

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Falkland Historic District

Falkland vicinity, Pitt County, PT1994, Listed 10/3/2012

Nomination by Eastern Office staff, Archives and History, NC Department of Cultural Resources

Photographs by John P. Wood, July 2009



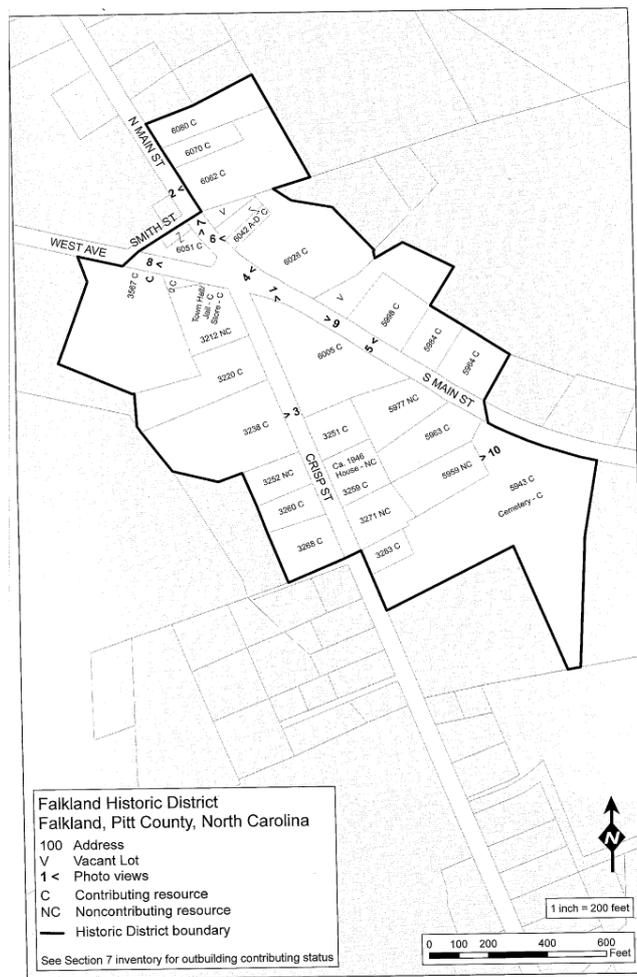
Intersection of Crisp Street, North and South Main Street and West Avenue



Nichols-Pittman House, 6062 North Main Street



David Morrill House, 5998 South Main Street



Historic District map

Falkland Historic District
Name of Property

Pitt County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>35</u>	<u>15</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>37</u>	<u>16</u>	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)

- Cat: Domestic: single dwelling
secondary structure
Commerce/Trade: specialty store
warehouse
business
restaurant
Government: post office,
correctional facility
fire station
Religion: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: Domestic: single dwelling
secondary structure
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
specialty store
Government: post office
Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Late Victorian
- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: Brick
Concrete
Roof: Asphalt
Metal
Walls: Weatherboard
Other: _____

Narrative Description

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1859 - 1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 35

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

Zone Easting Northing			Zone Easting Northing		
1	18	<u>272480 3953400</u>	3	18	<u>272780 3952660</u>
2	18	<u>273000 3952960</u>	4	18	<u>272300 3953100</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Staff of the Eastern Office, Archives and History

organization NC State Historic Preservation Office date: May, 2012

street & number: 117 West Fifth Street telephone: 252-830-6580

city or town: Greenville state: NC zip code: 27858

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Architectural Classification (continued)

- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival
- Craftsman/Bungalow
- Ranch

Materials (continued)

Walls: Brick
Concrete
Vinyl
Aluminum

Summary

The Town of Falkland is located in the western part of Pitt County, at the junction of NC 43 and NC 222, ten miles northwest of Greenville. The town is positioned on high ground approximately one mile west of the Tar River. The district covers approximately thirty-five acres in the heart of the small town and its twenty-three primary contributing buildings range in age from c.1859 to 1960. Substantial residential development occurred in the town during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the majority of houses remaining in the community date from this period. Examples, mostly modest, of the era's popular styles are located throughout the town and are representative of the county's small towns during the period. The present-day physical character of Falkland is conveyed by a combination of buildings from its pre-Civil War origin through its mid-twentieth-century growth, making it the best example of the county's remaining historic rural communities.

Narrative Description

The Town of Falkland is located in northwestern Pitt County approximately one mile west of the Tar River, the main geographic feature that bisects the largely rural county. Falkland is laid out around two main thoroughfares and their intersection; Highway NC 43, which runs from Greenville on the southeast to Rocky Mount in Edgecombe County on the northwest, and NC 222, which connects Falkland to the town of Fountain to the west. This section of Pitt County has a more varied terrain than the flat central and eastern sections. Falkland is typical of nineteenth-to twentieth-century small, rural commercial hubs with a few stores located at the major road junction and houses and churches scattered throughout the town on generously-sized lots with mature trees and plantings. Agricultural fields or woodlands of pines,

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oaks and cypress trees can be seen to the rear of many houses. Crops such as cotton and tobacco make the quintessential backdrop to a rural eastern North Carolina community with origins in antebellum river traffic of the mid-nineteenth century. The lack of sidewalks adds to the overall historic ambience of the town.

The Falkland Historic District includes the largest concentration of historic resources within the town limits of Falkland that retain integrity and were constructed from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, the district's period of significance. The district encompasses roughly thirty-five acres and contains fifty-three resources of which twenty-nine are primary buildings, twenty-two are secondary buildings, one is a structure, and one a cemetery (site). Contributing resources number thirty-seven and include thirty-five buildings, of which twenty-three are primary, and one site. Noncontributing properties number sixteen of which fifteen are buildings and one is a structure. The resources range from commercial buildings to residences and one church with an adjoining cemetery that together represent architectural styles, trends, and localized expressions from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century illustrating the era of Falkland's greatest economic prosperity.

Commercial buildings are typically one-story brick or block structures with parapet roofs and recessed entries. All commercial buildings are clustered around the intersection of NC 222 and NC 43 and most were constructed shortly after World War II in designs popularized prior to the war. Some exhibit dentil cornices and patterned brickwork above entryways. A small frame and concrete block former service station, The Ralph Stokes Store, c. 1930 with later additions, has a hipped roof canopy and is the town's only building associated with the formative years of automobile transportation. Adjacent to the Ralph Stokes Store is a ca. 1950 two-room concrete block building with barred windows that served as the town's jail.

A wider variety of types and styles characterize the town's houses. The earliest is the Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House, a localized version of late 1850s Greek Revival design. Numerous finely detailed turn-of-the-twentieth-century dwellings include the ca. 1900 Dr. Jenness Morrill House and the ca. 1905 Sellars Mark Crisp House, both in the Queen Anne style. Decorative shingles in the gable ends, turned porch posts, and two-over-two sash windows denote this popular late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century style, which distinguishes the majority of historic dwellings in Falkland. The period from the 1920s to the 1950s is represented by several simple gable-front bungalows, an example of an I-House with bungalow knee braces in the gable ends, and an idiosyncratic two-story brick Colonial Revival-style house with a hip roof, central chimney, wall dormers, and side and rear ells. A small number of

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brick Ranch houses fall within the period of significance, such as the house at 3251 Crisp Street, with massed or linear plans and an orientation parallel to the road with side carports or rear garages.

The town has but one historic church, the Falkland Presbyterian Church, built 1923, an eclectic brick Colonial Revival-influenced sanctuary with square fluted box columns on the front projecting portico and Craftsman style knee braces in the front gable of both the sanctuary and portico. Segmental-arched windows and the diminutive hipped-roof bell tower contribute to the building's eclecticism. The only other institutional resource is the former Fire Station, ca. 1960, a utilitarian one-story brick building with two large fire engine bays.

Outbuildings accompany many of the dwellings in Falkland and range from domestic dependencies to automobile garages. The attached kitchen building behind the Crisp House, ca. 1905, is a good example with a two-room plan and gable-end shingles matching those of the main house. The garage at the Nichols-Pittman House, ca. 1940, has garage doors on the front gable-end garage similar to an earlier garage at the Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House. Other outbuildings include sheds, storage buildings, and the occasional smokehouse in back or side yards throughout the district.

