

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Iredell
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Farmville Plantation
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
SITE AND NUMBER: Southeast side of S.R. 2362, 0.5 mi. south of junction with U.S. 70			
CITY OR TOWN: Elmwood		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth	
STATE: North Carolina		COUNTY: Iredell	CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Dr. R. Meredith Hall			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 2			
CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Iredell County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Statesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Farmville Plantation, located in the Piedmont farmland, includes a small residential complex composed of two houses of different periods and a number of outbuildings. The main structure is a two-story brick house, three bays wide and two deep, with a two-story entrance portico and a one-story east rear wing. The smaller dwelling, set at right angles to the main structure and connected to it by a breezeway, is also two stories high, three bays wide and two deep, and is constructed of brick covered with stucco.

The principal structure faces north. The front and rear of the main block and the rear elevation of the wing are laid in Flemish bond, and the sides of both sections are laid in three-to-one common bond. The high brick foundation projects slightly, and the water table is marked by a single course of molded brick headers. The openings are surmounted by handsome flat arches. In each bay of the foundation is a six-pane casement window, protected by a wooden grille. A low gable roof of standing-steam tin covers the structure. The eaves are boxed at the front and rear, with a molded cornice. The gables are accented by a deep molded cornice which is interrupted on each side by the stack of the exterior end chimney. Each chimney, constructed of brick laid in three-to-one common bond, has single concave shoulders and a molded cap with a corbel cornice and a stucco band.

In the center bay at each level of the main facade is a doorway. The main entrance at the first level consists of a double door, each leaf containing five flat panels, surmounted by a transom with pointed-arched tracery. The entrance, framed by an ovolo-molded architrave and flat-paneled soffit and reveals, has a flat arch and a granite sill. The second-story entrance consists of a single flat-paneled door beneath a four-pane transom within an ovolo-molded architrave. A handsome Doric tetrastyle entrance portico protects both stories. The pediment, with a stuccoed tympanum and molded cornice and frieze, is supported by stuccoed brick pillars with plaster capitals. Brick steps lead to the center bay of the first-level porch, and a plain wood balustrade encloses both lower and upper porches. The portico rests on brick piers, with arched openings between the piers flanking the steps. The windows are identical throughout the structure, each having six-over-six sash set in a simple molded architrave, flanked by flat-paneled shutters and a sill composed of two rows of brick headers stuccoed to simulate stone. The rear central entrance and the entrance in the rear bay of the east side are identical, each having a single flat-paneled door in an ovolo-molded architrave.

A one-story shed porch extends across the rear elevation. In the east bay of the porch is a brick wing contemporary with the main block, while the west bays are open. The porch has stuccoed brick Doric columns, connected by a plain wood balustrade. Brick pillars form the porch foundation.

Both stories of the principal structure of Farmville Plantation follow a center hall plan one room deep, and the original simple, elegant trim is intact throughout the house. The walls at both levels are plastered, and each room in the main block has a molded baseboard and a molded plaster cornice. In the wing room a molded baseboard is present, but the wooden

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cornice appears to be a replacement. With the exception of the hall at the second level, each room is finished with a wainscot. The window openings throughout the structure have splayed reveals. Some of the doors and window reveals on the first floor are flat-paneled, and the remaining reveals in the house are plain. Wide molded architraves surround the window and door openings of both stories. The window architraves continue to the floor, framing a paneled section of the wainscot, with the window sill a continuation of the chair rail. Each of the interior doors has flat panels and is hung on butt hinges.

A concentric plaster medallion adorns the hall ceiling. The handsome open-string stair (cited in Waterman's Early Architecture of North Carolina) spirals against the west wall of the hall to the second story and is ornamented with delicate tulip brackets which terminate in tendrils on the fascia of the second floor landing. The stair balustrade is composed of tall slender balusters square in section and an oval handrail. The stair appears to be copied from Owen Biddle's 1810 Young Carpenter's Assistant, a type found in many fine Piedmont houses.

The focus of the parlor is a tall, wide three-part Federal mantel. Flanking Doric pilasters, each with a single vertical flat panel, support a plain frieze with end blocks, a deeply molded cornice which breaks out over the end blocks, and a narrow shelf. The dado in this room is flat-paneled, with a molded chair rail. The dining room mantel is simpler, with a wide molded architrave surrounding the fireplace opening, a wide plain frieze and a molded cornice with a narrow shelf. The wainscot here is identical to that in the parlor. The mantel in the wing is quite similar to the dining room mantel but features a more complex surround. The wainscot in this room is composed of raised panels and a molded chair rail. Both second-story mantels are identical to the mantel in the first-story wing. Each second-story room has a horizontally sheathed wainscot and molded chair rail.

