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#### **Architectural Resources**

#### Introduction

Alamance County is located in the rolling hills of the central Piedmont of North Carolina. Situated within the Piedmont Crescent, a swath of urbanized land extending from Raleigh west to Winston-Salem, then south to Charlotte, the county enjoys amenities not common to the state, including two interstates, a major rail line and quick access to major cities and universities.

The county has always enjoyed a location well connected to other parts of the region, be it by trading path, rail line or highway. The impact of this position on the county's historic resources is twofold. First, Alamance County was relatively quick to pick up nationally popular architectural styles and fashions, as new ideas were easily transmitted by passersby, or in some cases by reference from neighboring counties. Many of the county's finest architectural resources were constructed directly or indirectly because of proximity to a stage trail, a railroad, or an interstate highway. Had it not been for these transportation routes, the county may not have the rich architectural legacy that it enjoys today.

The second impact of the county's position in the Piedmont Crescent is less positive. Due to rapid urbanization witnessed inside the county during the past 50 years, many important historic resources have been lost. Whether it is the loss of historic farmland, an ante-bellum plantation, a bungalow farmhouse, or a twentieth century textile mill, the relentless and consistent loss of resources every year is not recognized as a problem by many. However, taken in total, the loss of resources is alarming. Since the first survey was undertaken in 1980, over 130 important historic resources have been lost in rural areas alone. Citizens and their government are faithfully looking forward to new horizons while not always taking care of the past. However, with more recognition of the county's rich history and significant past, it is hoped more proactive measures will be taken.

The scope of this investigation of architectural resources includes the whole of Alamance County, excluding the municipalities of Burlington and Graham. Both cities contain valuable resources that war-

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rant exclusive and separate studies. This review covers a broad spectrum of rural and small town resources, including farms, landscape features, mill villages, schools, country stores, and much more. Resources considered for review include sites built before 1953, but some sites constructed after that time have been included sparingly. Most historic sites have been updated from an earlier survey completed by Carl Lounsbury in 1980. New sites have been identified and added using survey resources such as historic maps, local citizens, the country planning office and by simply driving down many of the country's rural roads. Sites were included if they were representative of a particularly important style or form, a notable event or person, or if a site held important symbolic value to local citizens.

Very few resources in Alamance County date prior to 1800. The rare survivors that do are log houses, or one of a handful of farmhouses that have survived wars, fires and the expansive growth of the county during the twentieth-century.

Most of Alamance County's historic resources are late nineteenth or early twentieth-century single-family houses. The decades of high growth and housing reform during the 1870s through the 1930s was manifested in I-House and Triple-A form residential housing containing a rich inventory of Vernacular, Queen Ann, and Craftsman styles. In contrast to the proliferation of single-family housing, multiple-family housing appeared late in the county, arriving in the 1910s through the efforts of mill housing reform and development.

Alamance County also contains many industrial buildings, the result of early grist and sawmills, and later an explosion of textile manufacturing. Most of these industrial complexes stand near swift flowing streams from which they generated power. Commercial and civic buildings of the first half of the twentieth century are found along main roads centered on the villages and crossroads. Scattered throughout Alamance's townships are numerous schools and religious structures, along with limited parks and open spaces.

Historic sites are referenced with a state file number where possible. State files are maintained in the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh. In addition, Alamance County also maintains nearly

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identical files under their own index, which are housed at the Planning department in Graham. Historic resources located within the following property types that are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either by individual property listing or by districts, have "NR" or "NRHD" respectively following their names. Properties that have been placed on the National Register Study List, either by individual property listing or by districts, are signified with "SL" or "SLHD" respectively following their names. Properties that are recognized with through local ordinances, as an historic landmark or as an historic district, are signified with "LL" or "LD" respectively following their names.

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#### Alamance's 1670-1945 property types are:

### 1. Single Family houses

- a. Early Building Traditions and Classical Styles
  - i. First Period
  - ii. Georgian
  - iii. Neoclassical (Federal and Greek Revival)
- b. Picturesque and Victorian Styles
  - i. Gothic, Italianate, and Second Empire
  - ii. Queen Anne, Stick, Romanesque
- c. American and Eclectic Styles
  - i. Colonial Revival
  - ii. Classical Revival
  - iii. Craftsman, Prairie style and Foursquares
  - iv. Eclectic
- d. Modern Styles
  - i. Minimal Traditional
  - ii. Ranch

#### 2. Multiple-family dwellings

- 3. Industrial buildings
  - a. Early Mills
  - b. Textile Mills
- 4. Commercial buildings and offices
  - a. Commercial Buildings
  - b. Offices and Skyscrapers
- 5. Educational, Religious, Civic Buildings
  - a. Educational buildings
  - b. Religious structures
  - c. Civic buildings
- 7. Landscape Features
- 8. Subdivisions, Mill Villages, Mobile Home Parks

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### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 1 – SINGLE FAMILY HOUSES

#### **II. Description:**

Early housing in Alamance, especially sites that date from the nineteenth century, often contain strong vernacular influences. Vernacular architecture in Alamance is closely related to architectural traditions from southeastern Pennsylvania, the region from which most of the local Quaker (or "Friends") and German population migrated. Some details and designs were also influenced by eastern North Carolina, as a minority of community Quakers relocated inland to join the growing number of Friends in the Piedmont.

Residential housing in Alamance from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is most often inspired by nationally popular styles. Most often executed in frame construction, these structures will often combine two or more styles in a single house, creating a sometimes ambiguous style of architecture that was often popular during the second quarter of the twentieth century. Clean and simple lines characterize mid-twentieth century styles including Ranch houses and Mobile Homes.

#### a. Early Building Traditions and Classical Styles

#### i. First Period Houses

First Period style houses were likely the most common form of residential construction in early Alamance County. Most often constructed of logs, these "corner-timbered" structures were influenced by Medieval Central European building techniques carried to the Philadelphia region of the mid-Atlantic by immigrants. Many of the first settlers to Alamance County were from this region of Pennsylvania, and their buildings reflect this architectural influence.

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First Period architectural features include simple handcrafted features, often of Medieval origin, such as steep pitched roofs, small window openings, dry laid stone chimney stacks, and a lack of discernable classically inspired features such as formal mantles, paneled doors, pilasters or cornices. The First Period style may be applied to a variety of house forms, including "Single Cell", Hall and Parlor plan and Quaker Plan houses. This style of house was utilized early in the period of European settlement, as it satisfied the simple basic needs of residents. However, First Period features are found in vernacular buildings throughout the county throughout most of the nineteenth century, due to limited resources or lack of interest in following nationally popular architectural trends and styles.

Architectural historian Carl Lounsbury described single-cell First Period houses and their features in his review of Alamance County architecture. He described the Allen House [AM 2] as a fine example of this house type. Lounsbury wrote:

"The John Allen House (c. 1782) is the earliest dated house surviving in Alamance County. In 1967 the house was moved from its original location in Snow Camp to the Alamance Battleground and then heavily restored. John Allen, a native of Chester County, Pennsylvania, settled in the Cane Creek area on a 600 acre tract granted by The Earl of Granville's agents to his father in 1756. The young Allen was apparently a wheelwright and carpenter for his account book for the decade of the 1770's is filled with entries regarding matters in these trades. In 1779, for example, he received four shillings from William Cox for a day and a half of "sawing and riving of boards." The next year he charged Jacob Hollingsworth for laying a floor in his spring house and making a door. Hollingsworth seems to have been satisfied with the quality of his neighbor's work for he had Allen build a variety of things for him from cradles to coffins.

The earliest house Allen built for himself was a small structure constructed with logs. This log house was not a very substantial building. Near the end of the Revolution, as peace was restored in the area, Allen commenced building a larger, more permanent house: the dwelling now exhib-

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ited at the Alamance Battleground. Although early in date, this second Allen House features many prototypal elements of later log construction in Alamance County.

A close examination of the structural features of this one-room log house reveals most of the salient characteristics found in log buildings of the nineteenth century. In laying his walls, Allen used logs that had been hewn only on two sides. Both the top and bottom of each log were left undressed. The interstices were filled with clay, straw, and small branches. At the corners of the house, the logs were cut to fit on top of one another in rough v-notches. There are two doors directly opposite each other on the longer sides. To the right of the front door, an enclosed stairway makes a turn and then rises above the chimney on the gable end to the attic. Downstairs the ceiling joists are exposed and chamfered. Logs were stacked three to four feet above the ceiling joists to make the space upstairs a commodious yet unheated room. The hewn common rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the apex. The feet of the rafters are securely mortised and pegged into the top plates, a feature also found in the Jacob Long House, an early log dwelling near Graham. On the gable ends of the Allen House the studs are mortised into the plates and into the end-rafters. Only in the manner in which the feet of the rafters are secured into the plate does this structural system of the Allen House differ with the constructional practices used in Alamance log houses in the first half of the nineteenth century.

If the above structural features were to pass into the local building idiom, various other aspects of the Allen House were not to be repeated in the following years. Whether certain features of the house are idiosyncratic elements of John Allen's craftsmanship or characteristic of eighteenth century log buildings on the whole is difficult to sort out. With the disappearance of nearly all contemporaneous dwellings, comparison is impossible. Whether the Allen House is typical of the period or not is unknown. What can be seen are features which differentiate this early house from later log houses.

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In the Allen House the massive free-standing stone chimney with its large, open fireplace stands inside the log walls, occupying nearly a quarter of the available living space. The downstairs room must have been the scene of crowded activity for it was used not only for cooking and eating, but for entertaining, working, and sleeping as well. To provide for more space in a room that was usually no more than twenty by eighteen feet, later Alamance builders placed the chimney stack on the exterior. This development probably occurred in most areas by 1800 if not earlier. Large free standing stone chimneys were built on the outside of two log houses near Snow Camp. These houses, the Charles Stuart House and the John Stuart House, were probably built before 1835. This type chimney was also once evident in the Christian Isley House (c. 1812) in Morton Township before it was moved and remodeled. The only other standing log house with an interior chimney is the Jacob Long House. In this house, the present brick chimney with its small fireplace appears to be a late nineteenth century replacement.

Peculiar to the Allen House is the extension of logs on the sidewalls to form supports for both the front and back porches. Trees capable of spanning such lengths became rarer in later years and this practice, though never widespread, was given up. The only other surviving house discovered where this cantilever occurs is the Gray McPherson House in Newlin Township. Built perhaps as late as 1870, the McPherson House has two long logs extending from the side walls to about six feet from the front wall. Originally these two logs were the only supports for the shed porch. Posts were added later to lend support.

The last detail of construction which makes the Allen House unusual is found in the flooring. The wide boards are not nailed but pegged to the floor joists. Although this practice has not been found in later buildings, it must have been widespread in at least the Snow Camp area in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. From John Allen's account book, there are at least a dozen ex-

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amples of his laying and "jointing" floors in houses, barns, and springhouses. The floor in his own house is a surviving example of this handiwork. Whether Allen's technique was a result of necessity from an inadequate supply of nails or the inherent method of a carpenter working in the Mid-Atlantic building tradition is debatable and should be studied further."

The Allen house is a good example of this once common First Period house type. Many single-cell remain in the county, although some have been enclosed in later additions, or are no longer used for residential purposes. These structures are among the most tangible reminders of early European settlement in the county.

The tradition of log construction held advantages in time and affordability. Therefore, those who needed quick and affordable housing continued the practice in Alamance County well into the twentieth century. Construction techniques for log buildings changed relatively little during its period of use, an attribute unique to this form of building assembly.

