

Historic and Architectural Resources
of
Harnett County, North Carolina, ca. 1770-1950

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December 2008

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Introduction

Harnett County, established in 1855 from Cumberland County, is situated in southeastern North Carolina and includes portions of the state's Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. Comprising 595 square miles, the county is bounded on the west by Lee and Chatham Counties, on the north by Wake County, on the east by Johnston and Sampson Counties, and on the south by Hoke, Moore, and Cumberland Counties. Harnett's soils are rich in clay and sand, and a portion of the county is covered by the sandhills that stretch into South Carolina and have an elevation ranging from 300 to 500 feet. Early shorelines, now far inland, deposited sedimentary soils that can range from deep gray in color where fertilized, to red where iron oxide is present. These poorly drained soils traditionally have resulted in smaller farms than those found in the state's far eastern counties. The area's pine forests have produced valuable timber and naval stores, while its waterways have provided transportation and hydroelectric power. The county's major river is the Cape Fear, which runs southeasterly from the North Carolina Piedmont to the Atlantic Ocean, dividing the county's eastern and western sections.¹

Early County Development, 1730s to 1840s

European Settlement

Both Iroquoian and Siouan-speaking peoples occupied present-day Harnett County during the period of contact with Europeans. Siouan-speakers included the Occaneechi and Sissipahaw, while the most dominant group of Iroquois were the Tuscarora. The Tuscarora's territory included most of the North Carolina Coastal Plain, stretching from the Neuse River to the Pamlico River, and from the Cape Fear River to the present-day Virginia border. Unfair trading practices and European settlement on the Tuscaroras' lands led to a series of armed conflicts from 1711 to 1715. Although the Tuscaroras almost succeeded in destroying settlements in the western Coastal Plain, they suffered terrible losses with an estimated 1,000 killed and 1,000 sold into slavery. By 1754, only 301 Tuscarora were still living in North Carolina, and by 1766, a majority had moved north to join the New York and Pennsylvania Iroquois. In 1801, the group in New York sold their remaining lands in North Carolina.²

The Tuscaroras' defeat, along with other factors, encouraged European settlement in the upper Cape Fear River valley. Local authorities worked to clarify land policies, ensuring settlers clear title. In 1729, seven of the eight Lords Proprietors sold their interests to the British Crown, making North Carolina a royal colony. The

¹ William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), pp. 4 and 9-10; David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), p. 115; United States Department of Commerce, "US Census Bureau," <http://www.census.gov>, accessed 14 August 2002.

² Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 22-24; H. Trawick Ward and R. P. Stephen Davis Jr., *Time Before History: The Archaeology of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), pp. 22-25 and 274.

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subsequent royal governors encouraged settlement by improving roads, bridges, and channel markers, increasing the likelihood that farmers would be able to transport goods to a market. These improvements also prompted the establishment of grist and sawmills and the beginning of naval stores production.³

European settlement began in the present-day Harnett County area between the 1730s and 1740s. Three major groups moved to the area on the northern stretches of the Cape Fear River, joining the English settlers who came from Virginia and South Carolina. Highland Scots settled in the greatest numbers, emigrating directly from Scotland. By 1754, the area had become so densely populated by these groups that the colony created Cumberland County from northern Bladen County, which had been created only twenty years previously in response to increasing settlement. The second group, comprising second and third-generation Scots-Irish Americans, immigrated to the Cumberland area from Pennsylvania via Virginia on the Great Wagon Road. Finally, groups of German immigrants came from Pennsylvania via the Great Wagon Road and from New Bern, North Carolina. Some, like the Highland Scots, were first generation immigrants who retained their language and social structure decades after their move to North Carolina.⁴

Religion

The settlers established several religious congregations in the Harnett County area, including Barbecue Presbyterian Church, Neill's Creek Baptist Church, and Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Often the churches served as the social as well as religious focus of rural communities that had no commercial center. The Reverend James Campbell organized Barbecue Presbyterian Church in 1757 and, later, Bluff and Longstreet Presbyterian churches. Barbecue is the only one of the three still active in its original location. Campbell's ability to organize additional congregations and the architecture of Barbecue reveal an expanding and rapidly developing settlement. According to the church's history, the congregation built their first house of worship, a 27-foot long log building, in 1765. Only ten years later, the congregation replaced the log church with a 45-foot by 30-foot frame church, a reflection of both the growing congregation and its sense of permanence.⁵ Barbecue members also organized Summerville Presbyterian, or Tirzah, as it was originally known, in 1811.⁶

³ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 80-81, 84 and 86.

⁴ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 106-110; Federal Writers' Project of the Federal Works Agency, Works Projects Administration, *North Carolina: WPA Guide to the Old North State*, 2nd ed. (Columbia: University of South Carolina, 1988), p. 36; Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State*, 3rd ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), p. 79; Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, p. 79.

⁵ HT 149, Harnett County Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

⁶ Leon McDonald, "Historical Sketch of Western Harnett County," in *Harnett County Centennial Celebration Program*, 1955; United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Summerville Presbyterian Church," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 25 April 1985, p. 8:1

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There were several early Baptist congregations in Harnett County. Neill's Creek Baptist Church, organized in 1790, is the oldest Baptist church in Harnett and Cumberland Counties. The church was named after Neal MacNeill, and although earlier buildings were destroyed by fire, replacement structures consistently were rebuilt on the original site of the first church. Isaac Johnson, a former slave who worshipped at Neill's Creek, remembered baptisms being held in Reuben Matthews' nearby millpond.⁷ Cumberland Baptist, near Cokesbury, may be the county's second oldest Baptist congregation, organized in the 1820s.⁸ By the 1840s, Primitive Baptist, Free Will Baptist, and Quaker congregations were meeting in a log building on the site of Bethsaida Primitive Baptist Church.⁹

Cokesbury United Methodist Church, named for circuit riders Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, is the oldest Methodist church in Harnett County. Joel Prince gave ten acres of land to the trustees of the church in 1838 for its construction. The original tract of land later included a Masonic lodge built in 1866 and a school building constructed in 1887.¹⁰

Over the years, these congregations replaced their earliest houses of worship as their memberships and needs expanded. While some frame structures such as Bethsaida Primitive Baptist and Cumberland Baptist churches date from the mid to late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, many have been rebuilt in the late twentieth century as large brick churches, often with an educational or recreational facility as an addition. Nevertheless, the congregations remain significant as evidence of some of the county's earliest settlements, and frequently newer structures are built on or near the original church site, sometimes with an associated cemetery.

Agriculture and Industry

As throughout the Piedmont and southern Coastal Plain, the vast majority of settlers in Harnett County farmed small tracts of land. The area became known for its production of wheat and lesser amounts of corn, peas, and tobacco. German families in particular were known to keep large numbers of livestock.¹¹ Those who could not afford to purchase their own lands may have rented fields. In 1773, John McNeil agreed to rent his plantation on Anderson Creek to Robert McKay and Donald Gunn. The arrangement dictated that McKay and Gunn:

⁷ Anna Gregory, "Neill's Creek Baptist Church," in *Northeastern Harnett County Historic Quilt Tour*, 1992; Library of Congress, "Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938," North Carolina Narratives, Volume 11, Part 2: Isaac Johnson, <http://memory.loc.gov/>, accessed 13 August 2002.

⁸ HT 388, Harnett County Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

⁹ HT 485, Harnett County Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

¹⁰ Franklin Grill, "Cokesbury United Methodist Church," in *Northeastern Harnett County Historic Quilt Tour*, 1992.

¹¹ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 133-134.

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. . . [pay] the one half of corn and wheat that is made upon said plantation yearly – also McNeil is to have all the fodder and is to direct said people how to gather said fodder properly also said are to fence the isle (?) with a lawful fence and likewise and to keep the oxn (sic) field in repare (sic) as it wants.¹²

Just south of present-day Harnett County was the community of Cross Creek, also known as Campbellton, near present-day Fayetteville. Cross Creek was located near the navigable head of the Cape Fear River and became an important trading port town not only for Cumberland County, but also for much of the North Carolina backcountry. Farmers brought wheat, tobacco, and naval stores to Cross Creek to float down the river directly to the state's largest city and port at Wilmington. The town and area's population increased further when roads were constructed from Cross Creek to the Dan River on the Virginia border and to Shallow Ford in Surry County.¹³

Because of its tall pines, the Cape Fear River valley became the center of naval store production in the mid-eighteenth century. Tar, pitch, turpentine and lumber were shipped from the area in vast quantities, making North Carolina the colonies' largest supplier of naval stores by the late 1760s.¹⁴

The timber industry remained important during the early nineteenth century. The limited information concerning the county's lumber industry revealed the names of some of the larger lumber investors in the area. These included Malcolm McDougal and Dr. Henry Marshall Turner. In 1828, McDougal sold to Neil McNeil for \$100 "all the sawmill timber and lightwood being on the 200 acres of my land situated and lying between P. N. McNeil's [unreadable] and Jas. Fergusons – also all the sawmill timber on the narrow tract of land lying between said McNeills and the Forty Run Branch."¹⁵ During the 1840s, Turner hired Matthew McKellar to sell his lumber at Wilmington, a task that grew more difficult during a troubled economy. McKellar reported "dull" prices in 1843, and three years later he reported:

I have not been able to dispose of your timber to advantage, such has been the extremely low rate of our market . . . Prices range from 3 to 5 ½ some very extra good rafts have brought a

¹² John McNeil to Robert McKay and Donald Gunn, 5 November 1772, Folder 1, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

¹³ Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, pp. 80, 92, and 94.

¹⁴ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 135-137; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, pp. 97 and 100.

¹⁵ Malcom McDougall and Neil McNeil, 17 December 1828, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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little more . . . some rafts of 40 ft. in length though a little dark but in every other respect good
sold a few days ago at 5 ½ & c. & c.

By July, McKellar had still not sold his client's lumber.¹⁶ Harnett County residents also sent their lumber to Fayetteville to be sold, from where one could return by steamer.¹⁷

In conjunction with harvesting timber, settlers built sawmills to produce barrel staves, shingles, and planks for roads. Because of the cost of equipment, several families or family members may have worked together to own and operate a saw or gristmill.¹⁸ For example, the Urquhart family of central Harnett County may have established a mill by the late eighteenth century. On 22 July 1774, Norman Urquhard or Urquhart received a grant for "150 acres in Cumberland on the east side of Cape Fear River – being surplus land within McCrain's old survey, joining the mouth of Deep Gully and Hugh McCrain's old corner, now Archd Buie." In the following years, Urquhart added to his landholdings in the Buies Creek area, and by 1790 had applied for permission to build a gristmill on the middle fork of the creek. Although the extant mill ruins are from a later mill constructed at the same location, the site remains significant for its association with the area's early settlement period.¹⁹

Settlers were drawn to land adjacent to the rivers, which afforded easy access to transportation and ideal locations to construct mills. A deed documenting a land transaction from Philip Tomas to John Snipes in 1769 concerned 150 acres on the Little River, splitting Tomas' original land grant from 1754. The deed transferred not only the acreage, but "together with all and singler (sic) the buildings and improvements, ways and woods and water courses rights." Tomas and Snipes acknowledged not only the value of the land, but the roads running through it, the timber growing on it, and the water of the river that defined the property.²⁰

¹⁶ Matthew McKellar to Dr. H. M. Turner, 28 August 1843, Folder 4 and 27 January 1846, Folder 5, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

¹⁷ Malcom Fowler, *They Passed this Way: A Personal Narrative of Harnett County History* (n.p.: Friends of Harnett County Library, 1992, 3rd printing), p. 23.

¹⁸ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 135-137; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, pp. 97 and 100.

¹⁹ HT 382, Harnett County Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

²⁰ Philip Tomas to John Snipes, 15 February 1769, Folder 1, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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New Communities and Population Growth

Despite the improvements, few towns developed in Harnett County before 1850. The major transportation route through the county was the Raleigh-Fayetteville Road, along which the stagecoach traveled and post was delivered. A map from 1833 shows Averasboro Post Office and Barclay as the only communities in the county's eastern half and Cameron's Hill in the western half. John Barclay and his wife moved from Pennsylvania to the Harnett County area in the 1820s where they purchased 510 acres and built Barclay's Inn. The inn was located twenty-five miles south of Raleigh and twenty-five miles north of Fayetteville. This location, as well as the inn's famous food and hospitality, made it a popular resting place for travelers. Barclaysville received its post office on June 13, 1850, and it remained in operation until 1915.²¹ Cameron's Hill was named for its earliest settler, Allen Cameron, who secured the property in 1770 through a land grant. In 1796, a gristmill was built three miles north of the hill. Daniel Cameron, an iron worker, settled across Duncan's Creek west of the hill where he sold such necessities as pitchforks and axes.²² Another community, Chalybeate Springs, was named for the iron-like mineral found in the water of the spring. The area was first settled in the late 1700s and in the 1800s became a tourist destination known for its healing waters.²³ Several fords along the Cape Fear River are also noted on the 1833 map, including McNeill's Ford on the road to Raleigh, Adkins Ford, and Northington's Ford.²⁴ No railroads or plank roads traversed the county before 1860.²⁵

The Harnett County area remained a part of Cumberland County throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. While it is difficult to distinguish Harnett's population and agricultural production separately from that of Cumberland County during these years, statistics for Cumberland are still relevant to understanding Harnett. Cumberland County grew slowly in the first decades of the nineteenth century. Its population at the first census in 1790 was 8,730 people (2,180 of whom were enslaved), an average size as compared to other counties in the same year. However, in 1800, the total population had grown to only 9,264, and 10 years later to 9,382. Newly formed counties to the west already were gaining on those to the central and eastern areas, as soils became exhausted and new immigrants moved toward the mountains. Like other East Coast states settled in the early eighteenth century, North Carolina experienced a period of outmigration in the early nineteenth century as farmers left the state, particularly its eastern and central areas, looking for better and cheaper land. The state's limited manufacturing and trading centers and limited improvements to roads and canals exacerbated North

²¹ June Adams, "The History of a Crossroad," in "Northeastern Harnett County Historic Quilt Tour," 1992.

²² Leon McDonald, "Historical Sketch of Western Harnett County," "Harnett County Centennial Celebration Program," 1955.

²³ Terry Rollins, "Chalybeate Springs," in "Northeastern Harnett County Historic Quilt Tour," 1992.

²⁴ John MacRae, "A New Map of the State of North Carolina," in William P. Cumming, *North Carolina in Maps* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966), Plate X.

²⁵ Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, p. 401.

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Carolina's problem of outmigration. While Cumberland's population remained under 10,000 until 1810, counties to the west like Orange, Rowan, and even Lincoln had twice as many inhabitants. On Cumberland's northern border was Wake County, home to Raleigh, the new state Capitol, where more than 17,000 people resided in 1810.²⁶

By 1820, Cumberland County's population grew to over 14,000 people and its slave population more than doubled from ten years previous to over 4,700 people. Fayetteville was the state's second largest city, with a population of 3,532. Its location at the head of navigation on the Cape Fear River increased manufacturing opportunities for the whole county and may account for a portion of the population increase for this period. In the same year, 715 people in Cumberland County were engaged in manufacturing, the third highest number in the state after Onslow and Gates Counties. The first steamship in the state operated a route from Fayetteville to Wilmington beginning in 1818. Cumberland County's access to Wilmington via the Cape Fear River also affected the number of people engaged in commerce in 1820, which was comparable to counties on other major rivers and the Albermarle and Pamlico sounds. The success of the Fayetteville-Wilmington steamship route encouraged business not only for Fayetteville but also for farmers and naval stores manufacturers throughout the county and region, and attracted new residents to the area.²⁷

While Cumberland County's population continued to increase through the antebellum period, most counties in the state experienced a decrease in population. Migrating farmers, businessmen, and intellectuals moved to areas with better transportation, manufacturing, and educational opportunities. Nevertheless, Cumberland County grew at a modest pace. By 1840, the county's population had increased to 15,284, and by 1850 to over 20,000. At the same time, the county's slave population rose, but remained at less than half of the total population. In other areas of the state where cotton and tobacco production were at their peak, slaves were often in the majority population. In 1850, Cumberland County's slave population was 7,217, up from 5,392 in 1840 and 5,057 in 1830, remaining steady at about 35 percent of the total population.²⁸

Improvements in road construction, primarily the introduction of plank roads by the 1860s, hastened the settlement of the county and resulted in the increase of agricultural production.²⁹ Plank roads were wagon

²⁶ Inter-University Colloquium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), "United States Historical Census Data Browser," <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>, accessed 12 August 2002; Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, Appendix II; Works Progress Administration, *North Carolina: WPA Guide*, pp. 42-43.

²⁷ ICPSR, accessed 13 August 2002; Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, pp. 315-317; Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 260-261.

²⁸ Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: History of a Southern State*, pp. 315 and 320-323; ICPSR, accessed 13 August 2002; Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, Appendix II.

²⁹ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina: Volume III-26 Counties* (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1959), p. 1347.

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highways that were usually twelve to fifteen feet wide consisting of thick pine planks, which were placed over dirt roads. Construction of this new form of road building in North Carolina began in earnest in 1849 when the Salem and Fayetteville toll road was chartered. The purpose of the road was to facilitate the transportation of mercantile and agricultural goods between these two major commercial centers to compensate for a lack of early rail connections. Fayetteville served as the terminal point of five commercial plank roads chartered between 1849 and 1852, which eventually linked to plank roads in Harnett County.³⁰

Architecture

Extant examples of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century architecture in Harnett County do not differ greatly from those of other counties in North Carolina. While the state as a whole was known for its modest and restrained building during this period, this was certainly the case in the Harnett County area, where there were few towns and only small-scale farming. The earliest surviving buildings in Harnett County are small frame and log structures with a stick, brick, or stone chimney.³¹ The earliest documented structure is probably the 1770s Matthews Cabin (HT 29), originally located in the Neill's Creek area. The cabin is a one and a half-story single-room log house. Architectural evidence suggests a large stone end chimney and window or window opening on the second story. The Huckabee Cabin (HT 29) and the Rory Matthews House (HT 167), both moved from the Kipling vicinity to Lillington, are one-story log construction, hall and parlor plan, with a weatherboard exterior, stone end chimneys, and shed-roof façade porches. Although all three buildings have been moved, they were very carefully reconstructed and therefore provide an insight into early building methods and representative examples of the modest housing used by the county's earliest settlers.

Another structure is associated with the McNeil family (HT 385) and is located on the banks of the Little River in the Linden vicinity. The early nineteenth-century extended double-pen building features mortise and tenon construction, an exterior of weatherboard siding, and one-panel shutters. The Sam Johnson House (HT 163), a good example of an early nineteenth-century Coastal Plain cottage, survives with a kitchen building. It is notable that all five of these early buildings are connected to some of Harnett County's earliest and well-known settler families.

Within a few decades, some Harnett County residents were able to construct larger houses. The Dushee-Shaw House (HT 177), probably built circa 1830, served as a stop for travelers along present-day NC 55. The one and a half-story frame house retains its original rectangular form and a portion of an exterior end chimney. The building is significant not only as an early residence of the Shaws, relations of the Urquhart family (see HT 382), but as the county's only known remaining inn or stagecoach stop from the early nineteenth century.³²

³⁰ Kenneth W. Robinson, "Fayetteville Plank Road," <http://www.arch.dcr.state.nc.us>; North Carolina Museum of History "Nineteenth Century North Carolina," <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/nineteenth3.html> accessed 9 February 2004.

³¹ Catherine W. Bishir, Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Loundsbury, and Ernest H. Wood III, *Architects and Builders In North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), pp. 49-52.

