

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Cannady-Brogden Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number NE, SE, & SW corners of jct. of Brogden Road and SR 1901  
(15260 Brogden Road)  not for publication

city or town Creedmoor  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27522

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
 meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Brown 3/2/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

removed from the National  
Register.

other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Cannady-Brogden Farm  
Name of Property

Wake County, NC  
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>10</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>15</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic & Architectural Resources of Wake Co.      N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agri. outbldg.  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing  
FUNERARY/cemetery

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agri. outbldg.  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing  
FUNERARY/cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
log  
roof tin  
other brick  
stone

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1904-1950

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1904

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Gooch, Edgar (builder)

\_\_\_\_\_

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cannady-Brogden Farm  
Name of Property

Wake County, NC  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 117 708245 3993580  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 117 708590 3993683

3 117 708862 3992985  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 117 708510 3992860

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 Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date November, 2000

street & number 2001 Metts Ave. telephone 910-815-1096

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Deloris Harmon (see continuation sheet for additional owners)

street & number 15260 Brogden Road telephone 919-528-0732

city or town Creedmoor state NC zip code 27522

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 time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Cannady-Brogden Farm  
Wake County, NC

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**Narrative Description**

The Cannady-Brogden Farm is located in Sandy Plain, a small community in northwestern Wake County. Bordering on the Granville County line, along North Carolina Route 50, Sandy Plain is representative of many of Wake County's small farming communities. Still remarkably rural in character, Sandy Plain consists of a number of interconnecting tobacco farms with stylish turn-of-the-twentieth-century dwellings with all of the necessary outbuildings, as well as centrally located community institutions. The surrounding landscape is predominantly flat with a few smooth, low rolling hills.

The auxiliary outbuildings of the Cannady-Brogden Farm are clustered primarily south and west of the main house. Landscape features which fan out from the farm buildings in all directions include cultivated fields, pastures, and wooded areas. A pond is situated east of the farmhouse. Because of the recent subdivision of the original 122-1/2-acre farm, this nomination includes only twenty-five acres in the ownership of several heirs of Tom Brogden--a three-acre tract containing the farmhouse and most of the associated outbuildings that is the heart of the farm complex, two acres of open land and a mule barn west of (across Brogden Road) the farmhouse, several parcels east of the house and outbuildings, as well as the family cemetery plot which is located across the main road north of the farmhouse.

The Cannady-Brogden farm complex encompasses thirteen contributing buildings, outbuildings, and structures, including a stylish early-twentieth-century I-house with Queen Anne ornamentation, a smokehouse, a washhouse, a chicken house, a mule barn, and a corn crib. Also included are various outbuildings associated with tobacco production, including two log tobacco barns, a packhouse, and a strip house. The rural setting of the Cannady-Brogden Farm still manifests the character of the late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agrarian society of northwestern Wake County. The nominated property retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



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Cannady-Brogden Farm  
Wake County, NC

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side of the central hall, retains the original diagonal tongue-and-groove paneling above the wainscot.

An impressive closed string staircase rises along one wall of the central hall to the landing where it turns 180 degrees to reach the second level. The staircase retains elaborately carved and beaded newel posts and turned balustrade as well as molded flat panels highlighting the outer side of the staircase and upper stairwell. S. A. Cannady signed his name on the back of one of the risers, but neglected to date it. A three-sided bay bathroom has been added off the landing of the staircase, above the rear wing.

The second-story bedrooms are similar to the rooms on the first level, with original pine floors, paneled walls, and tongue-and-groove ceilings. The mantels in the second-level bedrooms are somewhat more modest than the mantels in the downstairs rooms.

2. Smokehouse/woodshed late 19th century Contributing  
Outbuilding

The gable-front smokehouse with German siding and exposed rafters sits approximately 12 feet diagonally behind the main house. An elongated frame wood shed has been attached to the southeast side of the smokehouse.

3. Washhouse c. 1904 Contributing Outbuilding

Located approximately 30 feet southwest of the main house, the gable-front washhouse is being renovated with some new weatherboard siding to match the original siding, along with a new replacement door. An open-shed addition has been added to the southeast side of the washhouse.

