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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Johnson Farm

Kipling vicinity, Harnett County, HT0161, Listed 04/15/2010
Nomination by Jennifer Martin Mitchell
Photographs by Jennifer Martin Mitchell, February 2009

Overall view of house

Farm outbuildings

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Johnson Farm

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2095 Kipling Road (S side SR 1403, .2 mi E of SR 1425) ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Kipling (Fuquay-Varina mailing address) ☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Harnett code 085 zip code 27526

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:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	
21	1	buildings
2	0	sites
3	8	structures
0	0	objects
26	9	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/storage
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/processing
COMMERCE/farm commissary
EDUCATION/education related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/storage
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Southern Colonial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD/Weatherboard
SYNTHETICS/Vinyl
roof ASPHALT
other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

☒ **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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
1885-1960

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.

Significant Dates
1918

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
Ashworth and Draughn, builders

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:
North Carolina State Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 350 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	694000	3830420	3	17	695540	3829340
2	17	694800	3829300	4	17	695820	3828920

☒ 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 Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consulting, Inc. date December 15, 2009
street & number Post Office Box 1399 telephone 919/368-1602
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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 R.L. Johnson Family Limited Partnership c/o Tim Johnson
street & number 24 Bay Street telephone 919-567-9420
city or town Fuquay-Varina state NC zip code 27526

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.

Physical Description

The Johnson Farm is a large, intact, rural farm complex that includes a 1918 Southern Colonial-style dwelling, two tenant houses, two country stores, and a wide variety of agricultural outbuildings, all set on 350 acres on the south side of Kipling Road (SR 1403) and the west side of Hardee Road (SR 1425) just west of Kipling, the closest community, in rural northern Harnett County, North Carolina. The farm is situated eight miles southwest of the Wake County town of Fuquay-Varina and nine miles north of the Harnett County seat of Lillington. The farm's terrain varies from nearly level to gently undulating to hilly and broken as Hector's Creek is approached. The creek is a north-south running tributary of the Cape Fear River, a major watercourse in this region that is located approximately two-and-a-half miles to the south. Most of the farm lies on the west side of Hector's Creek, an area which is considered part of the Piedmont; land to the east of Hector's Creek falls in the Coastal Plain.[1]

The farm's landscape includes a mixture of cultivated fields, forest, and pastureland that has been tended by the same family for six generations. Typical of substantial farms in eastern and piedmont North Carolina, the Johnsons have altered the farm's landscape to correspond to changes in crop production. Today, forest, cropland, and pastures compose most of the farm. Approximately twenty percent of the farm is devoted to tree farming, while row crops cover approximately forty percent. Pastureland is limited to the area just east and south of the main house and outbuildings. Historically, row crops covered a portion of the land, but for a significant part of the twentieth century the farm was also devoted to the growing of timber for sale and for use in constructing buildings and structures on the farm. Today, several areas of the property, especially along Hardee Road, are under conservation in order to produce endangered long leaf pines, a species once plentiful in the region.[2]

A board and rail fence along the south side of Kipling Road marks the approach to the farm from the east. The fence continues along a paved driveway that extends southward to the main domestic complex where a collection of frame, log, and metal-sided late nineteenth- and early to mid-twentieth-century outbuildings surrounds the commodious two-story Southern Colonial-style house that is the heart of this rural property. The driveway continues to the southeast and terminates just to the east of the dwelling. The yard surrounding the house and outbuildings includes a mix of well-kept shrubbery, trees such as magnolias, long-leaf pines, and oaks, and a grassy lawn. A brick sidewalk lined with boxwoods and installed in the 1960s extends from the steps leading to the front porch northward toward Kipling Road.

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[1] Robert C. Jurney and S.O. Perkins, *Soil Survey of Harnett County, North Carolina* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1917), 5.
[2] Aerial map of farm dated 1998, in possession of Timothy Johnson.

Two distinct concentrations or clusters of resources are located on the farm: the main dwelling and its outbuildings, including a modest early twentieth-century tenant house and circa 1900 barn, and a larger tenant house dating to the second decade of the twentieth century and its outbuildings, which include structures devoted to bright-leaf tobacco processing. Expansive forest land, pastures, and fields, some under cultivation, surround the farm's domestic and agricultural buildings and provide not only an appropriate setting for this rural complex, but also an agricultural context for this farm established in the eighteenth century.

Cluster #1
Ottie and Robert Timothy Johnson House
2095 Kipling Road
1918; ca. 1942
Contributing Building
Ashworth and Draughn, builders

Exterior

Standing on a continuous brick foundation and topped with a hipped roof, the Johnson House is a two-story, frame house with a one-story side kitchen wing. Executed in the Southern Colonial style, the Johnson house typifies the form in its central monumental, two-story, front-gabled portico with a one-story porch wrapping around its other elevations and its double-pile plan bisected by a central passage. The massive metal-sheathed fluted columns supporting the vinyl-clad closed pediment are the third pair to grace the house and were put in place in the mid-1980s; the second pair of replacement columns was installed around 1965. The one-story wraparound hipped-roof porch stands independent of the portico. Fiberglass Tuscan columns on plain bases and crowned by plain caps support the porch as it extends along each elevation; these columns were installed in 2008. While vinyl siding was applied on the upper level around 1980, the exterior of the first floor retains its original weatherboard siding. Corbelled caps top a pair of tall brick interior chimneys that rise through the asphalt-shingle-covered roof. This roof dates to 1998 and replaced a metal shingle roof.

A formal classical surround marks the main entrance; fluted pilasters flanking the single-leaf door rest on plain bases and are topped with a two-tiered dentil cornice crowned by a flat molded architrave. A pair of one-over-one double-hung sash pierce the façade just west of the doorway, while a single one-over-one sash is located to the east of the doorway; these and all the windows in the house are replacements dating to circa 1980. At the façade's upper story, a balcony tucked under the portico features a wooden balustrade with turned balusters. The entrance to this balcony imitates the main entrance in its fluted pilasters topped with a simple cornice. A pair of double-hung sash flanks the balcony.

The west elevation features two double-hung sash on each level crowned at the roof by a vinyl-clad front–facing gable.

A pair of wide stairs—one constructed of wood and the other of concrete—with simple wooden railings extends from the porch on the south, or rear, elevation; one stair is located on the west end of the south elevation and the other extends from the rear of the one-story kitchen wing, at the east end of the house, to the backyard. This elevation features two entry doors on the first floor of the two-story block and a west-facing door into the pantry on the one-story kitchen wing. A small, high window illuminates the master bathroom while a pair of double-hung sash lights the dining room at the east end of the two-story block. Just east of the dining room windows is a small projecting closet fronted with two five-panel doors. Beyond the pantry, two small windows illuminate the kitchen wing. On the upper floor, a pair of windows is located over the first-floor paired windows, while a large double-hung sash pierces this floor at the west end; a smaller off-center window provides light to the upper-level bathroom. Metal awnings shade each of the second-floor windows on the rear elevation, as well as the south window of the kitchen wing.

The one-story kitchen wing dominates the east elevation. Originally, the ell was to be built on the rear elevation, but during construction Robert Johnson decided that it should be placed on the side closer to the well, a location where whoever was working in the kitchen could see visitors as they approached the house and customers as they approached the store. The kitchen wing features a pedimented side-gable roof with a rear shed roof that shelters the pantry. Three grouped casement windows under a metal awning are located on the kitchen's east elevation. A single-leaf door on the north elevation provides access from the wraparound porch to the kitchen. The east elevation of the dwelling's two-story main block features a door and window on the first level and a single window under a metal awning on the upper story. A front-facing gable matching the one on the east elevation rests on the downward slope of the two-story block's roof.

Interior

The interior follows a central passage plan with a pair of rooms flanking each side of the hallway on both the first and second levels. The first floor hallway is a formal space resulting from a whole-house renovation that Goldie Johnson, Ralph Johnson's wife, carried out in the early 1940s. Paneled wainscot topped with a molded chair rail, crown molding, and a large wallpaper vignette of a pastoral scene finish the space. The wainscot extends the length of the open string stair that features a box newel post with a molded cap and turned balusters with square tops and bases. Pile carpet covers the hall's original heart pine floor and the stair. Originally, the hall extended through to the rear of the house, but during the early 1940s renovation a bathroom was installed in the south end of the passage, thereby closing off the rear of the hallway.