Inventory List

This inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name. Among the streets, entries are arranged by street number beginning with the north side of the street for east-west streets and on the west side of the street for north-south streets. Resources are judged to be contributing or non-contributing, meaning the resource contributes or does not contribute to the architectural character of the district. Contributing buildings, sites, structures, or objects add to the district's history because they were present during the period of significance, they relate to the documented significance of the district, and they possess historic integrity. Non-contributing resources include those constructed outside the period of significance and those that have lost their integrity through significant alterations. Construction dates are based on interviews with property owners and local residents, primary and secondary source material, and the resource's architectural style. The construction dates that are known for some resources are factored into decisions concerning construction dates for resources of a similar style about which little information is available.

Key to bibliographic abbreviations and notes in the Inventory (A full citation for sources appears in the bibliography contained in Section 9):

BBD: *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1869-1897*

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CSPCI: *Cemetery Survey of Pitt County, North Carolina, Volume I*

CSPCII: *Cemetery Survey of Pitt County, North Carolina, Volume II*

FPC: *Falkland Presbyterian Church Organized on the 12th Day of November in 1892 A History Overview (1887-2005)*

JCG: Interviews with Julian C. Gaynor December 8, 2011 and December 30, 2011 conducted by Stan Little (NC SHPO)

JRML: Interviews with John R. M. Lawrence August 26, 2010 conducted by Stan Little, April 27, 2011 conducted by Stan Little and John Wood (NC SHPO), and May 17, 2011 conducted by Stan Little

PCCI: *The Chronicles of Pitt County, North Carolina, Volume I*

PCCII: *The Chronicles of Pitt County, North Carolina, Volume II*

PCDR: Pitt County Deed Records

PFL: *The Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House 1859, Falkland, North Carolina*

SP: *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina*

TTP: Interview with Thomas T. Powell, Jr. May 24, 2011 conducted by Stan Little

USC: *United States Population Census Schedules, Pitt County, North Carolina*

WWW: Interview with Woodrow Wilson Wooten March 22, 1988 conducted by Stan Little

Classification Key for Resource Status:

C-B: Contributing building

C-S: Contributing structure

C-Si: Contributing site

NC-B: Non-contributing building

NC-S: Non-contributing structure

V: Vacant lot

Crisp Street, west side of street

3268 Crisp Street—Carl Preston Pierce House, ca. 1915

C-B One-story three-bay frame dwelling with triple-A roof configuration having cornice returns, shingled gables, standing-seam metal roofing, and interior brick chimneys with corbelled tops. One one-story gable-roof rear ell. Exterior walls are coved with weatherboards that terminate in simple corner boards. A plain frieze band is situated beneath the eaves. Central polygonal entrance bay. Notable hipped-roof porch with turned posts, sawn work brackets and a plain frieze

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band. Two-over-two sash windows. Brick pier foundation with brick infill between piers. Carl Preston Pierce (1891-1941) was the son of Willoughby and Maggie L. Pierce. He married Effie Satterfield (1892-1974) and they had two children, Isabella and Preston. Although he lived in this house in the Town of Falkland, his occupation is listed as a farmer in the 1920 Census. Carl Preston Pierce and Effie Satterfield Pierce are both buried in the cemetery at the First Presbyterian Church of Falkland. (USC 1920, CSPCI)

3260 Crisp Street-- Roberson-Mayo House, ca. 1905

C-B One-story three-bay frame dwelling with triple-A roof configuration having cornice returns and asphalt shingle roofing. One-over-one replacement sash windows. Exterior walls are coved with aluminum siding. Hipped-roof porch supported by replacement metal posts with scroll work decoration. Porch decking replaced with concrete slab. Concrete block foundation. The lot upon which this house is situated was sold by S. M. and A. G. Crisp to W. L. Roberson on October 16, 1905 (PCDR Book H-8, page 139). The house was likely constructed shortly thereafter for William L. Roberson (1846-1917) and his wife Susan F. Roberson (1853-1941). The 1910 Census lists William Roberson's occupation as an "odd jobs" laborer. Both William L. and Susan F. Roberson are buried in the cemetery at the Falkland Presbyterian Church. On October 2, 1919 the house was sold to Peyton G. Mayo (1866-1940) who married the Roberson's widowed daughter Ada (PCDR Book H-13, page 43). After Peyton G. Mayo's death, the house passed to his brothers, sisters, and his nieces and nephews. (USC 1910, 1920, 1930; CSPCI)

C-B Garage, ca. 1960, one-story two-bay gable-front concrete block garage with plain wooden doors and low-pitched roof.

3252 Crisp Street-- Joyner House, ca. 1962

NC-B Brick Ranch house. Two-over-two sash windows. Two-bay carport attached to north gable end of house. This house was constructed for the Joyner family around 1962. (JRML)

3238 Crisp Street—Sellars Mark Crisp House, ca. 1905

C-B One-story vernacular Queen Anne-influenced frame house with an irregular ground plan and multi-gable roof with cornice returns, standing-seam metal roofing, and interior brick chimneys with corbelled tops. Exterior walls are coved with weatherboards that terminate in simple corner boards. One-over-one sash windows with sawtooth molding applied to the casing above the windows. The house exhibits such Victorian-era features as shingle work in the gables, gable windows in diamond and square configurations with colored glass, a wrap-around porch with

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sawnwork brackets, pendants, and turned posts. Located to the rear of the house is a small one-room attached frame kitchen which retains similar Victorian-era elements. A second attached room was originally the music room for the ca. 1900 frame Falkland school. This building was moved to the site and attached to the house for use as a bedroom. Sellers Mark Crisp (1865-1926) married Annie Gorham (1867-1935) of Edgecombe County, and until 1901 they resided at Crisp in Edgecombe County where Mr. Crisp was in partnership with B. F. Eagles in a mercantile business. In 1902, he and his wife moved to Falkland when Crisp engaged in a partnership with J. L. Fountain, also in the mercantile business. In addition to his business, Crisp farmed. Around 1905, he commissioned the construction of this one-story house. Julia Moore Lawrence, the wife of Crisp's late grandson Lewis Sellers Lawrence, now owns the house. (JRML, PCCI, SP)

- C-B Smokehouse, ca. 1910, one-story front-gable frame structure coved with weatherboards. Roof is covered with standing-seal metal and has boxed eaves. Centered on the front elevation is a single door. A circular window is situated in the gable directly above the entrance door. Two later window openings, with no sash, are located on the east elevation. This building was moved from its original location south of the house to its present location east of the house and was converted to a playhouse.
- C-B Barn, ca. 1936, originally constructed as a tobacco pack house and located at the west end of the property. The gable-roof frame structure consists of a two-story central section. A one-story shed roof section is attached to each eave elevation. The roof on each section has exposed rafter ends and is covered with 5-V galvanized metal. Pairs of six-over-six sash windows are located beneath the eaves of the second story. Two large open machinery bays and two single entrance doors are located on the front elevation.
- C-B Shed, ca. 1910, small frame shed with low-pitched gable-roof covered with standing-seam metal. Single entry on the gable end elevation. Exterior walls covered in weather boards.
- C-B Pump house, ca. 1930, one-story shed-roof frame structure covered with weatherboard. Plywood-covered door opening at east end on north elevation.
- NC-B Equipment shed, ca. 1980, shed-roof building of pole construction. North side and rear elevation covered with 5-V galvanized metal. South side elevation covered with corrugated fiberglass panels.

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C-B Playhouse, ca. 1980, two-story frame structure constructed of four-by-four posts with weatherboards. Second story has solid, open, and latticework walls.

3220 Crisp Street--James Percy Stancil Sr. House, ca. 1958

C-B One-story brick-veneered Minimal Traditional house with massed plan and steeply-pitched side gable asphalt-shingle roof. Four-bay façade with asymmetrical fenestration. Gable-front stoop supported by metal posts with scroll work decoration. Eight-over-eight and six-over-six sash replacement windows. James Percy Stancil Sr. was originally from the Belvoir area in Pitt County. He moved to Falkland and operated the Louis Smith Store in the 1950s before constructing and operating the James P. Stancil Sr. store on present-day South Main Street. He also operated Stancil Music Company, a vending company which provided jukeboxes, pool tables, and pinball machines in the region. Stancil served as Falkland's first fire chief. (JRML)

NC-B Shed, ca. 1960, one-story, front-gable single-room shed covered in vinyl siding and a low-pitched roof with asphalt composition shingles. Gable roof extends forward to create a porch supported by with square wooden posts. This building was constructed on this property by the N.C. Department of Transportation, ca. 1960, for use as mower and equipment storage building. The N.C. Department of Transportation later sold it to James Percy Stancil, Sr.