4. Covered well c. 1904 Contributing Structure

Adjacent to the washhouse sits an open well house consisting of a gabled roof supported at each corner by a four-by-four. The well house covers a hand-dug well which measures 35- to 40-deep and 3-feet across. The close proximity of the well to the washhouse and the main house facilitated the daily chores associated with cleaning, cooking, and laundering.

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Cannady-Brogden Farm  
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5. Chicken coop                      c. 1930                      Contributing Structure

A small frame chicken coop with a shed metal roof and vertical board siding sits behind the washhouse. Chickens and roosters continue to roam freely about the farmstead.

6. Stackhouse                      c. 1940                      Contributing Outbuilding

A two-room, one-story cinderblock building, approximately 16- by 30-feet, sits somewhat behind and west of the chicken coop. Currently used for storage, this building originally was employed for sorting and stacking tobacco leaves.

7. Packhouse                      c. 1930                      Contributing Outbuilding

A two-story frame gable-front packhouse, approximately 32- by 20-feet, with weatherboard siding and a metal roof sits behind the cinderblock stackhouse. The packing and storage of tobacco leaves before going to market took place in this building. The interior retains several of the original tier poles. Attached to the southwest side is an open-shed addition. Deteriorated weatherboards have recently been replaced with in-kind siding.

8. Machinery Shed                      c. 1950                      Contributing Outbuilding

Situated adjacent to the packhouse is a four-bay pole shed utilized for storing farm equipment. Open on two sides, the remaining sides are clad with a combination of vinyl and metal. A standing-seam metal roof protects the approximately 20- by 58-foot building.

9. Corn Crib                      c. 1920                      Contributing Structure

A frame gable-front corn crib recently received new in-kind weatherboard siding. The approximately 10- by 14-foot-structure rests on stone piers and includes an early shed addition which retains the original siding. The building sits northwest of the stackhouse on an island between the circular driveway and the road in front of the house.

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10. Mule Barn c. 1920 Contributing Outbuilding

A two-story frame barn with weatherboard siding and a metal roof sits on the northwest side of the road which bisects the farm. The barn incorporates a center aisle flanked on either side by two stalls. Attached to the northeast side of the barn is a shed addition with metal siding.

11. Cow Shed c. 1920 Contributing Outbuilding

A frame cow shed with vertical board siding and a shed metal roof sits behind the packhouse. Built to provide shelter for the farm's cow, the building currently serves the same purpose for several horses. An open rear-shed addition is attached to the southeast side of the structure.

12. Log Tobacco Barn #1 c. 1920 Contributing Outbuilding

Two log tobacco barns sit somewhat removed from the remainder of the farm's outbuildings. Constructed of pine logs with saddleback notching, the tobacco barn is sheathed with vertical-board siding. The barn rests on stone piers and is surmounted by a standing-seam metal gable roof.

13. Log Tobacco Barn #2 c. 1920 Contributing Outbuilding

Of pine log construction with saddleback notching and portland cement chinking, this two-story gable-roof tobacco barn is in deteriorated condition. Much of the vertical board sheathing has been removed.

14. Cannady Cemetery 1904-present Contributing Site

Situated on the northeast side of State Route 1901, the Cannady family cemetery rests on a knoll overlooking the Cannady-Brogden house and farm. The Cannady family graves are enclosed by a chain link fence. The earliest gravestone is that of Hermon Cannady, infant son of S. A. and Mary Lassiter Cannady, born in February, 1903, and died in February, 1904. Another early grave contains the remains of the Cannady's twelve-year-old daughter, Margaret, who died of tuberculosis in 1909. The cemetery includes a total of twelve markers, five of which are less than fifty years old. The cemetery includes the remains of S. A.

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Cannady, who died on November 10, 1950, and his wife, Mary Lassiter Cannady, who died on February 20, 1947.

