

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC Captain John Koonts, Jr. Farm

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of SR 1186 just North of intersection with SR 1189

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tyro

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Davidson

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME E. D. Lingle

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 5157, South Stratford Road

CITY, TOWN Winston-Salem

VICINITY OF

STATE North Carolina 27103

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

May 12, 1983

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

919/733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> _EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> _GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> _RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> _MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain John Koonts, Jr. House, located on a 250-acre farm on the Yadkin River in western Davidson County, is a one-story frame house with massing and decorative details of unique vernacular Italianate Revival design. The plan consists of a two-story hexagonal central section with three one-story wings extending from it. The facade is distinguished by a central one-story semi-circular porch. Behind the house are three original log outbuildings: a double pen barn, a corn crib, and a granary, and a frame well house of indeterminate age. The elegant Italianate farmhouse with its log outbuildings, built in the 1870s, form one of the most architecturally significant farm complexes of the Reconstruction Era in Davidson County. The design of the Koonts House was apparently inspired by nearby Cooleemee Plantation, an "Anglo-Grecian villa" built in 1855 in neighboring Davie County. One other postbellum house in Davidson County, the Philip Sowers House, a rare brick y-plan structure also located on the Yadkin River, was also apparently inspired by Cooleemee.

Each of the three wings measures fifteen by fifteen feet. Although access to the interior of the house was restricted, the plan appears to consist of a center hall, with a stair rising in two flights to the belvedere, which functions as a bedroom. One of the wings is a parlor, the second is a bedroom, and the third is a dining room. A fifteen by twenty foot kitchen is set at right angles to the dining room wing. The two front wings have exterior end chimneys, with stepped brick bases, single stepped shoulders, and are laid in stretcher bond. Between the dining room and the kitchen is an interior chimney of apparently identical design. The house is set on fieldstone corner piers, infilled with brick. The plain, apparently original weatherboard, corner posts, and wide, overhanging boxed eaves which form pedimented gable ends with flush sheathing and enclose the exterior chimney stacks, are Greek Revival in design. Shallow gable roofs cover the wings and a shallow pyramidal roof caps the belvedere. All roof surfaces are covered with standing seam tin. Six-over-six sash with mitred surrounds and heavy wooden sills illuminate both the first story and the belvedere.

The main entrance is a single door with four flat panels, flanked by multi-paned sidelights above raised panels. A semicircular porch, with flush wall sheathing, provides a diminutive, elegant Italianate style counterpoint to the severe Greek Revival detailing of the wings. Four paired, slender posts with molded bases and caps, infilled with diagonal latticework, support the semicircular roof, with identical eave treatment to the main roof. A sheaf-of-wheat balustrade, partially missing on the south side, encloses the porch. The south rear entrance, located in the center section between the south and rear wings, is similar to the front entrance, but has a two-flat paneled door. Its original porch, indicated by the flush sheathing, was approximately the same width as the front porch. However, presently the larger replacement porch, with nondescript posts, shelters the door and portions of the adjacent wings. The only other significant alteration to the exterior is the addition of a bathroom between the north and rear wings, concealing the north entrance. It is likely that most of the original interior trim is intact, but in a poor state of repair.

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All three of the log outbuildings, located behind the house, are of half-dovetail construction. The barn, typical of Davidson County, is a double pen structure with a central passage protected by large gates which swing on wooden hinges. An original pent shelters the front elevation, while frame sheds enclose the sides and rear. The corn crib, also typical of the county, has two narrow log cribs separated by a center passage, covered by a gable roof parallel to the passageway. The granary, set close to the crib and of approximately the same size, has a single batten door in the front gable end. The well house, located opposite the south rear entrance to the house, is a frame structure with a gabled overhang sheltering the brick well and a batten door in the front gable wall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

XX

LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1870-1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Koonts House, a frame farmhouse of Italiante Revival style located near the Yadkin River in western Davidson County, was built for Captain John H. Koonts, Jr. between 1870 and 1880. It is one of two houses in the county inspired by the fashionable cruciform design of Cooleemee Plantation (NR), an "Anglo-Grecian villa" built in 1855 across the Yadkin River in Davie County.¹ The Koonts House has an unusual one-story y-plan with a hexagonal belvedere surmounting the center section. In the center of the front elevation, a semi-circular porch shelters the main entrance.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. Embodies interesting post-bellum influence of an antebellum plantation house. The Koonts House shows the reduction of the academic and popular architectural elements of Cooleemee Plantation, built in nearby Davie County in 1855, to a frame vernacular farmhouse, built ca. 1875.