#### ii. Georgian

Georgian designs, inspired from Renaissance and Baroque themes from England, are articulated in both style and house form. Georgian styles included the use of heavy classical features such as pilasters, entablatures, quoins, and heavily molded window and door surrounds. Most often exemplified in grand architecture of coastal communities along the eastern seaboard, this design form was most often utilized between the years of 1690 and 1820. The Georgian style is rarely exemplified in central North Carolina.

In relation to building form, the Georgian design also embodied classical interests in balance, symmetry, and proportion. Georgian form floor plans are often symmetrical in their arrangement of space, typically featuring a central hallway, balanced to each side with equal sized rooms. This form stands in contrast to medieval house plans such as Hall and Parlor plan and Quaker Plan houses that feature asymmetrical room arrangements. Georgian houses demonstrate the arrival of new concepts of privacy and

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specialized use of space that began to replace medieval "multi-purpose" rooms in Alamance County around 1825.

Although Georgian architecture is only glimpsed in the symmetrical facades of some residential buildings in Alamance County, more often interior appointments demonstrate use of the style in the region. An example of such a property is the Sheriff Patterson House [AM SL] near Snow Camp. This three-bay, frame house features a symmetrical façade with a nearly full-width front porch. Although the exterior is simply embellished, the interior is lavishly appointed with grained and marbled mantles, doors, wainscoting and baseboards. The mantles are exceptionally high styled for the county, including an overmantle with pilasters in the Georgian style. Although the insinuation of Georgian style is slight with the Patterson House, the balanced façade and classical interior appointments exemplify the strongest reflections of the style found in the county.

#### iii. Neoclassical (Federal and Greek Revival)

Neoclassical designs were inspired by new interpretations of classical architecture as revealed by nearly simultaneous discoveries of Roman archaeological ruins in Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy, and Grecian ruins in Athens and Delphi during the 1750s. This re-interpretation of classical architecture led the application of academic forms and features overlooked by earlier Renaissance architects. This interest in architecture of antiquity spurred two branches of Neoclassical architecture; Federal (or Roman) style, and Greek Revival style.

Features associated with Federal design include attenuated columns, elliptical fanlights, sidelights, and austere cornices, often with delicate carvings or "reeding." Federal designs were most popular between 1790 and 1825, although some examples of the Federal Period can date to as late as 1850 in Alamance County.

Like the Georgian period that preceded it, Federal styles are often found in coastal communities of some wealth, and are rare and fleeting in central North Carolina. The **Thomas Lindley** Isaac Holt House

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[AM near the village of Alamance exemplifies Federal design in the county. The two-story house features a gable roof flanked by chimneys. The façade is nearly symmetrical and is topped by a simple boxed cornice. The interior of the house continues simple Federal era detail including a tripartite mantle with fluted and attenuated pilasters and an enclosed staircase. While simple, these design elements characterize the extent of Federal design in Alamance County.

Though it is part of the same celebration of classical architecture, the Greek Revival style occurred nearly 30 years after its sister the Federal style. Greek Revival expressed Americans interest in the Golden Era of ancient Greece, from which they borrowed ideals of equality, democracy and shared philosophies. In contrast the Roman inspired Federal style, Greek Revival buildings feature rectilinear patters of windows, transoms and moldings, reflecting the "post and lintel" engineering of Greek temples and civic buildings. For example, Greek Revival houses often feature a rectangular transom above the front door, in contrast the elliptical fanlight often associated with the Federal style. On occasion, grand examples of the Greek Revival will feature a temple-like forward facing gable roof, or robust columns or pilasters of the Greek Orders. Greek Revival ornamentation was most popular in the years before the Civil War in Alamance County. Though earliest examples were built around 1830, late examples can be found as late as 1875.

Some residential structures in Alamance County demonstrate the Greek Revival style, although this national style was slow to replace traditional vernacular forms that were well entrenched in the consciousness of the region. The Henry Bason house north of Haw River was constructed around 1835 along the main trading route to Hillsborough. Perhaps engagement from outsiders encouraged Bason to construct a stylish house with some Greek Revival appointments, including double-hung windows topped with flat lintels, a simple panel front doorway and a handsome classically inspired cornice that distinguishes the eaves of the roofline. The three-bay, one-story house is constructed of brick was a substantial feat for the time. Even more substantial and also related to the Greek Revival mode is the Griffis-

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Patterson House, built a short distance towards Hillsborough from the Bason House around 1850. The Griffis-Patterson House rose two full stories and featured a five-bay façade. Greek Revival details of the brick, side gabled house include surrounds around the front door and a robust cornice topping the façade. Both the Bason House and the Griffis-Patterson House were likely models for other houses in the region in terms of scale, construction and Greek Revival detail.

#### b. Picturesque and Victorian Styles

### i. Gothic, Italianate, and Second Empire

As the nation approached the second quarter of the nineteenth century, architects and designers grew tired of staid, classical houses with prescribed balance and symmetry. Instead, designers began to reflect society's interest in esoteric pursuits such as poetry, art, nature and romance. This new orientation manifested itself in the form of the Picturesque Movement, a period in which romantic styles such as Gothic, Italianate and Second Empire were incorporated into America's architectural landscape.

In traditionally rural places such as Alamance County, the architecture of the Picturesque Movement meant much more to its citizens that romance. For these once isolated North Carolinians, participation in nationally popular styles meant progress and connection to major urban areas, enabled by newly laid railroads and busy textile mills. Constructed primarily by first generation entrepreneurs, early Picturesque style houses signaled that Alamance County was a participant in the national economy, and was growing in importance as an industrial and transportation center.

Fred Combs' house in Thompson Township features elements common to the Gothic Revival, including wall dormers, sawn vergeboards, high gable rooflines and bay windows. Constructed around 1890, the 2-story frame house is one of the finest examples of the style in the county. A more common example of Gothic Revival design in Alamance County is the Charles Truitt House north of Glen Raven.

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This interesting frame farmhouse was likely constructed after the Civil War. The high gables of a triple-A roof form sits low on the house, allowing only a ½ story beneath the roof. A full width porch extends across the entire façade, supported by posts of later construction. In many Alamance County houses, a high triple-A roofline that sits on a half-second floor may be the only hint of Gothic influences. The J. Webb Cates House near Eli Whitney is another variant of the style, featuring three prominent wall dormers that pierce the eaves without a central gable as a focus.

The Italianate style was the first nationally popular architectural style to make a lasting impression in Alamance County. The Italianate style came in many forms, ranging from rambling structures that reflected the design of Italian farmhouses, to grand structures that evoked images of Renaissance palazzos. The Italianate style was most popular from 1845 until after the Civil War in the region. It was likely introduced to Alamance County through the request of a leading citizen E. M. Holt for plans by a nationally recognized architect A. J. Davis.

Architectural historian Carl Lounsbury describes how leading citizen E. M. Holt came to have plans drawn by nationally recognized architect Alexander Jackson Davis:

"Locust Grove, the home of pioneer textile manufacturer E. M. Holt, represented a significant new influence on the development of antebellum architecture. Built in 1849 from plans designed by New York architect A. J. Davis, it was the first known house constructed in Alamance County which owed nothing in its plan and arrangement to the local building practices. It was the first clear-cut example of popular architectural tastes supplanting the vernacular tradition and fore-shadows similar developments in the last half of the nineteenth century.

In the dozen years since it was established in 1837, E. M. Holt's cotton factory on Alamance Creek had made its owner a prosperous man. Business success plus a growing family which now

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included ten children convinced Holt that it was time to move out of his crowded two-room house into more substantial accommodations. By December, 1848 he had already decided to build a new house for early in the new year he began cutting timber for it on Eli Sharpe's neighboring land. While preparations were underway, the question arose as to what kind of house would the richest man in the county build. The answer shortly appeared.

Glancing through the pages of the January, 1849 issue of Alexander Jackson Downing's popular journal **The Horticulturist**, Holt spotted in the frontispiece the plan and elevation of a "small villa" designed by Alexander Jackson Davis for a client in Rahway, New Jersey. Holt read Downing's comments which noted the dwelling to be "an excellent example of economical arrangement; and we scarcely remember an instance where so good an effect; joined to so much comfort and convenience, has been produced at so moderate a cost." The price was \$2,300. The interest of the manufacturer was aroused.

Further encouragement for the Davis design must have come from Holt's friend, former Governor John M. Morehead. It may have even been Morehead who first showed the design to Holt for the railroad promoter was intimately familiar with Davis' capabilities in domestic architecture. His own new home in Greensboro, Blandwood, had been based on a Davis design for a villa-style house.

Firmly convinced that Davis should be his architect, Holt sent him a letter on March 2, 1849 requesting the plans for the house that he had seen in **The Horticulturist**. Holt indicated that an unidentified friend of his, Morehead perhaps, had recommended that he write to Davis. Drawing the two-room plan of his present house, Holt asked that the architect design around this. Davis sketched a revised plan on the back of the letter, moving the stair to the front hall and placing two

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separate chimneys on the inner partition walls. The new house was to be built in front of the old one.

Satisfied with the revised plan, Holt immediately began construction. In mid-March he contracted Eli Denny, a local carpenter who would build the first county courthouse later that year, to supervise the work. On April 20, 1849, the day after the vote to establish the new county of Alamance, the frame of the house was completed and raised. Work on the inside progressed rapidly through the early summer and was nearly concluded by the Fourth of July. Although not elaborate, the interior finish was tasteful with plaster walls, robust mouldings, and marbleized mantels. Governor Morehead visited Locust Grove the following March and no doubt thought that Holt's new country villa to be "altogether satisfactory to the eye and the judgement," as Downing had suggested.

Many houses in Alamance show influence from the Italianate period, including low pitch roofs, wide overhanging eaves, paired windows, and sometimes the use of brackets. A good example of vernacular Italianate design is the William Morrow House in Thompson Township near the Orange County line. The house is a three-bay, brick I-house topped with a low pitch, hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves. Although little decoration remains on the house to extend the image of an Italianate farmhouse, the existence of the stylish roofline may have been enough to update a traditional style in the minds of Alamance citizens.

Oftentimes, residences in Alamance County are hybrids of two or more architectural styles. A good example of a blended building is the Anthony House, located just south of Burlington. The Anthony house was constructed in 1859, and a typical example of a Greek Revival residence with Italianate influences in the county. This two-story, frame house is topped by a low side gable roof with double shoulder brick chimneys to each side. The three-bay façade consists of a central front door which is flanked by six

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over six windows. A full width front porch extends across the façade, topped by a shed roof, and a rear ell extends the house to the rear, featuring a low-pitched roofline, paired windows and a high chimney.

Alexander Jackson Davis, the architect who designed the E. M. Holt House in nearby Alamance, likely inspired unusual details found with this house. These details were likely used by the designer/builder to dress up an otherwise traditional house. These "picturesque" traits include the low-pitch gable roof with exposed rafter tails, as well as paired square porch supports connected by diagonal lattice. These elements were found in several of Davis's designs for "villas" published in the 1840s and 50s. Other details are notable for such an early house, including the Greek Revival inspired transom and sidelights, all rectilinear is form, and typical of fashionable houses of the period.

