main block and one-story shed-roofed wings, while the façade is stuccoed with a stone kneewall. A small steeple rises above the standing-seam metal front-gable roof at the building's north end, where a large gabled porte cochere shelters the thermopane-glass doors and windows on the façade (north elevation).

Field

This 10.71-acre field was part of the land George Wesley and Martha Johnson purchased around 1837. Their youngest son William Gaston Johnson inherited the property and it is still owned by Johnson family descendants. An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that the land utilization has been much the same since that time, with a large field encompassing most of the acreage. A small section of the northeast quadrant that was historically cleared is now wooded and windbreaks border the field.

Forsyth County resident Nell J. Davis conveyed this tract to her sister, current owner Marian Davis Bohannon of Milton, Florida, in 1988. Their mother was a Johnson.¹⁰²

Pasture

The pasture south of the Johnson Family House encompasses almost half of the 6.19-acre tract that remains associated with the residence. An aerial photograph from 1950 illustrates that the land utilization has been the same since that time, with windbreaks bordering three pastures.

Johnson Family House 1854-55 Contributing Building **1891 Farmington Road**

The Johnson Family House is one of the most significant extant Greek Revival-style dwellings in Davie County. The two-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, double-pile residence has a center passage plan. The two-tier entrance portico retains its original configuration, but the square posts have been wrapped in aluminum siding, vinyl siding sheathes the gable and soffits, and the second-story porch railing is a replacement. Two-pane sidelights and transoms frame the two-panel doors at the first and second stories. Two end chimneys rise from each gable end, serving the fireplaces in each of the main block's rooms. The original six-over-six sash windows have been replaced. A one-story, brick shed addition extends from the west elevation. Ed Johnson erected the vinyl-sided shed-roofed wing on the south elevation to shelter an indoor swimming pool. Large boxwoods line the path to the front door.

Kirk Mohney's 1985 photographs depict significant interior features including vernacular Greek Revival-style mantels executed with variety of panel and pilaster configurations, tall molded baseboards, and robust doors with two tall vertical panels. The window and door surrounds consist of flat boards with applied molding and corner blocks. An unidentified artist painted a multi-colored floral pattern on the top four inches of the parlor

¹⁰² Davie County Deed Book 145, page 40.

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baseboards and emulated marble veining on the lower sections of the baseboards and mantels in that room and in a bedroom. A few bedroom doors displayed decorative wood-graining.

George Wesley Johnson (1810-1889) began acquiring property west of the Yadkin River, built a frame store on the Winston to Mocksville road, and opened Davie County's fifth post office in 1837, thus establishing a rural community he named Farmington. The Johnson family were among the earliest European settlers in the North Carolina Piedmont. George's great-grandfather William Johnson (1732-1765) purchased 640 acres in the southwest corner of what would become Forsyth County from William Linville in 1757 and built a fort overlooking the Yadkin River to protect his family and neighbors during the French and Indian War. The small village of Clemmonsville, now called Clemmons, grew up near the Johnson property. George was the eldest son of John Madison (1787-1835) and Lydia Elrod (1790-1816) Johnson, whose farm was part of the original Johnson family holdings.¹⁰³

George Wesley Johnson did not move far from his family's farm when he settled in Davie County, as Farmington is only eight miles west of Clemmons. He married Martha Williams Taylor (1816-1893) in 1834, and the couple soon began a family, eventually having six children: John Madison (1836-1870), Francis Marion (1837-1918), James Lafayette (1840-1870), Jane Amanda (1842-1926), William Gaston (1845-1911), and Valeria Martine (1847-1876). Their plantation became one of Davie County's largest, containing orchards and vineyards as well as a blacksmith's forge and tin shop, a carpentry shop that produced furniture and coffins, a tannery, and a brickyard.¹⁰⁴

Johnson's household in 1850 included immediate and extended family members as well as Calvin Liverman, a nineteen-year-old blacksmith, and fifteen slaves, seven of whom were children under ten years of age. Johnson's farm encompassed 250 improved and 215 unimproved acres, real estate valued at \$2,705, and farm equipment worth \$300 in 1850. He owned 4 horses, 4 mules, 12 milk cows, 10 other cattle, 18 sheep, and 50 hogs, altogether valued at \$825. Farm production amounted to 225 bushels of wheat, 1500 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels of oats, 35 pounds of wool, 10 bushels of peas and beans, 50 bushels each of Irish and sweet potatoes, 300 pounds of butter, and 35 tons of hay.¹⁰⁵

George Wesley Johnson purchased inventory for his general store in Philadelphia, transporting goods to North Carolina by wagon, and in Wilmington, where he shipped merchandise by barge to Fayetteville, where it was transferred to wagons for the journey to Farmington. He allowed Davie County farmers to barter for goods, and

¹⁰³ James W. Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin* (Mocksville: Davie County Historical Publishing Association, 1969), 293-294; Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 138; "Johnson Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/johnson.html>; Brown and Carroll, *The Changing Face of Forsyth County, North Carolina*, 5.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. Martha Taylor's parents, Spencer and Esther Etheridge Taylor, immigrated to what would become Farmington Township from Currituck County. Flossie Martin, "Farmington Settlement," July 22, 1961, manuscript in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

¹⁰⁵ "Johnson Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/johnson.html>; Federal Census, Population, Slave, and Agriculture schedules, 1850.

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he transported and sold their farm products along with his to merchants in Fayetteville and Wilmington. Travel along this route was much improved after the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road linked Wilmington to Salem in 1852. Johnson constructed a two-story, frame, side-gable-roofed building to house a carpentry shop, operated by Mr. Austin, and a tobacco factory on the second floor. The building was later used to store feed, seed, and fertilizer.¹⁰⁶

Johnson donated land to the Farmington community upon which resources including schools, churches, parsonages, the Masonic lodge, and the cemetery were constructed. According to local tradition, the district's earliest extant building is the dwelling Johnson erected at what is now 1983 Farmington Road in conjunction with the first Davie County Fair, which took place in Farmington on November 11, 1853.¹⁰⁷

George Wesley Johnson owned 670 acres in 1854, when he began erecting an expansive brick Greek Revival-style house and a brick kitchen and smokehouse in late August. He itemized the building expenses in his journal, indicating that he paid brickmason M. C. Norman \$300 and carpenter Albert Sheek \$675, sizable amounts for the time but only a small portion of the approximately \$6,000 construction cost. Johnson purchased the window sash and shutters from an eastern North Carolina factory and transported them to Farmington via wagons from Fayetteville. The house was completed on July 1855. By 1860, his holdings had almost doubled to 1150 acres and he owned thirty slaves.¹⁰⁸

George and Martha's daughter Jane Amanda Johnson, known as "Jennie," married Charles Frederic Bahnson (1840-1911) and the couple settled in Farmington in August 1867, establishing a farm on property her parents gave them at what is now 1948 Farmington Road. Francis Marion Johnson built a store directly across the road from his parents' home in 1873 and erected an Italianate-style I-house, one of Farmington's most distinctive late-nineteenth-century buildings, to the south in 1880.¹⁰⁹

George and Martha's youngest son William Gaston Johnson inherited the family home after their deaths. William served in the Civil War and subsequently attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating on March 18, 1870 and becoming a licensed medical practitioner in North Carolina on May 22, 1873. He married Emma C. Miller (1851-1917), who was from the nearby town of Winston, on February 18, 1875. The couple had five children, three of whom—Emma L. (1861-1969), George Wesley (1883-1949), and Dr. Francis Marion Johnson—survived childhood. George Wesley and his wife Marian G. Hauser (1889-1976) inherited the house, where they resided until their deaths. Their son Ed Johnson, his wife Esther, and their children were the last generation of the Johnson family to occupy the family residence.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ E. W. Martin, "George Wesley Johnson," *Davie County Heritage*, 230-231; Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks," April 8, 1956; Flossie Martin, "Farmington Settlement," July 22, 1961, manuscript in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

¹⁰⁷ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 138; Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks."

¹⁰⁹ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 133, 139.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 138; Mrs. John Frank Johnson, "Dr. William Gaston Johnson," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, October 3, 1963;

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North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that the Johnson Farm encompassed 107 acres in 1925. George Wesley Johnson cultivated 43 acres that year, producing corn, wheat, soybeans, hay, other grasses, field truck crops, and 45 pecan trees, and raising 100 hens, 13 milk cows, and 1 pig. The farm size and crop production remained constant in 1935, when 12 people resided on the property and tenants planted and harvested 71 acres. In 1945, 6 people lived on the 107-acre farm and cultivated 60 acres, growing corn, wheat, oats, hay, other vegetable crops, and 24 fruit-bearing trees.¹¹¹ Davie County property record cards indicate that the Johnsons updated their house in 1950.

J. D. Furches purchased the property in the late 1980s. His daughter Paula is now in residence.

Tenant House **ca. 1920** **Contributing Building**
One-story, weatherboarded dwelling with gabled roof.

Barn (general) **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**
One-story, weatherboarded barn with a front-gable metal roof and an equipment shed addition on the east elevation.

Shed - general storage **ca. 1990** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, front-gable-roofed, prefabricated metal shed.

Boone Trail Highway Marker **ca. 1925-26** **Contributing Object**
Farmington Road

Farmington's Boone Highway Trail marker, erected by the Village Improvement Society, stands at the southwest corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North. The monument, which was the thirty-eighth registered through Everett Marshall's efforts, consists of a triangular-shaped fieldstone pedestal with two tablets, one of Rich's Daniel Boone plaques above a rectangular plaque with the inscription "Daniel Boone lived 2 miles S. E., His parents are buried 8 miles S---Here passed the armies of Greene and Cornwallis to Guilford C. H." Four cannon balls line the marker's rim and a flagpole rises from the center.

Mr. Marshall believes that the Farmington monument was erected in 1925-1926 and that it was most likely a companion to the Boone Trail Highway Marker in Mocksville, dedicated on March 16, 1925. The tablet style also lends credence to this date, as the Farmington and Mocksville tablets are the second Boone marker design, which Rich began using in 1925.¹¹²

"Johnson Family," <http://www.fmoran.com/johnson.html>.

¹¹¹ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945.

¹¹² Everett G. Marshall, *Rich Man*, 216, 305; Everett G. Marshall, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, November 26, 2009.

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John Francis and Mildred Johnson House 1949, 1959 Contributing Building
1927 Farmington Road

One-story, side-gable-roofed, frame, Minimal Traditional-style house with a small gabled entrance porch supported by metal posts and a gabled screened porch extending from the south elevation. The six-over-six sash are replacements and the house has been sheathed in vinyl siding.

George Wesley Johnson's son John Francis and his wife Mildred erected this house in 1949. The couple subsequently moved to Winston-Salem, as John worked for Piedmont Airlines and Mildred was employed by Hanes Hosiery.¹¹³ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1959.

Shed - general storage ca. 1950 Contributing Building
One-story, concrete block shed with a front-gable metal roof, exposed rafter ends, German-sided gables, and a single-leaf entrance on the south elevation.

Shed - general storage ca. 1980 Noncontributing Building
One-story, prefabricated, frame, gambrel-roofed shed with a double-leaf entrance on the south elevation.

Farmington M. E. Church South Marker 1935 Contributing Object
Farmington Road

Farmington Methodist Church is set back almost four hundred feet from Farmington Road. A monument constructed of round stones and bearing a marble plaque inscribed "Farmington M. E. Church South, 1881-1935" stands at the end of the path that leads from Farmington Road to the sanctuary entrance. The original walkway has been removed and replaced with grass, but is still lined by deciduous trees.

Farmington Methodist Church 1882, 1924, 1950 Contributing Building
1939 Farmington Road

This one-story, frame, front-gable-roofed sanctuary features a three-story entrance belltower with a hexagonal spire. Three tiers of paired and tripled louvered rectangular and arched vents pierce the tower. Concrete steps with stone side walls and metal railings lead to a large double-leaf door with arched upper panels. Tall stained-glass windows with arched hoods illuminate the sanctuary. The decorative brackets and paneled frieze ornamenting the deep eaves were left in place when the building was sheathed in vinyl siding. Gabled education and office wings extend from the sanctuary's west elevation. The north educational wing, added in 1924, retains stained-glass sash; the west and south wings, constructed in 1950, have vinyl replacement windows. A brick fire wall separates the north wing from the west and south wings.

¹¹³ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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Early residents of the Bryan settlement in what would become Davie County's Farmington Township organized a small Methodist congregation in 1804, first meeting in a log school, but soon purchasing an acre of land across the road to construct a sanctuary. The congregation, called Olive Branch, continued to grow throughout the nineteenth century, and, given the age of their church and the fact that their cemetery was almost full, they decided in 1881 to erect a new church in Farmington, about one-and-a-half miles to the north. George Wesley Johnson donated two acres for this purpose, as well as approximately six acres to the west to serve as a community cemetery.¹¹⁴

The building committee—B. Frank Lunn, Richard E. Brock, and John Frank Johnson—and general contractor J. M. Pennington supervised the church construction, which began in the summer of 1881 and was completed by the April 1882 dedication at a cost of \$2,756.44. A. W. Ellis provided the sawn lumber. The shutters, doors, and window sash were ordered from a millwork factory. The congregation's greatest expenses other than building materials and labor were the church bell, which cost \$154.00 and the organ, which was \$106.00.¹¹⁵

The original sanctuary has been updated several times, first in 1916 when the clear glass windows and shutters were removed and replaced with stained-glass memorial windows. The Ladies Aid Society paid for improvements including replacing the original spire and the front steps in 1920. They funded the construction of an educational wing containing three Sunday School rooms in 1924 with the compilation and sales of a Farmington Cookbook. William E. Kennen, William A. Taylor, and T. Herbert Nicholson served as the project's building committee. A new pulpit platform was installed soon after, and furnished with three oak Mission-style chairs and a table constructed by local cabinetmaker John Ralph James.¹¹⁶ The church was further expanded in 1950 with the construction of the west and south rear wings.

Farmington Methodist Church's Sunday School began meeting in 1882 and soon numbered over one hundred members. Pastor Lucius E. Stacy's wife organized the Ladies Aid Society in 1892 and served as the first president. Centenary Methodist Church in Winston-Salem sponsored the creation of a Womans' Missionary society, which met at the home of Mabel Ellis Redmon in May 1925. Pastor Clyde McKinney's wife was the first president.¹¹⁷

(former) Farmington Methodist Church Parsonage 1890 Contributing Building
1951 Farmington Road

The Farmington Methodist Church congregation erected this house in 1890 to serve as their parsonage.¹¹⁸ The

¹¹⁴ Mary Nell Hartman Lashley, "History of the Farmington Methodist Church on its Fiftieth Anniversary, 1882-1932."

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid. See Davie County Deed Book 12, page 569, for deed conveying the one-acre lot upon which the parsonage was constructed from William Gaston Johnson to the church trustees on April 2, 1890.

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two-story house has a T-plan, with a front-gable wing at the north end and a side-gable wing extending to the south. Italianate features include the sawnwork brackets that embellish the cornices and the square posts with sawnwork brackets that support the hip-roofed front porch. Sidelights and a transom surround the front door. The house retains original two-over-two sash, rectangular gable vents, and a metal roof. Two one-story ells project from the west (rear) elevation; the south ell is larger and taller. The main block's two interior chimney stacks and the south ell's end chimney have been reconstructed. A two-bay, shed-roofed carport has been added to the west end of the rear ells.

The interior retains original plaster walls, tall baseboards, beadboard ceilings, post-and-lintel mantels, and a stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail that rises from the center hall's west end to a landing above the front door. As in several other Farmington dwellings, plaster arches frame the recesses on either side of the chimney in the southeast room, which served as the parlor. The dining room mantel features geometric forms incised on the central and side panels. Molded surrounds frame the windows and original paneled doors. Two-light transoms surmount each door that leads into a hall. Electric light fixtures, probably installed about the time Farmington received electric service in 1921, remain in all of the principal rooms. Carpeting covers the original wide pine floors in the halls and bedrooms, and acoustical tiles sheathe the dining room ceiling.

The congregation constructed a new brick parsonage at the west end of the church lot in 1960 and Eddie Cantrell (1924-2003) and Willa (1929-2002) Newsome acquired the original parsonage, moving in on February 24, 1961 after making repairs and updating the kitchen and bathroom. The Newsomes subsequently installed aluminum siding and shutters, storm windows and doors, central heating and air conditioning, and new flooring and wall coverings; lowered the front porch; insulated the house; enclosed the porch at the south ell's west end to create a family room; and constructed the carport. They also removed the outbuildings and landscaping, paved the driveway, and replaced the well. Willa's father, Willard Whitson, was a brick mason and laid the hearth in the new family room and the walkway outside. The hearth covers the well that originally provided the residents with water; it now serves as a repository for ashes from the fireplace. The house now belongs to Maria Newsome, who is Eddie and Willa's daughter.¹¹⁹

Willa Newsome taught school in Davie County for thirty-six years. Eddie Newsome worked for the Johnson Family on their Clemmons farm at what is now Tanglewood Park, and would drive livestock between the Johnson Farm and the Methodist Children's Home in Winston-Salem. He maintained a lifelong connection to the Children's Home after growing up there. Mr. Newsome later owned Curtis Breeding Service, a cattle breeding operation. He was a charter member of the Farmington Ruritan Club in 1966, served on the Volunteer Fire Department's board of directors, was a member of the Pino Grange, and promoted 4-H club activities. The Pino-Farmington Development Association honored him with a "Man of the Year" award in 1969 for his many

¹¹⁹ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 135; narrative detailing house history in the possession of Maria Newsome; Maria Newsome, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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years of community involvement.¹²⁰

Furniture Shop 1985 Noncontributing Building

Eddie Newsome constructed this one-story, gable-roofed outbuilding with board-and-batten siding, six-over-six sash, board-and-batten doors, and a metal roof. His daughter Maria assisted with the project.