The northwest parlor exudes formality in its crown molding with a dentil course, gold geometric-floral wallpaper, and high baseboard with molded crown. Situated on the south wall, the classically-inspired mantel stands as the room's most prominent feature. A cornice crowns the mantel and sits above a projecting molded upper shelf supported by a pair of square pilasters with nearly full-height recessed molding with mouse ear caps. Just above the pilasters and forming part of the base for the shelf is an astragal embellished with convex molding consisting of a pattern of disks alternating with elongated beads. The mirrored overmantel tops the lower shelf supported by consoles. A molded panel topped with a cornice with dentils crowns the original five-panel door with an otherwise plain surround.

The bedroom south of the parlor presents a less formal space. Plain crown molding, molded baseboards, and a mantel with scrolled brackets and columnettes on plain bases supporting the shelf embellish the room. Floral wallpaper with baby blue background covers the walls. A closet just to the west, or left, of the fireplace has a five-panel door and is sheathed in cedar; the closet to the east, or right, of the fireplace was installed in the early 1940s and has double sliding doors. A five-panel door with plain surround provides access to this room. A ten-light door provides access from this room to the rear veranda. In the southeast corner of the bedroom, a six-panel door leads to the first-floor bathroom. The bath retains original tile, wallpaper, and fixtures from the early 1940s.

The dining room, which is located in the southeast corner of the first floor of the two-story block, is an irregular-shaped formal space with dentil crown molding identical to that in the parlor, a molded chair rail, and a wallpaper vignette. Plain surrounds with cap molding frame the room's three six-panel doors. A classical mantel composed of columnettes on square bases supporting an upper shelf with a cornice above and framing the mirrored upper mantel and lower shelf supported by curved consoles occupies the north wall.

The northeast sitting room has always functioned as an informal family room and its finishes reflect that purpose. A five-panel door connects this room to the central passage, while a doorway with the door removed leads to the dining room. A half-glazed door on the east wall leads to the wraparound porch. All the wooden elements, including the doors, door and window surrounds, crown molding, baseboards, the post and lintel mantel with fluted pilasters, and the closet and bookshelf to the right of the fireplace were refinished with a golden stain in the 1950s.

The one-story east wing contains a kitchen and pantry. Although the kitchen was renovated in 2008, the simple finishes—the tongue and groove ceiling, floor, paneled walls, crown molding, and original cast iron sink—remain. The pantry, containing a washer and dryer, retains an original cast iron sink.

The wide upstairs hallway features plaster walls and acoustical tiles covering the original plaster ceiling. A half-glazed door leads to the front balcony. Simple convex molding trims the door surrounds and baseboards. The south wall of this space retains a molded chair rail and dentil crown molding. A bathroom, added in the early 1940s, occupying the rear or south end of this space retains original ceramic tile floors and wainscot and its original fixtures.

All other rooms on the second floor function as bedrooms and share common traits: a stock mantel, six-panel doors, an original pendant light fixture, high baseboards with quarter round molding, and simple crown molding.

The northwest room retain a floral wallpaper dating to the early 1940s, a period chain pendant light fixture composed of a pair of hanging brass chains mounted on an oval base holding frosted white globes, and a mantel composed of square, reeded pilasters supporting a bracketed shelf. A six-panel door to the west of the mantel leads to a small closet.

The southwest bedroom displays finishes similar to the northeastern bedroom, except for an acoustic tile ceiling and a mantel with columnettes instead of pilasters. A chain pendant fixture remains in this space.

The southeast bedroom is nearly identical to the one across the hall, except for the longleaf pine motif wallpaper. A door composed of two large panels provides access from this room to the hall bathroom.

The northeast bedroom lacks wallpaper, but displays a simple chair rail. Its mantel is identical to the one in the northwest bedroom.

OUTBUILDINGS

Store
1918; moved 1950
Contributing building

The one-and-a-half-story, gable-front, frame building with weatherboard siding faces east and stands just northwest of the house. It rests on a concrete slab and concrete block pier foundation dating to the 1950 move of the building from approximately 300 feet to the east. Windows are six-over-six sash and plain vertical boards mark the building’s corners. A one-story, shed-roofed addition extends from the west end of the south elevation. A concrete porch extends along the façade of the main building. Square posts support a shed porch roof that shelters the main block’s diagonal batten door and its flanking windows; identical doors provide access to both the shed addition and the center of the windowless north elevation. The rear

elevation displays one window on each level. A single window marks the main block's south elevation, while a one-over-one sash window on the south wall lights the small shed addition. A brick chimney rises through the metal-shingle-covered roof near the center of the building. Metal grills cover the windows. Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Draughn, the men who built the main house, also built the store.

The interior remains entirely intact with an open staircase occupying the west wall and flush boards sheathing the interior. Floors are wooden and wooden ceiling joists are exposed. All shelving and fixtures have been left in place. Ledgers and even some dry goods have been retained on the interior.

Storage building
ca. 1890
Contributing building

A one-story, gable-front, frame building faces east and stands on concrete block piers just north of the store. Used primarily to store fertilizer and other chemicals, the simple weatherboard building has two vertical board front doors and is windowless. Standing seam metal covers the roof. Because of the potential toxic nature of the material stored here, the interior is not accessible.

Store
1885, 1886
Contributing building

Built by Robert Timothy Johnson, the one-story, gable-front, frame building with weatherboard siding faces west and stands northeast of the house. The foundation rests on a combination of lightwood piers, concrete block, and stacks of stones. The Johnson family doubled the building's size in 1886. Plain wood posts support a partial-width metal-roofed shed porch that shelters the diagonal batten door and flanking four-over-four windows that have been shuttered; the porch floor is constructed of wood planks. Wide garage bay doors attached with strap hinges front the shed-roofed addition along the entire north side. The north elevation is windowless, but shows the seam indicating the 1886 expansion of the original building. The rear, or east, elevation displays one window under the gable roof. The south elevation is windowless, but is obscured by the metal sheathed car shed that connects the store and the smokehouse. A standing seam metal roof covers the store. The interior features a wood floor, wooden shelving along the wood walls, and an open wood truss ceiling. The north side shed has exposed framing and built-in shelving.

Smokehouse
ca. 1880
Contributing building

The one-story, gable-front frame weatherboard-sheathed building faces west and stands on a concrete block foundation just south of the store and connected to it by a twelve-foot-wide metal-sheathed car shed. A vertical board door punctuates the façade of the simple rectangular building, which has a standing-seam metal roof. A modest, metal-roofed shed supported by a single post attaches to the north end of the rear elevation and connects to the south end of the car shed. The interior features a concrete floor and wood walls and ceiling.

Hog Scalder
1953
Contributing structure

A small structure for scalding hogs in order to easily remove their hair stands just behind (or east of) the smokehouse. A metal barrel cut in half serves as the scalding vat where a single hog was placed in 120 degree water. The vat is set in a concrete platform so that it is raised off the ground in order for the water to be emptied. A large cast iron pot used for heating the water remains at the structure. The fire for heating the water was made on a pit with a concrete flue adjacent to the vat.

Garage
1918; ca. 1965; ca. 1969
Contributing building

The one-story, gable-front frame weatherboard-sheathed building stands to the west-northwest of and facing the house and just south of the smokehouse. It rests on a foundation of concrete block. A wide and open central bay is centered on the façade, while flanking sheds fronted with double garage doors are positioned to the north and south. The north and south elevations are windowless, while two elongated additions extend from the rear elevation. The first addition occurred around 1965 and is a rectangular, metal-sheathed, gable-roofed building resting on concrete block. In the late 1960s, another addition was made to the rear of the first addition. It is also metal sheathed, but rests on wood piers, and is open on its long south side to allow for the storage of tractors and other farm equipment. The garage and its additions have standing-seam metal roofs. The interior of the main section features exposed frame wood walls and a concrete floor. Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Draughn, the men who built the main house, also built the original section of the garage.

Log Corn Crib
ca. 1890
Contributing building

The one-story, gable-front, saddle-notched log corn crib with a weatherboard shed addition stands just south of the garage. It rests on square hewn sills and low stone foundation piers and is capped by a metal roof. Modest vertical board doors leading to the single pen and shed are on the south elevation. A small nearly square opening is situated above the entrance to the pen; its function is unknown. The interior features a dirt floor, log walls, and an exposed truss ceiling.

Livestock barn/former gymnasium
ca. 1929; moved 1948
Contributing building

A large, one-story, gable-front building constructed as a gym for Lafayette High School, which once stood on US 401 just south of the Chalybeate Springs community, is southeast of the log crib. In 1948, Ralph Johnson bought the building and moved it to the farm to use for storage. The corrugated metal-clad barn stands on brick piers and is covered with a metal roof. The north elevation (façade) features a concrete ramp leading to a single, large opening that fronts the barn's center aisle. Three bays fronted with wooden gates on the west elevation provide access to livestock pens; a similar, yet narrower bay with a wooden gate is found on the west end of the south elevation. Seven large bays without doors provide access to an equipment storage area on the building's east side. The interior consists of a large open space with an open truss wood roof structure and the original wooden gym floor. Animal stalls extend along the west wall.

