

**DURHAM COUNTY MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**  
**"HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DURHAM COUNTY"**

prepared following the Durham County ExtraTerritorial Survey  
for the Durham City-County Planning Department and the  
North Carolina Historic Preservation Office

by

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**Introduction**

The 1987-1988 comprehensive survey of Durham County recorded approximately 272 historic properties; the 1990 comprehensive survey of the extraterritorial planning area around Durham city recorded 151 historic properties. All of the land area outside of the Durham city limits has now been recorded, yielding files on approximately 423 historic properties. This report catalogues and analyzes these properties within a broad historical framework in order to assist in the process of evaluating the significance of particular historic resources for planning and preservation purposes.

Because of the remarkable cultural and ethnic homogeneity of Durham County throughout its history, the buildings for each historic period exemplify a few basic types that are repeated over and over throughout every section of the county. About 360 of the total properties are houses. Forty-three of these are believed to be antebellum (pre-1865) in construction date. A number are small log homesteads; the rest are frame farmhouses of varying size and pretension.

By far the majority were built from 1865 to 1940, and represent the heyday of tobacco and cotton cultivation and processing in Durham County. This almost a century of building contains three distinct building periods and corresponding building types: the Reconstruction Period houses built from 1865 into the 1880s when the county was recovering from the Civil War; the 1880s-1920s Rural Vitality Period when agricultural markets were readily accessible by rail and prices of cotton and tobacco boomed; and the Suburbanization period from the 1920s to 1940 when new roads made the city of Durham more accessible, allowing farmers to work in the mills and factories and in commerce and public service jobs and allowing city dwellers to build country retreats. During the Reconstruction Period, houses were either log homesteads or small frame houses. During the Rural Vitality Period the one- and two-story side-gabled house, either with or without a front central decorative gable, became the norm, and 146 houses fall into this basic category. The remaining houses represent such popular styles as the Queen Anne, the L- and T-plan style, the pyramidal cottage, and the foursquare. During the Suburbanization Period, bungalows and rustic log and stone cottages were built. The churches, schools, and mills and country stores represent the major categories of non-residential buildings recorded, and each has its own property type.

For the sake of clarification, a geographical note is necessary here in order to explain the references to Durham County prior to 1881 as "Durham Territory," and after 1881 as Durham County. The county was established in 1881 out of the eastern half of Orange County and two townships in northwestern Wake County.

National Register Properties: The following rural Durham County historic properties were listed on the National Register as of July, 1990 when this report was prepared:

Bennett Place State Historic Site (1970)  
 Duke Homestead and Tobacco Factory State Historic Site (NHL) (1966)  
 Fairtosh Plantation (1973)

Hardscrabble (1972)  
 Leigh Farm (1975)  
 Stagville State Historic Site (1973)  
 Horton Grove State Historic Site (1978)  
 Meadowmont (1985)  
 Little Creek Site (archaeological nomination) (1985)  
 West Point on the Eno (1985)  
 Adolphus Umstead House (1989)

Study List Properties (Rural Durham County): The following historic properties are on the National Register Study List as of July 1990, listed in chronological order. Most were placed on the Study List in 1988 following the 1987-1988 comprehensive survey, but a few were placed on the Study List at owners' request at various times. The dates of construction are based on architectural evaluation, and are subject to change following historical research.

Individual Properties:

Bowling-Glenn House, ca. 1830.  
 Patterson Farm, ca. 1840.  
 Rev. John McMannen House, ca. 1840.  
 Fendel Bever House, ca. 1850.  
 Bowling Mill, ca. 1850.  
 Bobbitt-Aiken House, ca. 1860.  
 Will Chambers House, ca. 1860.  
 Gaston Roberts House, ca. 1860.  
 Carrington Farm and Cemetery, ca. 1860.  
 Barn at Forty Oaks, Antebellum.  
 A. K. Umstead House, ca. 1870.  
 Addison Mangum Law Office, 1870s.  
 Wiley Ball House, 1870s(?)  
 Phil Southerland House, ca. 1880.  
 Copley-Latta House, ca. 1885.  
 Joe Holloway House, ca. 1885.  
 A. G. Cox House, 1890s.  
 Hampton Umstead House #1, 1890s.  
 Jones House (Carpenter Pond Rd.), ca. 1895.  
 Amed Tilley House, Late 19th century.  
 Blalock-Garrett House, 19th century, ca. 1900.  
 Cleveland Bragg House, ca. 1900.  
 Hill Tobacco Farm, Late 19th-early 20th century.

Cain School. ca. 1910.  
 Hill Forest Log Houses. 1930s.  
 Spruce Pine Lodge. 1930s.  
 Seman Cottage. 1930s.  
 Lowes Grove School. Late 19th century-1930s.  
 Quail Roost. 1930s.  
 Tilley Farm, Butner vic. Date unknown, perhaps same as Amed Tilley House above.  
 Thompson-Roberts House. Date unknown.  
 Few House. Date unknown.

Historic Districts:

Bennehan-Cameron Historic District  
 Bahama Village Historic District  
 Rougemont Village Historic District

Study List Properties: Durham Extraterritorial Area: The following properties in the Extra-Territorial Area were added to the Durham County Study List in July and October 1990 as a result of the Extra-Territorial Survey March-June 1990:

Patterson Farm, Pickett Rd. ca. 1840.  
 Dr. William Norwood Hicks Farm, Mineral Springs Rd. 1860.  
 Kinchen Holloway House, Guess Rd. ca. 1870.  
 Virgil Pickett House, Pickett Rd. ca. 1880.  
 William T. Neal Farm, Neal Rd. ca. 1890.  
 Billie Cole Farm, Garrett Rd. Late 19th century.  
 John Thomas Couch Farm, Kerley Rd. 1900.  
 Thompson Place, Paul Rd. 1905.  
 Glenn-Veazey Farm, Glenn Rd. Early 20th century.  
 George Clements Farm, Old Oxford Rd. Early 20th century.  
 Croasdalle Tenant Farms #1,2,3, Crystal Lake Rd. and Croasdalle Subdivision. Early 20th century.  
 Berea Baptist Church and Cemetery, Fayetteville Rd. Early 20th century.  
 J. W. Cole Farm, Rldge Rd. ca. 1912.  
 Doc Holloway Place (Rivermont Springs), Rivermont Rd. 1913.  
 Gus Godwin Farm, S. Alston Ave. ca. 1915.  
 Walter Curtis Hudson Farm (Patterson's Store), Farrington Rd. ca. 1918.  
 (former) Hebron School, Hamlin Rd. ca. 1920.  
 John & Annie Lou Neal House, Neal Rd. 1921.  
 Catsburg Store, Old Oxford & Hamlin roads. 1920s.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

### Introductory Note:

A confusing aspect of historical research on the present boundaries of Durham County is the comparative newness of the county. It was established in 1881 out of the eastern half of Orange County and two townships of western Wake County: Oak Grove Township and Cedar Forks Township. Therefore any county records analyzed prior to 1881 address a much larger area than the present county boundaries, and must be loosely interpreted. In the following context discussion, prior to 1881 Durham County is referred to as "eastern Orange County" or "Durham territory" in order to distinguish between statements covering all of Orange County and those covering only the area included in present Durham County.

### CONTEXT I. ANTEBELLUM DURHAM TERRITORY: 1740s-1865

During the 1740s and 1750s, the first permanent white settlers came to the Durham Territory, primarily of British origins from Virginia and eastern North Carolina, and of Scots-Irish background (often Presbyterian) and Quaker denomination coming down the river valleys from Pennsylvania.<sup>1</sup> Most of them established small to moderate sized farms. This excerpt from the "Autobiography of Colonel William Few," one of the earliest white settlers in the area which became Durham County, describes the territory when he arrived in 1758:

There a new scene opened to us. We found a mild and healthy climate and fertile lands, but our establishment was in the woods, and our first employment was to cut down the timber and prepare the land for cultivation. My father had taken with him only four servants, who were set to work, and every exertion was made to prepare for the ensuing crop....

Then it was that I commenced the occupation of farmer. An axe was put into my hands, and I was introduced to a hickory tree about 12 or 15 inches in diameter, and was ordered to cut off all the branches.

...I was obliged to proceed and found that practice every day made the labor more agreeable, and I was gradually instructed in the arts of agriculture; for that was all I had to learn. In that country, at that time, there were no schools, no churches, or parsons, or doctors, or lawyers;

no stores, groceries or taverns, nor do I recollect to have seen during the first two years any officer, ecclesiastical, civil or military, except a justice of the peace, constable and two or three itinerant preachers. The justice took cognizance of their controversies to a small amount, and performed the sacerdotal functions of uniting by matrimony. There were no poor laws nor paupers. Of the necessaries of life there were great plenty, but no luxuries. Those people had few wants, and fewer temptations to vice than those who lived in more refined society, though ignorant. They were more virtuous and more happy.<sup>2</sup>

Until the 1740s, government subdivision and regulation of colonial lands extended no farther than the Tidewater region of North Carolina. The North Carolina legislature, aware of the thousands of settlers pouring into the piedmont "backcountry" down the "Great Wagon Road" through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, divided the piedmont into five counties, one of which was Orange County in 1752. This new county included all of today's Caswell, Person, Alamance, Orange and Durham counties, as well as parts of Lee, Wake, Randolph, Gullford and Rockingham. Within 20 years the number of Orange taxables increased from 20 to about 4,000.<sup>3</sup> By 1767 Orange had the largest population of any county in North Carolina.<sup>4</sup> For many years there was little trade between the Piedmont and the Tidewater because of the lack of navigable rivers and roads, but about 1755 a road was built from Orange Court House (later Hillsborough) to the Cape Fear River.<sup>5</sup>

No known vestiges of the mid-18th century settlers survive in present Durham County, but there are a few important seats dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The McRae-Brazier map of 1808 noted as settlements or mills on the streams the Bennehans on the Flat River and the Cains on the Little River. These represent operations connected with the chief plantations of the area, those of Richard Bennehan and the Cain family, both of which still survive (Stagville and Hardscrabble). None of the eighteenth century mills that served Durham territory are known to survive, but along the rivers there are a number of probable nineteenth century mills and mill sites. Bowling Mill near Rougemont, on the Flat River, is a mid-to-late 19th century grist mill. The mill site at West Point on the Eno is said to have been used as early as 1780, and buildings remain from the 19th century. The site of Russell Mill (date unknown) on the south fork of the upper Little River remains, and on the east side of the Flat River is the site of the Red Mountain Mill (date unknown).<sup>6</sup>

By 1777 the area was divided into two tax districts: St. Mary's District in the northern half, and St. Mark's District in the southern half.<sup>7</sup> These early boundaries correspond roughly to the geological formations and differing soils in the two areas. The following Soil Conservation Service Soil Map of Durham County (see following page) indicates soil types by number. It shows vastly different soil composition in the northern and southern sections of the county. The northern half is composed primarily of Georgeville-Herndon (6); Nason-Tatum (7); Appling-Cecil (8); and Helena-Lignum Association (9) soils. These are formed from the rocks of the Carolina slate belt, as well as the granitic formations along its eastern edge, and are well-drained soils with silty clay or clay loam bases and have fair to good suitability for agriculture. The southern half, part of the lowland Triassic Basin, is composed almost entirely of Whitestone-Creedmoor Association soil (1), which is poorly drained and has a poor to fair suitability for agriculture.<sup>8</sup>

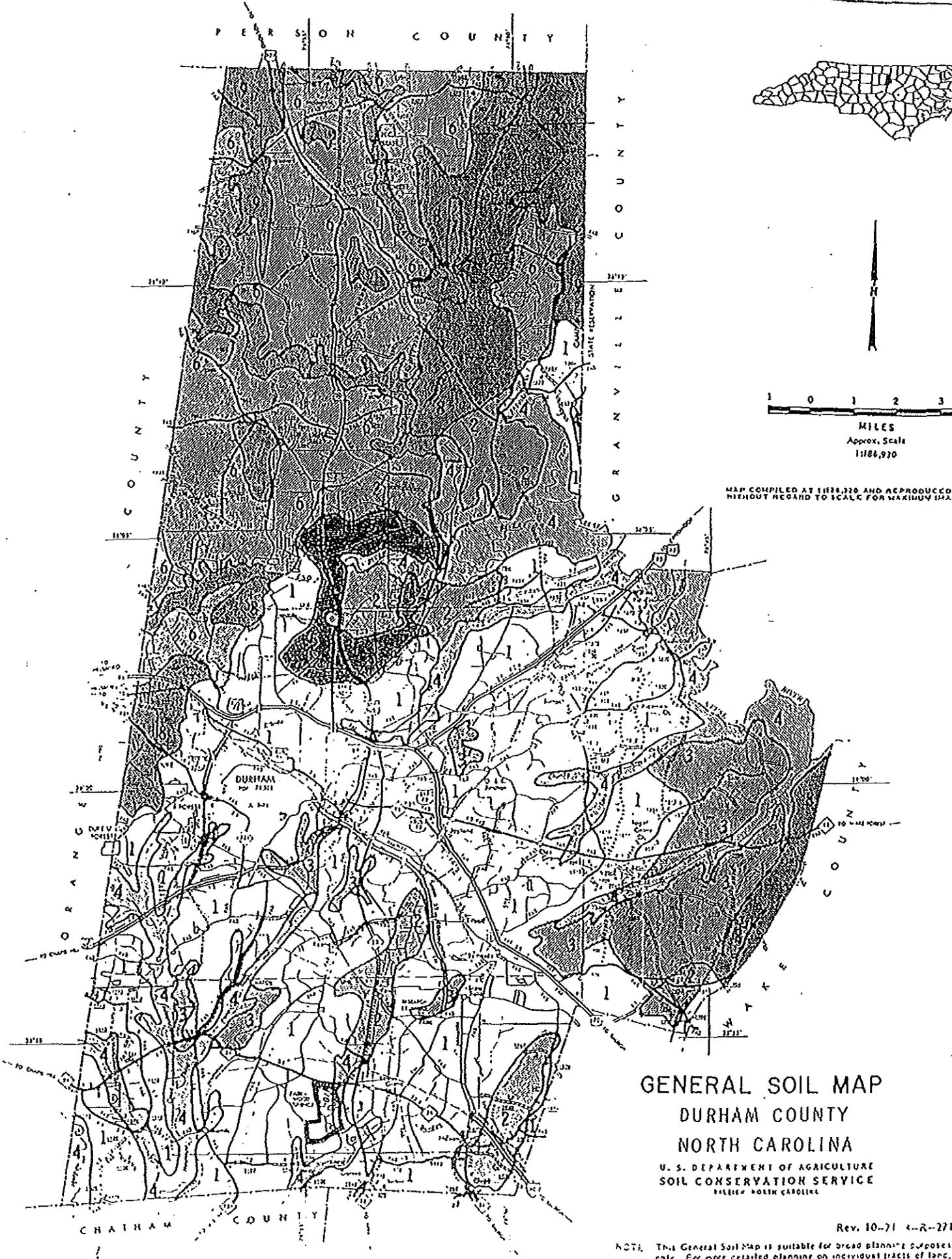
In the St. Mary's District, soil fertility was enhanced by the three major rivers in the county: the Little, Eno, and Flat which flow together to create the Neuse River. Along their valleys and bottomlands grains and other foodstuffs flourished, and the nearby hills were well suited to the early production of tobacco. By contrast, St. Mark's District had only one stream of any size, New Hope Creek and the southeastern portion of the Durham territory is underlaid by sandstone that does not produce good soil.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, settlement in St. Mary's District was denser than in St. Mark's District during the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century, and farms in St. Mary's tended to be larger and more profitable.