The Second Empire style was much less popular in Alamance County than the Italianate style. Perhaps Southerners reasoned that Italian and Carolina climates were similar enough to warrant comparable architectural styles, but no similar comparison or adaptation was witnessed with Second Empire design. Identified by its hallmark Mansard roof, Second Empire design sought to mimic French architecture made popular by massive construction projects in Paris at the time. Though never as popular in rural areas as it was in the cities, Alamance County did contain some good examples of Second Empire design, particularly in the design of the tower atop the Captain J. N. Williamson House in Graham. The three-story tower rises above the roofline of the house, and culminates in a high-pitched mansard roof, topped with iron cresting.

#### ii. Queen Anne, Stick, and Shingle

In time, additional styles that enjoyed national popularity worked their way into domestic architecture of Alamance County. After the Civil War and Reconstruction, somewhat of a housing revolution was experienced throughout the county, and farmers increased the productivity of their land and raised their

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standard of living. Foremost among these popular national styles was Queen Ann, and to a much lesser degree the Stick style and Shingle Style.

Houses featuring the Queen Anne style were first constructed as "high end' residences, built in Alamance as the county was maturing into a manufacturing center. Industrialists built several fine frame houses adjacent to their mill complexes, notably in Alamance, Glencoe and Haw River. Most of these houses shared common design characteristics, such as broad front porches, prominent towers or turrets, and a dizzying array of Queen Anne trim.

An example of Queen Anne design is found in the Charles T. Holt House in Haw River. Lounsbury describes Holt's mansion:

"In September, 1897, workmen put the finishing touches on the most ornate textile mansion built in Alamance County. Designed by architect George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee for the son of former Governor Thomas M. Holt, the Charles T. Holt House sits atop a hill overlooking the Granite and Tabardrey mills in Haw River. The picturesque massing of peaks, turrets, and decorative chimney stacks in an irregular manner was fashionable with architects and builders in the 1880's and 1890's working in the popular Queen Anne style. So, too, was the combination of several materials such as stone, tile, brick, and wood. In window, door, and gable details it seems apparent that Barber relied upon illustrations he found in pattern books. Many features of the Holt House resemble patterns displayed in William T. Comstock's Modern Architectural Designs and Details, 1881."

Although industrialists and managers of factories were living in well-designed Queen Ann style mansions, farmers across the county were finding their own living standards rose as they erected larger homes with fashionable appointments. A good example of this rural variation stands in the Snow Camp area of Alamance County. The C. F. Coble House is one of the few in rural Alamance County that features a tower. The house has an irregular roof form that includes complex dormers, hips and ridges, deco-

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rated with stained glass windows, decorative brackets and sawn ornament. Battered post-on-pier columns support a broad front porch. The front door contains some stained glass. The corners of the house are clipped to create bay windows in some of the projecting wings.

Other excellent examples of Queen Ann style designs stand in Alamance County, including the Dr. Loftin Kernodle House near Alamance with a great amount of turned posts and decorative sawn-work, and the Hughes-Garrison House near Union Ridge built around 1915. The later is a good example of typical urban house types most often associated with neighborhoods of the period. This is an unusual rural illustration of this type, which includes irregular massing, and a side hall plan.

Many rural farmhouses exhibit Queen Anne architectural features, including irregular rooflines, decorative shingle siding, broad front porches featuring turned porch posts and decorative brackets and feature windows in a variety of shapes sometimes with stained glass. The Queen Anne style influenced many houses built in the county from 1870 through 1910, a period of much change and improvement in the county economy and in living standards. Elements of the style can be found with elaborately designed mansions as easily as a single room farmhouse as an illustration of the broad range of housing found within the county during that time.

#### c. American and Eclectic Styles

#### i. Colonial Revival

Popularized by the Centennial Exposition of 1876, Colonial Revival designs were immensely popular in conservative central North Carolina, especially in the years after World War I. In some sense, the Colonial Revival in Alamance was less a revival and more a continuation of traditional building styles and designs that were slow to die. The Colonial Revival brought back to Alamance the clean lines, simple forms and uncomplicated rooflines that the region enjoyed less than fifty-years earlier. The style featured elements often associated with "Colonial" architecture, including bay windows, cornices decorated with modillions or dentils, front doors bounded by sidelights and a transom, sometimes sheltered by a gabled

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stoop. Variations of the "colonial" theme included "Dutch Colonial" and houses inspired by the great mansions of Virginia's Chesapeake.

For Alamance County, participation in the Colonial Revival was sometimes associated with nostalgia for the perceived "simpler times" of the Colonial and ante-bellum periods of American history. The Reconstruction Era was a turbulent period for many in the American South, as old ways were abandoned for new. The period and its associated Victorian architecture were sometimes associated with carpetbaggers and new rich who were sometimes accused of causing social upheaval. Many southerners turned instead to the simpler and more refined lines of the Colonial Revival style for both comfort as well as a bit of instant heritage.

A good example of a representative Colonial Revival house is found in the Alamance community. The Fogleman House was likely constructed around 1925 on the main road into the village. Two-story, brick veneer house designed in to reflect Federal details popularized for Colonial Revival architecture. The hipped roof house features a three-bay façade, with a small entry porch centered over the front door. A small, centered eyebrow window serves as a vent for the attic. Colonial Revival features include an elliptical fanlight and sidelights flanking the front door, paired window units, a simple molded cornice, and an elliptical plan porch supported by fluted Tuscan columns. Two small porches extend to each side of the house, each featuring a wooden balustrade, brick piers and a great deal of glass or open screening. A front terrace is constructed of brick. Interior appointments are also Colonial Revival in design. Mantles feature attenuated columns and a tripartite motif. The plan of the interior is a modified center-hall, with formal rooms flanking a formal center passage.

A subtype of the Colonial Revival style includes Dutch Colonial designs. The Wilkerson House in Mebane is an example of an unusual variation of this type. Constructed around 1920 this two-story, stone veneered house features a gambrel roof covering a forward extending wing, Mt Airy Granite walls with grapevine mortar joints, six over six windows, and wide front porches covered by shed roofs. The porches feature simple stone piers and stone foundations. The forward facing gambrel wing features a decorative

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arched window, centered between two rectangular windows. A forward facing chimney stack also punctuates the front elevation.

Late in the period of Colonial Revival design, academic investigations in places such as Williamsburg and New England led to a more precise understanding of what features should constitute a Colonial Revival design. Two structures exemplify "academic" Colonial Revival houses in Alamance County. The first is found at 408 South Fifth Street. This brick house was likely constructed around 1940, as it demonstrates a more academic style of Colonial Revival influenced by study of early American buildings in Williamsburg and New England. The side gable house features two sections, one that could "telescope" into the next, due to its smaller dimensions. Details include a small central porch stoop supported by attenuated posts, side gable chimneys and a side porch topped by a balcony, left of center. The second exemplary "academic" Colonial Revival house is known as Hideaway Farm in Haw River. Constructed in 1928, this house is an excellent example of Colonial Revival design, featuring a side-gable roof, a three-bay façade and Ogee front stoop roof. Other Colonial Revival details include brick veneer, six over six windows, shutters with crescent moon cut outs and a six panel front doorway. Side porches flank the central block of the house, both topped by flat roofs and metal railings.

#### ii. Classical Revival

Classical architecture was the theme of the much anticipated World's Colombian Exposition of 1893 held in Chicago. Leading architects from across the nation were asked to assist in designing the grounds and pavilions for the great Fair with classical motifs such as porticos and rotundas. The grand architecture of the Exposition captured the imagination of the public, and soon requests were made of architects to design buildings that resembled those at the Fair with classical elements such as heavy cornices, pilasters and balustrades. Southerners chose the style with particular enthusiasm, since it resembled in many ways the grand Greek Revival buildings built during the ante-bellum period. These "Southern Colonial" houses symbolized to some the rise of the South from the ashes of the Civil War.

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The style had limited influence on residential design in Alamance County, finding its way instead for use in many civic and educational buildings. Two residences in Alamance exemplify the Classical Revival period of architecture, both featuring two-story porticos and classical embellishments.

The John Shoffner House in Alamance was likely constructed around 1920. The 2-story, 3-bay house is one of the few Classical houses that feature a colossal portico in Alamance County. Green terracotta tiles cover the side-gabled roofline. A centered gable projects forward from the main façade to create a portico supported by two full height fluted Tuscan columns. A small circular window is located in the tympanum, which is textured with Pebbledash. The stone façade contains paired 6-over-6 windows topped with awnings. An elliptical fanlight and sidelights surround the central entry. A side sunroom/porch is located to the left. A screened in porch is located to the right, covered by metal awnings. A terrace stretches across the fill width of the façade, covered in terra-cotta.

A later example includes the Ralph Scott House in Hawfields. Built around 1950, this 2-story, 5-bay frame house also features a grand portico. Six square post columns support a two-story high shed roof that projects forward from the main façade to create a portico. The clapboard façade contains six-over-six windows, flanked by shutters. A fanlight and sidelights surround the central entry. A side sunroom is located to the right. A wing that is connected to a garage is located to the left. To the rear is a one-story wing topped by a metal railing.

#### iii. Craftsman, Prairie style and Foursquares

Craftsman and Prairie styles first made their way into Alamance shortly after 1910, and were quickly established as two of the most popular styles of residential architecture in the county until 1940. Favored because the style evoked integrity in design and materials, the simple and humble Craftsman style was most popular in the form of modest bungalows that were built in all quarters of the county. Widely flexible, the style was as appropriate for a factory worker as it was the farmer. Prairie style houses, though much fewer in number than its cousin the Craftsman bungalow, were also constructed

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across the county. A few good examples of Prairie style design can be seen incorporated into much more popular house forms known as the Foursquare. Foursquares, by nature of their design having at least eight rooms, were not utilized by lower income families. Instead, good examples can be found as middle and upper income farmhouses across the county.

A good example of a Craftsman house in Alamance County is the Rudy Lee Gilliam Sr. Farm in the vicinity of Union Ridge. This house was constructed in 1924, and was the center of a 200-acre farm. The two-story, frame house includes Craftsman details such as wide overhanging eaves supported by diagonal braces, a low-pitched roof and battered posts-on-pier porch supports. A central gabled dormer dominated the façade of the side gable house. A smaller gable is reflected on the front porch roofline, and the porch roof extends to the left to cover a porte-cochere. The house has been noted for its beauty, including a reference in 1931 as one of the prettiest homes in Alamance County by the Greensboro Daily News.

The E. C. Guthrie House near Eli Whitney in the southern portion of the county is also a good example of the style. Constructed around 1915, the two-story house features a broad hipped roof, from which project oversized dormer windows and high corbelled chimneys. The house features elements of the Craftsmen style, including post-on-pier porch supports, wide overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Other details include 5-V galvanized roofing material, clapboard siding, one over one windows, a stuccoed foundation, and a front door featuring stained glass.

Craftsman bungalows were a dominant house style during the first decades of the twentieth century across the county. The bungalow may statistically be the most popular style out of all pre-1950 housing stock remaining today in Alamance County. Its popularity may be due to the perception that the humble and honest Craftsman best exemplified the working values farmers and tradesmen.

Although Prairie style houses were born in the Midwestern United States, a few good examples made their way to Alamance as embellishment to Foursquare plan houses. Foursquare houses in Ala-

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mance are often simple, featuring Prairie influenced pyramidal rooflines, symmetrical façades, wide front porches and broad, clean eaves. Named for having four distinct rooms per square shaped floor, a good example of this style is the Kerr Place, constructed around 1915. This Foursquare, located near Saxapahaw is a well-preserved two-story frame house topped by a pyramidal roof and accentuated by a central forward facing oversized dormer window. The dormer window contains three diamond paned windows and is topped by a hipped roof. Other features of the white frame house include high corbelled chimneys, large one over one windows, a full width front porch supported by Tuscan columns, a boxed cornice and simple front door. A bay window extends to the left, and a rear ell extends the house to the rear.