John Koonts was born in 1837 to John and Sarah Koonts of north Davidson County.² John Koonts the elder was a relatively prosperous farmer who was able to give homestead tracts to his sons in the 1850s. In 1852 he sold a ninety-eight-acre tract to son John Jr. for "\$1.00, love and good will," adjoining lands of R. S. Roberts, with this restriction: "The said John Koonts Sr. reserves to himself the right of objecting to any sale of the aforesaid lands should the said John Koonts Jr. ever wish to sell."³ John was only fifteen years old at the time, but by 1860 he is listed in the census as married and maintaining a separate household. He is identified as a farm laborer, with a wife, Jane, aged seventeen, no children, and a personal estate worth \$407. No real estate is credited to him, so he may not yet have taken possession of his ninety-eight-acre tract. His father, aged seventy, owned \$2,000 worth of real estate and a personal estate of over \$6,000 in 1860.⁴ When John Sr. died in 1866, he left his 150-acre "Home plantation" and other property to his wife and children, and appointed sons John Jr. and William as his executors.⁵

According to family tradition, John and Jane built their unique house shortly after John returned from the Civil War, living in the log granary (which still stands) while the house was being completed. They had only two children, Webster, born in 1867, and Sarah Caroline, born in 1873.⁶ It is likely that the couple lived with John's widowed mother in the family homeplace immediately after the end of the war. In the early 1870s John made two additional purchases of acreage adjacent to his original land, enlarging the size of his farm to 267 acres.⁷ One of these tracts, containing 97 acres, he purchased from Peter and Fanny Hairston, owners of Cooleemee Plantation, for \$1,400, a large sum during the Reconstruction period when many farms in North Carolina were being sold off in bankruptcy. Koonts' affluence was probably due to his recent inheritance of part of his father's estate. The difference in the valuation of his farm in the 1870 census and the 1880 census probably reflects not only these land acquisitions but also the construction of his elegant new residence during this decade. The similarity of the Koonts House to the elegant "Anglo-Grecian villa," known as Cooleemee, built in neighboring Davie County in 1855 for Peter Hairston, is probably explained by this personal connection between Koonts and Hairston. In the 1870 agricultural schedule John had 35 acres of improved land, 25 acres of woodland, and a farm valued at only \$400. He had wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, butter and hay worth \$465.⁸ The 1880 agricultural schedule credits him with approximately the same amount of tilled land, meadows, and woodland as in 1870, but the value of his farm had increased to \$3,000.⁹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 210 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 5 5 0 0 0	3 9 6 6 3 0 0	B	1 7	5 5 5 3 3 0	3 9 6 7 1 1 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1 7	5 5 6 3 0 0	3 9 6 7 1 9 0	d	1 7	5 5 6 2 8 0	3 9 6 6 5 5 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Tax Map 7, Davidson County Tax Office, contained in Lot 6, bounded on the east by SR 1186, on the south by Lots 2, 8 and 5, on the west by the Yadkin River (Davidson-Davie County line), and on the north by Lot 5, as outlined in red on map.

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When John died in 1923, he left his "home place in Tyro Township, containing one hundred and seventy acres more or less" to his wife and his grandchildren Lena Leonard and John Vaughn Leonard. His daughter was already deceased, and he forgave debts owed to him by his son in lieu of land inheritance.¹⁰ His wife died in 1927, and the farm has been leased to tenants since that time, as neither grandchild lived in Davidson County. In 1952 John Leonard and his wife, residents of Georgia, deeded their one-half undivided interest in the property to Lena and her husband Roy Shoaf, of Caldwell County.¹¹ Roy and Lena sold the whole tract to E. D. Lingle, owner of a bakery in Winston-Salem, in 1954.¹²

Footnotes

¹Cooleemee Plantation, National Register nomination, prepared On file in the Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

²United States Census, Population Schedule, 1860. Davidson County. State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, pp. 44, 58.

³Davidson County Deed Book 12, page 742, State Archives, Division of Archives and History.

⁴United States Census, Population Schedule, 1860. Davidson County.

⁵Davidson County Wills, Book 2, page 342. State Archives.

⁶Telephone interview with Lena Leonard Shoaf, 21 April 1983, Charlotte, North Carolina.

⁷Davidson County Deed Book 21, page 108; Davidson County Deed Book 23, page 145.

⁸United States Census, Agricultural Schedule, 1870. Davidson County, Tyro Township. State Archives.

⁹United States Census, Agricultural Schedule, 1880. Davidson County, Tyro Township. State Archives.

¹⁰Davidson County Wills, Book 9, page 269. Davidson County Courthouse, Lexington, North Carolina.

¹¹Davidson County Deed Book 234, page 73. Davidson County Register of Deeds, Lexington, North Carolina.

¹²Davidson County Deed Book 287, page 11. Davidson County Register of Deeds.

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Cooleemee Plantation, National Register nomination,
Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North
Carolina.

Davidson County Deeds and Wills, State Archives, Division of Archives and History,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Davidson County Deeds and Wills, Davidson County Courthouse, Lexington, North
Carolina.

Shoaf, Lena Leonard. Telephone interview with. 21 April 1983. Charlotte, North
Carolina.

United States Census Records. Population Schedule, 1860. Agricultural Schedules,
1870, 1880. Davidson County. State Archives, Division of Archives and
History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

JAVIE COUNTY
DAVIDSON COUNTY

*Caplan's John Koats, Jr Farm
Quadrangle: Chestland, N.C.
Davidson County near
Tax Map 7 lot 6*

249.10 AC.

6

E 1,590

REEDS FIRE DIST
IN TYRO FIRE DIST

TN

1186

22.2 AC.

5

8