Thomas Herbert and Sallie M. Nicholson House 1910, 1975 Contributing Building **1959 Farmington Road**

This two-story, weatherboarded, frame house has a T-plan, with a front-gable wing at the north end and a side-gable wing extending to the south. Tuscan columns support the front porch, which wraps around the dwelling's northeast corner. Large one-over-one replacement sash illuminate the main block; Craftsman four-over-one sash light the one-story shed-roofed sunporch that extends from the south elevation. Decorative metal shingles sheath the roof and gable ends. A one-story gabled ell with an enclosed porch on its south elevation projects from the west (rear) elevation. Two interior brick chimneys serve the main block; a stovepipe chimney rises from the ell's west end beside the root cellar entrance. The flat-roofed rear porch had been constructed by 1985; the gabled rear carport is a more recent addition.

Thomas Herbert Nicholson (1888-1975) constructed this house in 1910 and married Sallie Minn Ellis on June 5, 1913 in Farmington Methodist Church. According to the 1920 Federal census, he was a sawmill operator and had an infant son. The Nicholson family eventually moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, selling the house and furnishings after placing an ad in the *Mocksville Enterprise* in 1924, but Mr. Nicholson maintained his Farmington connection through frequent visits. In 1971, long after the death of his first wife, he married Farmington resident and teacher Vada Johnson (1889-1977) in 1971. (The couple lived in Knoxville.) Subsequent owners included the Deal family, George M. and Bertha Green Johnson, and the Brock family. Linda and Richard Yokeley purchased the house in 1973 and updated the house in 1975, enclosing the rear ell's porch and constructing the flat-roofed rear porch. The Yokeleys sold the property to the Longs in 1976.¹²¹

Later owners include the Ellis family, who updated the interior during their tenure and sold the property to William Wilburn Spillman Sr. and his wife Mary in 1994. The Spillmans have not altered the residence in any way. Mr. Spillman's family owned a farm at the end of what is now Spillman Road in Farmington early in the twentieth century and also farmed in Florida in the winter from around 1910 until 1920. He remembers transporting produce back and forth in a large wagon. William and Mary owned a cattle farm nearby before

¹²⁰ Maria Newsome, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009; Sherman Shore, "Top Citizens Get Awards," *Twin City Sentinel*, April 18, 1969. Although William Neal Reynolds, brother of tobacco magnate R. J. Reynolds, purchased much of what had been Johnson family property in 1921, the Johnsons still owned farms in the area. Sanford C. Harper, Jr., a Coca-Cola executive, purchased the Johnson Farm at what is now the Tanglewood Park Nature Center to serve as his country retreat in the 1950s. Forsyth County acquired the property in 1961.

¹²¹ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 137; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1920; Home sale notice, *Mocksville Enterprise*, June 12, 1924; Davie County marriage records; Davie County property record cards.

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purchasing their current home.¹²²

Ernest P. and Estelle L. Walker House **ca. 1905, 1920, 1940** **Contributing Building**
1969 Farmington Road

This one-story, weatherboarded, frame dwelling has a side-gabled roof with a front-gabled wing at the south end, creating an L-shaped form. A small gable surmounts the central entrance to the hip-roofed wraparound porch, which is supported by square posts on stuccoed piers spanned by a modern wood railing. A portion of the porch's south section is screened and an enclosed shed room occupies the western end. Original two-over-two sash illuminate the house with the exception of the picture window in the front gable, which had been added by 1985. An interior chimney with a stuccoed, corbelled stack pierces the metal roof. The dwelling is simply detailed, with diamond-shaped attic vents, exposed eave brackets, and a stuccoed foundation. A series of shed additions extend from the rear gabled wing.

Ernest Price Walker (1884-1970) erected this house in the early twentieth century. He served as Farmington's postmaster from November 12, 1909 to November 14, 1914 and operated the Farmington Cash Store, which purchased and sold local produce as well as groceries, notions, dry goods, candy, and fruit. Walker married Estelle L. Ward on October 23, 1910 and the couple had three young children—Norman G., Mary L., and Nancy V.—in 1920. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1920 and 1940. The Furches family occupied the house by the mid-1940s. Herald Wood acquired the property in 1963 and owned it in 1985.¹²³

Outbuilding **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**

One-story concrete block outbuilding with a front-gable metal roof, exposed rafter ends, German-sided gables, four-light window sash, and an entrance on the east elevation.

Mobile Home **ca. 1970s** **Noncontributing Building**
1977 Farmington Road

One-story, metal-sided mobile home with a flat-roofed frame porch on the south elevation. Wood steps with a wood railing lead to the entrance.

Carport **ca. 1980** **Noncontributing Structure**
One-story metal carport with a low front-gable roof.

¹²² William Wilburn and Mary Spillman, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

¹²³ Kirk Mohny, survey file, 1985; *Farmington Ladies Aid Society, Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 102; 1920 Federal Census, Population Schedule; Davie County marriage records.

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Ward-Tucker House
1983 Farmington Road

ca. 1853, 1920, 1940

Contributing Building

This one-story, side-gable-roofed, three-bay, weatherboarded, frame house faces south, presenting a gabled end to Farmington Road. Chamfered posts support the porch, which wraps around the south, east, and north elevations, terminating at a gabled wing that projects from the north elevation. The porch's southwest end is screened and connects with the screened porch of the gabled wing that extends from the west elevation. A central brick chimney pierces the metal roof, serving the main block's two rooms. A brick end chimney rises from west wing's gable end. Interior photographs taken in 1985 show a vernacular Greek Revival-style post-and-lintel mantel and a two-panel door.

This modest dwelling is thought to be one of the oldest in Farmington. According to local tradition, George Wesley Johnson erected the building in conjunction with the first Davie County Fair, which took place in Farmington on November 11, 1853. Grey Johnson Walls asserted that Johnson constructed the house for his employee, Milton Clegg Ward (1849-1938) who resided there with his wife Mary Lille Cuthrell (1856-1936) and their children. Their son James Levin Ward (1883-1975) and his wife Nan Smith (1889-1966) inherited the property, which federal census takers valued at \$750 in 1930. Subsequent occupants included L. J. Horn, who operated the store across the road; Aida Atkinson; and George Nissen Tucker (1892-1975) and his wife Carrie Stroud, who purchased the house in 1944. Carrie still owned the property in 1985.¹²⁴ Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1920 and 1940.

Wellhouse

ca. 1900

Contributing Building

One-story weatherboarded wellhouse with a rear storage room, a metal gable roof, and exposed rafter ends. The square wood wellcover is intact. A wood lattice screen covers a portion of the opening on the north elevation.

Griffin-James House
1991 Farmington Road

1906, 1945

Contributing Building

This weatherboarded frame I-house is distinguished by a hip-roofed wraparound porch with Tuscan columns and a gable over the central entrance, two gabled dormers with pointed-arched windows on the front roof slope, and pressed-metal shingles in the gables. One-over-one sash illuminate the interior. Two interior chimneys rise from the rear (west) elevation to serve the main block. One- and two-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation. The yard has been extensively landscaped since 1985. A metal carport stands at the driveway's west end.

Dr. Ernest Griffin (d. 1944) built this house in 1906 and served as Farmington's general practice physician until 1919, when he moved to King. Elsie Clarence (1887-1962) and Harriet Groce (1888-1971) James subsequently

¹²⁴ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140.

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purchased the property. The couple owned a 112-acre farm in 1925, where tenants tended 30 hens and 1 milk cow and grew cotton, corn, and wheat, hay, field truck crops, a home garden, and 30 pecan trees on 57 acres. By 1935, the James farm encompassed 132 acres, with 70 cultivated acres yielding corn, cotton, wheat, oats, rye, hay, Irish and sweet potatoes, and commercial truck crops. Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was updated in 1945 when five people resided on the farm, which had been significantly reduced in size to 48 acres, all but two acres of which were planted in corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, hay, and a home garden. The family also owned 4 fruit trees, 3 milk cows, and four hens. In addition to farming, Mr. James operated general stores in several locations in Farmington and served as postmaster from May 12, 1936 until the Farmington post office closed on September 22, 1951. The Jameses resided in the house until their deaths. Donnie McDaniel purchased the property in 1984.¹²⁵

John and Betty Jo Hartman House **1953, 1963** **Contributing Building**
2007 Farmington Road

Brick Ranch house with a wide brick chimney and one-over-one replacement sash on the façade. Two-over-two horizontal sash flank the small gabled entrance porch supported by metal posts that shelters the south entrance. The house appears to have been constructed in two phases.

John and Betty Jo Hartman erected this house on Hartman family property.¹²⁶ Davie County property record cards indicate that this house was contracted in 1953 and updated in 1963.

Garage **ca. 1955** **Contributing Building**
One-story, two-bay, front-gable-roofed brick garage with a frame, shed-roofed, one-bay addition on the west elevation.

Charles A. and Maggie M. Hartman House **ca. 1880** **Contributing Building**
2021 Farmington Road

This weatherboarded frame I-house is distinguished by a wraparound porch supported by Tuscan columns. Sidelights flank the front door and original two-over-two sash illuminate the interior. Two interior chimneys rise from the rear (west) elevation to serve the main block. One- and two-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation and are connected by a two-story shed-roofed hyphen. A standing-seam metal roof protects the house with the exception of the one-story rear ell, which has an asphalt-shingle roof.

Charles Alexander Hartman (1853-1930) was one of Farmington's most prosperous farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to local tradition, he constructed a new home soon after his marriage to Margaret M. Brock (1859-1939), known as "Maggie," on December 18, 1879. The Hartmans

¹²⁵ Ibid., 135; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945.

¹²⁶ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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eventually had four children: Guy L. (b. 1883), Marjorie E. (b. 1889), George A. (b. 1891), and Mary Nell (b. 1894). Census takers reported that their household also included employees and extended family over the years. John Kimball, who worked in Hartman's tobacco factory, resided with the family in 1880. Maggie's mother, Virginia native Margaret Brock, and Fanny Tush, a domestic servant, lived with the Hartmans in 1900.¹²⁷

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory of 1884 lists Hartman as the owner of C. A. Hartman and Company Tobacco Manufacturers. He was active in the community, joining the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265 and serving as a Davie County Commissioner and Farmington's postmaster from April 30, 1904 until August 3, 1908. Hartman partnered with G. H. and Jettie Graham to establish G. H. Graham and Company, a general store at the Farmington Crossroads. Hartman's daughter Marjorie was a milliner, and advertised that her stylish headware was available at the store. Hartman sold the Grahams his interest in the company on January 16, 1916.¹²⁸

North Carolina Farm Census reports indicate that he owned five farms ranging in size from 33 to 152 acres—a total of 480 acres—in 1925. He did not report his crop production, but the census taker noted that they were “good farms.” Hartman also raised and sold livestock including “Red Pole Cattle, Jersey Milch Cows, Bronze Turkeys, Poultry, Cuban Games, and Rhode Island Reds.”¹²⁹

Mr. Hartman passed away on July 10, 1930. In 1935, three people lived on the C. A. Hartman estate, a 145-acre farm where tenants cultivated corn, cotton, tobacco, sorghum cane, hay, and Irish and sweet potatoes on 42 acres. Mr. Hartman's widow Maggie and one other person resided on a 182-acre farm, upon which tenants planted 102 acres in corn, wheat, oats, hay, Irish potatoes, and commercial truck crops. The couple's sons, Guy L. and George A. Hartman, owned a 152-acre farm, where five people resided and grew corn, cotton, wheat, oats, hay, and Irish and sweet potatoes on 89 acres.¹³⁰

Neither son lived on the farm in the mid-1930s, however. Guy had moved to Atlanta and George had graduated from Guilford College and worked for Duke Power in Winston-Salem, where he met and married Minnie Rothrock. The couple relocated to Mocksville in 1940, where George opened Hartman Electric Service and joined the Mocksville United Methodist Church. He also maintained a connection to the Farmington community, becoming a member of the Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265. In 1978, he was honored for sixty years of Masonic service, during which he served as lodge master four times.¹³¹

¹²⁷ “Charles Alexander Hartman,” ancestry.com, accessed on November 24, 2009; Davie County marriage records; Federal Census, Population Schedules, 1880, 1900, 1910).

¹²⁸ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 136; C. A. Hartman, “Dissolution Notice,” *Davie Record*, March 13, 1916; “Stylish Millinery,” *Davie Record*, April 7, 1915; Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 275.

¹²⁹ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 115.

¹³⁰ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935.

¹³¹ “George Hartman is Honored by Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265,” *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, March 23,

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James Ray Graham, who was born in the house directly across NC Highway 801 North (1910 Farmington Road), started this irrigation system installation company, first operating out of the three-story brick commercial building on the southeast corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North that had housed his family's store. He erected a building at the current location in September 1977 and the brick store was demolished around 1980. His sons—James Lee Graham and Phillip Ray Graham—and Ronnie Wall now own the business. Mr. Wall oversees the company's installations at locations such as nurseries, hog and dairy farms (pollution control), Christmas tree farms, wineries, and high school athletic fields in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and eastern Tennessee.¹³³

NC Highway 801 North, South side

Brock's Barber Shop
2275 NC Highway 801 North

1940

Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded commercial building with doors on the north and west elevations, exposed rafter ends, a central stovepipe chimney, and a metal roof. The projecting shed additions that extended from the east and south elevations in 1985 have since been removed. James Hugh Brock constructed this building to serve as his barber shop, which had previously been housed in his building next door. Brock salvaged the lumber for his new barber shop from the Ellis Mill, which stood to the northeast at what is now 2164 NC Highway 801 North, when the mill was demolished. Local cabinetmaker John Ralph James helped him to erect the new building.¹³⁴

Farmington Post Office/Barber Shop
2279 NC Highway 801 North

1928, 1938

Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded building with exposed rafter ends, a central stovepipe chimney, and a metal roof. Two windows with two-over-two sash flank the central front door; a square six-light window pierces the front gable.

James Hugh Brock constructed this building to house Farmington's post office and his barber shop in 1928. His mother, Cora Athans Brock, served as postmistress until May 12, 1936, at which time the post office was relocated. She also operated a small store, selling "cold drinks, fruits, sweets, or anything in good eats." His wife, Nannie Sue Brock, also worked in the store for a short time. The Brocks moved the building to its current location from its original site approximately one hundred feet to the west in 1938, at which time the upper story

¹³³ John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009; James Lee Graham, telephone conversations with Heather Fearnbach, December 15 and December 29, 2009.

¹³⁴ Kirk Mohny, survey file, 1985; James Brock, email correspondence with John Caudle on January 5, 2010 and Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010; Emma Sue Brock Allen, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010.

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was added. The building has functioned as a residence for much of its history.¹³⁵

Rental House **ca. 1950** **Contributing Building**
2281 NC Highway 801 North

One-story, vinyl-sided, side-gable-roofed house with a gabled entrance portico supported by metal posts. This house has always served as a rental property, and one former tenant worked with James Hugh Brock making concrete block. Brock salvaged lumber for the rental house, a barn, and a new barber shop from the Ellis Mill, which stood to the northeast at what is now 2164 NC Highway 801 North, when the mill was demolished.¹³⁶

Garage **ca. 1950** **Contributing Building**
One-story, weatherboarded, front-gable-roofed garage with an open bay.

James Hugh and Nannie Sue Brock House **1928** **Contributing Building**
2283 NC Highway 801 North

One-and-one-half-story vinyl-sided house with a front-gable metal roof and a hip-roofed front porch supported by square posts on concrete block piers. Original four-over-one sash illuminate the interior. A one-story hip-roofed room projects from the rear elevation.

James Hugh Brock was a descendant of Nathaniel and Sarah Eaton Brock, who established a farm in what would become Davie County around 1800. James Hugh Brock (1903-1988) resided with his parents, John Enoch and Cora Athans Brock, in 1920. John reported production on two farms in 1925: a 139-acre property where tenants cultivated corn, wheat, and peas; and a 3-acre tract, where the Brock family lived and grew corn, peas, field truck crops, and a small home garden. Hugh married Nannie Sue Laird (1905-2000), a daughter of Mary Elizabeth Hanes and James William Laird, on January 27, 1926. The Brocks subsequently had three children: James Enoch (b. 1927), Mary Elizabeth (b. 1932), and Emma Sue (b. 1936).¹³⁷

In 1928, the couple built a house on NC Highway 801 North and a frame building, which served as the

¹³⁵ Ibid.; Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 136; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 113.

¹³⁶ James Brock, email correspondence with John Caudle on January 5, 2010 and Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010; Emma Sue Brock Allen, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010.

¹³⁷ James Brock, email correspondence with John Caudle, January 5, 2010; Kirk Mohney, survey file, 1985; "James Hugh Brock" and "Nannie Sue Laird Brock," ancestry.com, accessed on November 24, 2009; Davie County marriage records; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925; Mary Brock West, "James Hugh Brock," *Davie County Heritage*, 149-150; "Nannie Sue Laird Brock," *Salisbury Post*, August 18, 2000. John Enoch Brock (d. 1934) married Cora Athans (1865-1948) on September 14th, 1884. The couple attended Farmington Methodist Church. Mrs. Brock served as Farmington's postmistress from 1919-1936. "Mrs. Brock, Farmington, Dies at age 83," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, undated obituary in the Brock family vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

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Farmington Post Office and a barber shop. Hugh had suffered an illness that caused total hearing loss in 1925, but he was still able to communicate with his customers through lip reading and sign language. He also repaired shoes and manufactured brick, well tile, and concrete block. By 1935, the couple owned a 14.5-acre farm, where tenants planted and harvested corn. In 1940, the Brocks salvaged lumber for a new barber shop, a barn, and a rental house from the Ellis Mill, which stood to the northeast at what is now 2164 NC Highway 801 North, when the mill was demolished.¹³⁸ Nannie Sue worked for Union Carbide during World War II and the Brocks did not report any farm yield in 1945. In 1958, Nannie Sue was severely burned while making furniture polish to refinish her antiques, but recovered after extensive surgery. In 1979, the Brocks constructed a new home two miles east of their other buildings on property that he inherited from his parents.¹³⁹

Outbuilding	1928	Contributing Building
One-story, front-gable-roofed outbuilding with a concrete foundation and a metal roof.		