By the 1790 census, both the north and south districts had a number of well-developed farms and a few large plantations. In St. Mary's District, Richard Bennehan's plantation, containing 2,355 acres, had been established, and John Carrington had 5,227 acres. Christopher Barbee, with 2,145 acres, was the largest landowner in St. Mark's. Of the approximately 100 slave holders, a total of fifty-eight resided in St. Mary's and forty-four resided in St. Mark's. The two largest slaveholders, both in St. Mary's District, were Richard Bennehan (Bennehan-Cameron Plantation), who had 24 slaves, and William Cain of Hardscrabble Plantation [St. Mary's Road, Durham North Quad], who had 10 slaves. The two largest slaveholders in St. Mark's were Thomas Price and George Herndon, each with eight slaves, and the remaining forty-two slaveholders possessed a total of eighty-five.<sup>10</sup> Most slaveholders owned only a few slaves.

P E R S O N C O U N T Y



MAP COMPILED AT 1:186,930 AND REPRODUCED WITHOUT REGARD TO SCALE FOR MAXIMUM IMAGE ON 1



# GENERAL SOIL MAP DURHAM COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Raleigh, NORTH CAROLINA

Rev. 10-71 4-R-27166

NOTE: This General Soil Map is suitable for broad planning purposes only. For more detailed planning on individual tracts of land, a detailed soil survey is needed.

## LEGEND

Well drained and moderately well drained, gently sloping to steep acid soils on shale and sandstone.

 **1** WHITE STORE-CREEDMOOR ASSOCIATION: Deep, gently sloping soils with plastic and very plastic subsoils.

 **2** MAYODAN-GRANVILLE-CREEDMOOR ASSOCIATION: Deep, gently sloping soils, friable or very plastic subsoils.

 **3** WHITE STORE-PINKSTON ASSOCIATION: Deep and shallow, strongly sloping to steep soils with very plastic or friable subsoils.

Poorly drained to well drained, nearly level acid soils subject to flooding.

 **4** CHEWACLA-WEHADKEE-CONGAREE ASSOCIATION: Deep soils with friable subsoils on flood plains.

Moderately well drained and well drained, gently sloping, neutral or alkaline soils on Diorite.

 **5** IREDELL-MECKLENBURG ASSOCIATION: Deep soils with very plastic subsoils.

Well drained, gently to strongly sloping and steep acid soils on slates.

 **6** GEORGEVILLE-HERNDON ASSOCIATION: Deep, gently sloping silt loam soils with firm subsoils.

 **7** NASON-TATUM ASSOCIATION: Moderately deep, strongly sloping to steep silt loam soils with firm subsoils.

Well drained, gently sloping acid soils on granites.

 **8** APPLING-CECIL ASSOCIATION: Deep, sandy loam soils with firm subsoils.

Moderately well drained, gently sloping acid soils on granites and slates.

 **9** HELENA-LIGNUM ASSOCIATION: Deep soils with very firm subsoils.

Durham County Soil Map Key

The county seat of Hillsborough was in the western half of Orange County, and Durham territory did not develop any villages or towns. What did emerge were rural neighborhoods, tied together by family kinship. Churches, stage coach routes, and post offices were the ingredients around which communities coalesced, and by 1840 a dozen identifiable communities had emerged in Durham territory. Beside each community is the date of establishment of the community post office:

Stagville 1807  
 Dillardsville 1823  
 Red Mountain 1825  
 Midway 1826  
 Fish Dam 1826  
 Herndon's 1827  
 Leathers Crossroads 1830  
 Round Hill 1832  
 Flemington 1833  
 Prattsburg 1836  
 Lipscombs 1838  
 West Point 1839<sup>11</sup>

The three primary social groups in Durham territory during the first half of the 19th century were the planter families, who owned huge plantations and large numbers of slaves, farmer families who made their living on small plots of land, and the slaves, who by 1860 comprised nearly 33 percent of the total population.<sup>12</sup> The planter class in Orange County was very small: in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, ten percent of the household heads owned more than seventy percent of all slaves.<sup>13</sup> Thus fifty to sixty percent of Durham territory's families were small farmers who may or may not have owned a few slaves. (The common historical designation of a planter is an owner of twenty or more slaves.) In Durham territory, as elsewhere, the wealthiest planter families intermarried, forming an extensive network of planter families.

The largest planter in Durham territory on the eve of the Civil War was Paul C. Cameron, grandson of Richard Bennehan. Bennehan settled here in 1768 from Petersburg, Virginia. By 1803, when Bennehan's daughter Rebecca married Duncan Cameron, prominent Orange County attorney, Bennehan owned 4500 acres and 41 slaves. Bennehan and Duncan Cameron formed a partnership to run their adjoining plantations jointly, and the result was the largest plantation in the Carolinas during the plantation period. Duncan's son, Paul C. Cameron,

took over management in the 1830s. He was a careful, scientific agriculturallist, and by 1860 he had built up the plantation to 12,675 acres and 470 slaves in Durham territory.<sup>14</sup>

By the 1850s, five cohesive rural areas (forerunners of the later townships) had developed in Durham territory that represented a remarkable continuity with original eighteenth century settlements. These areas, or neighborhoods, were composed of the descendants of the original settlers, who had stayed on the same land. These five, shown in the diagram on the following page, are: the Flat River Neighborhood in the northeast corner of the territory; the Durham Neighborhood in the eastern central section, the Patterson Neighborhood in the southeast corner, the New Hope Neighborhood in the west central section, and the Little River Neighborhood in the northwest corner.

An analysis of the 1850 federal census reveals that each of these neighborhoods contained approximately 250 households and covered 80 square miles. There were about three households to a square mile, thus one family for every 200 acres. Residents of the neighborhood lived much closer together than these figures might suggest because a large number tended to cluster along creeks and rivers.<sup>15</sup> Much of the county was still woodland. These neighborhoods were extremely self-sufficient out of necessity: the roads were very bad. Until 1855, when the North Carolina Railroad linked Hillsborough and Durham, a horse or carriage trip between the two towns took approximately four to five hours.<sup>16</sup>

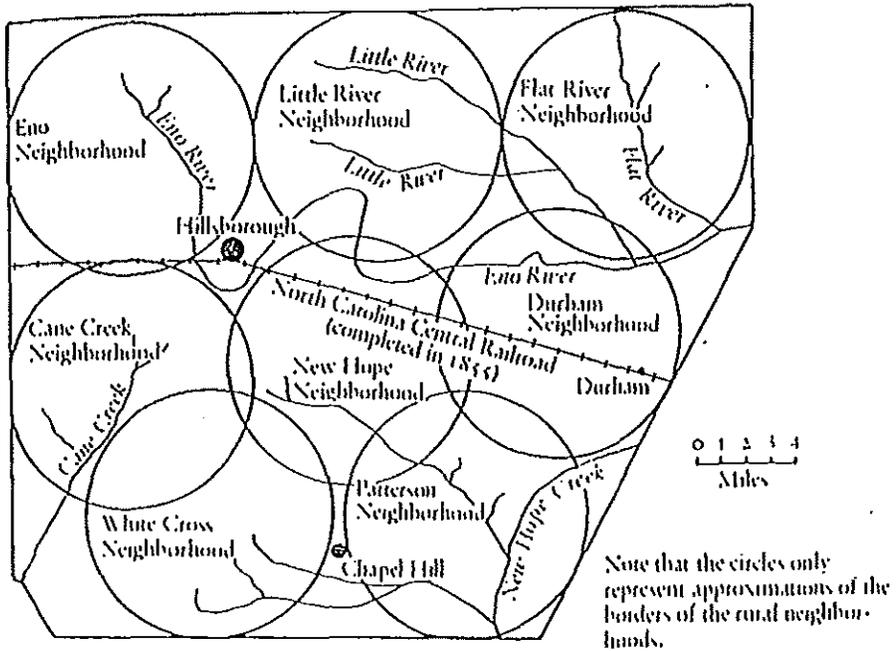
The antebellum economy was based almost totally on agriculture. In 1860 three-fourths of all white men in Orange County reported that farming was their primary occupation. Flour, tobacco and cotton were the crop staples. Regardless of the amount of tobacco, corn, wheat, or cotton that they grew, all Durham territory farmers grew enough food to be self-sufficient. In 1860 half of the manufacturing firms reported in the federal census were grist mills: the other half consisted of blacksmiths, tanners, wool carders, wagon makers, and carriage builders.<sup>17</sup> The only real factory (as opposed to grist mills and small artisans' shops) in the Durham territory in 1860 was the Orange Factory Cotton Mill which manufactured cotton yarn. The mill employed fifty workers. Orange Factory, located on the Flat River in north central Durham territory, was a tiny rural community with its own post office and store.<sup>18</sup>

The types of crops grown on antebellum farms were largely determined by soil type. The soil of the northwest quarter of Durham territory, west of the Flat

Rural Neighborhoods of Orange County, 1850s  
(eastern half became Durham County in 1881)

Source: Kinship and Neighborhood in a Southern Community: Orange County, North Carolina, 1849-1881, by Robert C. Kenzer (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1987), p. 19.

MAP 2 *The Rural Neighborhoods of Orange County, 1850s*



River and comprising the Little River and Eno River valleys, produced low yields of such crops as tobacco and cotton and was used primarily for grain production, largely corn and wheat. The "White Store Fine Sandy" loam of the southeast quadrant of Durham territory grew good cotton. Cotton also grew well in the Congaree silt loam along the lower New Hope Creek and the Eno River. In 1860, the thirty-eight farmers who grew cotton all lived in these soil areas. Most farmers produced three bales of cotton or less, had small amounts of improved acreage, and owned few, if any slaves. Three planters, however--Paul Cameron, John Lipscomb, and Fendal Southerland--all with large amounts of improved land and large numbers of slaves, produced more than 90 percent of all the county's cotton.<sup>19</sup>

During the antebellum period, farmers grew tobacco on a much wider scale than cotton.<sup>20</sup> Tobacco grew best on the Durham, Wilkes and Appling loam soils found in the northeast corner of present Durham County, north of the North Carolina Railroad. The new "Bright Leaf" tobacco which began to replace the old traditional "Dark" variety grew best on siliceous soil near streams. This soil occurred in narrow strips, and few farmers possessed enough of this soil to produce tobacco on a large scale. Most tobacco farmers had about three to four acres under tobacco cultivation. Furthermore, tobacco was the most labor-intensive crop, and few farmers had enough manpower to handle more than a few acres. Durham territory planters who had many slaves produced big tobacco crops. A few slaveholders accounted for nearly one-third of the entire crop.<sup>21</sup>

The history of crop cultivation on the Bennehan-Cameron plantations is extremely well-documented because of the extensive diaries and letters preserved in family papers.<sup>22</sup> Throughout the antebellum period the crops remained basically the same: corn for subsistence, wheat and tobacco for export, cotton to clothe the large work force, wheat to be processed in local mills and sold as flour. Indian corn, which fed both animals and people, was always the most sizeable crop grown. Paul Cameron, who managed the plantations from the 1820s to 1860, noted often the poor quality of the soil on his plantations. He compensated by liberal application of fertilizers, experimenting with various types through the years, ranging from lime in the early years to guano later. Livestock was an important product of the Bennehan-Cameron plantations. The plantations had the most up-to-date equipment available to process their products for sale or use on the plantations, including cotton gins, wheat threshers, leather-tanning machinery, corn shelling machinery, wool

carding machinery. Blacksmith shops, distilleries, and mills were an essential part of the huge plantation.

The Bennett Place [Bennett Memorial Dr., Northwest Durham Quad], is exemplary of the typical Durham County farm of the mid-nineteenth century. Because the farmhouse was the site of Confederate General Johnston's surrender in 1865 of his armies to Union General Sherman, thus ending the Civil War in much of the South, the farm has received considerable research. The one and one-half story log house was occupied by the Bennett family from 1846 until the 1890s, and in 1921 it burned. In the 1960s it was reconstructed from documentary evidence and is now open as a State Historic Site. James and Nancy Bennett purchased the 325 acre farm, with an existing log house, in 1846. The farm was large enough that the family managed to be self-sufficient. They cultivated corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes, and raised hogs. To add to family income, Bennett engaged in a variety of sideline occupations, including being a tailor, a cobbler, and selling horse feed, plug tobacco, and distilled liquor.<sup>23</sup>

In the early 1850s "Durhamville" was a hamlet, merely a post office named after a nearby resident, Dr. Bartlett Durham. In 1854, however, because of Dr. Durham's donation of four acres, the North Carolina Railroad decided to establish a depot on the site. Within the next six years, three stores, two bar-rooms, one hotel, a church, and close to thirty dwellings surrounded the depot. In 1858 Robert F. Morris moved to Durham and established a tobacco manufactory in one of these small houses. The hamlet had about 100 inhabitants.<sup>24</sup> It was near Durham's Station in 1865, at the Bennett House, that the largest troop surrender of the Civil War occurred.

## CONTEXT 2. RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD, 1865-1881:

### Introductory Note:

Rural Durham County presents formidable obstacles for researchers. Just as rural Durham County has the research handicap of being only a part of the governmental entity of Orange County during the antebellum period, during the postbellum period rural Durham County has the research handicap of being overshadowed by the explosive economic growth of the city of Durham. The standard histories of Durham County: Hiram V. Paul's 1884 History of Durham and William K. Boyd's 1925 The Story of Durham are actually city histories. The new comprehensive and lively history of Durham County: Durham County,

by Jean Bradley Anderson (Duke University Press, 1990) redresses this imbalance. The following context discussion owes much to Anderson's research and insights.