Storage building
ca. 1950
Contributing building

Just east of the livestock barn stands a building formerly used for storing tobacco and fertilizer. The elongated, one-story, rectangular, metal-clad building rests on concrete block and has a metal roof. A metal awning shelters the centrally-located loading bay with a metal door that occupies the north elevation. Wooden rafter tails grace the east and west elevations. The interior consists of an open wood truss ceiling, exposed wood framing, and a concrete floor. Ralph Johnson constructed this building.

Storage building
1959
Contributing building

Just east of the circa 1950 storage building is another building from that period of nearly identical materials and form. The interior consists of a wooden open truss ceiling and a wood floor. A large sliding door topped with a small shed-roofed awning occupies each gable end. Ralph Johnson constructed this building.

Dynamite house
1957
Contributing structure

Just east of the 1959 storage building stands a small square brick structure with a shed roof built by Ralph Johnson to store dynamite. The Johnsons, like many farmers in the region, used dynamite for a variety of reasons including as a method for removing stumps from the ground, digging holes, and shattering rocks when clearing land. In order to protect the dynamite from the weather and hunters' gunfire, it was stored in this sturdy, brick, bulletproof structure that was built in an isolated area east of the house and its outbuildings.

Cemetery
Late 19th and early 20th century
Contributing site

A small cemetery containing six modest stone headstones and footstones is situated due north of the dynamite house in an open field east of the main house. Unidentified Johnson family relatives are interred here.

Corn Crib
ca. 1930
Contributing building

Just south of the log crib stands a one-story, weatherboard, gable-front, frame crib. Topped with a standing-seam metal roof, the rectangular crib features rafter tails and plain cornerboards and rests on a continuous stone foundation. The west elevation (façade) displays two weatherboard-covered doors—the smaller one near the south end. Two braced logs support the metal-roofed shed that extends from the east, or rear, elevation and shelters a concrete pad. The side elevations lack windows. The interior consists of two rooms with concrete floors, wood walls, and exposed wood truss ceilings. The northernmost room is larger and contains shelves along its north wall.

Granary
ca. 1900
Contributing building
A small, one-story, unpainted weatherboard granary stands just south of the frame corn crib. A corrugated metal roof tops the front-gable on this rectangular building that rests on low stone piers. A small metal awning shelters the vertical plank door on the west elevation (façade) while plain vertical boards mark the

building's corners. The interior consists of wood floor and walls with some of the interior framing left exposed.

Woodshed
ca. 1950
Contributing building

A double-bay, one-story, rectangular, metal-clad, gable-front, frame building stands to the west-southwest of the granary. It rests on a brick and concrete foundation and features rafter tails beneath a standing-seam metal roof.

Office
1995
Noncontributing building

A two-story, gable-roofed building stands just off the southeast corner of the house. The synthetic-clad office stands on a continuous brick foundation and includes a large open shed addition on its east side. The building has a metal door on lower level of the north elevation and a wooden stair on the south elevation that leads to a half-glazed door. Windows on the north and west elevations are four-over-four sash. An interior brick chimney rises from the southwest corner. This was the site of the 1918 Delco electric generator. After rural electrification in the 1930s, the building became a wash house, while the second floor was used to house a domestic worker. A fire destroyed the building in 1995 and the current structure was built soon thereafter.

Grape arbor
ca. 1900; ca. 1950
Contributing structure

The grape arbor measures approximately 50 feet long and 20 feet wide and stands directly behind, or south of, the main farm house. Three rows of six vertical wood posts support the horizontal round metal and wood posts that form the arbor's upper level where muscadine and scuppernong grape vines grow. The arbor is one of the oldest resources on the farm predating the current main dwelling. Some of the posts have been replaced over time because of deterioration, but a majority of the material composing the arbor is original.
Tenant House #1
Ca. 1920
Contributing building

The one-story, weatherboard-clad, front-gable tenant house stands just west of the main farm complex and on the south side of Kipling Road, but facing east toward the Johnson house. A standing-seam, partial-width shed porch supported by plain square posts shelters the single-leaf, replacement metal door and the flanking original four-over-four double-hung sash. A standing-seam metal roof covers the modest house whose stone pier foundation is partially fronted with metal skirting. Windows throughout are original four-over-four sash or modern vinyl replacements. The side elevations display rafter tails while plain posts mark the building's corners. A rear door is a replacement of the original. The interior follows an irregular plan and retains original five- and six-panel doors, plain moldings, and wood-sheathed walls.

Historically, this dwelling housed domestic workers for the Johnson family. It was later converted to rental property.

Barn
Circa 1900
Contributing building

A small, one-story, side-gabled, wood-sheathed and metal-clad barn stands northeast of tenant house #1, on the north side of Kipling Road. On its south wall is a center human door opening in the full-width, metal clad shed extension, and the north side has a full-width open shed supported by wood posts. It is located in the narrow wedge of land where Kipling and Hardee roads historically met at a V. The intersection has been redesigned, and Hardee Road now intersects just to the north of the barn.

Cluster #2

Tenant House #2
405 Hardee Road (SR 1425)
1918
Contributing building

A frame tenant house with outbuildings stands northwest of the main farm complex on the west side of Hardee Road facing east. The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, single-pile house stands on a brick foundation and includes a rear-gabled ell with an interior brick chimney. A 5-V metal roof covers the dwelling. A paved, single-shouldered brick chimney with a corbelled cap occupies the main block's south gable end. The partial-width front porch with a shed roof has been partially rebuilt with treated wood decking, posts, and balustrade. Most windows are one-over-one aluminum replacements, although original four-over-four sashes occupy the upper story of the south gable end and the west end of the ell. Returns

mark the gable ends and plain cornerboards grace each corner. A shed-roofed porch extends along the south side of the ell; its balustrade is a modern replacement executed in treated wood. The interior follows a central hall plan and retains wood sheathed walls, five panel doors, some tongue and groove ceilings, and plain moldings. The living room features a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. Ashworth and Draughn built this house.

Storage building
ca. 1940
Contributing building

A one-story, rectangular, metal-sheathed, frame storage building stands on concrete block piers just west of the house. A gable-front, low-pitched standing-seam metal roof covers the building. The façade faces south toward the house and features a large, central, sliding metal door topped with a small metal pent roof. On the east elevation, the roof extends over an open bay that is supported by round, wooden posts and recessed under the building's roof. The north elevation presents a solid wall of metal siding. The west elevation is open and was designed to store farm equipment. The interior consists of a single open room with a wood floor and exposed wood framing. Ralph Johnson constructed this building.

Corncrib
ca. 1940
Contributing building

A small, one-story, deteriorated gable-front, wood-sided, frame rectangular building with a standing-seam metal roof stands behind and faces tenant house #2. The door pierces the east elevation. The building is partially covered with a green tarp and plywood. The interior is not accessible.

Stable
ca. 1940
Contributing building

A small, one-story, gable-front, wood and metal-sided, rectangular, frame building with a standing-seam metal roof stands just north of the corncrib and behind and facing tenant house #2. An open shed supported by braced wood posts flanks the south side, while a metal-sided shed is located on the north side. A door pierces the east elevation. The interior features wood floors and exposed wood framed walls.

Grading Room
Ca. 1930

Contributing building

A small, one-story, gable-front, metal-sided rectangular building on a concrete foundation and topped with a standing-seam metal roof stands just north of the stable and behind and facing east. A wooden vertical plank door with a wood frame is centered on the façade. The interior contains a pit for tobacco grading.

Tobacco Bulk Barns
1965
Noncontributing structures (7)

A group of seven, flat-roofed, rectangular, metal bulk barns stand northwest of tenant house #2. Beginning in the 1960s, bulk barns replaced flue-curing barns across eastern and piedmont North Carolina. These bulk barns remain in use.

Tobacco Flue-Curing Barn
ca. 1930
Contributing building

A metal-sided, gable-roofed frame building resting on a concrete block foundation is the farm's only remaining flue-curing barn; numerous similar barns once stood on the Johnson farm. The building retains its flues and shed supported with round wood posts on its north elevation where workers were sheltered from the weather while they strung tobacco leaves on sticks before it was hung in the barn for curing.

