



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

July 23, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Report for Replacement of Bridge 142 on SR 1639 over
West Fork of Muddy Creek, PA 15-03-0042, Forsyth County, ER 15-1546

Thank you for your memorandum of July 16, 2015 transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

The **Vest-Tuttle Farm (FY2502)** is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for the important architectural assemblage of intact and distinctive farm buildings, including two dwellings and more than a dozen farm and domestic outbuildings and objects dating from ca. 1860 to 1930s. Individually noteworthy among the group are rare building types in the county: the three-crib log barn, log granary, and log corn crib. Based on the limited information in the report about the farm's historic production and the historic field patterns, we cannot concur with the finding that the property meets Criterion A for agriculture. The boundary of the property is appropriate for the historic resources as it encompasses an area historically owned by the Vest and Tuttle families.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr@ncdot.gov

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
Intensive Evaluation: Vest-Tuttle Farm

Replace Bridge No. 142 on SR 1639 (Tuttle Road) over West Fork Muddy Creek
Forsyth County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
TIP# BD-5109AB
WBS# 45355.1.28

Prepared for:
Human Environment Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

Prepared by:
MdM Historic Consultants
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
919-368-1602

June 25, 2015


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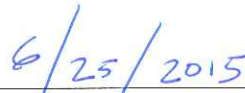
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June 25, 2015



Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.



Date



Mary Pope Farr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation



Date

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I. PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

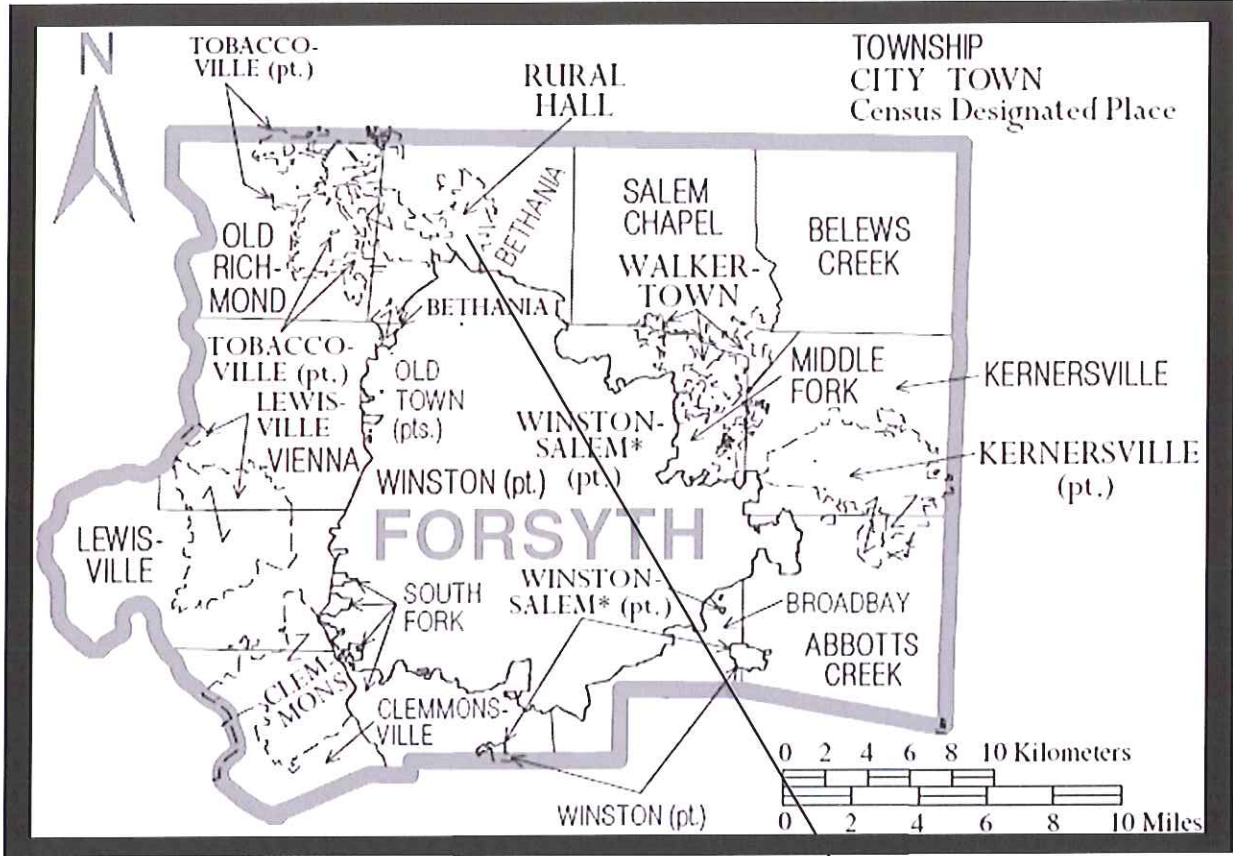


Figure 1: Project Location in Bethania Township in Forsyth County

Approximate location of the Vest-Tuttle Farm (FY 2502)