Although the South lost the Civil War, Durham's Station can date the birth of its prosperity from the end of the war, 1865. Tobacco had been a staple crop in North Carolina since the eighteenth century, but not until the development of a new method of curing, which produced a fine yellow leaf called "Bright Leaf", developed in the early 1850s in nearby Caswell County, did North Carolina tobacco become profitable. Durham's Station's early tobaccoists Morris, W. A. Wright, Dr. Richard Blacknall and John Ruffin Green were experimenting with producing tobacco products during the years of the Civil War. When both Confederate and Union armies gathered near Durham for the Confederate General Johnston's surrender to Union General Sherman at the Bennett Place, soldiers from both armies raided Green's tobacco factory, stealing his entire warehouse of plug tobacco. This calamity later assured his financial success, for when the soldiers returned to their homes throughout the North and South, they remembered Green's tobacco with such fondness that they demanded more.<sup>25</sup> The growth of the Durham tobacco industry was explosive during the second half of the nineteenth century. This had a profound impact not just on the hamlet of Durham, but on Durham County as well. Tobacco became the most profitable crop grown on Durham County farms. Prior to the rise of Durham as a tobacco manufacturing center, most of the tobacco grown in the Durham territory was marketed in Virginia. During the 1870s, tobacco manufacturers built a system of warehouses in Durham which made Durham the regional center of tobacco trade.<sup>26</sup> Durham County tobacco growers earned higher profits because they no longer had to transport their crop to Virginia. The best tobacco land in the county was east of the Flat River in northeast Durham County; the next best was west of the Flat River in northwest Durham County.<sup>27</sup>

The industrialists who benefitted from Durham's rise as a tobacco factory town in the 1870s were not newcomers to Durham territory, and the old social order did not change significantly as a result of the explosive growth after the war. Both the men who owned the new businesses and achieved previously unknown degrees of prominence and power, and the workers in their factories, were actually playing out traditional antebellum roles. Most of Durham's new leaders were Orange County natives who belonged to the antebellum planter elite. The new industry neither threatened antebellum social structure nor endangered the traditional rural neighborhoods.<sup>28</sup>

The community and commercial centers, stores and mills, changed hands and developed, but remained basically much the same as before the Civil War and before the rise of the city of Durham. At Red Mountain, antebellum store owner George W. Jones got some competition with the establishment of two new stores, operated by R. C. Hill and P. A. Flintom. Orange Factory was producing handsome plaids, gingham, and ticking after the war. A. G. Cox and S. W. Holman operated general stores and W. H. Moise had a tailor shop in the village of Orange Factory. New stores were opened at the settlement of Oak Grove and at Fish Dam. The new community of Dayton formed on Patterson Road during this period, with a post office established in 1868, a Grange Hall, the Mt. Pleasant Masonic Lodge, and Olive Branch Baptist Church being built in the next few years.<sup>29</sup> Water-powered grist mills were still operating, sometimes with new turbine wheels and often under new names but in the same places. Not until the introduction of steam power in the late nineteenth century did the milling industry begin its exodus to the city of Durham, and the water mills gradually ceased operation.<sup>30</sup>

Traditional rural neighborhood life changed subtly but profoundly after the Civil War. As in other parts of the South during Reconstruction, the prewar planters and former slaveholders continued to control most of the land. However, faced with an unstable black labor force, most planters were forced to take land out of production. The average size of white-operated farms fell from 285 acres in 1860 to 198 acres in 1870. As before the war, more than one-third of all white farmers continued to own no land. By 1870 freed blacks had made little economic advancement. Only fourteen percent of black male household heads owned any real estate, and the average size of a black family farm was less than half that of the white family farm. The rest of the black farmers in the county were tenants working either as laborers under the supervision of a white farmer or as share tenants, working without direct supervision.<sup>31</sup> In Orange County by 1880 one-fourth of all white farmers and nearly three-fourths of all black farmers were share tenants. This meant that the landlord furnished the tenant with land, housing, and farm implements and the harvest was divided, with the tenant keeping either one-half or two-thirds.<sup>32</sup>

Because of the emphasis on cash crops such as tobacco and cotton, tenant farms tended not to be self-sufficient. The tenant farmer could rarely produce enough food to feed his family. In the 1870s cotton production rose dramatically and self-sufficiency declined. Durham County agriculture remained diversified, however, never approaching the near monoculture of tobacco which ex-

isted in Granville to the northeast.<sup>33</sup> Much of Durham County lacked suitable soil for growing Brightleaf tobacco, and Durham farmers had a second major cash crop, cotton, which had little importance in Granville County. Even though the city of Durham became one of the major tobacco manufacturing centers in the country during this period, tobacco was not the only crop grown in the county.

### CONTEXT 3. RURAL VITALITY, 1881-1920S

The emergence of Durham as an industrial center during the 1870s, with a rise in population from 256 in 1870 to 3,605 in 1890, had important political implications. In 1881, the eastern half of Orange County and a small portion of northwest Wake County became the new county of Durham County. The growing town of Durham, with its emerging industrial base of tobacco factories, tobacco warehouses, textile mills and other industries was a magnet for country dwellers, but Durham's growth had the initial effect of stimulating the development of rural settlements along the railroads and crossroads of the county. By the early twentieth century the rural population had begun to ebb but not until the widespread availability of the automobile in the 1920s did the metropolitan area snuff out the vitality of the rural settlements.

The 1880s was a decade of scrambling for railroads, but actual construction lasted into the early twentieth century. Up to now, the only railroad that had served the town of Durham was the old North Carolina Railroad built in the 1850s. Four rail lines linking Durham with metropolitan areas to the north and south were begun during the decade: the Durham and Roxboro Railroad, 1885 (connected to Lynchburg, Virginia); the Durham and Southern Railroad, 1887; the Durham and Clarksville Railroad, 1888; and the Durham and Northern Railroad, 1889. In the first decade of the twentieth century, two short lines were built, primarily for the convenience of the lumber industry: the Durham and South Carolina of 1905, which connected with the Seaboard Air Line, and the Durham and Southern of 1906, which connected with the Seaboard Air Line at Apex and the Atlantic Coastline at Dunn.<sup>34</sup>

These new rail lines initially stimulated growth in the countryside, and despite the pull of Durham city, the rural population of the county continued to expand in the 1880s. The 1887 map of the county (copyrighted by Lemuel Johnson but generally known as the Southgate Map) shows many new place names, many of these being stations and water stops on the new rail lines. Growth in the late nineteenth century was greatest in north Durham County, where two sizeable villages, Rougemont and Bahama, grew from loose antebellum crossroads communities. The C. M. Miller Map of 1910 documents more new place names, post offices, railroad stops, schools and stores. By this time two new communities were developing in south Durham County, Lowes Grove and Bethesda.

By 1897 Branson's North Carolina Business Directory lists the names and populations of eighteen towns and post offices outside of the Durham city limits:<sup>35</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Population</u>
Bahama.....	50	Lyndover.....	20
Dayton.....	35	McConn.....	30
E. Durham.....	1,500	Nelson.....	25
Fish Dam.....	300	Red Mountain.....	150
Flat River.....	100	Rougemont.....	50
Galveston.....	50	South Lowell.....	100
Gorman.....	25	W. Durham.....	1,000
Luster.....	45	Willardville.....	100

#### New Communities in North Durham County:

##### Rougemont:

In Mangum Township, in addition to the old Red Mountain Post Office, the 1887 Johnson map shows the Luster Post Office at Bowling's Mill and the Lyndover Post Office on Roxboro Road near the Person County line. Bowling's or Lyndover Academy was established in 1887 nearby. A fourth post office, named Bowling, was established in the same area in 1888. In 1897 the Durham to Lynchburg railroad built through north-central Durham County came about one mile from the Red Mountain community, and a station and a new post office were built there. These were named Rougemont (the French term for "Red Mountain") to identify an aspiring community. Rougemont village (N. Roxboro Rd., Rougemont Quad), containing a portion of its early twentieth century depot and a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, churches and stores, is on the Durham County Study List for the National Register.

##### Bahama:

On the same rail line, to the south, Old Round Hill, known in the 1880s as Hunkadora, became Bahama in 1890 when the railroad came through. Bahama (Bahama Rd., Rougemont/Lake Michie Quads), contains a number of early twentieth century houses and stores, and is on the Durham County Study List for the National Register.

##### Other Communities:

P. 18  
 Still need to  
 mention that  
 Orange Factory  
 gone

South of Bahama, on the Durham to Lynchburg line, a station was built at Willardville to serve Orange Factory, and south of here another station was established at Fairntosh. On the Durham to Roxboro Railroad the Galveston Post Office opened in 1888 in the store of William T. Cole, and farther south on the same line, the old West Point Post Office became McCown's Post Office. Farther south the new community of Bragtown got a post office about 1880.<sup>36</sup> Several important antebellum settlements withered as a result of being bypassed by the railroad: the South Lowell settlement in the northwest section, established in the early 19th century by Massachusetts immigrants, and Orange Factory, a textile mill complex on the banks of the Little River north of the Bennehan-Cameron lands established in the 1850s by the Willard family. Orange Factory continued to operate, however, until 1938.<sup>37</sup>

#### New Communities in South Durham County:

##### Lowes Grove

Along present Alston Avenue, in southeast Durham County, known in the earlier nineteenth century as the "dark corner of the county" because of its sparse population and lack of good roads to either Durham or Raleigh, two new communities evolved during this period. The community of Lowes Grove grew out of the Baptist Church of this name which was organized by the Lowe family and other families in 1889. In 1896 the Lowes Grove Public School was established by the county, using a one-room building moved from the nearby Nelson community. It was known as the "Little Red Schoolhouse" in its new location. The county built a larger building in 1910. In 1913, Lowes Grove and then Bahama became the first communities in Durham County to apply for the new farm-life program. These are believed to be the only two farm life schools established in North Carolina, and the Bahama school is now gone.<sup>38</sup> By 1922 200 farm-life students were enrolled at the Lowes Grove School [S. Alston Ave., Southwest Durham Quad]. In 1915 the first rural credit union in North Carolina, the Lowes Grove Credit Union, was established at the school. This agency helped farmers avoid the usual forty percent cost of credit for their supplies, and the one at Lowes Grove [no longer standing] was one of the first such institutions in the nation.<sup>39</sup> Other boosts to the early twentieth century growth of Lowes Grove were the construction of a macadam road to Durham in 1907, and the construction of a station and siding on the Durham and Southern Railroad there in 1916. Farmers from this section of the county were finally connected to Durham markets.<sup>40</sup>

### Other Communities:

Southeast of Durham, on Angier Avenue, was a Southern railway stop called Bilboa, with a store and post office established in 1904. R. M. Jones ran the general store. The Bethesda community, noted on the Miller Map of 1910, grew up around the old High Point Baptist Church established on Alston Avenue in 1909. In Cedar Fork Township in southeastern Durham County, a "water stop" was established near Cedar Fork Church on the old North Carolina Railroad line near Cedar Fork Church, and the community became known as Nelson.

Yet the growth of Durham in the late nineteenth century ultimately meant the end of almost all of these rural communities, with the exception of Bahama and Rougemont, which continued to grow and enjoyed their palmest days in the early twentieth century, and the new community of Lowes Grove in southeast Durham County. By the early 1900s the other communities lost their vitality and began to fade, if not disappear.<sup>41</sup>

### Agriculture

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, despite the increasing popularity of tobacco products and the convenient new markets in the town of Durham, farmers in Durham County, as elsewhere in North Carolina, had an ever worsening plight. Since the 1870s more and more of them had lost their land and become either tenants, sharecroppers or millworkers. Most farmers were unable to raise enough tobacco to "hit the big time," whether because their land was not suitable or because of a lack of sufficient labor to cultivate the intensive crop. They were unable to cope with the continually falling prices of farm products, the high freight rates, the fertilizer costs and a credit system favoring the creditor over the debtor. In the 1880s they welcomed the Farmers Alliance, but its power was short-lived. During the 1890s the Populist party came into national prominence, and was very popular in Durham County. By the elections of 1900 however, when the Democrats rode racist sentiment to victory, the Populist movement was largely over.

Throughout this period, Durham County farmers were caught in a crisis caused by the depressed economy, the one-crop system, exhausted soils, antiquated farming tools and methods and the credit noose.<sup>42</sup> The result was that half of the farmers in Durham County throughout this entire period were tenants. In

1890, forty-seven percent of Durham County's 1500 farms were tenant farms, and by 1920 fifty-five percent of Durham County's 1700 farms were operated by tenants. In 1930 fifty-three percent of the 1600 farms were tenant farms, and in 1940 fifty-three percent of the 1500 farms were tenant farms.<sup>43</sup> The social problems of illiteracy, credit dependency, poor housing, absence from school, and rootlessness tended to accompany tenancy. Buying on credit cost an additional twenty to seventy percent per year.<sup>44</sup>

Durham County farmers were warned repeatedly about the danger of the one-crop system and its relation to their dependence on credit. Farmers were not growing food and raising livestock to feed their families, because almost all of their effort was concentrated on cash crops rather than foodstuffs. Consequently they bought food on credit from storekeepers. In the early twentieth century, seventy-five percent of the cultivated acreage in the county was in cash crops, the three major ones being:

corn 41%  
tobacco 19%  
cotton 14%

"Truck farming," the cultivation of produce such as vegetables and fruits which were trucked to markets for sale, was another important category of agricultural income for Durham County farmers beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing until the mid-twentieth century when economies of scale in the produce business made locally-grown produce a rarity in county grocery stores. The city of Durham was a big market for farm produce such as sweet potatoes, leafy greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, apples, pecans, and other foodstuffs. Farmers marketed their produce at curb markets, roadside stands, and to grocery stores. These crops not only brought in cash, but also fed farming families.

Although the high rate of tenancy and the over-dependence on non-edible cash crops made life hard for Durham County farmers, rural life still had many compensations and many farmers prospered during the 1880-1920 period. The housing built during this period, including both the dominant Tri-gable Style houses as well as the Queen Anne and other popular style houses, present quite a different picture from the agricultural statistics presented here in the historical context.

#### CONTEXT 4. SUBURBANIZATION OF THE COUNTY, 1920s-1940:

In the early 1900s, hundreds of families left the land and moved to town in search of greater economic security as wage-earners in the cotton mills or tobacco factories. Many families had left in the late nineteenth century. The grandsons of James Bennett, who lived on the Bennett Farm after James and Mary died in the 1870s and 1880s, had moved to Durham to work in the mills in 1890. By the 1920s, less than half of the population of Durham County lived on farms.<sup>45</sup> Miller's 1910 map of the county shows ten macadam roads radiating from town out into the countryside, making it easy to get to town. Even for those families who stayed on the farm, the men often got a job at American Tobacco or Liggett & Myers or the Durham Hosiery Mill, and farming became a secondary occupation. The men who built the small bungalows in the community of Bethesda [Houses, 4000 block Angler Ave., Southeast Durham Quad] in the 1920s worked in Durham and farmed on the side. Bethesda was not a self-sufficient community as Rougemont and Bahama had been in the late nineteenth century, but an agricultural suburb of Durham. Gus Godwin moved from Harnett County to Durham County and built his pyramidal cottage about 1915 on the Durham and Southern railroad line, for which he was the maintenance foreman [Gus Godwin Farm, S. Alston Ave., Southwest Durham Quad]. In addition to his railroad work, he farmed his sixty-acre homestead. Doc Holloway's mineral springs bottling plant and tuberculosis sanatorium [Rivermont Springs, Rivermont Rd., Northwest Durham Quad] depended on the taste and health of the urban population of Durham for its existence.