Farm Landscape
Contributing Site

The Johnson Farm consists of a 350-acre tract that is part of the land acquired by earlier generations of the family in the eighteenth century. The farm contains the main domestic complex; two tenant houses; and a concentration of tobacco processing buildings that represent a small portion of a group of such structures that once stood on the farm. Surrounding these man-made structures is a landscape that has been shaped by nature, six generations of the Johnson family, and tenants and sharecroppers who worked the land. Historically, the area along Hector's Creek served as fertile ground for growing crops, including bright-leaf tobacco. After Granville Wilt struck in the 1930s, crops were moved to higher ground to the west along Hardee Road and the bottomlands reverted to forest. Where crops once grew just east of the house, the land remains devoid of forest and even retains evidence of terracing that was completed in the 1930s and 1940s. The tree coverage on a significant portion of the land is, in most cases intentional, and reflects the farm's historic function as a producer of forest resources. Historically, long-leaf pines were grown on the

farm as part of the property's naval stores production. Successive generations of the Johnson family, like other farmers in this part of North Carolina, also grew trees for timber, a business that contributed greatly to their livelihoods.

Integrity Statement

A rural landscape, especially one devoted to agricultural activity where changes in land use are common, rarely appears as it did fifty years ago, or even one year ago. However, in order for a farm to retain integrity, the general character and feeling of the historic period must be present. In order to evaluate changes to the landscape of the Johnson farm, historic aerial photographs are essential. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service photographed Harnett County in 1955, including the Johnson farm. This black and white photograph in the survey file at the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office reveals very little significant change to the patterns of field and forest since that time. The 1955 photograph shows cleared fields lining both sides of Hardee Road as it extends in a northwesterly direction from Kipling Road. The area around the domestic complex was clear of trees; this is true today except on the west side of the house where a pine forest now grows. Small fields flanked both sides of Kipling Road from the domestic complex to Hector's Creek in 1955; most of this area has been given over to trees.

Summary

The Johnson Farm meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its significant role in the history of subsistence and cash-crop farming in Harnett County. The complex, one of the largest in the county since the nineteenth century, is also notable for the important role tenant farming has played in its development. Tapley Ormond Johnson Sr. founded the farm in the late eighteenth century and it has been under the ownership of his descendants since that time. Although patterns of cultivation and crops have changed over time, the farm retains a typical arrangement of fields, forests, and domestic and agricultural buildings and structures seen on farms in the region from the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Johnson Farm also derives architectural significance under Criterion C for architecture for its intact collection of domestic buildings and outbuildings representative of rural North Carolina building practices of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The standing structures on the farm date primarily to the tenure of Robert Timothy Johnson (1865-1950) and his son Ralph Leon Johnson (1910-2006), great-grandson and great, great-grandson, respectively, of Tapley Johnson Sr. Ottie May Utley Johnson, (1873-1917), wife of Robert Johnson, designed the commodious two-story Southern Colonial-style house at the center of the main domestic complex that dates to 1918 and is the third dwelling to occupy the farm. Outbuildings include two intact country stores from 1886 and 1918, tenant houses, and those related to bright-leaf tobacco processing. The locally significant Johnson Farm, containing 350 acres, remains one of the best preserved rural complexes in Harnett County. Its period of significance spans from 1885, the date of construction of the original farm store, until 1960, the era during which the complex achieved its current appearance and a time when the farm was its most active as an agricultural operation.

History of the Johnson Farm

According to a well-documented genealogy of the extended Johnson families of Harnett County, the Johnson Farm occupies part of the land owned by Tapley Johnson Sr., who amassed over two thousand acres from 1787 through 1816 in what was then Cumberland County.[3] A little over twelve hundred acres came through land grants issued by the State.[4] In 1790, Tapley Johnson's household included his wife, Lydia Matthews, and his daughters Elizabeth and Sarah. The census for that year also recorded two slaves. The 1820 census indicates that Johnson's household included his wife, Lydia, and two of their four children. Johnson owned five slaves by this time, probably including two boys, Tom, age ten, and Casey, age thirteen, who Johnson purchased in 1813 and 1814, respectively.[5]

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[3] Grantee-Grantor Index for Cumberland County, accessed on line at Cumberland County Register of Deeds website, http://www.ccrodinternet.org/II_main.asp, accessed July 1, 2009.
[4] Cumberland County land grants in the North Carolina land grants index, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[5] Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Cumberland County Deed Book 28, pages 751 and 752.

Family history contends that a log house, likely built in the late eighteenth century, stood during Tapley Johnson's tenure on the farm. The house collapsed during a storm around 1920.[6] A portion of the foundation remains visible in the field near the rear of the garage.

Tapley Johnson died around 1820 and his will, which was probated in September 1823, divided most of his land between his two sons, with smaller amounts given to his daughters. William B. Johnson, born around 1774, received 532 acres along Little Creek in 1812 before his father's death.[7] Along with additional land, William Johnson inherited money and an enslaved woman named Silvia; the elder Tapley's will also mentions three other slaves.[8]

William Johnson married Godwin Carter on October 1, 1818. The couple had one son, Willis Johnson (1819-1905) who inherited the whole of his father's farm upon his death around 1850 in Cumberland County.[9] Like his father, Willis Johnson owned slaves; in 1850 he held ten slaves ranging from age two to seventy-two.[10]

In or around 1850, a new house was constructed on the Johnson Farm to replace the original log dwelling. A documentary photograph taken of the house circa 1898 and a floor plan drawn at an unknown time provide valuable information about mid-nineteenth-century domestic architecture in rural Harnett County. The house was a dogtrot composed of two units integrated under a wood shake roof with a large chimney occupying a portion of the aisle between the two units. An engaged porch with rooms on each end spanned the facade. Exterior doors allowed access directly into each of the porch rooms. The northernmost section was a typical hall-parlor plan with two main rooms, a partial-width rear porch, and a porch room on the north end of the engaged front porch; the diagram indicates that the porch room served as the kitchen. A chimney occupied the north gable end. The southern unit consisted of a large parlor and a small bedroom in the main section and a porch room on the south end of the front porch. Tucked under the roof of the rear elevation was a centered porch flanked by two sleeping rooms identified as guest rooms on the diagram. A picket fence immediately surrounded the house and provided protection from ranging stock. In September

[6] Sam Johnson Interview with Ralph Leon Johnson, on DVD, July 9, 2004.
[7] Cumberland County deed book 27, page 48.
[8] Ruth Bethea Johnson, *Concerning our Ancestors: The Johnsons and their Kin* (Fuquay-Varina, N.C.: Harold E. Parker & Sons, 1980) 16, 17.
[9] Descendants of Tapley Sr. Johnson of Harnett County, accessed on line at North Carolina GenWeb website, www.ncgenweb.us?harnett.wmjohnson.html, accessed July 1, 2009.
[10] Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Slave Schedule (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

1943 the northern section burned and the southern section was moved to the western part of the farm to serve as a tenant house. That house is no longer extant.[11]

On August 28, 1853, Willis Johnson married Amanda Narcissus Spence (1832-1905). The 1870 federal census lists Willis Johnson as a farmer with $1,000 in real estate and a personal estate worth $800.[12] The farm census for that year indicates that he owned 428 unimproved (wooded) and 100 improved acres. He held $350 worth of livestock including 30 sheep, 13 swine, and fewer than 5 each of horses, mules, milk cows, working oxen, and other cattle. With his herd of sheep he managed to produce 40 pounds of wool that year. His crops included 300 bushels of Indian corn, 150 bushels of sweet potatoes, 100 pounds of tobacco, 40 bushels of winter wheat, and 10 bushels of Irish potatoes. The Johnson's bee colony produced 10 pounds of wax and 50 pounds of honey. That year Willis Johnson paid $180 in wages, a figure that included board he provided to workers.[13]

The 1880 farm census recorded a wider variety of products than the previous one. It shows that Willis's 200 apple trees produced 200 bushels of fruit. He also owned 30 chickens. Overall, crop production and livestock population decreased slightly from the previous census.[14]

Narcissus and Willis Johnson had five children including Robert Timothy Johnson (1865-1950) who remained in his parents' house well into his thirties.