Figure 2: APE map, prepared by the NCDOT Historic Architecture Section

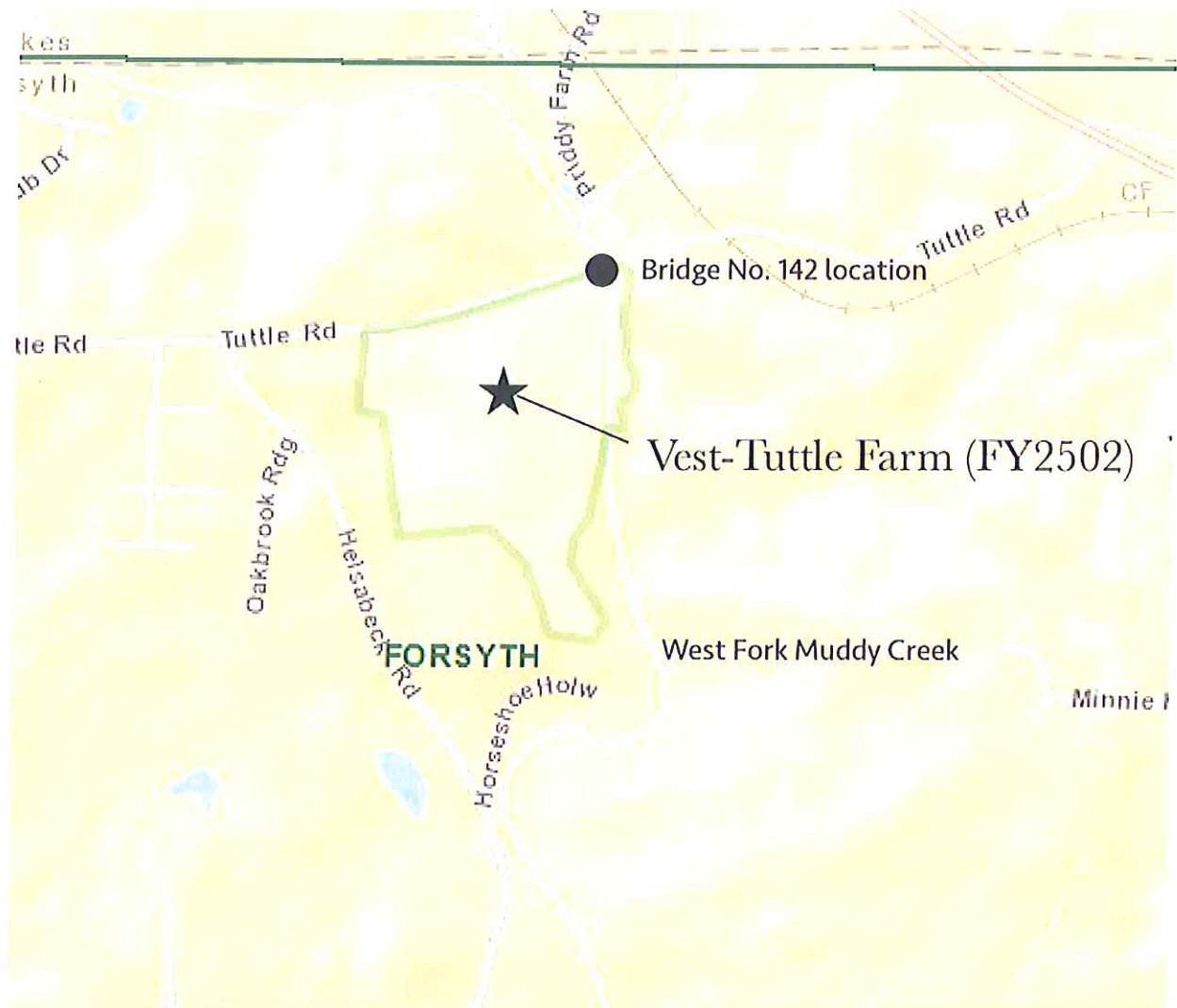


Figure 3: Location of Vest-Tuttle Farm, adapted from HPOWEB GIS Service

II. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Historic Architecture Staff of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) in-house human environmental unit requested MdM Historical Consultants (MdM) provide historic architectural analyses for the replacement of Bridge No. 142 on SR 1639 over West Fork Muddy Creek in Forsyth County. In particular, MdM evaluated the Vest-Tuttle Farm (FY 2502, Study List), which is located west of the bridge at 720 Tuttle Road in the Rural Hall community. MdM evaluated the eligibility of the property and provided this written report that includes photos of the buildings and landscape, historic and architectural contexts, evaluations of National Register eligibility, and comparisons to similar type properties in the region. MdM recommends the Vest-Tuttle Farm as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Eligibility Findings:

| Resource | Survey site number | Eligibility recommendation | Applicable criteria |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Vest-Tuttle Farm (including James and Eugenia Tuttle House, FY0556) | FY2502 | Recommended eligible for the NRHP | Criteria A and C for Agriculture and Architecture |

III. Project Description and Methodology

NCDOT proposes to replace Bridge No. 142 on SR 1639 (Tuttle Road) over West Fork Muddy Creek in northern Forsyth County. West Fork Muddy Creek flows south into northwest Davidson County and into the Yadkin River. The Area of Potential Effects (APE), which is shown in figure 2, is delineated at seventy-five feet east and west of the centerline of the bridge and the road and 300 feet from each end of the bridge. The bridge is state funded and requires federal permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

NCDOT contracted with MdM in April 2015 to complete an intensive-level historic resources evaluation of Vest-Tuttle Farm on Tuttle Road adjacent to Bridge No. 142. Architectural historian Jennifer F. Martin conducted the fieldwork on May 8, 2015, photographing and mapping the property, and authored the report. Christopher Basto, owner of the property, was contacted via letter on May 1, 2015. Subsequently, he provided information about the Vest-Tuttle Farm during a site visit on May 8 and in follow-up emails. Primary source investigation included research at the Forsyth County Register of Deeds, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the North Carolina Collection at the Durham County Public Library, and the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh.

MdM conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; and the NCDOT document entitled Historic Architectural Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines (2003). This property evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

IV. Properties Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Resource Name: | Vest-Tuttle Farm |
| HPO Survey Site Number: | FY 2502 |
| Location: | 720 Tuttle Road; S side SR 1639, 0.7 mi. E of SR 1636 |
| Parcel ID: | 6901-94-0445.00 |
| Date(s) of Construction | Circa 1860; circa 1884 |
| Recommendation: | Eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture |



Figure 4: Vest-Tuttle Farm, facing east

The Vest-Tuttle Farm on Tuttle Road (SR 1639) is located on the south side of Tuttle Road in the Bethania Township of the northern portion of Forsyth County. The farm is approximately one-quarter mile west of Bridge No. 142. Tuttle Road intersects with Helsabeck Road (SR 1638) approximately 310 yards west of the Vest-Tuttle Farm. Dense forest set on rolling hills interspersed with cleared agricultural fields characterizes this portion of Forsyth County.

The Vest-Tuttle Farm, which includes two dwellings from the nineteenth century and numerous outbuildings, occupies a 39.94-acre tract composed of woodland and cleared expanses and fields. West Fork Muddy Creek forms a portion of the parcel's eastern boundary

and flows in a southerly direction. The right-of-way of Tuttle Road (SR 1639) forms the northern boundary.

The farm, representing long-term occupation by two families, is typical of piedmont North Carolina rural agricultural complexes in that its domestic outbuildings stand close to the farmhouse, while its agricultural structures were built farther from the house. The composition of outbuildings reflects the changing needs of the farmers and their families who occupied this place over time and the skilled craftsmanship that contributed to their preservation.

A dirt-surfaced lane extending in a southeasterly direction from east-west running Tuttle Road provides the approach to the James and Eugenia Tuttle House (FY 0556), which forms the center of the Vest-Tuttle Farm. Built circa 1884, its rear ell dates to circa 1910. An extensive and significant grouping of outbuildings dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries surrounds the Tuttle House. Outbuildings set in a linear fashion on the north side of the driveway include a well-preserved and rare triple-crib log barn, a log granary, both from the mid-nineteenth century, and a gable-front weatherboard garage from the 1920s. A board-and-batten carriage house stands on the south side of the driveway, southwest of the large log barn. A front-gabled corncrib is west of the carriage house. The approach lane terminates in a circular driveway in front of the nineteenth century gabled well house standing just in front of the Tuttle House. Behind the house is the two-story, side-gabled log dwelling built by Alexander and Charlotte Vest and dating from around 1860. South of the log house and southeast of the Tuttle House are a chicken house and a smokehouse. A generator building is due south of the Tuttle House. The blacksmith shop stands southwest of the Tuttle House. Each building on the farm is described in the inventory that follows.

The Vest-Tuttle Farm consists of a 34.94-acre tract that is the residual land historically associated with the property. The farm contains the main domestic complex, an earlier house, and a concentration of agricultural processing buildings that represent the type of farming that was typical of the Piedmont in the from the Antebellum period to the mid-twentieth century. Surrounding these man-made structures is a landscape that has been shaped by nature, the Vest and Tuttle families, and subsequent owners whose attention to the preservation of the farm remains evident. The farm consists of both wooded and cleared land with creek side frontage to the east. The majority of the cleared land is to the west around the farm buildings.