³² Harnett County survey files, HT 382, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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Early nineteenth-century I-houses are rare in Harnett County, but one example (HT 371) may date to this early period. Located in the vicinity of Erwin along SR 1703 and probably built before 1830, the house stands two stories with two brick, single-shouldered end chimneys, deep cornice returns and a wide frieze. Only one outbuilding was documented from this period, the Harrington Barn (HT 29). A large, one and a half-story transverse barn with a distinctive cantilevered skirt, the barn retains some of its original flooring and has been documented to date to circa 1845.³³ The architectural evolution from simple structures to larger, more elaborate buildings within a few decades of settlement occurs throughout the state.³⁴

Elaborate plantation houses are rare in Harnett County, yet three well-documented examples survive from the period before its establishment. Two are largely intact: Lebanon Plantation (HT 2), built in 1829 near Averasboro, and Summer Villa (HT 17), built in Summerville near the Presbyterian Church, are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Architecturally, Lebanon is designed in the Greek Revival style and features a central hall plan and low hip roof. Highlighting the facade is a central bay, two-tier pedimented portico supported by a series of decorative wood posts and brackets. The portico was likely added to the building in the mid-nineteenth century. Summer Villa is also a Greek Revival style design that features a central hall, a low-pitch hip roof, and a wide board freeze along the cornice. As with Lebanon, Summer Villa also had a two-tier portico, but it was altered in the Neoclassical Revival style early in the twentieth century. The two-story, one-room-deep front block of Thorbiskope (HT 20), featuring a hipped roof and two-tiered pedimented entrance portico with paneled box posts, dates to 1848, but it has lost a number of its features to deterioration. All three houses are representative of dwellings built by successful antebellum planters on the Cape Fear River, its tributaries, and throughout the Coastal Plain.³⁵

County Establishment and Growth, 1850s through the 1870s

Creation of Harnett County

Cumberland County's increasing population led to the creation of Harnett County in 1855 from the northernmost section of Cumberland. The new county was named in honor of Cornelius Harnett, a Revolutionary War veteran and politician from Edenton, North Carolina. A board of commissioners established a temporary county seat at Summerville Academy while plans were discussed to establish a new town by the name of Toomer, just west of the current site of Lillington. This area was chosen for its central location within

³³ Harnett County survey files, HT 29, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

³⁴ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders In North Carolina*, pp. 52-54.

³⁵ Harnett County survey files, HT 20, North Carolina State Historic Preservation office, Raleigh; United States Department of the Interior, "Summer Villa and the McKay-Salmon House," p. 8:1; United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Thorbiskope," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 23 January 1986, p. 8:1

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the county; however, controversy quickly surrounded the decision to establish Toomer, before construction could begin. Much of the animosity centered on allegations that local officials were attempting to promote Summerville Academy by placing the county seat in such close proximity to the school. In addition, residents complained that the proposed town was too far away from vital river crossings and that the county would not include a "reverter clause" in deeds for land it purchased, which would have forced the county to return purchased property if Toomer failed to take hold as the county seat. Consequently, local landowners refused to sell their property for town lots. As a result of these protests, an election in 1859 was held to settle the issue. Dissatisfied residents voted overwhelming to move the county seat to a new location situated on a high bluff overlooking the Cape Fear River.³⁶ The town that they established is named Lillington in honor of Revolutionary War hero General John Alexander Lillington.³⁷ Born in Bath County, North Carolina, Lillington played a pivotal role in commanding a regiment to victory over British forces in the Battle of Moore's Creek in Pender County, North Carolina.

Even the creation of the new county itself resulted in some controversy. In February 1855, William McNeil in Summerville wrote to his brother that, "Our new county bill has become a law. Therefore I am no longer an inhabitant of old Cumberland but new Harnett, great rejoicing in this part of the county."³⁸ One year later, when the site of the county seat was still under dispute, Alexander Elliot in Manchester wrote to a friend, "I have not heard scarcely anything except Harnett Harnett Harnett. Everybody I meet up with has to talk all the time about this plaged (sic) Harnett. If they would go along and hush talking about it and let it be easy it would die a natural death in two weeks."³⁹ The absence of an approved county court and jail apparently also had repercussions on civil order, as Elliot reported to his friend:

There is a meeting of the county court of Harnett week before last, and as the jail was not completed the court ordered some stocks made and put up there in the courtyard, so when night came Blackwood (perhaps you know the man) and his crowd took the stocks broke them to pieces and put a part of them in Parson McNair's office and carried the rest down on the river to . . . Jones Ferry.⁴⁰

³⁶ John Hairr, *The Making of America Series: Harnett County: A History* (Mount Pleasant, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), p.p. 57-58.

³⁷ Malcolm Fowler, "History of Lillington," in *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina Volume I, 1993*. (Lillington: Delmar Printing, 1993), p.77.

³⁸ William McNeil, 17 February 1855, Folder 8, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

³⁹ Alexander Elliott, Jr., 30 June 1856, Folder 8, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁴⁰ Alexander Elliott, Jr., 30 June 1856, Folder 8, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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In 1859, commissioners established Lillington on 100 acres of land purchased from Nathaniel Jones. Although it was named the county seat at that time, Lillington appears on few maps before the 1880s. Until 1867 when a courthouse was completed in Lillington, court sessions were held at Summerville Academy. A former slave remembered that Summerville had a jail where runaways were often held.⁴¹ There was no church or school in the community until the 1870s, before which time most residents continued to attend institutions in Summerville. Despite its location, Lillington grew slowly until a bridge was built across the Cape Fear River, connecting it to the more established eastern half of the county.⁴²

With the county divided by the Cape Fear, citizens' social and commercial relationships must have been hindered. In 1860, when William McNeil wrote to his brother Col. K. M. McNeil in Anderson Creek, he wrote at the top of the page, "On the Other Side of the River, Friday night, January 14/60. I have been looking for some of you up for several days, but suppose I may continue to look, and look in vain!" William ended the letter by begging his brother to come hunting.⁴³

Agriculture in 1860

Most of Harnett County's nineteenth-century residents farmed. In 1860, there were 472 farms, but only 41 manufacturing establishments. As in most areas of the state, Harnett County's farms were small to medium-sized, tended by the family and a small number of slaves at most. The county had a population of just over 8,000 people in 1860, 32 percent of whom were enslaved. The majority of farms were between 20 to 99 acres, but a large number were between 100 to 499 acres. While neighboring Cumberland County had 809 slaveholders, Harnett had 244, or just 5 percent of its population. The majority of slaveholders in Harnett County had between 10 and 14 slaves, although nearly as many had only one slave. Even so, less than four percent of non-whites in Harnett County were free.⁴⁴

Two of the largest plantations in Harnett County were Summer Villa and Thorbiskope. Neill McKay and his brother John owned Summer Villa's over 16,000 acres and together were the largest slaveholders in the county in 1860, enslaving 196 people. Most of the McKay slaves produced naval stores; only 1,200 acres of the McKay tract was cultivated for corn, wheat, and sweet potatoes. Neill McKay was a Presbyterian minister who served

⁴¹ Corbitt, *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, pp. 115-116; United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Summer Villa and the McKay-Salmon House," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 25 April 1985, p. 8:1; Library of Congress, "Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938," North Carolina Narratives, Volume 11, Part 2: James Turner McLean, <http://memory.loc.gov/>, accessed 13 August 2002.

⁴² Allan Shaw, "Historical Sketch of Lillington," in "Harnett County Centennial Celebration Program," 1955.

⁴³ William McNeil to Col. K. M. McNeil, 14 January 1860, Folder 9, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁴⁴ ICPSR, accessed 13 August 2002.

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most of his years at Summerville Presbyterian Church, and he was a trustee of the University of North Carolina. John Elliott owned Thorbiskope, located on the Little River near the border with Cumberland County. Descended from Scottish immigrants like the McKays, Elliott at one time owned 8,000 acres and was the third largest slaveholder in the county in 1860. He owned 80 people who grew corn and tended livestock.

War and Reconstruction

During the Civil War, Harnett County citizens were staunchly supportive of the Confederacy. Their support is reflected in the muster rolls, which indicate that well over 1,000 men, or one per family, joined the Confederate army.⁴⁵

Actual fighting in Harnett County did not occur until the latter stages of the war. On March 16, 1865, one of the final conflicts of the Civil War was fought in an area known as Averagesboro, located near the Cumberland County line south of present-day Erwin. The Battle of Averagesboro pitted 6,455 Confederate soldiers commanded by Confederate Lt. General William J. Hardee against a Union force 20,000 strong led by General William Tecumseh Sherman. In an effort to delay General Sherman's advance, General Joseph Johnston, Commander of Confederate forces of the South, ordered the engagement. Johnston's decision to engage Union forces proved to be primarily strategic for the Confederate Army, which succeeded in delaying Sherman's drive through North Carolina, thus allowing time for the Confederates to re-group its forces at Bentonville. In addition, the battle allowed Confederate forces to determine Sherman's intended destination and route, which proved to be Goldsboro via Bentonville. In the end, the Union army suffered 682 casualties to the Confederates 500. The Battle of Averagesboro was the first determined resistance to Sherman's advance since he left Georgia in an effort to destroy the Confederacy's war-making ability.⁴⁶

The site remains significant due to its connection with the battle and for the Chicora Cemetery where so many of the Confederate dead are buried. Houses and sites associated with the battle that still exist include the William Smith House, which served as a Union hospital and two houses that served as Confederate field hospitals, Oak Grove (NR 1973) and Lebanon (HT-2, NR 1973) and the Smith Ferry across the Cape Fear River.⁴⁷

As throughout the South, residents of Harnett County made difficult adjustments after the Civil War. Former slaves often left their homes to move to towns and cities or to find loved ones who had been sold, while others stayed on the land where they had worked and tried to negotiate a fair wage. Margaret Thornton and her

⁴⁵ Sharpe, *A New Geography*, p. 1348.

⁴⁶ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Averagesboro Battlefield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 10 May 2001.

⁴⁷ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Averagesboro Battlefield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 10 May 2001, passim; Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 372-374.

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husband Tom were both slaves owned as children by Jake Thornton. They worked for Jake until they married when Margaret was thirteen or fourteen years old. The couple then moved near Dunn where Tom worked at a sawmill and Margaret worked periodically as a nurse.⁴⁸

Former slave owners attempted to keep their farms and plantations operating. After the war, John Hodges, a young man, married in 1872 and established a house and farm on the Lower Little River later known as "Ivy Burne." By 1880, Hodges owned 470 acres of land on several farms, but only 70 acres were cultivated while the rest remained woodland. He hired white and black tenants to grow corn, cotton, and food crops. Hodges worked throughout his life as a farmer and politician.⁴⁹ Although Hodges' case is by no means a representative experience of most Harnett County farmers, it shows that some individuals were able to continue to make a profit in agriculture, a fact reflected in the large number of residences built during the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth. These houses most often took the form of modest frame I-houses houses with a center gable and façade porch, or as L-shaped one-story or two-story frame houses. Both styles sometimes have additional decorative porch details or roofline trim and remain numerous throughout Harnett County.

Harnett County's population gradually increased after the Civil War as employment opportunities returned to the lumber and naval stores industries, and as farmers resumed their production of tobacco and cotton. However, while the white population increased at a steady pace, the black population stagnated. In 1880, 10,862 people resided in Harnett County, 3,770 of whom were black.

Education

Public education in Harnett County began in 1857, with the establishment of a Board of Education and the subsequent construction of several one-room schoolhouses scattered throughout the county. It took two years after the county's formation to establish a school system due to the fact that tax revenues for education were not instituted right away. During this period, the concept of a public educational system was in its infancy. Just five years earlier, the state legislature had created the position of Superintendent of Common Schools to oversee the development of the state's public school program. Despite the creation of this office and the Harnett County Board of Education, efforts to develop a coherent county school system were slowed by low funding and declining interest in the years leading up to the Civil War.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ The Library of Congress, "Born in Slavery," Volume 11, Part 2: Margaret Thornton, <http://memory.loc.gov/>, accessed 13 August 2002.

⁴⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Ivy Burne," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 5 September 1991, pp. 8:1-2.

⁵⁰ Fowler, *They Passed this Way*, pp. 113-117.

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The aftermath of the Civil War had a pronounced effect on Harnett County's already foundering school system and others throughout the state. Reconstruction policies led to the abolishment of the office of Superintendent of Common Schools and the public school fund in 1866. The result of these measures effectively shut down public schools across North Carolina for roughly four years. However, many private academies continued to operate. In Harnett County some of the private academies that existed during this period included Pine Forest and Summerville. In 1868, the state revived its education system with the passage of a new constitution which called for the creation of a system of public schools and the office of State Superintendent. Despite this effort, public education in the state continued to lag. By 1870, there were only three public schools in the state, all outside Harnett County. Not until the 1880s did the state's education system begin to make strides towards improvement.⁵¹

Architecture

Although few extant buildings in Harnett County remain from the period between 1855 and 1880, there appears to have been a construction increase immediately after the establishment of the county. This likely included an expansion of plantations, perhaps construction of additional outbuildings to house and process cotton, or a spurt of construction around Summerville when it was thought to become the county seat. Construction was surely slowed or stopped altogether during the Civil War and the years immediately after, yet a few examples of Italianate architecture date from this later period.

Rural buildings ranged from the simple dwelling, usually expanded over time, to the larger I-house. The Payola Post Office (HT 207) is a rare public building from this period. A small, log building of one room and no windows, it is notable for its rare surviving stick chimney. The Matthews House (HT 166), located near Buies Creek, was probably constructed around 1850 by Ikey or Jacob Matthews. The one and one-half story timber-framed main section of the house facing SR 1542 (Old Buies Creek Road) was possibly the first section constructed, featuring a hall and parlor plan and a full-façade shed enclosed at each end to create two rooms flanking a central recessed entrance. A rear ell was added to the building in the early twentieth century.⁵² In the vicinity of Cokesbury stands a mid-nineteenth-century I-house with unusual Greek Revival details (HT 389). The main façade was built with two sets of double entry doors with sidelights and transoms, fluted corner posts, and a pediment with deep eaves enframing a stone chimney in each gable end. Although very different, each of these buildings represents the rural development created by cotton production, the wealth accumulated by some of the smaller farms and plantations, and their tastes and access to building materials.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Harnett County survey files, HT 166, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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These trends are even more evident in a few examples of Italianate architecture popular during this period. The McKay-Salmon House, located in Summerville, is one of the best examples. The rectangular-shaped residence has two interior chimneys and decorative molding following the roofline, with a bracketed porch roof over the main entry. This style was also popular in Dunn, where the James Taylor House (HT 434), probably built circa 1870-1880 before the town was established, is two stories under a low-pitch hip roof, with three one-story rear wings. Decorative brackets surround the roofline of the entire complex. The porch stretches across the main façade, its hip roof covered in standing seam metal. The brackets are repeated along the porch roof, supported by turned posts with carved brackets and a turned balustrade. A second Dunn example is located on King Avenue (HT 465). This L-shaped tri-gable house has decorative roof brackets, four-over-four windows with triangular pediments, and a façade porch supported by turned posts with brackets.

Railroads, Industrialization, Education, and Town Development, 1880s to 1910s

Agriculture

While industrialization and urban growth made significant strides in Harnett County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the majority of those who stayed here after the Civil War continued to farm, growing potatoes, tobacco, and corn and often raising milk cows and other livestock. Most farms were divided after the war, increasing the number of farms but decreasing the average farm size. In 1880, there were 1,450 farms averaging 158 acres in size in Harnett County. Nearly 77 percent of these farms were cultivated by their owners. Ten years later, average farm size in the county decreased to 130 acres, while the number of farms increased by almost 400. During this period, cotton production was the county's main agricultural crop followed by lumber, turpentine, and grain. In addition, fruit and flower bulb production, primarily in the Lillington area, supplemented the county's diverse agricultural-based economy.⁵³ By 1900, the average farm size had decreased further to 99.7 acres and the number of farms had increased to over 2,300. This trend continued through the early twentieth century so that by 1930, there were nearly 4,000 farms in Harnett County, with over half operated by black or white tenants.

Tenants often moved from farm to farm in search of the best housing and land arrangement.⁵⁴ But landowners, too, could be selective of their tenants. In 1900, H. M. McNeill wrote a letter to John and J. A. McDonald, refusing to renew their lease of his land because of their failure to pay the rental value agreed upon. Perhaps most upsetting to McNeill was the McDonalds' treatment of his land. "You have failed to observe the conditions of the lease made with you," he wrote, "in that you have failed to make clearing of land as agreed

⁵³ M.I. and J.C. Stewart, *North Carolina and its Resources. Illustrated* (Winston: Public Printers and Binders, 1896), p. 348.

⁵⁴ ICPSR, accessed 14 August 2002; Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 416-417.

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upon, and have failed to keep premises and fences in repair as agreed upon.”⁵⁵ It is interesting to note that the lease bears a resemblance to a similar document from the 1760s, cited earlier, in its concern for specific land use and fencing.

Railroad Construction and Town Growth

While agricultural production declined, industrial development increased throughout the South in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The rebuilding and expansion of the railroad afforded farmers and merchants access to wider markets and enabled communities to import raw materials from rural areas and other regions. More important, the railroads that eventually traversed Harnett County served as a catalyst in the development of its principal towns.

The first significant railroad to reach Harnett County was a late nineteenth-century extension of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, known as the "Wilson Short Cut." Constructed during the antebellum period, the Wilmington and Weldon provided Confederate armies with a vital link to Virginia during the Civil War. The line followed a winding route beginning in Florence, South Carolina, to Wilmington, and then to Weldon. In an effort to shorten the route between Weldon and Florence, the company decided to create a new line from Wilson, North Carolina to Florence via Fayetteville. Construction began in October 1886 and was completed by February 1892, with part of the line cutting through the eastern portion of Harnett County on property purchased from Henry and Eliza Pope.⁵⁶

The extension of the Wilmington and Weldon through Harnett County led directly to the development of the city of Dunn, named after an engineer for the railroad, Captain Bennett R. Dunn. Lots for the new town were auctioned off from a caboose starting in October 1886. Initially laid out in a circular plan, Dunn quickly developed into a major commercial center, servicing northeastern Cumberland, northwestern Sampson, and southwest Johnston counties.⁵⁷ Although Harnett County remained largely rural, Dunn grew to become an important commercial center with warehouses and a well developed main street near the railroad tracks which became part of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad in the late 1890s. During the building of the train station the area had been called "Pope's Station," and during the purchases of land, "Lucknow." The first school and church met above J. A. Taylor's store. The congregation of First Baptist Church constructed the first house of worship in Dunn in 1887. By 1912, Dunn had grown to such an extent that an unsuccessful movement began to establish a

⁵⁵ H. M. McNeill to John McDonald and J.A. McDonald, 1 October 1900, Folder 12, Harnett County, NC, Papers, "Southern Women and Their Families In the 19th Century," Series A, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁵⁶ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, 80.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 79-80.