Robert Johnson, like his father and grandfather, farmed the land and grew a variety of crops. He added several buildings to the farm including a smokehouse around 1880 and a storage building around 1890. He also started a country store in a frame building on the farm in 1885, selling supplies to farmers and their families.[15] In 1886, he doubled the size of the store.[16] The country store, or commissary, proved an integral part of the tenant and sharecropping culture of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Farmer-

[11] Documentary photograph of circa 1850 house dated 1898 provided by the Johnson Family; undated diagram of circa 1850 house; Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson, January 2, 2009.
[12] Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[13] Agriculture census records for this period do not record productions of timber resources. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Agriculture (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[14] Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Agriculture (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[15] Johnson, 142-145; "Bicentinnial *[sic]* farm: a family tradition," undated clipping from *Harnett County News* in family's papers.
[16] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson, January 2, 2009.

merchants like Robert Johnson provided seed, fertilizer, clothing, and household goods on credit to sharecroppers. The merchant was repaid for the items by the farmer when the crop was harvested.[17]

Robert married Ottie Mae Utley (1873-1917) on Christmas Eve in 1899. By the time the next census was taken in 1900, Robert and Ottie were living with his parents and had been married less than a year.[18] Records for individual farmers during this period do not exist, but in the first decades of the twentieth century, cotton and corn were the most extensively grown crops in the county. Stock raising held little commercial importance and cows and swine typically contributed to the self-sufficiency of farm families by providing milk and meat.[19]

Ottie Johnson, according to family tradition, drew the plans for the current and third house on the farm but died in October 1917 before it was built. According to Ralph Johnson, Robert and Ottie's son, the J. C. Byrd House in Bunnlevel served as a model for the design, and in fact, the houses are strikingly similar in appearance.[20] A Mr. Matthews cut the lumber and shaped the original columns for the Johnson house from longleaf pines taken from the farm. The heart pine was finished at Clem Bradley's planing mill in nearby Kipling. Mr. Draughn and Mr. Ashworth, from Willow Springs in nearby Wake County, constructed the house and also the garage, wash house (which burned), the later store, and neighboring houses. The only change made to Ottie's plan during construction in 1918 was the location of the kitchen, which was intended to be located in a rear ell. According to Ralph Johnson, the rear ell had been framed, but his father, Robert Johnson had it torn down and rebuilt at its current location. Several theories exist as to why the change was made including that it was thought that the elder Mr. Johnson did not like having the kitchen away from the well, which was located on the east elevation porch. Another theory is that he wanted to be able to see who was approaching the house and store from Kipling Road. Originally, two pair of heart pine columns fronted the house. In 1994, columns from a house on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh replaced the original ones.[21]

The tenant house located on the west side of Hardee Road was completed the same year as the Johnson's main house, followed about two years later by the smaller tenant dwelling located just northwest of the main house. These two extant tenant houses were among several that stood on the farm during the middle

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[17] Lee J. Alston, "Issues in Postbellum Southern Agriculture," in *Agriculture and the National Development: Views on the Nineteenth Century*, The Henry A. Wallace Series on Agricultural History and Rural Studies, ed. Lou Ferlenger (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1990), 214-216; the 1916 soil map for Harnett County identifies the store as R. T. Johnson Store.
[18] Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[19] Jurney and Perkins, *Soil Survey of Harnett County, North Carolina*, 10.
[20] Audiovisual recording of Nell Johnson Lanier, Ralph Leon Johnson and Johnson Family Members on DVD, March 20, 2004.
[21] Johnson, 143-145; Sam Johnson Interview with Ralph Leon Johnson on DVD, March 5, 2004; Sam Johnson Interview with Ralph Leon Johnson on DVD, July 9, 2004.

decades of the twentieth century and were built to accommodate families who worked the Johnson land. The smaller of these two houses historically housed domestics who worked in the family house.

In 1920, Robert, a widower by this time, shared his home with his seven children who ranged in age from two to eighteen and a boarder named B. F. Parker, whose spouse had passed away.[22] In an interview taped in 2004, Robert's children, Ralph Johnson and Nell Johnson Lanier, recalled numerous boarders who lived with the family, including Frank Parker, likely the B. F. Parker recorded in the 1920 census. According to Nell, he stayed in the southeast upstairs bedroom and was hired to shuck corn on the farm. The most notable boarder to live with the family was Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and Lillington native Paul Green, who, in the 1910s lived with the family and walked with the children to the nearby Olive Branch School where he was Nell Lanier's teacher.[23] Paul Green won the Pulitzer in 1927 for his play *In Abraham's Bosom*. He remains best known for his long-running outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*, which began in 1937 and is still performed annually at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site near Manteo.[24]

By the mid-1920s, Johnson had the second largest farm in northern Harnett County behind D. H. Senter of Chalybeate, who owned a 948-acre operation. The 1925 farm census report for Hector's Creek township indicates that R. T. Johnson owned 760 acres with the largest portion—590 acres—consisting of woods and pasture. The average farm size in the county that year was 61.8 acres. The Johnsons cultivated 30 acres and left another 115 acres to be worked by the farm's five tenants. An additional twenty-five acres were cleared, but not tilled. Corn, which grew on 60 acres, was the major crop as reported by the farm census. Cotton occupied 45 acres, while tobacco grew on 35 acres. Minor crops included sweet potatoes and hay. Like other progressives of the period, the Johnsons employed commercial fertilizer to boost production; that year they had used 40 tons. In the mid-1920s, a variety of livestock—none in great numbers—lived on the farm. At the end of 1924, the family had 25 hens, 2 milk cows, and 2 sows of breeding age.[25] According to his grandson, Sam Johnson, Robert Johnson also raised turkeys, sheep, and mules, which were used to plow fields even after tractors had come into widespread use.[26] The census did not report the number of tenants for individuals, but 1,474 tenants farmed in the county in 1925.[27]

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[22] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[23] Audiovisual recording of Nell Johnson Lanier and Ralph Leon Johnson and Johnson Family Members on DVD, March 20, 2004.
[24] Paul Green, entry on Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Green_(playwright), accessed April 24, 2009.
[25] 1925 Farm Census Report for North Carolina (Harnett County, Hector's Creek Township); *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930: Agriculture, Volume II, Part 2, the Southern States* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), 358-359.
[26] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson, January 2, 2009.
[27] *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930: Agriculture, Volume II, Part 2, the Southern States*, 366-367.

In 1930, three of Robert Timothy Johnson's children resided with him; his widowed cousin, Dora Cook, also lived with the family. Ralph Johnson remembers that female members of his extended family were often enlisted to help his father take care of the children after Ottie Johnson's death.[28]

Robert Johnson's son, Ralph Leon Johnson (1910-2006) returned to the farm in 1933 after attending North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering (now North Carolina State University) where he majored in business and played basketball from 1929 to 1933.[29] According to Ralph Johnson, jobs proved scarce for those just out of college during the Depression. His brother, Glenn worked as a school teacher earning sixty dollars a month and that is what Robert Johnson paid his son Ralph for working on the farm.[30] During this period, Robert Johnson operated the family's farm store in the building constructed in 1918. The Johnson store was one of forty-five in the county in 1933.[31]

By 1935, Ralph Johnson had essentially taken over the farm from his father. That same year, he purchased the old gymnasium from Lafayette High School, which was located just south of Chalybeate Springs, and moved it to the Johnson farm to serve as a barn. During the early 1930s, Ralph Johnson built at least two outbuildings related to tobacco processing: the grading room and flue-curing barn located adjacent to the tenant house on Hardee Road. According to the farm census report for 1935, Ralph Johnson's farm contained 904 acres with most of that land (631 acres) composed of swamp and woods. Johnson farmed only forty acres and left another 218 to be worked by tenants and sharecroppers. Corn consumed the most land (100 acres), followed by tobacco, which grew on 85 acres. Johnson's farm also produced wheat (40 acres), cotton (14 acres), oats (10 acres), and sweet potatoes (3 acres). Johnson recalls that during this period, timber grown on the farm and sold contributed to the farm's income. He kept a variety of livestock as reported by the farm census: 3 sows, 14 horses or mules, and 2 milk cows. He also raised chickens and turkeys.[32]

During the 1930s, Granville Wilt struck the tobacco crop causing Ralph to alter cultivation patterns on the farm. Crops were moved from the eastern part of the farm, where they grew near the creek bed, to slightly higher land to the west. Fertilizer allowed the Johnsons to convert this poor-quality sandy soil to productive

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[28] Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930: Population (microfilm), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Sam Johnson Interview with Ralph Leon Johnson on DVD, July 9, 2004.
[29] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson Interview, January 2, 2009.
[30] Sam Johnson Interview with Ralph Leon Johnson on DVD, March 5, 2004.
[31] *Census of American Business, 1933, Retail Distribution by Areas, Volume 8: City Stores and Sales by Business Groups for States, Counties, and Cities* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1935), 125.
[32] 1925 Farm Census Report for North Carolina (Harnett County, Hector's Creek Township); Ralph Johnson, "The Johnson Farm," in *North Carolina Century Farms: 100 Years of Continuous Agricultural Heritage* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1989), 115.

land.[33] The family also terraced some fields to prevent the washing away of surface soil. Evidence of this terracing remains in the field just east of the house.[34]

In 1939, Ralph married Goldie Maude Rowland (1913-1978) and the couple moved in with his father. In 1943, the couple had a son Ralph Timothy Johnson, followed in 1947 by another son, Samuel Rowland Johnson.[35] In the early 1940s, the Johnsons erected several buildings behind the Hardee Road tenant house including a corncrib, stable, and storage building.