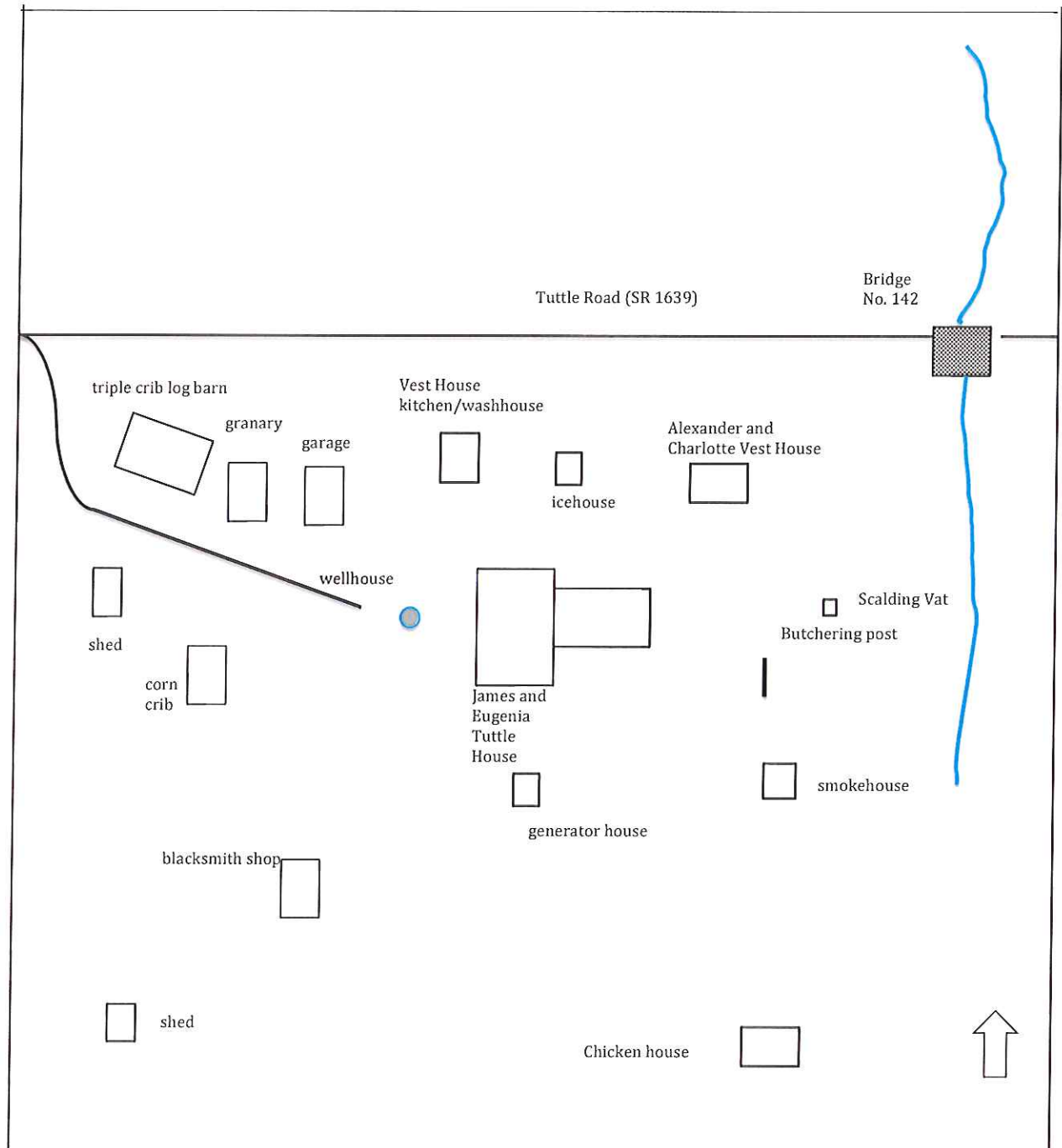


Figure 5: Site Plan for Vest-Tuttle Farm (not to scale)

V. Property Description



Figure 6: James and Eugenia Tuttle House, facing northeast

James and Eugenia Tuttle House (FY 0556) circa 1884, circa 1910

The Tuttle House stands at the center of the farm and is the home of the current owners, Christopher and Kimberly Basto. Built around 1884, the two-story, frame, single-pile, three-bay house with weatherboard siding includes a two-story rear ell constructed circa 1910. The I-house is modest in its adornment except for the turned posts and scroll-cut sawnwork brackets that grace the one-story shed-roofed porch at the façade. It shelters the entrance composed of a paneled and multi-light wood front door with plain surround. Windows throughout are original nine-over-six and six-over-six and a new metal standing seam roof crowns the Tuttle House. It replaced the original standing-seam tin roof. A pair of common bond brick chimneys with penciled mortar joints, stepped shoulders, and corbelled caps flanks the gable ends of the main block. A pair of louvered vents pierced each gable end.



Figure 7: South elevation of the James and Eugenia Tuttle House, facing north

Around 1910, to accommodate a growing family, the Tuttle's constructed a two-story rear ell to add a living room, kitchen, and bedrooms. A full-width, shed-roofed porch on the ell's south elevation has been enclosed and fitted with six-over-six vinyl windows and two modern half-glazed synthetic-clad doors. A small north elevation, shed-roofed entrance porch has also been enclosed. It contains one-over-one windows. These changes do not negatively impact the integrity or significance of the house.

[The interior was not available for viewing].

Some of the descriptive information for the property comes from a report on the Vest-Tuttle Farm by Jane Wooten and edited by Heather Fearnbach prepared for ARTI 206, a class held at Salem College in May 2007.

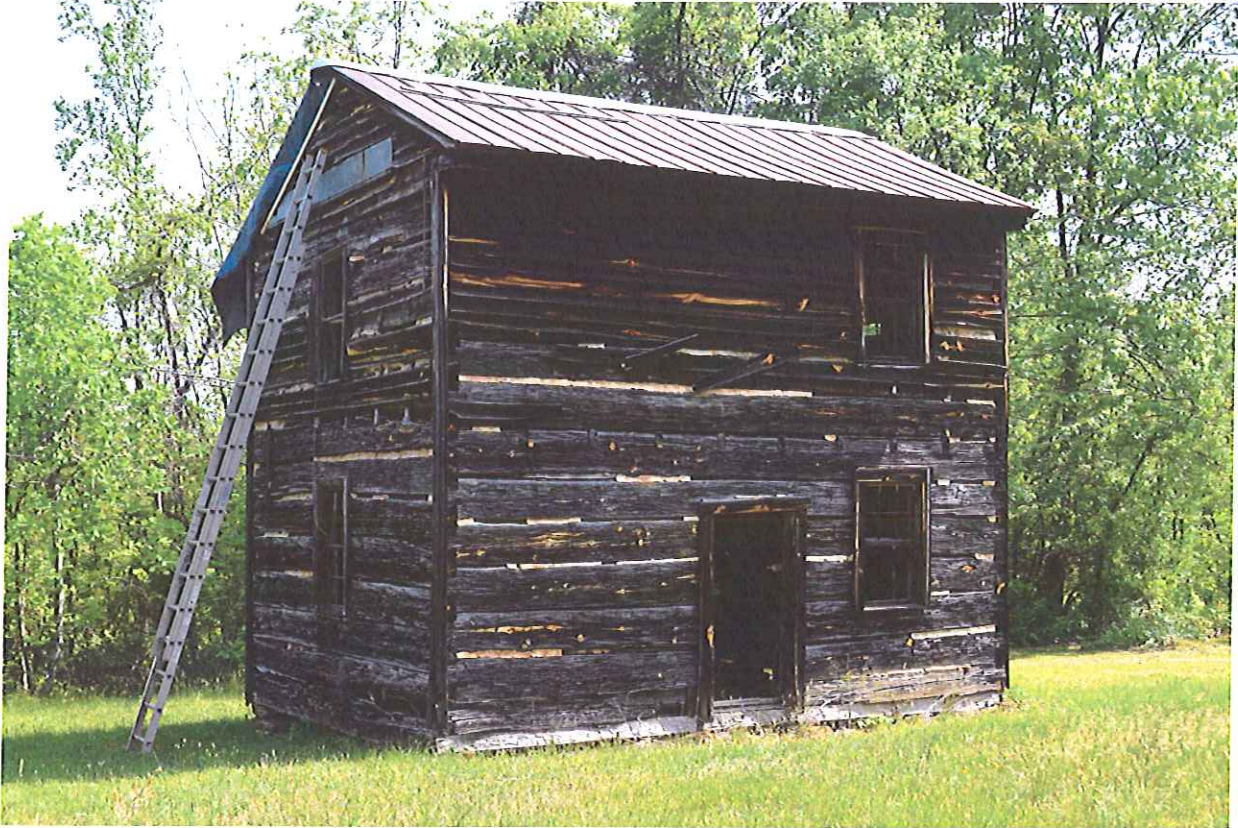


Figure 8: South elevation of the Alexander and Charlotte Vest House, facing north-northeast

Alexander and Charlotte Vest House circa 1860

Standing just northeast of the Tuttle House, the Vest House is a two-story, single-pile, side-gabled log dwelling joined with half-dovetail notching. Stone piers support the house, which retains remnants of its weatherboard siding. The east gable end chimney—a victim of the dwelling's relocation in the late nineteenth century—is no longer extant. Windows lacking glass panes remain in varying states of preservation. Doors on the front and rear elevations display four raised panels and are fitted with late-nineteenth-century hardware suggesting they were later additions. A tarp draped over the north half of the roof protects the interior from damaging weather.

Inside, a post-and-lintel mantel attaches to the east side of the first floor. The walls appear to have been whitewashed at one time. Only a few floorboards remain and most of those are on the north side of the first floor. The small, steep staircase to the upper level is located in the northwest corner. Upstairs, the ceilings are board-and-batten and the floor is tongue-and-groove.