Garage	1928	Contributing Building
One-story, front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded garage with a shed room on the east elevation and a metal roof.		

Warehouse	1978	Noncontributing Building
2331 NC Highway 801 North		

One-story, side-gable-roofed, metal-sided warehouse. The building rests on a concrete block foundation and has exposed rafter ends and a metal roof. Sliding metal doors on the east and north elevations provide access to the interior. This building does not appear on the 1950 North Carolina Geological Survey aerial photograph of Farmington.

Ed Johnson erected this warehouse to house the fertilizers they sold.¹⁴⁰ Davie County property record cards indicate that the building was constructed in 1978.

Johnson's Grocery and Service	1953, 2009	Noncontributing Building
2339 NC Highway 801 North		

This one-story, concrete block commercial building has a side-gable wing at the west end and a front-gable garage wing at the east end. A local restaurant and convenience store operated at this location for many years, and the building was remodeled in 2009 to serve the same function. The concrete block walls, originally

¹³⁸ Kirk Mohny, survey file, 1985; James Brock, email correspondence with John Caudle on January 5, 2010 and Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010; Emma Sue Brock Allen, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach on January 8, 2010.

¹³⁹ Ibid., North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935 and 1945; Kathy Tomlinson, "The Brocks' Lifelong Dream is Finally Realized," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 3, 1980.

¹⁴⁰ John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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exposed, were covered with vinyl "wood" shakes above a stone veneer foundation and the metal casement windows replaced with thermopane windows.

Ed Johnson and his wife Esther operated a service station, grocery store, and sandwich shop at this location from April 1, 1953 until December 30, 1990. They sold fertilizer from the warehouse next door. Ed, the son of George Wesley and Marian Johnson, grew up in the Johnson family home to the south. Given his proximity to the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department, established in 1953, Ed led the response to daytime fires. The Farmington Community Club named Ed Johnson the area's honorary mayor in 1986.¹⁴¹

Long Farm Equipment **1978** **Noncontributing Building**
2347 NC Highway 801 North

This one-story shed-roofed commercial building is sheathed in metal siding on the east, south, and west elevations and compressed wood fiber panels on the façade (north elevation). A single-leaf entrance on the east elevation and three roll-up garage doors on the façade provide access to the interior.

The building housed Long Farm Equipment, owned by the Furches family.¹⁴²

Roland Road, East Side

Charles W. and Barbara Allen House II **1968, 1978** **Noncontributing Building**
156 Roland Road

One-story brick split-level with an inset front porch supported by turned posts, six-over-six and picture windows, a brick interior chimneys, and an attached two-bay garage extending from the south elevation. A small shed-roofed wing and a wood deck project from the west (rear) elevation. A large pond and two outbuildings are east of the house.

Charles W. and Barbara Allen hired Farmington residents Otis Holt Jr., a general contractor, and Gene Barneycastle to build this house in 1968. They had considered moving back to the Allen farm on NC Highway 801 North, but instead purchased a lot directly across from their residence at 1716 Farmington Road and built a new home. Charles remedied a drainage problem in the front yard by creating a pond about a year after they moved in. He managed the family farm until they sold it in 1971 and operated a grading business until his death in 2007. Barbara, who was employed by the Davie County Hospital and served as a parent involvement

¹⁴¹ Ibid.; "Farmington Landmark Closes Friday," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 4, 1990, p. 7B; Dwight Sparks, "Farmington's New 'Mayor'; Club Honors Johnson Couple for Years of Community Service," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 30, 1986.

¹⁴² John and Rose Caudle, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

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counselor for the Davie County School system, still occupies the house.¹⁴³

Garage **1975** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, frame, shed-roofed garage with metal siding and a metal roof.

Shed - general storage **2006** **Noncontributing Building**
One-story, prefabricated, gambrel-roofed storage building.

Roland Road, East Side

West-Lakey Farm **1915, 1966, 1998** **Contributing Building**
155 Roland Road

Two-story frame bungalow with a full-width inset front porch supported by fluted square posts. The first-story windows retain original four-over-one sash, but the second-story windows contain one-over-one replacement sash. Shed dormers provide additional illumination for the second story, which is accessed by an exterior stair on the south elevation. A small gabled porch supported by square brick posts shelters the entrance at the dwelling's northwest corner, while an engaged porch with identical posts extends from the rear (west) elevation. Brick chimney stacks pierce the roof near the gable ends.

Roland and Bernice Lakey remodeled the bungalow's interior in 1966, removing some partition walls to open up the floor plan and updating the kitchen and bathrooms. In 1998, their granddaughter Lou moved into the house with her husband Leroy Tollison and their son Christopher to care for her grandmother. The Tollisons renovated the upstairs bedrooms and added the exterior stairs to the second floor at that time.¹⁴⁴

Frame outbuildings stand west and south of the house. Modern post-and-wire fences surround the pasture in front of the house and outbuilding complex, which is located on a hill above a creek in the northeast quadrant of the 72.436-acre parcel. Aerial photographs illustrate that the remaining acreage has been cultivated for most of the twentieth century. Windbreaks outline the fields to the south and west.

Davie County property record cards indicate that the house was constructed in 1915, which seems likely as G. L. West purchased 35 ¼ acres from Enos Calvin and Thursa Cordelia Smith (who resided at 1798 Farmington Road but owned land on both sides of the road) for \$1,585 on February 16th of that year. North Carolina Farm Census reports enumerate West with a Mocksville address and as the owner of two farm tracts—a 35-acre property (presumably in Farmington) and a 130-acre parcel—in 1925. A tenant farmer planted 4 acres of grain, 10 acres of wheat, a half-acre home garden, and half-an-acre of truck crops on the 35-acre farm. Farm livestock included 25 hens and 1 milk cow. In 1935, 2 tenants resided on the property, tended a milk cow, and planted

¹⁴³ Barbara Allen, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 3, 2009.

¹⁴⁴ Lou Lakey Tollison, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 30, 2010.

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and harvested 19.5 acres of corn, wheat, hay, and 30 fruit-bearing trees.¹⁴⁵

Roland Winfrey Lakey (1894-1979) and his wife Bernice McClamrock (1904-2000) purchased the 35 ¼-acre farm from G. L. and Laura G. West for \$3,000 on September 13, 1937. Roland was from Cana, a small community southwest of Farmington, where he lived with his parents, Thomas G. and Mary B. Lakey, and siblings. Roland and his older brother Fred worked on the family farm in 1910. Roland still resided in the family home in 1920, but was employed as a sawyer at a lumber mill. He soon married Bernice and may have farmed some of his in-laws' acreage flanking Dutchman's Creek before the couple purchased the West property. (The McClamrock property was northwest of the West tract.) Roland slowly acquired additional acreage, including a 6.2-acre parcel adjoining his farm from Queen Bess Kennan, who lived across the road. Roland and his brother-in-law E. L. McClamrock purchased the 160-acre McClamrock family farm for \$7,717.50 at an auction on November 27, 1943. Lou Tollison remembers that her grandfather raised beef cattle, grew fescue, and transported fertilizer in addition to other farming activities.¹⁴⁶

Roland Lakey is not listed in the North Carolina Farm Census, but his older brother Fred, who lived southwest of Farmington on Cedar Creek Road, is enumerated as the owner of a 113-acre farm in 1925 and 1935. Fred cultivated 60 acres of a 147-acre farm in 1945, producing corn, wheat, oats, hay, and barley. He planted a ¾-acre home garden and tended 20 fruit trees and 23 cows. According to Lou Tollison, it is possible that Fred and Roland reported their farm production jointly.¹⁴⁷

Roland and Bernice Lakey's son, Bobby Gene (1926-2001) and his wife Lou Jean (1929-1996) built a house in the property's northeastern corner (1711 Farmington Road) in 1954. Lou Jean worked for Western Electric after graduating from high school in 1947 and soon had two children, Lou (born 1951) and Roland Winfrey Lakey II (1955-1983). She was later a secretary at Farmington Elementary School and the Mocksville Agricultural Extension Service office. Roland Road was named in memory of the Lakey's son.¹⁴⁸

Equipment Shed

ca. 1920

Contributing Building

One-story, weatherboarded, two-bay garage with exposed rafter ends, a metal shed roof, and an enclosed room on the east end. The western garage bay appears to be an addition.

Smokehouse

ca. 1920, early 1950s

Contributing Building

Tall, narrow, weatherboarded smokehouse with a metal roof and a board-and-batten door. Roland Winfrey Lakey moved this building to his farm from Nestor, where it had served as the small Davie County

¹⁴⁵ Davie County Deed Book 24, page 420; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925 and 1935.

¹⁴⁶ Davie County Deed Book 36, page 258, Book 42, page 44, and Book 40, page 626; Lou Lakey Tollison, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 30, 2010; Sallie James, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 8, 2009; "R. W. Lakey of Mocksville," *Salisbury Post*, February 25, 1979.

¹⁴⁷ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1925, 1935, and 1945; Lou Lakey Tollison, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 31, 2010.

¹⁴⁸ Tollison, *Ibid.*

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community's post office, by the early 1950s. The building retains some of the small compartments used to sort mail.¹⁴⁹

Granary/Equipment Shed **ca. 1920** **Contributing Building**

One-story, front-gable-roofed granary with T-111 siding, a metal roof, a shed-roofed equipment shed on the east elevation and a three-bay, pent-roofed equipment shed on the west elevation. The granary was damaged in a 1988 tornado and subsequently repaired.

Hog Pen/Storage Shed **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**

One-story frame hog pen with metal siding and a metal shed roof. This building has served as a storage shed for many years.

Garage **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**

One-story weatherboarded garage with an open bay and a metal pent roof.

Barn (general) **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**

One-story, frame, front-gable barn with metal siding, a metal roof, and large sliding doors on the west elevation. A shed addition extends from the south elevation; a concrete block silo rises from the east elevation.

¹⁴⁹ Lou Lakey Tollison, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 30, 2010.

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Farmington Historic District, located in northeastern Davie County's Farmington Township, encompasses approximately 324 acres surrounding the intersection of NC Highway 801 North and Farmington Road. The district contains the most cohesive collection of historic residential, agricultural, commercial, religious, and educational buildings associated with the unincorporated community. Although the region's settlement history begins in the early 1750s, the district epitomizes Davie County's agrarian economy from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century, when farm families and farm laborers made up the majority of the population, and is thus of local significance.

The area's emergence as a commercial center began in 1837, when George Wesley Johnson opened a general store and post office at the rural crossroads. Farmington continued to serve as a trading hub through the late nineteenth century and residents operated a number of commercial establishments during this period, including tobacco factories, roller mills (processing grain and feed), sawmills, and a distillery. Despite the success of these commercial endeavors, most Farmington inhabitants still depended on agriculture as their primary income source. Davie County farms more than tripled in number in the decades after the Civil War, and, by 1925, owners, tenant farmers, and sharecroppers cultivated 525 Farmington Township farms encompassing 8,034 acres. Many farmers and their families attended Farmington's Baptist and Methodist churches and the private and public schools that provided educational opportunities for the area's children. The crossroads community remained a social and economic center through the mid-twentieth century. The Farmington Historic District thus meets National Register Criterion A for settlement, agriculture, and commerce.

The collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings that lines Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North reflects the community's prosperity during the period of significance. Farmington contains an intact assemblage of vernacular dwellings and other edifices manifesting nationally popular architectural styles, thus meeting National Register Criterion C for architecture. The district's oldest extant dwellings, including the circa 1850 Cash-Smith-Allen House, display traditional forms, plans, and finishes. George Wesley Johnson employed skilled craftsmen to construct his finely-detailed, brick, Greek Revival-style residence in 1854-55 and procured items including window sash, shutters, and hardware from eastern North Carolina manufacturers and distributors. The Johnson Family House is one of Davie County's most significant extant Greek Revival-style dwellings.

By the late nineteenth century, Farmington residents purchased standardized building materials and inexpensive millwork from factories in nearby urban areas such as Mocksville, Winston-Salem, Statesville, and Salisbury. The edifices they built during this period thus reflected the increasingly elaborate architectural expression made possible by industrial advances. Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman-style houses were constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, followed by Minimal Traditional-style and Ranch houses in the mid-twentieth century.

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The earliest outbuildings in the Farmington Historic District were erected in the vernacular tradition of Piedmont farm buildings, utilizing readily available materials and basic framing techniques. The more recent outbuildings manifest progressive agricultural trends, conforming to specifications published in *The Progressive Farmer* and Agricultural Extension Service bulletins. The early-twentieth-century West-Lakey Farm at the district's south end contains one of Farmington's most intact farm complexes.

The district's period of significance begins circa 1850, the construction date of Farmington's earliest extant building, and continues to 1960, encompassing all of the resources erected during the primary years of the community's development. The Farmington Historic District contains sixty-seven primary and seventy-four secondary resources, sixty-five percent of which are contributing.

Historical Background and Settlement, Agriculture, and Commerce Context

The earliest inhabitants of what is now northeastern Davie County were Native Americans who settled along a river they called the "Yattken," a Siouan word meaning "place of big trees." Archaeological investigation of a rock shelter near the river's "Great Bend" revealed that the cave had been used for 8,500 years, initially by nomadic hunters and then by villagers who farmed the fertile flood plain. Although these Native Americans did not espouse tribal affiliations, early white explorers categorized them as Saponi and Tutelo. By the late seventeenth century, interactions with Iroquois raiding parties and increasing numbers of white trappers, traders, and explorers had taken their toll on the Saponi and Tutelo, reducing their numbers to less than a thousand. Survivors began slowly moving north around 1710, where they eventually resided on Iroquois reservations in New York and Canada.¹⁵⁰

By the late 1740s, the Yadkin River valley, depleted of Native American occupants, began to fill with white immigrants moving south from Pennsylvania and Virginia along the Great Wagon Road. Morgan Bryan, William Linville, and Edward Hughes were among the first permanent residents of what would become Forsyth County, settling on the Yadkin River's eastern bank in 1747-1748 near a shallow ford that was one of the few river crossings suitable for heavy wagons. Thousands of immigrants passed through the crossing, located between present-day Lewisville and Farmington, as they pressed further into the southern frontier in the decades prior to the American Revolution.¹⁵¹

The Bryans, who came to North Carolina from New Garden, a Quaker community in Chester County, Pennsylvania, moved to the Yadkin River's west side in the early 1750s. Morgan Bryan and his sons Morgan Jr., William, Samuel, James, John, Joseph, and Thomas acquired substantial amounts of land throughout the Piedmont, including approximately five thousand acres in what would become northeastern Davie County, then

¹⁵⁰ Merrikay Brown and Jerry Carroll, co-chairs, Historical Booklet Committee, *The Changing Face of Forsyth County, North Carolina: A Guide to Its Heritage and History* (Winston-Salem: Forsyth County Public Library, 2004), 1; Frank V. Tursi, *Winston-Salem: A History* (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1994), 5-13.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 15-17.

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known as the Bryan Settlement. Other Pennsylvania Quakers and Bryan family acquaintances such as Jonathan Boone, who married Salisbury founder James Carter's daughter Mary and established a farm southeast of the Bryans, migrated to the area at about the same time. A ford at the confluence of the Yadkin and South Yadkin rivers was named after him. Jonathan's father, Squire Boone, and his brother Daniel soon followed, and, like other early settlers, supplemented their farm production by hunting, fishing, and trapping. Daniel married Joseph Bryan's daughter Rebecca in 1756 and, according to local tradition, the couple's first home was about two miles from present-day Farmington.¹⁵²

The region's abundant water supply, natural resources, and fertile soil proved to be attractive to many English, Scots-Irish, and German immigrants. Increased settlement precipitated the formation of a new county, Rowan, which encompassed the area west of Orange County and north of Anson County, in 1753. That same year, after six months of exploring North Carolina in search of suitable land to settle, a group of Moravians led by Bishop August G. Spangenburg purchased 98,985 acres in Rowan County from John Carteret (Lord Granville). They called the property "Wachau" after the Austrian estate of their benefactor and spiritual leader Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. The tract later became known by the Latin form of the name, Wachovia. The Moravians kept detailed records of their daily activities, and mentioned visiting the Bryans and other colonists to hold worship services on numerous occasions.¹⁵³

In order to protect these pioneers during the French and Indian War, the colonial legislature funded the construction of Fort Dobbs, North Carolina's only frontier provincial fort, in 1756. The Moravians palisaded Bethabara, their first town in Wachovia, that year and settlers including William Johnson, who purchased 640 acres from William Linville in the southwest corner of what would become Forsyth County in 1757, also erected protective fortifications. Despite these efforts, almost half of Rowan County's estimated 1,551 residents in 1756 fled east to safer territory by 1759.¹⁵⁴

Only a few intrepid settlers other than the Bryans acquired land grants in what would become Davie County's Farmington Township before the French and Indian War's end in the early 1760s. Evan Ellis purchased two large tracts on Cedar and Sugar creeks in 1761. Migration to the backcountry resumed by the mid-1760s, however, and escalated until the Revolutionary War began, sparking contention within the colonies. Families such as the Bryans had divided loyalties. Many settlers were patriots, but Morgan Bryan's son Samuel led other upper Yadkin residents in support of the British cause. This tension may have prompted some of the Bryans to move deeper into the frontier around 1779. They established a community called Bryan Station near what is now Lexington, Kentucky, conveying a substantial amount of their Piedmont North Carolina acreage to new settlers. William Allen, William Williams, Peter Eaton, Henry Rich, William Dickens, Jeremiah Clark, William

¹⁵² Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 23-26; James W. Wall, correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 14, 2010. The Bryan surname is spelled a variety of ways, including "Bryant," in early deeds and records. However, given that noted Davie County historian James Wall preferred "Bryan," this nomination also utilizes that spelling.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, 23. Penelope Niven, *Old Salem: The Official Guidebook* (Winston-Salem: Old Salem, Inc., 2004), 8-17.

¹⁵⁴ James W. Wall, *Davie County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1976), 6.