15. Brogden Cemetery            1993-1994            Noncontributing Site

Tom Brogden and his wife, Beulah Keith Brogden, who died on September 9, 1994, and April 2, 1993, respectively, are buried adjacent to the Cannady family cemetery. A small statue of a dog stands sentinel over the graves of the Brogdens.

16. Agricultural Landscape c. 1900-present    Contributing Site

The surviving agricultural landscape which continues to contribute to the historic character of the Cannady-Brogden farm consists of several elements. Several roads bisect the nominated parcel. A farm lane, formerly known as Plantation Path but now referred to as Brogden Road, runs north-south through the property with the Cannady-Brogden House and most of the farm dependencies located on a three-acre tract east of the lane, while a two-acre open field, along with a mule barn, is situated on the west side of the lane. State Route 1901 bisects the property in a east-west direction, with the Cannady and Brogden cemeteries located on the north side of the road in the center of a large (one-and-one-half acre) open field. Between the Cannady-Brogden House and State Route 1901 is a substantial vegetable garden, along with some cultivated grapevines. A large pond in a an open grassy area lies east of, or behind, the house and outbuildings.

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Cannady-Brogden Farm  
Wake County, NC

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cannady-Brogden Farm in the Sandy Plain community of northwestern Wake County is an excellent example of a tobacco farm complex anchored by a stylish turn-of-the-century I-house. Following the migration of farmers from nearby Granville County to northern Wake County after the tobacco wilt struck their crops in the 1880s, S. A. Cannady purchased the 122-1/2-acre farm in 1899 and moved into a two-room, hall-parlor-plan house. His success and resultant prosperity at tobacco production soon enabled him to enlarge his dwelling with a triple-A I-house embellished with elaborate sawn and turned porch and gable ornamentation. The original house, now the rear wing, was converted to a kitchen and dining room. Among the many dependencies associated with the property, which together form an unusually complete agricultural compound, are a feed barn, corn crib, smokehouse, washhouse, woodshed, covered well, and mule barn. The farm also displays a collection of outbuildings related to tobacco cultivation including a packhouse, strip room, and two log curing barns.

The Cannady-Brogden Farm meets Criterion A for significance in the history of the county's agriculture. It is a remarkably intact complex that illustrates the importance of tobacco farming in Wake County during the first half of the twentieth century. It also illustrates the rise of one man's fortunes from that of tenant farmer to land owner, most vividly represented by S. A. Cannady's stylish house which meets Criterion C as an intact and robust example of Queen Anne style-influence vernacular architecture in the county. The dependencies associated with the farm also contribute to Criterion C significance as together they form an unusually complete agricultural compound representing early twentieth-century construction methods of farm outbuildings. The period of significance begins in 1904 when the stylish I-house was built for S. A. Cannady and extends to 1950, the last year it was associated with Cannady, who died in November of that year. Together, the house and outbuildings present an important glimpse into the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agrarian society of Wake County.

**Historical Background and Agricultural Context**

Created in 1771 from Johnston, Cumberland, and Orange counties, Wake County lies in central North Carolina along the

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border of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. It is drained by the Neuse and Little rivers and numerous creeks. Consisting of 867 square miles, Wake is seventh in size and second in population among North Carolina's one-hundred counties. Farmers have found its three major soil types well adapted to cotton, tobacco, corn, sweet potatoes, and other important food and cash crops. The nominated property lies in the northern portion of the county, known as the Piedmont Plateau, with soils being formed by the weathering of underlying rock formation. (Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section E, p 7).

Sandy Plain, which borders Granville County in northwestern Wake County, represents many communities in rural Wake County in that it is made up of interconnecting farms of closely associated families and neighbors, supported by local community institutions. After the tobacco wilt struck southern Granville County in the 1880s, many Granville farmers relocated to the northwestern corner of nearby Wake County because of its good tobacco soils and its proximity to their home county. Both native families and newcomers to this remote area, which was eventually called Sandy Plain, enjoyed a relative prosperity from the 1880s until about the time of World War I, when the wilt finally spread to their tobacco fields (Lally, p. 3).