Outbuildings

The farm's outbuildings range in age from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, with the majority dating to the historic period. Outbuildings are described beginning with the triple-crib barn on the north side of the approach drive and proceeding in a clockwise manner.



Figure 9: South elevation of the triple-crib log barn, facing north-northwest

Triple-Crib Log Barn circa 1860

The county's only known triple-crib log barn, the building retains its integrity and significance as a rare surviving agricultural structure from the nineteenth century. Alexander and Charlotte Vest erected a double-crib barn on their property around 1860, about the same time they built their two-story log dwelling that remains on the farm. The third crib was added later, but is joined with the same dovetail notching as the original sections. The building stands on a stone foundation and is covered by a metal roof. Triangular wooden braces support a pent metal roof sheltering the façade. The barn contains eight stalls, three shuck

pens, a threshing floor, and a wagon shed. The two original cribs have open lattice doors. A shed-roofed tack closet built of vertical boards and with wire nails occupies the west elevation and likely dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The pole-framed shed additions on three sides are sheathed with vertical boards and weatherboards attached with cut nails. The crib measures 80 feet by 30 feet.



Figure 10: South elevation of the granary, facing north-northeast

Granary circa 1860, circa 1930

The one-story, half-dovetail-notched log building on stone piers is the only known log granary in the county, according to architectural historian Heather Fearnbach. The front-gable building and the pent hood on the façade are sheathed with 5V- crimp metal roofing. A board-and-batten door includes cut nails, wrought strap hinges and pintles, and hangs in a frame that is pegged into the log opening. The gable ends are sheathed in wide clapboards with a small off-center opening at the loft level. The German-sided, shed-roofed addition on the north side was constructed around 1930. Its board-and-batten door has wire nails. The granary is 15 feet wide by 15 feet long. The shed addition is approximately 14 feet wide by 10 feet long.



Figure 11: South elevation of the garage, facing north

**Garage
circa 1930**

A front-gabled, one-story, single-bay, weatherboard garage is east of the granary. Resting on a cement slab foundation, the simple building is covered with a corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter tails on its side elevations. The building measures 12 feet wide by 20 feet long.

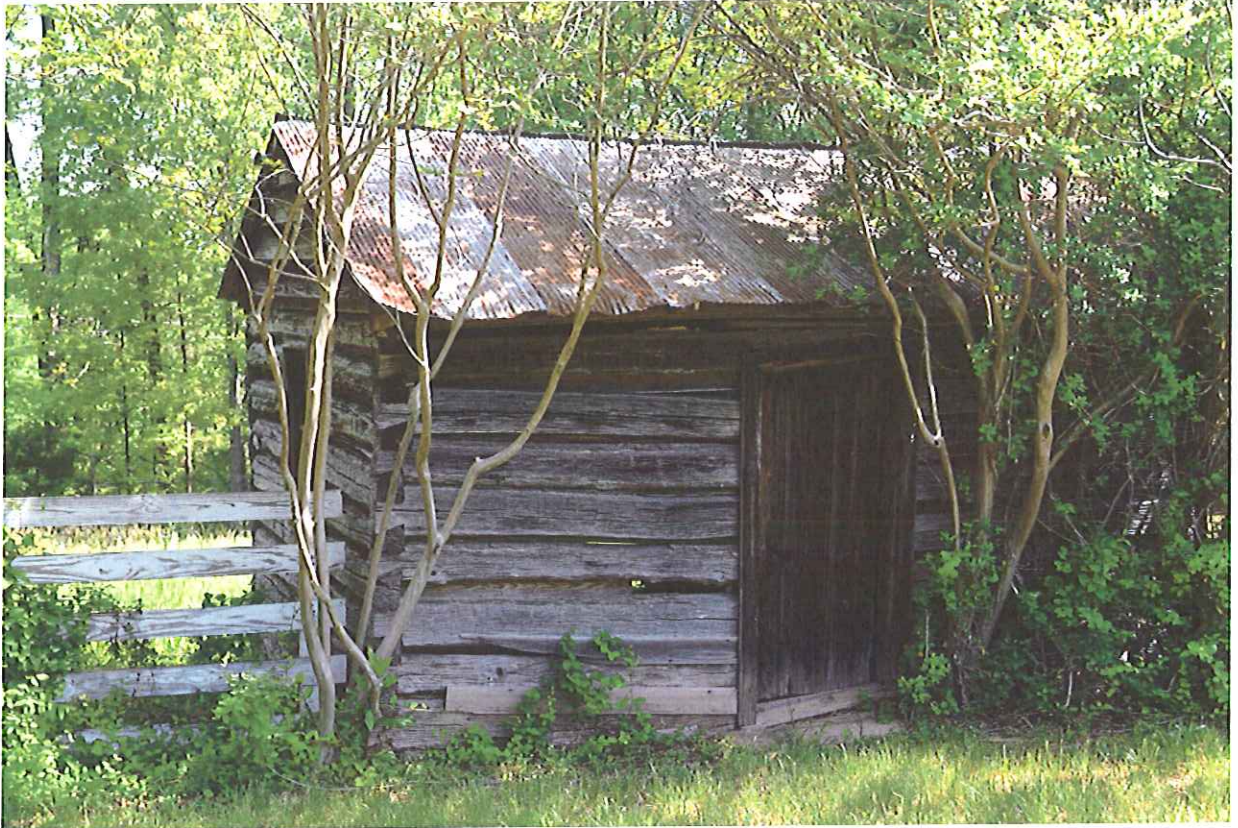


Figure 12: South elevation of kitchen/wash House, facing north

**Vest House Kitchen/Wash House
circa 1860**

The small, one-story, side-gabled, log building with dovetail-notched corners stands north of the Tuttle House. A corrugated metal roof crowns the building, which rests on a stone foundation. Weatherboard sheathes the gable ends. Some clay chinking survives and the board-and-batten door on the south elevation retains its strap hinges and wooden latch. The chimney stood on the east elevation, but only the stone base remains. Small four-over-four windows occupy the west and north elevations. This building served as the kitchen for the Vest House and formerly stood behind the house before the house was moved to make way for the construction of the Tuttle House. The building measures 15 feet wide and 12 feet long.



Figure 13: Southwest corner of ice house remnants, facing northeast

**Ice House
circa 1880**

The front-gabled building with a stone foundation and a corrugated metal roof is overgrown and barely visible. Its gable ends are sheathed in clapboard, but otherwise its features are not visible.



Figure 14: Scalding vat

Scalding Vat
Late nineteenth century

The brick-lined, rectangular trench is east of the Tuttle house and south of the Vest House. At present it is overgrown with vegetation. A half-inch layer of cement caps the exposed brick walls. The vat measures 1 foot deep by 8 feet long and has an earthen floor.



Figure 15: Butchering post

Butchering Post
Late nineteenth century

The remnant of a cedar butchering post is east of the house.



Figure 16: Northeast corner of smokehouse, facing southwest

Smokehouse
Late nineteenth century

The one-story, front-gabled log smokehouse is southeast of the Tuttle House and rests on a dry-laid stone foundation. Joined with half-dovetail notching, weatherboards sheathe the gable ends. The north elevation's gable overhang shelters a centered board-and-batten door with wrought-iron hinges and pintles. A metal roof tops the building, which measures approximately 14 feet by 12 feet. An open wood shed on the rear is a later addition.



Figure 17: South elevation of the chicken house, facing north-northwest

Chicken House Circa 1920

The one-story, shed-roofed outbuilding is typical of chicken coops built in the first half of the twentieth century. A metal shed roof with exposed rafter tails tops the large weatherboard building. The south elevation, which is pierced by a band of large wire-screened openings, is higher than the north elevation to take advantage of natural light, a necessity for egg production. A five-panel door is on the east elevation, while a two-panel door is located on the west elevation. The coop is perched on stacked stone piers. It measures 23 feet wide by 14 feet long.



Figure 18: Generator building, facing south

**Generator Building
Circa 1920**

The one-story, weatherboard, shed-roofed building stands due south of the Tuttle House. A standing seam metal roof tops the building that rests on a low stone foundation. The floor is cement. The board-and-batten door on the north elevation features modern hardware. The generator equipment is no longer in the building. The overall dimensions are 8 feet wide by 6 feet long.