#### iv. Eclectic styles

Exotic styles, including English Tudor, French, Spanish, Italian, Mission, and Regency styles made their way hesitantly into rural Alamance County in the second decade of the twentieth century. The styles were, perhaps, a result of increased travel across the continent as well as the Atlantic, which did much to raise American's awareness of far off lands and distant places. By the 1920s, eclectic styles had reached their zenith in Alamance, primarily found along the curving streets and natural setting of small town subdivisions.

A good example of a Period Cottage within a suburban setting is found at the house located at 407 South Fifth Street. This simple, two-story house is influenced by the English Tudor style of Period Cottages. Tudor features include the double forward facing gables, one with a scooped slope over the front door, and an overall irregular massing. Other features common to the period include a bay window, a side porch with simple supports, and clapboard siding.

In rural Alamance County illustrations of Period Cottages are very rare, but occasionally some good examples can be located, including the remarkable Rustic Revival log house north of Elon. Likely

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constructed around 1930, this twentieth century log house is a product of the cottage revival period in American architecture in which "romantic" styles were designed to infer simpler and more exotic periods in history. Log house construction was popular in Alamance County during the nineteenth century, and enjoyed a long association with the county. Rustic Revival log houses differ from earlier log structures in their use of rounded logs and complex floor plans. Of the log houses in the county, this example is among the largest and most elaborate.

The two-story log house features side gables, embellished with smaller offset side gables roof-lines. A forward facing gable dominates the façade over the central front entry, topped with a "bent ridge" roofline. A small dormer window is situated to the right of this main gable, and to the far right is a slender fieldstone chimney. The walls of the house are exposed rounded logs, chinked with "mud" mortar. The corner timbering is a saddle notch, which is interesting in that the most popular notching techniques in the county included V-notch, half dovetail and square, but not saddle.

Other notable details of the house include a recessed doorway, a flagstone terrace across the front, a fieldstone foundation to match the chimney, six over six windows, and exposed rafter tails, perhaps inspired from the Craftsman style. To the south of the main block is a one-story wing, featuring a timber frame porch, flagstone terrace, milk-quartz steps, a twelve over one window and small stone chimney.

#### c. Modern Styles

#### i. Minimal Traditional

As interest in minimalist designs permeated America's architectural tastes in the third decade of the century, interest in the academic detail of Colonial Revival and English Tudor houses began to diminish. Popular housing styles turned away from the Period Cottages of the 1920s and looked forward to the progressive designs of Ranch houses. Minimal Traditional houses represent the transition between Eclectic houses and the era of the Ranch house. These houses are constructed of both frame and masonry, and

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most often are one-story high. They usually feature a forward facing gable, often complimented by a prominent chimneystack. Detail is usually simple, most often seen in an arched doorway or front porch stoop, a high gable or a small feature window. Examples of Minimal Traditional houses are found across Alamance, but typical examples can be located close to urban areas and along roads improved during the Depression.

An interesting example of Minimal Traditional architecture is found just north of Elon on Midway Church Road. Likely constructed around 1940, this one and one-half story house is a typical example of the style, however it is remarkable in being executed in Mount Airy granite, which is rare in rural Alamance County.

The cut stone façade is topped by a complex roofline incorporating steep pitched rooflines. This style blends outgoing English Tudor features, such as multiple window sizes, side porch, forward facing chimney stack and forward facing gables with incoming ranch austerity, including an unbroken ridgeline, side gables and a front terrace. Other features include a front terrace, a stone archway to the right side that serves to continue the front wall right, and an arched entry capped by a tall keystone.

#### ii. Ranch

Earliest Ranch style houses were constructed in the 1930s, but the style remained popular in the county well into the 1980s. Most houses stood one-story, though two-story variations achieved the Ranch style appearance by submerging one floor beneath grade. Though some early instances of the form adapted a Colonial motif, many ranch houses embraced characteristics of the Prairie style, including wide overhanging eaves, horizontally oriented windows and an absence of decoration

The Wayne Butler House near Alamance was likely constructed around c. 1965, and is a good example of the Ranch Style. The style grew out of the Prairie style, but owes much to the earlier Bungalow,

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and Modern styles. This Ranch house features a low-pitched, side gable roofline, with wide overhanging eaves, extended side gables and horizontal or grouped windows. The walls are sheathed with pink Roman brick, and the garage is screened from view from the street using a masonry screen. Other features include a right side carport, skylights and substantial cast iron porch supports. The roof of the porch is also low pitched, and features exposed purlins reminiscent of the Craftsman style.

#### III. Significance

The various residential styles and forms described above are Alamance's greatest architectural legacy, and the most tangible evidence of the county's early twentieth century prosperity. Early examples of ante-bellum designs are important individually as rare survivors of their type in the county. Houses of this distinction are a small but important element of Alamance's housing stock; many are recognized as local landmarks by the citizenry for their early history. Many houses that date from 1910 through 1950 are perhaps most important as a group of neighboring structures that contribute to the development of a neighborhood or village context rather than on individual merit. As a group the structures portray the development of the county through the growth of neighborhoods and demonstrate national trends such as the impact of the automobile on urban and suburban development.

Aside from early examples of architecture and forms, certain residences hold individual importance due to their distinctiveness of style or form or as exceptionally intact representative examples of popular types or styles. These houses possess significance based on their association with community leaders important to the development of the county or as the work of particular architects who were popular or influential.

#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

Many of Alamance's early residences may qualify for individual listing. In order to be individually eligible, a residence must have been built prior to 1953, be an outstanding example of its type or style, and retain a high degree of integrity. For a representative example of a popular type or style (such as

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a bungalow) to be individually eligible, it must exhibit exceptionally distinctive design qualities or retain an exceptionally high degree of integrity. Other residences may qualify for listing based on associations with individuals, such as community leaders and industrialists. A small number of Alamance County residences are significant as part of a larger group of houses or a neighborhood, due to the lack of organized subdivisions developed in the rural county. Therefore, qualification of these properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will largely occur as a contributing element of a historic district based on their integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and associations.

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### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 2 – MULTIPLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS

#### **II. Description**

Multiple-family dwellings had their start very early in rural Alamance in the form of over-store apartments in small communities such as Haw River, Mebane and Alamance. The first apartment buildings in the county made their appearance during the 1920s as infill housing to previously developed mill villages. Among the earliest apartment buildings are the boarding houses found in central Swepsonsville. [AM] These twin frame buildings were used to house single mill workers in who worked in the mill complex nearby. Likely constructed around 1910, both buildings feature a central two-story unit flanked by long one-story wings that extend left and right of center. The central unit is topped by a forward gable roof, the side wings are topped by side gable roofs. Other features of the frame buildings include multiple doors to each living unit and shed porches supported by simple posts.

Another notable example of multi-family housing in rural Alamance County is the apartment houses at 4035A and 4035B Main Street [AM] in the village of Alamance. Likely constructed around 1915, these multi-family Prairie style boarding houses are rare examples of dense housing in rural Alamance County. Housing of this nature was much more popular in larger cities like Greensboro, but it was constructed in Alamance to serve as housing for single men and women who sought work in the nearby textile mill. The two-story buildings are topped by hipped roofs. An elevated breezeway connects both buildings at the second floor, elevated above a common driveway leading to the rear. Details of the brick veneer buildings are common to the Prairie style, including six over one windows, clean, broad overhanging eaves, and square posts on brick piers that support full width front porches. The two buildings are not twins. The left-most structure (unit A) features a three-bay façade with a central front door surrounded by sidelights, flanked by paired windows. The three-bay façade of unit B has no such sidelights, and is slightly narrower in scale than unit B. One unit was reserved for women, the other for men.

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### III. Significance

Multiple-family dwellings are an important segment of Alamance's historic resources in that they demonstrate the development of the county into a major manufacturing center in North Carolina. Many of the county's multiple-family dwellings were built in response to the acute housing shortage that occurred in Alamance in the 1920s as the burgeoning textile industry lowered unemployment levels and forced industry officials to advertise across the state for workers.

Though apartments and duplexes are located sparingly across the county, clusters are located primarily within established mill villages. These apartment buildings introduced a new level of urban living to the county in the form of multiple-story and masonry buildings, sometimes designed with Craftsman or Prairie details. The majority of these multiple-family units are important elements of a larger community, theme or neighborhood. These structures contribute to the understanding of the greater neighborhood, both in terms of development and social composition. However, certain examples may be valuable in terms of their high degree of design, their remarkable integrity, or through associations with community leaders.

#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

Multiple-family dwellings in Alamance will qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as contributing elements of districts. As some of the county's best examples of alternative housing types, certain units will qualify individually for listing on the National Register. To qualify as such, individual buildings must have been constructed prior to 1953, and should retain enough original fabric to convey particular architectural forms and styles. Other units will qualify as contributing elements within districts if they retain integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. In addition, the retention of design, most materials, and workmanship must be present to qualify as a contributing structure in a district.

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### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 3 – INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

#### **II. Description**

#### a. Early Mills

Early industrial development in Alamance County relied on waterpower, and was therefore located close to fast running streams. This early industry, which was comprised mostly of operations for sawing lumber and grinding grain, was housed in simple utilitarian structures. Little remains of these early mills. Some sites such as the Hugh's Mill site in the northern portion of the county and the Dixon Mill in the south still contain information such as stone foundations and discernable head- and tail-races.

Lounsbury commented on mills in his 1980 report:

In 1890 more than 42 grain and saw mills operated in the county. Over half of these had been built in the previous twenty years. Although a few of these continue their original function today such as Hub Mill near Altamahaw, most have long been abandoned. The frame fabric of many of the old mills still survive. The Guthrie-McBane, Cook, Thompson, Dickey, Ward, and Patterson mills probably all date from this twenty-year period. Lindley's Mill on Cane Creek may antedate these structures but has been altered in recent years that a study of the structure would be difficult.

Mills that do survive are similar to their antecedents in that they often remain utilitarian buildings. The Thompson Mill, located on Thompson Mill Road at Varnals Creek in central Alamance County was likely constructed around 1890. The otherwise simple side gable structure features some unique features, such as a pent roof, much like comparable structures located in southeastern Pennsylvania. The timber frame building sits upon a stone foundation, which incorporates the millrace and wheel housing. The grounds remain in good condition, including the tailrace that led downstream.

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Another exemplary mill stands in the northern portion of the county. The Dickey Mill is located on Quaker Creek in north central Alamance County. It was constructed in the late nineteenth century by brothers Jim and Allen Dickey as a gristmill. The otherwise simple building features an unusual monitor roof atop the timber frame building. The original dam was washed away during flooding around 1900, but was rebuilt.

#### b. Textile Mills

Textile mills constructed before the Civil War in Alamance were often masonry and frequently quite large structures by mid-nineteenth century standards in North Carolina. Before 1850, five cotton mills had been established in the county; the largest of which was Alamance, belonging to E. M. Holt and William Carrigan; the others including a mill on Cane Creek; the Granite Mill in Haw River; the Saxapahaw factory; and the mill at Big Falls (Hopedale). Of the five antebellum factories, only Granite Mill in Haw River remains intact and in use.