At the turn of the twentieth century, the community was made up of a close-knit network of families and neighbors, both white and black. The 1910 United States Census reveals that the section of New Light Township, of which Sandy Plain is a part, west of Buckhorn Branch was composed of sixty-six white and forty-three black farming families. Only two-fifths of the white families and fewer than a quarter of the black families owned the farms they operated. The main crops were tobacco and corn, and most families usually maintained a small vegetable garden, a few milk cows, pigs, and chickens (Lally, p. 83-84).

Sirathner Alpheus "Rat" Cannady migrated to the Sandy Plain area from southern Granville County in the late nineteenth century. On December 13, 1899, he purchased a 122-1/2-acre farm from T. M. and Mary D. Thomason of Granville County. The land was described as being situated on a branch of Byrd's corner, also a branch in Garner Road (Deed Book 157, p. 129). Several days later, Cannady took out two mortgages on the land, one for \$650 to secure a debt to T. M. Thomason and one for \$600 to

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secure a debt owed to Thomas H. Perry (Deed Book 157, pp. 401-402).

The 1900 census lists Serathna Canady {sic} as a thirty-two-year-old literate farmer with a mortgaged farm. It also lists his wife, Mary F., twenty-nine years old, four children, and a tenant farm laborer as part of his household (1900 Census, Wake County). By 1910, the Cannady family had increased and he had paid off his mortgages on the farm. The 1910 census lists Sirathner A. Cannady as a forty-two-year-old literate farmer with a "free" farm, along with his thirty-nine-year-old wife, Mary F., and five daughters: Ila G., age sixteen, a music teacher; Dena A., age twelve, in school; Hilda A., age nine, in school; Tory F., age four; and Lillian, age three months. They also listed a hired farm laborer, Tom Johnson, a 44-year-old mulatto, as a part of the household (1910 Census, Wake County). An infant son, Hermon, had died in 1904, at the age of one year (Hermon Cannady gravemarker).

The Cannadys initially moved into a hall-parlor-plan house with a central chimney. The family raised tobacco with the help of one hired hand, usually a young black man, who slept in the "strip room" and took meals at their table. In 1904, Cannady retained Edgar Gooch, a local builder, to assist with building a stylish I-house with a T-shaped rear wing. Utilizing timber cut from the farm, the new house was added onto the front of the original two-room house. Cannady later tore down a small blacksmith shop on the farm and built a two-room tenant house on the same site (not part of the nominated property). While the smokehouse is the only remaining outbuilding on the farm dating from the turn of the century, other early outbuildings on the property were replaced as the farm prospered and the need arose. The Cannadys grew vegetables, tobacco and corn, and raised hogs, cows, chickens, and ducks. The family shopped and marketed their crops mainly in Durham (Crumpler interview, SHPO files).

The main social gatherings of the year (other than those at church) were related to work. Corn shuckings and quilting bees were important to the social fabric of the community, while at the same time serving a utilitarian function. S. A. Cannady's daughter, Hilda, remembers the neighborhood men coming to the farm to help shuck corn, while the women cooked supper for the men (Crumpler interview, SHPO files).

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Practically everyone in Sandy Plain was Baptist. The Cannadys, along with many other white families in the area, attended Fellowship Baptist Church, just over the county line in Granville County. Other families attended Olive Grove Church, while many black families worshipped at Ledge Rock Baptist Church, located about one mile west of Sandy Plain (Lally, p. 86).

As his farm prospered, S. A. Cannady assumed an active leadership role in the community. The Cannadys were instrumental in getting the first school house built in the Sandy Plain area. Most of the teachers at the Sandy Plain Elementary school came from outside the local area and boarded at the Cannady home in the early twentieth century (Lally, p. 85). In 1910, Cannady also acquired one of the first cars in the area, allegedly he was allergic to horses. He promoted the road from Raleigh to Creedmoor (Route 50) about 1915. The road went through his brother-in-law's front yard, which apparently touched off a family feud. Cannady's daughter reported that the brother-in-law never spoke to Cannady again (Crumpler interview, SHPO files).