3212 Crisp Street—James Frank Corbett House, ca. 1979

NC-B Symmetrically-fenestrated one-story brick-veneered Ranch with a low pitched roof covered with asphalt composition shingles. The roof of the central three-bay section is raised approximately one foot above the side bays and incorporates a recessed porch supported by fluted posts. Six-over-nine sash replacement windows are flanked by non-functional louvered shutters. Corbett demolished a two-story ca. 1900 house on the property and re-graded and lowered one of Falkland's highest residential lots by approximately two feet in order to build the existing house around 1979. (JRML)

NC-B Garage, ca. 1990, large industrial-looking front-gable garage with concrete slab floor and a very low-pitched roof covered with corrugated metal. Walls are of frame construction and are covered with ribbed metal panels. Entire front elevation consists of two large sliding metal doors.

NC-B Shed, ca. 1990, one-story frame shed with a low-pitched gable-front roof.

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Crisp Street, east side of street

3283 Crisp Street--Falkland Firehouse, 1960

C-B One-story brick and concrete block building with a low-pitched shed roof. Asymmetrically-fenestrated façade features two wide garage bays with roll-up garage doors, a single-leaf glass entry door and a single-pane window. The building telescopes to the rear and has two additional shed-roof garage bays on the south elevation.

3271 Crisp Street--Manufactured House, ca. 1978

NC-B One-story manufactured home with metal siding and side-gable roof, with horizontal-light windows. This lot is the site of an earlier house that was demolished in the 1970s. (JRML)

NC-B Shed, ca. 1978, One-story front-gabled shed with ribbed metal siding. Shed-roof addition on west elevation.

3259 Crisp Street—Charles and Anna Newton House, ca. 1900

C-B Originally constructed in a gable-front and wing form, this house has had additions to the rear elevation resulting in an irregular ground plan. The original portion of the frame house is situated on brick piers with concrete block infill. The roof is covered with standing seam-metal and has a boxed cornice, eave returns, and lightning rods. The walls are covered with weatherboards that terminate at plain corner boards. A plain frieze band is located beneath the eaves. The house has one interior and one exterior brick chimney, both with corbelled tops. A porch supported by square-in-section posts is situated in the ell. Windows are six-over-six and twelve-over-twelve sash. Attached to the east end of the southern section of the house is a one-bay frame addition. The roof of the main house was continued to form the roof of the addition. According to oral tradition, a former schoolhouse associated with the Mayo and King families is embedded within the structure of the house. It is said to be the one-story gable-roof frame section that forms a rear wing and likely dates from the late nineteenth century. Charles V. Newton (1849-1927) married Anna Mayo (1861-1936), daughter of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo. (CSPCI, JRML)

NC-B Shed, ca. 1990, one-story frame shed with side-gabled roof and covered in metal siding.

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Crisp Street--House, ca. 1946 (NE side Crisp St. [SR 1247], 0.14 mile southeast of junction with S. Main St. [NC 43]—located on parcel at 3259 Crisp Street)

NC-B One-story side-gable frame dwelling with vinyl siding and a side-gable roof covered with asphalt composition shingles. Six-over-six sash windows. Brick chimney at south end of house. Small gable-front stoop supported by metal posts with scroll work decoration. Concrete block foundation. Moved from outside of Falkland around 2000 to present site. (JRML)

3251 Crisp Street--Eaton Cobb King House, ca. 1910

C-B Exhibiting an irregular ground plan this one-story frame house has a roof with multiple gables. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal and has a boxed cornice and eave returns. Interior brick chimneys with corbelled tops pierce the roof. The exterior walls are covered with weatherboards, while the walls of the projecting central bay are covered with novelty siding. Diamond-shaped louvered vents are located in the gables. Four-over-four and six-over-six sash windows are present. An entrance is located on either side of the projecting central bay. These entrances are covered by shed-roof porches situated in the "L" formed by the main portion of the building and the projecting bay. The porches are supported by wooden posts. The northernmost porch is smaller than the southernmost porch. The building is situated on brick piers with concrete block in-fill. Eaton Cobb King (1865-1932) was a merchant and in 1897 went into partnership with Dr. Jennis Morrill, running a large mercantile business that operated under the name King and Morrill. He served as both the town's treasurer and postmaster and married Daisy H. Mayo (1875-1930), daughter of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo. (CSPCI, PCCI, BBD)

North Main Street, west side of street

6051 North Main Street--Kinch Robert Wooten Store, 1936-1937, addition 1954

C-B The outward appearance of this commercial building suggests that the building houses four separate commercial spaces. In actuality, the building contains only three separate spaces as the interior of the two southernmost storefronts are a single commercial space. From the exterior this is evident on the rear elevation, as there is no brick partition/fire wall extending above the roof. The one-story brick commercial building has a gently-sloping roof surrounded by a parapet on the front and side elevations. The parapet wall on the side elevations step down toward the rear of the building. The northern half of the building retains the tile coping on the parapet. The façade, constructed of wire-cut brick, features corbelled cornices and patterned brickwork made by rows of soldier and rowlock courses. Three of the four storefront entrances are recessed and each storefront exhibits a different configuration. Oral tradition indicates the Kinchen Robert

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Wooten Store is located on the site of J. L. Fountain's store building. Fountain's store is said to have been located on the southern half of the lot. Kinchen Robert Wooten (1881-1966) started keeping books for J. L. Fountain in 1898. He later owned and operated his own store in a frame building directly across the street from this site where the ABC Store was formerly located. After J. L. Fountain died in the 1920s and his store ceased to operate K. R. Wooten bought the store lot. It is not known if K. R. Wooten moved his store business into the old Fountain Store or continued to operate out of his original store building. If the old Fountain Store was indeed located on this lot then it was certainly gone by November of 1936 when K. R. Wooten initiated construction of a new brick store building on the site. The new store was first occupied on April 9, 1937. K. R. Wooten's original store was converted to use as a storage warehouse and was later a casualty of the September 11, 1950 fire that destroyed a number of buildings in Falkland's commercial section. In 1954, K. R. Wooten had a brick addition constructed on the northern end of the store which essentially doubled the size the building. High in the center of the façade wall of the brick addition is a marble plaque designating the 1954 construction project and indicating that the contractor was. W. F. Tyndall. After K. R. Wooten died in 1966, his nephew, Woodrow Wooten, acquired the store in the settlement of his estate and continued operating it until 1985. Woodrow Wooten started working for his uncle in 1933. The northernmost space has housed the U. S. Post Office since ca. 1978. Interior alterations, including the construction of partition walls, were undertaken in the northern portion of the building to accommodate the programmatic needs of the U. S. Post Office. (JCG, JRML, WWW)

North Main Street, east side of street

6042 A-D North Main Street--Pittman Building, 1951

C-B The façade of this one-story commercial building with a U-shaped ground plan is constructed of brick, while the side and rear walls are constructed of concrete block. The building has three different roof heights with all roofs being surrounded by a parapet on the front and side elevations. The parapet on the side elevations steps downward toward the rear of the building. The façade is composed of four storefronts with different configurations of doors, display windows, transoms, and bulkheads. At the northern end of the building a single entrance door leads into a small section that is not as deep as the rest of the building. Constructed by the Pittman family in 1951, this building replaced several frame commercial structures that were destroyed in a fire on September 11, 1950. The southern portion of the building has always housed a restaurant/snack bar. When first opened, the restaurant was operated by Oscar Norville. The middle portion housed the town's ABC store, the space immediately north of that was used

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as storage by Woodrow Wooten, while the northernmost spaces housed the U.S. Post Office until 1978. (JRML)

6050 North Main Street—Vacant Lot

V Vacant lot was the site of the Nichols Store that was destroyed by fire on June 16, 2010.

6062 North Main Street--Nichols-Pittman House, ca. 1880

C-B One-story frame dwelling with triple-A roof configuration having cornice returns, round-butt shingles in the gables, standing-seam metal roofing, and tall interior paneled brick chimneys with corbelled tops. One-story gable-roof rear ell. Gable-roof addition on south elevation. Exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. Central polygonal entrance bay. Hipped-roof porch supported by later Craftsman tapered box posts on brick piers. Six-over-six sash windows and small Queen Anne-style fixed-sash windows in the gables. Based on field notes from the 1988 Pitt County Survey, the interior consists of a center hall plan with Colonial Revival-style mantles with a mirror over the mantle shelf. The house is believed to have been built for the Nichols family of Falkland ca. 1880. Jesse Baker Pittman purchased the house from the Nichols family, and left it to his son, George Henry Pittman, who in turn left it to his daughter, Ruth Pittman Tyer. Subsequently, the house was inherited by Ruth's son, John Lewis Tyer III. (JRML, SP)

C-B Garage, ca. 1940, one-story, single-bay, gable-front garage. The low-pitched roof is covered with 5-V galvanized metal, while the walls are covered with vinyl.