Lounsbury wrote extensively about Alamance County's mills in 1980, saying:

"As the cotton factories adapted to new technological innovations, changed methods of production, and expanded with commercial success, the old buildings were constantly being enlarged, altered, or rebuilt. As the pressure for better housing grew, the older mill houses were pulled down and rebuilt. As a consequence of this constant activity, very little remains which dates from the antebellum period. The present-day appearance of the small mill villages up and down the Haw River is largely the product of the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of this century."

The sole surviving antebellum mill remains intact today, and typifies early mill structures and their evolution. Erected in 1844, brick building rose three stories and was topped by a gable roof. A fourth floor was added to the original factory in the end of the nineteenth century as well as a new wing to the

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south. The building features other characteristics such as large twelve over twelve sash to insure adequate interior light, and timber frame construction that was substantial and solid to withstand vibration of heavy machinery.

Growth in the textile industry was rapid in Alamance County after the Civil War. By 1882, many of the mills and corresponding villages that make up the geo-political landscape of the county had been established, including Bellemont (1879), Altamahaw (1880), Glencoe (1882), and Ossipee (1882). All of these mills were within close proximity to a reliable water flow for power, and were complimented by the development of a surrounding mill village (see "Mill Villages" below).

Lounsbury describes this next generation of mill structures as follows:

"The new cotton factories were, typically, rectangular, two or three-story brick buildings, laid in 1:5 bond, of standard machine-pressed bricks although not of the best or most finished quality. Characteristic of nearly all these buildings were the stair tower, decorative corbelled cornice, and large arched windows. Bellemont, Glencoe, Ossippee, and Sidney mills are relatively unaltered examples of industrial architecture of the 1880's."

As technology increased, and residents grew more adept in handling electricity, factory owners were no longer bound to riverside locations for new mills. Instead, mills could be erected in cities and villages where there already was in existence a large workforce with support services. These new mills were located at rail sidings and on level terrain, which in some cases did not necessitate the construction of multi-level buildings.

A good example of this new generation of mill building is found at 403 Burlington Avenue in Gibsonville. Likely erected around 1910, this large, brick mill is typical of such structures built after electricity was made available to power textile mills. Features that demonstrate this generation of mill build-

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ings include one-story construction, large windows and large floor-plates. This was a departure from the multi-level mills with small floor plates that were constructed adjacent to sources of water power during the nineteenth century.

Another good example of this mill type is the Sue-Lynn Textiles Inc. Warehouse in Haw River. This large mill, likely constructed around 1910, is mirror those elements found at the Burlington Avenue site, including brick construction, one-story design, large windows and large floor-plates. An unusual feature of this mill is the presence of a four-story stair tower, which may indicate plans to build additional floors, or indicates the loss of additional floors due to fire. Other features of the building include heavy "slow-burn" timber frame construction evident as exposed rafter tails under the eaves, segmental arched windows, and a low gabled roofline.

#### III. Significance

Alamance County's early industrial buildings are highly important in documenting the transformation of a rural county into one of the manufacturing centers of the state. The county's inventory of industrial buildings includes textile and hosiery mills, as well as other structures such as Whites Furniture in Mebane. These resources tell the story of the development of Alamance as a manufacturing center and textile manufacturing hub in the decades following the Civil War, and the growth of that industry in the decades following.

Numerous other industrial structures represent auxiliary manufacturers. Some of these establishments contributed and supported the textile industry, while a small number were entirely unrelated to staple industries. Whether related to the county's core industries or not, these industrial structures remain important touchstones to the growth of Alamance into a modern county. For example, several hosiery mills are the focal points for communities, and in that respect are significant in telling the story of growth and development of those villages.

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#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

In order to qualify for National Register listing, properties must have been constructed prior to 1953 and should retain sufficient integrity to convey the resource's appearance during its period of significance. Many facilities may qualify individually due to their roles in Alamance's industrial development. Others will attain significance due to associations with designers or civic leaders. Eligibility under these qualifications requires that sites maintain integrity of location, feeling, design, materials, setting, and association. White Furniture Company in Mebane is a good example of a previously nominated site that maintains strong associations with its early history.

Certain industrial properties in Alamance will qualify for individual listing due to the importance of their architecture or design. These properties must be outstanding examples of their type and maintain a very high degree of integrity. In recognition of the fact that industrial sites were quick to change with new technology and uses, later design schemes are perhaps as important as the original design scheme, which may be irreversibly lost through later alterations.

Some industrial properties may qualify as contributing elements of districts. A district could include an entire mill village, of which the industrial complex is the centerpiece, or a district could consist of the campus of a manufacturer in which processes took place within multiple buildings. Thematic nominations could include sites associated with similar industries, or sites that share common attributes such as setting or design if each resource stands eligible individually or as a contributing element of a district.

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### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 5 – COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND OFFICES

### **II. Description**

#### a. Commercial Buildings

The development of commercial structures and hotels in Alamance fell into two distinct periods of design. The first period is characterized by having a wood frame or simple brick construction. Later periods exhibit more sophistication, including grand scale or use of a nationally popular style. By the midtwentieth century, commercial buildings in Alamance County contained examples of nearly all popular architectural styles, ranging from Art Deco to Standard Commercial service stations.

Little remains in Alamance from the first period of commercial buildings. Many of these stores were located at rural crossroads, and sometimes featured forward gable rooflines with front porches. The Stainback Store in Cross Roads Church community is an early example of this type, though the framing members of the store were recycled from the nearby church. A more recent example of this type is found with the Midway Church Road Store between Elon and Ossipee. This small store was likely constructed around 1920 and features utilitarian and simple details, including a forward facing gable roof topped with 5-V galvanized metal, a front porch supported by 4 by 4 square posts with a small up-bracing decorative detail, and German siding. Other simple details include exposed rafter tails under the eaves, a craftsman inspired front door with six lights above double panels, and large windows (now covered) flanking the front entry.

The second period of commercial structures includes substantial two and three-story brick buildings that exhibit national trends in architectural design. These buildings replaced many of the first period structures and expanded the commercial districts of many small towns. Popular National styles were first introduced to commercial buildings in Alamance County by the facades of structures in larger cities such

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as Burlington and Graham, featuring Italianate, Second Empire and Neoclassical designs. The earliest examples of this period were described by Lounsbury in 1980:

"General stores, hotels, and law offices grew up around the square. Most of the present structures bordering the square were built in the first decades of this century. However, two brick buildings survive on the south side which date from the period of initial settlement. The W. J. Nicks Store, a familiar landmark on the southeast corner of the square, was probably built by Henry Bason about 1850. The brick structure originally served as a general store but has housed a number of other activities, notably a Masonic Lodge and restaurant. The store retains many of its original details on the inside including some fluted cast iron columns with stylized capitals.

Next to Nicks Store on the corner across Main Street is another brick building constructed within the first or second year of the founding of the town. It may have also been originally used as a general store but was subsequently converted into a law office. Little of the original fabric remains except the brick shell.

One block east of the courthouse on Elm Street, a large brick hotel was built in the decade before the Civil War to take care of the people who came to town for legal business. Only a small wing of the Trolinger Hotel now exists. The interior is said to retain some of its original Greek Revival details. A new hotel on the northeast side of the courthouse square, the Vestal Hotel, opened for business in 1912 replacing the Trolinger Hotel."

Although several notable commercial buildings survive in Alamance County's small cities and villages, other notable commercial buildings are located in relatively isolated crossroads communities.

Sometimes, small corner service stations or grocery stores are the most visible and modern landmark within a large rural neighborhood.

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Two good examples stand in Alamance County to demonstrate nationally popular architectural styles within strongly rural contexts. The first is the Ed Trollinger Store near Pleasant Grove. Likely constructed around 1930, this one-story concrete building is a good representative example of early standardized service stations. The hip roof structure is sheathed in 5-V galvanized roofing material. Other details are simple, including post on pier supports for the covered service area, as well as original six over six windows and central door. The pit used to service autos is located a few yards left (northeast) of the building.

Another notable example of this building type is Jack's Grocery and Service to the south of Alamance. The structure was built in 1948, and stands as a good example of a community service center that sold various items such as gasoline, food, seed, fertilizer, produce as well as auto repair and inspections. The site is prominently located at the corner of Brick Church Road and NC 62. Originally the building was solely a gas station, opened by a veteran of World War II. The original building is one story in height, and was constructed of masonry. The building carried a modest Streamline Moderne appearance with three distinctive bands of raised brickwork that wrapped around the building a foot below the terra cotta parapet. The exterior of the building is covered with numerous signs that advertise what services were available in the store, such as state inspections, oil changes and meat. Inside, the building features simple trim, a pressed metal ceiling and plate glass windows. In 1962-63 an addition was constructed to the rear of the building, expanding the room available inside for groceries. The simple addition was utilitarian in appearance, but provided men and women's restrooms and continued the architectural theme of Streamline Moderne from the 1948 building.

Commercial roadside architecture continued to standardize into the mid twentieth century. A good example of this design is found near Mebane, where an Esso service station was erected around 1965. This small, Modern style, one-story service station was among the first businesses developed to accommodate travelers on the newly built Interstate 85 through Alamance County. The station is typical of

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many from the mid-1960s, and remains unusually well preserved. The plan of the building is simple, featuring a small office, with restrooms to the rear and a two-bay garage to the side. The material used to construct the station are also simple, including Porcelain Glass covered metal panel siding. Plate glass windows once extended from floor to ceiling. The roofline is a dramatic angled shape, which serves to catch the eye of speeding travelers.

#### b. Offices

Office buildings in rural Alamance County were largely built in association with textile mills. In most of those cases, mill offices occupied the entire structure, which usually consisted of space for management and their staff. These office buildings were most often low rise and were a common element of the landscape of mill villages. Office buildings were not restricted to the same utilitarian designs that mills were. Owners and managers could display the success of the company through stylish front offices that announced to visitors that the plant was modern and progressive.

Among the earliest example of an office building in Alamance is the Altamahaw Mill Office in Altamahaw. This two-story, brick building was constructed around 1890 adjacent to the mill and mill village commercial area. The building sports a stylish façade for the county featuring a hipped roofline, hipped dormers, stone lintels over windows and a front porch. In many cities across the county, the office would pass for a very fine house influenced by the Richardsonian Romanesque style. However, in rural Alamance the building is the only representative of the type.

Nearly fifty years later, mill owners continued to display a proud public face through mill offices. The Holt Hosiery Mills Office near Burlington was likely constructed around 1940 in the then voguish Streamline Moderne style. The Holt Hosiery Mills Office is located between the North Carolina Railroad tracks and West Webb Avenue, just west of the Burlington city limits. The office is designed in the Streamline Moderne style, characterized by horizontal brick patterns in pilasters flanking the door and by rounded corners of the building. Above the door of the symmetrical façade are stylized letters announcing "Holt Hosiery Mills". The front door is aluminum and contains plate glass, which is also found in large

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sidelights flanking the door. Stylized planters flank the steps to the doorway, and a concrete parapet creates a strong horizontal emphasis for the building.

#### III. Significance

The variety of styles found in Alamance's commercial structures and office buildings are tangible evidence of the county's late nineteenth century and early twentieth-century growth and prosperity. Early examples of vernacular and standardized designs are important as examples of their style throughout the county. Structures of this distinction are an important element of Alamance's historic inventory, and many are already recognized as local landmarks for their early history and associations. Sites that are not architecturally exceptional are perhaps most important collectively to the development of a neighborhood rather than individually. As a group, the structures illustrate the development of the county through the mid-twentieth century and demonstrate the adoption of national styles and architectural forms in commercial and office architecture.