S. A. Cannady could be referred to as a middling farm owner, of which there were many in Wake County at the turn of the twentieth century. These landowners managed to be fairly self-sufficient and avoid the worst pitfalls of the crop lien system by balancing food crops with cotton or tobacco and striving to avoid debt. Many relied on hired farmhands and at least one tenant family to supplement their family labor source (Lally, p. 70). They enjoyed a period of relative prosperity from the 1880s until about the time of World War I, when the tobacco wilt finally spread to their tobacco fields (Lally, p. 84). While the Cannadys depended on tobacco to provide cash for clothes and certain household and farming items, they raised their own food for the most part and managed to stay out of debt until the tobacco wilt ruined their means of livelihood. Nonetheless, they were able to keep their farm and send five daughters through high school by buying part interest in a Durham mercantile firm, later opening a hardware store in Creedmoor (Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section E, page 55).

The spread of the tobacco wilt to northwestern Wake County in the 1910s motivated S. A. Cannady to buy an interest in Angier Grocery Store in Durham and move to the city. In 1922, Cannady

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almost sold his farm to W. H. Keith, but the deal never went through (Deed Book 377, p. 534). Allegedly, Cannady's partner in the Angier Grocery Store stole some of the establishment's merchandise. Cannady insisted that his partner buy out his interest in the store, whereupon Cannady and his family returned to Sandy Plain. Cannady then opened a hardware store in Creedmoor in the late 1920s. By this time, most of the farming on the property was carried out by the resident tenant farmer and his family (Crumpler interview, SHPO files).

In 1944, a new wilt-resistant variety of tobacco, developed by E. G. Moss of the state Agricultural Experiment Station at Oxford, North Carolina, restored some of the tobacco prosperity lost by Sandy Plain farmers between the two world wars. Soon, every farmer in the area was experimenting with the new wilt-resistant tobacco (Lally, p. 88). By this time, the Brogden family, including Tom Brogden, his wife, Beulah Lynch Keith Brogden, and their ten children, were living in the tenant house on the Cannady property and working the farm. They maintained a good relationship with the Cannadys, often sharing meals together (Harmon interview, July, 2000).

Because census statistics after 1890 fail to distinguish between farm sizes of owners and tenants, it is difficult to determine the exact types and amounts of crops grown on individual farms. It is safe to surmise, however, that tobacco continued to be the principal cash crop on the Cannady Farm through the 1940s and 50s. In addition to the new wilt-resistant variety of tobacco that was introduced in 1944, the addition of tobacco related outbuildings on the farm indicate that this continued to be an important crop for the Cannadys, and later the Brogdens. For example, the packhouse, used for the packing and storing of tobacco leaves before going to market, was added to the property during the 1930s. A cinderblock stackhouse, employed for sorting and stacking tobacco leaves, was built during the 1940s, replacing an earlier one. And as more of the labor became mechanized, several machinery sheds were constructed in the late 1940s or early 50s.

Mary Frances "Fannie" Cannady died on February 20, 1947 (News and Observer, February 21, 1947). Several years later, on November 10, 1950, Sirathner Cannady died, at the age of 83, following an illness of several years duration. His obituary

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reported that he was born in Granville County, son of the late Alphus and Nancy Garner Cannady, and that he had lived most of his life near Creedmoor where he operated the S. A. Cannady Hardware Company. It was also reported that he had retired at the age of seventy-three and that he left five surviving daughters, twelve grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren (*News and Observer*, November 11, 1950).

Following S. A. Cannady's death, the five surviving daughters agreed to sell the family farm to Tom Brogden, the resident tenant farmer (Deed Book 1062, p. 370). After purchasing the farm on November 30, 1950, for \$20,000, Brogden moved his large family into the big house. The children included, in order of birth: Ethel Christine, Thomas Leslie, Kenneth Howard, Morris Edward, Mildred Beulah, Elmo Lee, James Paul, Mary Elizabeth (Lib), Joe Earl, and Clyde Gene. Their eleventh child, Deloris Faye, was born shortly after the family moved into the big house (Harmon interview, July, 2000).