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new Jarvis County from parts of Harnett, Sampson, Johnston, and Cumberland Counties, with Dunn as the county seat.⁵⁸

Several large, elaborate residences in downtown Dunn are a testament to the wealth that some were able to acquire at the turn of the twentieth century. John Archibald McKay's experience tells this story well. McKay was a carpenter who moved from rural Buies Creek to Dunn in the 1880s and opened a hardware store with another investor just as the city began to grow. He later started his own company that manufactured turpentine distilleries and equipment. It was the first industry in Dunn other than the lumber mills, but equally dependent on the same natural resource. As production of timber decreased, McKay switched to the manufacture of farm equipment and expanded his iron foundries. His success enabled him to construct a prominent two-story house with Greek Revival and Neoclassical features near his business in 1910.⁵⁹ Kenneth Lewis Howard, another prominent Dunn citizen in the early twentieth century, made a profit in the lumber business and in real estate. His Colonial Revival-style house completed in 1909 was modeled after the North Carolina House at the Jamestown Exposition and sits on a large downtown lot.⁶⁰

Several African American neighborhoods developed on the north side of Dunn, including Tilman or Tillerman's Mill, named for the nearby lumber mill, and Ham Town, named for a local family. Residents worked at the mill, at the McKay Foundry or at a factory on Candy Kitchen Road, outside of town. Families that lived on or near the thoroughfare of West Granville Street used their location near the railroad and the industrial section to build profitable businesses. For example, although his father was a farmer in Cumberland County, Wesley Smith came to Dunn to work as a blacksmith. The Rankin family grew peaches and sold them to railroad workers, and later opened a grocery and barbershop.⁶¹

By 1900, the county's population had risen to 15,988, including 5,058 black residents. African American population growth declined slightly in the late nineteenth century, falling from 35 percent of the county's total population in 1880 to 32 percent in 1900. The African American population continued to grow, but at an increasingly slower rate, and by 1910 constituted 29 percent or 6,442 of the total county population of 22,171. Many southern blacks migrated to the North for better employment opportunities in cities like New York, Chicago, and Detroit. This slow but steady out-migration continued through the 1930s.⁶²

⁵⁸ Rachel M. Clifford, "Historical Sketch of Dunn," in "Harnett County Centennial Celebration Program," 1955.

⁵⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "John A. McKay House and Manufacturing Company," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 10 April 1986, pp. 8:1-2.

⁶⁰ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Kenneth L. Howard House," National Register of Historic Places Inventory nomination form, 19 August 1982, pp. 8:1-2.

⁶¹ Harnett County survey files, HT 481 and HT 482, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

⁶² ICPSR, accessed 14 August 2002.

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On February 12, 1887, Dunn was officially incorporated, surpassing Lillington as the largest city in Harnett County. The dramatic rise of Dunn led to the demise of the nearby community of Averasboro as its citizens gradually moved to the new bustling town. Once seen as a possible inland port city, Averasboro was virtually abandoned by the end of the century.⁶³

In 1899, Jonathan Cicero Angier, owner of the Cary Lumber Company in Durham, established the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad, which ran between Apex to Jake Williams's farm in northern Harnett County. As a major sawmill operator and supplier of lumber to the Raleigh area, Angier's company sought to capitalize on Harnett County's rich timber reserves. The resultant traffic at the southern terminus of the line led to the creation of a new town, Angier, named in honor of the timber industrialist. Williams, who operated a general store and turpentine distillery, soon sold his farm to Angier after the completion of the railroad line. In the span of approximately one year, the Williams farm was surveyed and laid off for streets and lots. By 1901, the town became an incorporated municipality.⁶⁴

Angier's decision to create the Cape Fear and Northern was such a boon to his company that he moved his entire lumber operation to the new town in September 1901. In an effort to reach additional timber reserves and to provide access to markets in Fayetteville, Angier extended his line south to Dunn where it connected with the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. This decision was made easier courtesy of Dunn officials who persuaded Angier to extend his line in exchange for land to build a lumber mill. By 1903, the rail line was completed and renamed the Cape Fear and Northern Railway, connecting Durham to Dunn.⁶⁵

Angier's new line also passed through Troyville, an old stop on the Raleigh to Fayetteville Stage Road. While the railroad's surveyors were working in the area, local storeowner James T. Coats approached the company. Eager to attract business to his general store, Coats offered right-of-way privileges on his 700-acre tract and land for the construction of a depot. The surveyors accepted Coats's offer and the land around the proposed depot site was soon laid out and sold. The railroad attracted merchants, a sawmill, and a lumber plant, as well as a blacksmith and ironsmith. By 1905, the town was incorporated and its name changed to Coats.⁶⁶ In the 1910s, John McKay Byrd, the former county sheriff, moved his family from Lillington to Coats where he established the J.M. Byrd and Company. The establishment of the company added a flourmill, hosiery plant, and cotton gin to the town.⁶⁷ Following the construction of the Erwin Mills, a spur line of the Cape Fear and Northern extended

⁶³ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, 80.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 99.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 100.

⁶⁷ Charles Turlington, "Historical Sketch of Coats," in "Harnett County Centennial Celebration Program," 1955.

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to the mill providing a transportation outlet for its products. In 1906, the railroad became the Durham and Southern Railway, providing service to Harnett County residents well into the late twentieth century.⁶⁸

In 1902, a new era of industrialization began in Harnett County with the purchase of several thousand acres of land along the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad roughly ten miles west of Dunn by the Erwin Mills Company. Founded by Benjamin N. Duke and George W. Watts, Erwin Mills was established in 1892 near Durham. Both Duke and Watts were already wealthy entrepreneurs, having been founding members of the tobacco manufacturing firm *W. Duke Sons & Co.* along with Duke's brothers, James Buchanan and Brodie Leonidas, and their father William in 1878. As one of the largest tobacco manufacturers in the country, the Duke family eventually sold their firm to the *American Tobacco Co.*, the giant trust engineered by James Buchanan Duke, in exchange for its stock. In an effort to maximize their earnings from the sale of the company, both Benjamin Duke and Watts reinvested their tobacco profits into the burgeoning textile industry.⁶⁹

The Durham mill constituted Erwin Mill Number 1 and initially produced cotton sheeting commonly used for tobacco pouches. To assist in the development of the new mill, Duke and Watts hired William A. Erwin, who had gained extensive experience in the textile business as manager of the E. M. Holt Plaid Mills in Burlington. By the late nineteenth century, the Erwin Mills Company owned three of the four textile mills operating in Durham. The company soon set its sights on expanding to the central Piedmont where it could invest in new hydroelectrically powered mills.⁷⁰

Under Erwin's management, the company prospered and sought to expand through the construction of additional mills. Eventually, the company settled on an area in Harnett County chosen for its proximity to the new railroad developed by the Dukes' relative, Jonathan Cicero Angier, and to the Cape Fear River, which could be utilized to harness electricity to power the new mill complete with employee housing. It was also during this period that the company decided to broaden its business portfolio by shifting its focus to the production of denims, making the company the first in the South to manufacture the product.⁷¹

Construction of the mill and town began in earnest on August 16, 1902, when plans called for the erection of Erwin Cotton Mill Number 2 and roughly 300 mill houses. In the meantime, a temporary village composed of shacks to house construction workers developed along Colvin's Branch. This area was named Erwin, in honor of company president William A. Erwin who supervised the town's construction and eventually became the town's

⁶⁸ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, 100.

⁶⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Erwin Cotton Mills Co. Mill No. 1 and Headquarters Building," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 31 December 1984, p. 8:1.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 8-2, 8-4.

⁷¹ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 100.

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namesake.⁷² The construction of the first mill houses utilized local timber. Several stores, as well as the school, which initially was on an upper floor of the company store, were located on H Street. In 1903, a cotton gin was erected. The Dukes allocated lots for churches, which were soon constructed by Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal congregations. In addition, an area of the town was designated for a park, where a bandstand, animal enclosures, and a café offered entertainment to mill workers.⁷³ Finally, in 1904, the mill opened for operation with 1,024 looms and roughly 35,000 spindles.⁷⁴

During the mid 1920s, Duke experienced a second phase of construction with the erection of Erwin Mill Number 5 and additional worker housing. Two other mills, Erwin Mill Number 3 and Erwin Mill Number 4, had been built in Cooleemee in Davie County, and in Durham respectively.⁷⁵ This expansion coincided with the renaming of Duke. After Trinity College, in Durham, changed its name to Duke University, to avoid confusion Erwin Mills decided in 1926 to change the name of its Harnett County operation to Erwin in honor of William A. Erwin, who had overseen construction of the original mill and village and was president of the company from 1900 until 1931, the year before his death. The eighteen-month long project to build Mill Number 5 resulted in the addition of 35,000 spindles, effectively doubling the company's ability to produce denim. To provide accommodations for the additional employees and their families, the company constructed 300 additional houses in Erwin.⁷⁶ By the late 1920s, the high rate of production of the Erwin Mills made it the "The Denim Capital of World."⁷⁷

The construction of additional housing followed a simple rectangular grid pattern with east-west streets identified by letters and north-south streets identified with numbers. The mill complex and commercial district are centrally located. Dividing the town was the railroad, which provided passenger rail service in addition to serving the transportation needs of the mill. By 1932, the town had roughly 4,000 residents.⁷⁸

⁷² Ibid., pp.100-102.

⁷³ The Church History Committee of First Baptist Church, *Beyond the East Gate, a History of First Baptist Church Erwin North Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: Edwards and Broughtan Co., 1903, pp.1-3.

⁷⁴ John Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 102.

⁷⁵ Tom E. Terrill, "Erwin, William Allen," in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography Volume 2 D-G*, ed. by William S. Powell. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1986), p. 165.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 125.

⁷⁷ Sion H. Harrington, III, "A Brief History of Early Erwin, NC," in *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina Volume I, 1993*. (Lillington: Delmar Printing, 1993), p.73.

⁷⁸ Terrill, in *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, p. 165.

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Another railroad company that played a significant role in the development of Harnett County was the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railway. Chartered in 1898 to provide a rail link between Raleigh and Fayetteville, the route of the new line followed the path proposed in 1846 for the Metropolitan Railroad, which was never completed. The construction of the Raleigh and Cape Fear extended south from Wake County and reached Lillington in 1903 where a depot and rail bridge over the Cape Fear was constructed. The introduction of the rail line allowed goods to be transferred onto barges, which in turn were shipped to points along the river. Eventually, the Raleigh and Cape Fear extended south into Fayetteville. In 1905, it merged with the Raleigh and Southport Railroad and in 1911 was taken over by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. This railroad line played a vital role in the development of the county's smaller communities such as Bunnlevel, Chalybeate Springs, Fonville, Harnett, Kipling, and Rawls.⁷⁹

Other railroads that passed through Harnett County included the Cape Fear and Yadkin River Valley Railroad, which crossed the southwest section of the county via Spout Springs, and another line from Fayetteville crossed the southeast section of Harnett on its way to Raleigh via Smithfield.⁸⁰ By 1900, private investment and consolidation increased the number of areas served so that 3,800 miles of railroad filled the state.⁸¹ Most, if not all, investment in the county's transportation came from outside the county.

The communities of Dunn, Angier, Coats, Erwin, and Lillington all benefited from the investments of railroads and industrialists such as Jonathan Cicero Angier and the Dukes and their associates. While Harnett had always been geographically divided by the Cape Fear River, the river's social division of the county deepened in the late nineteenth century as transportation routes expanded and improved only on the river's eastern side, leading to the concentration of the county's commercial and industrial growth in that area.

Education

Intellectual growth was important to Harnett County residents in the late nineteenth century as it was throughout the Southeast. In the 1880s, North Carolina's education system began significant strides of improvement. Rural schools were established throughout the state in response to a high rate of illiteracy among North Carolinians. In 1881, the state legislature passed a law making it mandatory that each county hire a part-time superintendent of schools who would be elected by the county board of education. Reverend J.D. Pegram, a Methodist minister, became the first Superintendent of Schools of Harnett County, when he was elected in 1885, but his effect on

⁷⁹ Ibid., 102-104.

⁸⁰ "Post Route Map of the States of North Carolina and South Carolina," 1896, in Cummings, *North Carolina in Maps*, Plate XV.

⁸¹ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, p. 416.

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Harnett County's schools has not been documented.⁸² In 1890, there were over 1,500 white children and nearly 1,800 black children enrolled in Harnett County's segregated common schools. By 1900, there were fifty-two frame schools in Harnett County, most of which probably resembled the one-room Williams Grove School, built in the early 1890s outside of Angier and relocated to a park in town in 1975.⁸³

With the dawn of a new century, public education throughout North Carolina drastically improved through the efforts of Governor Charles B. Aycock. As a strong proponent of education for both white and black citizens, Aycock's administration (1901-1905) constructed over 1,200 schools throughout the state. Several new schools were built in Harnett County; however, none of them appear to be extant. During Aycock's tenure as governor, he implemented policies to consolidate county schools to improve educational resources. In addition, he provided state aid to only those counties willing to enact local taxes designed to improve their educational systems.⁸⁴ Since many new schools were constructed in Harnett County during this period, it is likely that a tax of some kind was levied.

Aycock's enthusiasm to improve the state's education system rubbed off on Harnett County's Board of Education. Led by Chairman John M. Hodge Sr. and members O'Jennings Bradley and Thomas Watts Harrington, the county's educational system was significantly revamped during the period between 1909 and the mid 1920s. These men represented the three major areas of Harnett County, Hodge from Linden; Bradley from Kipling in the north; and Harrington from Harrington-Mt. Pisgah in the west. As such they were able to work together to meet the educational needs of the entire county. During their tenure, they raised the standards by which teachers could be qualified to work in a public school. Prior to this, prospective teachers often obtained positions merely by having a relative on the school board. Hodge went so far as to hire teachers from outside the county when the shortage of qualified teachers became acute.⁸⁵

The changes in Harnett County's education followed a statewide campaign to replace aging rural schools that typically featured one room and no running water. In response to these conditions, North Carolina launched a movement to consolidate county schools and to build modern facilities in the 1910s. As a result of this initiative, ten school districts were created in Harnett County each with a modern high school building. These districts included: Anderson Creek, Angier, Benhaven, Bone Trail, Buies's Creek, Coats, Dunn, Erwin, Lafayette, and

⁸² Malcolm Fowler, "The Evolution of Early Education in Harnett County" in *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina, Volume I, 1993* (Lillington: Delmar Printing, 1993), p.36.

⁸³ Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries*, pp. 418-421; United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Williams Grove School," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 26 May 1995, pp. 8:1-2; ICPSR, accessed 14 August 2002.

⁸⁴ Fowler, *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina, Volume I, 1993*, p.37.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

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Lillington.⁸⁶ By 1915, with partial funding through local taxes, new high school buildings were erected in Angier, Buies Creek, Coats, Erwin, Dunn, and Lillington. Moreover, the construction of the new schools allowed the school board to combine regional elementary and secondary level education into one building, thus streamlining the number of school districts from eighty-eight to ten.⁸⁷

One of the most significant accomplishment in the area of education for the county during this period occurred in 1887, when Reverend James Archibald Campbell opened a one-room school building known as Buies Creek Academy. Campbell, a Baptist minister, served as the county's Superintendent of Schools between 1888 and 1896. Under his direction, the campus grew steadily through the next few decades, despite a fire in 1900 that forced the school to rebuild.⁸⁸

Architecture

As in earlier periods, the architecture of Harnett County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries did not differ greatly from that of other counties throughout the state's sandhills region. The increased mass production of building supplies and improved transportation routes resulted in a great variety of interpretations of style.⁸⁹ At the same time, these innovations created common patterns of architecture in rural and urban areas. In rural areas, outreach programs sponsored by the USDA sought to educate farmers about proper house construction and farm planning to improve their quality of life and agricultural production. Farm bulletins or small magazines, published by the USDA, offered house and site plans, specifications of lumber, legal advice about securing title to the land, and recommendations for the most efficient and healthy household. A bulletin from 1901 titled "Practical Suggestions for Farm Buildings," suggested two plans for "modest" houses that could be altered or extended as needed, and that would require an initial expenditure of between \$600 and \$1,000 for all materials. The farmer could hire a contractor, making sure to remain the supervisor of all work. However, "As a rule the farmer with his team, more or less of his own time, and often that of one or more hands, will find it cheaper to be his own contractor, hiring our skilled and other labor as may be necessary."⁹⁰

Although the bulletins were part of a federal publication meant to be issued to farmers from all across the nation, the two house plans described are not unlike those found in rural Harnett County. The bulletin recommended using an L-shaped or front-gable plan, both of which could be one to two stories tall. Other features include a

⁸⁶ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 124.

⁸⁷ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 124; Fowler, *The Heritage of Harnett County*, 37.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, p. 289.

⁹⁰ George G. Hill, "Practical Suggestions for Farm Buildings," U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 126 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901), p.p. 5-9.

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fairly steeply pitched roof with a “slated ventilator” in each gable end, and a shingle or, if it could be afforded, a standing seam metal roof, which provided better protection against fire. Both house plans included a “veranda”: “The old-fashioned porch, too narrow to sit on and hemmed in by a close railing, was a farce and an aggravation, but a broad veranda, the roof supported by plain columns and with no railing, practically affords an additional room for summer use.”⁹¹ These features are common ones used throughout the region during this period. These forms were also particularly popular, perhaps because they did, as the bulletin proclaimed, result in a “convenient and commodious house.” Harnett County examples include houses located in the vicinity of Erwin (HT 139) and Dunn (HT 129). Access to these publications and to cheaper, mass-produced building materials, the services of specialized builders, craftsmen, contractors improved housing for many farmers throughout the county.⁹²

Perhaps the most visible architectural development in Harnett County at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth was the construction of commercial buildings forming the downtowns of Angier, Coats, Erwin, Dunn and Lillington. While Dunn and Lillington retain the most intact commercial blocks, with some structures dating from the 1890s, all of these communities exhibit remnants of the era’s building boom. In addition, these buildings typically follow a conventional design, usually a one-story or two-story brick rectangular building with a parapet and a storefront that was mostly glass. Good extant examples include the commercial buildings on South Broad Street in Angier, on East Main Street in Coats, East H Street and North 13th Street in Erwin, Cumberland Avenue in Dunn, and along North Main and Front streets in Lillington. While all of these commercial areas expanded in later decades with movie theaters, gas stations, and garages, buildings from the 1880s to the 1910s are representative of the early flourishing of Harnett’s towns, when brick buildings began to replace the earliest wooden structures and roads and services were improved. All of these developments exhibited civic pride and a general sense of optimism.⁹³

Modest residential neighborhoods with houses ranging in style from Queen Anne to Craftsman surround the downtown business districts and illustrate the extent of their commercial success, but perhaps the most intact from this period is the area south of Lillington’s Front Street. Several large Queen Anne houses proclaim the success that the county seat finally achieved in the late nineteenth century. Focused around 8th and 9th streets near the commercial area, these Queen Anne residences featured staggered gables, molding, decorative windows and vents, and elaborate porches, details that required no small degree of skill or expense to create. At the same time, these materials were increasingly mass-produced and available from suppliers in the county thanks to improved transportation lines.⁹⁴ While the majority of buildings within this older Lillington district were the

⁹¹ Hill, "Practical Suggestions," pp. 10-31.

⁹² Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, pp. 257-261.

⁹³ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders In North Carolina*, pp. 244-249.

⁹⁴ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders In North Carolina*, p. 289.

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homes of Lillington's prominent residents, the neighborhood also includes more modest interpretations built by workers, professionals, and workers of lesser means.

Urban and Agricultural Diversification, 1910s to 1940s

Rural Developments

The production of cotton dominated Harnett County's agriculture-based economy since the county's inception, but eventually it was superseded in the early twentieth century with the introduction of tobacco. According to local tradition, Will J. Olive is attributed with changing the county's agricultural landscape by growing flue-cured tobacco on a large scale. Olive's influence was so great that the community of Rock Branch changed its name to Olivia in his honor. Tobacco had an immediate impact on Harnett County's economy. Between 1912 and the mid-1950s, as the value of cotton production dropped gradually to roughly \$1,000,000 a year, the production of tobacco grew to \$13,000,000 a year.⁹⁵ In addition to tobacco production, the county's agricultural output diversified further through fruit and nut production, which was primarily centered on the J. Van Lindley Nursery Company at the southern end of the county. In 1940, Farm Agent C. R. Ammons initiated a pork program that heralded a new dimension to the county's agriculture. Through Ammons's efforts, the selling of hogs and eventually livestock in the markets of Lillington and Dunn generated millions of dollars annually.⁹⁶

At the turn of the twentieth century, the rolling forested, sandy terrain of sparsely populated southern Harnett County, once the site of large turpentine plantations, came to the attention of wealthy, mostly northern sportsmen for its recreational potential. Circa 1906, a consortium of northern businessmen created the Croatan Club of Manchester and purchased more than 20,000 acres of land straddling the Harnett County-Cumberland County line, much of it the timbered land of a former turpentine plantation. Apparently some development of the land occurred in the next few years, for when the consortium sold it in 1910, the value had increased considerably. The new owners were another group of wealthy sportsmen who formed the Kent-Jordan Company, proceeded to acquire more land and make extensive improvements, and in 1913 established the Overhills Country Club, which by 1920 covered more than 35,000 acres, mostly in Harnett County, on either side of current NC 87.