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Brown, John Johnson, Morris Stogdel, John Rutledge, James Roberts, Jonathan Hunt, Charles Hunt, Stephen Watt, and Joseph Howell purchased land grants near Cedar and Sugar Creeks in the 1780s.¹⁵⁵ In some cases, these property owners resided on their tracts, but in others they subdivided the land grant acreage and sold smaller parcels.

The largest population influx into the area just west of the Yadkin River occurred around 1800, when former Currituck County residents including the Brickhouse, Ferebee, Brock, Taylor, Fulford, Cuthrell, Balance, Kinyoun, Brunct, Lunns, and Lee families moved inland, settling along Cedar, Dutchman, Hunting, and Bear creeks. Rowan County continued to be a destination for Currituck County farmers seeking fertile land and temperate weather through the 1830s, with migration escalating each time severe hurricanes struck the North Carolina coast. The thriving community on the Mocksville-to-Huntsville Road was thus called "Little Currituck" for many years.¹⁵⁶

Organizations such as the Rowan County Agricultural Society, established in 1821, encouraged these early settlers' efforts to establish successful farms. Charles Fisher, the society's first president, promoted the use of new machinery and fertilizers as well as advancements in livestock care and breeding methods. Annual agricultural fairs and journals also provided farmers with guidance intended to facilitate increased production.¹⁵⁷

Settlers in the area between the two forks of the Yadkin River prospered in the early nineteenth century, but it was not until December 1836 that state legislators acknowledged their need for more localized government and created Davie County, named in honor of Revolutionary leader and North Carolina governor William R. Davie, from Rowan County's western section. Mocksville was named the county seat in January 1837, the same year that George Wesley Johnson built a two-story, frame, side-gable-roofed store and opened Davie County's fifth post office in Farmington, thus renaming the community formerly known as "Little Currituck."¹⁵⁸

It is likely that George Wesley Johnson's decision to locate his home and business only about eight miles from his family's farm on the east side of the Yadkin River was influenced by his father's death in 1835 at the age of forty-eight, which left George, as the oldest son, in the position of providing for his stepmother and siblings as well as his new bride, Martha Williams Taylor. He proved equal to the challenge, as his plantation soon became one of Davie County's largest, containing orchards and vineyards as well as a blacksmith's forge and tin shop, a carpentry shop that produced furniture and coffins, a tannery, and a brickyard. In 1850, Johnson's

¹⁵⁵ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 88-89, 293, Andrew Lagle, "Davie County Land Grants," map drawn in 1976; Fred Hughes, "Davie County, North Carolina Historical Documentation," map drawn in 1977.

¹⁵⁶ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 88-89; "Little Currituck," *Winston-Salem Journal*, May 28, 1996.

¹⁵⁷ Wall, *Davie County: A Brief History*, 55.

¹⁵⁸ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 416; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 293-294. George Wesley Johnson initially called the community "the town of Farming" but the U. S. Postal Service changed the name to Farmington when the post office was established on May 1, 1837. Polly Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 3.

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household included immediate and extended family members as well as Calvin Liverman (a nineteen-year-old blacksmith) and fifteen slaves, seven of whom were children under ten years of age. His farm encompassed 250 improved and 215 unimproved acres, real estate valued at \$2,705, and farm equipment worth \$300.¹⁵⁹

Davie County's population increased slowly during the first decades after the county's formation, growing from 7,318 residents in 1830 to 7,885 in 1850. Most occupants—an estimated ninety percent—were engaged in agriculture, either as farm owners or farm laborers. In 1850, census takers enumerated 1,027 Davie County families and 404 farmsteads encompassing 45,770 improved acres. The vast majority of heads-of-household were self-sufficient white farmers; only 102 free African Americans resided in the county. Farmers typically relied upon their family members to provide manual labor, but Davie County residents also owned a total of 1,888 slaves in 1840. The vast majority (200) of the 271 households included in the 1843 tax list included one to three slaves. An additional sixty families owned between four and nine slaves, eight households contained between ten and nineteen slaves, and three planters owned between twenty and forty slaves. Farm families and slaves grew subsistence crops, raised livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens), and sold farm products including tobacco, cotton, wool, flax, peas, potatoes, butter, beeswax, and honey at local and regional markets.¹⁶⁰

George Wesley Johnson's store served as one such market. He purchased inventory in Philadelphia, transporting goods to North Carolina by wagon, and in Wilmington, where he shipped merchandise by barge to Fayetteville, where it was transferred to wagons for the journey to Farmington. He allowed local farmers to barter for goods and transported and sold their farm products, as well as his own, to merchants in Fayetteville and Wilmington. He may have also purchased and marketed the wares of local craftsman such as potter William A. James. Johnson benefited from greatly improved travel conditions along this route after the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road linked Wilmington to Salem in 1852. He eventually erected a three-story brick store with a decorative corbelled façade to house his business, using the original frame building to store feed, seed, and fertilizer.¹⁶¹

Johnson was also busy with a number of other construction projects during this period. According to local tradition, the Farmington Historic District's earliest extant building is the dwelling he erected at what is now 1983 Farmington Road in conjunction with the first Davie County Fair, which took place in Farmington on

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.fmoran.com/johnson.html>; Federal Census, Population, Slave, and Agriculture schedules, 1850; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 88-89, 293, Andrew Lagle, "Davie County Land Grants," map drawn in 1976. Although John Johnson and Robert Johnson purchased large tracts of land on Cedar and Sugar creeks in 1780 and 1783, their property was south of the acreage George Wesley Johnson acquired and there does not appear to be a direct relationship between the men. George Wesley Johnson's father was also named John, but he was not born until 1787. Martha Williams Taylor was the daughter of Little Currituck residents Spencer and Esther Etheridge Taylor.

¹⁶⁰ Wall, *Davie County: A Brief History*, 51, 62; Federal Census, Population, Slave, and Agriculture schedules, 1850; J. D. B. DeBow, *The Seventh Census of the United States: 1850* (Washington: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer, 1853), 318, 320-323.

¹⁶¹ E. W. Martin, "George Wesley Johnson," *Davie County Heritage*, 230-231; Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks," April 8, 1956; Federal Census, Population schedule 1850.

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November 11, 1853. He began constructing a brick Greek Revival-style house and a brick kitchen and smokehouse about a year later, in late August 1854. Johnson itemized the building expenses in his journal, indicating that he paid brick mason M. C. Norman \$300 and carpenter Albert Sheek \$675, sizable amounts for the time but only a small portion of the approximately \$6,000 overall construction cost. He purchased the window sash and shutters from an eastern North Carolina factory and transported them to Farmington via wagons from Fayetteville. The house was completed on July 1855 and functioned as the seat of his growing plantation. Johnson owned 670 acres in 1854; by 1860, his holdings had almost doubled to 1150 acres and he owned thirty slaves, supervised by his overseer John Pots. Johnson was one of only five Davie County farmers whose property encompassed more than one thousand acres that year.¹⁶²

Other Farmington Township residents also prospered during the mid-nineteenth century. William Brittain Brock owned a farm near Farmington worth approximately \$3,000 in 1850. His household consisted of his wife Frances and six of their children; Ephraim Williams, a nineteen-year-old laborer; Icy Williams, most likely Ephraim's wife; five adult slaves between the ages of eighteen and thirty-nine; and four enslaved children, ages one to eight. Brock's farm was almost as large as George Wesley Johnson's, containing 200 improved and 200 unimproved acres, real estate valued at \$2,300, and farm equipment worth \$175 in 1850. He owned 7 horses, 8 milk cows, 15 other cattle, 40 sheep, and 80 hogs, altogether valued at \$620. Farm production amounted to 160 bushels of wheat, 125 bushels of rye, 2000 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 20 pounds of wool, 50 bushels of peas and beans, 50 bushels of Irish potatoes, 75 bushels of sweet potatoes, 20 tons of hay, 50 pounds of flax, and 5 bushels of flax seed.¹⁶³

Dr. James Washington Wiseman, who became one of Farmington's most prominent community members, purchased 462 acres south of George Wesley Johnson's plantation in 1852 and soon built a residence at what is now 1696 Farmington Road. He also established a medical practice, seeing patients in a small office that stood near his home. Census takers valued Wiseman's real estate at \$7,000 and personal property at \$11,700 in 1860. His household included his wife, Alphonsine "Senia" Douthit; his mother, Nancy Wiseman, who was a seamstress; W. P. Tague, a student; and A. Grimes, a laborer, that year. Dr. Wiseman owned four slaves: two men (ages 21 and 40), a young woman (16) and a one-year-old boy.¹⁶⁴

A dramatic shift in Davie County's agricultural practices occurred in the 1850s, when bright-leaf tobacco, the cultivation and processing of which was very labor-intensive, replaced cotton as the primary cash crop. County farmers acquired additional slaves to augment their labor needs, resulting in an upsurge in the county's African American population from 2,170 enslaved men, women, and children in 1850 to 2,392 slaves in 1860. Many Davie County farmers increased production during this decade and sold crops including wheat, corn, oats,

¹⁶² Kirk Franklin Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County, North Carolina* (Winston-Salem: Winston Printing Company, 1986, 138, 140; Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks," Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 133.

¹⁶³ Federal Census, Population, Slave, and Agriculture Schedules, 1850.

¹⁶⁴ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 141; Federal Census, Population and Slave Schedules, 1860.

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potatoes, and tobacco in Mocksville, Yadkinville, Statesville, and Winston. The Western North Carolina Railroad extension from Salisbury to Statesville in 1858 greatly improved transportation in the region and encouraged commercial agriculture and industry along the route, but, even then, isolated rural subsistence farms and crossroads communities predominated. In 1860, census takers valued Davie County farms, which encompassed 59,974 improved and 90,004 unimproved acres, at \$1,388,642.¹⁶⁵

Although the majority of Davie County residents initially opposed secession from the Union, Confederate support strengthened by late spring of 1861, when the first two of the county's eight volunteer military companies were organized. Many Farmington men and boys joined companies E or F of the Forty-second Regiment. George Wesley and Martha Johnson's sons John Madison, Francis Marion, James Lafayette, and William Gaston; Dr. Wiseman, who served as an assistant surgeon for Company F; merchant Thomas Horne; and farmers Thomas Brock, Shadrach Etchison, William Smith, Benjamin Bowles, and Samuel Rich are just a few of the Farmington Township residents who enlisted early in the war.¹⁶⁶

Most southern farmers suffered great economic challenges including substantial losses of material goods, livestock, and labor during the war years. The absence of a young male labor force made farm management difficult, and the cost of basic staples rose dramatically, leaving many households unable to afford basic necessities. George Wesley Johnson served on a Davie County committee appointed in December 1861 to assist soldiers' struggling families and equip volunteer military companies. He subsequently loaned the county funds to purchase provisions. Union General George Stoneman exacerbated the already difficult situation in April 1865, when he traveled through Davie County with almost three thousand men on a mission to attack the Confederate supply depot and prison in Salisbury. Although Stoneman had instructed his troops to treat local inhabitants courteously, they plundered Mocksville and the surrounding area, including Farmington. According to local tradition, Union soldiers almost shot Dr. Wiseman's wife Senia due to a misunderstanding. Emma Brock Brown was just a young child when troops raided her family's farm during the Civil War, but she never forgot the experience. In August 1865, Davie County officials appointed James M. Brock and R. F. Williams to administer the amnesty oath—which served as a legal pardon for Southerners after the war—in Farmington Township.¹⁶⁷

By the late 1860s, Davie County residents began to rebuild their lives. George Wesley and Martha Johnson's daughter Jane Amanda Johnson, known as "Jennie," married Confederate veteran Charles Frederic Bahnson and the couple moved to Farmington in 1867, establishing a farm on property her parents gave them at what is now 1948 Farmington Road. Charles opened a small office and jewelry shop in a one-room building adjacent to their home. That same year, perhaps in an effort to increase community solidarity, Bahnson and other Farmington residents including Dr. J. W. Wiseman, Francis Marion Johnson, and W. O. Smith chartered the

¹⁶⁵ Wall, *Davie County: A Brief History*, 51, 56. Federal Census, Population and Slave Schedules, 1860.

¹⁶⁶ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 161; American Civil War Soldiers Collection, accessed online at ancestry.com in December 2009.

¹⁶⁷ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 179-181, 192-194, 196, 198, 203.

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Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265. The fraternal organization met for the first time on April 26, 1867 in a room they rented from George Wesley Johnson. Dr. Wiseman served as the first lodge master. Farmington residents organized a local chapter of the Grange, the oldest national agricultural organization in the United States, three years later.¹⁶⁸

The Davie County's 1869 tax list and the 1870 Federal census show that the average Farmington Township resident's real estate and personal property values decreased dramatically over the course of the 1860s. The Wiseman family's holdings, for example, diminished to \$5,500-worth of real estate and \$1,500-worth of personal property in 1870, illustrating the difficulties of the Reconstruction era. The Wiseman's were far more fortunate than most, however, as they were still able to retain their land and employ two domestic servants, Julia Dunn and Samuel Jones, who resided with the family. Samuel Rich, a young farmer who had served in Dr. Wiseman's regiment during the war, was also enumerated with the Wisemans. Rich owned real estate valued at \$500 and personal property valued at \$250.¹⁶⁹

Davie County farms more than tripled in number in the decades after the Civil War, increasing from 404 farms in 1860 to 1,490 farms in 1880. The farm labor force from the Reconstruction era through the mid twentieth century consisted of day laborers; sharecroppers, who usually received housing and staple goods from farm owners in exchange for a percentage of the harvested crops; and tenant farmers, who paid cash rent for the land they occupied. The vast majority of former slaves and white laborers unable to purchase their own farms worked as sharecroppers. Although little documentation regarding Farmington's African American population exists, census records allow for the hypothetical recreation of residency patterns as census takers enumerated households in the order they were interviewed, which generally corresponds to dwelling location. African American families listed after white households and without taxable property often worked as sharecroppers, tenant farmers, or domestic servants. Quite a few newly freed slaves took the surnames of their former owners and resided in close proximity to them. This certainly appears to be the case with Robert Hartman and Alexander Wiseman, included in Davie County's 1869 tax list after George A. Hartman and Dr. J. W. Wiseman.¹⁷⁰

In 1870, African American heads-of-households in the Farmington vicinity included John Cuthrell, a blacksmith; Charles Cuthrell, a farmer; Milus Cuthrell and Britton Bohanon, farm laborers; Nelly Cuthrell and Lucinda Howell, home makers; and Washington Howell, Green Williams, and William Williams, who were day laborers. Twelve-year-old Bettie Hauser was a "nurse" in Levi Fulford's household, most likely caring for his one-year-old daughter. Ten-year-old Dollie Brock lived with Richard and Mary Brock, where she worked as a domestic servant. Caroline Sanford was a cook, perhaps for the Joseph Cuthrell household, after which she was

¹⁶⁸ Jimmy L. Myers, "Farmington Lodge No. 265 A. F. & A. M.," *Davie County Heritage, North Carolina* (Waynesville, N. C.: Davie County Heritage Book Committee and Don Mills, Inc., 1997), 67; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 294; Formally known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, the National Grange was established in Washington D. C. in 1867 <http://www.nationalgrange.org/about/history.html>

¹⁶⁹ Davie County Tax List, 1869; Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1870.

¹⁷⁰ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 319; Davie County Tax List, 1869.

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enumerated. Eighteen-year-old George Jones was apprenticed to blacksmith William Swaim. Lucinda Howell, listed after George Wesley Johnson's family, kept house, while Luke Parker, who resided with her, was a farm laborer. Caroline Brock's household, enumerated between those of Charles Frederic Bahnson and Francis Marion Johnson, included her young children and Eliza Morgan, a domestic servant. Green Brock, a day laborer, lived with Francis Marion Johnson's family.¹⁷¹

Farmington continued to serve as a trading center throughout the late nineteenth century and residents began a number of new commercial endeavors. Francis Marion Johnson managed the family's general store and erected a two-story brick commercial building directly across the road from his parents' home in 1873. Simeon A. Jarvis constructed a two-story frame store and a tobacco factory north of the Johnsons' stores in the 1870s. Local farmers and entrepreneurs including Charles A. Hartman, Eugene Johnson, George William Bahnson and his brother-in-law Oliver Lafayette Williams, James M. Perry, W. F. Jones, Rufus Bowles, and J. B. Cornelison also opened tobacco factories. Albert W. Ellis, Sheek & Hall, and M. Fulford operated roller mills, processing grain and feed, and sawmills, providing the lumber for many local buildings erected during this period. Two companies, Furches & Ellis and Fulford & Morton, sold flour and George A. Hartman operated a distillery.¹⁷²

Local craftsman included blacksmith William Swaim, who employed his nephew David G. Essic as an apprentice, as well as two other blacksmiths—Frank T. and Allen Poindexter—and James A. Linville, a wheelwright. John H. Churchill and his son Henry produced tin implements, William F. James continued his family's potting tradition, William Sloan and James Fulford manufactured harnesses, and French Canadian immigrant Peter Lowry made shoes. The community benefited from the expertise of three physicians—John Clingman, James Wiseman, and William Gaston Johnson (George Wesley and Martha Johnson's youngest son). Johnson, who attended the University of Pennsylvania and became a licensed medical practitioner in North Carolina in 1873, resided in the family home and served as the primary physician for Farmington and the surrounding area for many years.¹⁷³

William Gaston Johnson's brother Francis Marion Johnson erected an impressive three-story brick commercial building with a corbelled façade on the southeast corner of Farmington Road and what is now NC Highway 801 North in 1881, expanding his adjacent general store. C. C. Sanford and Son of Mocksville owned and managed the store for several years before selling it around 1893 to William F. James, who conveyed the property to his daughter Jettie and her husband G. H. Graham. Local farmer Charles A. Hartman initially partnered with the Grahams, but sold them his interest in G. H. Graham and Company on January 16, 1916. The store also served

¹⁷¹ Federal Census, 1870, Population Schedule.

¹⁷² Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 294, 328; Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directories*, 1877-78, 102-103; 1884, 275-276; 1892, 250-251; 1896, 236.