Some properties hold individual importance due to their distinctive style or form, or through their high historic integrity (such as the Altamahaw Mill Office). These sites may also possess significance based on their association with community businesses (such as the Holt Hosiery Mills) important to the development of the county or architects/ builders that were popular or influential.

#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

Many of Alamance's early retail and office buildings are more significant as part of a larger group than they are by individual merit. Therefore, qualification for listing will usually occur as a contributing element of a district. A relatively small number of isolated retail and office buildings may qualify individually for listing. In order for listing to occur, sites must have been built more than fifty years ago and retain an adequate quantity of features necessary to evoke the structure's period of construction. Buildings that qualify based on these values must be outstanding examples of their form or style, and retain a high degree of integrity. Frequency of the style in Alamance County will have some impact on eligibility. Ar-

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chitectural styles that are rare, such as the Streamline Moderne style, should be judged less conservatively in respect to integrity as opposed to common styles. Other sites will qualify for listing based on associations with individuals, such as community leaders or architects.

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#### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 6 – EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CIVIC BUILDINGS

#### **II. Description**

Educational, religious and civic buildings compose an important component of Alamance County's rural and small town architectural history. All three building types were present from an early time in the history of the county and represent non-private spaces often constructed by means of collective resources. All three building types are often embraced by their communities and identified and area landmarks through their roll as collective meeting places and as community centers.

#### a. Educational buildings

Early schools in Alamance were frugal frame structures that enabled scant financial resources to be diverted to education instead of architecture. A few efforts were made to construct substantial buildings.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the economy of the region had achieved the level of stability and prosperity needed to invest in substantial school buildings. This second generation of structures was almost entirely built of brick, and enjoyed some community prominence. These buildings often enjoyed a distinguished architectural appearance through distinctive design.

Few educational structures can be identified as having been constructed before the Civil War in rural Alamance County. One example that still stands in poor condition is the Watson Female Seminary, in the Pleasant Ridge community. This, two-story, frame structure contains a four-bay façade, flanked by side chimneys. Details are spare, including simple surrounds around windows and doors, and boxed soffit. The building was likely constructed sometime in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

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During the period of 1890 through 1910, several one and two-room school buildings of frame construction were erected throughout the county. Schools were built separately for black and white children, according to state laws of the period. Hawfields School in Melville Township is representative of this group of one story, forward gable schoolhouses. Constructed around 1902, this building continues the tradition of utility seen with the Watson Seminary with clapboard siding, simple eaves, and paneled doors. A single flue chimney centered near the ridgeline of the roof ventilated the stove heat source for the entire building. The McCray School, built in 1915 in the northern section of the county is a good representative of schools built for African-American students. The simple forward gable, frame structure with a narrow front porch has recently been restored.

Elaborate design for the period is exemplified in the architecture of the Woodlawn School near Mebane. Constructed around 1911 and designed by Barrett and Thomson, this school features and "L" shape plan, embellished by a gabled porch, large windows, a boxed cornice and louvered attic vents. The frame structure is topped by a tower, featuring arched louvers and a pyramidal roof. This school is among the most elaborate early frame schools in the county.

Further educational reform during the 1920s and 1930s resulted in the consolidation of small schools into larger entities. This new generation of schools often included substantial masonry structures containing classrooms, offices, auditoriums and cafeterias. Many of the school built during this time reflect nationally popular architectural styles, such as Art Deco and Neo-Gothic.

Glencoe School just to the north of Glencoe is a good example of this period of school construction. Constructed in 1936, the school was built to serve the Glencoe Mill community and nearby farm families. The one-story brick structure is arranged in the form of an "L", with the vertical of the "L" shape aligned along the main road, the horizontal of the "L" extending to the rear. Two entrances originally serve the building. The entrance to the left provides quick access to the office. The school contains five classrooms, office space, male and female restrooms, and an auditorium/ gymnasium. In time, an extension to the rear contained a small kitchen and cafeteria. Interior hallways connected all rooms and public spaces.

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Materials and features of the Glencoe School are typical for the period, including pressed brick, cement corner blocks and 12 over 12 window sash. A hipped roof, featuring exposed rafter tails and wide overhanging eaves tops the building. Inside, features include beadboard, maple floors, sanded plaster walls, simple pine molding, and over-door transom windows. Other features include blackboards and corkboards, glass brick over the main entry doors, and starburst pattern pressed glass in panels within doors to each room.

The county's most substantial foray into higher education came with the opening of Elon College at its present site in 1889. Though the original administration building was destroyed by fire in 1923, West Hall is the oldest building on campus having been erected in 1904. The other buildings on the campus adopt a Colonial Revival theme. The Colonial Revival style was popular with college campuses throughout the mid-twentieth century. The campus of today's Elon University demonstrates some of the most substantial examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the county.

#### b. Religious structures

Religious structures in Alamance generally experienced three periods of transformation between the settlement of the county and the mid-twentieth century. First period buildings were often constructed of wood frame or log. These structures were often replaced by or remodeled into substantial masonry sanctuaries that exhibit some nationally popular architectural styles such as Gothic and Colonial Revival. The third period of church development occurred in response to the financial windfalls of the 1920s and mid-twentieth century, and resulted in the erection of some notable buildings that are centers of their community.

The history Chatham Friends exemplifies the three-phase process often seen with churches found in rural Alamance County. As described by Lounsbury:

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The history of the Chatham Friends Meetinghouse is typical of most churches in the county. In 1824 the first meetinghouse was built of logs. Sixty-four years later this building was pulled down and a new frame structure measuring 24 by 30 feet was erected. This building was first renovated and enlarged in 1900 and then for a second time in the 1920's. Again outgrowing their building, the congregation decided to construct a new meetinghouse. The old frame building was moved and a new brick structure was erected on the site in 1978. The building history of the Chatham Friends Meetinghouse exemplifies the constantly changing face of the built environment.

Traditional rural religious structures today are most often of frame construction. Frame construction remains the most affordable option for construction in the county, and is therefore used by most congregations. A smaller percentage of religious structures are of masonry construction. Substantial buildings constructed of brick are an expensive choice for many congregations. Accordingly, it is most likely that a masonry religious building enjoys an association with a well-established congregation with strong financial resources.

Driven by a desire to provide modern facilities for their congregations, religious organizations in rural Alamance County are sometimes quick to replace earlier facilities with new. As a result, early churches are rare in the county. Lounsbury observed this practice and noted that "Few antebellum church buildings survive – Freedom's Hill Church (c. 1848) and Hawfield's Church (1855) being two notable exceptions."

Although few religious structures remain from early Alamance County history, several resources stand to demonstrate later periods of construction. Deep Creek Primitive Baptist Church north of Burlington is a good example of a traditional nineteenth century church. The building was constructed around 1890, and likely replaced an earlier structure. The simple one-story, frame structure features 5-V galvanized metal roof. Six over six windows are found flanking the front doorway and along both sides of the building. Clapboard siding covers the entire building, which is supported by a stone and cinder block foundation.

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The interior of the church is also well preserved, featuring a center aisle with simple wooden pews to each side. A caste iron stove provides heat near the center of the building. In the back of the church are located additional pews, a table and a pulpit. An extension has been added to the rear of the building, including windows, for additional seating with a sofa. Interior finished are simple, including beaded siding, simple panel doors and plain trim.

The grounds of the church are utilitarian. A cemetery with graves dating at least to 1844 indicates that a religious building may have occupied the site at an earlier time. Other markers are simple, many constructed of carved native stone, or of milk quartz. To the south of the building is located a picnic shelter and tables for gatherings. Two privies remain to the west of the church.

A notable collection of Friends meeting houses stands in Alamance County, gathered in the southern section of the county along the Cane Creek. Though none of these buildings date to the nineteenth century (Chatham was significantly expanded and renovated in 1900), enough distinction in meeting house forms exists to demonstrate important rifts in Quaker theology.

Many early Friends meeting houses in the United States were designed in a two-cell form, characterized by having two equal size rooms housed side by side beneath a gable roof. Entry to these rooms was accessed by the exterior wall that stood parallel to the ridge of the roofline. Women and men used these two-rooms separately for their monthly business meeting, and a portable divider often enabled privacy between meetings.

Located neat Eli Whitney, the West Grove Meeting House is a good example of this two-cell floor plan. Built in 1915 by the John Newlin Family, the small meeting was a member of the Conservative Friends of North Carolina Quakers. Conservative Quakers were distinguished apart from most North Carolina meetings through silent meeting for worship and traditional viewpoints on topics such as education. Founded in reaction to the increasingly accepted pastoral system of worship, West Grove Meeting's conservative stance is illustrated in the design of the building, which is simply decorated, and notably features drop paneling that can be used to buffer equal sized rooms that hold separate men's and women's

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monthly business meetings. The interior beadboard, ceilings and floors are well preserved for this meetinghouse that stands unique in Alamance County.

During the nineteenth century, major theological shifts in Quaker ideology introduced singing, evangelistic preaching and alter calls to once silent worship services. This fundamental shift in the practice of worship was manifested in a new form of meeting house that mimicked tradition center aisle church plans. Though early examples of center aisle meeting houses with gable end entries in North Carolina date from the 1870s and 1880s, this transition appears to be best represented in Alamance County in the Spring Meeting House of 1907.

Despite its deep history beginning in 1773, the Spring Meeting House could be mistaken for almost any denominational church. The frame building is topped by a gabled roof featuring a low boxy steeple. Entry to the building is through a gable end doorway. The building is richly decorated relative to other meeting houses, including Gothic arched door and windows, which may have represented the enthusiasm the Meeting had for evangelical reforms ongoing in the Quaker religion at the time of construction.

Later period mainstream churches throughout Alamance County often demonstrated nationally popular architecturally styles such as Neo-Gothic or Colonial Revival. Green Level Christian Church in the community of Green Level is a good example of Neo-Gothic architecture. Likely built around 1940, this aisled nave church is designed to reflect Gothic or Romanesque styles. Gothic features such as pointed arched windows filled with stained glass are blended with a Romanesque forward gable that contains a circular rose window above the entry. A brick, square tower with circular windows and pointed arch windows is situated to the left rear of the building, topped by a low pyramidal roof. Other elements of the building are simple, including pressed brick and some recently installed vinyl siding. The brick veneer may be set in place over an earlier wood sheathing. The entry is simple, and sheltered beneath a simple gabled porch roof.

In contrast, the Shallowford United Church of Christ north of Elon is a good example of the Colonial Revival period. Constructed around 1945, the present sanctuary of the Church was constructed with

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details that suggest Colonial design elements, such as concrete lintels formed in the shape of jack-arches, colored glass windows, and paneled doors. Other features specific to the style include a forward facing gable roof over the main sanctuary, punctuated by a tall frame steeple, a front portico supported by Tuscan columns, brick quoins at the corners of the building, and a front entry topped by a broken segmental arch.

#### c. Civic buildings

Few notable examples of civic buildings stand outside of Alamance County's major cities. The Courthouse in Graham and the Burlington Municipal Office Building are notable examples in the cities, but civic structures in small towns and rural areas can be much less notable. Often times, civic functions that would necessitate construction of a building, such as a post office for example, would be housed in a private store. The community switchboard for southern Alamance County, for example, was housed in the J. N. Newlin House of the Snow Camp area. Such methods of multiple use and a spirit of resourcefulness often made construction of separate civic buildings unnecessary.