Between 1911 and 1914, the Kent-Jordan Company sold J. Van Lindley Nursery Company approximately 1,224 acres for nursery fields near Jumping Run Creek, in the northern reaches of Overhills. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Lindley Nursery was one of the South's largest commercial nurseries, offering an array of fruit and nut trees, ornamental shrubbery and grapevines. Based in Pomona, to the northwest in Guilford County, the company eventually made its Harnett County nursery the principal site for the production of its nursery stock. During the height of its production, the company constructed a series of buildings for its full-time

⁹⁵ Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 1345.

⁹⁶ Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 1349.

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crew and for owner Paul Cameron Lindley and nursery manager Atlas Simpson Davis. The nursery prospered until the Great Depression forced the company to abandon the Harnett location.

Meanwhile, development of Overhills continued as the game preserve was expanded, support buildings and a clubhouse were erected, and a golf course designed by Donald Ross, one of the premier golf course designers of the time, was built. Visitors often arrived via the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad running through the property, disembarking at the private Overhills depot. The two principal investors in the club, Percy Avery Rockefeller and William Averell Harriman, built cottages near the clubhouse. Throughout the 1920s, the elite membership played golf, fished, hunt foxes, and played polo. Stylish fox hound kennels and a stable arranged for the ritual of the hunt were built and a more utilitarian polo barn went up. New York architect John Oakman designed another riding stable in the Colonial Revival style and in 1929 Isabel (Mrs. Percy) Rockefeller commissioned the New York architectural firm of Hiss and Weeks to design a two-story brick residence called Croatan. With additional land purchases by the Rockefellers, the estate grew by 1930 to more than 40,000 acres, which included about a dozen tenant farms growing primarily tobacco, cotton, peas, hay, and rye and manufacturing small amounts of tar and wood shingles.

With the advent of the Great Depression, club membership declined, but development of Overhills did not stop. After the J. Van Lindley Nursery Company went out of business following the sharp decline in the demand for nursery stock brought on by the Depression, Isabel Rockefeller bought the land in 1932 and established a children's health-care facility known as the Preventorium which operated in the former Paul Cameron Lindley House until her death in 1936, at which time the nursery grounds were converted into farmland managed by Overhills. Also in the early to mid 1930s, the Rockefellers expanded the agricultural enterprises with a dairy operation.

By the time Percy Rockefeller died in 1934, Overhills had become the Rockefeller family's private estate. The five Rockefeller children who inherited the estate sold roughly seventy-five percent of the land and formed a family-owned holding company to manage the remaining property. A number of the estate's historic buildings have been lost, including the Overhills clubhouse, but many are extant, among them Croatan, the Harriman cottage, the architect-designed stables, the depot, a small hunting lodge, worker housing of skinned-pole construction, as well as the Lindley House/Preventorium and a number of other buildings associated with the nursery. In 1997, Rockefeller descendants sold Overhills to the U. S. Army for incorporation into the Fort Bragg Military Reservation immediately to the south.⁹⁷ The former estate's twentieth-century land use is emblematic of the area's declining agriculture and absence of other rural development.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ Gulf South Research Corporation and Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., *Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report: Overhills Tract Fort Bragg Harnett and Cumberland Counties, North Carolina*. On file at the State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, 200, pp. 11-39, 47.

⁹⁸ Works Progress Administration, North Carolina: The WPA Guide, p. 327; "Fort Bragg," <http://www.bragg.army.mil/>, accessed 14 August 2002; Lorraine V. Aragon, "Sandhills' Families: Early Reminiscences of the Fort Bragg Area,

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Government Aid and Outreach

Despite the growth of its towns, Harnett County remained largely rural. In 1900, few of its inhabitants lived in a town, and even by 1930, eighty-eight percent of the county's population still lived in a rural area.⁹⁹

Many rural residents benefited from agricultural reform programs from the 1900s to the 1940s that sought to improve housing and farming practices. In 1909, North Carolina became the first state to forge a working relationship between the USDA and the state's land-grant university, then North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University). Within a year, the state had forty-six county agents. The North Carolina Extension Service (NCES) sought to educate and inform farmers and their families, providing models of diversified farming, home economics, and conservation.¹⁰⁰ Their programs also celebrated the family farm and its role in the social and economic success of North Carolina. Participants witnessed a direct benefit to their communities. Secretary Owen Odum of the Coats Community Fair commented that, "As one result of the community fair a car-load of registered Jersey cattle has been purchased for Grove Township. Four other communities are planning for four community fairs."¹⁰¹

Many homes did not have access to the luxuries of electricity and indoor plumbing. In 1940, only 23 percent of houses in Harnett County had running water, well below the state average of 38 percent, and only 24 percent had a mechanical refrigeration unit. In the same year, however, 42 percent of houses had electric lights and 56 percent had a radio.¹⁰² The large number of homes with electricity reflects the success of the Rural Electrification Administration and the efforts of Duke Power Company to market to individual homeowners. As farmers acquired electric power, they applied it to all aspects of their operations. Many farms, however, remained without electricity until the 1950s.¹⁰³

Education

Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties, North Carolina," Cultural Resources Program, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Public Works Business Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 2000, p. 28.

⁹⁹ ICPSR, accessed 14 August 2002.

¹⁰⁰ "The History of Cooperative Extension," North Carolina State University, www.ces.ncsu.edu, accessed 19 August 2003.

¹⁰¹ S. G. Rubinow, "Some Results of Fair Work In North Carolina," Extension Circular 94 (Raleigh: North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, June 1919), p. 16. Electronic edition, *Documenting the American South*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html>, accessed 19 August 2003.

¹⁰² ICPSR, accessed 19 August 2003.

¹⁰³ Anita Price Davis, *North Carolina During the Great Depression: A Documentary Portrait of a Decade* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc. 2003), pp. 166-167.

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Spurred by a growing consciousness of civic pride and responsibility, the school consolidation movement initiated in Raleigh resulted in increases in public school funding in the 1920s and 1930s. There are two-story brick schools in Angier, Erwin, Lillington, Coats and Dunn, all with slight stylistic variations, that stand as examples of this movement. Private academies also served Harnett County children.

At the same time, a strong movement began to provide education to Harnett County's African American population through the aid of Sears, Roebuck and Co. magnate Julius Rosenwald. In an effort to improve the education standards of African Americans living in the rural South, Rosenwald established a fund in 1917 with the guidance of Booker T. Washington. Unlike previous philanthropic groups such as the Slater Fund or General Education Board, which simply donated money to African American educational causes, Rosenwald and Washington instituted a more aggressive approach to improving the educational needs of African Americans that focused on the construction of new school facilities with an emphasis placed on vocational training.¹⁰⁴

As a result of the Rosenwald Fund, approximately twenty-five schools were built throughout Harnett County between 1921 and 1933. These schools were located in every major population center in the county and in many of the rural communities such as Sand Hill, Stewart's Creek, and Bethlehem. Lillington boasted three Rosenwald schools, which were constructed between 1922 and 1929.¹⁰⁵ Most of the schools were one-, two-, or three-classroom frame buildings, but a few were larger, with four, five, or six classrooms and an auditorium; the largest was the Harnett County Training School (HT 523) in Dunn, built in two stages in 1923 and 1927.¹⁰⁶

This twenty-teacher school is one of the largest Rosenwald schools built in North Carolina and the only one known to survive in the county. This two-story brick Colonial Revival style building, now abandoned, has an adjacent gymnasium building. In 1949 the school complex expanded with the construction of a one-story building to house a library, cafeteria and Home Economic rooms. Two more buildings were added to the school complex in the 1960s. These two periods of expansion are a testament to the school's growth and significance to African Americans prior to public school integration. The Harnett County Training School offered a diverse liberal arts curriculum in addition to vocational training. The school not only served residents from Harnett County, but also African Americans from adjoining Cumberland and Sampson counties.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Mary S. Hoffschwelle, "Julius Rosenwald Fund," in *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, Carroll Van West ed. (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1998), pp. 495-496.

¹⁰⁵ Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina," *North Carolina Historical Review* LXV, no. 4 (Raleigh: North Carolina Office of Archives and History, October 1988), p. 435.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 435.

¹⁰⁷ Lucy Saunders Herring, "The Black School System in the Dunn Area of Harnett County 1900-1968, in *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina Volume I, 1993* (Lillington: Delmar Printing, 1993), p. 50.

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Higher education in Harnett County also grew during this period. Buies Creek Academy continued to expand in the aftermath of the 1900 fire. In 1926, James Archibald Campbell sold the school to a group of area Baptists who promptly changed the name of the school to Campbell Junior College, in honor of its founder. During this period the school added two additional years to college work curriculum and grew to include 333 elementary, 352 high school, and 53 college students.¹⁰⁸ The school eventually became an accredited four-year college in 1966. Following the addition of graduate programs beginning in 1977, the school became known as Campbell University in 1979 and now draws students from across the entire state and beyond.¹⁰⁹

Architecture

Innovations in material production and house construction resulted in contrasts that reflect societal changes occurring in the county and throughout the Southeast, involving race relations, growing economic disparity, and an increasing economic dependence on industry over agriculture.¹¹⁰ For example, later stages of the Erwin Mill Village (HT 21) use several different types of Craftsman details in its residences to create a harmonious pattern of uniformity and order. These details include a shed-roof dormer on a side-gable roof or smaller hip-roof dormer on a pyramidal roof. Many of the mill houses also used a front gable form with a gable porch. Tapered wood posts on brick piers as porch supports were common on all three styles. With the second phase of Erwin's development in 1926, changes to employee housing was not limited to exterior architectural embellishment. According to one account: "Every house in town, together with all the older ones, is being equipped with water and sewerage and each has electric lights. The houses were built primarily for comfort, but no finer houses are in any industrial town."¹¹¹

Privately owned residences in Dunn and Angier used the Craftsman style to illustrate the wealth, education and individuality of their owners. One of the best examples is the Thompson-Pope House (HT 418) located on Orange Street in Dunn. Built by the Thompson family and later owned by newspaper owner L. Busbee Pope, the spacious house has a large, prominent gable dormer on its side dormer roof. Exposed rafter tails, multi-pane windows, a transom and sidelights surrounding the main entry, and triple columns on brick piers are typical Craftsman embellishments that emphasized the wealth of its owners and talent of the builders. Other, more modest examples include the house located at 610 West Divine Street in Dunn (HT 405) and the Gregory House in Angier (HT 290), which also use the side gable form, with solid brick posts for porch supports, roof brackets,

¹⁰⁸ Fowler, *The Heritage of Harnett County*, p. 39.

¹⁰⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "James Archibald Campbell Residence," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 17 November 1977, pp. 8:1-2; "Campbell University," <http://www.campbell.edu/geninfo.html#BriefHistory>, accessed 14 August 2002.

¹¹⁰ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, pp. 301-306.

¹¹¹ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 125.

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shingles in the gable end, and exposed rafter tails. These details provided distinction and were embellishments that distinguished them from the less costly company-built mill houses of Erwin.

Similar contrasts appear in the county's Neoclassical Revival architecture, evident in both rural farmsteads and town residences. Particularly popular around the turn of the century and throughout the 1930s in Harnett County, the style demonstrated economic success and conservative values.¹¹² In the rural areas, large farm complexes remain with high-style Neoclassical Revival residences. These include the Daniel Bayles Homeplace (HT 359) on the outskirts of Coats and the J. C. Byrd House (HT 151) in the vicinity of Bunnlevel. Both properties are clearly operated for agricultural purposes, with barns and sheds still extant, but both also used Neoclassical Revival elements to impart the success and importance of the farms' owners. Full-height porches, Corinthian columns, and prominent main entries with sidelights and transoms accomplished this effect.

As citizens of the larger cities of Raleigh, Wilmington, and Charlotte used the Neoclassical Revival style for its most important public and residential buildings, so too, did residents of Lillington and Dunn use the style's size, scale, and decorative elements for their residential and institutional buildings, particularly houses of worship. The First Baptist Church (HT 444) on Broad Street is one of Dunn's best examples, with its two-story porch supported by Ionic columns, dentil molding, and octagonal tower. The Hood Memorial Christian Church (HT 520), also in Dunn, displays similar features, including a monumental portico supported by Ionic columns in a recessed entry, and an octagonal dome. Along residential Pearsall and Divine streets in Dunn, several extant Neoclassical Revival style houses suggest the prominence of this neighborhood, including the John McKay House (HT 9), the William C. Lee House (HT 8), and the C. L. Wilson-S. A. Kozma House (HT 15), the Kenneth L. Howard House (HT 3), and the house located directly across from it at 309 West Pearsall (HT 408). The cluster of these residences, built by prominent and successful citizens, created a feeling of sophistication and wealth. In fact, Sanborn maps show that 309 West Pearsall was built before 1925 with a small portico at its entry and that this was enlarged to its present full-height with Doric columns sometime after 1940, perhaps in an effort to keep up with the neighbors.

Two properties on West Front Street in Lillington (HT 329 and HT 331) and the house located at 208 West Washington Street in Coats (HT 283) are evidence that residents in smaller towns were as conscious of style and design as in the larger city of Dunn. Respectively, the two houses in Lillington are good representative examples of the Queen Anne and Neoclassical Revival styles. Property HT-329 is accented with Ionic style porch supports, a wraparound porch with a polygonal corner bay and jigsaw-cut trim in the clipped corners at the roof wall junctions. Highlighting HT-331 is a wide, two-story porch supported by Tuscan columns that provides access to double entry door. Two exterior brick chimneys are adorned with decorative caps. Property HT-283, is a circa 1910, one and one-half story, Neoclassical Revival house that is two rooms deep and capped with a hip roof and gabled wall dormers on facade and side elevations. Highlighting the facade is a two-tier central portico capped with a projecting gable roof supported by Ionic columns.

¹¹² Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, pp. 298-301.

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The popularity of two other styles, Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival, reflects the conservative tastes of Harnett County's suburban residents. These were also the most common housing styles in the later part of this period, during the 1930s and 1940s. As with the Neoclassical Revival, architects and builders used Tudor and Colonial Revival elements to give a sense of age to new buildings and neighborhoods, to suggest a connection to European taste, and to impart a feeling of wealth.¹¹³ Examples of these styles abound in Dunn, including the particularly distinct Tilghman-Pope House (HT 14) built by contractor Sam Pitman. Other houses on Harnett, Watauga, Ellis, and West Pearsall streets and Orange Avenue repeat these styles with variations. Common features of the Colonial Revival on larger examples include a two-story side gable form with one-story wings, use of brick and weatherboard exterior, and arched porticos over the main entry, usually supported by Doric columns. Smaller examples often use the arched porticos and gable dormers. Tudor Revival houses employed a front chimney, steeply sloping roof, and a preponderance of brick arches over porches and entry doors.

Architects also used these historical revival styles for the county's churches. In particular, several Gothic Revival houses of worship were constructed between 1910 and 1940 in the county's urban areas. These include Erwin Presbyterian Church (HT 23) and the First Presbyterian Church in Dunn (HT 117) and the Lillington Presbyterian Church (HT 487), the latter built by J. M. Shaw and Charlie Bethea with assistance from the congregation.¹¹⁴

New schools also used traditional building styles during this period. State legislation in 1901 increased educational funding, making possible the construction of large, brick schools both in urban and rural areas.¹¹⁵ These include the former Erwin High School (HT 201), Lillington Elementary (HT 26), Coats Elementary (28), the former Angier High School (HT 289), and the Magnolia Avenue School (HT 115) in Dunn. Rural schools maintained the same standards set by the urban schools, and the former Boone Trail High School in Mamers (HT 391) and the former Benhaven High School in Benhaven (HT 397) greatly resemble their urban counterparts. The schools included modern facilities, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, indoor plumbing, and individual classrooms for each grade. These progressive interior features were coupled with Gothic and Colonial Revival details, such as keystones over entries and windows, quoining, tripartite windows, arched windows, arched entries, and transom lights. It should be noted that these surveyed examples were built for the county's white students.

While the popularity of Neoclassical, Gothic, Tudor and Colonial Revival buildings suggests that Harnett County residents preferred this more conservative architecture, the residents of Dunn also built more eclectic Art Deco and Art Moderne public buildings. Other large North Carolina cities followed similar patterns, but the presence of these buildings in Dunn is significant as it illustrates sensitivity to popular styles used by much

¹¹³ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, pp. 253 and 300-301.

¹¹⁴ Harnett County survey files, HT 487, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

¹¹⁵ Davis, *North Carolina During the Great Depression*, pp. 124-125.

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larger cities such as Asheville.¹¹⁶ It is significant, also, that both examples housed services that needed to impart a modern image, and both were constructed with funds from the Works Progress Administration. The former Dunn Hospital (HT 116), built in 1939, and the former Dunn Armory (now the Dunn Civic Center) (HT 27), built in 1941, have both been adapted for alternate uses, but retain many of their distinguishing stylistic features, including rounded corners, glass block, horizontal banding and vertical projections.

Summary of Harnett County Development, 1950 to 2000

An account of the county in the mid-1950s described a state of change for both agriculture and industry. Farmers were diversifying their production, introducing new breeds of cattle and swine, starting dairy farms, building fish ponds, and growing more vegetables and soybeans. Dunn benefited from a "thriving tobacco, hog and produce market." But older practices had waned: "Time was when nearly every farm had an orchard. There was considerable acreage devoted to commercial growing of peaches and dewberries. Today, with scattered exceptions, these commercial orchards are a memory, dotted with decaying stumps of blight-destroyed peaches."¹¹⁷

This same account of the county in the 1950s stated that Harnett was "woefully deficient in industry but is making progress." The Erwin Cotton Mills, the Lillington Garment Company, Lillington Roller Mills, Purina feed mills at Lillington and Angier, the John McKay Manufacturing Company in Dunn, and sawmills throughout the county were important parts of the existing industry from the early to mid-twentieth century.¹¹⁸ By 1959, the county was home to roughly fifty-six industrial enterprises. These were mainly small businesses that ranged from a charcoal maker and a pepper-packing plant to a ham producer.¹¹⁹

After World War II, Harnett County's population grew slowly, with only a nine percent increase from 1940 to 1960. The nature of work changed also, with 46 percent of the population in 1960 living in rural areas but not farming. Manufacturing and transportation changed as passenger rail lines shut down and more residents traveled by car to retail offerings farther a field, causing commercial decline in railroad-focused communities like Angier and Coats. The construction of Interstate 95 in the 1960s drew more residents and businesses to the eastern half of the county, particularly to Dunn, which had easy access to the highway. The county's population was 91,025 in 2000, almost a 90 percent increase from 1960.¹²⁰

¹¹⁶ Bishir et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, p. 298.

¹¹⁷ Fowler, *They Passed this Way*, pp. 155-157.

¹¹⁸ Fowler, *They Passed this Way*, p. 157.