By far the majority of rural houses dating from this period are of the Craftsman style, which had been nationally popular since the early 1900s. Until the 1920s the vernacular one- and two-story side-gable house type had been the dominant house form in rural Durham County, but only a few side-gables continued to be built after 1920. The Craftsman bungalows found throughout the county are identical to those being built in Durham's town neighborhoods, and so even the distinctions between town and country architecture were beginning to blur during this period of suburbanization.

Not only were farmers coming to town, but city-dwellers began to take a nostalgic interest in rural property in the early twentieth century. Beginning in the 1890s tobacco tycoon Benjamin Duke assembled a 2000 acre farm out in Orange County.<sup>46</sup> Quail Roost Shooting Club in north Durham County was formed about 1902 by a group of wealthy Durhamites and some business as-

sociates from Baltimore and New York. The club was active until World War I. About 1926 George Watts Hill acquired it, built a magnificent Georgian Revival retreat and converted it to a prizewinning dairy farm. It is now a conference center and retreat. When the Flat River was dammed east of Bahama to create Lake Michie in the 1930s, rustic cottages were built along the lake shore by wealthy Durhamites. Two of the earliest and finest of these are Spruce Pine Lodge and the Seaman Cottage, large Craftsman style log lodges.

On Durham County farms, agricultural woes continued as in the previous period, but Cooperative associations and government programs provided some assistance to Durham County farmers. By 1921 fifty percent of the farmers in the county belonged to the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. The boll weevil arrived in Durham County in 1923 and began to destroy cotton crops. The Durham County Board of Agriculture, the Cotton Cooperative Association, and county agricultural agents began to help farmers achieve better yields. Then the opposite problem, overproduction, began to lower cotton profits.<sup>47</sup>

If life on the farm was bleak in the 1920s, the Depression of the 1930s made it harder than ever for farmers to survive. By 1930 the size of the average farm had shrunk to 20 acres, a farm too small to produce an adequate annual return. Government programs had improved yields on cash crops, but this caused prices to fall because of overproduction. The large oversupply of tobacco in 1932 and the low market price resulted in Durham County's huge vote in favor of tobacco quotas in 1933. When the quota program went into effect, over ninety percent of Durham farmers signed up for tobacco reduction, and close to seventy percent of them signed up for cotton reduction. A new farmer's cooperative, the Durham Farmers Mutual Exchange, opened in Durham city in 1930, and a Durham city curb market opened the same year. As farmers were recovering from the Depression in the late 1930s, the war in Europe caused a new setback for cotton and tobacco markets. However from 1937 to 1941 the market for wheat and other grains doubled.<sup>48</sup>

World War II marks the end of this historical context. Its effect on Durham County was to increase dramatically the exodus from the farms to town. As was true throughout North Carolina, few returning veterans chose to carry on the family farm. Camp Butner, a large Infantry training camp built in Durham, Granville and Person counties in 1942, took a large area of Durham County out of cultivation. Four hundred families and 125 farms were displaced in the

county. These farms were in the communities of Ellis Chapel, Copley's Corners and Flat River in the northeast section of the county.<sup>49</sup>

#### Durham County Today:

Northern Durham County today remains a relatively sparsely populated, farm-dominated region. The chief crops, as in the past, are tobacco and grains. Much timber-cutting has taken place, and there is cattle-raising and dairying. The large landholdings of the Camerons and the Dukes and the Calns have been broken down into smaller farms and subdivisions. The major developments are a National Guard Range, Camp Butner, and a new planned community called "Treyburn" in northeast Durham County. Treyburn is being created out of the old Bennehan-Cameron plantation lands. In the southern half of the county, south of Durham city, sparsely developed land at a reasonable price became an asset in the 1950s when the idea was born for a research park drawing on the resources of the state universities in Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Durham (University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Duke University). Under the leadership of then-governor Luther Hodges, the Research Triangle Park for industrial research came into being on five thousand acres located in southeastern Durham County and northwestern Wake County. The Durham County section is now the most highly developed portion of the Research Triangle Park.<sup>50</sup> Another source of development pressure is the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, located in Wake County adjacent to the southeast corner of Durham County.

The preservation outlook for Durham County depends upon a concerted planning effort to identify and protect the fragile historic resources that have survived the past two decades of intense public and private development in the county. At the present, there are approximately 423 historic properties in the county (outside of Durham city limits) that have been recorded. Sixty-one of these are either listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Rising land values have placed the continued existence of all of the privately-owned historic properties in jeopardy, for property owners are burdened with high property taxes if they stay on their land and rewarded with large payoffs if they sell. The quality of life and the character of Durham County as a historic entity depend upon the successful preservation of the historic farms, churches, mills and stores analyzed in this report.

## PROPERTY TYPES

### Introductory Note:

At the beginning of each property type is a <sup>an</sup> alphabetical list of properties within the type that are listed in the National Register or that have been placed on the National Register Study List. In addition, the property types which have relatively few surviving examples--antebellum and Reconstruction Era houses, churches, schools, and mills and stores--contain a complete alphabetical listing of recorded properties in each type, giving name, address, estimated date of construction and brief description. The larger property types--Rural Vitality Period Houses, Suburbanization Period Houses, and Outbuildings--are too numerous to list in their entirety.

### PROPERTY TYPE 1. ANTEBELLUM HOUSES

#### National Register (NR) and Study List (SL) Properties:

- (NR) Bennett Place State Historic Site. Bennett Memorial Dr., Durham vic. Northwest Durham Quad. 1960s reconstruction of early nineteenth century 1 1/2 story log house.
- (SL) Fendol Bevers House. Leesville Rd. Southeast Quad. ca. 1850. Greek Revival I-house.
- (SL) Bobbitt-Aiken Farm. Bacon Rd., Rougemont Quad. ca. 1860. Greek Revival I-house.
- (SL) Bowling-Glenn House. Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1840. Greek Revival I-house.
- (SL) Carrington Farm. Duke Rd, Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1860. I-house.
- (SL) Will Chambers House. Bacon Rd., Rougemont Quad. ca. 1860. Log house.
- (NR) Duke Homestead State Historic Site. Duke Homestead Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1852. (also designated as a National Historic Landmark).
- (NR) Fairntosh. Old Oxford Rd, Northeast Quad. 1810-1823. 2-story double pile Federal house.
- (NR) Hardscrabble. St. Mary's Rd., Durham North Quad. ca. 1779, 1790s.
- (SL) Dr. William Norwood Hicks House. Mineral Springs Rd, Southeast Quad. ca. 1860. Greek Revival I-house.
- (NR) Richard Stanford Leigh Farm. Leigh Farm Rd. ca. 1834.

- 1 1/2 story frame, double pile house.  
 (SL) Rev. John McMannen House. South Lowell Rd., Rougemont Quad.  
 ca. 1840. Transitional Federal/Greek Revival 2-story frame  
 house.  
 (SL) Patterson Farm. Pickett Rd. ca. 1830. Two story single pile  
 frame house.  
 (SL) Gaston Roberts House. Cassem Tilley Rd., Lake Michle Quad.  
 19th c. 2-story frame house.  
 (NR) Stagville. Old Oxford Rd, Northeast Quad. ca. 1800. 2  
 -story frame house.

List of remaining properties in type: (These have not been determined eligible  
 at present but some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation)

- Belvin-Stokes House. end of Riley Dr. near Catsburg. ca. 1830?  
 1 1/2 story frame house.  
 Biddle House. Angier Ave. Southeast Quad. mid-19th century.  
 Greek Revival I-house.  
 Blalock-Garrett House. Harris Mill Rd, Rougemont Quad. 19th  
 century. 1 1/2 story frame house.  
 Bowen Farm Complex. Moores Mill Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1850  
 log house.  
 Bowling-Toms House. Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad: ca. 1850.  
 1 1/2 story log house.  
 Colclough-Bragg House. Creech Rd, Northeast Quad. ca. 1820. 1  
 1/2 story log house.  
 Cameron House. Redwood Rd., Northeast Quad. Ca. 1860, Greek  
 Revival I-house.  
 Carver Family House. Rougemont Quad. ca. 1860. Greek Revival  
 I-house.  
 Chandler House. Stallings Rd., Northeast Quad. Early 19th c.  
 2-story log house.  
 James Chandler House. Baptist Rd, Southeast Quad. ca. 1860. I  
 -house.  
 Coggin-Cannady House. South Lowell Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca.  
 1830. 1 1/2 story frame Federal style house.  
 Amelia Duke Log House. Johnson Mill Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca.  
 1850. Small log house.  
 Evans Farm. Page Rd, Southeast Quad. 1840s. 2-story log house  
 Forsythe-Belvin House. Red Mill Rd, Northeast Quad. Early 19th

- c. 1 1/2 story frame, Federal style house.
- Forty Oaks. Farrington Rd, Southwest Quad. Greek Revival I-house.
- Galveston. Roxboro Rd, Northwest Quad. ca. 1850. I-house.
- Haas-Thrower House. Leesville Rd. mid-19th c.? 2-story frame house, former stagecoach stop?
- Harris-Evans House. Joe Ellis Rd, Lake Michie Quad. 19th c. 1 1/2 story frame house.
- Hutchins Farm. Farrington Mill Rd, Chapel Hill Quad. ca. 1860. I-house.
- Kepley House. Kepley Rd, Southeast Quad. 19th c. 1-story frame house.
- Lipscomb House. Mason Rd, Northwest Quad. Late 18th-early 19th c. 2-story frame house.
- Mangum Family House. Hall Rd, Lake Michie. 19th c. 1 1/2 story log house.
- McCown-Cole-Sparger House. Cole Mill Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. ca. 1813, remodelled 1942. 1 1/2 story frame house.
- John Nichols House. Rogers Rd, Northeast Quad. ca. 1812. Georgian 1 1/2 story frame house.
- Orange Factory Worker's House. Orange Factory Rd., Rougemont Quad. ca. 1850. Small Greek Revival I-house.
- Claiborne Parrish House. Stagville Rd, Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1860. 1-story frame house with center chimney.
- William N. Patterson House. Watkins Rd, Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1845 transitional Federal-Greek Revival 2-story single pile frame house [built for prominent mid-19th century local politician].
- Penny Family House. Freeman Rd, Southeast Quad. ca. 1820. 1 1/2 story frame "Coastal Cottage."
- Riley Log House. Edsel Rd, Rougemont Quad. 19th c. 1 1/2 story log house.
- Snow Hill Rd. Dogtrot House. Snow Hill Rd, Northeast Quad. ca. 1850-70 log dogtrot house.
- South Lowell Farm. So. Lowell Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1811. 1 1/2 story frame house.
- Sutherland Avenue Log House. ca. 1860? 1 1/2 story log house.
- Teasley House. Roxboro Rd, Rougemont Quad. mid-19th c. 2-story log house.

### Description:

Of the forty-three antebellum houses listed above, 14 are mid-19th century frame I-Houses with Greek Revival influence, 9 are one and one-half story frame houses, and 12 are of log construction: either one and one-half story (one room with a loft); a full two-story (hall parlor plan); or dog-trot (two separate log units separated by an open passage). Four are distinctive plantation seats that deviate from these categories. The antebellum houses have a far greater variety of forms and room arrangements than is found in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. This is true throughout North Carolina, and indicates the greater isolation and varied geographic and ethnic backgrounds of the earlier settlers compared to society after the Civil War.

The four distinctive plantation seats were built by in the late 18th and early 19th century by Durham territory's small planter elite. The earliest is "Hardscrabble," seat of the Cain family; next is "Stagville," home of the Bennehans; then the sister plantation, "Fairintosh," home of the Camerons; and the Leigh Farm house in southwest Durham territory. The first three are located along the rivers of northeast Durham territory, the fourth is along the bottomland of New Hope Creek in southwest Durham territory.

Young Richard Bennehan, who came to Durham territory in 1768 from Petersburg, Virginia, to manage a store at Snow Hill Plantation in north Durham territory, made his first home after his marriage in the "Brick House" which he acquired from Tyree Harris in 1776 along with the Harris Plantation. This was the only known antebellum brick house in the county. It is believed to have been a small rectangular two-story house, and it survived until the 1970s when it had become quite delapidated and was pulled down. In 1788 Richard Bennehan built a small 1 1/2 story frame house for his family at his plantation on Old Oxford Rd, known as "Stagville" for an earlier owner. Bennehan, one of the wealthiest men in Durham territory in the late 18th century, lived in this small house, two rooms with a loft, until 1799, when he added a two-story addition to it, creating the present-day Stagville House (Stagville Rd., Northeast Durham Quad). Both sections are well-constructed, with quite simple Georgian-Federal finish, and severely plain on the exterior.<sup>51</sup>

Another prominent family were the Cains, who owned the plantation adjacent to Stagville and had a town house in Hillsborough. The front section of the plantation seat, "Hardscrabble," (St. Mary's Rd., Durham North Quad) was built before 1779 either for the Clenny family or shortly thereafter for the

Cains. It is a handsome two-story frame house, with six rooms, with the rich restrained Georgian finish of the late 18th century, more ornate than Stagville. Sometime later, in the 1790s or perhaps later, the rear two-story section was built almost adjoining, in the newer Federal style. The two were linked by a common roof still later. While the Cains were not on a par with the Camerons in terms of wealth, they were among Hillsborough and Orange County's small, elite planter class.<sup>52</sup>

From 1810 to the 1820s Richard Bennehan's son-in-law, Duncan Cameron, and his wife, Rebecca Bennehan, built their plantation house, called "Fairtosh" [Old Oxford Rd., Northeast Durham Quad] after an ancestral Scottish family estate. This is a large, two-story frame, double pile house with fine Federal finish, and with the front piazza added in 1827 in the Greek Revival style. Fairtosh Plantation had numerous outbuildings, many of which have survived along with the house. One surviving auxiliary building is the Episcopal Chapel, known as Salem Chapel, which Cameron had built in 1826 between Fairtosh and Stagville. This is a small gable-front frame building with Federal trim.<sup>53</sup>

The house at Leigh Farm [Leigh Farm Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] was built about 1834 for Richard Stanford Leigh, who owned 500 acres on the waters of New Hope Creek. Leigh was a small planter compared to the Bennehans and Camerons to the northeast, and in 1860 he owned a mere 16 slaves compared to an estimated 470 slaves on the Cameron Plantation in Durham Territory at this date.<sup>54</sup> Nevertheless, the house which Leigh built is a stylish, double pile federal style one and one-half story dwelling which stands far removed the typical single pile frame or log house of the period.