6070 North Main Street--Oscar Norville House, 1956

C-B One-story side-gable brick Ranch house with projecting gable-roof bay at north end of the façade elevation. Contemporaneous gable-roof carport with enclosed porch area is attached to the south elevation of the house. Low-pitched roof is covered with asphalt composition shingles and features a massive interior brick chimney stack. A porch with a nearly flat roof is located in the ell formed by the main block of the house and the projecting bay. Six-over-six sash windows are arranged in pairs. Oscar Norville ran the restaurant/snack bar located in the Pittman Building at 6042 North Main Street. (JRML)

6080 North Main Street--House, ca. 1920

C-B One-story hip-roof frame cottage with front-facing hip-roof dormer. Later hip-roof additions on the south and rear elevations have resulted in an irregular ground plan. A one-story hip-roof porch supported by square-in-section wooden posts extends across most of the length of the

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façade. The house and additions are covered with vinyl siding. The six-over-six and one-over-one sash windows and front door are replacements.

NC-B Garage/workshop, ca. 1970, one-story, side-gable concrete block garage/workshop consists of two contemporaneous sections each having different height roofs. The taller garage portion of the building has two large garage bays with overhead doors. The short workshop section has a single entrance door and six-over-six sash windows. The roofs of both sections are covered with asphalt composition shingles and have eaves covered with plywood.

South Main Street, north side of street

5964 South Main Street--Dr. Jenness Morrill Tenant House, ca. 1890

C-B Two-story, side-gabled, three-bay, single-pile, center-passage-plan frame house with a one-story gable-roof rear kitchen/dining ell. A one-story, partial-width hip-roof supported by substantial tapered wooden box posts is centered on the facade. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal, and simple wooden brackets are located at the corners of each gable wall. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding, and the one-over-one sash windows are replacements. The corbelled stacks of the two interior brick chimneys are evenly spaced on the ridge of the roof of the two-story portion of the house. Believed to have been built for farm tenants by property owner Dr. Jenness Morrill (see 6026 S. Main St.). The house appears to have been remodeled in the 1920s or 1930s. The house was located closer to the road, and was moved back to its current location in the 1980s. (JRML,WWW)

NC-B Shed, ca. 1950, small, one-story gable-roof frame shed covered with 5-V galvanized metal siding and roofing. The building has undergone alterations including changes in fenestration and the application of vinyl siding to portion of the walls.

5984 South Main Street--Hassell Mayo House, 1909

C-B One-story, one-room deep center-passage-plan house with a triple-A roof. This house is unusual in that it has a rear single-pile, full-width addition which appears to have been a separate side-gabled house with a small ell and a later shed room that was subsequently connected to the main block. The roof on both portions of the house is covered with standing-seam metal. The exterior walls on the front portion of the house are covered with weatherboards that terminate in simple corner boards, while the rear portion of the house is covered with vinyl siding. A hip-roof wrap-around porch, supported by tapered box posts situated on brick piers, extends across the façade

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and wraps around a portion of both the north and south elevations. The three-bay façade has a central glazed door flanked by sidelights. To either side of the door are paired windows with four-over-four sashes. The window openings in the remainder of the house are single width. A two-bay carport is attached to the rear elevation of the shed room. Hassell Mayo (1878-1942) was the son of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo (see 6005 S. Main St.). The house is currently owned by his descendant Charles Edward Mayo, Jr.

- C-B Shed/garage, ca. 1909, originally two separate frame buildings that have been connected by a later addition/hyphen. The western most building is a one-bay gable-front shed with a central entrance door. The shed is covered with vinyl siding and an asphalt composition roof. The easternmost building is a one-story garage with a large garage bay on the eastern end of the façade and a single entrance door and a single window with four-over-four sash on the western end of the façade. The garage bay is covered by two large wooden sliding doors mounted on a metal track system. The garage is covered with both weather boards and vinyl siding. The shed-roof hyphen is covered with Masonite siding and has a single large door opening on the façade elevation.

5998 South Main Street—David Morrill House, ca. 1948

- C-B This brick Colonial Revival-style dwelling consists of a two-story hip-roof main block, a one-story hip-roof section on the south elevation of the main block, and a projecting one-story gable-front bay at the northwest corner of the one-story section. The one-story portion of the house extends rear-ward creating an ell. The windows in the two-story portion of the house are eight-over-eight sash. The second floor windows extend above the plate level and are constructed as gable-roof wall dormers. The entrance consists of a single door flanked by sidelights. The entryway is sheltered beneath a one-story porch that is situated in the ell formed by the front wall of the house and the projecting front-gable bay. The corner of the porch is supported by three square wooden posts with decorative lattice between the posts. Attached to the north elevation of the two-story section of the house is a one-story hip-roof screened-porch with a later metal awning.

David Lawrence Morrill (1908-1989) was the youngest of the three children of Dr. Jenness and Mrs. Lily Mayo Morrill. Being deaf, he was educated at the school for the deaf in Morganton and later graduated from Gallaudet College in Washington DC. After working for several years at the New York School for the Deaf he returned to North Carolina and married Olive Belle Mixon. In the early 1940s Morrill operated a printing company in New Bern. In 1944 he returned to Pitt

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County and worked at Greenville's *The Daily Reflector* newspaper until his retirement in 1973. Morrill and his wife purchased this lot in Falkland in June 1947 and had this house constructed.

- C-S Carport, ca. 1948, free-standing two-car frame carport, with open sides and front. The rear portion is enclosed, creating a storage room. The roof is supported by recycled turned wood porch posts.

South Main Street—Vacant Lot

- V Vacant lot.

6026 South Main Street--Dr. Jenness Morrill House, ca. 1900

- C-B This Queen Anne-inspired frame house exhibits an irregular ground plan consisting of a two-story main block, a one-story southward facing ell, a long one-story kitchen/dining wing attached to the one-story ell, and a one-story porch on the north elevation of the kitchen/dining wing. The porch off the kitchen/dining wing has been enclosed and extended and now encompasses the entire area in the ell formed by the main block and the kitchen/dining wing. A flat-roof carport has been attached to the south elevation of the kitchen/dining wing. The complex roof of the main block consists of multiple cross gables and features a boxed cornice, eave returns, and is covered with standing-seam metal. Each of the gables is shingled and has a single window opening that has been boarded over. The façade of the main block is dominated by two front-facing gable-roof bays, the larger of which consists of a polygonal two-story cutaway bay. The portion of the roof gable that overhangs the bay is decorated with scrollwork and pendants. The south elevation of the one-story southward facing ell also consists of a polygonal cutaway bay with a shingled gable and gable roof overhang with scrollwork and pendants. A one-story hip-roof wrap-around porch extends across the entire length of the façade. The porch is supported by turned posts that replaced tapered box posts on brick piers that were early twentieth century replacements. The windows are two-over-two sashes and originally had saw-tooth molding on the lintel above each window. These moldings, if not removed, are obscured by the vinyl trim and siding that has been applied to the house's exterior.

Jenness Morrill (1865-1939) was the son of Dr. Samuel Morrill, a physician in the small community of Marlboro on the Old Plank Road. Like his father, Jenness pursued a career in medicine and obtained his degree from the University of Maryland Medical School. After practicing with his father at Marlboro for three years upon returning from medical school, he

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moved to Falkland to open his own practice. He married Lily Josephine Mayo (1869-1932), daughter of the locally prominent Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo and Susan E. Savage Mayo, residents of Falkland. The house constructed for Dr. Morrill was built across the road from the house of his father-in-law Dr. Peyton H. Mayo (at 6005 S. Main St.) on land previously owned by Dr. Mayo. Dr. Morrill's office originally sat in the side yard of this house, but has been moved approximately one-half mile east and converted to a tenant house. The Dr. Jenness Morrill House now belongs to his granddaughter, Joy Morrill Collins. (CSCPI, SP)

NC-B Shed, ca. 1980, frame gable-roof building covered with vinyl siding and metal roof.