¹¹⁹ Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 1348.

¹²⁰ ICPSR, accessed 14 August 2002; Humble Oil and Refining Co., "North Carolina Highway Map," 1970.

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These changes are further evidenced in the 2000 census figures of Harnett's five towns: Dunn, Lillington, Erwin, Coats and Angier. Coats had fewer than 2,000 residents, while Lillington's population was 2,915. They remain Harnett's smallest towns, despite Lillington's title as the county seat and Coats's proximity to the interstate. Angier, a community with a recently growing Hispanic population, had 3,419 residents in 2000, while Erwin maintained a population of over 4,000 despite the closing of the textile mill. Dunn is Harnett's largest community with over 9,000 people.¹²¹

The post-war period witnessed dramatic changes in Erwin as Erwin Mills took the first steps to relinquish control of the mill housing with the goal of helping residents incorporate the village. This process began on January 22, 1951, when 672 houses were sold for prices ranging between \$1,500 and \$6,500. The sale of the houses was limited to employees and conducted by the Alester Furman Co. in the Methodist church. In 1967, the town became an officially incorporated municipality with a population of 4,500 residents. The incorporation of Erwin is significant in Harnett County's history as it allowed the municipality to grow without the constraints of corporate control.¹²²

In 2000, Erwin Mills shut down as a result of industry changes affected by passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The effects of NAFTA were not limited to the Erwin Mills. Many successful textile plants throughout the South, unable to compete with the cheap labor and lax environmental laws of Third World countries, responded by either shutting down or moving their operations to Mexico. The closing of Erwin Mills was devastating to Harnett County's economy as the county lost its largest civilian employer and a major stream of tax revenue. Nevertheless, a pivotal feature of the county's industrial history and the employer of thousands of county residents, Erwin Mills played a significant role in the overall development of Harnett County's.¹²³

Development along Interstate 95 has further emphasized an old division between the county's eastern and western halves. Fast food restaurants and strip malls follow Highway 421 from the interstate to Lillington and Buies Creek. Campbell University students contribute to the population in Erwin, Coats, and Angier and provide some customer base for shops and restaurants. The 2000 U. S. Census revealed that Harnett County contained approximately 91,025 residents, ranking it the 27th largest county in North Carolina with a medium household income of \$31,941. Census figures also indicate a dramatic rise in the county's population during the 1990s, which can be attributed to the suburban encroachment from Raleigh to the north and the expansion of Fort Bragg to the south.¹²⁴ Both of these factors, coupled with the economic decline of areas to the west, threaten the

¹²¹ United States Department of Commerce, "US Census Bureau," <http://www.census.gov>, accessed 14 August 2002.

¹²² Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 139.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, pp. 149-150.

¹²⁴ Hairr, *Harnett County: A History*, p. 150.

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county's architectural heritage with development and neglect. Despite these factors, efforts are being made to recognize Harnett County's historic resources, as evidenced by the enthusiasm shown by the Harnett County Government and local historical societies in providing support for the completion of this county survey project.

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F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Property Type 1: Farm Complexes

Property Type 2: Houses

A. Houses Built from the Colonial Period to the Civil War (ca. 1770-1865)

B. Houses Built Between the Civil War and 1950

C. Erwin Mill Employee Housing

Property Type 3: Institutional Buildings

A. Churches

B. Schools

C. Other Institutional Buildings

Property Type 4: Commercial Buildings

National Register and National Register Study List properties are listed after the description of each property type.

PROPERTY TYPE 1: FARM COMPLEXES

Introduction

The number of farm complexes surveyed in this project was relatively few, which reflects the steady decline of family farms in Harnett County during the last fifty years. This follows a statewide trend in which individual farms have been purchased and combined by poultry and hog producers to accommodate large-scale agribusinesses. Development pressures, mainly through suburban growth, have also contributed to the decline of family farms and arable acreage. Since 1950, the number of farms in the state has dropped from 301,000 to less than 60,000.¹²⁵ In an effort to offset the declining agricultural industry, Harnett County joined twelve surrounding counties to make up the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), a group of public and private economic development organizations that work in concert with the North Carolina Department of Commerce to market the economic benefit of their communities. Consequently, Harnett County has begun to witness encroaching development emanating from Fayetteville to the south and from Raleigh-Durham to the north. With the Research Triangle Regional Partnership group's emphasis on manufacturing and technology, coupled with the overall decline of family farms, only 2.6 percent of Harnett County's available workforce was employed in the agricultural industry in 2001.¹²⁶

Agriculture's declining role in the economy of Harnett County is readily apparent by examining its rural landscape, which features a relatively small number of intact farm complexes. Principal residences that were once associated with family farms are in abundance; however, they often include only one or two remaining

¹²⁵ J. Paul Lilly, "North Carolina Agricultural History," <http://www.ncagr.com>, accessed 11 August 2003.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

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support buildings, which have either been abandoned or converted to non-agricultural functions. As result, properties that featured these characteristics did not meet the criteria of a farm complex and were ultimately surveyed as individual residences. The survey identified four intact farms, which brings the total number of surveyed farms in Harnett County to ten.

Description

Farm complexes in Harnett County consist of four categories of buildings and/or structures. These include: 1) dwellings, 2) outbuildings 3) fences and field patterns and 4) cemeteries, which combine to serve the agricultural and domestic functions of a farm. For the most part, dwellings consist of the principal residence of the property owner, but also include slave and tenant houses. Common outbuildings are often divided between those that serve agricultural and domestic functions. Agricultural buildings include, but are not limited to, barns, stables, silos, tenant houses, tobacco barns, and cribs. Domestic support buildings consist of smokehouses, privies, wash sheds, and wells. For the most part, these buildings, along with the primary residence, are of frame construction; however, tobacco barns are commonly composed of brick or terra cotta blocks.

Additional contributing elements of farm complexes in Harnett County include landscape features such as field patterns, fences, roads, grazing pastures, trees and creeks. These features exist in varying degrees and contribute to the overall understanding of the farm's historic appearance and usage. Less common features include vineyards, which were noted on the Johnson Farm (HT-161) and the Hobbs House (HT-383).

Harnett's farm complexes do not reveal a distinct spatial pattern regarding the placement of outbuildings. Naturally, domestic outbuildings are located close to the principal building, with agricultural outbuildings situated further away. One of the largest collections of historic support buildings remaining in the county is the Hobbs Farm (HT-383). Situated at the junction of U.S. Route 401 and State Route 2030, the farm is anchored by a circa 1908, one-story, L-shaped residence topped with a high hipped roof and featuring Queen Anne detailing. Resting immediately north of the house is a frame washhouse containing the original brick vats. A brick pump house is attached to the east elevation via a breezeway that shields a brick wellhead. Located adjacent to the pump house is a frame smokehouse, which is currently utilized as a storage facility.

In addition to raising hogs and chickens, the Hobbs Farm historically produced a variety of crops such as cotton, corn and wheat. Today, the thirty-nine acre farm raises only sheep. Extant agricultural and support buildings at the farm include a feed barn, chicken house, garage, horse barn and sheep stable. All of these buildings are located well behind (east) of the residence and are accessible via a dirt drive. The property also includes a frame, two-story grist mill situated along its southern boundary, which parallels State Route 2030. Resting on a brick pier foundation, the building is capped with side-gable roof and clad with weatherboard siding. Highlighting the facade is a central door flanked by two windows containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows. Two additional windows containing the same sash type pierce the second story.

The only intact antebellum farmstead identified during the survey was "Silver Spring," located on the Lower Little River and centered on the Dr. John Calhoun Williams House (HT-178), a circa 1835 two-story Greek

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Revival dwelling that is capped with a low hip roof and features a rear extension. Highlighting the five-bay facade are six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows and a central entry porch, which shields a door with flanking sidelights and a multi-light transom. Situated directly behind the residence are the former kitchen and smokehouse. The only remaining agricultural buildings, located west of the house, are much later, and include only a frame chicken house and a dilapidated tobacco barn composed of terra cotta blocks. Today, Silver Spring occupies only forty-five acres, a far cry from the 8,000-plus acres that constituted the property in the 1900s when it produced sweet potatoes and tobacco.

Silver Spring demonstrates the arrangement of farm complexes prior to the introduction of rural electrification in the 1930s, when kitchens were often confined to a separate building to prevent the loss of the house in the event of a fire. For sanitation reasons, privies were likewise housed in separate buildings due to the absence of indoor plumbing. Once electricity became readily available, the complexion of the principal residence changed as rooms were remodeled to accommodate kitchens and bathrooms. The former privies were often dismantled, while the kitchen buildings were usually remodeled and utilized as storage sheds, as seen at Silver Spring. These advances in technology transferred domestic tasks into the interior of the house, leaving the grounds reserved exclusively for agricultural functions.

Farm complexes occasionally include buildings that were utilized by families as stores or doctor offices. Historically, these buildings were situated along side a nearby road, but later moved once they no longer served their original function or were threatened by road projects. A case in point is Silver Spring (HT-178), which also includes the office building of Dr. John Calhoun Williams. Constructed circa 1840, the frame, one-story building features a front-gable roof and an exterior of weatherboard siding. An offset entry is found on both the facade and the north elevation, each accompanied by a window opening covered with paneled shutters. In addition, the property also contains a circa 1870 store, a frame building featuring a front gable roof and an exterior of weatherboard siding. Piercing the facade is a central door flanked by two windows. Once situated along the east side of SR 2027, these buildings were moved in the mid-twentieth century to a location just northeast of the principal residence. Another example can be found on the Johnson Farm (HT-161), which features a circa 1885 frame store. Originally located in front of the primary residence, the one-story, frame building features a front-gable roof and a central entry flanked by two windows on the facade. Accompanying the store is an original early twentieth-century automobile gas pump. The store was moved to its current location in circa 1950 when SR 1403 was constructed north of the property. Located to the east is an additional store building featuring a similar plan.

The majority of the farm complexes surveyed date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and are located on relatively large tracts of land. Architecturally, the principal residences often consist of a substantial Neoclassical Revival style building or a vernacular dwelling embellished with Queen Anne detailing. Examples can be found in Ivy Burne (HT-24, NR) on the Little River near Linden, the J.C. Byrd Farm (HT-151) in Bunnlevel, and the Johnson Farm (HT-161) in Kipling. An 1870s I-House with an Italianate porch, Queen Anne detailing, and Colonial Revival additional of 1910 is the focal point of Ivy Burne, while a two-story Neoclassical Revival dwelling highlights the 1910s Byrd and Johnson farms. Characteristic of the style, the

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latter houses feature a symmetrical facade dominated by a two-story portico supported by classically inspired columns. In addition, each dwelling contains a wraparound porch and is capped with a hip roof.

All three of these properties feature a diverse collection of outbuildings. Ivy Burne's six agricultural buildings date mostly from the 1870s, including a tool house, corn crib, and tobacco barn; in contrast, the J. C. Byrd Farm's nine agricultural buildings all date to ca. 1910, while the fifteen Johnson Farm buildings span the period ca. 1885 to ca. 1950. The J.C. Byrd Farm contains three transverse barns, sheds, a garage, workshop, tobacco barn, and a former store. All of these early twentieth-century outbuildings are of frame construction and are situated behind the house. Highlighting the Johnson Farm is a series of frame outbuildings assembled in a linear arrangement that rest on 150 acres. Among the outbuildings associated with the farm are three livestock barns, corn cribs, a chicken house and machine shed. A tenant house rests several hundred yards northwest of the house. Although farming no longer occurs on the property, the outbuildings continue to be maintained and utilized primarily as storage.

The best example of a farm complex containing a Queen Anne influenced dwelling can be found at the circa 1900 Richard Byrd Farm (HT-387). Located on the east side of US 401 in the Bunnlevel vicinity, the principal house provides an uncommon vernacular example of the style, featuring a steeply pitched hip roof, corbelled chimneys and sunburst motif featured within the pedimented porch roof. The farm complex consists of several associated outbuildings that date to circa 1910. Some of the most significant outbuildings include three frame barns, a tobacco barn, and a servant's house. Additional farm-related buildings added to the property in the 1950s include a metal plated silo and a frame shed.

Other intact farmsteads noted in the project include the Smith Farm (HT-392) and Tee Top Farms (HT-378). Located on the north side of NC 27 and established circa 1920, the Smith Farm is anchored by a one-story pyramidal roof house featuring double gables and a wraparound porch along the facade. Two frame tobacco barns, three frame barns, and a series of frame sheds highlight the farm complex. Tee Top Farms, straddling the east and west sides of SR 1412 near Duncan, is centered around a circa 1910, one-story house capped with a steep hip roof. The facade is highlighted with a porch supported by a series of square posts. Currently utilized as a tobacco farm, the complex consists of four frame tobacco barns, a frame tenant house, a frame office building, and three frame sheds.

National Register and Study List Properties

Summer Villa (HT-17), Lillington vic. (NR)
Ivy Burne (HT-24), Linden vic. (NR)
J.C. Byrd Farm (HT-151), US 401 (SL)
Johnson Farm (HT-161), SR 1408, Kipling vic. (SL)
Silver Spring (Dr. John Calhoun Williams House) (HT-178), SR 2027, Linden vic. (SL)
Tee Top Farms (HT-378), SR 1412, Duncan vic. (SL)
Hobbs Farm (HT-383), US 401, Bunnlevel vic. (SL)
Richard Byrd Farm (HT-387), US 401, Bunnlevel vic. (SL)

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Smith Farm (HT-392), NC 27 (SL)

Significance

In Harnett County, farm complexes are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion A in the area of agriculture. In addition, farmsteads may be eligible for listing under criterion C in the area of architecture as a collection of buildings that, as a whole, represents the building types, craftsmanship and building techniques associated with the county's agricultural heritage. Remaining historic farm complexes indicate where land has been used for cultivating crops, raising livestock, and other activities that contributed to the development of Harnett County between the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century. These farms provide an insight into the diversity of crops that were produced and livestock raised, which propelled the county's agricultural industry. Farms typically consist of a large tract of land containing a primary residence and associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings ranging from barns to work sheds and smokehouses. Assorted structures and objects, such as fences and roads are to be considered contributing elements to the overall character of farm complexes.

Registration Requirements

In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, farm complexes must meet certain registration requirements. The majority of the buildings and field patterns on the farmstead should be fifty years old or older. At a minimum, three of the four major components of a farm complex (dwellings, outbuildings, and field patterns) should be extant and associated with a significant period of the farm's agricultural history; since a family cemetery is not always present on a farm, its existence is not necessary in defining a historic farm complex. In addition, farm complexes overall must display a level of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the farm's period of significance. Changes in agricultural methods and the development of farming techniques are a common occurrence and are often seen through the alteration of outbuildings and the principal house. For example, the replacement of an original nineteenth-century principal dwelling with an early twentieth-century Craftsman style bungalow is a drastic yet acceptable modification to the property as it represents significant development within the farm complex's period of significance. Modern improvements are expected; however, extensive new buildings/structures and additions diminish the historic appearance of the property and should be kept to a minimum. It is unlikely that a property can be defined as a "historic farm complex" if the principal dwelling was built after 1950 and contains few extant historic outbuildings or historic field patterns. However, because the resource is an entire complex in which the whole is more important than the parts, it is possible for a farmstead to be eligible for listing despite extensive alterations to the main house if there is a significant and largely intact collection of associated outbuildings and field patterns.

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PROPERTY TYPE 2: HOUSES

A. Post-Colonial Era to the Civil War (ca. 1790-1865)

Introduction

Harnett County contains a limited variety of residential buildings that were constructed between ca. 1790 and 1865. No buildings constructed prior to 1790 were identified during the survey. Most of the pre-Civil War houses identified in the project once served as the principal residence to large plantations and farm complexes. However, as a result of an overall decline in the agricultural industry, the majority of these houses now either stand alone or are accompanied by a few deteriorated outbuildings that hint of the property's former prominence. The project surveyed twelve pre-Civil War houses, which are of frame construction and in various states of integrity. Since railroad construction in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century provided the impetus for much of Harnett County's development, it is not surprising that that few pre-Civil War buildings remain.

Description

Prior to the establishment of Harnett County in 1855, the area was part of Cumberland County. During this period, significant population growth resulted in the purchase of large tracts of arable land, which led to the establishment of hundreds of farmsteads. Most of Harnett County's surviving pre-Civil War dwellings are vernacular in character, including a number of I-Houses. Some of the houses of this period exhibit no stylistic influences, while others offer a restrained display of elements typical of the Greek Revival style. At the other extreme, there are a handful of full-blown Greek Revival style houses. Very few of the surviving late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century houses exhibit any features of indications of the earlier Georgian or Federal styles.

Possibly one of the oldest properties in Harnett County is the log house that is known locally as the Rory Matthews Log House (HT-167) despite a lack of documentation connecting the house with Matthews.¹²⁷ According to the current owners, the building is associated with the descendents of Edward Green (1718-1786), one of the county's earliest settlers. Tradition states that in 1837, Green's grandson, John Green, moved into the house with his wife, Catherine McLean, on their wedding day, which places the house's date of construction to at least the 1830s.¹²⁸ However, the house may be older since the use of log construction in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of North Carolina dates to the late eighteenth century. Originally located two and half miles

¹²⁷ According to county historian Malcolm Fowler, Matthews shot and killed Dan McLeod in 1925 in a dispute over the location of a county road. Although tried and convicted, Matthews avoided the death penalty as he successfully appealed his case to the United States Supreme Court. Tried for a second time, Matthews was convicted of second-degree murder and received a life sentence. Fowler, *They Passed This Way*, 132.

¹²⁸ HT-167, Harnett County Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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northwest of Buies Creek, the house was moved to its current location in downtown Lillington in 1975 and completely reconstructed. The two-pen building rests on a log foundation and is assembled with square notching and capped with a side-gable roof covered with wood shingles. The facade features two centrally placed doors flanked by two modern windows. Access to the doors is achieved via a porch capped with a non-historic shed roof supported by a four wood posts. Further adorning the building are two exterior end stone chimneys and a rear shed addition and porch. Photos taken of the house on its original site in circa 1975 reveal that the house contained only one exterior chimney and an arched stone firebox. Despite the move, reconstruction, and associated changes, the Rory Matthews Log House continues to serve as a representative example of an early vernacular log residence.

In contrast, the McNeal House (HT-385) remains on its original site and is more securely dated to the early nineteenth century by its surviving original fabric. The two-room house is located near the banks of the Little River in the vicinity of Linden on the south side of SR 2027, in an area that is reputedly one of the first regions in the county to be settled. Although the building is currently utilized for storage and has lost its chimneys and interior partition walls, it is otherwise relatively intact. Highlighting the building is its post and girt framing that incorporates treenails (or dowels) to secure interior bracing and exterior weatherboard siding. The facade features two batten doors and an off-centered window opening shielded by a batten shutter secured with strap-iron hinges. A similar window is located on the north elevation. Situated along the rear (west) elevation is a full-width shed-roof extension, which was probably added later in the century.

Other rare surviving examples of Harnett's pre-Civil War vernacular houses exhibiting few if any stylistic markers include the Sam Johnson House and the Matthews House. The Sam Johnson House (HT-163), located on the south side of NC 24 in the Johnsonville area, is an early nineteenth-century Coastal Plain frame cottage with a center-hall plan. The facade of the one-and-one-half-story, side gable house features a recessed central porch supported by simple posts, a main entry adorned with sidelights and transom, windows containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash, and three exterior end brick chimneys. Now sheathed with aluminum siding and resting on a concrete block foundation, the house is one of the county's very few remaining examples of a coastal plain cottage, a type that was popular in the region. In the Buies Creek vicinity, the Matthews House (HT-166) is an early timber frame, one-and-one-half-story dwelling constructed circa 1850 with a stone pier foundation and an exterior of weatherboard siding. The one-room-deep main section of the house has a single-shoulder brick chimney on a stone base in one of the gable ends and a full-façade shed porch enclosed at each end of create small rooms flanking a recessed entrance. The interior retains its original boxed stair and beaded board sheathing and wainscoting.