During the two decades prior to the Civil War, the boom period for the plantation economy, the tobacco counties along the Virginia border, just north of Durham--Caswell, Granville and Person, had larger plantations, with more slaves and greater wealth than old Durham County except for the notable exception of the Bennehan-Cameron Plantation, the largest plantation in North Carolina. The "Boom Era" Greek Revival two-story plantation house which is so ubiquitous in these counties has no known counterparts in Durham County. In general, most of the substantial farmhouses built for moderate-sized Durham territory farms during the 1840-1860 period have no more than vague hints of the prevailing Greek Revival style that is characteristic of their counterparts in the more prosperous northeast piedmont counties bordering Durham to the north. Most of the 14 surviving 1840-1860 two-story houses in Durham

County are plain and functional dwellings with slight concessions in form and interior woodwork to changing fashion. All of these are single-pile [one room deep] and are often referred to by the term "I-house," although the I-house form does not become standardized in Durham County until the late 19th century, when it becomes the basis of the two-story side-gable form and the tri-gable style.

Typical of the extent to which the Greek Revival style appeared in Durham County during the 1840s to 1860s is the Fendol Bevers House [Leesville Rd., Southeast Durham Quad] built by noted civil engineer Fendol Bevers (1822-1883). Built in the 1850s, it has the two-story, one room deep form with a low hipped roof and exterior end chimneys constructed of neatly quarried sandstone blocks, a feature found in a number of mid-19th century Durham County farmhouses. The six-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-six sash on the second story have simple corner block trim, and the front door has a transom, but no sidelights. The full-facade front porch is apparently original. The finish of the central hall plan interior is Greek Revival in its generous proportions, but extremely plain. [Bevers established the boundaries of Durham County when it was formed in 1881, and did the township survey of Wake County in 1869.]

The Duke Homestead [Duke Homestead Rd, Northeast Durham Quad], built ca. 1852 by Washington Duke, is a 2-story frame I-house of more modest dimensions and with less Greek Revival influence than the Bevers House. It is probably representative of middle-class farmers in Durham County. Although now in the Durham city limits, this was rural countryside when built. Its construction represents several economical features: there is one central chimney rather than two gable end chimneys. The second story is not as tall as the first story, as is evident from the 6/3 window sash upstairs compared to the 9/6 sash downstairs. The dimensions of the house and placement of chimney did not permit a central hall; there are just four rooms, each with a fireplace. The front porch is only one bay wide, sheltering the front door, rather than a full facade porch as is seen on the Bevers House.

Another example of a modest-sized antebellum I-house without the standard center hall plan is the Carver Family House [Rougemont Quad]. Although apparently built ca. 1860, it has the squarer dimensions, with a hall-parlor plan and an enclosed corner stair, typical of earlier periods.

Almost no examples of middle-class and subsistence housing survives from before ca. 1840 in Durham County. The majority of farm families during this period lived in small log or frame houses of one story, with a loft. Approximately a dozen antebellum log dwellings are known to survive in Durham County. The Bowling-Toms House and the Colclough-Bragg House are one-story log houses; the Coggin-Cannady House and Belvin-Stokes House are one-story frame houses. These houses have little or no stylish woodwork surviving, and have probably always been plain, sturdy farmhouses. Even relatively prosperous farmers such as James Bennett lived in one-story log houses with lofts, and the Bennett Place State Historic Site contains the carefully reconstructed log house where the Bennett family were living in 1865 when the Confederate army surrendered there to General Sherman. The rectangular log house, one room with a loft, was already on the farm when the Bennetts purchased it in 1846. They added two shed rooms and covered the exterior with weatherboard. They probably built the detached log kitchen which is part of the house complex.<sup>55</sup>

Some typical Durham County farmers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries built two-story log or frame houses. Log examples are the Chandler House and Lipscomb House; frame examples are the Patterson Farm [Pickett Rd.] and the Rev. John McMannen House. Like the one-story houses, the two-story houses have little or no decorative details. Like the I-house type, the log house undergoes no abrupt transformation after the Civil War, and it is difficult to distinguish between antebellum and postbellum log housing in the county.

#### Significance:

The antebellum houses which have survived in Durham County are of paramount importance to an understanding of living conditions and culture in the eastern section of Orange County during this period. Because of the rapid pace of development around the city of Durham during the past few decades there are fewer buildings surviving from this period than in surrounding counties such as Granville, Wake and Orange. Not only the distinctive plantation seats, but even the small antebellum log houses are a vital link with Durham's late eighteenth and early nineteenth century heritage.

### Registration Requirements:

Needless to say, integrity thresholds for National Register eligibility for the antebellum properties should be lower than for later nineteenth and twentieth century properties. Nevertheless the building needs to retain its basic form and enough surviving exterior and interior fabric that it reads as an antebellum building. If a house, it need not necessarily be on its original site, but should be on a site of similar character to its original site. Moved churches, mills, schools and stores are more problematic because of the particular significance of their original sites to their function. The eligibility of some of the antebellum houses recorded in the inventory is as yet undetermined. For example, the Penny Family House [Freeman Rd., Southeast Durham Quad] is a unique example of an early nineteenth century "coastal cottage" in Durham County, but it was moved to this site from nearby in order to save it. All visible exterior fabric, with the exception of the front door, is apparently reproduced. The interior was not available for inspection, and if there is a significant proportion of original fabric surviving on the interior, the Penny Family House might be eligible for the Register.

A clear example of an antebellum house that has lost its antebellum architectural integrity is the McCown-Cole-Sparger House [Cole Mill Rd., Northwest Durham Quad]. The 1-story frame house is said to have been built about 1813 as a miller's residence, but in 1948 it was remodelled with a rustic stone fireplace, Colonial Revival interior trim, shingled dormer windows and picture windows, and therefore is more representative of 1940s architecture than of early 19th century architecture.

A general rule for evaluating antebellum house integrity is that the presence of a high proportion of original fabric is more important than the lack of any changes at all. Even though a house may have been changed by succeeding generations to accommodate larger families and changing lifestyles, it might retain more integrity than a house that has been "restored" by the substitution of new, reproduction materials. Old fabric, even if the result of a later alteration, has more integrity than new reproduction fabric.

**PROPERTY TYPE 2. RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD HOUSES: 1865-ca. 1880**

**National Register (NR) and Study List (SL) Properties:**

- (SL) Willey Ball House. Bahama Rd., Rougemont Quad. 1870s. 2-story frame I-house.
- (SL) Kinchen Holloway House. Guess Rd., Northwest Durham Quad. ca. 1870. Frame I-house.
- (SL) Phil Southerland House. Stagville Rd., Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1880. 2-story frame I-house.
- (NR) Adolphus Umstead House. Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1880. 1 1/2-story frame house with earlier log core.
- (SL) A. K. Umstead House. Jock Rd., Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1870 log dog-trot.

List of remaining properties in type: (These have not been determined eligible at present but some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation)

- Gaston Herndon House. Herndon Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. 1879. Frame I-house.
- "Mrs. Holloway's House." Cheek Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. 1880s? Frame I-house.
- Dr. Edwin Holt House. Orange Factory Rd., Northwest Durham Quad, ca. 1880. Frame I-house.
- Dock Tilley House #1. John Jones Rd., Rougemont Quad. 1879. Frame I-house.
- Tilley-Hunt House. Guess Rd., Rougemont Quad. 1879, enlarged 1923. 1 1/2 story log house.
- Dee Umstead House. June Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad. 1877. Tri-gable I house, one of earliest examples.

**Description:**

Surviving houses from the Reconstruction period of the late 1860s and 1870s are primarily small log dwellings or frame I-houses. The above lists contain only a dozen properties, far fewer than the lists of surviving antebellum properties. It is likely that there are several dozen more Reconstruction period houses surviving in Durham County which are small log houses. Some of the log houses dated to the antebellum period may, in fact, belong in this type. Log dwellings are basically devoid of stylistic features and are very difficult to

date. Another factor working against recognition of these houses is that many of them were probably enlarged during later periods and are unrecognizable. A third factor that may account for this apparent low survival rate is that these houses were small, often crude dwellings built under adverse circumstances, and have not been judged worthy of preservation by later generations.

The A. K. Umstead House and Tilley-Hunt House are two identified examples of this type. A. K. Umstead, who was later one of the earliest tobacco dealers to set up business in the city of Durham after returning from the Civil War, built a modest dog-trot log house, the A.K. Umstead House [Jock Rd, Lake Michie Quad.] for himself near Bahama soon after the war. The Tilley-Hunt House [Guess Rd., Rougemont Quad] built in 1879 is a one and one-half story log house.

The I-house which appeared during the two decades prior to the Civil War, and which has modest Greek Revival stylistic influences, did not disappear with the war. It continued with almost no change through the later 1860s and into the 1870s and 1880s. The last surviving mill house at Orange Factory, an I-house built about 1850, has proportions typical of the mid-19th century: a narrow and relatively deep three bay wide main block. Another good example of this narrow, deep type, firmly dated to 1879, is the Gaston Herndon House [Herndon Rd., Southwest Durham Quad]. Herndon later moved to Durham and became the first undertaker. The house shown on the 1910 C. M. Miller Map of Durham County as "Mrs. Holloway" [Cheek Rd., Northeast Durham Quad], which faces the old Durham to Lynchburg railroad tracks northeast of Durham, is an I-house with the same narrow, deep proportions. It does not seem to appear on the 1887 Johnson map of Durham County, however, and must have been built in the late 1880s.

One striking change that appears on some I-houses is the movement of the chimneys from the gable ends to the rear of the house. A well-preserved example of this variation is the Dr. Edwin Holt House [Orange Factory Rd, Northwest Durham Quad], built ca. 1880 by the first doctor to serve the mill village of Orange Factory. Here the chimneys are located on the rear elevation, and the gable ends have windows. The whimsical sawnwork railings of the two-story front porch show the slight influence of the Downing cottage style popular in the mid-nineteenth century. This rear chimney variation remained a popular option for the I-house into the early twentieth century in Durham County.

While some houses built during this period are clearly old-fashioned, others are up-to-date. The Dock Tilley House [John Jones Rd., Rougemont Quad], the first house which Dock Tilley had built for himself, in 1879, is an I-house that has the wide, shallow proportions typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century I-house form.

#### **Significance:**

Like the antebellum houses in Durham County, surviving Reconstruction Era houses are quite scarce and therefore of great significance. These mostly modest dwellings speak volumes about the hardships of both white and black farmers during this period of turmoil following the defeat of the South and the emancipation of the slaves. Log construction usually indicates a subsistence economy, and a number of the log houses which have survived in the county were probably built during this period, although this is not yet documented. Perhaps the very scarcity of examples is the most significant fact, indicating that little construction occurred during this period, and most of the houses that were apparently not valued by later occupants and have not survived.

#### **Registration Requirements:**

Integrity thresholds for Reconstruction Period houses should be lower than for the more plentiful houses of the later periods. The house must, however, retain its basic form and enough surviving exterior and interior fabric that it reads as a building of the period. One problem for these generally small houses is that many of them were originally small and have been enlarged to meet 20th century space requirements. It is unlikely that the Duke Homestead would have been preserved long enough to have been listed on the National Register and as a National Historic Landmark had it not been the homeplace of tobacco manufacturing pioneer Washington Duke. The A. K. Umstead House was put on the Study List for the Register not because it is a log dog trot, built ca. 1870, but because Umstead became a very prominent civic leader in the town of Durham in the late 19th century. The Will Chambers House [Bacon Rd., Rougemont Quad] was put on the Study List for the Register because it is a two-story tri-gable house which grew out of two log pens, built ca. 1860, and linked by a frame passage. The Wilely Ball Farm [Bahama Rd., Rougemont Quad] built in the 1870s, is an I-house of architectural significance because it exhibits features transitional between antebellum construction and late 19th century construction, and also because it is part of an intact late 19th century farm complex.

<sup>P35</sup>  
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**PROPERTY TYPE 3. RURAL VITALITY PERIOD HOUSES: 1880s-1920s**

**A. The Side-Gable Type (Including the Tri-gable Style):**

**Study List (SL) Properties: (none are yet listed)**

(SL) Blalock-Garrett House. Harris Mill Rd., Rougemont Quad. Late 19th century, ca. 1900. Frame 1 1/2 story house with ornate 1-story Victorian addition.

(SL) Cleveland Bragg House. Geer Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1900. Itallanate frame I-house.

(SL) George Clements Farm. Old Oxford Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. Early 20th century. Frame Foursquare.

(SL) Billie Cole Farm. Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. Late 19th century. Frame 1-story tri-gable house.

(SL) J. W. Cole Farm. Ridge Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1912. Frame 2-story tri-gable house.

(SL) Copley-Latta House. Red Mountain Rd., Lake Michie Quad. ca. 1885. Frame Itallanate style I-house.

(SL) John Thomas Couch Farm. Kerley Rd., Northwest Durham Quad. 1900. Frame tri-gable house.

(SL) A. G. Cox House. Orange Factory Rd., Rougemont Quad. 1890s. 1-story frame tri-gable house.

(SL) Croasdalle Tenant Farms #1,2,3. Crystal Lake Rd. and Croasdalle Sub-division, Northwest Durham Quad. Early 20th century. Frame tri-gable house, I-house and I-story side-gable house.

(SL) Glenn-Veazey Farm. Glenn Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. Early 20th century. Frame I-house.

(SL) Gus Godwin Farm. S. Alston Ave., Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1915. Frame pyramidal cottage.

(SL) Doc Holloway Place (Rivermont Springs). Rivermont Rd., Northwest Durham Quad. 1913. Frame Foursquare.

(SL) Joe Holloway House. Redwood Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1885. Frame Itallante tri-gable house.

(SL) Jones House. Carpenter Pond Rd., Southeast Durham Quad. ca. 1895. Unusually decorative frame tri-gable house.

(SL) William T. Neal Farm. Neal Rd., Northwest Durham Quad. ca. 1890. Frame I-house.

(SL) Virgil Pickett House. Pickett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1880. Frame tri-gable house.

(SL) Thompson Place. Paul Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. 1905. Frame 1-story L-plan house with pyramidal roof.

(SL) Amed Tilley House. Amed Rd., Lake Michle Quad. Frame tri-gable house with projecting center bay.

(SL) Hampton Umstead House #1. Bahama Rd., Lake Michle Quad. 1890s. Frame tri-gable house.

#### Remaining examples of the type:

Approximately 232 houses of the 423 properties having files belong to this property type, and are too numerous to list. The above group of some twenty examples were judged eligible for the National Register during the survey. The remaining examples either do not appear eligible at this time or insufficient information is available to determine eligibility. Some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation.

#### A Description:

Forty-four percent of all of the historic properties recorded in Durham County belong to a single property type: the three bay wide, one bay deep, side gable house. The side-gable house is a long, narrow rectangle with a central entrance, two flanking windows, a center hall, one room deep floor plan, a front porch, and a rear ell extending behind the house at a 90 degree angle. Of the 423 properties having files, 188 of them belong to this group and were built between the 1890s and the 1920s, with a few early examples dating from the late 1870s and 1880s. This is the period when the rural population of the county was expanding, when many new farms were established, and when railroad lines were extended out from Durham to surrounding cities and new communities sprang up in the countryside. The 2-story houses of the side-gable type are usually given the name I-houses, but the 1-story side-gable houses have not yet been given a name.