Figure 19: Well and well house, facing east

Well
Circa 1860

The well stands directly in front (west) of the Tuttle House. Lined with stone, the well is forty feet deep. The brick exterior is 1.9 feet in height and features a wood-frame cover with a hinged opening. Above the wooden well cover are a wooden windlass with a metal handle, an axle and a rope and the attached bucket. A poured concrete pad surrounds the well.

Well House
1938

The gabled, open-sided structure displays oak roof shingles and vertical board sheathing on its upper half. Hefty wooden posts set in brick piers with cement support the well house roof. A post on the west side is inscribed with "DLT 1938." Another post shows the initials "JCT." The well house measures 9 feet wide by 8 feet long.



Figure 20: Blacksmith shop, facing south

Blacksmith Shop
Circa 1880

The one-story, gable-roofed building stands on stone piers south of the Tuttle House. Sheathed in board-and-batten and with a corrugated metal roof, the exterior also displays some corrugated sheet metal panels. A door and shutter feature wrought strap hinges. An equipment shed sheathed in weatherboard attaches to the north elevation. The building measures 16 feet wide by 12 feet long.



Figure 21: Pasture shed, facing southwest

Pasture Shed
Circa 1998

A one-story, shed-roofed building on concrete block piers stands south of the Tuttle House. Vertical boards sheath the exterior. Christopher Basto, the farm's current owner, built the shed and modeled it after the carriage house.



Figure 22: Corn crib, facing south

Corn Crib
Circa 1900

The one-story, front-gabled, frame crib stands on the south side of the approach drive. The building is weatherboard on the façade and rear elevations and slatted side elevations typical of corn crib construction. A metal-covered pent roof shelters the front elevation's board-and-batten wood door attached with modern hardware. A small, square opening in the front gable end above the pent roof is hung with modern hardware. A corrugated metal roof tops the building that rests on a stone pier foundation. The interior consists of three bays with the center bay containing an open stringer stair leading to the upper loft. The crib measures 16 feet wide and 20 feet long.

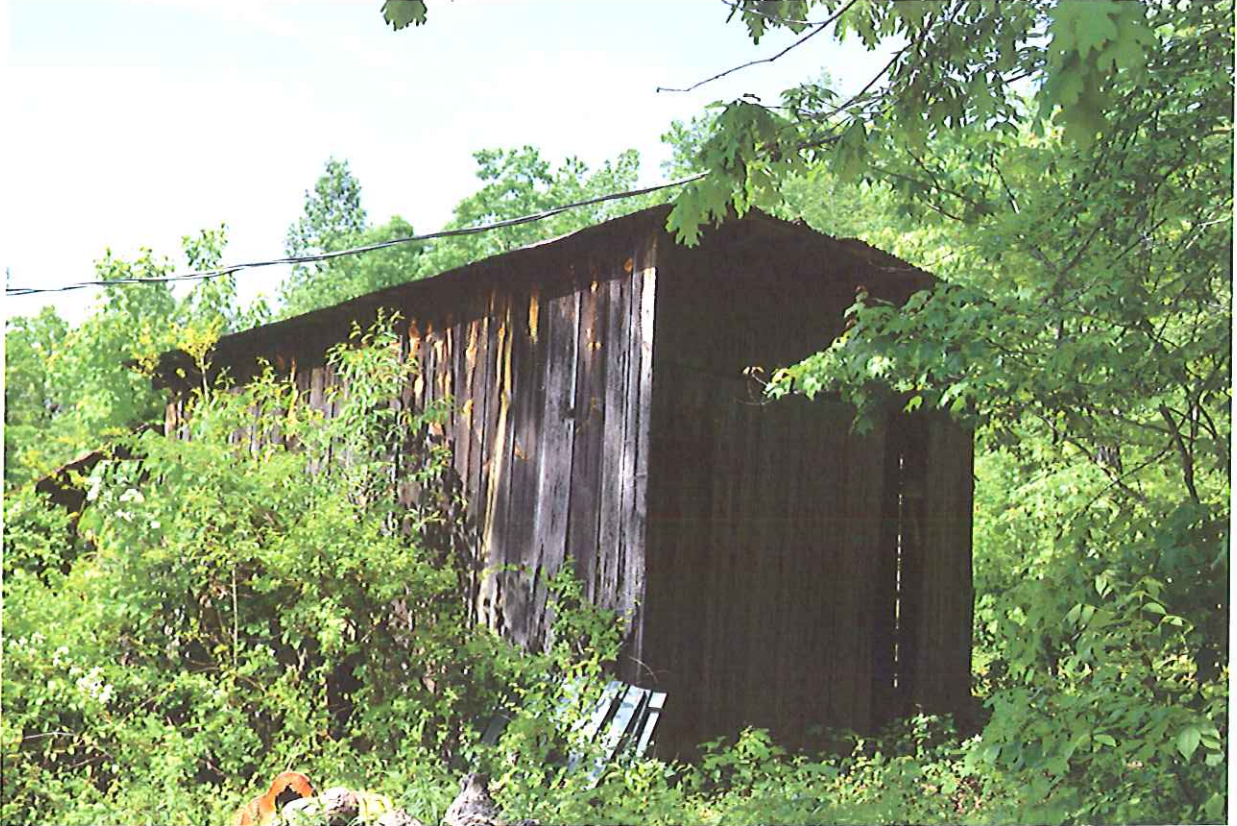


Figure 23: Carriage house, facing southwest

Carriage House Circa 1900

The one-story, shed-roofed building stands at the west end of the south side of the approach drive. Sheathed in vertical boards, the building rests on wood piers and is topped with a metal roof. Its board-and-batten doors are hung on strap hinges. An open-sided, shed-roofed addition extends from the south elevation.



Figure 24: Vest (right) and Tuttle (left) houses, facing west

VI. History

Alexander Vest (1832-1864), son of Nancy and William Vest, built the two-story log house on the Vest-Tuttle Farm. Nancy and William Vest farmed, as did Alexander, but their other three sons Wesley, Lewis, and John drove stagecoaches from Salem to Mt. Airy, and for a time, onto Wytheville, Virginia. Their passengers included students attending Salem Academy, the all-girls school in Winston-Salem.¹

Alexander Vest is listed in the 1850 census as a farmer and living with his parents in Forsyth County, which had been formed the year before.² By the time of the next census in 1860, he was living with his sister's family. Alexander was listed as a twenty-eight-year-old farmer with

¹ Robert Carrol, "Vest Brothers Operated Stage Coaches from Salem to Mt. Airy and Wytheville,

² *The 1850 Federal Census and Supplementary Schedules of Forsyth County, North Carolina* (Winston-Salem: the Forsyth Genealogical Society, 1984), 177.

a personal estate of \$300 and real estate valued at \$350.³ In 1860, he married Charlotte Helsabeck (1838-1904), the daughter of Joseph and Susannah Spainhour Helsabeck and the granddaughter of Solomon Hilary Helsabeck, a prominent Methodist minister in Forsyth County.⁴ The couple had two children, Eugenia Phodora Vest and David Anderson Vest.

According to family tradition, Alexander Vest bought the property where he built the two-story log house from his brother-in-law, Solomon Helsabeck. A Forsyth County deed recorded in 1861, shows S. H. Helsabeck conveyed 43.75 acres to Alexander Vest. Vest also received 15.5 acres that same year from John F. Helsabeck, who was possibly a cousin of Solomon Helsabeck. An earlier deed, recorded in 1859 indicates Vest bought 135 acres from William S. Schaub. The real estate transaction records and physical evidence suggest circa 1860 as the construction date for the two-story log house on the Vest-Tuttle Farm.⁵

Alexander Vest served in the Confederate Infantry during the Civil War. The Union captured him during the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. He was paroled shortly thereafter. He was captured again during the Virginia Campaign of May 1864 and imprisoned at Point Lookout, Maryland where he died on June 17, 1864. Alexander Vest was buried in an unmarked grave in the Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery.⁶

On September 11, 1884, Eugenia Vest married James McCoy Tuttle Jr. and the two made their home on her father's farm.⁷ According to family lore, the Vest House was moved to its present location and the Tuttle's built their house on the log home's former location. The Tuttle's had eleven children in a household that included for a time her mother, Charlotte Vest, who helped with the daily work of the family.⁸

Great
Antiquarian

James McCoy Tuttle Jr. grew tobacco and built many of the buildings extant on the Vest-Tuttle Farm. He consulted *Progressive Farmer* showing a willingness to adopt new farming techniques. He kept one of the largest fruit tree orchards in the township. He stocked the

³ *The 1860 Federal Census and Supplementary Schedules of Forsyth County, North Carolina* (Winston-Salem: The Forsyth County Genealogical Society, 1988), 149.