Although deteriorated and of indeterminate age, the Payola Post Office (HT-207) is one of the county's most interesting early buildings. The property initially served as a residence and later as a rural post office during the mid to late nineteenth century. Located on the north side of SR 1128 in the Flat Branch community, the building may have been built as the 1840s and probably no later than the 1860s. The one-room log structure is assembled with saddle notching and is capped with a side-gable roof now covered with standing seam metal (originally it would have been wood-shingled). The partially collapsed southwest elevation features the remains of an exceedingly rare stick and mud chimney. This form of chimney construction was common within the rural

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regions of the Southeast during the pre-Civil War period. The building practice soon grew out of favor for safety reasons and with the introduction of brick and stone as a more practical building material. However, stick and mud chimneys endured in this region of the state on a limited basis into the late nineteenth and even the early twentieth century as a "poor man's" chimney. To date, this is the only surviving example of a stick and mud chimney identified in Harnett County, providing a tangible model of the region's nineteenth-century building practices. Other distinctive features of the building suggestive of an early date include the massive half-dovetailed sills, the hand-planed strips of wood nailed between the logs on the interior (in place of chinking), and a number of sash-sawn boards.

The success of the county's agriculture resulted in the construction of large ornate houses that reflected fashionable building trends of the era. Many farming families who first resided in modest log or simple frame buildings during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries eventually replaced them with larger one- or two-room-deep dwellings that reflected their growing wealth and status among the community. Starting in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, these larger houses often were in the Greek Revival style. The finest of these houses are found in the southern portion of the county in the vicinity of the Lower Little River and the Cape Fear River in a district of rich soil straddling the Harnett-Cumberland counties line.

The original portion of Thorbiskope (HT-20) is perhaps the earliest surviving stylish house in Harnett County. Located close to the Lower Little River in the vicinity of Bunnlevel, the house consists of a ca. 1820, one-story-and-a-half coastal cottage to which a two-story Greek Revival dwelling built by John Elliot was attached ca. 1848. The original dwelling with beaded weatherboard, paved double-shouldered chimneys, and interior finish of board-sheathed wainscot and six-panel doors is perhaps the county's only remaining example of the vernacular Georgian/Federal style of architecture. The decision by planter and slaveholder Elliot's to construct the two-story addition is representative of his growing wealth and knowledge of fashionable architectural trends among the rural aristocracy. On both the first and second stories, the symmetrical facade reveals a central door flanked by two windows on the first and second stories. These doors provide access to a central, two-tiered, portico that has largely collapsed except for the projecting gable roof. Greek Revival elements include the closed pediment of the portico roof and classically inspired cornice and corner board trim.

Also near the Lower Little River, a few miles to the west, the two-story, one-room-deep main house at Silver Spring (HT-178) conveys its construction date in the 1830s, when the Greek Revival style was gaining popularity, in the blending of tall proportions and tall and narrow nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows, typical of the well-established Federal style, with elements such as the hip roof, trabeated double-door entrance, and hip-roofed entrance porch with paired boxed posts that signal the emergence of the Greek Revival. A prominent molded cornice and pair of exterior paved-shoulder chimneys on the back wall also distinguish Silver Spring.

Three other notable Greek Revival style plantation houses of the period exhibit the larger symmetrical two-story, two-room-deep form with center-hall plan and hipped roof characteristic of more fully realized examples of the mode. Perhaps the oldest of these is Lebanon (HT 2), near Averasboro, which features a three-bay main façade and slender corner posts treated as pilasters that support a plain frieze and molded cornice. Family

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tradition states that the house was built in the late 1820s, not long after its first owner, Farquhard Smith, married, but its strong similarity to Woodside (HT 104), near Linden, suggests a date closer to the middle of the century. Woodside achieved its current form in 1860 when planter John Williams raised a one-story house to two stories. Both houses sit on a raised brick basement and both prominently feature almost identical two-tired, three-bay gabled porticoes with chamfered posts, sawnwork brackets, and turned balustrades added after the Civil War. In Summerville, Summer Villa (HT 17) is a more robust example of the Greek Revival style. Here, the proportions are lower and heavier, accentuated by a low-pitch hip roof, wide board frieze, and prominent cornerboards. Summer Villa also has a two-tired portico, but it is an early twentieth-century update in the Neoclassical Revival style with monumental Doric columns supporting a full pediment.

A number of the county's antebellum dwellings are I-Houses, including one situated north of Erwin on SR 1703 (HT-371) that exemplifies a simplified, vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Probably constructed between the late 1830s and ca. 1850, the house is clad with weatherboard siding and rests on a brick pier foundation. The façade features a hip-roofed porch with replacement posts sheltering two doors flanked by window openings containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. An exterior end brick chimney with paved shoulders marks each gable end, while restrained ornament consisting of slender corner boards, prominent frieze board molded at top and bottom that wraps around the entire house, and cornice returns gives the house a modest level of Greek Revival styling. Similar treatment characterizes the ca. 1850 Harrington-Dewar House near Cokesbury, in the far northern corner of the county. Here there is a single front door, with transom, and the porch is shed-roofed with chamfered posts, but the finish is very similar except that the frieze appears only on the main façade and the corner boards rise to simply molded capitals. In contrast, the interior of the timber-framed house is completely sheathed in hand-hewed heart pine boards, many of them very wide.

Three houses from the second quarter of the nineteenth century stand apart from their contemporaries due to their form or decoration. The William Green House (HT-158), built ca. 1830 near Lillington on the west side of SR 1542, was once part of a substantial cotton and tobacco plantation consisting of over six hundred acres. The two-story, one-room-deep gable-roofed house has a fairly plain exterior with typically symmetrical, three-bay façade, six-over-six double-hung windows, and ca. 1920 Craftsman-style full-façade porch, but the interior features an array of original feathering and faux marble and granite wood trim. Located near Lillington on the west side of SR 1513, the Sexton House (HT-175) is distinctive due to its rather short upper story. Second-story windows are fairly small and square, with single sashes, while first-story windows on the main façade are typically Greek Revival in their large size with six-over-six double-hung sash. In contrast to the plainness of the exterior of the William Green and Sexton houses, an I-House (HT-389) near Cokesbury on the west side of SR 1403 exhibits distinctive ornamental detailing, including slender fluted corner boards and pedimented gable ends with tympanum faced in battens applied in a rectilinear pattern suggestive of half-timbering. This house also is unusual for the composition of the main façade which apparently was built with two sets of double entry doors with sidelights and transoms

An additional Greek Revival home noted during the project includes Silver Spring (HT-178). Located on the north side of SR 2027, Silver Spring is a two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival house with a low hip roof. The entry porch is covered by a hip roof and is supported by simple, double wood posts. The house is pierced with

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nine over nine double-hung wood sash windows. There are two tall interior chimneys between the main two-story block and a hip-roofed wing across the rear. A hip-roofed ell was added to the original wing ca. 1968.

National Register and Study List Properties

Thorbiskope (HT-20), SR 2049, Bunn Level vic. (NR)
Woodside (John Williams House) (HT-104), SR 2027, Linden vic. (SL)
William Green House (HT-158), SR 1542, Lillington vic. (SL)
Matthews House (HT-166), Jct. of SR 1542 and SR 1510, Buies Creek vic. (SL)
Silver Spring (Dr. John Calhoun Williams House) (HT-178), SR 2027, Linden vic. (SL)
Payola Post Office (HT-207), SR 1128, Flat Branch vic. (SL)
House (HT-371), SR 1703, Erwin vic. (SL)
Harrington-Dewar House (HT-??), SR 1703, Cokesbury vic. (SL)

Significance

Properties dating to the period ca. 1790 to 1865 may be architecturally significant under criterion C for exemplifying the styles, forms, and methods of construction of the era. The properties exhibit forms and detailing characteristic of dwellings built throughout Eastern North Carolina during this period and displays the craftsmanship and detailing representative of the county's early builders. In addition, existing pre-Civil War properties are also potentially eligible under criterion A for their significance in the early settlement of Harnett County. Properties may also be eligible under criterion B for their association with persons who played a significant role in the history of Harnett County or the state of North Carolina.

Registration Requirements

Harnett County contains few unaltered properties from the antebellum period. Due to their rarity, properties may meet the registration requirements if they possess only some of the architectural components described above. All of the properties that fall within this category are valuable as a result of their survival and significance. Most of the extant architecture from this era should be considered for listing on the National Register if it retains a sufficient level of structural design and interior and exterior detailing to identify it as having been constructed prior to the Civil War and that induce feeling and association of the time. This would include the circa 1830 I-House (HT-371) and the William Green House (HT-158). Architecturally significant buildings moved within the county may be eligible if their architectural character remained intact through the move and their new placement and setting are similar to the original site. Houses that have been moved and largely reconstructed such as the Rory Matthews Log House (HT-167), do not qualify for listing in the National Register because their reconstruction was not based on an approved restoration plan. Moreover, reconstructed buildings are ineligible for listing if the majority of their structural components and key stylistic features are not original to the property.

In many cases original interior detailing no longer exists, but the exterior remains largely intact. Although original interior features contribute significantly to the overall integrity of a property, their existence is not necessarily required for a property to meet the registration requirements if most of the exterior detailing and

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form are unaltered and exhibit rare and notable features, as is the case with the McNeil House (HT-385) and the Payola Post Office (HT-207). At a minimum, properties must exhibit their original size and scale and, with possible exceptions regarding rear facades, retain original roof form, window and door arrangements, chimney placements, integrity of materials, and integrity of site and setting.

B. Residential Architecture, 1865-1950

Description

The largest concentrations of residential styles from this period are found in the towns of Lillington and Dunn. These districts represent the dramatic growth that these two towns experienced following the arrival of the railroads that made both towns major commercial and social hubs where the county's financial and political leaders resided. The Lillington Historic District contains a diverse collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architectural styles located in an area roughly bounded to the west by 10th Street, to the north by Front Street, to the east by 9th Street, and to the south by McNeil Street. Some of the notable styles represented in the district include Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional. This district is Lillington's oldest neighborhood, which at one time was likely dominated by houses such as the dwelling at 909 10th Street (HT-492), constructed between 1890 and 1900 and one of the few remaining from the town's earliest development. Notable Queen Anne details are exhibited in the steep gable-on-hip roof, two interior chimneys topped with decorative caps, and the decorative porch. Many of its historic elements remain on the house, including a raised seam metal roof, turned posts supporting the façade porch, and two-over-two double-hung-sash windows. However, the exterior walls have been covered in vinyl siding.

Another notable Queen Anne residence is located at 1000 8th Street (HT-328). This ca. 1900 late Queen Anne style house is both remarkable for its high degree of presentation and unusual in Lillington for its stylistic exuberance. Queen Anne characteristics include the shingle and vertical plank detailing in the front-facing gables, an attic dormer window with a bellcast pyramidal roof, diamond-paned windows in the upper-most gables (at the top of the gable on hip roof), and variegated wall planes. The house is sheathed in wood clapboard siding and features historic materials and elements including one-over-one wood windows, doors, Tuscan porch columns, and corbelled chimneys. The front door is surrounded by the original transom and sidelights. Highlighting the building is a wraparound porch that extends along the north and east elevations and features a balustrade composed of turned balusters interspersed between the columns and a polygonal gazebo topped with a conical roof.

The influence of Colonial Revival architecture is readily apparent in the northern section of the Lillington Residential District, which is highlighted by the ca. 1900 Queen Anne house with Colonial Revival detailing at 106 West Front Street (HT-329). Known as the Atkins House, the building has been altered to fit its new use as Lillington's town hall, yet it still retains many of its original or early materials and features. Two of the most remarkable historic features include Ionic porch supports and wood balustrade and jigsaw-cut trim in the clipped corners at the junction of the roof and second story wall. Highlighting the facade is a wraparound porch that

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features a polygonal corner bay. The house is sheathed in wood clapboards and retains its original one-over-one wood windows and three interior corbelled brick chimneys.

The house at located at 101 West Front Street (HT-331) stands as the best example of the Neoclassical Revival style in the county seat. Constructed ca. 1890, the imposing two-story frame residence features a cubical main block and two-story rear ell, both capped with hip roofs, and an exterior brick chimney with decorative cap on each side elevation. A deep porch with Tuscan columns, plain wooden balustrade, and a similar balustrade marking the upper deck extends across the entire main façade with a distinctive convex bay at the entrance and wraps around to the east side. Access to the upper level of the porch is via a single door under a demi-lune transom and flanked by multi-pane windows in a Palladian arrangement. Although the house has undergone some alterations, including the replacement of many of its windows, it provides evidence of the prosperity and importance of Harnett's county seat at the turn of the century.

A later example of the Colonial Revival style, located at 1000 9th Street (HT-314), is one of the area's larger instances of a stylish brick-veneered house. The two-story hip-roofed house built ca. 1935 features one-room, flat-roofed wings with roof balustrades flanking the main block but the symmetry characteristic of the style is interrupted by a slightly projecting wing at one end of the main façade. A full-width raised brick patio which provides access to the centered main entrance highlights the façade, while a shed-roofed vestibule adorned with an arched opening and a pair of Tuscan columns *in antis* shields the doorway.

One block away at 1001 8th Street (HT-327) is one of the few Craftsman style houses located in the Lillington Historic District. This ca. 1925 side-gabled bungalow is in almost original condition. The one-and-one-half-story house sheathed in wood clapboards retains many Craftsman style features, including original eight-over-one windows, front door, tapered posts on brick piers supporting the front porch, knee brackets under the side gables, and exposed rafter tails under the eaves. Original shed dormers on the front and rear slopes of the roof afford light to the upper half story of the house.

The county's most varied display of residential architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is found in Dunn, where historic houses range from an 1870s Italianate dwelling to a post-World War II prefabricated house of enameled metal panels. The Central Dunn Residential Historic District (situated south of Cumberland Street and roughly bounded by West Devine Street to the north, Fayetteville Avenue to the east, West Pope Street to the south, and Layton Avenue to the west) contains an impressive array of large, stylish houses, but numerous notable examples appear elsewhere throughout the town as well.

One of Dunn's oldest houses and one of the few Italianate houses in the county is the James Taylor House (HT-434) at the corner of Harnett Street and North Ellis Avenue. The building is two stories and two rooms deep under a hipped roof, with three one-story rear wings and a distinctive paneled frieze with closely spaced drop pedant brackets that ornaments all of the rooflines. A hip-roofed porch stretches across most of the main façade, featuring turned posts with carved brackets and a turned balustrade, while the original four-over-four windows of the house continue the Italianate design with triangular pediments with applied sawn work. Alterations include the application of aluminum siding and interior changes.

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Neoclassical and Colonial Revival architecture, characterized through the use of symmetrical facade arrangements and ornamental detailing such as pediments, pilasters, slender porch columns and overhead fanlights or sidelights, is well represented in Dunn, particularly in the Central Dunn Residential Historic District. Though typically classical in their symmetrical arrangements, early examples of these styles may be identified by variety in overall form and roofline, with gabled or pedimented side wings projecting from hip-roofed main blocks, as exemplified by the frame Kenneth L. Howard House at 402 South Layton Avenue (HT-3, NR) built in 1908. Here, the monumental Ionic entrance portico overlapping a one-story wraparound porch also typifies the early expression of the style, sometimes referred to as "Southern Colonial." The house was designed by Joseph S. Ledbetter and Charles Lester of Winston-Salem and is said to have been inspired by the North Carolina Building at the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition of 1907. Built a couple of years later, the frame John A. McKay House features the same porch configuration, but the one-story porch does not wrap around the sides and the main, two-room-deep block is more cubic, expanded only by rear two- and one-story wings. The impressive two-and-one-half-story brick Gen. William C. Lee House (HT-8, NR) at 209 West Divine Street, dating from the mid-1910s, also reveals its relatively early date in the two-story pedimented wings on the sides of the main block, but a monumental Ionic portico engaged by the house's tall hipped roof dominates the main façade.

Equally exuberant expressions of classical revival styling date from the 1920s, but their overall forms are more self-contained. For example, the weatherboarded house at 309 West Pearsall Street (HT-408) built ca. 1920, two stories tall under a low-pitch hip roof, features a monumental full-façade Doric portico that is an early replacement of the original convex entrance portico. Sunburst fanlights at the main entrance and flanking banks of triple windows as well as one-story side porches with balustrades at flat roofs (one a sun porch, the other open) complete the design. At 309 West Divine St., the large two-story, gable-roofed Hannibal Godwin House (HT-406) also displays side porches and similarly rich appointments, with a dentil cornice, neoclassical entrance pavilion, and arched, modillioned hoods at the first-story windows. A more typical, restrained rendition of the Colonial Revival style is seen in the two-story side-gabled house of ca. 1925 house at the northwest corner of South King Avenue and West Bay Street (HT-464) that displays minimal detailing including Tuscan columns supporting an arched hood over the entry flanked by tripartite windows.

The Tilghman-Pope House (HT-14) at 208 West Pearsall Street is one of the more distinctive houses in the Central Dunn Residential District. Not easily assigned a stylistic label, it infuses elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman modes with the late nineteenth-century Shingle Style aesthetic. This two-story building constructed by contractor Sam Pitman around 1916 for Granville N. Tilghman is unique to Dunn and the county for its form and completely shingled exterior. The tall side gable roof is dominated by a very wide shed-roof front dormer with four multi-pane windows and shutters dominates the tall side-gable roof while two tall, brick end chimneys counter the overall horizontality of the main block of the house. Doric columns support the recessed full-façade porch and a classical balustrade fronts the recessed dormer above. The house is U-shaped, extended to the rear by two one-story gable wings. The shingled, gambrel-roofed garage at the back of the property complements the design of the main house.

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Also highlighting the district is the Thompson-Pope House (HT-418), an excellent example of a Craftsman residence with an unusual amount of exterior detail. Sitting on the corner of South Orange Avenue and West Divine Street, the large house has an unaltered rectangular footprint under a steeply pitched side gable roof. On the main and rear elevations, a prominent gable-roofed dormer displays at least two types of shingled sheathing, exposed rafter tails, and three forty-nine-pane-over-one windows with a multi-pane diamond-shaped window above. The windows with the exceptionally large number of panes in the upper sash also appear on the side facades. The full-façade engaged porch is supported by grouped Tuscan columns on brick piers and is accented by a wide frieze and exposed rafter tails. The wide recessed entry bay features small four-pane windows above panels and a three-part transom framing the front door, while the tall double-hung windows on the first story contain a smaller single pane over a larger single pane. The interior also is notably intact retaining significant features such as woodwork, hardwood floors, fireplace mantels, and doors.

Additional early twentieth-century architectural types found in the Central Dunn Residential Historic District include foursquare and Tudor Revival style houses. For example, a large brick, two-story foursquare located at 607 West Divine Street (HT-405) of ca. 1915 features a low hip roof, four interior brick chimneys, double and triple six-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows, and a wraparound porch and porte-cochere that is shielded by a flat roof supported by a series of brick columns with decorative panels. A few blocks away, the one-and-a-half-story house at 704 North Ellis Avenue (HT-424) exemplifies the Tudor Revival style in its brick exterior, cross-gable roof, and chimney on the main façade.