Two-thirds of these side-gable houses have a decorative front gable that creates the "tri-gable" style. Once the basic box was constructed, the trademark feature of this style is the front, central roof gable which balances the side gables of the roof, thereby creating a tri-gable style. Although the front gable was merely decorative, it appears that most farmers opted for it, since two-thirds of the surviving examples of the type have front gables.

This side-gable house type is so ubiquitous during this period that the middle class farmer having a house built had two basic choices: whether to build a one-story house or a two-story house and whether to have a front gable or not. The style barely varied from one house to another house; only the size varied.

The source of this decorative front gable is quite obviously the Gothic Revival and Downing cottage style of the mid-19th century; however the Gothic Revival cottage style popularized by national pattern books barely penetrated the vernacular consciousness of builders in Durham County or anywhere else in North Carolina.<sup>56</sup> In Durham County, only the 1880s cottage built by Orange Factory superintendent A. G. Cox, the Cox-Pope House (Roxboro Rd., Northwest Durham Quad), exhibits the front cross gable, overhanging eaves, and ornate bargeboards that are hallmarks of the style. The central gable popular in this mid-nineteenth century Romantic Revival style had a steeply pitched form and richly ornamented woodwork. The local Durham county central gable, like the North Carolina vernacular tri-gable style in general, had a shallower pitch and carried more modest trim--generally simply a small window or roof ventilator.

By the late 1870s the local economy had recovered to the extent that a building boom began. A few farmers were beginning to build stylish houses. The earliest known example of a two-story tri-gable house is the Dee Umstead House (Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad), built in 1877, with segmental-arched windows, peaked window lintels and robustly molded eaves. The front gable may have had decorative trim, but it is no longer present. It probably had an ornately trimmed porch, but this has been removed.

The decade of the 1880s saw prosperous farmers building substantial I-houses with a profusion of stylish woodwork including brackets, moldings, windows with segmental-arched sashes and pointed lintels, and heavy turned porch posts and railings. A good example is the Copley-Latta House (Red Mountain Rd., Lake Michie Quad) built about 1885 with Italianate style trim. It does not have a front gable. The Italianate two-story, tri-gable Joe Holloway House (Redwood Rd., Northeast Durham Quad) built about 1885, is one of the most ornate examples of the style in the county of this period.

The longevity and unchanging character of the tri-gable style in Durham County is remarkable. Examples from throughout the 1890s, 1900s, 1910s

and 1920s show little if any change. Jackson Haynes Barbee had his one-story tri-gable Jackson Haynes Barbee House [Grandale Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] built in 1895; local builder James Bowen built his own one-story tri-gable James Bowen House #1 [Red Mountain Rd., Rougemont Quad] in the early 1890s. Although much altered, the center gable has assumed the broad proportions typical of the style for the next thirty years. The Jones House [Carpenter Pond Rd., Southeast Durham Quad] is an unusually ornate two-story tri-gable built ca. 1900. The central gable retains its alternating bands of scalloped and sawtoothed wooden shingles, its round sawnwork ventilator, the fancy sawnwork pendant hanging from the roof peak, and the wide molded eave returns, all trademarks of the Queen Anne style.

About 1904 Millard Coley built his two-story tri-gable house, the Millard Coley House [Coley Rd., Wake Forest Quad]; about 1900 James Bowen, more prosperous now, built himself a two-story tri-gable beside his first house on Red Mountain Road; the James Bowen House #2. The last documented tri-gable house is the two-story tri-gable, the W. W. Ellis House [Orange Factory Rd., Rougemont Quad], built for W.W. Ellis, boiler operator at Orange Factory, in 1924.

#### B. Queen Anne, L- and T-Plan, Pyramidal Cottage, and Foursquare House Styles

These nationally popular house styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were far less favored in Durham County than the side-gable form and the tri-gable style. Approximately forty-four dwellings of these styles were recorded. Like the Gothic Revival, the Queen Anne style that was the national rage in the 1880s was apparently not deemed appropriate or not affordable by conservative Durham County farmers. The only real example of the style in the county which has survived is the one-story L-plan cottage built in the late 19th century for the Rougemont depot master, the James McCutcheon House [Red Mountain Rd., Rougemont Quad]. The house has a stylish bay window projecting from the front ell and the robust trim on porches and eaves that distinguish the style. A railroad man could perhaps afford to make a modern statement, unlike his more traditional neighbors. The Edward Sorrell House [Leesville Rd., Southeast Durham Quad] is a one-story L-shaped house built in the 1890s; the J. Edgar Tilley House [Bahama Rd., Rougemont Quad] is a two-story L-shaped house built about 1915. The Thompson Place [Paul Rd., Northeast Durham Quad] is a combination L-plan and pyramidal cottage, built in 1905. Most pyramidal cottages date from the second decade of the 20th

century, such as the Charles Husketh House [Gorman Rd., Northeast Durham Quad], built in 1918; the Sam Hunt House [Guess Rd., Rougemont Quad], built in 1930 from a Sears and Roebuck kit, is a late example of the style. An early example of the Foursquare in Durham County is the George Clements House [Old Oxford Rd., Northeast Durham Quad], built in the early 20th century. The Isaac Garrard House [Rose of Sharon Rd., Northwest Durham Quad], built in 1922, is a late example.

#### **Significance:**

The significance of the houses of the Rural Vitality Period in Durham County lies not in their scarcity, as with the antebellum houses, but in their plenty. They represent the stability and relative prosperity of Durham County farms during the almost fifty year period when tobacco and cotton were king and the family farm was the backbone of the county economy. The earliest and latest examples of the dominant side-gable form and tri-gable style are of particular importance because they define the period, but it is the entire range of chronology and size that constitutes the significance of this successful house form. The houses speak more fully of their original functions when they are at the center of a farm, with barns, a smokehouse, a potato house, and fields surrounding them. Most of them are severely plain, but their form is synonymous with hardwon middle-class prosperity. As was noted in the historic context for this period, the sheer number of substantial, often imposing farmhouses which have survived from the 1880s to the 1920s offer a moderating balance to the grim image of agricultural life presented by statistics showing the high tenancy rate and declining rural population. Most of the houses surveyed in this property type were likely built for landowners rather than tenants. Tenant houses tend to be small, insubstantial one-story frame houses which were recorded as part of a farm complex.

#### **Registration Requirements:**

Over half of the houses recorded during the Durham County comprehensive survey belong to this property type. To be eligible for the Register, the typical house of the Rural Vitality Period must possess either a high degree of integrity, or must belong to a well-preserved farm complex, or must have some significance under either Criterion A or B relating to events or people important in Durham County history. The integrity threshold for this type is higher than for antebellum and Reconstruction period houses because so many examples have survived. The following properties have been placed on the National

Register Study List for various reasons. The Virgil Pickett House [Pickett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad], built ca. 1885, a 2-story tri-gable farmhouse, no longer functions as the center of a farm, but the house itself has such a high degree of integrity both inside and outside that it is exemplary of its type. The Glenn-Veazey Farm [Glenn Rd., Northeast Durham Quad] is an early 20th century two-story tri-gable farmhouse with some alterations, but it is sited in the center of a ten-acre farmstead with contemporary outbuildings and landscaping that make it a significant survival of farmsteads of its period. The Doc Holloway Place (Rivermont Springs) is a typical foursquare, built about 1912, that would probably not be eligible for the Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance, but it has been placed on the Study List because of its significance as one of the only health resorts known to have been established in Durham County.

#### PROPERTY TYPE 4. SUBURBANIZATION PERIOD HOUSES: 1920s-1940

Study List (SL) Properties: (none are yet listed)

(SL) Hill Forest Log Houses. Hill Forest Rd., Rougemont Quad. 1930s.

(SL) Walter Curtis Hudson Farm. Farrington Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. 1918.

(SL) John and Annie Lou Neal House. Neal Rd., Northwest Durham Quad. 1921.

(SL) Seeman Cottage. off Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad. 1930s.

(SL) Spruce Pine Lodge. Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad. 1930s.

Remaining examples of the type:

Approximately 63 properties of this type were recorded during the survey. A number of these were small groups of houses built along major roads, therefore the total number of individual houses recorded was considerably more. These are too numerous to list. In rural Durham County, outside of the Extraterritorial Area, it is likely that large numbers of this type exist and were not recorded in the survey. This property type needs further study, and the above group of five properties in no way constitutes a definitive list.

##### A. Bungalow Subtype:

During the late 1910s and 1920s the vernacular one- and two-story tri-gable farmhouses gave way to a new style, the Craftsman bungalow style that had become one of the dominant influences on housing nationally. The last known tri-gable house in the county was built in 1924, but the new bungalow style was already being built by 1918, when Walter Curtis Hudson designed and built a new house in the style for his family. The Walter Curtis Hudson House [Farrington Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] is a one and one-half story frame house that makes a dramatic break from the rigid frontality of the I-house type by the large porch which wraps around the corner of the house, sheltering entrances on both the front and side elevations. Other features of the bungalow style are the paired windows on the front elevation and the heavy paired porch posts set on wood shingled piers and supporting a bold arched cornice. The interior room arrangement borrows from the foursquare plan popular during this period, with four rooms arranged around a central chimney and a stair in the corner of the entrance room. Hudson was apparently typical of the generation of farmers who established farms in Durham County in the

1910s and 1920s, for he worked at Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company as well as managed his dairy and produce farm.

Another exemplary bungalow in Durham County is the John and Annie Lou Neal House (Neal Rd., Northwest Durham Quad), built in 1921 for the newlyweds by a contractor from the city of Durham, Telfor Lawrence. This house has a broad side-gable roof which engages a deep front porch. Its front gabled dormer window, bracketed eaves, carefully asymmetrical placement of windows in the gable ends and side bay window characterize it as an accomplished design that probably came from mail-order plans. The interior has an entrance hall with a corner stair, and a paneled wainscot supporting classical posts opens into the parlor with its mantel of transitional Late Victorian-Neoclassical Revival design. The ample and well-landscaped front and side lawn around the Neal House seems to be a characteristic of this style throughout the county. Unlike the earlier farmhouses which were often set quite close to the road, bungalows tend to have a deeper setback, creating a wooded setting for the rustic cottages. Like Walter Hudson, John Neal had regular employment outside of the farm, for he was a high school principal as well as a farmer.

The majority of the bungalows recorded in the Durham County inventory are smaller than the Neal House and sit on well-landscaped small farmsteads along all of the major roads in the county. The bungalows built by the Garrett sons on Garrett Road, the Ernest Garrett Sr. House (Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad) and the Clifton & Leah Garrett House (Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad), were built in 1927 and 1934, and still serve as the seats for small working farms. Archie and Walter Pickett, two brothers who lived on nearby Pickett Road, built Ernest Garrett Sr.'s bungalow in 1927. It is a smaller version of the Neal bungalow. Builder Mack Sims of Carrboro built Clifton and Leah's bungalow, a side-gabled plan with a front gabled wing and a wrap-around porch.

#### **B. Rustic Log and Stone Resort Subtype: 1930s**

Although the majority of Craftsman houses built during the 1920s and 1930s in Durham County are of frame construction, a significant minority are of log or quartz rock veneer construction and reflect the rustic, Adirondack-style resort-inspired brand of Arts and Crafts design. Three large and splendid examples in Durham County are the Hill Forest Log Houses (Hill Forest Rd.,

Rougemont Quad]; Spruce Pine Lodge [Bahama Rd., Lake Michle Quad]; and the Seeman Cottage [off Bahama Rd., Lake Michle Quad].

Spruce Pine Lodge was built in the 1930s for the Stevenson family. Mrs. Stevenson was the granddaughter of Washington Duke. It is a large rambling one and one-half story lodge constructed of thin round logs which project at the corners with diagonally-patterned log gable ends, wide dormer windows, large stone chimneys, and bands of casement windows. The rear porch, overlooking Lake Michle, has latticework posts and railings made of thin saplings, and the interior has polished log walls, exposed ceiling joists, and massive stone fireplaces. Much smaller in scale is the Seeman Cottage, a one and one-half story vacation cottage, also overlooking Lake Michle, built in the 1930s by William Ernest Seeman, the first head of Duke University Press and a colorful outdoorsman. Seeman was the son of the founder of Seeman Printery, a private company.<sup>57</sup> Although of typical bungalow form, with a large engaged porch overlooking the lake, the details are rustic and delightful, with walls of thin round logs, diagonally-patterned in the gable ends, and a splendid interior stair railing with a free-form tree branch balustrade.

The Hill Forest Log Houses were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps to house youths participating in training programs during the Depression. Only slightly more utilitarian than the Lake Michle lodges, this complex consists of two residential cottages and a large meeting hall. All are constructed of thin round saddle-notched logs with projecting ends, diagonally-patterned log gable ends, and rustic porches supported by tree trunk posts. The interiors exhibit finely crafted rustic stone fireplaces and stair railings of free-form tree branches. The rustic log styling of these government camp buildings are, of course, characteristic of CCC camps constructed throughout the United States during the 1930s.

Many small rustic log houses were built in Durham County far from any lake, to serve as ordinary working class housing. These are not crude Depression shacks, but represent the romantic Craftsman log tradition in its most humble form. One example, now in ruinous condition, came to be known as Uncle Tom's Cabin [Rose of Sharon Rd., Northwest Durham Quad] when it was used as a dance hall for blacks in the 1940s. It is a one-story, side-gabled log house constructed of round, saddle-notched logs, with a front shed dormer window and a large front porch with heavy, Arts and Crafts-style detailing.

In east Durham, in the edge of the city limits in the 1930s, a series of white quartz rock Craftsman style houses were built. Among those which still survive are the Choplin Place [Pleasant Dr., Southeast Durham Quad] and several houses on Geer Street, Geer Street Houses [Geer St. between Midland Terrace & Watson sts., Northeast Durham Quad]. These are one and one-half story stone cottages with brick door and window surrounds and Craftsman style tapering front chimneys. Several of these have extensive quartz rock landscaping, including stone walls with decorative arched gates, round planters, and bird bath bases. A Durham husband-and-wife team of stonemasons named Arthur and Lilly Newsome constructed these houses.

#### Significance:

Because of the relatively recent construction date of many of these Craftsman style houses, it is difficult to assess their historical significance. Certainly they represent both a practical and a romantic sensibility in the building industry during the lean years of the Depression, and they reflect not merely a local desire for the rustic life, but a national movement during these years. The quality of craftsmanship in the log buildings of the Civilian Conservation Corps and in the two Lake Michie log lodges indicates the presence of one or more talented craftsmen in Durham County during the 1930s. These buildings need further study to identify these individuals. Some of these craftsmen, such as *the Newsomes* may still be alive and need to be interviewed. Lilly Newsome, the stone mason who worked with her husband in East Durham, is believed to ~~still~~ be alive. In general, the bungalows and Craftsman style log and stone buildings that are scattered on major thoroughfares and quiet roads throughout Durham County tell the story of creativity in the midst of the Depression. By the late 1940s, when residential housing recommenced after the hiatus of World War II, the sentiments of the general population had turned toward the celebration of the past--the Colonial Revival--and toward the standardized brick ranches financed by federal housing programs for war veterans. These houses of the 1920s and 1930s, the first period in which Durham County finally turned away from traditional forms and adopted nationally popular building styles, are as yet unstudied and unappreciated. By the time the public turns its attention to them, many of them may be gone.