¹⁷³ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 138; Federal Census, 1880, Population Schedule; Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1884, 276. W. F. James, called "Potter Bill," manufactured chewing tobacco in Farmington after the Civil War and then began producing earthenware flower pots, vases, and pipes. "Potter Bill," *Davie Record*, February 22, 1939.

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as the local community center, housing political meetings and social gatherings.¹⁷⁴

Farmington's working class inhabitants provided manual and skilled labor for local businesses and residents. Tobacco factory employees included Martha Miller, Isaac Kimbrough, William Hill (African American); Charles Russell and Nathan Foster (mixed-race); and Francis B. Brock, John Ferebee, John Moore, Fillmore Bohannon, John Kimball, who boarded with tobacco factory owner Charles Hartman (white). Jake Bohannon (African American) lived in the household of potter William F. James, where he worked as a laborer, most likely in the pottery. Lank Banker and Damon Hartman were house carpenters. Robert H. Charles and Richard Brown worked as store clerks. James F. Brown was employed as a teacher.¹⁷⁵

Despite the success of these commercial endeavors, most Farmington residents still depended on agriculture as their primary income source. The early 1880s were a difficult time for Davie County farmers, as crops suffered from several years of drought followed by flooding, particularly along the Yadkin River, in the mid-1880s. These environmental factors combined with economic concerns such as low crop prices and steep interest rates, fertilizer costs, and freight charges, inspired local farmers to become politically active. Periodicals such as Leonidas L. Polk's *Progressive Farmer*, first published in Winston in 1886, provided support and guidance.¹⁷⁶

Census takers enumerated 1,492 Davie County farms in 1880, with an average size of 101 acres. Most farms were owner (854) or sharecropper (608) operated, with tenant farmers working on only 30 farms. Some farmers supplemented their income by working in tobacco factories or distilleries, trapping, or by gathering native roots, herbs, berries, and nuts for sale.¹⁷⁷

The 1880 census lists farm owners George Wesley Johnson, Charles F. Bahnson, Dr. James W. Wiseman, James Brock, Joseph Cuthrell, Thomas Horne, Mary A. Perry, Richard E. Brock, Daniel Bassett, Julius James, and Levi Fulford, as well as numerous black and white farm laborers—both day laborers and sharecroppers—in Farmington and the immediate vicinity in 1880. African American farm laborers include John Nichols, enumerated in the Charles Bahnson household; Brock Green and his sons Wilson and Stephen Johnson; Brittain Bohannon and his son Julius; Rush Howell; Nathan Hendrix and his sons John and Benny; Lewis Smith, who resided in Mary Allen's home; Reed Lyons; Sandy Wiseman and his sons Noah, James, Robert; Wesley Cuthrell, enumerated with the Daniel Bassett family; and Jesse Eaton and his sons Thomas, John, and Will. White farm laborers include George Livengood, John C. Kelly, and Monroe Houser.

¹⁷⁴ Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks," April 8, 1956; C. A. Hartman, "Dissolution Notice," *Davie Record*, March 13, 1916, Frank Stroud, "Good Old Days," *Davie Record*, September 28, 1955, quoted in Flossie Martin, "Farmington Settlement," July 22, 1961, manuscript in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

¹⁷⁵ Federal Census, Population Schedule, 1880.

¹⁷⁶ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 320; William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 425.

¹⁷⁷ Federal Census, Agriculture Schedule, 1880; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 328-329.

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Most women in the community ran their households and assisted with farm chores, but some also worked outside the home. Charlotte Perry was a dressmaker; her sister Mollie, a teacher. Nannie and Clarisa James were also teachers. African American women like Louisa Poindexter, who resided with the Charles Bahnson family; Sarah Griffith, who lived with Dr. and Mrs. Wiseman; and Phillis Mesley, who resided in the Francis Marion and Amanda Johnson household; were employed as domestic servants. African American farmer Andrew Cuthrell's sister-in-law, Angelina Morgan, lived with and worked for his family.¹⁷⁸

Religious and educational institutions in Farmington and the immediate vicinity flourished during the late nineteenth century. The area's African American community established one of Davie County's earliest black churches—Cedar Creek Baptist—just west of Farmington in 1872. The Macedonia Moravian congregation, founded in 1856, erected a new sanctuary a few miles east of Farmington in 1878. Thirty-nine former members of Eaton's Baptist Church organized the congregation that became Farmington Baptist Church on December 29, 1878, first meeting at Union Academy near Farmington. Early residents of the Bryan Settlement organized a small Methodist congregation in 1804, initially worshipping in a log school, but soon purchasing an acre of land across the road to construct a sanctuary. The congregation, called Olive Branch, continued to grow throughout the nineteenth century, and, given the age of their church and the fact that their cemetery was almost full, they decided in 1881 to erect a new church in Farmington, about one-and-a-half miles to the north. George Wesley Johnson donated parcels of land to the Farmington community upon which the Baptist church and Methodist churches were erected in 1882, as well as acreage adjacent to the Methodist church for the community cemetery.¹⁷⁹

Farmington Academy was also constructed during this period, probably around the time that Union Academy, established in 1852, ceased operation in 1883. Farmington Academy's promotional materials state that the new frame school was "built upon most approved plans at a cost of \$1,500.00" and that "the ventilation and light are all that could be desired." The campus also included "a neat, open-air arbor (adjoining the Academy), for closing exercises and other entertainments" erected in 1894. Tuition ranged from \$1.00 per month for primary instruction to \$3.00 a month for advanced and classical instruction, with additional charges for classes in music, art, and elocution. Mattie Rich, who married Frank Bahnson, taught elocution and art at Farmington Academy in the mid-1890s. Dr. J. W. Wiseman, F. M. Johnson, J. M. Johnson, S. C. Rich, and Dr. W. G. Johnson served on the Board of Trustees.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ Carolyn McBride and Mrs. Luther West, "Farmington Baptist Church," *Davie County Heritage*, 100.; Mary Nell Hartman Lashley, "History of the Farmington Methodist Church on its Fiftieth Anniversary, 1882-1932;" "Macedonia Moravian Church," <http://www.moravianarchives.org/history/congregations/macedonia.html>; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 253-254.

¹⁸⁰ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 208-210; "Farmington Academy," promotional brochure printed by Stone & Reid, Job Printers, in Greensboro, N. C. in 1895, from the Farmington Academy file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library. Union Academy, a large brick building erected by local Baptist and Methodist congregations, was known as Union Male Academy and Farmington Female Seminary by 1856 and stood near Farmington on Cedar Creek's west side. George Wesley Johnson conveyed land on Cedar Creek to Davie County's "Committee of Common Schools for District No. 7" in

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Farmington Academy's first principals were Lexington, NC native Samuel W. Finch (1883-1884), former Union Academy principal James F. Brower (1884-1887), and Davie County professors Oscar Benjamin Eaton (1887-1891) and Leon Augustus Cash (1891-1896). Leon Cash and his wife Fannie, a music teacher, resided at what is now 1780 Farmington Road for several years. According to local tradition, their home and others in Farmington served as dormitories for the school's students. The schools promotional materials advertised that "desirable and convenient board, everything furnished," was available for \$4.00 per week (Monday through Friday) or for up to \$7.50 per calendar month. The fall term began in mid-August and ended just before Christmas and the spring term started just after the holiday and terminated at the end of May.¹⁸¹

Most children attended public schools, which had much shorter instructional terms—typically eight to ten weeks beginning in September after the fall harvest—and often rudimentary facilities. Basic instruction was usually free, but some teachers charged fees of as much as \$4.00 per month for advanced classes such as algebra and Latin. Davie County Board of Education minutes list thirty-five white and eleven African American schools in 1885. Victoria Brock, R. P. Clingmart, S. S. Cuthrell, M. T. Furches, F. M. Horn, Mollie Perry, professor B. O. Eaton, and Reverend A. R. Murchison taught Farmington's white students in 1892. Farmington's African American teachers included S. W. Bitting, W. E. Eaton, G. W. Eaton, John E. Kimbrough, R. H. Lawson, Lucy L. Tatum, and L. B. Williams. Farmington Academy principal Leon Cash was also a public school teacher and served as Davie County's School Superintendent from 1891 to 1897.¹⁸²

In 1903, as North Carolina governor Charles Brantley Aycock advocated extensive improvements in the state's public schools, Davie County operated forty-five white and seventeen black schools. Farmington Township contained twelve schools: seven for white students, located in Smith Grove, Beachamps, Sheeks, Bethlehem, Yadkin Valley, Jamestown, Farmington, Pino, and Rocky Dale; and three for African American students, in New Zion, Jamestown, and Cedar Creek. Susie Jones, Victoria Brock, Julia Harding, and J. L. Tatum taught in Farmington's public schools in 1902. Mable Brock and professor Paul Nance were the only teachers residing in Farmington in 1907.¹⁸³

Although the dawn of the twentieth century heralded the beginning of an era of sweeping social and economic change, North Carolina farmers continued to grapple with erratic crop prices, high interest rates, increased production costs, and exorbitant freight costs. Davie County farmers were able to ship their farm products by rail more easily beginning in 1891, when the North Carolina Midland Railroad Company (which was absorbed

1845 (Davie County Deed Book 2, page 345) and to the Trustees of Farmington Female Academy in 1854 (Davie County Deed Book 3, page 797). Historians have interpreted references to Farmington's nineteenth-century schools in a variety of ways. See Polly Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," unpublished manuscript compiled in 2007, on file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.; Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 11-14.

¹⁸² Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 222-223; Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1892, 252.

¹⁸³ Wall, Ibid.; *The North Carolina Year Book*. Raleigh, N. C.: News and Observer, 1902, 199; 1907, 218.

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by the Southern Railway System in 1894), erected a new railroad spur line from Winston-Salem to Mocksville and began offering service from Salisbury to Mocksville via Winston-Salem. They grew crops including wheat, oats, rye, corn, potatoes, peas, beans, hay, cotton, and sorghum cane on 1,742 farms averaging 85.7 acres in size in 1900. Owners (636 white and 42 African American) and part-owners (178 white and 42 African American) operated approximately half of the farms, with sharecroppers (602 white and 191 African American) working the vast majority of the rest. Many farmers raised dairy cattle, pigs, and chickens and harvested honey and wax from bees. Most farmsteads had a vegetable garden, fruit trees, and berry bushes for the use of the family, and some families sold the surplus.¹⁸⁴

During the early twentieth century the average North Carolina farm size dropped but productivity increased in response to advances in farm machinery, soil conservation, crop rotation, pest control, and fertilizer availability. Davie County farmers were quickly exposed to new developments, as the North Carolina Department of Agriculture purchased two hundred acres west of Statesville (approximately forty miles west of Farmington) in 1902 to serve as the state's third experimental farm. The property, known as the Iredell Test Farm, the Piedmont Experiment Station, and the State Farm, was highly influential in the evolution of the region's agricultural practices through the 1950s. F. T. Meacham superintended the State Farm from 1903 until 1930, and James A. Butler, formerly Iredell County's school superintendent, became North Carolina's first farm extension agent in 1907.¹⁸⁵

W. F. Reece served as Davie County's first extension agent, providing farmers with information regarding new agricultural methods beginning in 1918. The county school system offered vocational agricultural instruction after 1922, when E. C. Tatum began teaching farming, gardening, and livestock management at Mocksville High School. Most new consolidated schools erected in the 1920s subsequently offered similar classes. Davie County farm agent George Evans began work in 1923 and encouraged farmers to become familiar with progressive soil improvement and animal husbandry practices. He organized a four-day trip to privately-owned Piedmont farms and the North Carolina State College Experiment Farm and Dairy, where Davie County farmers were undoubtedly exposed to new ideas.¹⁸⁶

Although most Davie County Schools operated for four month terms in the 1910s, the Farmington school district collected additional taxes to allow for school terms of at least six months. Public school teachers W. P. Henly, Eunice Helms, Dora Abernathy, Helen Brown, Cora Ballard, and A. H. Flowers resided in Farmington between 1912 and 1916. The ability to provide exemplary educational opportunities for Farmington children was further boosted when one of the county's first public consolidated schools, funded by a special bond issue

¹⁸⁴ William R. Merriam, *Census Reports, Volume V, Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part I, Farms, Livestock and Animal Products* (Washington: United States Census Office, 1902), 108-109, 550, 657; William R. Merriam, *Census Reports, Volume V, Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part II, Crops and Irrigation* (Washington: United States Census Office, 1902), 177, 253, 384, 433, 488, 566, 736.

¹⁸⁵ Keever, *Iredell: Piedmont County*, 371-373; L. Melissa Smith, ed., *Preserving Our Heritage: The History of African Americans in Statesville and Iredell County* (Statesville: Secure Development Corporation, 1998), 2.

¹⁸⁶ Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 324.

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supplemented by the Davie County Board of Education, was erected in the community. Planning began in 1917, and a two-story, brick, eight-classroom building with a library, auditorium, and science and biology laboratories was completed in 1921 at a cost of \$7,735.00.¹⁸⁷

Oscar Benjamin "O. B." Eaton served as Farmington School's first principal. The school served first- to eleventh-grade students, with six elementary grades (first through seventh) and four high school grades (eighth through eleventh). The Board of Education purchased two buses, the first in the county school system, to transport area children to Farmington School, and constructed a frame garage to shelter the buses on the campus in October 1921. Beginning in September 1923, students who had previously attended the Pino and Yadkin Valley schools were also bused to Farmington. By the fall of 1925 additional classroom and laboratory space was needed and local resident Fred R. Lakey was awarded the contract to erect a freestanding frame building for that purpose.¹⁸⁸

Principal J. F. Scott and seven other teachers—five for the elementary grades and three at the high school level—educated Farmington's youth in 1925. Average daily attendance was about 153 of the 289 students enrolled. Mr. Scott, a Trinity College graduate; Ruby M. Strehnan, who attended N. C. College; and Ruth Fleming, who matriculated at Oxford College in Oxford, N. C., taught the high school students. The curriculum included English grammar and composition, literature, spelling, arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, history, economics, Latin, French, general science, and biology. Although a physical education class was not offered at that time, twenty-five students played baseball and seventy-five played basketball. Nine students graduated in the class of 1925.¹⁸⁹ In later years, Farmington natives Vada Johnson and Queen Bess Kennan taught elementary grades and Elizabeth Graham Williard instructed high school students. Other teachers rented houses along Farmington Road and boarded with Queen Bess Kennan and local families.

The new school was only one of many enhancements to the Farmington community in the 1920s. Vada Johnson, Queen Bess Kennan, and other local residents organized the Village Improvement Society to promote telephone service and rural electrification, securing electric lines for Farmington in 1921, four years before Mocksville, the county seat, was electrified. The group also advocated for area road improvements and erected a Boone Highway Trail marker at the community's center (what is now the southwest corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North) around 1925. The primary east-west road connecting NC Highway 80 (which became US Highway 601 in 1932) and NC Highway 65 (now US Highway 158) was renamed NC Highway 801 circa 1928.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁷ Ibid., 226-227; *North Carolina Year Book*, 1912, 207-208; 1916, 209; Marie White and Frances Beck, "Farmington High School," *Davie County Heritage*, 29; Farmington School, Davie County, "Principal's Annual High School Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1924-25.

¹⁸⁸ The classroom/laboratory building is no longer standing. Oscar Benjamin Eaton previously served as Farmington Academy's principal and as Winston and Winston-Salem's mayor. Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 21-23.

¹⁸⁹ Farmington School, Davie County, "Principal's Annual High School Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1924-25.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.; "NC 801" and "US 601," <http://members.cox.net/ncroads/index.html>.

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Farmington's early-twentieth-century growth was not as rapid as that of the late nineteenth century, but local residents did open several new businesses. William A. Taylor erected a one-and-a-half-story, frame, front-gable-roofed general store adjacent to the Ellis Mill. John Williard constructed a two-story commercial building at what is now 1890 Farmington Road in the early 1920s and his sons, Fletcher and Ralph Williard, operated an auto repair shop at this location through the late 1940s. James Hugh Brock erected a small frame building on the south side of what is now NC Highway 801 in 1928 to house his barber shop and Farmington's post office. He also repaired shoes and manufactured brick, well tile, and cement block. His mother, Cora Athans Brock, served as postmistress until May 12, 1936, at which time the post office moved to another location. She also operated a small store, selling "cold drinks, fruits, sweets, or anything in good eats." James Hugh Brock constructed a new barber shop, a barn, and a rental house with lumber salvaged from Ellis Mill after it was demolished around 1940. Local cabinetmaker John Ralph James assisted with the barber shop construction.¹⁹¹

Although the 1920s were generally characterized by economic expansion, the decade was difficult for farmers, who struggled with mercurial weather coupled with plummeting crop prices, high insurance costs, and rising property taxes. Agriculture continued to be the mainstay of rural communities such as Farmington, however, and area farmers began raising dairy and beef cattle in much larger quantities during this period. North Carolina Department of Agriculture census-takers enumerated 525 Farmington Township farms encompassing 8,034 acres cultivated by owners, tenant farmers, and sharecroppers in 1925. African Americans owned and operated 47 farms. Although the average farm size continued to decrease, some Farmington property owners retained sizable farm tracts. Farm census reports indicate that Charles A. Hartman owned one of Farmington Township's largest agricultural operations—five tracts ranging in size from 33 to 152 acres, a total of 480 acres—that year. He did not report his crop production, but the census taker noted that they were "good farms." Hartman also raised and sold livestock including "Red Pole Cattle, Jersey Milch Cows, Bronze Turkeys, Poultry, Cuban Games, and Rhode Island Reds."¹⁹²

The Bahnson family owned three large farms containing a total of 493 acres in 1925. Jennie Bahnson held a 266-acre tract, while her son Frank owned 143-acre and 84-acre parcels. One tenant lived on each farm and was responsible for crop production, cultivating 23, 20, and 36 acres, respectively. The Bahnsons reported tobacco, cotton, corn, wheat, hay, and other grasses as their primary crops. Frank's farms also contained 1.7 acres dedicated to truck crops, a small home garden, 12 pecan trees, 65 hens of laying age, and 1 milk cow.¹⁹³

T. H. Redmon also owned three farm tracts in 1925. Two parcels were small—3 acres called the "home place" and 4.3-acres designated by the census taker as a "mill tract," most likely in reference to a sawmill. The third

¹⁹¹ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 136; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book* (Farmington, 1924), 113; "James Hugh Brock," *Davie County Heritage*, 149-150.