South Main Street, south side of street

5943 South Main Street--Falkland Presbyterian Church, 1923

C-B Constructed in 1923, this one-story front-gable brick-veneer church building now features brick-veneer additions on both side and rear elevations that have resulted in an irregular ground plan. The original linear-plan portion of the church has a three-bay façade sheltered by a one-story front-gable tetrastyle portico supported by fluted box columns that replaced earlier Tuscan columns. Simple wooden brackets are located in the eaves of both the portico and the front and rear elevations of the church. The tympanum and entablature portico and the eave brackets on both the portico and the main portion of the church have been covered with vinyl trim. The segmental-arch window openings contain fixed-sash stained-glass windows. The central entrance consists of paired doors surmounted by a transom. At the peak of the roof is a pyramidal-roof bell tower with a pointed finial. The bell tower was originally covered with shingle siding and had a louvered vent on each elevation, features which are now obscured by vinyl siding. The interior of the church consists of a small entrance vestibule at the northern end, a nave with a central aisle, and a raised chancel. Attached to the southern end of the east elevation of the church is a one-story hipped-roof addition with windows that match the main church building. Connecting to the church at the southern end of the west elevation is a six-bay-wide one-story gable-roof addition that houses the church office, Sunday school rooms, and a fellowship hall. The front slope of the roof of the addition features four gabled dormers. A single entrance door sheltered by a gable-front portico is located at the west end of the addition's façade. Windows in the addition match those of the original portion of the church. Attached to the west end of the rear of the addition is a one-story flat-roof structure that houses the kitchen for the fellowship hall. The rear of the original portion of the church has two small hipped-roof additions.

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The formation of the Falkland Presbyterian Church congregation originated from a series of sermons preached in Falkland by the Rev. J. N. H. Summerell, D.D., beginning in 1887. These services were held in the upstairs meeting room of the old Grange Hall. Rev. Summerell, pastor of Presbyterian congregations in Tarboro, Rocky Mount, and Wilson, delivered the first sermon in August of 1887 at the request of Miss Mattie Mayo, daughter of Dr. Peyton Mayo (1839-1890), one of Falkland's most prominent citizens. The church was formally organized November 12, 1892. Susan E. Mayo, widow of Dr. Peyton Mayo, donated the land for the congregation's first meeting house which was completed in 1892. Structural problems plagued the 1892 sanctuary and it is said that its walls were bowing. It was demolished during the summer of 1923. The existing church building was constructed during the latter half of 1923 on the site of the 1892 sanctuary. During construction of their new sanctuary, the congregation met in the auditorium of the Falkland School (built 1922) located nearby. The existing church was built during the pastorate of the Rev. C. A. Lawrence. (PCCI, FPC, TTP, JRML)

C-Si Cemetery. Occupying approximately one-half acre located to the east and south of the church is a cemetery containing a range of markers dating from 1890 to the present. The earliest marked grave is that of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo (1839-1890). The northern boundary and portions of the western boundary of the cemetery are demarcated by a modern metal fence that replaced an earlier decorative iron fence in the same location. A portion of the eastern boundary is demarcated by the earlier decorative iron fence. Markers are laid out in parallel-running north-south rows resulting in traditional eastward facing graves. Markers include various-shaped marble and granite headstones. Occasional obelisk monuments and vaulted grave covers of brick construction are scattered in the older portions of the cemetery. The perimeter of some of family plots and individual graves are marked by nearly-ground-level brick or concrete edging. (CSPCI)

5959 South Main Street—Peaden House, ca. 1965

NC-B One-story brick Ranch with Colonial Revival decorative elements. The front slope of the roof is constructed in different elevations creating the illusion of a four individual sections with differing roof heights, while the rear slope of the roof lies in all one plain. The tallest section consists of three bays sheltered by a porch supported by four Doric columns. The central bay consists of a single entrance door with fanlight panes and a Colonial Revival-style door surround with pilasters and a broken pediment with finial. The sections that flank either side of tallest section have two window openings. The shortest, southernmost section consists of a garage, with two garage bays located on the south wall. Seven eight-over-eight sash windows span the front elevation. The house was constructed for the Peaden family. (JRML)

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5963 South Main Street—James Percy Stancil Sr. Store, ca. 1950

C-B One-story concrete block commercial building with parapet roof that is stepped on the side elevations. Brick-veneered façade with one single-pane display window, a single entrance door and a modern barrel awning. Small, one-story addition attached to north elevation. Exterior covered with contemporary paint scheme. James Percy Stancil Sr. was originally from the nearby community of Belvoir. He moved to Falkland and managed the Louis Smith Store located on the west side of North Main Street just outside the historic district. He later constructed and operated his own store. He also operated Stancil Music Company, a vending company which provided jukeboxes, pool tables, and pinball machines in the region. Stancil served as Falkland's first fire chief. (JRML)

5977 South Main Street--Falkland Rescue Squad, ca. 1984

NC-B One-story side-gable brick building. Two garage bays on south end of the façade. Two windows and a single entrance door on the north end of the façade. Vinyl-covered shed-roof frame addition attached to rear elevation.

6005 South Main Street--Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House, ca. 1859

C-B The ca. 1859 two-story Greek Revival-style house constructed for Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo is distinguished by its substantial scale and low-hip roof with two interior brick chimneys. The three-bay double-pile center-hall plan house exhibits finely detailed Greek Revival characteristics on both the exterior and the interior. Most prominent on the exterior is a fancifully decorated hip-roof front porch with delicate sawn work spandrels and porch supports. Beneath the eaves is a plain frieze band with decorative brackets that occur above each window. Interior elements include wide, molded door surrounds with crosssetted corners, an open center hall stair with turned newel and balustrade, four-panel doors and plain post-and-lintel mantles throughout. A denticulated cornice and molded chair rail in the center hall are later additions and appear to date to the 1960s or 1970s. The exterior weatherboards have been covered with vinyl siding. The house is strategically located in the center of town at the junction of two early roadways.

Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo (1839-1890) was one of the wealthiest and most active individuals living in Falkland prior to the Civil War, and he contributed greatly to the social and economic development of the small community. The majority of his landholdings were inherited from his father, John Mayo, though he increased them through purchases of his own following the Civil War. He served as a physician during the war, having received his medical degree from the

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University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1858. After his return following the war, he established a medical practice in Falkland. Among the enterprises he operated in addition to his medical practice were a general mercantile establishment and a cotton gin. He also served as postmaster for many years.

Following the death of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo in 1890 the house continued to be occupied by his widow, Susan E. Savage Mayo (1840-1923). After her death the house passed to their daughter Daisy Mayo King (1875-1930) and her husband Eaton C. King (1865-1932). The property then passed to their daughter Daisy King. She sold the property to Kinchen Robert Wooten and upon his death it then passed to his heirs. In the division of his estate it then passed to his nephew, Woodrow Wilson Wooten (1915-1993), and his wife, Gladys Moore Wooten (1920-2002). Mrs. Wooten was a great-granddaughter of Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo. It is currently owned by their son Woodrow Wooten, Jr. (CSPCI, PFL, SP)

- C-B Garage, ca. 1930, shed-roof garage with two car bays with wooden doors. Wall covered with weatherboard.
- C-B Kitchen, ca. 1900, originally attached to the house by a breezeway, this one-story single-bay front-gable frame kitchen is covered with weatherboards and has a standing-seam metal roof. The roof extends forward, creating a small porch area supported by square-in-section posts that shelters an off-center seven-panel door. Window openings on the eave elevations contain six-over-six sash.
- C-B Playhouse, ca. 1960, diminutive one-story three-bay side-gable frame playhouse covered with weatherboards and a rolled asphalt roof. Central entrance door is sheltered by a front-gable portico supported by square wooden posts. Front and side windows with four-light single sash. The playhouse was constructed by Woodrow W. Wooten for his son Woodrow Wooten, Jr.
- NC-S Carport, ca. 1980, free-standing flat-roof carport supported by four square posts.
- C-B Storage Building, ca 1950, one-story, concrete block building with gently-sloping roof, parapet walls, and a garage-bay entrance.