#### Registration Requirements:

As with the tri-gable houses of the 1880s-1920s, most of the bungalows and Craftsman style houses in Durham County are typical examples of the type and

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are not currently considered eligible for the National Register unless they retain optional integrity or unless they have associational significance with persons or events (Criterion A). One such bungalow which may be eligible [even though it is a typical example] is the John and Annie Neal House mentioned above. ~~It is an unusually large and typical example of the type and retains exceptional architectural integrity and site integrity.~~ *except for the size, it* The atypical examples of the type would be eligible under Criterion C if they meet the integrity standards. The three most significant rustic log properties: the Hill Forest Log Houses, the Pine Lodge, and the Seaman Cottage have all been placed on the National Register Study List.

because the houses of this period are only now beginning to be recorded in historic architecture surveys, clear standards of significance have not yet been formulated. It is likely that the typical examples of this period in rural Durham County (outside of the extra-territorial area) were not recorded during the 1987-1988 survey. Until this property type is surveyed and analyzed for the entire county, it will be difficult to select the most significant examples.

## PROPERTY TYPE 5. OUTBUILDINGS

Study List (SL) Properties considered individually rather than as part of a farm complex: (A number of outbuildings are listed as part of farm complexes)

(SL) Barn at Forty Oaks, Farrington Rd., Southwest Durham Quad. Antebellum.  
 (SL) Addison Mangum Law Office, Bahama Rd., Lake Michie Quad. 1870s.

List of remaining properties in type:

Outbuildings are too numerous to list in this report. Nearly every Durham County farm that was recorded in the inventory contains several outbuildings.

### Slave Quarters:

Durham County has an unusually large number of surviving slave dwellings. Most notable, of course, are the six slave quarters, all dating from ca. 1850, that survive on the Bennehan-Cameron lands in northeast Durham County. These six have survived of the fifty-five slave houses owned by the Camerons in 1860. The most significant group is the row of four houses at Horton Grove [Stagville Rd., Northeast Durham Quad], one of the farms making up the Bennehan-Cameron lands. Each house is a multi-family dwelling, two stories tall, with two rooms on each floor. The rooms are almost seventeen feet square, separated by central passages, with solid walls filled with brick nogging. These houses are situated on high ground and shaded by oaks. Each room has two windows and a large fireplace. These are unusually large and well-built, revealing the efforts of the Cameron family to build healthy housing for their slaves. Each room may have housed an entire slave family. These are now part of the Stagville Historic Site, owned by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, and have been partially restored. Two other basically identical two-story multi-family slave dwellings survive at Shop Hill, another large farm that made up the Bennehan-Cameron lands. These are deteriorated. At Eno Quarter, another large farm that made up the Bennehan-Cameron lands, there are two one-story saddlebag frame slave quarters with brick nogging and central chimneys. These also apparently date from the 1850s.<sup>58</sup>

A double-pen log slave quarters survives at the Hutchins Farm [Farrington Mill Rd., Chapel Hill Quad]. Each pen is a single room with fireplace, and one room has an enclosed corner stair to a loft. The Hutchins Farm is a well-preserved antebellum farm with a Greek Revival style I-house and several early outbuild-

ings. At the Leigh Farm [Leigh Farm Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] is a log house with a mud-and-stick chimney, a rare survival. It is believed to be antebellum in date and to have been a slave cabin. The Leigh House was built about 1834, and in 1860 owner Richard Stanford Leigh owned some 1000 acres and had sixteen slaves.

#### Stock Barns:

The stock barns recorded in the Inventory tend to be of frame construction, rectangular in form, with either a front-gable orientation or a side-gable orientation, built in the late 19th or early 20th century. The side-gable barns have a central passageway and stalls on either side. The front-gable barns have a central passageway, stalls on each side, and usually have shed wings on each side. These barns are important components in the historic farmscape and serve to increase the significance of a farm complex. Barns were present on antebellum Durham County farms, but only two known examples have survived: the great barn at Horton Grove, built in 1860, and the great barn at Forty Oaks [Farrington Rd., Southwest Durham Quad], built ca. 1860. Paul Cameron, owner of Fairtosh, made the following notation regarding the great barn at Horton Grove: "the best stables ever built in Orange (at Stagville) 135 feet long covered with Cypress shingles at a cost of \$6 per thousand." The barn stands today near the four two-story slave houses and is part of the Stagville State Historic Site. It consists of a main two-story block with flanking one-story wings, all covered with hipped roofs. The barn of Forty Oaks, an antebellum farm with a Greek Revival style I-house, is only slightly smaller than the Horton Grove barn, and is a two-story L-shaped barn with gabled roofs and weatherboard siding.

#### Tobacco Curing Barns:

Tobacco curing barns built in Durham County since the Civil War, as elsewhere in the piedmont, follow standardized construction. Regardless of their age, each is a square (approximately 18 by 18 foot) two-story structure with a gable roof. A one-story shed often shelters one or more sides of the barn. These tend to be located in rows along a farm lane toward the back of property, a good distance from the house. Tobacco was planted in long narrow beds, often along stream banks, and the curing barns tended to be nearby. Perhaps the most significant collection of tobacco barns in the county is the Hill Tobacco Complex [Red Mountain Rd., Lake Michie Quad]. This farm has lost its main farmhouse, but has a number of log and frame tobacco curing

barns, packhouses, several log stables, a log smokehouse, and log and frame tenant houses, all built during the late 19th-early 20th century period. As of 1990, there are still hundreds, perhaps thousands of tobacco curing barns standing in the county. Metal bulk-curing barns, which are prefabricated and portable, have now replaced these log and frame curing barns, and the traditional barns are being allowed to deteriorate and disappear.

Exceptions to these standardized tobacco barns are found at the Shop Hill Quarter of the Bennehan-Cameron lands. Here are two of the few known antebellum tobacco barns that have survived in North Carolina. These are large, two-story heavy timber frame buildings built as air-curing barns. These are very rare survivals of this method of curing which was abandoned in the second half of the 19th century when smoke-cured Brightleaf tobacco became popular.<sup>59</sup>

#### Pack Houses:

A third type of barn found commonly on Durham County farms is known as the "pack house." It is a square or rectangular two-story structure, generally with a gable front and a door in each level. Most pack houses are of frame construction, but occasionally they are of log, as is the pack house at Thompson Road House Ruin [Thompson Rd., Northeast Durham Quad]. These barns were primarily for tobacco storage.

#### Potato Houses:

The potato house, used for curing sweet potatoes prior to carrying them to market, is a frequent outbuilding type on farms dating from the 1920s and 1930s. The basic form is a one-story, rectangular log structure with a front gable door and a gable roof with no gable end covering. Along the side walls are built-in shelves to store the potatoes, and in the center is a stove to hold the fire. The walls and roof are often packed with sawdust for insulation. Green sweet potatoes were cured right after being dug from the fields. Examples survive at the Gus Godwin Farm [S. Alston Ave., Southwest Durham Quad] and at the Ernest Garrett Sr. Farm [Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad].

#### Smokehouses:

The smokehouse, where bacon and pork shoulders were preserved by slow curling, is probably the most common type of outbuilding found on Durham County farms. It is a small log or frame structure with a gabled roof and a single door in the front gable end. Earlier smokehouses tend to be of log, with a roof overhang sheltering the door. The usual location is beside or behind the main house. The log smokehouse with front overhang at the Willey Markham House [Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] is beside the house; the frame smokehouse at the Billie Cole Farm [Garrett Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] is also beside the house. Behind Croasdalle Tenant Farm #2 [Crystal Lake Rd., Northwest Durham Quad] is an unusual frame smokehouse consisting of a front gabled central block with smaller flanking wings. It has brick flues at the end of each wing, and each section has a front door. This above-average sized smokehouse was built in the early 20th century to cure pork raised on Croasdalle Farm, a huge dairy farm northwest of the city of Durham. The unusual brick outbuilding at the J. W. Cole Farm [Ridge Rd., Southwest Durham Quad] may be a smokehouse. It has the same form as frame or log smokehouses, but has cast-iron ventilators in the side walls near the eaves. It may date from ca. 1914 when the farmhouse was built.

#### Significance and Registration Requirements:

Outbuildings tell the story of life on a Durham County farm, where horses, mules and cattle needed to be protected from the elements during the winter, hay needed to be stored, pigs were slaughtered and hams cured, tobacco was cured and stored, and water drawn from wells. Most of the outbuildings on Durham County farms are not eligible for the Register except as part of a farm complex. Rare surviving examples of antebellum outbuilding types, such as slave quarters, massive barns, and air-curing tobacco barns, may be eligible individually. For example the antebellum barn at Forty Oaks Plantation has been placed on the Durham County Study List, and it is certain that the great barn at Horton Grove is of sufficient significance to be listed individually, if it were not already listed as part of the Stagville Plantation. Likewise, the air-curing tobacco barns at Shop Hill may be eligible if they have not deteriorated to the point that they have lost their structural integrity. Slave quarters with a minimum level of integrity would probably be eligible because of their extreme scarcity. In general, however, Durham County outbuildings are important as parts of agricultural and domestic complexes.

## PROPERTY TYPE 6. CHURCHES

### National Register (NR) and Study List (SL) Properties:

(SL) Berea Baptist Church and Cemetery. Fayetteville Rd, Southwest Durham Quad. Turn-of-the-century, stylish frame church, auditorium style, with cemetery. Congregation established in 1855.

(NR) Chapel of Ease (Salem Chapel), Fairntosh Plantation, Old Oxford Rd., Northeast Durham Quad. 1826-1827.

List of remaining properties in type: (These have not been determined eligible at present but some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation)

Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church, Leesville Rd, Southeast Durham Quad. ca. 1927 school remodelled as church.

Bethel Chapel. S. Alston Ave, Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1930 front gabled church, twin towers.

Bethesda Baptist Church and Cemetery. S. Miami Blvd, Southeast Durham Quad. 1940 brick Classical Revival style church.

Cedar Fork Baptist Church. Miami Blvd., Southeast Durham Quad. 1932 front gabled brick building, much altered. Congregation established 1805.

Ellis Chapel United Methodist Church. Ellis Chapel Rd, Lake Michle Quad. ca. 1900 small front gable frame church, very plain.

Eno Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery. Old Oxford Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. Early 20th century front gabled frame building, remodelled in 1976.

Ephesus Baptist Church Cemetery. Pope Rd, Southwest Durham Quad. Cemetery dates from early 20th century, church building is mid-20th century.

Massey's Chapel United Methodist Church. Fayetteville Rd, Southwest Durham Quad. ca. 1900 stylish Gothic Revival style front gable frame church. Congregation established 1855.

McMannen Methodist Church Cemetery. Neal Rd, Northwest Durham Q. Late 19th century cemetery, but church building is of recent date.

Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church. Rose of Sharon Rd, Northwest

- Durham Quad. 1940s brick Colonial Revival style building. Congregation established in 1930s.
- Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Stagville Rd, Lake Michie Quad. 1938 front gabled frame church with twin towers built for black congregation.
- Neuse River Baptist Church. Cheek Rd, Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1937 cruciform frame Classical Revival Church. Congregation established ca. 1837.
- Olive Branch Baptist Church. Olive Branch Rd, Southeast Durham Quad. 1925 brick, auditorium type Baptist Church.
- Orange Grove Baptist Church. North Roxboro Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. Early 20th century front gable frame church, very plain.
- Riverview United Methodist Church. Orange Factory Rd, Rougemont Quad. Unusual frame church built in the 1890s to serve Orange Factory village. It consists of a longitudinal hip block with a front vestibule.
- Rose of Sharon Baptist Church Cemetery. Old Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. Late 19th century cemetery, present church dates from 1980s.
- Ross Primitive Baptist Church. Cheek Rd, Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1900 small frame front gabled building, very plain.
- Rougemont United Methodist Church. Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad. Classical Revival frame building, cruciform plan, built in the 1920s. Congregation established in 1875.
- Union Grove School/Church. Roxboro Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1914 gable front frame building built as a school but converted to a church soon afterward.

#### Description:

These twenty-one historic church buildings recorded in the survey date from 1826 to the 1940s, and the congregations were established from the early 19th century into the 20th century. The largest number of surviving historic churches are of the United Methodist denomination; the second largest number are Baptist. The only surviving antebellum church building is the 1826 Chapel of Ease (Salem Chapel) on Fairntosh Plantation. This is no longer in use. The next oldest church building is Riverview United Methodist Church, built in the 1890s to serve the mill village of Orange Factory. This building has a unique

architectural form: the entrance is in the longitudinal elevation rather than the gable elevation. A number of other church buildings date from the first decade of the 20th century, and all of these fit the front gable form that is typical of rural churches of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Two other architecturally significant churches are Massey's Chapel United Methodist Church and Berea Baptist Church, both built ca. 1900 and good examples of the rural Gothic Revival style applied to churches.

#### Significance:

Despite the fact that the surviving historic churches are not as old as those which remain in some other piedmont counties, the late 19th and early 20th century churches that have been preserved are architecturally important, for their simple Gothic Revival and vernacular designs are representative of the stable, traditional neighborhoods which they served during their periods of historic significance (Criterion C). The cemeteries are for the most part small, as are the church buildings, as is logical in lightly populated rural agricultural communities. The preponderance of United Methodist and Baptist congregations demonstrates the denominational composition of the rural population (Criterion A).

#### Registration Requirements:

For a church to be eligible for the National Register, it is not enough for the cemetery to be over fifty years of age or for the congregation to be old. The church building itself needs to be at least fifty years old, to retain its architectural integrity, and to be a good example of this property type or to have special significance in connection with associated events or persons. An early 20th century church that is a well-preserved and typical example of its type might be eligible for the Register under Criterion C, for architectural significance, if it is one of the most intact examples in the county.

Berea Baptist Church has been covered recently with vinyl siding, but it is extremely intact on the interior. Because of its strong architectural interest, early date of establishment, and interior integrity, it is potentially eligible for the National Register and has been placed on the Study List. Ross Primitive Baptist Church is one of a few surviving Primitive Baptist churches in the county, and the building itself appears to be ca. 1900. If it retained its integrity, it would be potentially eligible. However the aluminum siding and replacement front door make its integrity questionable. It was not possible to examine the interi-

Roth - -

P. 53

When we met to discuss  
the revisions, I told you  
that Cain Sch. 881 was on  
the SL (and you noted the  
2nd direct), but before you  
left I pulled the file  
<sup>to show you that I</sup> realized that I had only  
sent a SL application.  
It surely is eligible, but  
not get on SL. crb 1-23

or to see the extent of change. Massey's Chapel and Riverview Methodist Church appear potentially eligible because of their special architectural significance. In addition, Riverview's association with the now-destroyed Orange Factory Mill Village gives it added significance.