The full basement, divided into two rooms by a brick partition wall, was recently renovated. The west chimney contains a supporting arch at this level, while the east chimney has a segmental-arched fireplace opening. The door and window openings in the basement have wooden arches and are set within segmental relieving arches.

The main (west) facade of the smaller structure faces the east side of the principal residence and is connected to it by a breezeway. This breezeway, although of recent construction, is perhaps rebuilt from an earlier passageway. The walls of this building are of brick laid in one-to-three common bond with a thick stucco coating (a recent addition) and set on a random fieldstone foundation. The gable roof, covered with standing-seam tin, has boxed eaves and molded cornices at the front and rear, with plain cornices at the gables. The structure originally had two exterior end chimneys, but the south chimney and the cap of the large north chimney have disappeared. The remaining chimney has deep single convex shoulders. The main facade has

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7. B

two entrances, a center one and the one in the south bay, both with granite sills. The unequally sized windows, with brick header sills, have six-over-six sash. Plain, thin architraves surround the door and window openings, and flat arches surmount the second-story windows in the east elevation. The floor joist beams of the second story protrude from the main facade, possibly once having extended as a porch roof. The structure has been completely renovated on the interior. The hall-and-parlor plan now present is possibly a retention of the original division of space. The north fireplace on the first floor still exists and is very large with a segmental-arched opening.

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PERIOD
 (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 14th Century 17th Century 19th Century

PERIOD DATED (If Applicable and Known)

REASONS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Farmville Plantation, the home of the Chambers family who were among the county's first settlers, includes an interesting early brick dwelling and an impressive Federal house distinguished by its handsome brickwork and well-executed interiors. Especially notable is the graceful spiral stair with "tulip" brackets, characteristic of the major Federal houses of the Piedmont.

Henry Chambers was the grandfather of Joseph Chambers, the builder of the present Farmville Plantation house. A native of Pennsylvania, Henry obtained land in Rowan County, North Carolina, by a grant of 640 acres surveyed in 1754. According to a descendant's memoir, Henry Chambers's log dwelling was still standing and in "fairly good condition" at the end of the Civil War. Tombstone records indicate that Henry Chambers was born in 1707 and died in 1782. One of his nine children was a son, also named Henry, born in 1751. Henry, the younger, did not inherit his father's plantation house by the terms of the will, but was probably living on an adjoining tract at the time of his father's death. In 1781 he had bought from his father a 320-acre tract rectangular in shape, which was probably a half of his father's above-mentioned grant of 640 acres, also laid off as a rectangle. It is also likely that he had taken possession of the tract some years before the actual execution of the deed.

The younger Chambers, a successful planter, increased his estate by the purchase of several tracts from the McElwraith family whose progenitor was a neighbor and contemporary of the first Henry Chambers. One of these tracts included a two-story brick dwelling built probably by John McElwraith who first settled there in 1751. This house, the smaller brick building at Farmville, is thought to be the oldest brick dwelling in Iredell County. The 1790 United States Census shows Henry Chambers to be the owner of nine slaves, and the 1810 census records his owning sixteen slaves. By 1815 his estate was held in trust, according to that year's tax list, for his sons, David, Joseph, and Maxwell, and included nine negro slaves and 2,349 acres. His will left "the plantation I now live on" to his son, Maxwell (later a wealthy merchant prominent in the affairs of the Presbyterian church and Davidson College), while to Joseph he willed several tracts including "the land I bought from John McElwraith" containing 325 acres. It is more than likely upon this land that Joseph Chambers built the present Farmville Plantation. In 1818, not long after his father's death, he married Margaret Brown. At this time also deeds show that he acquired extensive real estate from his brothers David and Maxwell, which probably

11. REFERENCES

Rosenwald, Charles Elmo, survey specialist; architectural description by
 Little Stokes, survey specialist.
 A History of Old Fourth Creek Congregation. Bi-centennial booklet, Statesville,
 North Carolina: Brady Printing Company, 1964.
 Bradley, James S. The Rowan Story. Salisbury, North Carolina: Rowan
 Printing Company, 1953.
 Chambers, Henry A. Papers in private collection.
 Fleming, Rev. John Kerr. History of the Third Creek Presbyterian Church.
 Raleigh: Offset Compositors and the Office of the Synod of North
 Carolina, 1967.

12. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
COUNTY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	" "	" "		35°	44'	22"
	" "	" "		80°	45'	54"
	" "	" "				
	" "	" "				

13. TOTAL ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6 acres

14. STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

15. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History
 DATE:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh
 STATE: North Carolina
 CODE: 37

16. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: H. G. Jones
 Title: State Historian/Administrator
 Date: _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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