⁴ Annie Mary Vest, *The Schaub's and the Vests of North Carolina* (privately printed, 1965), 27.

⁵ "Draft Vest-Tuttle Farm Description and Historical Background," prepared by Jane Wooten for ARTI 206, Salem College, May 2007, edited by Heather Fearnbach, May 2008," no page.

⁶ Ibid.; Ancestry.com. *U.S., Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

⁷ Ancestry.com. *North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

⁸ Harned, Mary S., Transcript of Interview with Ghita H. Tuttle, April 25, 1986 and May 15, 1986, cited in "Draft Vest-Tuttle Farm Description and Historical Background," prepared by Jane Wooten for ARTI 206, Salem College, May 2007, edited by Heather Fearnbach, May 2008," no page.

icehouse he built with blocks cut from a nearby mill pond that froze in the winter. He constructed the blacksmith shop to shoe his own horses and sharpen his farm implements. For her part, Eugenia wove carpets, quilted, knit, and made soap. When she resided on the farm, Charlotte Vest kept bees for honey, a task she passed down to the eldest Tuttle daughter, Cora.⁹

By 1910, the Tuttle had outgrown the house and James Tuttle added the rear ell. The ell provided bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchen to replace the kitchen/wash house that had served both the Vest and Tuttle houses.¹⁰

Eugenia Tuttle died in September 1928 followed eight years later by her husband. Their ten surviving children inherited his property that included the farm, livestock, crops, and farming equipment.¹¹

The Tuttle children remained fixtures in their rural community. Cora Tuttle married Walter Wishon and played the organ for Antioch Methodist Church for thirty years.¹² Viola and Ghita Tuttle never married and remained in the James Tuttle House until they moved to assisted living.¹³ Dwight Tuttle, the longest living Tuttle sibling, married Thelma Newsom of King. He passed away in 1995.¹⁴

The Tuttle sold the 39.94-acre farm including the two houses and the outbuildings to Cari and Richard Pierce in 1993.¹⁵ The Pierces sold the property to the current owners, Kimberly and Christopher Basto, in 1997.¹⁶

⁹ Harned, cited in Wooten; North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, Farm Census Reports, 1935, Box 51 (Edgecombe-Forsyth Counties) North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹⁰ Harned, cited in Wooten.

¹¹ *Forsyth County Estates Records, 1845-1956, Tucker, John-Tuttle, R. M.*, 1081, 1083-1085.

¹² *Winston-Salem Journal*, July 14, 1984, 15.

¹³ *Winston-Salem Journal*, February 16, 1992, E4.

¹⁴ Vest, *The Schaubs and Vests*, 27.

¹⁵ Forsyth County deed book 1789, page 3461, July 23, 1993, Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

¹⁶ Forsyth County deed book 1957, page 4143, July 30, 1997, Forsyth County Register of Deeds, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

VII. Agricultural and Architectural Context

Forsyth County contains Winston-Salem, the fifth largest city in North Carolina, as well as several incorporated towns. Commercial and industrial development interspersed with residential growth along major transportation routes has led to the loss of rural character of much of the county. But large portions of northern Forsyth County remain rural and agricultural and retain a large number of rural properties, including farms, and intact agrarian landscapes.

Agriculture dominated the local economy for well over a century, shaping the landscape and built environment of this Piedmont county. The 1850 agricultural census, taken only a year after the county formed, indicates 936 farms in Forsyth County with most of the farmland categorized as unimproved. Most of the 1,765 heads-of-households were white farmers operating subsistence farms.¹⁷ Farmers raised horses, mules, cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens and grew wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, peas, beans, flax, and fruit. Butter, beeswax, and honey, and wood were typical products of farms in the county in 1850.¹⁸

A dramatic shift in the county's agriculture came in the 1850s when bright-leaf tobacco became a major crop. Whereas in 1850, fewer than four percent of the county's farmers produced the crop, by 1860, most farmers were growing and harvesting bright-leaf.¹⁹ Other major crops in 1860, around the time Alexander Vest established his farm in Bethania Township, included corn and wheat. Sheep and cattle dominated livestock populations.²⁰

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, tobacco, wheat, corn, oats, hay, and potatoes remained the most plentiful crops. Progressive farming methods filtered into the county in the form of contour plowing, terracing, and the widespread use of fertilizer to boost crop production. Progressive farming techniques brought a wider variety of crops and new ideas about the raising of poultry and livestock. In the early decades of the twentieth century, over ninety percent of the county remained farmland.²¹

¹⁷ J. D. B. DeBow, *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: An Appendix Embracing Notes Upon Tables of each of the States* (Washington: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer, 1853), 317-318, 320-323.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Fries, Adelaide L., Stuart Thurman Wright, and J. Edwin Hendricks, *Forsyth: The History of a County on the March* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1976), 112-113.

²⁰ Joseph C. G. Kennedy, *Agriculture of the United States in 1860: Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1864), 104.

²¹ Fearnbach History Services, Inc., *Forsyth County's Agricultural Heritage* (Winston-Salem: Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, 2012), 14-21.

A significant impact on farms in the county after World War I came in 1935 when the state's General Assembly created the Rural Electrification Authority. By 1945, electric power reached over seventy-five percent of farms in Forsyth County. Various other New Deal-era programs improved farm life further for county residents by promoting mechanization and conservation.²²

During and just after World War II, farmers began producing more vegetable crops and meat and dairy products to aid the war effort. Poultry production increased so that by 1945 most farmers in the county owned chickens and many sold the eggs commercially.²³

The 1950s saw the decline in the number of farms in Forsyth County as many rural residents went to work in manufacturing. By 1956, the dollar value of manufacturing volume was one hundred times greater than the county's agricultural production. Bright leaf tobacco continued as a major crop and in 1952-1953, Forsyth County produced nearly sixty-one million pounds of bright leaf. However, the trend of workers leaving the farm for jobs in the city continued leading to the transformation of the workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural.²⁴

Historic farms in Forsyth County reflect the careful planning of builders and residents who recognized that form followed function in the character of structures and their placement. Farm complexes from the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries contained numerous outbuildings, each typically devoted to a specific use. Domestic outbuildings, including smokehouses, wood sheds, and privies, were placed near the dwelling as they contributed to everyday domestic life on the farm. Other outbuildings, such as livestock barns, cribs, and equipment sheds, were placed farther from the house and closer to the fields and the animals they served. Because of the topography, the layout of these buildings was usually irregular with placement based on where the most level topography was located. Farmers placed outbuildings on high and dry land as far away from the streams and creeks that meander throughout this landscape.

Farmers built early outbuildings, like the triple-crib log barn on the Vest-Tuttle Farm, from readily available material and in a vernacular form that was traditional for the region. A region typically adopted a notching style for joining logs buildings at their corners and northern Forsyth County where the half-dovetail notch reigned was no exception. Into the twentieth century, outbuildings were typically built according to Agricultural Extension Service publications or other available plans in *The Progressive Farmer*. The clearest example on the Vest-Tuttle Farm is the chicken house, which follows a common form for such structures built in the first half of the twentieth century.

²² Ibid, 25.

²³ Ibid, 28.

²⁴ Ibid 30-31.

Typically, farms in Forsyth County contained a combination of cleared, improved, and wooded land. Cultivated fields most commonly occupied the level topography in the valley floor along rivers and streams. Portions of the farm where the land was steeper and typically inhospitable to crop production were given over to livestock grazing.