The Brogden family continued to farm the land, principally raising tobacco, corn, and wheat. At one time, they grew sugar cane and made their own molasses. They also raised chickens, cows, and pigs (Harmon interview, July, 2000). Mechanization of farm equipment, along with improved fertilizers and farming practices, gradually increased farm production. The quality of life also improved with the introduction of electricity to the rural community. A few of the immediate benefits included electric lights, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, irons, radios, and fans, all of which helped revolutionize rural living standards and household work.

During the 1970s, the size of the farm was gradually reduced as the Brogdens sold off small parcels to their grown children. Also, during the 1970s, the United States government acquired approximately 20 acres of their land for Falls Lake, a manmade lake in Western Wake County designed to serve the water, power, and recreational needs of Wake's increasing population (Wake County Deeds).

After a lifetime of hard work, Beulah Lynch Keith Brogden died on April 2, 1993. Her husband died shortly thereafter on September 9, 1994. They were buried on the farm, adjacent to the Cannady family cemetery (Harmon interview, July 2000). In 1996,

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the remaining 89.72 acres of the farm were divided among the Brogden children with Deloris Brogden Harmon receiving a three-acre tract, satisfying the specific request of Tom Brogden that the dwelling and farm buildings be left to his youngest daughter (Will File Number 94-E-2200). Deloris and her husband, Robert E. Harmon, have moved into the main house and have made several improvements, including the addition of three bathrooms and a large all-purpose utility room. Their life revolves around maintaining the house and outbuildings, growing many of their own fruits and vegetables, raising chickens and other farm animals, and hosting large Sunday family dinners.

Wake County continues to be a county in transition. Time and events have caused Wake to evolve from a farming and government center to an increasingly urban county. It was reported in 1990 that farms and farmland were decreasing at about a two-percent annual rate. Tobacco, however, still accounted for over one-half of the farm income in Wake county, while vegetable production is holding steady (NC Association of Agricultural Agents, p. 92). The Cannady-Brogden Farm and its full complement of increasingly rare outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth century continue to reflect the evolving farm practices of an early twentieth century Wake County tobacco farm.

#### **Architectural Context**

Much of the architectural context is derived from the county survey, *The Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)* conducted by Kelly A. Lally and Todd Johnson in 1993. The Cannady-Brogden farmhouse is described under Property Type 3, as a house built between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918). The property is also included under Property Type 1, Farm Complexes Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-1918).

The vast majority of houses built in Wake County after the Civil War through the first decades of the twentieth century are traditional in form and plainly finished, but generally display more popular ornamentation than their antebellum counterparts. By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, ornate millwork used to decorate porches and mantelpieces was made less expensive and more accessible due to advances in wood milling technology and the railroads that traversed the state beginning in the mid-

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nineteenth century. Frame houses began to greatly outnumber log dwellings in the second half of the nineteenth century as the lighter and cheaper balloon framing generally replaced the mortise-and-tenon framing system.

The Cannady-Brogden House began as a one-story, hall-parlor-plan frame house. It consisted of two rooms of near equal size with an entrance into the hall. A central chimney with two fireplaces provided heat for both rooms. As Mr. Cannady's farm began to prosper, he engaged a local builder to add an I-house with a rear T-wing to the front of the original two-room house.

The I-house form--two stories tall, one room deep, and two or more rooms wide, proliferated in the mid-nineteenth century and dominated Wake County architecture until the early twentieth century. The basic form remained stable; only the proportions were modified with changing architectural fashions.

Although traditional in plan and construction and often simple in finish, the houses of the more prosperous citizens of the county reflect, with some of their details and generous proportions, the architectural styles popular at the time. Although there are no houses in rural Wake County that could be considered examples of high-style architecture, several houses, including the Cannady-Brogden house, display some ambitious architectural treatment. The house is fashionably decked in sawwork trim and turned porch and gable ornaments, reflecting the greater accessibility to average citizens of building materials and decorative trim due to the expansion of railroads traversing the county.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the side-gable roofs on traditional houses began to take on a new appearance with the addition of a gable at the central bay of the front facade. Although the Gothic Revival was never extremely popular as a house style in this area, it may have been an inspiration for this extra gable. The resulting roofs and sometimes the houses on which they were found became known as "triple-A's." Generally, these roofs are found on single-pile houses, one to two stories tall with center-hall plan (Southern, p. 80).