At the end of World War II, Ralph Johnson's 1,076 acres was the largest farm in northern Harnett County. The 1945 farm census report indicates that Johnson did not work any of his own land but that tenants cultivated 162 acres. Overall 2,526 tenants farmed in Harnett County that year. The largest portion of Johnson's farm (854 acres) remained wooded or swampland. As the amount of land cultivated decreased, so did the crop coverage in general. Corn, still the most common crop, occupied 80 acres. Tobacco grew on 62 acres, while oats and Lespedeza for hay took up 35 acres each. Eight acres were devoted to cotton, while the home garden took up 5 acres. The farm census report recorded that the Johnsons owned little livestock, except for 40 hens and pullets. Boosting crop production with fertilizer continued as a common practice and the Johnson farm used 75 tons in 1945.[36]

Robert later married Mamie Collier of Wake County. The couple had one son, James Leslie Johnson. Robert Johnson's death certificate indicates he died of heart disease and at the time of his death in 1950 he was both a farmer and a merchant.[37]

According to the farm census report for 1945, seventy-five people, mostly tenants and their families, occupied the Johnson farm. Sam Johnson recalls that there were about ten families, mostly sharecroppers, living on the farm when he was born in 1947. According to Sam:

> One family that worked for Mother and Daddy lived in the small white house just above the Farm house. The lady helped with the house chores: cooking and washing, etc. The man helped Daddy with the farm chores: raising pigs, cows, gardening, cutting wood to

[33] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson, January 2, 2009.
[34] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Tim Johnson, January 2, 2009
[35] Jennifer Martin Mitchell Interview with Sam Johnson, January 2, 2009.
[36] *United States Census of Agriculture, 1945, Volume 1, Part 16, Statistics for Counties, North Carolina and South Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946), 138; 1945 Farm Census Report for North Carolina (Harnett County, Hector's Creek Township).
[37] Death certificate for Robert Timothy Johnson, September 1950.

cure the tobacco—we used wood burning furnaces late into the 1960s—raising tobacco, cotton, corn, grains.[38]

Among the tenants who lived and worked on the Johnson farm during the mid-twentieth century were the Carrols; Peel Betts and his children; Robert and Tookie McNeil and their daughters Shang and Tootsie Pie; Lloyd Smith and his wife and children; the Oakleys; Joyce and Billy Smith; the Bradshaws; the Davies; Mack and Bertha Herring; and Buck McNeil and his wife and children.[39]

After Robert's death, Ralph operated the store for several years but the hours of the store were around his busy farming schedule, mostly late in the day. Sometimes Ralph's sons, Tim and Sam, or his wife would open the store for some urgent business. According to Sam, the store was the main source for all the tenants' food and supplies through out the winter. Ralph also had a large fertilizer business that he operated from the store. He would receive large quantities of fertilizer by train boxcar from Wilmington, Leland, or Acme (near Wilmington). The boxcar parked on the tracks at Kipling and Ralph, with the help of his sons, had three days to unload to prevent demurrage. They would haul tons of this fertilizer in an early 1950s model 1.5 ton Chevy Truck either directly to customers or to the large barns in the pasture for storage and later distribution throughout the Hector's Creek township. Royster and Acme were the most prominent fertilizer companies. The three-blend (nitrogen/phosphate/potash) fertilizer came in 200 pound burlap sacks and the nitrogen came in 100 pound paper bags. The farm also did a sizable dynamite and blasting powder business with customers coming from surrounding towns and counties. The store never carried a name on a sign but had to be licensed by the state for tax purposes and those licenses are nailed to the side door in the store. Ralph Johnson closed the store and stopped paying for the license in the late 1960s or early 1970s.[40]

In 1978, Goldie Johnson passed away and the next year Ralph Johnson married Mable McCauley Parker (born 1914).

Ralph Johnson continued farming late into life. In the late 1980s, he reported that he was "still operating on a share crop basis. The main crops are tobacco, soybeans, corn, and I keep about twenty-four head of cattle for pasture grazing."[41] Mable Johnson died on May 5, 2002, followed by Ralph Johnson on June 20, 2006. The sixth generation of Johnsons, Tim and Sam Johnson, remain the caretakers of this significant Harnett County farm.

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[38] Email communication from Sam Johnson, April 16, 2009.
[39] Email communication from Sam Johnson, April 16, 2009.
[40] Email communication from Sam Johnson, April 16, 2009.
[41] Ralph Johnson, "The Johnson Farm," in *North Carolina Century Farms: 100 Years of Agricultural Heritage*, 115.

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Agricultural Context for Harnett County

Agriculture formed the basis of Harnett County's economy in the nineteenth century. In 1860, just over 16 percent of the county's 288,070 acres of farmland was improved (cropland or dedicated pasture), while the remaining consisted of forests and woodlands. The cash value of the county's 472 farms ranked it 62nd out of 86 counties. Like the rest of the North Carolina, most farms were small to medium operations with the majority containing 20 to 99 acres. Harnett County ranked twenty-fourth in its production of sweet potatoes, producing 106,444 bushels in 1860. Although the county yielded nearly two hundred thousand bushels of Indian corn, it ranked near the bottom in production among counties in the state for the year ending 1860. Among livestock raised for market on farms, swine constituted the largest population (16,919), with milk cows and other cattle following a distant second (6,541). The 1860 farm census recorded just over five thousand sheep and 7,199 pounds of wool produced on farms.[42]

The Civil War exercised a dramatic effect on Harnett County's agricultural economy. By the time of the 1870 agricultural census, the amount of improved farm land in Harnett County had decreased dramatically to just under thirty thousand acres. Another 176,820 acres of farmland stood unimproved. Of the county's 677 farms, the majority comprised 20 to 49 acres; only two contained 500 to 999 acres. The cash value of farms dropped by almost half to just over five hundred thousand dollars. Not surprisingly, the production of individual livestock and crops fell. However, there were exceptions including a small rise in the number of oxen and swine. The number of pounds of tobacco went from just over fifteen hundred in 1860 to over six thousand in 1870. For the first time, the value of forest products was recorded. Harnett County ranked eighth in the state with $44,732; the seven highest ranking forest products producing counties lie south and east of Harnett County.[43]

The last twenty years of the nineteenth century saw recovery in Harnett County's agricultural economy. From 1880 to 1900, the amount of improved farm land went from just under 43,000 acres to almost 80,000 acres. In 1880, 1,450 farms were located in the county; by the turn of the twentieth century, Harnett County contained 2,316 farms. With an increase in their number, farm size went down. In 1880, the average farm contained 158 acres. By 1900, the average farm in Harnett County encompassed 100 acres. In 1900, owners operated the majority of farms and most owners (72%) were white. After a downturn just after the Civil War, the value of the county's livestock improved during this period going from just over $170,000 in 1880

[42] *Agriculture in the United States in 1860: Compiled for the Original Returns of the Eighth Census, Under the Direction of the Secretary of the Interior* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1864), 104-111, passim.
[43] *The Statistics of the Wealth and Industry of the United States…Compiled from the Original Returns of the Ninth Census, Under the Direction of the Secretary of the Interior* (Washington, D.C.: 1872), 214-217, 359.

to almost $280,000 in 1900. By the turn of the century, chickens and swine were the most common farm animals.[44]

In 1910, the average farm in Harnett County encompassed ninety acres. Tenants operated a little over 34% of the county's 1,761 farms. That year, corn covered over thirty-one thousand acres more land than any other crop, followed by cotton, which took up almost twelve thousand acres. Only 219 acres of tobacco grew in 1910. The swine population was largest among livestock with 921 hogs and pigs populating the county.[45]

During the first few decades of the twentieth century, the average farm size decreased from 71 acres in 1920 to 52 acres in 1930. In 1920, three farms in the county contained more than 5,000 acres, but by 1930 there were no farms of that size. While farms on average got smaller over the period, the number of farms in Harnett County increased by 561. By 1930, 2,079 tenants worked farms in the county. By 1930, cotton had become the major crop with almost 50,000 acres under cultivation. Corn took up over twenty-six thousand acres and tobacco grew on 11,218 acres. Apples proved a popular crop with 1,387 farms harvesting 14,775 bushels. Another 890 farms harvested almost 85,000 pounds of grapes. Over 79,000 chickens populated farms in the county in 1930, followed by 11,572 swine, and 3,618 cattle. Some farmers in the county grew and sold trees for forest products such as firewood, veneer, fence posts, and railroad ties. Most farms—just over two thousand—sold trees for firewood, while 215 farms sold 4,597 board feet of veneer logs and saw logs. Overall, the value of forest products in the county in 1930 was $120,675.[46]

At the end of World War II, 4, 516 farms stood in Harnett County with the average farm size of just under 55 acres. In 1945, three farms contained 1,000 or more acres; another three were more than 700 acres. The tenancy rate stood at nearly 56 percent with 2,526 tenant farmers working in the county. Corn had once again become the most widespread crop with 36,325 acres grown in 1945. Tobacco took up over 19,000 acres and grew on 3,703 of the county's farms. Another 2,735 farms grew cotton on 13,670 acres. Apple-growing remained popular with 16,340 trees growing on 2,100 farms. Seventy-five farms sold forest projects in 1945; the value of that crop had dropped to just over $20,000.[47]

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[44] Historical Census Browser, University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center: http://fisher.lib.virgnia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/index.html, accessed September 19, 2009; *Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture, Part 1: Farms, Livestock, and Animal Products* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1902), 109, 465, 657.