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West Avenue, south side of street

Southwest corner junction of West Ave. (NC 222) and Crisp St. (SR 1247)—Ralph Stokes Store/Gas Station, ca. 1930, additions ca. 1950 (shown on HD map as 0 West Avenue)

C-B One-story frame commercial building constructed ca. 1930 with later concrete block additions to each side elevation. The original portion consisted of a one-bay building with a hip roof that extended forward as a canopy that sheltered gasoline pumps. The canopy has exposed rafter ends and is supported by tapered box posts on brick piers. The corbelled stack of a brick hanging-flue is located in the western slope of the standing-seam metal covered roof. A remodeling, apparently in the 1950s, included the construction of a one-story concrete-block addition on each side elevation and on the façade beneath the canopy. The entrance consists of a pair of doors situated beneath a two-light transom. The concrete-block additions feature a parapet roof that steps down on the side elevations. A single large fifteen-light metal display window is located on the front elevation of each addition. A shed-roof frame addition is attached to the rear wall of the westernmost concrete-block addition. Ralph R. Stokes (1903-1979) acquired the store/gas station in 1947. It was subsequently leased to Ernest W. Wooten (1906-1984) who operated it until 1975 when Ralph Stokes sold it to James Frank Corbett. (WWW, JRML)

S. Side West Avenue (NC 222), 0.03 mile west of junction with Crisp St. (SR 1247)—Falkland Town Hall and Jail, ca. 1950

C-B Small one-story single-bay concrete-block building with a low-pitched roof surrounded by a parapet that steps down on the side elevations. A single entrance door is centered on the façade. Iron bars are present on the rear windows. The building was concurrently used as both the town's jail and town hall. The town clerk, who worked on a part-time basis, had an office in the building. (JRML)

3567 West Avenue--Warehouse, ca. 1950

C-B One-story gable-roof frame building situated on brick foundation piers. The roof is covered with 5-V galvanized metal and has exposed rafter ends. The exterior walls are covered with 5-V galvanized metal. Single entrance doors are located on the east eave wall and the north gable wall.

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S. Side West Avenue (NC 222), 0.04 mile west of junction with Crisp St. (SR 1247)--Warehouse, ca. 1900 (shown on HD map within 3567 West Ave. parcel)

C-B One-story gable-roof frame storage warehouse situated on brick foundation piers and having round-log floor joists. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal and features boxed eaves. The walls are covered with weatherboard siding, although both eave walls and the western gable wall now have 5-V galvanized metal sheathing. A large batten door is centered on the north and east elevations. The building is believed to have originally been the J.L. Fountain Warehouse. It later served as a warehouse for the Kinchen R. Wooten Store. (JRML)

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Summary

The Falkland Historic District, located in northwestern Pitt County near the Tar River, has a period of significance from ca. 1859, the date of the oldest surviving building, the Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House, to 1960, the date of the Falkland Fire Station, the last major municipally-funded project in the town until the construction of the rescue squad building in 1984. The historic district meets National Register Criterion C for architecture for its representative examples of regionally-influenced, nationally-popular architectural styles of the period. The Town of Falkland developed prior to the Civil War as a small agricultural community with a landing on the nearby Tar River which precipitated trade and commerce. Although most remaining buildings in the historic district date from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, one antebellum house associated with one of the town's wealthy early families represents an important example of the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. Vernacular Queen Anne, Craftsman bungalows and mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival style houses also contribute to the wide range of styles remaining in the historic district. A small cluster of predominately brick commercial buildings and warehouses from the early twentieth century speak to the once-thriving enterprises that made this steamboat stop on the Tar River a vital community. Altogether, the district's historic buildings are significant as one of the best preserved groupings of nineteenth to twentieth century architecture in Pitt County.

Historical Background

Like the Pitt County seat of Greenville ten miles to the southeast and the communities of Pactolus and Penny Hill, Falkland owes its origin to its strategic location a short distance from the banks of the river where early settlers established plantation landings. As early as 1727 Robert Williams, one of Pitt County's earliest settlers and plantation owners, had secured land grants for tracts in the area just south of the Tar River between Otter's Creek and Tyson Creek and extending as far west as the present-day town of Fountain.¹ According to oral tradition as told by Bruce Cotten in *As We Were, A Personal Sketch of Family Life* (1935), during the 1780s a gentleman by the name of George Faulkner was successful in obtaining a "license to conduct an ordinary" in the area now known as Falkland. From the establishment of the tavern until 1838, the small village was known as "Faulkner House."²

Throughout the late eighteenth century and early decades of the nineteenth, the village of Faulkner House is thought to have been a small but thriving commercial center frequented primarily by land-owning planters purchasing goods in local establishments. Prior to the establishment of a post office

¹ John Lawrence, "The History of Falkland, North Carolina," (Unpublished manuscript, 1975), 4.

² Bruce Cotten, *As We Were, A Personal Sketch of Family Life*, (Publisher unknown, 1935), 28.

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here in 1838, most naval stores and cotton were shipped from the individual river landings owned by local plantation owners who were members of some of the area's most prominent early families, including Williams, Ellis, Dupree, Foreman, Atkinson, and Vines. These area planters began to use Falkland as a center for commerce, trade, and distribution of products shipped down the Tar River to ports at Washington and New Bern. The earliest period of Falkland's architectural development is unknown; the oldest structure remaining in the town is the Cobb House, a small Federal-era dwelling likely dating to the 1830s located just outside the historic district to the north. Some of the plantations located in the surrounding countryside remain and suggest that many of the area's early residents lived near but not directly in the settlement.³

By 1838, the small crossroads community had acquired the area post office, replacing the one at nearby Bensboro plantation. It was at this time the name Falkland was assigned to the town.⁴ Thereafter, Falkland experienced substantial growth throughout the antebellum period and became an important community in the northwest section of the county. Pillsboro Landing, located about one mile east of Falkland on the Tar River, became the point for export of cotton and agricultural products for Falkland. A bridge was built across the river near the landing prior to the Civil War, but was destroyed during the conflict and not rebuilt until 1904.⁵

Among the families who were living in Falkland by the 1850s were the Mayos, DeBerrys, Cobbs, Newtons, Harris, Gays, and Wootens.⁶ Dr. Peyton Mayo and wife Susan E. Savage Mayo moved from Edgecombe County to Falkland about 1859 when Dr. Mayo established his medical practice there. In addition to maintaining his medical practice, Dr. Mayo had extensive farming interests and operated a general mercantile business. He served as postmaster of Falkland from 1866 to 1889 and the post office remained under the management of the Mayo family for over forty years. The family also helped further the religious and educational growth of the community by providing room and board in their house for teachers and traveling preachers.⁷ Other postmasters in Falkland during the antebellum period included first postmaster James Lang Cobb (1838-1858) and Amos W. Corbitt (1858-1859).⁸

During the 1850s Falkland experienced significant residential growth as the town became one of the county's most prosperous agricultural communities. A number of the town's residents who prospered from cotton sales built large Greek Revival-style houses, such as the Dr. Peyton Mayo House and the

³ Henry T. King, *Sketches of Pitt County* (Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton, 1911), 220-233.

⁴ Vernon S. Stroupe, et al., editors, *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina: Colonial to USPS* (Charlotte, NC: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996), 3-70.

⁵ Lawrence, 16.

⁶ Roger Kammerer, "A History of Falkland," *Greenville (NC) Times*, 2 September 1987, 8-9.

⁷ Lawrence, 23.

⁸ Kammerer, 8-9.

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DeBerry House, the only two that remain. The houses built in Falkland during the 1850s were consistent in design with other mid-nineteenth-century houses found throughout the county in their overall square, boxy form and patternbook Greek Revival details. Contemporary commercial buildings are known to have existed in the community, although their appearance is not known.

The several Tar River steamboats that served Falkland via Pillsboro Landing prior to and following the Civil War encouraged business development. Falkland, like most of the county's antebellum communities, recovered rapidly from the Civil War. According to *Branson's 1869 North Carolina Business Directory*, the town was home to lawyer Richard W. Singletary, merchants M.R. Jones and Mayo & Williams, and mill owners P.H. Mayo and W.S. Broadus.⁹ Business and services continued to develop throughout the late nineteenth century, including Edgecombe County native Robert Randolph Cotten's successful mercantile business with branches in Wilson and Tarboro which began in the 1870s. Like many area planters, the Cottens maintained warehouses at nearby river landings which housed products imported and exported. Other commercial ventures established in the small town in the late nineteenth century included J.F. Edwards Dry Goods, King Brothers general store, R.W. Smith & Co. general store, Vines & Fountain general store, and R.R. Cotten's mercantile store.¹⁰ One of the most successful operations was the J.L. Fountain and Company Store, which not only had warehouses on the Tar River but also operated the *Lillian*, a steamboat docked at Pillsboro Landing. J.L. Fountain and Company also operated a sawmill and cotton gin in Falkland.¹¹ During the early twentieth century, brick commercial construction began to appear in small, one-story buildings and by mid-century, concrete block construction became the preferred material.