One- and two-story triple-A-roofed dwellings were the most popular houses among Wake County's residents around the turn of

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the twentieth century. The Cannady-Brogden House (WA 1363) and the Bill O'Briant House (WA 1368) in Sandy Plain, along with the Frank Smith House (WA 1155), Turner Smith House (WA 1153), Penny House (WA 183), and the Turner House (WA 1178) in southern Wake County are all archetypal examples of the triple-A I-house.

The Cannady-Brogden Farm (WA 1363) is also an excellent example of an early-twentieth-century tobacco farm complex. The rise in tobacco cultivation inaugurated a radical change in the farm complexes of Wake County. For those farms involved in tobacco cultivation, the number of outbuildings increased dramatically. Tobacco farming required specialized outbuildings on individual farms for curing and handling. At the very minimum, a tobacco farm had curing barns, a packhouse for storage, and a building (known as the "strip" or "grading" room) in which to prepare the crop for market. These were in addition to the domestic outbuildings that were necessary for running a farm household (Lally, p. 90).

In addition to a full complement of domestic outbuildings, the farmstead includes several early log and frame tobacco curing barns. In the late nineteenth century, farmers built tightly-chinked log curing barns sixteen, twenty, or twenty-four feet square with dirt floors; this tradition continued among some farmers well into the twentieth century. Log barns were considered especially good for retaining the heat needed for the curing process. Sometimes the logs were covered with vertical board, board-and-batten, or weatherboard siding. Beginning in the twentieth century, frame barns became increasingly popular with a variety of exterior sidings covering their walls. Open sheds attached to the barns sheltered farm workers preparing for or attending the curing process (Lally, p. 92).

A two-story frame packhouse was added to the property c. 1930, replacing an earlier one. After the tobacco crop was cured it was sorted in the packhouse until market time in the fall. Before the cured tobacco was taken to market, farmers prepared it in the strip or grading room, which was sometimes a freestanding structure and sometimes attached to the packhouse. Strip rooms usually had ordering pits where the dry, recently cured tobacco could hang and moisten before it was graded by size, texture, and color (Lally, p. 93). The Cannadys replaced an earlier strip house with a concrete block one in c. 1940.

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With the help of one tenant family who lived on the property and another hired worker, the Cannadys, and later the Brogdens, cultivated about fifteen acres of tobacco on their 122-acre farm.

(The tenant house is not included in the nomination as it is in a deteriorated condition and will soon be demolished.)

The stylishly decorated, two-story, Victorian farmhouse reflects the prosperity of the farm. Other notably intact or particularly representative farm complexes from this period include the J. M. Williams Farm (WA 992), Barley Yates Farm (WA 988), H. T. Lawrence Farm (WA 1047), and the John Seagroves Farm (WA 676), all in western Wake County. The Cannady-Brogden Farm, with its extensive set of outbuildings, evokes the turn-of-the-twentieth-century agrarian life of northern Wake County. The fields and woodlands surrounding the farm lend to the rural setting. The farm as a whole is in excellent condition; and though divided amongst Tom Brogden's heirs, the original farm remains in the hands of his children.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Cannady-Brogden Farm nomination includes approximately twenty-five acres, comprising all of six tracts (4, 5, 7, 10, 11, and cemetery) of the Brogden Estate as recorded in Wake County Map Book 1997, page 1798. A slightly reduced copy of the survey is enclosed for reference.

**Boundary Justification**

The approximately twenty-five-acre tract contains the early-twentieth-century farmhouse along with the full complement of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. It also includes several adjacent fields and pastures that are original to the farm. The nominated tract provides historic and architectural integrity in an intact agricultural landscape.



CANNADY-BROGDEN  
FARM



not to scale  
25 acres