The county's lone example of a Lustron house (HT-521) is located at 607 West Pope Street. Manufactured by the Lustron Corporation headed by Emanuel and William Hogenon of Chicago, the Lustron house was a prefabricated structure of interlocking enameled steel panels inside and out that was designed as a cheap and efficient means to capitalize on the housing shortages brought on by returning GIs after the Second World War. In their day, these houses were considered very modern, and buyers could choose from a variety of plans that contained all the modern conveniences, including built-in furniture and appliances. Approximately forty Lustrons were erected in North Carolina. Constructed circa 1947, the Lustron model in Dunn features the main entrance situated within a recessed front corner porch and two three-part, multi-light metal casement sash windows, one of which is in a projecting bay. No major alterations have been made to the interior, which retains all original doors, shelving and walls.

In the county's rural areas, hundreds of residences were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The overwhelming majority of the surveyed properties are vernacular types featuring balloon frame construction in a variety of basic house forms such as gable-front (e.g., HT-293); side-gable with an ornamental front gable (e.g., HT-315); massed-plans; gable front and wing plans (e.g., HT-358); and square plan houses with low hip roofs (e.g., HT-377). Most of these house types have been altered through additions, the replacement of original windows and the application of aluminum siding, changes that often alter the resource's original scale and entail the removal of key ornamental detailing.

The period also is represented in the countryside by numerous stylish residences, including several Queen Anne style houses characterized by high-pitched hipped roofs, multiple gables, irregular fenestration, large

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wraparound porches with milled porch posts, and projecting bays and towers. Rural examples of this style are almost exclusively one- or one-and-one-half stories. The 1891 Campbell House (HT-1), located in Buies Creek and listed on the National Register, is perhaps the best known of these, a rambling structure composed of several hipped and gabled blocks united by wraparound porches decorated with turned posts and balusters. One of the county's most decorative Queen Anne style cottages is the Melvin House (HT-374) near the Linden community. Built around 1885 and expanded in 1910, the one-story house L-plan house with a number of wings attains its Queen Anne styling through the porch with matchstick frieze, sawn and turned spandrels, chamfered posts, and latticework railing that wraps around the irregular front contours of the house and terminates in a multi-sided gazebo topped with a conical roof. The one-story Jones House (HT-135), built in 1906 in Bunnlevel, is a simpler form, consisting of a self-contained main block with a high hipped roof and a long gabled ell, features an extensive wraparound porch identical in its railing and frieze to the Melvin House, but with turned posts and curvilinear spandrels. Also in Bunnlevel, the ca. 1910 main house at the Richard Byrd Farm (HT-387) is typically Queen Anne in its irregular form and varied roofline, but the pedimented gables and Tuscan columns supporting the broad wraparound porch demonstrate the growing influence of the classical revival styles early in the twentieth century.

One of the few architecturally distinctive two-story houses built in rural Harnett County during the late nineteenth century is Ivy Burne (HT-24), a handsome Italianate/Queen Anne style residence on the Little River. Built in stages beginning in 1872, the house is described in its National Register nomination of 1991 as a "neatly-finished, substantially intact and arresting example of a vernacular elaboration of several architectural trends—the traditional I-house form exhibiting a porch treatment derived from the Italianate style, but with some Queen Anne detailing and a Classical Revival kitchen addition" built in 1910.

As in the towns, the most fashionable of the county's early twentieth-century rural houses tended to be large, full-blown renditions of the Southern Colonial, or Neoclassical Revival, style. The most impressive of these is the main house at the J. C. Byrd Farm (HT-151), a large two-story configuration dominated by a massive two-story Ionic portico overlapping a one-story wraparound porch and porte-cochere. Along with the unusually large assortment of agricultural buildings, the size and detailing of this ca. 1910 house express the prosperity of the surrounding Bunnlevel farm. Built towards the end of the 1910s, the main house at the Johnson Farm (HT-161) in Kipling is a restrained variation of the same theme, scaled down and more simply detailed with Tuscan columns at the similarly composed porch.

National Register and Study List Properties

James A. Campbell House (HT-1), US 421, Buies Creek (NR)
Kenneth L. Howard House (HT-3), 402 South Layton Avenue, Dunn (NR)
General William C. Lee House, (HT-8), 209 West Divine Street, Dunn (NR)
John H. McKay House (HT-9), 100 East Divine Street, Dunn (NR)
Ivy Burne (HT-24), NC 217, Linden vic. (NR)
Jones House (HT-135), Bunnlevel (SL)
Thompson-Pope House (HT-418), 300 South Orange Ave., Dunn (SL)

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Lustron House (HT-521), 607 West Pope, Dunn (SL)
Central Dunn Residential Historic District, Dunn (SL)
Lillington Historic District, Lillington (SL)

Significance

Residential properties nominated from this period are significant primarily under criterion C as outstanding examples of architectural styles from 1865 to 1950. These resources demonstrate local interpretations of nationally popular stylistic trends in residential construction in Harnett County. High style residences are associated with the county's wealthiest citizens and reflect periods of widespread prosperity due to the agricultural industry and the introduction of the railroad. The plainer residences found within the county's towns also reflect the emergence of the mercantile and industrial industry in the late nineteenth century. In addition, the prevalence of restrained styling applied to popular basic house types in rural areas parallels the county's continued reliance on agriculture and the self-sufficiency of individual farmsteads. Residential buildings from this period may also be significant under Criterion B for their association with persons who played a significant role in the development of the county, such as industrialist John A. McKay (HT-9 /NR 1985).

Registration Requirements

In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, residential properties from the period 1865 to 1950 must meet certain registration requirements. Mainly, the resource must be at least fifty years old and be an excellent example of an architectural style. In order to be individually eligible, residential buildings must retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, both inside and out. Residential properties often undergo renovations to update electrical and plumbing systems, apply aluminum or vinyl siding, make interior modifications, or construct additions. In the presence of such changes, the resource must continue to convey its appearance from its period of significance and evoke feelings and association of the era. Consequently, recent attempts to modernize a property should not overwhelm its original scale and result in the loss of original character defining features. Houses covered in modern siding may be eligible only if the siding is limited to coverage of weatherboards, leaving all of the original elements exposed, and if the house is of extraordinary architectural importance.

[ADD PARAGRAPH ADDRESSING DISTRICTS, INTEGRITY THRESHOLDS]

C. Mill Houses

Introduction

The economic development of Harnett County was primarily driven by agriculture supplemented by a relatively low number of industrial concerns. Many of these early industries were family operated and largely involved in the sawmill, hog, and tobacco trade. One of the most recognizable of these family-run businesses was the John A. McKay Manufacturing Company located in Dunn. The company operated between 1910 and 1979 and

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produced a variety of wood and metal products that ranged from interior wood moldings to farm machinery. Despite its longevity and name recognition, the McKay Manufacturing Company was like all other industries in Harnett County, a local, small-scale operation that depended on few employees. As a result, the housing of employees was not generally practiced, although it may have occurred on a limited scale whereby rooms or a former tenant house were rented. Not until the establishment of the Erwin Mills was employee housing in a grand-scale introduced to Harnett County.

Durham industrialists Benjamin N. Duke and George W. Watts founded the Erwin Mills Company in 1892. The hired William Allen Erwin to manage their first mill, built in Durham, and by the late 1890s they were searching for a site for a new mill where they planned to make denims. Planning for the mill site also factored in the need to construct employee housing, retail outlets, and other amenities around the mill. Duke, Watts, and Erwin focused on a location relatively close to an area of the county where labor and cotton fields were in abundance and where a waterway was easily accessible. Ultimately a site, to be named Duke, was chosen on the Cape Fear River located approximately three miles west of Dunn and roughly 4.5-miles south of Coats. On January 2, 1901, carpenters from Fayetteville began construction on the first mill houses using local timber. Several stores were located on H Street, as well as the school, which was located above the company store. In 1903, a cotton gin was erected. The company allocated lots for churches, which were soon constructed by Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal congregations. In 1926, Mill Number Five was added as well as additional employee housing. The company also designated an area for a park, where a bandstand, animal enclosures, and a café entertained mill workers. In response to establishment of Duke University in 1926, the town changed its name to Erwin in honor of William Allen Erwin, the company president who oversaw construction of the town. By the 1950s, Erwin Mills had begun selling off both its residential and commercial properties. Burlington Industries, which bought out Erwin Mills, continued this policy until all company property was sold to private ownership. In 2000, the mill, then under the ownership of Swift Industries Inc., closed down.

Description

Houses erected in Erwin's first construction phase generally fall into two categories: one- and two-story gable-front-and-wing, or L-shaped, houses; and simple one-story gable-front or pyramidal-roofed dwellings. The early L-shaped houses feature a continuous brick foundation and a central door flanked by a window in the gable-front portion and one located on the wing. The one-story variety of this building type constitutes the majority of the houses located in Erwin and is highly concentrated northwest of the mill along 16th and K streets. In addition, a large number of gable-front-and-wing houses are located east and southeast of the mill, primarily along Denim Drive, the 100 blocks of East E Street and West E Street, and the 300 block of Burlington Ave. It is likely that the one-story houses of this type were designed for the common employee, while the two-story version may have been assigned to low-level management employees. As with the gable-front-and-wing plans, the simple rectangular-shaped houses with pyramidal or front-gable roofs feature a continuous brick foundation and a central door flanked by two window openings. These houses are interspersed throughout Erwin, although a high concentration are located northwest of the mill along 17th Street.

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In addition to these simple designs for workers' houses, three fashionable Queen Anne style houses (HT-253-255) were constructed on the south side of the 300 block of East H Street. Situated atop a small hill, these houses were designed for the mill's administrative officials, such as William Erwin who once occupied HT-253. Like the workers' houses, all three administrators' houses are of similar design—two stories under a hip roof with a projecting front gable, a side-gable wing, and a full-width wraparound porch that dominates the facades. In addition, corbelled chimneys and an oval window on the second floor adorn each house. As late examples of the Queen Anne style, all three houses display Colonial Revival detailing, evident in the large molded pediments and the classically inspired porch columns remaining on HT-254 and HT-255. All three houses have been modified in recent years through the application of aluminum siding and the construction of rear additions; however, HT-255 is the least altered among them.

Erwin's second construction phase, which occurred around 1927, likely introduced the numerous Craftsman and Craftsman-influenced houses concentrated south of West E Street. As with the first construction phase, houses were designed for both factory workers and management, which is readily apparent in the differences in scale. Generally, one-story houses capped with a hip or low-pitch side-gable roof were designed for common employees. All of these houses feature Craftsman detailing as evident through the use of hip and shed dormers and porches that are integral with the main roof and supported by tapered columns (where extant) resting atop brick plinths. These houses also feature a central door flanked by two window openings and often have one or two exterior end chimneys.

Administrators' houses from the second construction phase are limited to the south side of the 500 block of East H Street (HT-248). The company utilized the same approach to constructing these houses as with the earlier Queen Anne style homes. Only a small number of these houses, five in all, were erected and they were all two stories built according to the same Craftsman design. More specifically, each house features a central door flanked by two window openings, a full-width engaged porch, a low pitch, side-gabled roof highlighted with a shed dormer containing a band of four six-over-six, double-hung sash. Each house also has two interior corbelled brick chimneys.

Study List Properties

Erwin Historic District, Erwin (SL)

Significance

Mill houses in Erwin are significant primarily under criteria A and C for their association with the development of the Erwin Mill and as representative examples of corporate or industrial housing. For many decades, the Erwin Mill Company played a key role in Harnett County's economic development. By providing housing and other amenities for their workers, mill owners asserted a degree of paternalism intended to maximize productivity and profits. The two periods of housing construction reflect the growth of the mill and awareness by administrators of the latest concepts and architectural trends in worker housing. Despite alterations to many

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of the existing houses, a substantial number are largely intact and appear eligible as part of a large historic district.

Registration Requirements

Harnett County's mill houses, specifically those in Erwin, may be eligible for the National Register as contributing elements of a mill village historic district. In order to contribute to the district, the resource must have been built by Erwin Mills, which stopped building worker houses in the 1920s. The houses must possess integrity of basic design, workmanship, feeling and association; and retain their original location and setting. Although these residential properties often undergo renovations to update electrical and plumbing systems in addition to other "improvements" such the application of aluminum siding, interior modifications, or the construction of additions, the resource must retain its original overall form, roofline, and fenestration in order to convey its identity from its period of significance and evoke feeling and association with the era.

PROPERTY TYPE 3: INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

Introduction

Across the state and nation, churches, schools, and civic-related buildings played a significant role in the daily lives of Harnett County citizens. Located in rural and urban settings, these buildings served as social and education centers to a population of low density, mostly scattered throughout the county so that interaction was sporadic. The architectural survey project identified approximately fifteen churches, which were either surveyed or map coded. A total of twelve schools that comprise primarily elementary and junior high school complexes were surveyed. For the most part, these properties served as local high schools until the 1980s and 1990s when new high schools were constructed. The Dunn Civic Center and former Dunn Hospital also were surveyed during this project.

A. Churches and Cemeteries

Description

Between the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, dozens of brick and frame churches were constructed throughout Harnett County in a diverse mix of architectural styles. Unfortunately, as a result of shifting congregation patterns and the frequency with which original churches have been replaced, the survey revealed few extant churches from the nineteenth century. The majority of the churches noted during the project date from the early twentieth century and exhibit medieval (usually Gothic Revival) and neoclassical detailing. As expected, the larger and more ornate brick churches are located within the county's major urban centers such as Lillington and Dunn, while rural churches are typically smaller, of frame construction, and restrained in their architectural ornamentation. The county retains a number of architecturally distinctive churches that are largely

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intact. Religious denominations of Harnett County have historically included Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians.

The oldest surviving religious building in the county is the Summerville Presbyterian Church (HT-19), which dates to circa 1848 for a congregation established in 1811. Located a little over a mile west of Lillington, the church was listed on the National Register in 1985 for its association with the settlement of the Highland Scots to the Sandhills region, and as an example of a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival influenced church. The rectangular-shaped building is clad with original weatherboard siding and capped with a front gable roof. Originally built in the Greek Revival style, the building was altered with the modification of all openings from flat- to pointed-arch and the addition of the steeple with bellcast pyramidal roof in the 1870s, which provide the Gothic Revival flair. The church also is notable for its interior, which retains the original altar furniture and pulpit. Although a circa 1950 annex is attached to the rear of the church via a breezeway, the original building continues to maintain a high degree of integrity.

The handsomely landscaped cemetery adjoining Summerville Presbyterian Church contains approximately 150 plots divided by pedestrian walks and vehicular drives. Many of the stones are typical twentieth-century markers of marble, polished granite, and cast concrete. The cemetery is most notable, however, for its collection of mid- and late nineteenth-century markers, including about twenty signed by Scots stonemason George Lauder, perhaps the best-known and most accomplished for the state's nineteenth-century gravestone producers. Lauder worked on the rebuilding of the North Carolina State Capitol building and later opened a stone and marble yard in Fayetteville. His well-crafted stones are often identified by decorative motifs such as floral symbols and arches that recall Gothic Revival windows. As noted in the National Register nomination for the church and cemetery, "these early grave markers, as well as those of later generations, clearly attest to the ethnic origins of much of the local population, with stones recording the lives of members of families with names such as McKay, Cameron, McLean, McLeod, and McNeill. Among the more impressive is that of Reverend Neill McKay, minister of Summerville Presbyterian Church for fifty years and a prominent member of the local community."¹²⁹

Another significant early church cemetery extends around the east and north sides of Barbecue Presbyterian Church in the community known as Barbecue in southwestern. Graves are said to date from the 1760s, when the first church, a square log building, was erected on the site. Many of the markers are the simply shaped tablets, a number of them illegible, typical of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and unfinished, unscribed rocks are believed to mark slave burials. The congregation's current, gable-front church, built in 1896 as a weatherboarded gable-front frame building with two front entrances and tall rectangular windows. A series of additions and remodelings in the mid to late twentieth century yielded the brick-veneered sanctuary with steeple and neoclassical portico and entrance surround.

¹²⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Summerville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1984, item 7, page 1.

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Most of the historic rural churches in Harnett County, and across the rest of the state, are fairly modest gable-front frame buildings, frequently with a square tower at the center of the main façade or offset at a corner that accommodates the main entrance and supports a belfry and perhaps a steeple that often is a later addition. A number of representative examples of this building type remain standing across the county, including Cumberland Baptist Church (HT-388) of ca. 1910

The Erwin Presbyterian Church (HT-23) provides an unusual example of an early twentieth-century church complex. Situated on 12th Street in the town of Erwin, the property features the church's original Gothic Revival ca. 1907 wood frame sanctuary. Highlighting the building are its original multi-light lancet arch windows, weatherboard siding and decorative diamond shaped attic vents. The parish's growth in the 1920s led to the construction of a new building in 1930. To make room for the new church, the parishioners moved the original building to the side of the lot, where it still stands. In its gable-front form and fenestration, the basic design of the 1930 church is very similar to the 1907 frame building, but the newer building is "high-style" in its brick walls and cast stone trim, rose window in the front gable field, and buttresses along its east and west elevations.

Another good example of a Gothic Revival influenced church can be found in St. Stephens Episcopal Church (HT-264) in Erwin. The parish dates to 1905 and began with the donation of land and funds from William A. Erwin, a founder of the Erwin Cotton Mills. Constructed in 1923, the church replaced a ca. 1907 wood frame building that burned in 1922. Laid out in a cross-plan, the current building features brick construction highlighted with buttresses along the north and south elevations and lancet arched windows containing multi-light leaded glass. Capping the building is a front-gable roof with terra cotta coping. The interior reveals a hammer-beam wood roof adorned with decorative brass light fixtures that are original to the building and a pipe organ that was installed in 1939. Attached to the south elevation is the parish house, which was constructed in 1928 in a design to be architecturally compatible with the church through its use of buttresses and brick construction. The church continues to serve as the only Episcopal Church in Harnett County.

One of the most architecturally distinctive of is the Lillington Baptist Church, which combines tall round-arched openings, decorative brickwork, and a symmetrical composition to create an unusual Romanesque Revival style design. Constructed in ca. 1910, the building is unusual for its squarish, hip-roofed form and, in particular, the main façade's projecting central gabled bay dressed with decorative corbelling in the gable field and pierced with an arched entrance. Recessed within the door opening is a pair of wood paneled doors and a stained glass transom. Although the church contains a ca. 1945 rear addition, the integrity of the original block has not been compromised.

National Register and Study List Properties

Summerville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery (HT-19), SR 1291, Lillington vic. (NR)
Hood Memorial Christian Church (HT-520), 300 East Cumberland Street. (SL)

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Significance

Harnett County churches are significant mainly under criterion C for their architecture. Several churches exist that were constructed between ca. 1900 and ca. 1940; however, most of these lack architectural distinction or have been altered through modern additions and the loss of important architectural features. Lillington Baptist Church is an excellent example of an early twentieth-century Neoclassical church, despite ca. 1945 additions to the rear of the building. In a county containing many Gothic Revival-influenced churches, St. Stephens Episcopal Church provides the best example of its style and is the least altered of the churches surveyed in the project. Churches are also eligible under criterion A for their significance in the settlement and development of the county. As the oldest extant church in the county, the Summerville Presbyterian Church provides a valuable link to Harnett County's early settlement and Presbyterian influence.

Registration Requirements

In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, churches must meet certain registration requirements. Mainly, the resource must be at least fifty years old and associated with the settlement of Harnett County and/or be an excellent example of an architectural style. In accordance with National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria Consideration A, religious buildings are normally not eligible unless they derive their primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or are considered to be of historical importance. Consequently, churches in Harnett County must retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, which includes interior layouts and arrangements; and integrity of location and setting. Churches that played a significance role in the history of a parish and the county may be eligible despite minor alterations. Such alterations may include the application of aluminum siding, interior modifications, or additions; however, the building must retain a sufficient level of identity from its period of significance and evoke feelings and association of the era.