#### PROPERTY TYPE 7. SCHOOLS

Study List (SL) Properties: (none are yet listed)

- (SL) Cain School. St. Mary's Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. ca. 1910.  
Intact gable front frame Rosenwald school built as public school for blacks.
- (SL) Hebron School. Hamlin Rd, Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1920.  
frame, front gable public school for whites. Substantial and intact on exterior.
- (SL) Lowes Grove School. S. Alston Ave. at N.C. 54, Lowes Grove, Southwest Durham Quad. Large complex built from ca. 1902 to 1930s.

List of remaining properties in type: (These have not been determined eligible at present but some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation. There are an unknown number of over-fifty year old schools that have not yet been recorded.)

Hillandale School. Corner of Rose of Sharon and Cole Mill Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. One-story, side-gabled frame public school built in the 1920s.

Parrish School Fragment. Stagville Rd, Lake Michie Quad.  
Late 19th century one-story frame wing of Parrish School, now incorporated into ca. 1950 house.

Rougemont School. Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad. 1935  
H-shaped brick Colonial Revival style public school, with front porch that is an unusual feature.

Union Grove School. Roxboro Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1914 front gable frame school.

#### Description:

Only seven pre-1941 schools were recorded in the Durham County survey. But at least a few more have survived and need to be recorded. All of the surviving examples date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Cain School, ca. 1910, Union Grove School, ca. 1914, and Hebron School, ca.

1920, are one-story frame, gable front buildings containing one or two classrooms. The only known 19th century school that has survived is a fragment of the Parrish School, a small frame building. The "Little Red Schoolhouse," the oldest building of the Lowes Grove School complex, is a one-room gable front frame building built in 1902. It is likely that many of the 19th century schools would have been of log construction, and a few may still survive unrecognized. Beginning in the early 1920s, the statewide school consolidation movement resulted in the construction of large one and two-story brick schools in larger communities throughout the county. Two of these, the Rougemont School of 1935 and the Lowes Grove School campus, dating primarily from the 1920s, have been recorded. These have Neoclassical Revival massing and decorative details, and possess a civic monumentality. An unknown number of other schools of this type exist in Durham County and need to be recorded.

#### **Significance and Registration Requirements:**

This property type has almost disappeared from Durham County, and the surviving examples are extremely significant for this reason. Any pre-1941 school building that is substantially intact and is on its original site is potentially eligible for the National Register. The Parrish School fragment has obviously lost its integrity because of being partially demolished and incorporated into a dwelling. The ca. 1910 Cain School is the only known historic black school that has survived. It is extremely intact example of a Rosenwald School (a group of over 800 schools for blacks constructed in North Carolina between the 1910s and early 1930s) and has been placed on the Study List. The Hebron School, although serving as a dwelling since the late 1920s, retains its exterior architectural integrity. If the interior changes have not destroyed all original school finish, it is potentially eligible as a rare surviving frame public school from the era just prior to consolidation, when large brick schools were built to serve large county regions. It has been placed on the Study List. The finest surviving school complex is the Lowes Grove School, a "farm life" school built during the early 20th century during the period when public high schools were beginning to be established. A "farm life" school was a boarding school that gave students agricultural training. Lowes Grove School contains six architecturally significant brick buildings of 1920s Neoclassical Revival style, and a tiny frame "one room" school built in 1902. It had the first farmer's credit union in North Carolina about 1915, but this small building is now gone. The school is on the Durham County study list, but is being sold off as surplus property by the Durham County School Board and may not be saved.

**PROPERTY TYPE 8. RURAL MILLS AND STORES**

**Study List (SL) Properties:** (none are yet listed)

(SL) **Bowling Mill.** Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1850 2 1/2 story frame grist mill.

(SL) **Catsburg Store.** Jct of Old Oxford and Hamlin roads, Northeast Durham Quad. Substantial 1920s two-story, front gable frame store.

List of remaining properties in type: (These have not been determined eligible at present but some of them may prove to be eligible after further evaluation)

**Preston Andrews Service Station.** N. Roxboro Rd, Rougemont Quad. 1930s frame gas station, restaurant and dance hall.

**Bahama Service Station.** Bahama Rd, Rougemont Quad. 1930s frame box-and-canopy type station.

**W. A. Beasley House and Store.** Angler Ave., Southeast Durham Quad. 1920s bungalow with adjacent stone store.

**H. O. Carpenter House and Store.** Baptist Rd, Southeast Durham Quad. Small 1920s house and adjacent frame store.

**Crossroads Store.** Roxboro Rd, Rougemont Quad.

**Geer Street Stores.** Geer St, Northwest Durham Quad. Two frame box-and-canopy type stores of early 20th century date.

**Frank Hogan Store.** Roxboro Rd, Northwest Durham Quad. Tiny frame box-and-canopy store built ca. 1937.

**Knapp of Reeds Masonic Lodge/Store.** Bahama Rd, Rougemont Quad. 2-story front gabled frame building built in 1905 to serve as lodge hall upstairs and commercial space on first floor.

**Sam Mangum Store.** Hampton and Hall Rds, Lake Michie Quad. 1930s brick box-and-canopy store.

**Parrish Store.** Bahama Rd, Rougemont Quad. ca. 1920 doctor's office, frame front gable form. Converted to a store in 1930s.

**Red Mountain Post Office.** Red Mountain Rd, Rougemont Quad. Late 19th century 1 1/2 story frame house that is said to have also functioned as a post office.

**Suggs Grocery and Gas Station.** Jct. of Geer and Club

Boulevard, Northeast Durham Quad. ca. 1925. Large 2-story brick store with second floor living quarters.  
 Thompson's Grocery Store. Page Rd, Southeast Durham Quad.  
 1930s front gable frame store.

**Description:**

The one grist mill and fourteen country stores recorded in rural Durham County are architecturally plain and typically small and modest in appearance. The lone surviving mill, Bowling Mill, is a small two and one-half story weatherboarded building typical of nineteenth century grist mills throughout the piedmont. The heavy timber frame provides three floors for the water-powered mill machinery still in place. West Point on the Eno Mill is largely a reconstruction, and Bowling Mill is the last authentic example of the numerous mills once found along the Eno, Flat and Little Rivers in northern Durham County. Because of its high degree of intactness, Bowling Mill is of great significance.

The typical late 19th century rural store is a small, frame gable-front one-room building. About 1915 the typical form changed to the box-and-canopy--a one-room gabled or hip roofed building with a front porte-cochere sheltering the gas pumps.

**Significance:**

In a county as sparsely populated as Durham, the rural neighborhood mill and store was usually the economic and social focus of the entire neighborhood. Farmers were able to pick up mail or read the numerous broadsides announcing matters of community interest. Not only was the farmer able to have the miller grind his corn and wheat into flour, he could buy everything he needed to supplement his diet that he did not grow on the farm, and was usually able to buy it on credit. In addition, it was at the neighborhood mill and store that one heard the local news and gossip. The rural miller or merchant often was a relative of many of the neighboring farmers. At larger commercial centers, the county sheriff came at appointed times to collect taxes and the local militia met several times a year. Holidays and election days were celebrated there as well. The backcountry merchants who operated the stores and the rural industrialists who owned the mills were often one and the same. Such was the case at West Point on the Eno River in Durham County. Today, miller John Cabe McCown's house, built ca. 1850, still stands here, and the adjacent grist mill and blacksmith shop have been reconstructed to serve as a county park.

In the 19th century there was also a general store, a sawmill, a cotton gin, a distillery, and a post office located at West Point, which served a community of some three hundred farm families.

The nineteenth century mills and stores have almost completely disappeared in Durham County. The few surviving examples have great associational importance under Criterion A. Only one historic mill has survived in Durham County, Bowling Mill, located on the Flat River where Red Mountain Road crosses it. It has been placed on the Study List. No antebellum stores have survived. Architecturally, only a few Durham County stores are distinctive: the Knapp of Reeds Masonic Lodge and Store in Bahama and the Suggs Grocery and Gas Station on Club Boulevard east of the city of Durham. The Masonic Lodge, built in 1905, is the only rural lodge known to have been built in the county. The Masonic lodges located in such urban centers as Hillsborough and nearby Chapel Hill in the 19th century were composed of affluent landowners, but in rural Durham County Masonic lodges were not generally present. Suggs Grocery and Gas Station, built about 1925, represents a suburban commercial form--the brick combination grocery and gas station with upstairs living quarters for the store owner--that is unusual for Durham County. The small front-gabled early 20th century stores that survive represent the early automobile era. They are located at the crossroads of primary rural roads rather than associated with water-powered mills as were their 19th century predecessors. The most distinctive country store recorded in Durham County is the Catsburg Store, a 1920s two-story frame, front gable store with a one-story front canopy. Its plain weatherboarded exterior and metal roof are typical of rural Durham County stores, but it occupies a prominent crossroads near an earlier junction on the Durham-Lynchburg Railroad, and is associated with prominent county sheriff "Cat" Belvin, and is therefore eligible for the Register both as an exemplary representative of the type and for its associations.

#### Registration Requirements:

Any intact grist mill located on one of the county's waterways would be eligible for the Register because of the scarcity of this important property type. Any pre-1941 country store that is substantially intact and on its original site is potentially eligible for the Register because of the scarcity of this property type and because of its associational value.

## FOOTNOTES

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- 2 William Few, "Autobiography of Colonel William Few of Georgia," The Magazine of American History, November, 1881. As reported in William K. Boyd, The Story of Durham. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1925).
- 3 Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina. (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1963. p. 78.
- 4 Kenzer, p. 7.
- 5 Lefler and Newsome, p. 102.
- 6 "Tar-Neuse Inventory," Durham County.
- 7 Boyd, p. 17.
- 8 Ronald A. Thomas, et al. "A Report on Two Archaeological Surveys within Proposed Alternatives for a Reservoir for the City of Durham." Newark, Del.: Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., 1982. p. 1-27.
- 9 Boyd, pp. 3-4.
- 10 Boyd, p. 17.
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- 12 Kenzer, p. 25, 29.
- 13 Kenzer, p. 38.
- 14 Kenzer, p. 44.
- 15 Kenzer, p. 10.
- 16 Kenzer, p. 11.
- 17 Kenzer, p. 30.
- 18 Kenzer, p. 30.
- 19 Kenzer, 34-35.
- 20 Kenzer, p. 35.
- 21 Kenzer, pp. 35-36.
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- 23 Brochure on the "Bennett Place" distributed by the North Carolina Historic Sites Section, and Arthur C. Menius, III, "James Bennitt: Portrait of an Antebellum Yeoman," *North Carolina Historical Review*, LVIII, No. 4 (Oct., 1981), 305-326.
- 24 Kenzer, 31-32.
- 25 Boyd, p. 56-59.
- 26 Kenzer, p. 115.
- 27 Anderson, Durham County, p. 144.
- 28 Kenzer, p. 4.
- 29 Anderson, Durham County, p. 149.
- 30 Anderson, Durham County, p. 148.
- 31 Kenzer, pp. 102-105.
- 32 Kenzer, p. 112.
- 33 P. M. Hale, In the Coal and Iron Counties of North Carolina. (New York: E. J. Hale and Son, 1883), pp. 405,406 and 416. Production of tobacco recorded in the Federal Census of 1880 showed that Granville County produced over four and one half million pounds of tobacco compared to Orange County's approximately one million pounds.
- 34 Anderson, Durham County, pp. 184-184.
- 35 Branson's North Carolina Business Directory. Raleigh, N.C.: Levi Branson, 1897. p. 243.
- 36 Anderson, Durham County, pp. 195-196; also "Tar Neuse Inventory of Durham County."
- 37 Orange Factory Survey File, State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N.C.
- 38 Information in Lowes Grove School Survey File, State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N.C.
- 39 Anderson, Durham County, pp. 270-272.
- 40 Anderson, Durham County, p. 272-273.
- 41 Anderson, Durham County, p. 270.
- 42 Anderson, Durham County, p. 311.
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- 45 Anderson, Durham County, p. 312.
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- 47 Anderson, Durham County, pp. 311-312.
- 48 Anderson, Durham County, pp. 351-352.
- 49 Anderson, Durham County, p. 383.

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- 57 Telephone interview with Jean Bradley Anderson, Durham, NC, January 4, 1991.
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## SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY

The Inventory of Durham County (outside of the city limits of Durham) was accomplished in two phases. The first phase, conducted through a Survey and Planning Grant from the North Carolina Preservation Office, was completed between June 1987-June 1988 by Jane E. Sheffield, principal investigator, and Marlan K. O'Keefe, assistant. Sheffield is a preservationist with an M.A. in landscape design; O'Keefe is a preservationist whose speciality is architectural photography. Sheffield prepared computer forms on the properties and O'Keefe did the photography and mapping. Approximately 272 properties were surveyed. A draft survey report was prepared by Sheffield in 1988.

The second phase, survey of the extraterritorial area of the city of Durham, was conducted between March and May, 1990 with funding from the Durham Joint City-County Planning Department by M. Ruth Little of Longleaf Historic Resources, a consulting firm. Approximately 150 properties were recorded, photographed and mapped by Little. Little has a Ph.D. in art history and served as National Register Coordinator and Survey Coordinator in the North Carolina Preservation Office from 1986 to 1989.

Little prepared this final Multiple Property Documentation Form in the summer of 1990.

Although both phases were intended to be comprehensive surveys, the first phase was actually not fully comprehensive, since numerous historic properties were not surveyed by the principal investigator. It will be desirable to update this survey as soon as possible. Examples of certain types of buildings that may not have been adequately recorded are historic public schools. Two known historic schools, Lowes Grove School on Hwy 54 and Oak Grove School on NC 98, were not surveyed.

Over two-thirds of the rural properties recorded are in the northern half of the county. This geographic concentration is due both to historic development patterns and to recent development pressure from the Research Triangle Park area and the Raleigh-Durham International Airport located in Wake County adjacent to the southeast quarter of the county.

All of the original survey materials are on repository in the North Carolina Preservation Office; copies are filed at the Durham City-County Planning Department, Durham. All properties surveyed were evaluated according to Na-

tional Register criteria. At the July, 1988 meeting of the North Carolina Professional Review Committee, a total of 28 individual properties and two rural districts were placed on the National Register Study List. The individual properties are either dwellings or farm complexes. The two rural districts are the Bahama District, a crossroads community in north central Durham County, and the Rougemont District at the northern boundary of the county near Person County. These contain dwellings, stores, a railroad depot, a Masonic lodge, and churches.

At the July 12, 1990 meeting of the State Professional Review Committee, an additional 16 properties in the extraterritorial area were placed on the National Register Study List. This brings the total number of Study List properties generated by the county and extraterritorial survey to 46 properties.

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