¹⁹² North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935; Farmington Ladies Aid Society, *Farmington Cook Book*, 115.

¹⁹³ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935.

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parcel encompassed 170 acres, where tenant farmers cultivated 63 acres of cotton, corn, wheat, hay, field truck crops, and a small home garden, and raised 20 hens of laying age, 4 milk cows, and a pig.¹⁹⁴

George Wesley Johnson's farm, once one of the county's largest, contained 107 acres, 43 of which were planted in corn, wheat, soybeans, hay, other grasses, field truck crops; 45 pecan trees; and 100 hens, 13 milk cows, and 1 pig in 1925. The Dr. J. W. Wiseman property, then owned by William Earl and Queen Bess Kennen, had also been greatly reduced in size. The 100-acre farm tract included 26 cultivated acres, which produced cotton, corn, rye, hay, other grasses, and field truck crops. The couple raised 40 hens of laying age, 12 milk cows, and a pig. Camer A. Long owned an 81-acre farm in between the Kennen and Johnson properties. He cultivated 6 acres that year and tenants planted 26 acres, producing cotton, corn, wheat, hay, other grasses, berries, and a small home garden. Farm livestock included 50 hens and 3 milk cows.¹⁹⁵

Most Farmington area farms were much smaller, however. Richard Clingman Brown grew 6 acres of wheat on his 14-acre farm in 1925. The census enumerates only two African American farmers—Lucy Austin, who owned 5 acres and did not report her crop production, and C. G. Bohannon, who owned 2.5 acres and planted two in cotton—in Farmington that year. Although neither property is included on Wilson F. Merrell's 1928 Davie County map, the Austin and Bohannon farms were most likely located west of Farmington in the African American Cedar Creek community, where Oscar Allen, B. C. Teague, S. B. Eaton, F. R. Lakey, Luke Tatum, and their families also resided.¹⁹⁶

The stock market crash of October 1929 brought an end to a decade of unprecedented growth. The subsequent economic downturn impacted every aspect of daily life, as noted by historian Clarence Griffin: "development was stopped, salaries and wages dropped to a low scale, unemployment increased by leaps, banks and business establishments were closing daily, farm produce and other marketable goods could not be sold for a reasonable price...." By 1933, the critical state of affairs compelled the Roosevelt administration to create federal programs that would facilitate economic recovery by funding large-scale public improvement projects. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Civil Works Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed hundreds of thousands of out-of-work American citizens.¹⁹⁷

The North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA) attempted to mitigate the impact of economic hardship in Davie County by funding civic projects such as road improvements, school maintenance and repair, privy construction, creek clearing, and surplus commodity distribution. The NCERA completed Farmington School's frame gymnasium in 1933 at a cost of \$2,471.78. The WPA subsidized the construction of a frame

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁹⁶ Ibid.; Wilson F. Merrell, "Davie County, 1928," Map on file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

¹⁹⁷ Clarence Griffin, *The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties*, quoted in Anita Price Davis, *North Carolina During the Great Depression* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2003), 12-13.

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agricultural building in 1936, and, around 1940, provided funds and labor to improve the baseball field, which was leveled by mules pulling drag pans. Travel in the area was greatly improved when Highway 601 from Mocksville to Yadkinville was paved in 1938.¹⁹⁸

Farmington merchant G. H. Graham kept his store open during the depression, but was almost bankrupted as he extended store credit to so many local residents. His magnitude during this difficult time was much appreciated, however, as reflected in a 1937 Western Union telegram from Winston-Salem attorney Frank W. Williams, formerly of the Cedar Creek community just west of Farmington, on behalf of the store's African American patrons who resided in the vicinity. Williams expressed their condolences after Mr. Graham's death, stating: "From childhood to the time of his departure Mr. Graham was a friend to and was dearly loved by the colored people."¹⁹⁹

Government aid to farmers in the 1930s included provisions such as the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which encouraged voluntary allotment plans by providing immediate incentives for farmers to reduce cultivated acreage, thus diminishing overproduction and stabilizing markets prices. Most Farmington residents managed to hold onto their farms during the depression years. Charles A. Hartman passed away on July 10, 1930, but his family still owned Farmington's largest agricultural property, totaling 492.5 acres, in 1935. Three people lived on the C. A. Hartman estate, a 145-acre farm where tenants cultivated corn, cotton, tobacco, sorghum cane, hay, and Irish and sweet potatoes on 42 acres. Mr. Hartman's widow Maggie and one other person resided on a 182-acre farm, upon which tenants planted 102 acres in corn, wheat, oats, hay, Irish potatoes, and commercial truck crops. The couple's sons, Guy L. and George A. Hartman, owned a 152-acre farm, where five people resided and grew corn, cotton, wheat, oats, hay, and Irish and sweet potatoes on 89 acres. Other Farmington residents with large farms in 1935 include John Cornelison, whose 309.5-acre property included four farm tracts of 5, 12.5, 27, and 255 acres; Frank Bahnson, whose two farms encompassed 283 acres; Lonnie Horne, whose three farms contained 265 acres; and Richard C. Brown, who owned four farm tracts totaling 199 acres. Most area farms were much smaller.²⁰⁰

The North Carolina Farm census enumerates 62 African American farm owners in Farmington Township in 1935, several of whom owned more than one farm tract. Only three African American farmers have Farmington addresses.²⁰¹ Jordan H. Eaton's 76-acre farm, where he cultivated 28 acres of corn, cotton, tobacco, and wheat and grew 12 fruit trees, was the largest. Eaton owned two horses and three milk cows. Laura Sutzer,

¹⁹⁸ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, ed., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1936), 476; Wall, *History of Davie County in the Forks of the Yadkin*, 312; Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 19.

¹⁹⁹ John Graham Williard, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 6, 2009.

²⁰⁰ North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935.

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*

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Henry Sutzer's widow, owned 29 acres and planted eight in corn, cotton, and other truck crops. She tended 12 fruit trees, 1 pig, and 1 milk cow. The 9 ¼-acre Nick Spillman Estate was not cultivated that year.²⁰²

Davie County joined the Middle Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District—which eventually also contained Davidson, Rowan, Cabarrus, and Iredell counties—on March 22, 1939. As the district mandate was to implement a soil conservation program and to protect waterways, the organization encouraged farmers to terrace their fields.²⁰³ The Davie County agricultural extension service office assisted in soil conservation efforts by purchasing small terracing machines and housing them on farms such as that of Lonnie Lee Miller at the junction of NC Highway 801 North and the Pino-Cano Road (just west of Farmington) so they would be more accessible to local farmers, who simply borrowed the equipment as needed. When soil conservation practices evolved from terracing into drainage ditch creation in the late 1950s, the terracing machines became obsolete, and farmers subsequently leveled most terraced fields.²⁰⁴

Davie County's agricultural production remained strong in the late 1930s, and farmers grew corn, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, wheat, oats, rye, barley, soybeans, and cowpeas, in addition to commercial truck crops and home gardens, on 1,521 farm tracts encompassing 142,886 acres (84.6 percent of Davie County's land area) in 1940. The average farm size was 93.9 acres. African Americans owned and operated 159 of the county's farms. Although factory and service industry positions provided income for some county residents during the mid-twentieth century, 5,170 farmers and their families still lived and worked on farms they owned, 3,290 county residents occupied tenant farms, and many others negotiated sharecropping agreements or were employed as day laborers.²⁰⁵

²⁰² Ibid. The census taker indicated that Mrs. Rosa Brunt was African American, yet enumerated her farm with those of other white farmers. As her death certificate states that she was white, her farm is not included in this total. Tenant farmers or sharecroppers planted 30 7/10 acres of Mrs. Rosa Brunt's 72-acre farm in corn, cotton, tobacco, sorghum cane, hay, and Irish and sweet potatoes in 1935. They kept two horse and one milk cow.

²⁰³ "Davie County Soil and Water Conservation District," <http://www.dswcd.com/history.htm>. Erosion control projects such as contour terracing became popular soil conservation methods nationally in the 1930s. After the Mendenhall Farm in Randolph County was successfully terraced in 1934 as part of a federal erosion control project, Guilford County Commissioners created North Carolina's first terracing program, supervised by extension agent A. N. Tatum. A September 1937 *Popular Government* article reports that "Guilford was the first county [in North Carolina] to help its farmers purchase a tractor and terracing unit, and the work was so successful that the Guilford County Soil Conservation Association has purchased two additional units which last year terraced, subsoiled, and disced 2,640 acres and built 201 miles of terrace, all at cost figures to the individual farmers." Farmers initially paid \$2.50 an hour for terracing services, which were in such high demand that extension agents operated their terracing equipment "day and night" before the spring planting and after the fall harvest seasons. "County Shows Way to Better Farming, Dairying," *Popular Government*, September 1937, p. 19; Guilford County Board of Commissioners, *Guilford County Agriculture: Past, Present, Future* (Board of Commissioners and Board of Agriculture, 1938), 18.

²⁰⁴ Gene Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 16, 2009.

²⁰⁵ Frank Parker, Agricultural Statistician, ed. *North Carolina Farm Survey, 1941, as reported in January, 1942. Cooperative Crop Reporting Service; county farm inventory of acreage, number of farms, crop comparisons, productive livestock, etc.* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1942).

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As the economy rebounded in the early 1940s, many Davie County residents, including John Caudle, Joe Williams, and Gene Miller of Farmington served in World War II. Those left behind were occupied with the war effort in a variety of ways, from participating in bond drives to filling vacant positions in Winston-Salem manufacturing plants such as P. H. Hanes Knitting Company and R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which increased their production of garments and cigarettes to meet the needs of servicemen and women. Although the government encouraged citizens to plant victory gardens to alleviate food shortage, large-scale agricultural production decreased as farm families took factory jobs. For instance, Farmington resident Nannie Sue Brock worked for Union Carbide during the war years and the Brocks did not report any farm yield in 1945.²⁰⁶

In 1945, Davie County contained 1,647 farms averaging 88.8 acres in size. Only six of the county's farms encompassed more than two hundred acres, and two were in Farmington. The area's largest farm belonged to Frank Bahnsen, who cultivated 110 of his 277 acres, growing corn, wheat, oats, and hay. Lonnie J. Horne's adjacent farm, which encompassed almost 248 acres, was Farmington's second largest agricultural operation. Tenant farmers planted 90 acres in corn, cotton, hay, and a home garden. Neither farm contained large numbers of livestock—only a few milk cows and hens.²⁰⁷

Davie County farms owned by African Americans decreased from 260 farm tracts encompassing 13,469 total acres in 1930 to 159 farm tracts including 8,509 total acres in 1940. Approximately one-third of these farmers owned property in northeastern Davie County, as indicated by the 1945 Farm Census, which enumerated 57 black Farmington Township farmers. The four-acre Lucy Brock Estate, with no reported production, was the only farm with a Farmington address, but many African American farmers, including Jordan Eaton, who was enumerated in Farmington in 1935, are listed with Cana addresses. The Eaton family owned five farm tracts in 1945, two of which were cultivated. Jordan Eaton planted thirty acres in corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, oats, soybeans, Irish and sweet potatoes, and a home garden, and harvested fruit from twelve trees. Eight people lived on his farm, and they raised 2 milk cows, 1 sow, and 35 hens.²⁰⁸

Farmington businesses provided local residents with goods, services, and news during the 1940s. Simeon Jarvis's son-in-law Lonnie J. Horne ran the family's general store at what is now 1986 Farmington Road until 1944, when he sold the property to E. S. Lakey, who then conveyed the store to Gilmer Ellis and D. R. Bennett in 1946. Ellis and Bennett sold kerosene from a hand-operated pump at the rear of the store and later installed a gasoline pump out front. The store housed the Farmington Post Office for a short time and also served as a community gathering place. Ellis stated that the store owned Farmington's second TV set, and stayed open late so customers could watch sporting events. Gene Miller remembers that the store sold shoes, and that the hardware inventory included a "bolt bin" with a convenient selection of repair parts.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁶ "Nannie Sue Laird Brock," *Salisbury Post*, August 18, 2000; North Carolina Farm Census Reports, 1935 and 1945.

²⁰⁷ North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, *Farm Census Reports*, 1945, Box 102 (Guilford-Halifax Counties), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*; Frank Parker, Agricultural Statistician, ed. *North Carolina Farm Survey, 1941*, 305.

²⁰⁹ Kirk Mohny, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 137; "Everything from Eggs to Bolts," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, August 6, 1981.

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Around 1942, Elizabeth Graham Williard purchased her family's commercial properties (two brick stores and a garage) at the southeast corner of Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North from her siblings. Her mother's brother, Elsie Clarence James, subsequently operated the general store for twelve years, followed by their brother C. D. James.²¹⁰ Fletcher and Ralph Williard ran an auto repair shop south of the stores through the late 1940s.

Farmington School continued to serve the area's children. Principal Graham R. Madison and four teachers—Elizabeth Graham Williard, Mary Nichols, Frankie Craven, and Paul B. Walter—taught 95 eighth through eleventh-grade students in 1939-1940. Principal Madison and eight teachers—Ida Mae Alexander, Dorothy Holt, Vada Johnson, Mabel Holden, Ellen Hemrick, James R. York, Mary Essic, and Paul Walter—instructed 259 first through seventh-grade students during the 1940-1941 school year. Local families worked with the school to organize a parent-teacher association that year.²¹¹

In 1949, school administrators purchased new gymnasium bleachers and painted the gym interior. One part-time and seven full-time teachers—Mymalee H. Garrison, Nell H. Lakey, Vada Johnson, Ophelia B. Ferebee, Queen Bess Kennen, James R. York, C. S. Beck educated 201 children enrolled in the first through the eighth grades. Toler Haynes was the principal.²¹²

By the late 1940s, the Farmington School campus was in dire need of updated facilities. A school bond allowed for the completion of a Classical Revival-style brick auditorium, home economics classroom, and cafeteria in 1950. The building encompassed all of the most up-to-date features available at the time. The auditorium contained "the latest style" seats, a stage, dressing rooms, an audio visual balcony, and an office. The home economics classroom had three kitchens with cabinets, sinks, and stoves; seven work tables; five sewing machines; and a built-in ironing board. The cafeteria included new kitchen equipment and chairs and Formica-topped tables to seat 150 students. Other campus improvements included upgrading the 1921 building by installing a central steam heating system, a large metal water tank, and new playground equipment; and renovating the bathrooms and science laboratory.²¹³

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ Farmington School, Davie County, "High School Principal's Annual Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1939-1940 and "Principal's Annual Elementary School Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1940-41.

²¹² Farmington School, Davie County, "Principal's Annual Elementary School Report," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 1949-50.

²¹³ Gordon Tomlinson, "Farmington School Receives New Auditorium, Other Improvements," undated newspaper clipping, circa 1950.

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Farmington Road and NC Highway 801 North were paved in 1949. In 1950, approximately two hundred people lived in Farmington, about the same number who occupied the community in 1900.²¹⁴ The 1950s, like the late nineteenth century and the 1920s, were a prosperous period in Farmington's history, and area residents supported several new commercial and civic ventures. Ed and Esther Johnson opened a service station, grocery store, and sandwich shop just north of the Johnson family home on April 1, 1953 and sold fertilizer from the warehouse next door. The Farmington Volunteer Fire Department was established in October 1953 to cover northern Davie County and community residents converted a front-gable-roofed brick garage on Farmington Road into a fire station. Local farmers served as the department's first fireman and Ed Johnson led the response to daytime fires for many years. Neither Wade Groce, who served as the first chief, nor any of the twenty-nine fireman he supervised, had any experience when they began fighting fires, but charter member John Caudle remembered that the team saved a house less than two months after they purchased a GMC high pressure water pumping truck in 1954.²¹⁵

Farmington High School remained in operation through the spring of 1956. That fall, Farmington, Mocksville, Cooleemee, and Shady Grove high schools were consolidated into Davie County High School, located on US Highway 601 south of Mocksville. The Farmington campus then served as an elementary school until the spring of 1970, after which Smith Grove and Farmington elementary schools were consolidated into Pinebrook Elementary School, which opened in the fall of 1970. The 1921 Farmington School building was soon demolished, but the rest of the campus has functioned as the Farmington Community Center since 1971, when the Farmington Community Association formed to facilitate the building's use for community programs and events.²¹⁶

After the Pino Grange chapter initiated planning for a local medical clinic in 1958, community leaders including Grange master Cecil Leagans, James Essic, David Lounsbury, Ray Harding, Vada Johnson, Queen Bess Kennen, and Wade Groce established the Farmington Medical Center Corporation, a non-profit organization, to raise funds for the building's construction. Mrs. Kennen donated land south of her home on Farmington Road upon which the clinic was erected. Completed in 1961 and operated by Dr. B. Graham Weathers until 1963, clinic staff included administrator Robert Steel, nurses Doxie Bearden and Marie Miller, and pharmacist Ann Wells in 1965. Beginning in 1968, Wake Forest University's Bowman Gray School of Medicine worked with the community to find a way to provide local medical care, and on October 16, 1972 the clinic reopened, staffed by administrator Bob Dill, nurse practitioner June Baise, registered nurse Marie Miller, and receptionist Rachel

²¹⁴ "Farmington," *The State*, September 2, 1950, 10-11, 22. Given that Farmington is an unincorporated rural community, estimated population figures vary widely and may not be accurate. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* lists 150 Farmington residents in 1892 and 100 in 1896.

²¹⁵ Dwight Sparks, "Farmington Fire Dept. Celebrating 50th Anniversary Saturday," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, October 28, 2004; "Farmington Landmark Closes Friday," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 4, 1990, p. 7B; Dwight Sparks, "Farmington's New 'Mayor'; Club Honors Johnson Couple for Years of Community Service," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, January 30, 1986.