The town's healthy economy drew newcomers and by 1890 the population of Falkland was 130. The following year the town was incorporated and town officials included Mayor James A. Cobb, Constable J.F. Fountain and Commissioners Dr. P.H. Mayo, Wiley Pierce and Charlie Vines.¹² The town continued to prosper and by 1905 the population had almost doubled to 250.¹³

As expected, town growth fostered the development of religious and educational institutions. Saint John Missionary Baptist Church, a small black congregation established on the Cottendale farm a short distance from Falkland, relocated to the west side of Falkland and became the town's first church in 1882. The church is located just outside the historic district. The first white church was the Falkland Presbyterian Church which was organized in 1892 and held services initially in the Grange Hall located

⁹ Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, (Raleigh, NC: L. Branson, 1869), 131.

¹⁰ Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, (Raleigh, NC: L. Branson, 1890), 530.

¹¹ Copeland, 114.

¹² Branson, 1890: 527; Copeland, 114.

¹³ *The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory* (Raleigh, NC: News and Observer Publishing Company, 1905), 472.

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in the upper floor of a commercial building. In 1889 the commercial building burned and the congregation set out to construct a meeting house of its own. On land donated by Mrs. Peyton Hopkins Mayo, the first permanent church building for the Presbyterian congregation was completed in 1892. The congregation replaced the first building in 1923 with their current sanctuary located on the site of the original church.¹⁴

Like most of the rural areas of Pitt County prior to the Civil War, educational opportunities in Falkland were generally provided by plantation owners in the form of small family-run schools. One of the first schools opened in Falkland was a girls' boarding school operated by the DeBerry family in their large Greek Revival dwelling until the outbreak of the Civil War. Another antebellum school is said to have been operated by the Cobb family in a two-story frame building that no longer stands. According to oral tradition the town's first public or common school used the old Cobb schoolhouse. The first public school building constructed as such is thought to have been a small one-room schoolhouse built c. 1900 near the current Presbyterian church. It was used until 1906 when a second larger two-classroom school was built. Its teachers were Mary Wilson Brown and Daisy Carman Pittman.¹⁵

The consolidation of the rural school system in Pitt County in 1917 merged the Craft School at Otter's Creek and the school at Falkland. This school served the town and surrounding countryside until 1922 when Falkland Elementary and High School, located adjacent to the Presbyterian Church on South Main Street, was completed. The modern facility designed in the popular Spanish Mission Revival style further consolidated area schools including those at Bruce and King's Crossroads. The school was like many of the county's consolidation-era facilities with a separate lunchroom building and shop building. In the 1930s the high school classes moved across the Tar River to the consolidated Belvoir-Falkland High School. The old school at Falkland operated as an elementary school until 1971 when it was closed due to countywide integration of all schools. It was demolished in the early 1990s. Today, high school students attend Farmville Central High while an elementary school at nearby Bruce serves the local community.¹⁶

The African American community had three schools operating in the Falkland area around the turn of the 20th century. One was located on the Willis Williams farm west of Falkland on NC 222 and one on the Henry Harris farm south of Crisp Street. The third, located on the Foreman Farm approximately one mile east of the Bruce community on NC 43, is the only one that remains standing, albeit relocated to another farm where it is used as a storage building. These three schools were consolidated about 1926 in

¹⁴ Lawrence, 20-21.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 21-22.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 22-23.

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a new building south of town on the old Tram Road that was used until 1958 when it was replaced. In 1971 black students began to attend the same schools as white.¹⁷

Falkland continued to function as a rural commercial center through the first two decades of the twentieth century, though demise of steamboat transportation on the Tar River did lessen the town's commercial significance. Falkland reached a population peak of 300 in 1915.¹⁸ Substantial residential development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries yielded the majority of the town's extant historic houses. Vernacular Queen Anne style houses throughout Falkland are typical of the county's small towns in the early twentieth century. Among the more notable examples are the Dr. Jenness Morrill House, a two-story frame house with fanciful woodwork and a multi-gable roof, and the Sellers Mark Crisp House, a one-story frame dwelling with a rambling floorplan and wood shingles in the gable ends.

Falkland, like Penny Hill to the northwest and Pactolus to the southeast, began to decline in importance as river-based trading centers with the expansion of the railroad in Pitt County during the early twentieth century. With the introduction of bright leaf tobacco the town saw modest commercial growth in the early to mid-twentieth century, but even with good agricultural output, the town continued to decline in population after 1915 that did not level off until the outbreak of World War II. After the war, with the need for housing for returning veterans and the continued success of tobacco and cotton farming, the town saw enough prosperity to welcome a small group of modern brick houses in the 1950s and 1960s, the construction of several modern brick store buildings, and a post office, and the erection of the town's first firehouse in 1960.

Over the last sixty years, Falkland has succeeded in retaining its corporate status and built a town hall ca. 1950.¹⁹ Today, most residents of the small community find work in neighboring cities such as Greenville, Wilson and Rocky Mount as there are only a few service jobs located in Falkland. The physical character of the town is currently represented by a combination of houses from its pre-Civil War origin through its early-twentieth-century growth and post World War II stability that make it the best remaining example of the county's rural communities that originated in the antebellum period.

¹⁷ Documented on the original map of the Foreman Farm recorded in the Pitt County Land Records, Register of Deeds of Pitt County, North Carolina, Pitt County Courthouse, Map Room. The Foreman family donated the lands for this black school and the white school now located at Bruce.

¹⁸ *The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory* (Raleigh, NC: News and Observer Publishing Company, 1915), 372.

¹⁹ Lawrence, 27.

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Architectural Context

The houses, commercial buildings, church, and outbuildings which make up the Falkland Historic District represent the architectural styles and building types that were constructed in small towns throughout eastern North Carolina from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. During this period, Falkland's architecture reflected the social and economic changes that occurred as the town transitioned from an agricultural trading center on the Tar River to a small, residential community near the county-seat of Greenville where most of its residents now work. The town's architecture, from the earliest surviving antebellum dwelling through the Victorian designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, have all been influenced by traditions popularized in period publications. Little is known about the construction of the town's earliest buildings and whether or not professional architects or builders were involved, but Falkland's post-bellum, Victorian architecture was influenced by prevailing trends seen in such nearby towns as Farmville and Greenville and it is likely that designers and contractors from those communities are responsible for some of the community's impressive historic dwellings.

During the 1850s, Falkland was one of Pitt County's most active antebellum communities. As a result of the wealth gleaned from the cotton trade, numerous area planters erected large Greek Revival style houses, including the Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House (ca. 1859). The influence of period pattern books can be seen in the carpentry techniques, sawn work, and architectural design of Falkland's antebellum buildings. Similar in elements, materials, and style to patterns in Bicknell's *Victorian Buildings*, Sloan's *Victorian Buildings*, and *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter* by Asher Benjamin, Falkland's Greek Revival-style houses resemble each other in their hipped roofs, symmetrical form and plan, and decorative sawnwork. The Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House blends elements of both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles with its hipped roof, simple bracketed cornice, interior brick chimneys, and ornamental woodwork. The Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House distinguishes itself with the generous blend of both curvilinear and geometric motifs in the spandrels and porch posts. The house exhibits a three bay façade, hip roof front porch, interior chimneys and ornamental elements, yet is differentiated from other area examples by its Tuscan style corner boards and simple box cornice.

In contrast to the order and regularity of the Greek Revival style, Victorian eclecticism appears throughout Falkland in several prominent buildings. Common characteristics seen in period pattern books by Sloan and others include shingled gable ends, wrap around porches, multiple gable roofs, and ornamental woodwork. The Nichols-Pittman House (ca. 1880) and the Hassell-Mayo House (ca. 1909) parallel each other with their multiple gables, one-story height, and wrap-around porches. The Hassell Mayo House is simply finished with a center gable, hipped-roof porch supported by replacement

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bungalow post-on-piers, and two-over-two sash windows while the Nichols-Pittman House exhibits shingled gables, decorative leaded glass windows, and a bay front entry. The Sellers Mark Crisp House (ca.1905) and the Dr. Jenness Morrill House (ca.1900) distinguished by shingle work in the gables, decorated porches, and intricate woodwork, are more overtly Queen Anne in style. The Crisp House illustrates the significant visual effect of elaborate ornamentation and carpentry on a one-story building. Here textbook Victorian features of multiple gables and wraparound porch are enhanced with shingled gables, multi-pane, colorful windows in diamond and square configurations, and curvilinear spandels and turned porch posts. In the early twentieth century, when the Dr. Jenness Morrill House (ca. 1900) was built, its two-story form separated it from other area Victorian houses; however, an abundance of ornamentation and detail could be found on the house, including, multiple front gables, shingled gables, wrap-around porch, gable detail above the front entry door, bay windows, and saw-tooth window lintels. The Dr. Jenness Morrill House retains unique acorn pendants beneath the eaves of the overhanging bay, turned porch posts, and simple boxed cornices.

In Falkland, homes of the early to mid twentieth century were influenced by a range of styles, such as late Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. These influences can be seen in both the overall design of houses as well as in individual architectural elements within each building. For example, classical symmetry and multi-light sash windows can be seen at the Peaden House, 5959 S. Main Street, is evidence of the Colonial Revival style. The climate-friendly nature of the Craftsman style can be seen in the varying tall roof pitches and wide front porch of the house at 6080 N. Main Street. These stylistic amalgamations are also influenced by regional tradition, adding to similarity between neighboring buildings. Among Falkland's twentieth-century residences, shallow pitched roofs, front porches, and gables characterize regional trends as seen at the Oscar Norville House, 6070 N. Main Street, and the Joyner House, 3252 Crisp Street. Evocative of the more substantial residential buildings in Falkland, typical Victorian-era elements are found on several early twentieth-century houses, including the Carl Preston Pierce House, 3268 Crisp Street, where the dominant stylistic elements include turned porch posts, shingled gables, ornamental sawn work, and a polygonal entry bay. At the Eaton Cobb King House, 3251 Crisp Street, a blend of late Queen Anne elements including diamond-shaped louvered vents, boxed cornices, and gable returns blend with a traditional cross-gable form.

The sole church building in the historic district is the Falkland Presbyterian Church, erected in 1923. The sanctuary is eclectic, embellishing the traditional gable-front form with fluted box columns that replaced earlier Tuscan columns, Craftsman-style knee braces, and segmental arches above stained-glass windows. The arched windows and pyramidal-roofed belfry are reminiscent of the Victorian era.

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Traditional twentieth-century commercial architecture, mainly one-story brick or concrete block buildings with large windows and parapet roofs, characterize the commercial district on North and South Main streets. To maximize use of commercial lots, construction of large buildings with multiple stone-fronts were constructed as is illustrated by the Kinchen Robert Wooten Store at 6051 North Main Street. Different exterior finishes distinguish the four brick storefronts from one another, including decorative brickwork, varying bay spacing and sizing, as well as a metal awning. Compared with the Kinchen Robert Wooten Store, the commercial building at the Pittman Building, 6042A-D North Main Street (1951) shows less ornamentation, but delineates several independent interior spaces with varying parapet roof heights, individual bay arrangements with different size windows and doors, and awnings. By comparison, in the neighboring town of Fountain, the primarily early-twentieth-century buildings of the commercial district resemble the common, unadorned brick buildings in the Falkland Historic District; however, much of Fountain's commercial district fluctuates between one and two story brick buildings, whereas Falkland's commercial district comprises only single-story buildings. Simple brick ornamentation and corbelling, as well as large display windows and recessed doorways, all represent twentieth-century commercial construction found in many towns throughout Pitt County. Free-standing buildings such as the Falkland Town Hall and Jail (ca.1950) and the Ralph Stokes Store (ca.1930), share similar aspects with the larger brick buildings, such as parapet roofs and minimal exterior treatment, but with concrete facades. The Ralph Stokes Store is distinct with its gas pump canopy supported by brick and wood posts. Though the Ralph Stokes retains its original frame construction on the rear elevation, the front and side elevations, have been obscured by concrete block additions that resemble the adjacent Falkland Town Hall and Jail. Since concrete block allows minor maintenance and inexpensive material cost, the later, ca. 1950 additions to the Ralph Stokes Store were obviously an attempt to capitalize on the material widely in use by the mid twentieth century. In addition to the Ralph Stokes and Falkland Town Hall and Jail, West Avenue is the site of two early twentieth-century warehouses (ca. 1900; ca. 1950). The ca. 1900 warehouse was associated with the Kinchen Robert Wooten Store. Now covered in 5-V metal, both exhibit a front gable form.

In Falkland, many outbuildings and secondary structures accompany primary buildings. These outbuildings exist for domestic, commercial, and agricultural purposes and include garages, sheds, playhouses, and barns. Residential buildings constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries frequently have associated early to mid-twentieth-century garages and sheds. Most of these outbuildings share common characteristics, including weatherboard exteriors and gable roofs. The Dr. Peyton Mayo Hopkins House property includes a garage (ca. 1930), playhouse (ca. 1960), and a former kitchen (ca. 1900), all of frame construction. Also of the same era, the sheds associated with the Sellers Mark Crisp House resemble other outbuildings in the town. The large barn on the Crisp property demonstrates the agricultural aspect of several of the nineteenth-century properties. Several

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outbuildings in the Falkland Historic District represent the common trend of adaptation over time to serve new uses by enlarging small structures with multiple additions. For example, the Hassell-Mayo property retains a shed with multiple additions, including a garage bay and a smaller front gable building. Throughout Falkland, garage additions were made to existing buildings or a freestanding garage was added to an existing residential property, either with double wood doors or open bay in the center of the façade, as seen at the Nichols-Pittman House and the Roberson-Mayo House, 3260 Crisp Street. Mid-twentieth-century construction also produced a number of large concrete, metal, and composite material outbuildings, presently used as garages and workshops.

The physical character of Falkland today is represented by a mixture of houses from its pre-Civil War beginning through its early-twentieth-century growth and post World War II stability that make it the best remaining example of the county's rural communities that originated in the antebellum period. By comparison, the rural communities of Penny Hill to the north and Pactolus to the east, both with antebellum origins on the Tar River like Falkland, have diminished overtime. Penny Hill once boasted numerous stores, houses and a doctor's office and by the late nineteenth century was a major steamboat landing on the upper reaches of the Tar River near the Edgecombe County line. Today, the doctor's office and one deteriorated house remain with little vestige of it's nineteenth century heyday evident. The community of Pactolus, though still occupied by several farming families, is located on US 264 with a new elementary school, a large, new commercial farm supply business and a manufactured home development. Only three historic homes and one store remain from it's nineteenth and twentieth century era of prosperity. With the loss of integrity to these two historic river-oriented communities, the town of Falkland remains as the best preserved of Pitt County's nineteenth century rural hamlets.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of one inch equals 200 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to include the largest concentration of historic contributing resources in the town of Falkland. It includes both the historic commercial and residential core of the town.

Photographs

Name of Property: Falkland Historic District

City or Vicinity: Town of Falkland

County: Pitt County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Staff of the Eastern Office, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, Greenville, North Carolina

Date Photographed: See photo view information

Description of Photograph(s) and number: This nomination includes ten photographs covering the historic district. Note: Although the photos are several years old, the authors have recently field checked the district's properties and confirm that the resources have not changed in their appearance.

1. Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House, 6005 South Main Street , view facing southeast from South Main Street; February 1, 2008.
2. Nichols-Pittman House, 6062 North Main Street , view facing northwest from North Main Street; February 1, 2008.
3. Sellars Mark Crisp House, 3238 Crisp Street, view facing west from Crisp Street; February 1, 2008.

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4. Dr. Jenness Morrill House, 6026 South Main Street, view facing northeast from South Main Street; February 1, 2008.

5. David Morrill House, 5998 South Main Street, view facing northeast from South Main Street; February 1, 2008.

6. Pittman Building, 6042 A-D North Main Street, view facing east from North Main Street; February 28, 2008.

7. Kinchen Robert Wooten Store, 6051 North Main Street, view facing south from North Main Street; February 28, 2008.

8. View of intersection of Crisp, North Main, and South Main Streets, and West Avenue, view facing east from West Avenue; February 1, 2008. Ralph Stokes Store/Gas Station at right and Dr. Peyton Hopkins Mayo House in background.

9. View of intersection of Crisp, North Main, and South Main Streets, and West Avenue, view facing northwest from West Avenue; July 6, 2008. Dr. Jenness Morrill House at right and Kinchen Robert Wooten Store in background.

10. Peaden House, 5959 South Main Street, view facing southwest from South Main Street; July 6, 2008.