B. Schools

Description

Harnett County's earliest schools were built by local communities and consisted of one-room frame buildings that once dotted the landscape. Typical of this building plan is the Williams Grove School (HT-25), the oldest extant school in the county, built in 1892. Listed on the National Register in 1995, for its significance in the educational history of Black River Township and as a rare example of a late nineteenth-century one-room schoolhouse, the corner-braced stick-frame building was moved to its current site in Angier and restored to its original appearance in the 1970s. Resting on rock piers the building features a front-gable roof, an exterior of weatherboard siding, and two-over-two windows. A typical early twentieth-century rural school is located on SR 1780 near the vicinity of Dunn. Built circa 1920, the frame front-gable building (HT-367) rests on a pier foundation and is clad with weatherboard siding and contains six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows.

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The facade reveals an off-center recessed entrance featuring two door openings capped with multi-light transoms.

Increases in public school funding in the 1920s and 1930s led to the consolidation of Harnett County schools and the construction of large multi-story school buildings. Facilitating this shift were improvements in roads and transportation, which allowed children who lived in remote areas to be bused to the new facilities. Consequently, single-room rural school buildings were abandoned and often converted into tenant housing or used as storage facilities.

The former Benhaven High School complex (HT- 397) is representative of the early twentieth-century movement to modernize public schools in the county. Located less than a mile east of the community of Olivia, the complex contains a circa 1924, H-shaped, one-story, brick building that served as the first modern school in the area. Highlighting the facade is a recessed central bay containing a band of six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows that is flanked on either side by projecting gable bays pierced with a pair of windows containing the same sash type and a door. Constructed at the same time is a brick pump house that is located behind the building. To the southwest is a former teacher's dormitory, a one-story brick building capped with a hip roof and pierced by a series of six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows that was built ca. 1920. In 1936, a two-story Colonial Revival school was constructed to the northeast. Designed in a T-plan, the building features a central block flanked by wings. Highlighting the facade is a recessed central entrance bordered with pilasters and crowned with a simple cornice and a second story tripartite window. Additional Colonial Revival embellishments include limestone quoins that divide the main section from the wings and limestone lintels over most of the windows. During the 1950s, the campus grew to include a gymnasium and agricultural building.

Although not as large as the former Benhaven High School complex, the former Boone Tail High School (HT-391) is another good example of early twentieth-century efforts to modernize local school districts. Situated in the center of the small community of Boone Trail, the two-story, brick Tudor Revival building features a central entrance recessed underneath a Tudor arch. Situated on either side of the central bay are segmented pilasters that divide it from the flanking wings. Capping the building is a crenulated parapet wall. A group of ancillary buildings, including a circa 1955 gymnasium, a circa 1928 pump house, and a circa 1950 agriculture building is typical of early to mid-twentieth-century improvements in educational facilities and the increased role of athletics and agricultural sciences in school curriculum.

The Harnett County Training School (HT-523), located in Dunn, is the only school complex in the county that was design specifically for African Americans. Established in 1937, the complex is anchored by a two-story Colonial Revival brick school building that is highlighted with a five-bay facade with a pedimented central bay. The building retains its original six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows, original floor plan, and interior features such as blackboards and wood trim. During the 1950s, growing enrollment led to the construction of a gymnasium north of the original school building and a classroom annex to the south. The gymnasium is a tall, one-story rectangular building capped with a front gable roof and enlarged to a full-width, ca. 1960, one-story addition along the facade and rear elevation. The classroom annex building is a simple one-story rectangular building that contains a pedimented central entrance, similar to one found on the main school building. Although

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the main school building is currently vacant and has suffered some vandalism, the remaining buildings remain in use as daycare facility.

The Lillington Public High School and Farm School (HT-26) is located at 900 11th Street in Lillington. The structure currently houses the Harnett County Alternative High School, and the Lillington Elementary School, which is housed in a ca. 1935 school building to the north. Both structures are in good condition and have retained many of their original materials and features. The school, consisting of several auxiliary buildings, is representative of the growth of the town after World War II and increases in public education funds.

The original Lillington Public High and Farm School appears largely as it did in 1915. The two and one-half story building is sheathed in brick veneer and features decorative brickwork at the cornice and at the corners of the east-facing second floor level. The unusual ten-over-nine wood windows are original to the structure, although the windows at the basement level have been filled with concrete block. Original Doric columns support the imposing portico but the cornice is partially clad in vinyl siding. The roof of the building is punctuated by three hip-roofed dormers, one chimney with decorative brickwork, and a cupola. The interior of this building appears to be significantly intact.

The circa 1935 school building located to the north of the original high school is connected to the 1915 structure via an exterior breezeway. Further, a ca. 1955 cafeteria is present between the two buildings. This later, two-story school building is also clad in brick veneer. The doors are non-historic; however, the building retains its original eight-over-eight wood windows. Its original Doric columns support the large portico on the east façade of the building. The cornice of the portico is clad in vinyl. A circa 1940 minimal traditional house located to the west of the 1935 school building is being used for preschool speech and audiology. Situated to the south is a circa 1955 gymnasium, which is clad in brick veneer, has steel windows, and retains its original wood doors with six horizontal panels.

Constructed between 1920 and 1921, the original Coats Elementary School (HT-200) is a three-story Colonial Revival building that features an exterior of brick veneer, six-over-six windows, and a parapet roof. Highlighting the building's four-bay facade are decorative panels along the parapet wall and a fanlight over the main entrance. The building retains its original floor plan and interior details including wood floors, bead board wainscoting, crown molding, and two-panel doors.

In 1936, the WPA funded the construction of a new, two-story, Colonial Revival school building with an auditorium attached to the rear (east) elevation of the building. The building's three-bay facade features a brick veneer with concrete quoins, wood-frame twelve over twelve windows, stone lintels and keystones, and a wood cornice. Highlighting the central bay is a classical inspired door surround featuring a pediment supported by fluted pilasters. Situated above the main entrance on the second floor is an arched window opening containing eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood sash with flanking sidelights. Additional support buildings constructed between 1951 and 1957 include a cafeteria, two classroom buildings, and a gymnasium. As with most of the school complexes identified in this project, this period of expansion is indicated of the baby boom following World War II and the subsequent increases in education funds to accommodate growing school populations.

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Additional school complexes in Harnett County include the former Angier High School (HT-289) and Erwin Elementary School (HT-200). Other schools noted in the survey were the Oak Ridge School (HT-379) in Duncan, and Cedar Grove School (HT-103) in the Buies Creek vicinity.

National Register and Study List Properties

Williams Grove School (HT-25), East Depot Street., Angier. (NR)
(Former) Benhaven High School (HT-397), SR 1205, Olivia (SL)
(Former) Boone Trail High School (HT-391), SR 1291, Mamers (SL)
Coats Elementary School (HT-28), North McKinley Street, Coats. (SL)
Harnett County Training School (HT-523), Dunn (SL)
Lillington Elementary School & Harnett County Alternative High School (HT-26), 11th Street, Lillington. (SL)

Significance

Schools are significant under criterion A for the role they played in the educational history of Harnett County. Although many schools were constructed in the nineteenth century, none have survived except for the Williams Grove School. Educational advances and consolidation of public schools during the 1920s and 1930s are represented in the former Benhaven and Boone Trail High Schools. The Harnett County Training School is the only extant school that is historically associated with the county's African American residents. Although several Rosenwald schools were constructed in Harnett County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, none survive. Individual schools may also be eligible under criterion C if they are representative or notable example of specific architectural styles.

Registration Requirements

In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, schools must meet certain registration requirements. Mainly, the resource must be at least fifty years old and associated with the history of Harnett County's educational system. These buildings are considered significant under criterion A for their association with the expansion and improvement of the county's educational resources if they retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; if they retain integrity of setting and location; and if they were associated with individuals who played a significant role in the county's educational history. Although it is common for school grounds to include auxiliary buildings, such as an agriculture building and/or gymnasium which may have been built within the last fifty years, these additions should not detract from the overall character of the resource unless they adversely affect the physical integrity of the historic resource. The former Benhaven and Boone Trail high schools and the former Harnett County Training School are eligible under criterion A as good examples of early twentieth-century schools that retain their original design and integrity. In addition, Harnett County Training School appears eligible under Criterion A for its association with the educational history of the county's African-American residents. These properties also are eligible under criterion C for their architectural significance as relatively intact local examples of their respective styles.

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C. Other Institutional Buildings

Description

The Dunn Civic Center (HT-27), located on the southwest corner North General Lee Avenue and West Harnett Street was original built as an armory in 1941 with funds from the Works Progress Administration. The building is also notable for its Moderne architecture, also rare in this city. The building stands two stories tall with a brick exterior and parapet roof highlighted with a limestone cornice. The main façade includes three sets of double entry doors flanked by projecting bays, each with three, long rectangular windows filled with glass block. The entry doors contain eight octagonal panels, and a granite lintel tops the bay of doors. Casement windows are used throughout on the second story. The building's exterior is largely intact, and its interior altered only with kitchen facilities for its current use as a civic center.

Another significant institutional building is the (former) Dunn Hospital located at 201 North Ellis Avenue. Originally built in 1939, the building is currently utilized as the Charles Parrish Nursing Center and is a rare example of Art Deco architecture in eastern North Carolina. The non-profit Dunn Hospital Inc. was established to serve Harnett County. Because of the hospital's non-profit status, it received \$54,000 in funding from the Public Works Administration and another large donation from an anonymous benefactor. The three-story brick building has rounded corners and retains its original entry with limestone geometric patterns. Highlighting the eleven-bay facade is a slightly projecting central bay accented with decorative Art Deco detailing. The central arched entrance is flanked by limestone pilasters and topped with an embossed caduceus. A slightly projecting band of three rows of bricks divides the first and second stories and graces the entire length of the cornice.

In 1956, the name Dunn Hospital Inc. was changed to Betsy Johnson Memorial in honor of the mother of the no longer anonymous beneficiary Nathan M. Johnson. When a new municipal hospital was built on the outskirts of Dunn in 1970, this hospital was also named Betsy Johnson. The former Betsy Johnson hospital was sold to the Charles Parrish Nursing Home Center, Inc. and is still in operation.

Significance

Civic-related buildings are historically significant as centers of community development and for the role they played in the social history of the county. In addition, these buildings are architecturally significant, either as notable examples of institutional architecture or as representative examples of popular trends in building styles constructed throughout the nation.

Registration Requirements

Harnett County's civic-related buildings are important representatives of community development and everyday life in the county. In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, these properties must meet certain registration requirements. Mainly, the resource must be at least fifty years old and be an excellent example of an architectural style or historically significant in the development of Harnett County. In order to be individually

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eligible, residential buildings must retain their original location, form, and materials. Since the county contains few civic-related buildings, integrity requirements is lower than those established for churches and schools. Minor alterations to civic-related buildings, such as the application of aluminum siding or small-scale additions should not render the building ineligible for inclusion in the National Register.

PROPERTY TYPE 4: COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Introduction

Although towns in Harnett County continue to serve as the focal point for institutions such as city government and post offices, commercial businesses for the most part have shifted to popular suburban style shopping plazas located outside traditional town centers. Consequently, many of the county's pre-1950 commercial buildings fail to retain their original appearance as property owners have attempted to modernize their buildings in an effort to attract businesses. Often, this action results in a variety of alterations such as the replacement of original window sashes, the construction of additions, and the application of a veneer over the facade. In addition, character-defining features such as cornices, and historic storefronts have been removed or altered. Although commercial activity is present in all of the central business districts, numerous buildings are vacant and others been demolished.

Description

Harnett County's historic commercial buildings are concentrated in its principal towns of Angier, Coats, Dunn, Erwin, and Lillington. Spurred by the development of the railroads, most notably the Durham and Southern, these towns quickly became the commercial, industrial, and social centers to residents of Harnett County. The growth of the county's commercial interests coincided with improvements in transportation, notably through railroads and the automobile, which allowed farmers and merchants to gain access to wider markets and enabled communities to import materials and goods from other regions.

Pre-1950 commercial buildings in the county are primarily one or two-story brick buildings that feature a store front entrance and display on the first story and one to three window openings on the second story. A stretch of buildings along the 0-99 block of West Front Street in Lillington provides a representative example of typical commercial buildings found in the county. The single-story buildings are divided into sections containing a variety of storefront entrances; however, the stores are united in the treatment of the upper facade, which usually includes a recessed central panel accented with a corbel brick border above each unit. There is little in style between one- and two-story commercial buildings aside from two-story buildings having an additional floor that is pierced with windows. Both of these building types feature brick construction, corbel detailing along the cornice, and simple parapet rooflines. Occasionally, commercial buildings exhibit a high level of corbel detailing as evident on a circa 1920, two-story commercial building situated at the corner of 8th Street which exhibits brick pilasters and topped with a decorative corbelled cornice at the second floor.

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Occasionally, more richly appointed buildings punctuate the commercial streetscape. An unusually ornate commercial building is located on the northwest corner of Main and West Front streets in Lillington. The circa 1900, two-story, brick building features its original storefront composed of a recessed central entrance flanked by display windows atop brick bulkheads, and full-width transom separates, and a corbelled cornice. Highlighting the second story are three segmental arched window openings containing original two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows and a corbel brick cornice below a castellated parapet wall.

Downtown Angier (HT-120) provides a good collection of early twentieth-century commercial buildings. The major of the extant commercial structures were constructed between ca. 1900 to ca. 1940, during the town's peak development period. The commercial district includes several one-and-two-story brick commercial structures situated on the 1-99 blocks of North and South Broad Street and on the north and south side of the 100 block of East Depot Street. As with other early twentieth century commercial buildings found in the county, the buildings located in Angier feature a variety of storefront entrances; with a recessed central panel accented with a corbel brick border. Variations in style between one-and-two-story commercial buildings commonly do not exist. Aside from two-story buildings having an additional floor that is pierced with segmental arched window openings, both buildings types feature corbel detailing along the cornice and are topped with a parapet wall.

Downtown Dunn (HT 133) is comprised of roughly six-one buildings representing the core of the city's commercial area. Included within the district are several places of well-known local interest such as the Daily Record Building (formerly the Dunn Post Office, HT 524), the former Cottendale Hotel (HT 504), Johnson Brothers Clothiers and Cotton Company (HT 516), the Machine and Welding Company (HT 501), and buildings that once served Dunn as movie theaters, automotive garages, drug stores and hardware stores from 1890 through 1950. The majority of the commercial buildings are one and two-story brick structures with flat or parapet roofs, and have altered storefronts. Most have retained their historic facades, however, particularly decorative brickwork around the cornice and window framing. The district includes the former Atlantic Coastline Railroad tracks, which runs through the proposed district between Lucknow Road and Railroad Street. The rail line, first known as the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, was the impetus for the city's organization and development in the late 1890s.

In Harnett County's rural areas, residents benefited from general stores located at crossroad settlements. Most of the surviving general stores were built during the early twentieth century, at heavily traveled road junctions, and sold an array of products such as produce, clothes, hardware, and farming supplies. Although most of the county's rural stores are no longer standing, one- to two-story frame vernacular buildings displaying minimal detailing survive as antique stores or storage facilities. One example can be found just north of Erwin at Slocumb Crossroads where NC 55 and SR 2009 intersect. At the southwest corner of the intersection is a circa 1920 two-story front-gable building known as "The Barn" (HT-361). The facade features a central entrance flanked by two window openings containing four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash. Access to the front door is achieved via a non-historic full-width porch capped with a shed roof supported by five wood posts. The fenestration of the first story is repeated in the second story, which includes an off-centered door that probably served as access to a storage loft. Despite the construction of the front porch, the building exhibits a high degree

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of integrity through the existence of original ornamental bracketing along the roof eaves, window sash and exterior weatherboard siding.

Study List Properties

Dunn Commercial District, (HT 133), roughly bounded by Fayetteville Avenue, West Vance Street, Clinton Avenue, and Cumberland Street.

Commercial Building, Lillington (HT 304)

Lillington Residential/Commercial District, (HT 522), roughly bounded by Front, 9th, 8th, and Lofton Street.

Angier Commercial District, (HT 120) roughly bounded by North Broad Street, East Williams Street, North Dunn Street, and East Lillington Street.

Erwin Residential/Commercial District, (HT 525) roughly bounded by North 17th Street, West K Street, South 10th Street, and West C Street.

Significance

Commercial buildings in Harnett County are significant primarily under criteria A and C for their association with the commercial development of the county and for their architectural design. Dunn's downtown area, despite alterations to some of the storefronts, is relatively intact and appears eligible as a historic commercial district. The potential district is roughly bounded by Lucknow Road and Clinton Avenue to east and west, and by Cumberland Street and East Harnett Street to the south and north. Of the county's principal towns, Dunn provides the best example of intact pre-1950 commercial buildings. "The Barn" appears eligible under criterion A and C for its association with the development of the Slocomb Crossroads community and is one of the few relatively intact remaining examples in the county of a rural store. As one of the county's earliest surviving commercial buildings, the store at 726 Main Street in Lillington (HT-304), appears eligible under criterion A and C for its association with the town's commercial development and as an intact representative example of an early twentieth century commercial building.

Registration Requirements

Most of Harnett County's historic commercial buildings are located in potential National Register Districts. In order to be considered eligible as a contributing resource to a district, commercial buildings must meet certain registration requirements. Mainly, the resource must be at least fifty years old and associated with the history of Harnett County's commercial development. Commercial buildings must possess integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and retain their original location and setting. The retention of original interior arrangement and detailing is desirable, but not mandatory given that commercial buildings constantly undergo changes in ownership and usage. However, the exterior of the building must retain most of its original appearance and detailing.

G. Geographical Data

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Types

The survey process began with a preliminary planning phase, conducted in August 2002. The planning phase included a windshield survey to estimate the number of properties to be surveyed and to be briefly identified on maps (map coded). A preliminary report was submitted with the results of the windshield survey, including a historical context of the survey area and the survey methodology.

Survey work began in September 2002 and was conducted through June 2003. The survey area included the entire of Harnett County, North Carolina except for portions of the Fort Bragg Military Reservation and the previously documented Overhills Estate. The survey area was divided into sections covered by USGS topographical maps in rural areas and by the municipal boundaries in urban areas. Historic properties, defined as a building or structure at least fifty years of age, were identified by vehicle in rural areas and by foot within municipalities. Some properties were inaccessible to the surveyors and could not be recorded, or were so severely deteriorated or overgrown that they could not be assessed.

All properties that had good architectural integrity, properties with local historical significance, and representative examples of common architectural styles were documented with a survey form and mapped. Individually significant properties were documented with a yellow form, while farm complexes and urban blocks were documented with a green or multiple property form. These properties were described in the survey file with a site plan and photographs. Slides were taken of properties considered potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In addition, narrative descriptions of the properties and their histories were written and placed in the survey file.

All other pre-1955 properties, particularly those of a common architectural style and those structures with poor integrity, were recorded on maps with a notation illustrating their basic form and style. Within towns, city blocks with poor integrity as a whole were map coded.

Preliminary planning for the survey estimated that 500 forms would be completed for the entire county. However, approximately 320 new survey forms were completed. Approximately 200 previously identified resources were reviewed and their survey files updated, in many cases requiring a full record of photographs and site forms.

Products of the survey include this final report, with its contextual history and assessment of architecture, compiled as a Multiple Property Documentation form to assist with the future nomination of resources to the NRHP. Approximately 21 properties were suggested for inclusion in the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's Study List of properties potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

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