²¹⁶ "Farmington Adapts School Property to Community Service," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, August 26, 1971; Wall, *History of Davie County*, 230; Lomax, "A Brief History of Farmington Schools," 28.

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Issacs. Mrs. Miller completed the nurse practitioner program at UNC-Chapel Hill and subsequently became the clinic's primary care provider. Winston-Salem physicians were on call as needed. The clinic remained open until late 1979.²¹⁷

Farmington suffered extensive damage when a tornado ripped through the community on May 5, 1989, uprooting trees, destroying power lines, and flattening buildings. The wind removed most of the Farmington Baptist Church roof and its steeple, which crashed into the house next door. Grady and Bertie Smith lost almost every tree on their property and the roof and historic kitchen of their home, the 1880 Johnson-Smith House at 1798 Farmington Road. The Farmington School gymnasium, auditorium, concession stand, and the baseball field's fencing and lighting were damaged and the bleachers destroyed. Although disaster relief funds facilitated some repairs, the gymnasium damage was so extensive that the building was demolished in 1991.²¹⁸

Extensive development coupled with a changing economy has dramatically impacted Davie County's rural landscape. Most farm owners also work other jobs to make ends meet. The United States Department of Agriculture 2002 Census of Agriculture reported 705 Davie County farms—an increase from 557 in 1997—totaling 76,295 acres. Most farms (284) contained between 50 and 179 acres, closely followed by 280 farms of 10 to 49 acres. Only 20 farms encompassed more than 500 acres. The majority of Davie County's farmers were white men, but women managed 220 farms, African Americans operated 15 farms, and Hispanics ran 4 farms.²¹⁹

Statistics from the 2007 Census of Agriculture reflect a slight decrease in the overall number of Davie County farms to 627, but the amount of farm acreage remained about the same, 69,872. Once again, most farms (262) ranged in size from 50 to 179 acres, with 229 containing between 10 and 49 acres, and 59 encompassing 9 acres or less. An additional 59 farms, including the 337-acre Bahnson Farm in Farmington, contained 180 to 499 acres. Many farmers (247) raised beef cattle in 2007, while only 8 tended dairy cattle, a dramatic reversal for a county that contained 756 farms that sold dairy products in 1944. A small number of farmers (14) sold hogs in 2007, and only 59 raised chickens and marketed eggs. Farm income was, for the most part, extremely low, with 268 farmers reporting less than \$2,500 in sales, 77 farmers earning between \$2,500 and \$4,999, 91 farmers

²¹⁷ Marie Miller, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, December 16, 2009; "Farmington Medical Center, Inc. to Erect Building for Doctors," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, July 31, 1958; Allen Paul, "Clinic in a Cornfield," *The Carolina Farmer*, September 1965, 10-11; Frank Tursi, undated photocopy of what is probably a *Winston-Salem Journal* article in the Farmington vertical file at the Mocksville Branch of the Davie County Public Library.

²¹⁸ Frank Tursi, "Farmington is Hard Hit," *Winston-Salem Journal*, May 7, 1989; Ronnie Gallagher, "Good Neighbors: They Came from Far and Wide to Offer Assistance," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, May 11, 1989; Ronnie Gallagher, "Farmington Dome: Old Gymnasium was the Place to be for Basketball," *Davie County Enterprise-Record*, February 21, 1991.

²¹⁹ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, "2002 Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1, Chapter 2, North Carolina County Level Data, Table 9. Harvested Cropland by Size of Farms and Acres Harvested: 2002, and 1997," http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/volume1/nc/st37_2_009_009.pdf, accessed on October 1, 2007.

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making between \$5,000 and \$9,999, and 105 bringing in between \$10,000 and \$24,999. More than half (351) of Davie County's farmers also had another occupation.²²⁰

The Farmington Historic District contains a cohesive collection of historic residential, agricultural, commercial, religious, and educational buildings associated with this unincorporated rural community and thus tells an important story about the area's development. The district is especially significant as it encompasses a rural northeastern Davie County landscape that has remained substantially intact into the twenty-first century. Although changes in agricultural production have impacted land use practices, the district's buildings, fences, roads, creeks, fields, pastures, tree stands, and woodlands convey the visual character typical of rural Piedmont communities during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Architecture Context

Residential

The dwellings in the Farmington Historic District represent both vernacular forms and popular national styles that were common throughout North Carolina from the mid-nineteenth century through the post-World War II era. Most late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century settlers erected one- or two-room log houses, often intended to provide temporary shelter until families had the means to build more elaborate residences. By the mid-nineteenth century, Davie County's established property owners employed skilled craftsmen to construct more finely detailed frame and brick dwellings and purchased items including window sash, shutters, and hardware from eastern North Carolina manufacturers and distributors. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century Albert W. Ellis, Sheek & Hall, and M. Fulford operated circular sawmills in Farmington, making dimensional lumber readily available to local builders. Factories in nearby urban areas such as Mocksville, Winston-Salem, Statesville, and Salisbury produced standardized building materials and inexpensive millwork. Edifices erected during this period thus reflected the increasingly elaborate architectural expression made possible by industrial advances, although traditional house forms such as the one-story, gable-roofed, L-shaped dwelling and the I-house—a two-story, three-bay, single-pile residence—persisted through the early twentieth century. Local builders incorporated architectural elements such as projecting central entrance bays, decorative eave brackets, and window hoods into their repertoires. Farmington residents commissioned the construction of Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman-style houses during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, followed by Minimal Traditional-style and Ranch houses in the mid-twentieth century.²²¹

²²⁰ United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, "2007 Census of Agriculture, Vol. 1, Table 1, County Summary Highlights: 2007," http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/North_Carolina/st37_2_001_001.pdf; Ray Hurley, Agriculture Division Chief, Counties and State Economic Areas: North Carolina and South Carolina, United States Census of Agriculture: 1950 (Washington, D. C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1952), 88.

²²¹ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 328. For more on the I-house form see Fred B. Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of*

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The district's oldest extant dwellings, erected in the mid-nineteenth century, have traditional forms, plans, and finishes. The two-story, side-gable-roofed, three-bay, frame Cash-Smith-Allen House at 1780 Farmington Road has been remodeled several times but retains features such as nine-over-six first story windows and molded cornices with gable-end returns that substantiate the circa 1850 construction date asserted by local tradition. Architectural Historian Kirk Mohney's 1985 photographs illustrate plaster walls and wood ceilings in the main block and wide boards sheathing the walls and ceilings in the rear ell. Simple post-and-lintel mantels with molded shelves frame the chimney fireboxes. The window and door surrounds consist of flat boards with applied molding at the outer edges.

Only a few Farmington dwellings manifest features of popular nineteenth-century architectural styles such as the Greek Revival, which appeared in North Carolina by the 1820s in sophisticated domestic and public buildings such as Hayes Plantation in Edenton and the Mordecai House and the State House in Raleigh. William Nichols, the architect of these buildings, utilized plates published in Stuart and Revett's *Antiquities of Athens* as inspirations for his designs. It was not until the 1830s, however, that a Greek Revival influence was evident in the mainstream domestic architecture of North Carolina. Few Greek Revival-style houses adopted the temple form; rather, most utilized a symmetrical plan with a center hall and low hipped or gabled roof. Many houses built during this period embody both Federal and Greek Revival-style elements including classical porticos, door and window surrounds, and mantels copied from popular patternbooks including Asher Benjamin's *Country Builder's Assistant* (1797), *American Builder's Companion* (1806), *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* (1830), and *Practice of Architecture* (1833), and Owen Biddle's *Young Carpenter's Assistant* (1805).²²²

George Wesley Johnson funded the construction of the modest one-story, three-bay, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded house at what is now 1983 Farmington Road in conjunction with the first Davie County Fair, which took place in Farmington on November 11, 1853. Chamfered posts support the porch, which wraps around the south, east, and north elevations, terminating at a gabled wing that extends from the north elevation. Interior photographs taken in 1985 show original mid-nineteenth-century elements such as a vernacular Greek Revival-style post-and-lintel mantel and a two-panel door.²²³

Johnson commissioned his own expansive brick residence and a no-longer-extant brick kitchen and smokehouse at what is now 1891 Farmington Road in late August of 1854. The two-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, double-pile dwelling is one of Davie County's most significant extant Greek Revival-style edifices, featuring a center passage plan, a two-tier entrance portico, and large window openings. Kirk Mohney's 1985 photographs

American Geographers 55, no. 4 (December 1965), 549-577; and Michael T. Southern, "The I-House as a Carrier of Style," edited by Doug Swaim in *Carolina Dwelling* (Raleigh: North Carolina State University School of Design Student Publication, 1978), 70-83.

²²² Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 96, 195.

²²³ Kirk Mohney, *The Historic Architecture of Davie County*, 140.

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depict interior features including vernacular Greek Revival-style mantels executed with variety of panel and pilaster configurations, tall molded baseboards, and robust doors with two tall vertical panels, some of which retained early decorative painting. The window and door surrounds consist of flat boards with applied molding and plain corner blocks.²²⁴

Given the economic challenges of the Reconstruction era, many Farmington residents were not able to build new dwellings until the late nineteenth century. Farmington's growth and prosperity during that period is reflected in the substantial homes constructed by farmers and merchants including Dr. J. W. Wiseman, Charles Frederic Bahnson, Charles A. Hartman, Francis Marion Johnson, Simeon A. Jarvis, Richard C. Brown, and James Millys Johnson. Dr. J. W. Wiseman's home at what is now 1696 Farmington Road, completed soon after a fire destroyed his 1850s home in the early 1870s, is traditional in form and style, perhaps replicating his earlier dwelling in its Greek Revival-style corner boards and window and door surrounds. Narrow sidelights and a transom surround the front door beneath a hip-roofed, three-bay porch.

Four late-nineteenth-century Farmington dwellings—three Johnson family houses and the Methodist parsonage—manifest elements of the Italianate style, which first appeared in North Carolina in 1844 with architect Alexander Jackson Davis's design for an addition to Governor John Motley Morehead's Greensboro home, Blandwood. The symmetrical, stuccoed brick Italian villa with a projecting central entrance tower emphatically broke with tradition and set the stage for the picturesque variation of the style that became widely popular after the Civil War. Many Italianate dwellings erected during the late nineteenth century were asymmetrically-massed and featured classical detailing, broad bracketed eaves, and elaborate window surrounds. Builders often embellished traditional I-house or T- and L-shaped dwellings with sawnwork decoration.²²⁵

Charles Bahnson and his wife Jane Amanda Johnson embraced the most fashionable architectural trends when they constructed an Italianate-style I-house at what is now 1948 Farmington Road after inheriting funds from his mother's uncle Israel George Loesch's around 1878. They incorporated their first house—a two-room dwelling—and their freestanding kitchen into the new house's one-story rear ell. The 1878 dwelling features a projecting, full-height, gabled central entrance bay with a double-leaf door and a hip-roofed front porch with a gable over the entrance. Heavy sawnwork brackets ornament the boxed cornices and original two-over-two sash illuminate the interior. A bay window projects from the north elevation's first story, and a bracketed flat-roofed hood shelters the south elevation's first-story window.

The Bahnson House was originally quite similar in form and detail to Francis Marion Johnson's Italianate-style I-house, Farmington's most elaborate late-nineteenth-century dwelling, which was constructed to the south at what is now 1798 Farmington Road just a few years later, in 1880. That residence also features a full-height, projecting, central entrance bay surmounted by a steeply-pitched gable and decorative sawnwork brackets at the

²²⁴ Ibid., 138; Marjorie Hunter, "Farmington Keeps Landmarks."

²²⁵ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition, 291-292, 340.

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cornices and the flat-roofed entrance hood. Differences include the sidelights and a transom that surround the original four-panel front door and the doors on the entrance bay's north and south sides that open onto hip-roofed porches with original lattice trellises. Tall, narrow, paired, one-over-one sash illuminate the main block and bay windows project from the north and south gable ends. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the rear roof slope and two one-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation.

The James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House, built in 1892 at 1832 Farmington Road, is the simplest of this Italianate-style I-house group, but is distinguished by decorative sawnwork brackets at the cornices and a steeply-pitched, Gothic Revival-style central gable on the front roof slope. A slightly larger gable rises from the center of the hip-roofed porch, which features bracketed, chamfered posts, paired at the entrance bay and spanned by an elaborate sawnwork balustrade. Original elements include two-over-two sash, the sidelights and a transom surrounding the front door, pointed-arched gable vents, and the standing-seam metal roof. As with several other late-nineteenth-century Farmington residences, two chimneys rise from the rear (east) elevation to serve the main block. Two one-story gabled ells extend from the rear elevation; the north (kitchen-dining room) ell is longer and has an end chimney. The south ell is a bathroom, added by Sears in 1934.²²⁶

The interior retains original plaster walls and ceilings, lighting fixtures, wood floors, tall baseboards, paneled doors surmounted by three-light transoms, and simple board window and door surrounds with applied moldings at the outer edges. A stair with a turned newel post and turned balusters rises from the center hall's west end and turns at a landing above the door that opens into the rear ell. All of the mantels are different, with the two in the main block's first-floor rooms encompassing mirrored overmantels. The second floor post-and-lintel mantels have bracketed shelves. The north rear ell originally contained two rooms—dining area and kitchen—but George Johnson opened it into one large space that serves the same function. The vernacular mantel on the ell's west wall features four applied half-circles that extend across the center. The board from which they were cut is attached beneath them.

The Farmington Methodist Church congregation erected a parsonage at what is now 1951 Farmington Road in 1890.²²⁷ The two-story house differs from Farmington's other Italianate-style dwellings in that it has a T-plan, with a front-gable wing at the north end and a side-gable wing extending to the south. Italianate features include the sawnwork brackets that embellish the cornices and the square posts with sawnwork brackets that support the hip-roofed front porch. Sidelights and a transom surround the front door. The house retains original two-over-two sash, rectangular gable vents, and a metal roof. Two one-story ells project from the west (rear) elevation; the south ell is larger and taller. The main block's two interior chimney stacks and the south ell's end chimney have been reconstructed.

The interior retains original plaster walls, tall baseboards, beadboard ceilings, post-and-lintel mantels, and a

²²⁶ George Johnson, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, October 19, 2009.

²²⁷ See Davie County Deed Book 12, page 569, for deed conveying the one-acre lot upon which the parsonage was constructed from William Gaston Johnson to the church trustees on April 2, 1890.

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stair with a turned newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail that rises from the center hall's west end to a landing above the front door. As in several other Farmington dwellings, plaster arches frame the recesses on either side of the chimney in the southeast room, which served as the parlor. The dining room mantel features geometric forms incised on the central and side panels. Molded surrounds frame the windows and original paneled doors. Two-light transoms surmount each door that leads into a hall.

Similar chimney and rear ell configurations as well as almost identical interior features including plaster arches framing the recesses on either side of the chimneys and bay windows in principal rooms, molded window and door trim, raised-panel doors, two-light transoms above doors that lead into halls, and decorative plaster medallions indicate that the same craftsmen may have erected several Farmington dwellings during this period. No definitive documentation to support this assertion has yet been found. House carpenters Lank Banker and Damon Hartman were enumerated in the Farmington vicinity in the 1880 census, and thus may have participated in the construction of some of these houses.

The Queen Anne style, which became popular in the 1880s, utilized mass-produced components to exemplify the most up-to-date design sensibilities. Queen Anne-influenced buildings were characterized by irregular massing, manifested on the exterior by features such as projecting bays, wings, towers, gables, dormers, and balconies, and on the interior by asymmetrical plans. Tall hipped roofs often sheltered these dwellings, and porches wrapped around facades and side elevations, sometimes encompassing corner towers or pavilions. Contrasting siding materials including various weatherboard styles, wood shingles, brick, stucco, faux half-timbering, and pebbledash were employed to add decorative interest, as were sawnwork porch elements, eave brackets, and gable ornament. Windows of different shapes, sizes, and sash configurations illuminated interior spaces.²²⁸

The one-story frame Redmon-Williams House, erected at 1799 Farmington Road in 1906, serves as Farmington's only example of the one-story version of this nationally popular architectural style frequently seen during the period—the Queen Anne cottage. A Statesville contractor erected the dwelling, which is characterized by a high hip roof pierced by a hip-roofed dormer on the front roof slope, projecting gable bays on the façade and side elevations, and a wraparound front porch supported by square posts spanned by a wood railing. Sidelights flank the front door. Two gabled wings and a hip-roofed wing with an enclosed room and a rear porch extend from the west (rear) elevation.

Although no fully-articulated Colonial Revival-style residences stand in Farmington, four dwellings erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—the Richard C. and Emma B. Brown House, the Thomas Herbert and Sallie M. Nicholson House, the Griffin-James House, and the Charles A. and Maggie M. Hartman House—feature Tuscan porch columns, often seen in residential construction influenced by the Colonial Revival aesthetic. Architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson has defined the Colonial Revival as “the United States’ most popular and characteristic expression. Neither a formal style or a movement, Colonial Revival

²²⁸ Ibid., 329, 402-403.

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embodies an attitude that looks to the American past for inspiration and selects forms, motifs, and symbols for replication and reuse.”²²⁹

Builders continued to incorporate Colonial Revival elements into houses throughout the twentieth century, and eclectic variations were especially popular in the 1920s, when John C. James and his sons Ralph, Milton, and Odell erected area dwellings, fabricated architectural elements such as mantels, and constructed and upholstered furniture. The family undoubtedly collaborated to build the two-story, frame, gambrel-roofed, Dutch Colonial Revival-style house at 1811 Farmington Road for Ralph and his wife Elva Williams in 1926. The house features a small arched hood above the entrance, a bay window at the façade’s center, and almost full-width shed dormers extending across the front and rear roof slopes.

As the twentieth century progressed, other national architectural trends influenced Davie County’s residential design. American stonemason, furniture maker, and metalworker Gustav Stickley visited England in 1898 and, upon his return home, promoted the tenants of the English Arts and Crafts movement—a reaction against the loss of manual skills and traditional crafts due to the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution—through his magazine, *The Craftsman* (1901-1916). The publication emphasized the use of natural, handcrafted materials and low, horizontal massing to allow for harmony between a house and its surrounding environment. Henry H. Saylor’s 1911 book, *Bungalows*, guided the consumer through the process of planning, designing, and building informal, cozy homes. Building plans for these houses, with their wide overhanging eaves, open arrangement of rooms, and inviting porches, appeared in national magazines such as *House Beautiful* and *The Ladies Home Journal*. Stickley, Radford, Sears, Montgomery Ward, Aladdin, and others sold bungalow plans by mail.²³⁰ Such promotion resulted in the bungalow’s national popularity during the late 1910s and 1920s and the construction of typically scaled-down versions of the form throughout North Carolina into the early 1940s. Bungalows, which were inexpensive and easy to build, also appealed to families’ desires for a modern, efficient house.

A few Farmington residents constructed houses that reflect a Craftsman influence. The one-story frame bungalow erected on the West-Laakey Farm at 155 Roland Road in 1915 has a full-width inset front porch supported by fluted square posts. The first-story windows retain original four-over-one sash and shed dormers provide additional illumination for the second story. A small gabled porch supported by square brick posts shelters the entrance at the dwelling’s northwest corner, while an engaged porch with identical posts extends from the rear (west) elevation.

Other houses, such as the one-and-one-half-story front-gable-roofed dwelling James Hugh and Nannie Sue Brock built at what is now 2283 NC Highway 801 North in 1928, have traditional forms but Craftsman features such as square porch posts on concrete block piers and four-over-one sash. The circa 1850 Cash-Smith-Allen

²²⁹ Richard Guy Wilson, *The Colonial Revival House* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004), 6.

²³⁰ Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America’s Arts and Crafts Home* (New York: The Penguin Group, 1995), 2, 7-8, 14-15.

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House at 1780 Farmington Road has a gabled front porch and a shed-roofed porte cochere on the south elevation, both of which appear to have been constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century and have Craftsman-style tapered porch posts on brick piers. The circa 1905, frame, L-form Ernest P. and Estelle L. Walker House at 1969 Farmington Road also has Craftsman porch elements; in this case square posts on stuccoed piers probably added in the 1920s to support the hip-roofed wraparound porch.

As construction revived after World War II, some North Carolina families sought the comfort and reassurance of styles of the past such as the Colonial Revival, but, more commonly, new houses took on a decidedly modern appearance. Small homes—usually one-story—with minimal detailing often exhibited stripped-down Colonial Revival or Tudor Revival influences; thus, the style, which began appearing just before the war and proved very popular in the last half of the 1940s, has been called Minimal Traditional by architectural historians. Minimal Traditional-style houses took several forms including a side-gabled dwelling with or without a front-facing gable. Colonial Revival-style entrance surrounds and double-hung windows with multi-pane sash are common features. Three small, frame, late 1940s dwellings—the John Francis and Mildred Johnson House at 1927 Farmington Road, the Allen Rental House at 1778 Farmington Road, and the Farmington Baptist Church parsonage at 1841 Farmington Road—were erected in this style.

By the 1950s, the Ranch house, with its long, rectangular form, low-pitched roof, and open floor plan, became the ubiquitous suburban house type. Evolving from the nineteenth-century concept of a ranch as a utilitarian rural dwelling or complex of buildings situated in the American West, to a rustic residential style popular in the southwestern United States in the 1930s, by the middle of the century the Ranch had been adapted nationally to meet the needs of families who desired “a lifestyle of simplicity, privacy, and informality that was close to nature.” Craftsman and Modern design influenced the Ranch style with their emphasis on connectivity between indoor and outdoor spaces, natural materials, and exposed structural elements. Architects combined features of vernacular wood, adobe, and stone ranches with Modernist design principles and spatial organization, resulting in a usually asymmetrical façade that reflected the interior arrangement of private and public spaces in the most efficient manner. Californians including designer Cliff May and architect William Wurster promoted the Ranch house as an unpretentious, affordable dwelling, and popular magazines such as *House Beautiful*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Sunset* conveyed that message to the American public.²³¹

The nine Ranch houses within the Farmington Historic District are modest in both size and design. Most of the dwellings have broad chimneys and minimal detailing, and, in some cases building contractors used sheathing materials that were newly popular in the 1950s as façade embellishment. The frame, gable-roofed Ranch house erected by a Mockville builder for John and Rose Caudle at 1728 Farmington Road in 1955 features Tennessee crab orchard stone veneer on the projecting bay and the kneewall that wraps around the house’s northwest corner. The hip-roofed brick-veneered Ranch house a Davidson County builder constructed for Charles W. and Barbara Allen at 1716 Farmington Road in 1960 has a projecting central bay sheathed in permastone, a formed concrete veneer.

²³¹ Alan Hess, *The Ranch House* (New York: Harry Abrams, Inc., 2004), 12-13.

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Agricultural Outbuildings

The layout of the district's agricultural complexes reflects the efficiency of diversified, progressive farming operations. Building arrangement was intended to take advantage of the topography while economizing labor. Farm buildings were placed in high, well-drained areas, with outbuildings located at least several hundred feet from the house in order to minimize odors, insects, noise, and fire danger, but not so far away that chore completion routes were needlessly long. Outbuildings and structures associated with the domestic sphere were closest to the family dwelling, while buildings needed for crop and livestock production were farther away. Farm buildings were grouped according to function.²³²

Tobacco barns and pack houses, most of which are now gone, stood close to farm roads and fields. Equipment sheds were conveniently located in farmyards and along the farm roads. Some farm machinery, carriages, and later automobiles were housed and serviced close to dwellings, while tractors, plows, and harvesting machines were stored in the large equipment sheds closer to the agricultural fields. Granaries, corncribs, silos, and hay sheds were located close to barns and pastures to allow for easy access to livestock feed.²³³

The earliest outbuildings in the Farmington Historic District were erected in the vernacular tradition of Piedmont farm buildings, utilizing readily available materials and basic framing techniques. The more recent outbuildings manifest progressive agricultural trends, conforming to specifications published in *The Progressive Farmer* and Agricultural Extension Service bulletins. For example, the German-sided, shed-roofed privy built around 1930 at the James and Rachel Johnson House at 1832 Farmington Road features a concrete slab foundation and a concrete toilet base as recommended by extension agents for sanitary privy construction.

The expertise and equipment offered by the agricultural extension service was particularly important to Davie County farmers in the 1930s. Farm agents conducted site visits, distributed bulletins, organized meetings and demonstration farm tours, and developed soil conservation and crop rotation plans for hundreds of farms. Building planning, financing, and construction was always an important part of farm operation, no matter the farm size or type, but became a particularly significant issue during the depression years. Farmers erected buildings in the most economical manner possible, using inexpensive, readily available, or salvaged materials. Farm buildings were often remodeled, expanded, or moved as productivity increased or needs changed. Utility was the primary consideration; appearance was secondary.²³⁴

Farmington's oldest freestanding outbuildings were constructed in the early twentieth century, but three

²³² Gemini Research, *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms, 1820-1960* (St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 2005), 6.179. Accessed online at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/cultural_res/farmsteads.html.

²³³ *Ibid.*, 6.61, 6.233.

²³⁴ *Ibid.*, 5.1-5.9

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buildings that were erected during the mid-nineteenth century form the rear ell of the Charles F. and Jane A. Bahnson House at 1948 Farmington Road, demonstrating a common trend to reuse earlier buildings in the service wings of later residences. In 1867, the Bahnsons relocated and renovated two one-room dwellings, said to have originally functioned as slave quarters, to serve as their first home. That two-room house and the Bahnson's freestanding kitchen were subsequently incorporated into the rear ell of the two-story, center-hall-plan residence they constructed around 1878. Although the ell's interior has been remodeled several times, the original framing is substantially intact.

Several representative examples of early-twentieth-century outbuildings are located throughout the district. The front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded smokehouses at the James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House at 1832 Farmington Road and the Richard C. and Emma B. Brown House at 1842 Farmington Road served to cure and store meat during the period. Frank Bahnson erected a gambrel-roofed barn in 1913 and a front-gable-roofed corncrib/granary around the same time. Domestic animals were quartered in stalls on the barn's lower levels, while hay was stored in the loft. The corn crib has slatted walls to provide air circulation for the stored corn, while the granary has bins with high wooden walls to discourage rodents and insects.

Wellhouses once stood in every yard, and in some cases, like at the James M. and Rachel S. Johnson House, were incorporated into rear porches and subsequently enclosed. The well that provided water for the Farmington Methodist Church parsonage at 1951 Farmington Road is now beneath the rear addition's fireplace. Several freestanding examples remain, however. The weatherboarded wellhouse that was erected south of the Ward-Tucker House at 1983 Farmington Road around the turn of the twentieth century has a metal gable roof, a square wood wellcover, a rear storage room, and a wood lattice screen over a portion of the opening on the north elevation. Square posts and diagonal braces support the hip-roofed wellhouse constructed north of the Wiseman-Kennen House at 1696 Farmington Road in the 1920s. The circa 1930 hip-roofed wellhouse on the Johnson-Smith property at 1798 Farmington Road is about the same size, but has stripped log posts and a square brick well cover.

Only a few buildings associated with tobacco processing, once Farmington's largest industry, are still extant. Richard and Emma Brown's side-gable-roofed tobacco packhouse has a corrugated metal roof, flush board sheathing (wide horizontal siding and vertical boards in the gables), and a board-and-batten door. Some common outbuilding types, such as chicken houses, only survive in limited quantities, but quite a few equipment sheds—usually shed-roofed buildings with sheathing on three walls—and hip and gable-roofed garages remain in the district. Some of the later garages are concrete block, perhaps manufactured by Farmington barber James Hugh Brock.

The West-Lakey Farm at the district's south end contains one of Farmington's most intact farm complexes. The outbuilding assemblage at 155 Roland Road includes a weatherboarded two-bay equipment shed; a tall, narrow, weatherboarded smokehouse (originally the post office for the Davie County community of Nestor); and a one-story, front-gable-roofed granary with equipment shed additions; all of which appear to have been constructed in the 1920s. The one-story metal-sided hog pen, the one-story weatherboarded garage with a metal pent roof,

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and the one-story, frame, front-gable barn and the adjacent concrete block silo were erected later, perhaps in the 1940s. Modern post-and-wire fences surround the pasture in front of the house and outbuilding complex, which is located on a hill above a creek. Windbreaks outline the fields to the south and west.

Commercial

Farmington's first commercial buildings were simply-finished one- and two-story weatherboarded structures with full-width front porches, none of which are extant. Two general stores erected in the 1870s—Simeon A. Jarvis's two-story weatherboarded building and Francis Marion Johnson two-story, brick, hip-roofed edifice—still stand near the crossroads. The Jarvis-Horne Store at 1986 Farmington Road has a front-gable roof behind a false parapet and shed-roofed front and rear porches. The façade originally consisted of a double-leaf front door flanked by two large twelve-light storefront windows. Six-over-six sash illuminate the second story, while three high, square, four-light sash on the south elevation light the store. A narrow, one-story, shed-roofed addition extends the north elevation's full length. Jarvis's son-in-law, Lonnie J. Horne (1873-1956) became his business partner and built the addition to store oats, grain, and produce in 1910. A shed-roofed porch projects from the addition's façade beneath a false parapet and the shed-roofed auto service bay at the northwest corner covers a grease pit. The interior had been remodeled several times by 1985.

Local merchant Francis Marion Johnson reflected his success during Farmington's late nineteenth-century growth as a trading center with the construction of two substantial brick commercial buildings, the first of which brickmason Holden Smith erected at what is now at 1896 Farmington Road in 1873. Johnson subsequently expanded his business and built a larger, no-longer-extant, three-story store with a corbelled façade to the north in 1881. He then sold the first building to the Farmington Masonic Lodge, who added onto the façade in 1922. The building features a central double-leaf door with a large two-light transom flanked by tall two-over-two sash. Six-over-six sash illuminate the rest of the building. A shed-roofed hood supported by rectangular braces shelters the front entrance.

During the first half of the twentieth century, Farmington entrepreneurs once again constructed modest frame edifices to house their businesses. William A. Taylor erected a one-and-a-half-story, front-gable-roofed general store adjacent to the Ellis Mill. John Williard constructed a two-story commercial building with pressed-metal sheathing that emulates stone and a standing seam metal roof at 1890 Farmington Road (just south of Francis Marion Johnson's store) in the early 1920s and his sons, Fletcher and Ralph Williard, operated an auto repair shop at that location through the late 1940s. James Hugh Brock erected two small gable-roofed buildings on the south side of what is now NC Highway 801 in 1928 and 1940 to house his barber shop and Farmington's post office. He also repaired shoes and manufactured brick, well tile, and cement block.

By the mid-twentieth century, function was more of a concern than aesthetics in terms of commercial building construction. In 1953, Ed and Esther Johnson erected a one-story, concrete block commercial building with a side-gable wing at the west end and a front-gable garage wing at the east end to house a service station, grocery store, and sandwich shop. They also constructed the metal-sided warehouse to the east at 2331 NC Highway

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801 to store the fertilizer they sold. The concrete block building at 2339 NC Highway 801 was remodeled in 2009 to serve as a general store and restaurant.

Educational

Although some institutional buildings erected in the late 1940s embraced the future through their Modernist design, many educational edifices constructed in the 1930s and 1940s embodied the comfort and reassurance of the past in familiar styles such as the Classical Revival. Economic challenges and material shortages during this period usually resulted in cost-effective designs with basic floor plans and simple finishes. The one-story, side-gable-roofed, German-sided Farmington School Agricultural Building, completed in 1936, is similar in appearance to many rural frame schools erected during first decades of the twentieth century. A gabled entrance portico supported by narrow square posts shelters the central entrances surmounted by three-light transoms. Large six-over-six sash windows illuminate the two classrooms.

The Farmington School Auditorium, completed in 1950, displays a Classical Revival influence in its front-gable main block and pedimented entrance portico. A triangular pediment and four-light transoms surmount the three-part auditorium entrance. Some original metal casement windows illuminate the interior; others have been replaced or the window openings infilled with brick. A flat-roofed, open, metal breezeway covers the sidewalk leading from the auditorium's south side to the rear wing and the picnic shelter.

Although the building's exterior was simply finished, the interior encompassed all of the most up-to-date features available at the time. The auditorium contained "the latest style" seats, a stage, dressing rooms, an audio visual balcony, and an office. The home economics classroom had three kitchens with cabinets, sinks, and stoves; seven work tables; five sewing machines; and a built-in ironing board. The cafeteria included new kitchen equipment and chairs and Formica-topped tables to seat 150 students.²³⁵

Religious

The Farmington Historic District includes two front-gable-roofed frame churches completed in 1882 to serve the area's white Baptist and Methodist congregations. The Farmington Baptist sanctuary at 1835 Farmington Road, in keeping with denominational doctrine, is the most austere, and features tall, double-hung windows that were originally protected by louvered shutters. The opaque stained-glass sash and the gabled portico that shelters the double-leaf, paneled front doors were later additions. Electric light fixtures, probably installed about the time Farmington received electric service in 1921, illuminate the portico and sanctuary. The steeple was replaced and the rear addition constructed after a 1989 tornado.

Gothic Revival features such as steeply-pitched gable roofs, pointed-arched windows, castellated towers,

²³⁵ Gordon Tomlinson, "Farmington School Receives New Auditorium, Other Improvements," undated newspaper clipping, circa 1950.

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patterned masonry, and asymmetrical massing were widely incorporated into high-style churches and public buildings throughout the country from the late nineteenth century through the first few decades of the twentieth century. Church interiors often utilized white plaster walls as a foil for dark, robust woodwork. Farmington Methodist Church at 1939 Farmington Road reflects a Gothic Revival influence in elements such as the three-story entrance belltower that dominates the three-bay façade. Three tiers of paired and tripled louvered rectangular and arched vents pierce the tower. Tall stained-glass windows with arched hoods illuminate the sanctuary. The decorative brackets and paneled frieze ornamenting the deep eaves were left in place when the building was sheathed in vinyl siding. Gabled education and office wings extend from the sanctuary's west elevation. The north educational wing, added in 1924, retains stained-glass sash; the west and south wings, constructed in 1950, have vinyl replacement windows. A brick fire wall separates the north wing from the west and south wings.

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Section 10. Geographical Data

UTM References, continued

5. Zone 17, 541600 Easting, 3984300 Northing
6. Zone 17, 541280 Easting, 3985000 Northing
7. Zone 17, 541700 Easting, 3985820 Northing
8. Zone 17, 542080 Easting, 3986180 Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Farmington Historic District are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale 1" = 200'

Boundary Justification

The Farmington Historic District encompasses approximately 324 acres surrounding the intersection of NC Highway 801 North and Farmington Road. The district boundaries are drawn to encompass the most cohesive collection of contributing residential, agricultural, commercial, religious, and educational buildings associated with the unincorporated community. The area immediately outside the district is characterized by modern residential development.

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Section 11. Additional Documentation

Photo Catalog

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in May, October, and December 2009 unless otherwise noted. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Streetscape, 1951-1957 Farmington Road
2. Johnson Family House, 1891 Farmington Road
3. Johnson-Smith House, 1798 Farmington Road (photo from January 5, 2005 as the house is now obscured by vegetation but otherwise unchanged)
4. Redmon-Williams House, 1799 Farmington Road
5. West-Lakey Farm, 155 Roland Road
6. Corn Crib and Barn, 1948 Farmington Road
7. Farmington Methodist Church, 1939 Farmington Road
8. Francis Marion Johnson Store, 1896 Farmington Road and Williard Garage, 1890 Farmington Road
9. Farmington School Auditorium, Cafeteria, and Home Economics Building, 1723 Farmington Road
10. Farmington Community Cemetery, west end of Cemetery Road
11. Farmington Masonic Lodge No. 265, 149 Cemetery Road