Therefore, those civic buildings that do stand gain that much more importance due to their rarity. A good example of a well-constructed building with civic purpose is the Primitive Baptist Library north of Altamahaw. The library stands as the most prominent structure in the crossroads community of Gilliam Church. The one-story, brick building was built as a library in association with the Primitive Baptist Church across NC 87. Details suggest an influence from the nationally popular Streamline Moderne style, including molded concrete trim, simple industrial metal windows, and door surrounds sporting stylized fluted pilasters. The entablature over the front door is inscribed with writing, a popular Moderne technique, declaring "PRIMITIVE BAPTIST LIBRARY ERECTED 1950". The structure remains in good condition.

Another good example of a high-style civic building is the notable United States Post Office in central Elon. Constructed in 1965, this one-story Post Office features a design that is unique in Elon and

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rare throughout Alamance County. Influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, its Modern design includes a strongly horizontal design, stone-like walls that emphasize the natural horizontal stratigraphy of stone, and wood frame structural features that emphasize horizontality. The simple building is a play of solid walls versus glass curtain walls, which direct the eye towards the main entrance.

#### III. Significance

The significance in Alamance's educational, religious, and civic buildings lies in their associations with the growth of the county, their associations with individuals of high profile, education and their architectural designs or forms. Several late nineteenth century and early twentieth century schools remain in the county to show how early facilities appeared. In addition, several schools from the mid-twentieth century remain to represent that period of high growth and increased academic standards. Religious structures are significant in term of the architectural style of their sanctuaries, and sometimes as representations of a social group's ethnic identity. Civic buildings also hold significance for their governmental and social service associations.

#### IV. Registration Requirements

Alamance's educational, religious, and civic structures may qualify for inclusion on the National Register if they were constructed more than fifty years ago; if they retain a high degree of architectural integrity; and if their original uses remain easily identified. These structures may qualify individually or as contributing elements of a district. Individual nominations must retain an adequate quantity of features necessary to evoke the structure's period of significance and must be outstanding examples of their form or style with a high degree of integrity. Other structures may qualify for listing based on associations with important individuals, such as community leaders and designers.

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#### I. Name of Property Type

PROPERTY TYPE 8 – LANDSCAPE FEATURES

#### **II.** Description

Considering the rural nature of much of Alamance County, some landscape features may warrant special consideration as historic resources. Resources may fall into themes of transportation, land use, or special events. Landscape features are an important element to understanding the development, use and history of Alamance County, and merit further investigation and protection.

Transportation related landscape features might be defined as resources that demonstrate the diverse history of movement or trade inside and outside of Alamance County. Common resources found in the county include early trading paths, early roadways, plank roads and railroads. A notable trading path crossed the county to connect Hillsborough to the east with Salisbury to the west. Another important feature associated with transportation features in the landscape are bridges. Several notable bridges cross the Haw River, including the North Carolina Railroad Bridge in Haw River.

Land use features can be defined broadly, ranging from traditional tobacco fields, to a stone wall once used to retain cattle, or lowlands used for vegetable gardens just outside the bounds of a small mill village. These resources help to define the ways in which outdoor space was divided and used by earlier inhabitants. An example of an important landscape feature under this category is the John Shoffner Memorial Playground in the mill village of Alamance. Developed in 1948, this playground is dedicated to the community of Alamance in memory of John Shoffner, 1892 – 1942. Shoffner was a pioneering hosiery executive and started in the town of Alamance what later became Kayser-Roth Hosiery. The playground is an important landmark in the Alamance community, representing the recreational component of mill village life. It features several mature maple trees, under which are located swings, seesaws, a jungle gym,

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a may pole and a play tower. To the rear of the playground is a community ball field, containing permanent bleachers, a concession stand, fencing and light poles for night games.

Special events related landscape features revolve around an event in history, such as a battle, that had a long lasting effect on the history of Alamance County. The county participated in several violent episodes in state history, including the Regulator Movement, the Revolutionary War and the Kirk-Holden War. An example of such a site is the Lindley Mill Battle site, located along the banks of the Cane Creek in southern Alamance County. This was the site of the Battle of Lindley's Mill, in which local residents ambushed attempted to free Governor Thomas Burke from British militia after he was arrested in Hillsborough. The Colonial roadbed still meanders along the banks of the creek, and the hill behind which American patriots launched their ambush remains to tell the story of the early battle. Several markers have been added, one in the early twentieth century, the others more recently.

#### III. Significance

Several landscape features related to Alamance County's history remain, despite growth and development of the county. Some of those examples that remain are highly important. Early roadbeds and trading paths reach far back into the county's past to demonstrate patterns in early commerce and mobility. Bridges are also important to the understanding of Alamance's transportation network. Roadways, rail cuts, and bridges all define their surrounding environs and help to create defining features for many Alamance County neighborhoods. Community ball fields, small playgrounds, and battlefields also assist in developing an accurate picture of the history of the county, beyond what is possible with traditional buildings and sites.

#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

Landscape features may be eligible for listing in the National Register individually and as part of a neighborhood listing or as contributing elements of districts. Landscape features are important for their

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contribution to understanding neighborhood identity and setting. These sites may also hold significance as part of a thematic study including land use, urban planning or transportation. In such cases, the integrity of location, setting, feeling, design, and association are critical in determining their eligibility. Resources such as bridges may be individually eligible because of their architecture or engineering only if they maintain a high degree of integrity of materials, workmanship, and design.

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#### I. Name of Property Type:

PROPERTY TYPE 9 – SUBDIVISIONS, MILL VILLAGES AND MOBILE HOME PARKS

#### **II.** Description

The subdivision of land for real estate development is rare, but not unusual in rural Alamance County during the first half of the twentieth century. Population settlement patterns were dispersed evenly across the landscape, and there was often little need or market for defined subdivisions outside of cities and towns. Subdivisions that do exist outside of Graham and Burlington are centered on towns such as Gibsonville, Elon and Mebane, communities that saw enough economic diversification to support a small middle class population. This middle class is often what drove the need for subdivisions in small communities.

By contrast, mill villages were provided for the working class. Early textile mills in Alamance County were often isolated from population centers due to their reliance of water power. In order to attract workers, mill owners provided housing for their work force, often located near the mill. In time, these mill villages grew in size and enjoyed amenities such as a company store, post office, and church. Mill villages represent an important chapter in the history of Alamance County, particularly as an examples of communities of people thrown together by economic circumstance instead of by choice.

Mobile Home Parks are relatively new to the landscape of Alamance County. Early parks may have been constructed along major routes of transportation to serve vacationers, though none have been identified yet. Later, parks were established for permanent residents who required affordable housing. To-day, pre-manufactured housing consists of a sizeable proportion of new home construction throughout the county.

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a. subdivisions

Alamance County's small towns follow patters of development similar to other communities in North Carolina. Villages are often located at a junction of two major routes of transportation, such as a railroad and a surface road. This junction is most often becomes the center of the community, where a small business district develops containing support services such as merchants, banks, civic structures and a hotel. Radiating away from the village center are residential districts, with upper income housing located along major roadways, and working class inhabiting areas adjacent to a railroad. Following this model, middle income subdivisions were often established within the quarters remaining between the upper and working class neighborhoods.

Examples of all three subdivision types can be found in Alamance County today. A good example of a working class neighborhood can be found in the 500 to 700 blocks Ball Park Avenue in Elon. Established as early as 1910, this subdivision chronicles an African-American community that lived and worked in the village of Elon College during the days of "Jim Crow" segregation. The community is located several blocks west of central Elon and Elon University, adjacent and south of the North Carolina Railroad track. This neighborhood contains several residences surrounding a notable church known as Elon First Baptist Church. Houses located within the neighborhood include simple brick and frame onestory Craftsman style cottages, some featuring full width front porches; as well as one-story frame triple-A form houses and a mobile home. Landscaping within the neighborhood is utilitarian, with mature native trees and traditional landscaping.

In contrast to the working class neighborhood in Elon, the 200 and 300 blocks of West Holt Street in Mebane demonstrate a good example of a middle-income neighborhood. Located just to the south of the railroad tracks, this neighborhoods contains several well preserved examples of a turn-of-the-twentieth century residences, including vernacular styles and Queen Anne inspired designs. The street is a continuation of the grid street pattern of Mebane, aligned with the North Carolina Railroad. Housing within the

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neighborhood primarily consists of frame houses, some with sawn ornament and classic columns. Structures are located at a uniform distance from the street, which allows for traditional landscaping that includes mature native shade trees and flowering shrubs that are typical of mid-twentieth century North Carolina.

A good example of an upper income subdivision is located along the 300 to 400 blocks of Alamance Street in Gibsonville. Beginning at the Guilford County line, this neighborhood of fine houses extends east along both sides of Alamance Street, the main thoroughfare southeast of Gibsonville towards the village of Alamance. The neighborhood features several house styles popular during the early to midtwentieth century including some Victorian period houses, along with Colonial Revival, some Neoclassical and popular Craftsman style houses. The residence at #330 is an exceptional example of the Craftsman style, featuring shingle siding, diamond pane windows, and battered posts on the front porch topped with flattened arch headers. The neighborhood remains well preserved, with notable landscaping and a street-scape typical of small towns across Alamance County and North Carolina. The street also serves as an attractive, historically important entryway into the town of Gibsonville from the southeast.

Landscaping is traditional, sometimes featuring exotic trees and shrubs or unusual landscape features such as retaining walls or brick pathways.

#### b. Mill Villages

Mill Villages are an important facet of Alamance County history. The county is recognized as a center of the textile industry in the state, with a deep rich history that remains with us today. The depth of Alamance County's textile history results in the presence of several different periods of mill village design, which is unusual in North Carolina. This collection of mill villages ranges from organic, unplanned villages clustered near waterways to organized suburban communities located adjacent to electric powered plants.

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These villages can be viewed as an autonomous community, nearly self-sufficient and representing nearly all needs of it population. Residential needs include single family or duplex housing for families, dormitories for single workers, and more luxurious housing for management. Commercial buildings and offices were placed near the mill convenient to all in the village. Each village likely contained a school and at least one church. Finally, depending on the size of the village, civic structures such as a library and recreational facilities such as a ball field or vegetable gardens might be found.

In Lounsbury's analysis of architecture in Alamance County, he reviews that log construction was used in at least two antebellum mill villages. None of these early log houses have survived. As owners continued the tradition of single family housing (albeit with frame construction instead of log) into the late nineteenth century, local builders were employed to duplicate a standard house type for as many houses as were needed. In this manner, construction could move efficiently and quickly. Lounsbury describes two well preserved late nineteenth century villages:

"The villages of Glencoe and Bellemont preserve a large number of the original mill houses. In plan the villages followed no formal layout. Individual houses were laid out along one or two streets leading to the factory. Most houses are two-story dwellings with a hall and parlor plan. At Bellemont the houses had a one-story wing in the back whereas at Glencoe there was no wing but a detached kitchen behind many of the houses. The hall and parlor plan was already antiquated when it was incorporated into the layout of these houses. In most contemporary houses of the 1880's, a central passageway separated the two front rooms. Although the plan was traditional, the method of construction was modern. In any one of the dozen or so houses lining the west side of the main street in Bellemont, for example, the frame throughout was constructed with circular sawn lumber. Mantels, window sash, doors, and interior sheathing were all products of the saw mill."