Significant Farms and Outbuildings in Forsyth County

The Vest-Tuttle Farm is significant for its collection of two dwellings that served successive generations of Vests and Tuttle and for the collection of outbuildings and a landscape that span two centuries and reflect changing agrarian practice, construction techniques, and land use patterns. Several other farms in the county display important dwellings and outbuildings and intact agrarian landscapes.

The Clarence Helsabeck Farm (FY 3217, Study List) at 9361 Antioch Church Road retains its agricultural landscape and an extensive collection of early twentieth-century outbuildings, making it one of the most significant farms in Bethania Township. The farm features a feed barn, corncrib/granary, tobacco packhouse, and a log kitchen. The Helsabeck Farm retains the seven aspects of integrity. The form, plan, space, structure, and style of the buildings appear intact so that the property retains integrity of design. The placement of buildings in a rural context contributes to its integrity of setting. The buildings appear to retain their historic fabric, therefore contributing to their integrity of materials. The massing and form of the buildings contribute to their integrity of workmanship. The well-preserved condition of the dwelling and the tobacco-related buildings on the property contribute to the property's integrity of feeling and association.

The John Henry Kapp Farm (FY 3234, NR) near Bethania in western Forsyth County includes a two-story, weatherboard I-house with a rear ell built in 1870 with a circa 1910 porch with turned posts, a turned balustrade, and sawn brackets. Outbuildings from the late-nineteenth century include a weatherboard smokehouse, crib/granary, and large weatherboard barn. Most of the outbuildings date to the early twentieth century including a two-story, weatherboard tenant house, a crib/granary, and a pack house. The landscape remains a mix of cultivated fields, woods, and open fields. The Kapp Farm retains the seven aspects of integrity. The form, plan, space, structure, and style of the buildings appear intact so that the property retains integrity of design. The placement of buildings in a rural context contributes to its integrity of setting. The buildings appear to retain their historic fabric, therefore contributing to their integrity of materials. The massing and form of the buildings contribute to their integrity of workmanship. The well-preserved condition of the dwelling and its agricultural buildings contribute to the property's integrity of feeling and association.

An historic farmstead represents a collection of buildings and landscapes that form a significant component of the county's agricultural and architectural heritage. However, a few

outbuildings emerge as important as singular examples of a building type or form, although they are usually part of a larger complex.

Large log barns such as the one on the Vest-Tuttle House are rare and, in fact, it is the only triple-crib log barn remaining in the county. Frame barns are more common and include the heavy timber frame barn built anywhere from circa 1857 to circa 1880 on the Lewis and Mary Eccles Hanes Farm (FY 0282) near Clemmons. The large, gable-front barn features an intact hayloft and an early hay bale hook. Later owners replaced the early standing-seam roof and added arched windows and a shed addition on the north and west elevations.

Log granaries from the nineteenth century are rare and the one standing on the Vest-Tuttle Farm is the only known example in the county. Frame granaries are more common and fourteen buildings historically devoted to grain storage were documented during the recent update of the Forsyth County survey. Frame corncribs like the one built on the Vest-Tuttle Farm remain fairly common. Over thirty corncribs were recorded during the survey update.

VIII. Evaluation

The Vest-Tuttle Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The Vest-Tuttle Farm retains all seven elements of integrity. The complex remains at its original site and therefore retains integrity of location. The exception is the Alexander Vest House, which was moved circa 1884, but within the farm's period of significance. The houses' and outbuildings' placement in a rural context contributes to the property's integrity of setting. The form, plan, space, structure and style of the buildings are intact so that the property as a whole retains its integrity of design. The Tuttle House retains most its historic material so that its integrity of materials is intact. The Alexander Vest House lost its chimney, but otherwise remains mostly intact as a rare surviving two-story, mid-nineteenth century log house. The majority of the outbuildings remains intact and therefore retains integrity of materials. The massing and form of the outbuildings is intact so that they display integrity of workmanship. The property's integrity of feeling and association remains due to the rural agricultural landscape and the form, materials, and placement of the buildings in the complex.

The Vest-Tuttle Farm is eligible under Criterion A as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Specifically, the farm is eligible in the area of agriculture as one of the most intact and significant examples of a prosperous farm complex that represents nineteenth and twentieth century agricultural development and practice in Forsyth County. Although the families' agricultural products changed over time, the farm retains a typical arrangement of fields, forest, and agricultural buildings and structures seen on farms in the county during the second half of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century.

The Vest-Tuttle Farm is not eligible under Criterion B as a property associated with the lives of significant persons in or past. Neither the Vests nor the Tuttle attained the level of prominence and significance required for National Register listing under Criterion B.

The Vest-Tuttle Farm is eligible under Criterion C as a resource that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The two dwellings embody the evolution of domestic rural architecture from the mid-nineteenth century when finely crafted log houses were erected according to vernacular building traditions to the circa 1884 I-house that signified the economic achievement of a family that supported themselves by farming. The complex includes at least two individual outbuildings that display significance on their own. The triple-crib log barn and log granary, the only remaining examples of these building types in the county, illustrate rare surviving vernacular building forms that display well-crafted corner notching and, in the case of the barn, a sophisticated division of interior space reflecting the building's multiple functions.

The property is unlikely to yield information about our past not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for the Vest-Tuttle Farm includes the entire 34.94-acre parcel (6901-94-0445) that is the residual acreage historically associated with the property. The boundary for the property is shown on the following map as a green line with the parcel shaded in light green. The north boundary extends along the right-of-way of Tuttle Road (SR 1639). The boundary includes the two farmhouses, associated outbuildings and structures, and the intact farm landscape set in a rural context.

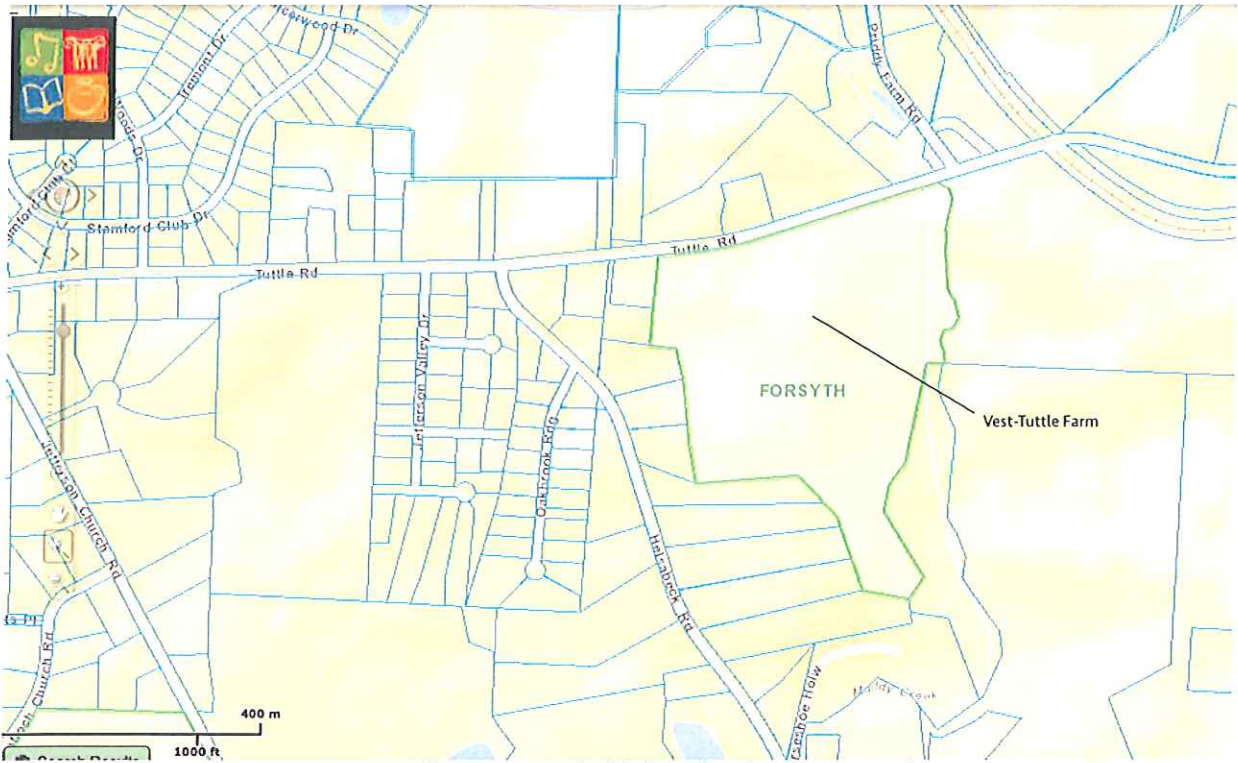


Figure 25: Map indicating NRHP eligible boundary for the Vest-Tuttle Farm

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Winston-Salem Journal.

Appendix
Professional Qualifications

JENNIFER F. MARTIN

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| POSITION: | Founding Principal MdM Historical Consultants Inc. |
| EDUCATION: | M.A. History with Emphasis in Historic Preservation Middle Tennessee State University B.A. History and B.A. Sociology University of South Carolina Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) Presented by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Durham, North Carolina Introduction to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act University of Nevada, Reno |
| PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: | Preservation Durham Preservation North Carolina City of Durham Historic Preservation Commission |

EXPERIENCE:

Jennifer F. Martin has worked as an architectural historian and preservation planner since 1991 and is a founding principal with MdM Historical Consultants. She has documented scores of historic properties through successful completion of architectural surveys, National Register of Historic Places nominations, and local landmark designation reports. She has worked with local governments and commissions on programs to identify, document, and protect historic and cultural resources. She has further contributed to the field through publication and well as by making presentations at academic and professional conferences.

Ms. Mitchell was previously the Carolinas Regional Manager for Edwards-Pitman Environmental, where she oversaw a staff of architectural historians, preservation planners, and archaeologists working on projects in the Carolinas and Virginia. Ms. Mitchell was responsible for scoping projects, preparing budgets, and monitoring and overseeing cultural resource surveys, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, environmental documents necessary for compliance with federal and state laws, and consultations with historic preservation commissions throughout the region. Prior to joining Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Ms. Mitchell worked for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office as the National Register Coordinator in Raleigh and as the Historic Preservation Specialist in Asheville. Ms. Mitchell is the award-winning author of *Along the Banks of the Old Northeast: the Historical and Architectural Development of Duplin County, North Carolina* and a co-author of *The Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*.

Some projects Ms. Mitchell has been involved with are listed below.

- *Flyway Club National Register Nomination*, Currituck County, North Carolina (2015)
- *Erwin Commercial Historic District*, Harnett County, North Carolina (2015)
- *Ashe County Memorial Hospital National Register Nomination*, Jefferson, Ashe County, North Carolina (2015)

Intensive Evaluation: Vest-Tuttle Farm
Replace Bridge No. 142 on SR 1639 (Tuttle Road)
over West Fork Muddy Creek
Forsyth County

- *North Carolina Department of Transportation: Historic Architectural Survey Reports: Ashe County Bridge Replacements* (2014)
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation: Historic Architectural Survey Report, Intensive Level Survey: Interstate 26 Improvements from US 25 in Hendersonville vicinity in Henderson County to Interstate 40/240 in Buncombe County* (2014)
- *Proximity Print Works National Register Nomination*, Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina (2014)
- *Oneida Cotton Mills and Scott-Mebane Manufacturing Company Complex National Register Nomination*, Graham, Alamance County, North Carolina (2014)
- *Forest Hills Historic District Additional Documentation National Register Nomination*, Durham, Durham County, North Carolina
- *Valentine-Wilder House National Register Nomination*, Nash County, North Carolina (2013)
- *Hillside Park High School National Register Nomination*, Durham County, North Carolina (2013)
- *Fort Caswell National Register Nomination*, Brunswick County, North Carolina (2013)
- *Penderlea Homesteads Historic District National Register Nomination*, Pender County, North Carolina (2013)
- *Sunset Hills Historic District National Register Nomination*, Greensboro, North Carolina (2013)
- *Wilkesboro School Historic Tax Credit Application*, Wilkesboro, North Carolina (2013)
- *Richard B. Harrison School National Register Nomination*, Selma, North Carolina (2012)
- *Bray-Paschal House National Register Nomination*, Chatham County, North Carolina (2011)
- *West Selma Historic District National Register Nomination*, Selma, Johnston County, North Carolina (2011)
- *Downtown Selma Historic District National Register Nomination*, Selma, Johnston County, North Carolina (2010)
- *Perry School National Register Nomination*, Franklin County, North Carolina (2010)
- *Johnson Farm National Register Nomination*, Harnett County, North Carolina (2009)
- *Harmony Plantation National Register Nomination*, Wake County, North Carolina (2008)
- *Wake County Historic Resources Intensive Survey*, Wake County, North Carolina (2007)
- *Local Landmark Designation Report for Rogers Drug*, Durham, North Carolina (2008)
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- *Old Towne Historic District Design Guidelines*, Augusta, Georgia (2006)
- *Wake County Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey*, Wake County, North Carolina (2005- 2006)
- *Skinnerville-Greenville Heights Historic District National Register Nomination*, Greenville, North Carolina (2005)
- *Maiden Lane Historic District National Register Nomination*, Raleigh, North Carolina (2005)
- *York-Chester Historic District National Register Nomination*, Gastonia, North Carolina (2005)
- *Town Appearance Commission Procedures and Guidelines Evaluation*, Town of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina (2005)
- *Rowland Main Street Historic District National Register Nomination*, Rowland, North Carolina (2004)
- *City of Thomasville Architectural Survey*, Thomasville, North Carolina (2004)
- *Apex Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation Study List Application*, Apex, North Carolina (2004)
- *Borden Manufacturing Company National Register Nomination*, Goldsboro, North Carolina (2004)
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation, Phase II Survey and Report, Replacement of Bridge No. 246 over Laurel Creek*, Madison County, North Carolina (2004)
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey and Report, Hillsborough Street Reconstruction, Project #1* (for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.), Raleigh, North Carolina (2004)
- *City of Rock Hill, South Carolina Architectural Survey* (for the City of Rock Hill and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office) (2003-2004)

- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey and Report,, Replacement of Bridge No. 325 over Landrum Creek, Chatham County, North Carolina (2004)*
- *West Raleigh Historic District National Register Nomination, Raleigh, North Carolina (2003)*
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey and Report (for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.) Winston-Salem Northern Beltway, Forsyth County, North Carolina (2002-2003)*
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey, U.S. Highway 158 Widening, Halifax and Northampton Counties, North Carolina (2003- 2004)*
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey, Burgaw Bypass, Pender County, North Carolina (2003)*
- *City of Greenville, South Carolina Architectural Survey (for the City of Greenville and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office) (2002-2003)*
- *North Carolina Department of Transportation Phase II Survey and Report, Alston Avenue Widening, Durham County, North Carolina (2002)*
- *Historic Structures Report on the Morganton Depot, Morganton, North Carolina: A Transportation Enhancement Grant (TEA-21) Project for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (2002)*
- *Historic Structures Report on the Marion Depot, Marion, North Carolina: A Transportation Enhancement Grant (TEA-21) Project for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (2002)*
- *Research on Historic Train Stations for the NCDOT Rail Division at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. In conjunction with the restoration of passenger rail service in North Carolina. (2002 & 2007)*

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Along the Banks of the Old Northeast: The Historical and Architectural Development of Duplin County, North Carolina. Duplin County Historical Foundation, 2000

A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina (co-author). University of North Carolina Press, 1999

PRESENTATIONS

“Restoration of the Morganton and Marion Depots,” Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference, Asheville, North Carolina

“Nominating Rosenwald Schools to the National Register of Historic Places,” National Rosenwald School Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

AWARDS:

2004 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for the series that includes *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*

2003 Special Book Award Recognizing an Outstanding Guide Book Series from the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians for the series that includes *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*