[45] *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume VII: Agriculture, 1909 and 1910, Nebraska-Wyoming* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913), 240-267, passim.

[46] *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Agriculture, Volume II, Part 2: the Southern States* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), pages 358-437, passim.

[47] *United States Census of Agriculture, 1945, Volume 1, Part 16, Statistics for Counties, North Carolina and South Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1946), 26-159, passim.

By 1959, the number of farms in Harnett County had decreased to 3,244, but the average size increased to just over 72 acres. The greatest number of farms contained 10 to 19 acres. Of the 3,244 farm operators, nearly 36% were tenants. Fertilizer use was widespread—only 209 farms in the county did not use fertilizer to boost crop production. Chickens and swine reigned as the most popular livestock on farms. Tobacco dominated the county in 1959: over nineteen million pounds grew on 13,283 acres. The large majority of farms (2,914) produced vegetables for home use or for sale. Watermelons took up the most land of all other produce. Peach and apple trees were the most common fruit trees with almost four thousand occupying the county in 1959. Nearly 800 farms cut and/or sold forest products; just 28 counties had more farms that cut and/or sold forest products than Harnett County. The majority of the Harnett County farms cut wood for firewood or fuel wood.[48]

Architectural Context: The Southern Colonial Style in Harnett County

The Southern Colonial Revival style gained prominence around 1900 in eastern and piedmont North Carolina due in part to publications like *Colonial Southern Homes* by Raleigh architect Charles W. Barrett, which came out in 1900.[49] The grandiose style's defining feature is a central colossal portico with a one-story porch extending along the façade, and oftentimes wrapping around portions of the side elevations or even to the rear elevation, as in the Johnson House. Typically, the interior followed a double-pile plan intersected by a central passage.

According to an article entitled "Colonial Architecture" published in the *Home Builders Catalog* in 1928, Southern Colonial architecture:

> emphasized horizontal lines, the simple division of interior space, the application of Classic orders, the comfortable impression of compactness and the exceeding economy of the style. The use of flat pilasters and columns which are part and parcel of the Southern Colonial style have also obviously their Classic models. Nor was it a simple task to adapt the cold, monumental architecture of the Greek and Roman public buildings to home use…The Southern planter, being the wealthier man, indulged in the use of Classic orders with greater profuseness, as is evidenced by the colonnade which extended through two stories, an outstanding characteristic of the Southern Colonial home.[50]

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[48] *U.S. Census of Agriculture: 1959, Final Report, Volume 1, Part 26, Counties, North Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1961), 171, 187, 219, 227, 271, 287, 295.
[49] Catherine W. Bishir, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury, and Ernest H. Wood III, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 302-303.
[50] "Colonial Architecture" in the *Home Builders Catalog, 1928*, Antique Home website, http://www.antiquehome.org/Architectural-Style/colonial.htm, accessed September 19, 2009.

Several prominent examples of the Southern Colonial style remain in North Carolina. Charlotte architects Wheeler and Stern designed a dwelling in the style for businessman James J. Lee. Constructed in Monroe in Union County in 1912-1914, the grand house follows a central-passage plan and features a colossal portico with a broad veranda that terminates in a porte-cochere on one end.[51] Raleigh architect Charles Pearson designed the James Beale Johnson House that was constructed just outside Fuquay-Varina around 1906. Typical of the Southern Colonial style, it displays a monumental Doric portico partially sheltering a one-story wraparound porch.[52]

A significant example of the Southern Colonial style in Harnett County is a commodious dwelling built for J. C. Byrd near Bunnlevel. In fact, according to Johnson family tradition, the Byrd House provided the inspiration for Ottie Mae Johnson's design of the Johnson Farm house. Like Robert Timothy Johnson, James Caleb Byrd was a lumberman and farmer. Completed in the early twentieth century, the two-story Byrd House features a colossal Ionic portico and a one-story wraparound porch.

The house at the center of the Johnson Farm exemplifies the popular localized version of the Southern Colonial style. The dwelling's grand central portico—one of the trademarks of the style—makes a bold statement as it rises the height of the façade and partially shelters the graceful wraparound porch. The symmetrical façade, a feature that characterizes the Southern Colonial idiom, carries to the interior where a central passage bisects the two pairs of rooms on the main floor and upper level. While the Johnson House and the J. C. Byrd House, both display the characteristic elements of the Southern Colonial style, the Byrd House shows influence of the Queen Anne style, and to some extent, the Craftsman style. Its square massing is interrupted by the projecting side elevations, while the porch posts rest on bungalow-style brick plinths. Therefore, the Johnson House represents a more pure interpretation of the Southern Colonial style.

Architectural Context: Farm Complexes from the Late Nineteenth to the Mid-Twentieth Century in Harnett County

The Johnson Farm is one of only ten documented farm complexes remaining in a county where properties containing a principal residence and accompanying domestic and agricultural outbuildings were once plentiful. Encroaching suburban development and the discontinuation of traditional agriculture practices has led to the demolition or deterioration, to the point of ruin, of support buildings, especially flue curing tobacco barns, which fell out of widespread use in the 1960s.[53]

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[51] Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 423.
[52] Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County* (Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994), 108.
[53] "Historic and Architectural Resources of Harnett County, North Carolina, ca.1770-1950," Draft Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2004, F-43 and F-44.

Farm complexes in Harnett County typically contain a variety of resources including dwellings, outbuildings, fences, and agricultural landscapes such as cultivated fields. Some farms might also contain intentional forests where trees are grown for harvesting, cemeteries, and country stores. Outbuildings can include livestock barns, stables, privies, wash houses, wells, silos, tobacco curing barns, cribs, granaries, storage buildings, woodsheds, and smokehouses. Landscape features can include creeks, farm ponds, field patterns, fences, and roads. According to the comprehensive architectural survey completed in 2004, most farm buildings are frame.[54]

The Hobbs Farm near Bunnlevel is one of the most intact complexes in Harnett County. A variety of outbuildings surround the circa 1908, one-story, L-shaped, Queen Anne-influenced house located at the center of the now thirty-nine acre farm. Support buildings includes a wash house, brick pump house, smokehouse, feed barn, chicken house, garage, horse barn, and sheep stable. A two-story frame grist mill also stands on the property.

The J. C. Byrd Farm near Bunnlevel contains a principal dwelling similar to the Johnson House. In addition to the early twentieth-century house, the farm includes three transverse barns, sheds, a garage, workshop, tobacco barn, and, like the Johnson Farm, a former store. A turn-of-the-twentieth-century Queen Anne-style house stands at the center of the Richard Byrd Farm, also near Bunnlevel. Three frame barns, a tobacco barn, and a servants house date to the early 1900s, while a metal silo and a frame shed were added in the 1950s.

The Johnson Farm, like a handful of agricultural complexes in Harnett County, features an impressive collection of outbuildings from the late nineteenth century through the middle decades of the twentieth century. However, the Johnson Farm, with over thirty weatherboard, log, and brick outbuildings and attendant support features, remains the most intact and expansive agricultural complex in Harnett County. The Johnson Farm has benefitted from the continuing maintenance of its dwellings and support structures by successive generations of the Johnson family. Furthermore, the family continues to act as careful stewards of the rural landscape through their cultivation of endangered long leaf pines and the preservation of fields, pastures, and woods. The Johnson Farm, through the retention of its tenant houses, provides great insight into the workings of this labor system that dominated the county's farms for much of the twentieth century.

[54] "Historic and Architectural Resources of Harnett County," page F-44.