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"In other villages, mill owners erected a one-story dwelling as the basic house type. Except for the absence of the two bedrooms upstairs, the one-story plan differed little from the two-story house. Ossipee has a number of early one-story houses on Back Street. A few survive near Granite Mill in Haw River but date from the turn of the century. It has two front rooms and one room in the rear. The back room served as the kitchen and dining room. The larger front room served as a parlor and the smaller front room a bedroom. The chimney in the Johnston House is located on an interior partition wall and is a characteristic feature like the decorative, but useless central gable on the front of the 1890's style house. By this time, balloon framing utilizing small studs, had replaced the traditional heavy timber framing and thus reduced the cost of construction still further."

"The company store in each mill village functioned as the center of life in the community. Architecturally, these buildings expressed the typical fashion of late nineteenth century commercial structures across the country. Many were constructed with machine-pressed bricks. The Altamahaw and Saxapahaw stores display identical cast-iron cornice, hood-mould, and pilaster ornaments produced by the George L. Mesker Iron Works in Evansville, Indiana for the Holt business in the late 1880's or 1890's. Company stores at the other Holt Mill villages may have been similarly finished with cast-iron work from George L. Mesker."

#### c. Mobile Home Parks

Mobile homes are a common resource to the Piedmont section of North Carolina; however, well-maintained early units are growing increasingly rare. Mid-twentieth century demand for affordable housing led to the use of factory-made mobile homes. Mobile homes began in 1920s, with automobile-pulled trailers called "Trailer Coaches", designed as a vacation home during camping trips. These trailers

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evolved into "Mobile Homes" were brought into greater demand due to affordable housing shortages after World War II. "Mobile Homes" provided cheap and quickly built housing for the Veterans and their and being mobile allowed the families to travel where the jobs were. In time, mobile homes increased in length and soon incorporated bathrooms. Early units display colored metallic coverings and streamline features. Later, models began to appear that reflected permanence, such as wood siding, traditional windows and pitched rooflines.

A good example of a mobile home park in rural Alamance County is located in the far northwestern corner of the county. The Buckner Mobile Home Park Mid is a well-maintained Mobile Home Park containing a notable collection of early mobile home styles. The Buckner Mobile Home Park features homes covered in metallic sheeting, with original metallic windows, and often featuring "neo-angle" rooflines and angular profiles. Some of the more recent mobile homes placed in the park feature designs representative of recent trends in mobile home design, including wood siding and gabled rooflines. The park features simple, traditional landscaping, with roads winding naturally throughout the roughly five-acre parcel.

#### III. Significance

Alamance County's subdivisions, mill villages and mobile home parks provide a critical context and setting for the county's inventory of historic residences and parks. Several of these communities in the county reflect important national trends, such as Glencoe Mill Village which is an excellent example of a Southern textile community. Ball Park Avenue in Elon, West Holt Street in Graham, and Alamance Street in Gibsonville demonstrate the wide variety of socioeconomic groups that existed in the county early in its history. Sites such as the Bruckner Mobile Home Park represent local examples of national trends in American housing well into the mid-twentieth century. These themes depict popular concepts of urban planning that shaped American cities and towns and create a context for better understanding the growth of Alamance and similar counties.

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#### **IV. Registration Requirements**

Alamance's suburban neighborhoods, mill villages, and mobile home parks contain a variety of historic resources, ranging from houses, churches, and schools to parks and commercial areas. For these areas to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as districts, the majority of their components must date from the period of significance of the neighborhood, a date which should fall before 1953. In addition, the contributing elements must retain integrity of association, feeling, and setting in order to evoke the sense of place and community. Other contributing components will include land-scape features such as trees, roadways, signage, sidewalks, setbacks, garages, walls, and open space, which provide further evidence of the unique nature of each neighborhood.

In evaluating the eligibility of these districts, care should be given to the overall integrity of the area. Alterations are sure to exist in every neighborhood, but as long as a majority of sites within the nominated area maintain sufficient integrity to convey the period of significance, installation of siding and replacement windows may be tolerated. These considerations are especially relevant in areas marked by repetition of a few basic house forms. Bellemont mill village, for example, experienced numerous alterations in terms of additions, false siding and enclosed porches since properties were sold to their occupants as residents sought to individualize their otherwise identical houses. In such a case, attention should be directed to the overall appearance of the development with interest in the repetition of basic house forms [including features such as porches and fenestration], setbacks, and the overall plan of the neighborhood.

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#### NATIONAL REGISTER SITES IN ALAMANCE

#### ALAMANCE COUNTY

Alamance Hotel (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Alamance Battleground State Historic Site (Alamance vicinity) 02/26/1970

Alamance County Courthouse (Graham) 05/10/1979

John Allen House (Alamance vicinity) 02/26/1970

Altamahaw Mill Office (Altamahaw) 11/20/1984

(former) Atlantic Bank and Trust Company Building (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Bellemont Mill Village Historic District (Bellemont) 07/01/1987

Hiram Braxton House (Snow Camp vicinity) 11/22/1993

Cedarock Park Historic District (Graham vicinity) 12/04/1986

William Cook House (Mebane vicinity) 11/22/1993

Cooper School (Mebane vicinity) 12/15/1986

Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Cemetery, and Stainback Store (Cross Roads) 05/22/1984

Downtown Burlington Historic District (Burlington) 09/06/1990

East Davis Street Historic District (Burlington) 04/20/2000

Efird Building (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Elon College Historic District (Elon College) 03/22/1988

First Baptist Church (Burlington) 05/31/1984

First Christian Church of Burlington (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Polly Fogleman House (Burlington vicinity) 11/22/1993

Friends Spring Meeting House (Snow Camp vicinity) 03/19/1987

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Glencoe Mill Village Historic District (Glencoe) 02/16/1979

Graham (Courthouse Square) Historic District (Graham) 04/07/1983

Griffis-Patton House (Mebane vicinity) 03/17/1983

Thomas Guy House (Mebane vicinity) 11/22/1993

Hawfields Presbyterian Church (Mebane vicinity) 12/15/1978

Holt-Frost House (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Charles Thomas Holt House (Haw River) 06/01/1982

L. Banks Holt House (Alamance vicinity) 04/18/1977

Horner Houses (Charles M. and Mayor Earl B.) (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Johnston Hall, Elon Homes for Children (Elon College) 03/07/1994

Kernodle-Pickett House (Bellemont vicinity) 03/23/1987

Kerr-Patton House (Mebane vicinity) 12/05/1985

Lakeside Mills District (Burlington) 05/31/1984

North Main Street Historic District (Graham) 06/10/1999

Camilus McBane House (Snow Camp vicinity) 11/22/1993

McCauley-Watson House (Pleasant Grove vicinity) 02/04/1994

McCray School (Burlington vicinity) 12/04/1986

Menagerie Carousel (Dentzel Carousel) (Burlington) 08/30/1982

Moore-Holt-White House (Burlington) 07/20/1984

St. Athanasius Episcopal Church/Church of the Holy Comforter (Burlington) 05/29/1979

(former) Saxapahaw Spinning Mill (Saxapahaw) 05/20/1998

Henderson Scott Farm Historic District (Haw River vicinity) 09/16/1987

Kerr Scott Farm (Haw River vicinity) 10/31/1987

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Snow Camp Telephone Exchange Building (Snow Camp) 06/09/1989

Southern Railway Passenger Station (Burlington) 05/23/1980

A. L. Spoon House (Snow Camp vicinity) 11/22/1993

Stagg House (Burlington) 07/20/1984

Sunny Side (Burlington vicinity) 03/23/1987

James Monroe Thompson House (Shady Rest) (Snow Camp vicinity) 11/22/1993

(former) United States Post Office (Burlington) 09/23/1988

West Davis Street-Fountain Place Historic District (Burlington) 11/05/1984

White Furniture Company (Mebane) 07/29/1982

(former) Windsor Cotton Mills Office (Burlington) 05/31/1984

Woodlawn School (Mebane vicinity) 11/29/1991

#### **Study List Sites**

Albright and Long Avenues Historic District (Graham) 10/11/90

Sam Anderson Farm (Pleasant Grove Township) 10/10/02

(former) Burlington Coffin Company (Burlington) 10/14/93

Children's Chapel United Church of Christ (Graham) 10/11/90

David (Davy) Clapp House (Alamance vicinity) 03/17/76

Hatter John Clapp House (Boone Station Township) 04/09/92

Deep Creek Primitive Baptist Church (Hopedale vic.) 10/10/02

Dickey Mill (Haw River vic.) 10/10/02

Dixon Log House (Newlin Township) 04/09/92

East Burlington Historic District (Burlington) 07/08/92

Elon College Historic District Boundary Expansion (Elon College)

10/11/90

Elon First Baptist Church (Elon) 10/10/02

John R. Foster House (Burlington) 10/14/93

Granite Cotton Mill (Haw River) 04/16/81

Hall-Garrison Log House (McCray vic.) 04/08/99

Glencoe School (Glencoe) 10/10/02

James Heritage House (Burlington) 10/14/93

Hillcrest Elementary School (Burlington) 10/08/92

E.M. Holt House (Alamance vicinity) 09/30/75

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Sidney A. Horne House (Burlington) 10/14/93

House/ Sheriff Patterson House (Snow Camp) 10/10/02

House/Rustic Log (Ossipee) 10/10/02

G. Jones House (Thompson Township) 04/09/92

Jones Department Store (Mebane) 10/12/00

Lindley Mill Battle (Cane Creek) 10/10/02

Ben V. May House (Burlington) 10/14/82

Benjamin Frank Mebane House (Mebane) 01/31/85

George Morgan House (Newlin Township) 04/09/92

Jason Moore House (Snow Camp) 10/10/02

William Morrow (Thompson Township) 04/12/84

NC Railroad Company Buildings: Foundry and Roundhouse (Burlington

NEVER LISTED) 10/14/82

North Carolina National Bank Building (Burlington) 07/15/80

North Carolina Railroad Co. Shops: Carpenter Shop (Burlington)

05/06/75

North Carolina Railroad Co. Shops: Foundry (Burlington) 05/06/75

North Carolina Railroad Company Shops: Machine Shop #2 (Burlington)

05/06/75

Old South Mebane Historic District (Mebane) 10/12/00

William Paisley-Cates Farm Farm HwA, U-3109 (Mebane vicinity) 06/08/00

Pearson Remedy Company (Burlington) 10/14/93

Primitive Baptist Library (Gilliam Church Crossroads) 10/10/02

Rock Wall (Snow Camp) 10/10/02

S & W Grocery (Burlington) 10/08/92

Sellers Manufacturing Company Historic District (Saxapahaw) 04/04/96

Judge Sharpe House (Albright Township) 04/09/92

Michael Shoffner House (Alamance vicinity) 04/09/92

Sidney Cotton Mill (Graham) 10/11/90

J. T. Smith Grocery and Merchant (Glencoe vic.) 10/10/02

Thompson Mill (Albright Township) 10/10/02

J. Clarence Walker House (Graham) 10/11/90

Ward-Baker House (Pleasant Grove Township) 04/09/92

West Davis-Fountain Place Historic District Expansion (Burlington)

West Grove Meetinghouse (Eli Whitney vic.) 10/10/02

Captain J. N. Williamson House (Graham) 05/06/75

Wilson-Jones Farmhouse (Pleasant Grove Township) 10/10/02