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8.	17	694040	3829520
9.	17	693790	3830080
10.	17	693810	3830280

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Johnson Farm are shown on the accompanying map drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 350 feet and include parcel 0643-23-2131.00 and those portions of parcel 0643-32-5147.000 lying on the west side of Hardee Road and the south side of Kipling Road.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Johnson Farm includes 350 acres that contain the Ottie and Robert Timothy Johnson House, its outbuildings, pastures, cropland, and forests that have been under the ownership of six generations of the Johnson family. Although all of parcel 0643-32-5147.000 has been under ownership of the Johnson Family for numerous generations, the portions on the east side Hardee Road and north side of Kipling Road contain noncontributing resources that do not contribute to the architectural and agricultural significance of the Johnson Farm, and thus these areas have been excluded.

Cluster #1

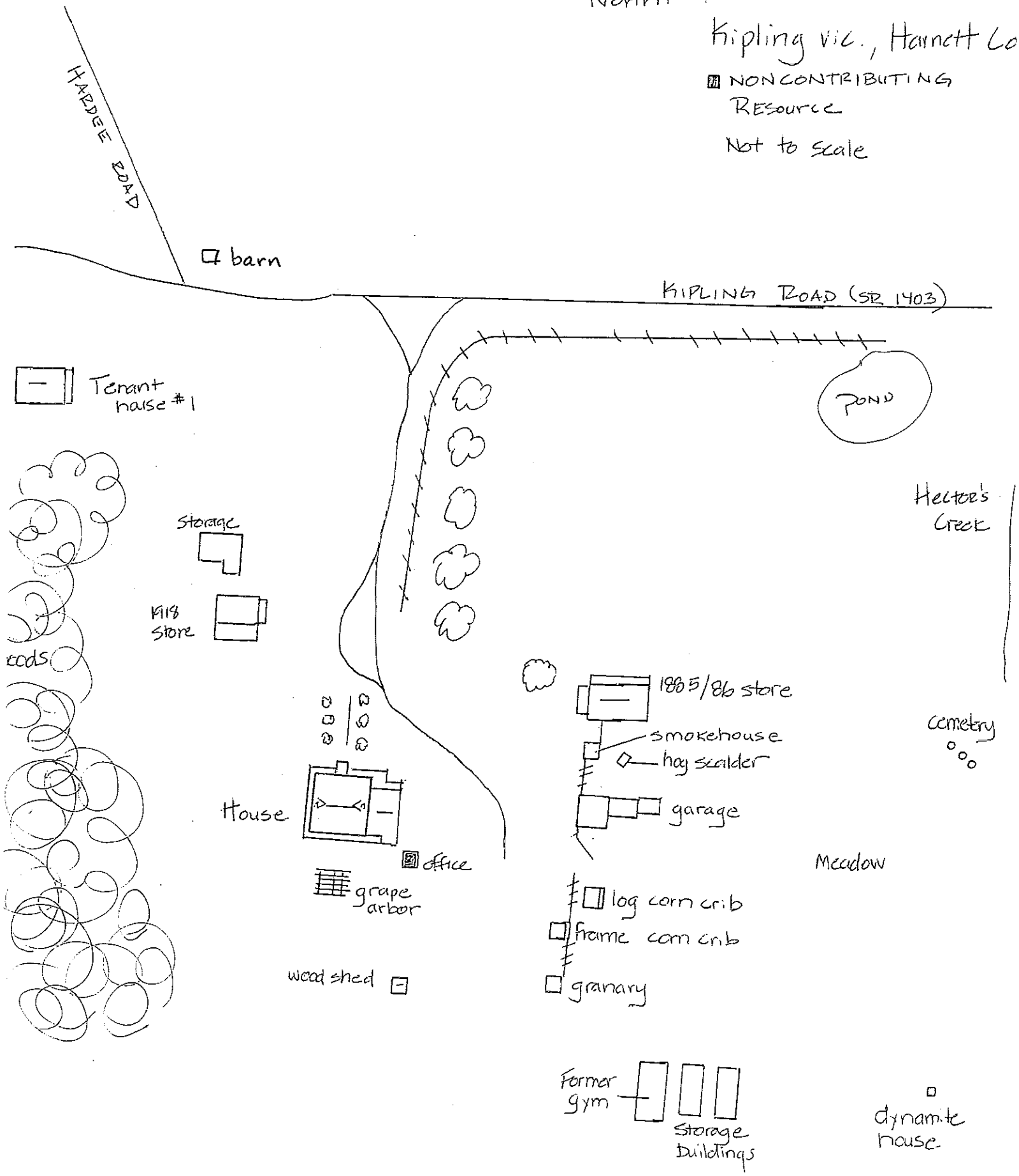
North

Johnson Farm

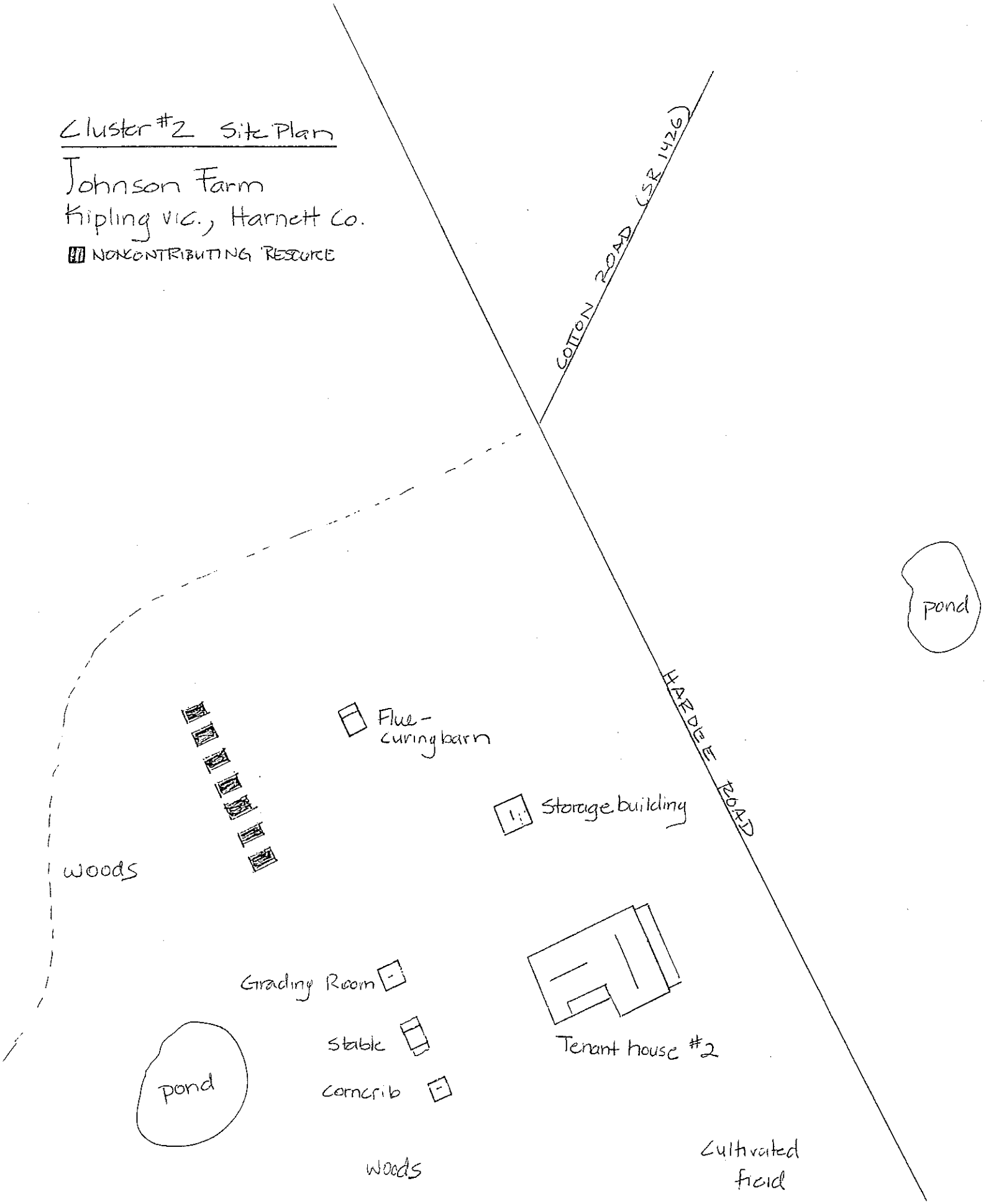
Kipling vic., Harnett Co

NONCONTRIBUTING Resource

Not to scale



Cluster #2 Site Plan

Johnson Farm
Kipling vic., Harnett Co.

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCE