

Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Franklin County, North Carolina



Prepared by:

Megan Funk with contributions by Jeroen van den Hurk

Submitted by: Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 1198 Tarboro, NC 27886

April 19, 2018

Contents

Introduction and Methodology	1
Geography and Material Culture.....	5
Exploration and Settlement: Eighteenth Century.....	8
Early Franklin County Settlers.....	13
The Federal Period Through Antebellum Period (1779-1864).....	19
Establishment of Franklin County and Louisburg	22
Growth of Franklin County.....	27
Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Architecture.....	28
Continued Growth in the Early to Mid-Nineteenth Century.....	33
Religious Activity	35
Masons	36
Education	38
Agriculture During the Antebellum Era	42
Nicholas Massenburg.....	43
The Raleigh and Gaston Railroad and the Establishment of Franklinton.....	46
Discovery of Gold.....	49
Nineteenth Century Architecture and the Influence of the Architect-Builder	50
The Civil War.....	57
From the Postbellum Period to the Early Twentieth Century, 1865-1910.....	60
Louisburg	67
Franklinton.....	72
Youngsville.....	79

Education	81
Architecture: Greek Revival to Queen Anne	89
Louisburg	92
Franklinton	97
Youngsville	104
Rural Architecture	108
The 1910s to Circa 1960	118
The Agricultural Economy Strengthens	118
Infrastructure and Automobiles	126
Lumbering and New Communities	130
Education	136
Twentieth Century Residential Architecture: Colonial Revival to Modernism	149
Agricultural Buildings	163
Commercial Architecture	165
Religious Architecture	172
Masons	174
Conclusion	176
Bibliography	178

Introduction and Methodology

The following report presents an architectural history of Franklin County, North Carolina from the 1750s through the 1960s. The architectural history is told primarily through the discussion of extant buildings in addition to descriptive accounts of buildings that no longer stand. County history is also provided as a context for patterns of growth and changes to the county's socio-economic climate. This report represents the culmination of a comprehensive architectural survey of Franklin County administered by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) with funding from Franklin County and the HPO. The fieldwork was conducted by Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (Commonwealth) in three phases from April 2015 through September 2017. The survey covered all rural and municipal areas of the county outside the preexisting Louisburg National Register District.

The methodology for the survey followed the project outline set forth by the HPO and the HPO's architectural survey manual *Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources*. It was further defined by the physical and historical nature of the county as discovered through preliminary research, windshield surveys, and communication with a local committee established in 2015. Sites of approximately 50 years of age or greater were selected for survey based on their architectural integrity and distinction as well as their social and historical significance. A wide array of buildings including domestic, commercial, agricultural, religious, educational, and civic were documented. Cemeteries were documented only if they were related to a standing house or religious building or had outstanding artistic merit.

The project built upon previous surveys of architectural resources in Franklin County, the first of which occurred between 1974 and 1975 and was performed by HPO staff members Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern and the Franklin County health inspector and historian,

Thilbert Pearce. This survey documented a total of 164 rural properties and 39 urban resources, with a focus on buildings constructed before 1865.¹ In 1976 and 1977, some of these resources were revisited as part of the Tar-Neuse River Basin survey, but no additional resources were surveyed.² Additional resources were documented for Thilbert Pearce's *The Early Architecture of Franklin County* in 1977, and for an updated edition published in 1988.³ In 1986, a large portion of Louisburg was surveyed in preparation for the nomination of the Louisburg Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.⁴

The initial phase of the current project included a reconnaissance level update of existing records as well as an extensive survey of previously unrecorded resources. The update covered 233 previously surveyed resources outside of Franklinton, Louisburg, and Youngsville and involved digitally photographing extant primary and secondary resources and updating HPO database records and GIS locations. The phase also identified, photographed, and populated HPO database records for 325 previously undocumented properties outside the municipal boundaries of Franklinton, Louisburg, and Youngsville. Lastly, the survey identified previously documented properties in need of updates and 166 undocumented properties in the towns of Franklinton, Louisburg (outside the National Register district), and Youngsville meriting recordation.

At the end of phase one, a considerable number of preliminarily identified resources were left unsurveyed, particularly on the Bunn West and Ingleside quads, and existing tax data suggested the presence of more undocumented historic buildings in other areas. In consultation with HPO staff, Franklin County, and Commonwealth, it was decided to survey an additional

¹ The findings of this survey were published in T. H. Pearce's *Early Architecture of Franklin County*, Franklin County Historical Society, 1977.

² North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, *Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin*, 1977. Ms. on file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

³ T. H. Pearce, *The Early Architecture of Franklin County* (Louisburg: Franklin County Historical Society, 1977) and T. H. Pearce, *Early Architecture of Franklin County II* (Freeman: Pine Hill Press, 1988).

⁴ Vickie Mason, "Louisburg Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1986.

185 undocumented buildings at the reconnaissance level. In the end, 192 previously unrecorded buildings were recorded during the project's second phase. These were in the Bunn East, Bunn West, Castalia, Centerville, Gold Sand, Grissom, Ingleside, Kittrell, Louisburg, and Vicksboro USGS quads, with a limited number of resources in the Franklinton, Justice, and Rolesville quads.

The completion of the reconnaissance survey filled some of the data gaps left by the 2015 update and reconnaissance survey, while also confirming the presence and distribution of many building types and architectural trends across the county. In some cases, the resources surveyed conveyed information capable of broadening our knowledge of not only building practices and architectural trends, but the social history of the county. For these reasons, a third, more comprehensive, phase was designed with the hope of further addressing resources that could contribute to our knowledge not only of Franklin County's built environment, but its history and development as well.

The third phase included intensive fieldwork for approximately 265 properties identified in pre-fieldwork meetings with the local survey committee and/or HPO staff as well as the 166 undocumented properties in the towns of Franklinton, Louisburg (outside the National Register district), and Youngsville identified in phase one and for the most part not previously documented; preparation of a final report analyzing the county's built environment; and identification of properties meriting placement on North Carolina's National Register Study List. Documentation for this phase of the project included digital photography, mapping, the gathering of oral history, preparation of floor plans and site plans, data entry, and written narratives. Municipal properties were recorded in a more limited manner than rural properties with limited interior documentation and minimal gathering of history. Franklin County's online tax records

were used to gather select data for each property, particularly the Parcel ID, which was then entered into the HPO database.⁵ General historical research was performed during the survey to establish a context for the architectural history and is reflected in this report.

Of the 233 previously recorded resources that were targeted during the first phase of the project, 114 do not survive in the mapped location. This number includes 87 principal resources that are no longer extant and 27 that could not be found. Regarding the 27 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one was demolished and two were moved, while the majority remain in good to excellent condition. Of the 11 surveyed resources previously placed on the North Carolina Study List, one is no longer extant and one lost its primary resource in a fire in 1977. Five resources that previously received a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) remain extant, while nine previously recorded, but undesignated, resources have deteriorated substantially since their initial survey.

Despite the loss of some of the county's earliest buildings, Franklin County retains a diverse built heritage. In phases one and two of the project, the survey recorded approximately 325 undocumented rural properties and 166 urban buildings, most of which had not been recorded previously. Several of these were twentieth-century buildings that fell outside of the parameters of earlier studies, while others were significant examples of nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century architecture. The following pages contain a comprehensive view of Franklin County's architecture from its earliest structures to its nineteenth- and twentieth-century development.

⁵ Franklin County Tax Office, Parcel Map, http://maps2.roktech.net/franklin_GM4.

Geography and Material Culture

Franklin County was established in 1779 from the southern portion of former Bute County and is bound on the north by Granville, Vance, Warren, and Halifax counties, and on the south by Wake, Johnston and Nash Counties. Covering a total area of 494 square miles, the county is located on the northeastern edge of the Piedmont Plateau, and approximately 61 percent of the county is dominated by the oak-pine forest region and coastal longleaf pine forests of Braun's Southeastern Evergreen Forest Region.⁶ The overstory is characterized by pine, red maple, hickory, yellow poplar, black tupelo, American elm, black cherry, American beech, and white and red oaks, while the understory includes dogwoods, sassafras, sourwood, southern wax myrtle, greenbriers, and holly. 29 percent of the land is dedicated to crops, including tobacco, soybeans, and corn. Seven percent is pastureland, and the remaining three percent is urbanized.⁷

The county is in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin, and the Tar River flows southeast roughly dividing the county into northern and southern halves. Many creeks, including Sandy Creek, Crooked Creek, and Cedar Creek, traverse the county and most drain into the Tar River, though some creeks in the southern part of the county drain into the Little River. In addition to aboveground resources, underground supplies provide water to wells through cracks in the soil's subsurface. Other water supplies include farm and mill ponds, as well as Lake Royale, a manmade lake northeast of the Bunn community. The elevation of the county ranges from 143 feet above sea level at the Tar River and Nash County line to 562 feet near the community of Pocomoke in the western part of the county.⁸

⁶ E. Lucy Braun, *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America* (Philadelphia: Blakiston Co., 1950).

⁷ Sheryl Hallmark Kunickis, *Soil Survey of Franklin County, North Carolina*, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., 2004, 9.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 9-10.

The soils of Franklin County include extensive areas of well-drained soils on uplands that can support cropland, pasture, or woodlands. Where intact, these have loamy or sandy surface layers and tend to have clayey subsoil horizons. Through management practices, modern farming addresses the major limitations to agriculture involving soil erodibility and loss of fertility; where eroded soils are mapped and clayey soils are visible at the surface, the areas may reflect a history of erosive land use including intensive nineteenth-century tobacco and cotton cultivation.⁹

The county seat of Franklin County is Louisburg. Other incorporated towns include Bunn, Franklinton, Youngsville, and portions of Wake Forest and Castalia. Located in the center of the county, Louisburg is the main commercial area, while Franklinton and Youngsville, which are located west and southwest of Louisburg, respectively, are also major commercial centers in the county. Bunn is located south of Louisburg and is characterized by minimal commercial development. Each town has a historic commercial core, as well as some modern commercial and residential development. Youngsville has grown the most rapidly in the past two decades, nearly doubling in population between 2000 and 2010. This growth is attributed to encroaching development from Wake County. The rest of the county remains agrarian in nature with bucolic fields and pastures tucked between expansive forests.

⁹ Kunickis, *Soil Survey of Franklin County* and Stanley Trimble, *Man-Induced Soil Erosion on the Southern Piedmont, 1700-1970*, Ankeny: Soil Conservation Society of America, 1974, 78, 87-88.

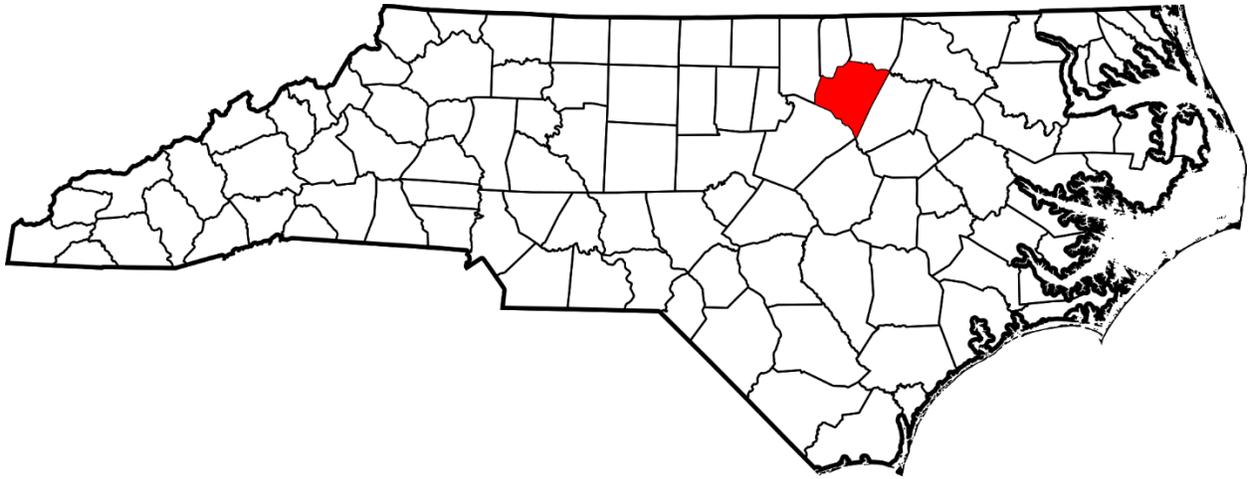


Figure 1: Map of North Carolina highlighting location of Franklin County.

Exploration and Settlement: Eighteenth Century

One of the first explorers to visit central North Carolina was John Lawson. In late 1700 and early 1701, Lawson traveled with an expedition group from Charleston, South Carolina, northwest along rivers and Indian trails to present-day Charlotte, North Carolina, before turning east toward Durham and ending in Bath. Throughout the expedition, the group met many Native American tribes and could observe and compare their dialects and customs. By the end of the journey Lawson reported encounters with twenty-two tribes in the colony. Though the tribes functioned as separate groups, they often shared commonalities in both language and tradition and can be classified by their root languages as Algonquians, Iroquoian, or Siouan.¹⁰

At the time of European contact, the Piedmont region was inhabited by tribes of Siouan lineage including the Saponi, Tutelo, Occaneechi, and Saura among others. Primarily located in the west, the Siouan tribes in the Piedmont region likely migrated from the Midwestern territory across the Blue Ridge Mountains before establishing themselves to the north and south of the eventual boarder between the Virginia and Carolina territories. South of this area, another group of Siouan tribes was already established. This group included the Catawba, Wateree, and Congaree and evidence suggests they followed a southern route along the western edge of the Appalachian Mountains. The southern tribes likely inhabited lands even further south before being driven north by Spanish explorers and settling in the southern Piedmont region near the northern tribes.¹¹

During the seventeenth century, the northern tribes moved around Virginia and North Carolina to avoid conflicts with the Iroquois Five Nations and early settlers. By the early eighteenth century, the Saponi, Tutelo, Occaneechi and other tribes inhabited the Piedmont

¹⁰ William S. Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 20.

¹¹ Douglas L. Rights, *The American Indian in North Carolina* (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1957), 122-123.

region with the closest known village to present-day Franklin County being Adshusheer. When Lawson visited the village in 1701, it was comprised of three tribes—the Adshusheer, Eno, and Shakori.¹² Though it was not uncommon for tribes to form alliances and share villages, the combined village at Adshusheer is indicative of the Piedmont tribes' increasing reliance on one another. Another village visited by Lawson was Occaneechi. Located roughly fourteen miles west of Adshusheer, the village was inhabited by the Occaneechi tribe for less than forty years and included around a dozen “wigwamlike houses.” Despite its small size and short duration, excavations in the 1980s revealed many graves at the site, another indicator of the hardships experienced in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.¹³

As the eighteenth century progressed, the Piedmont tribes continued to form alliances against the Iroquois, increasingly seeking assistance from settlers. At the same time, European-introduced diseases had their own decimating effect on the Native population. Around 1709, the Saponi, Tutelo, and Occaneechi combined forces and moved east possibly stopping for a short time on Sapony Creek in Nash County before establishing a settlement called Sapona Town near Windsor.¹⁴

Though some settlers choose to move west, leaving established settlements behind, many were dissuaded by the threat of attack from hostile tribes, as well as by the lack of roads and infrastructure. A further hindrance of western settlement occurred in 1711 when tensions with the Tuscarora, an Inner Coastal Plain tribe, reached its breaking point. Frustrated by the claiming of land and establishment of new settlements, the Tuscarora viewed Lawson and his role as a surveyor as one of the greatest threats to their way of life. In September of 1711, they retaliated,

¹² William S. Powell, ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, 2006), s.v. “Eno Indians.”

¹³ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, s.v. “Occaneechi Indians.”

¹⁴ Rights, *The American Indian*, 113 and Marvin Richardson and C. S. Everett, “Haliwa-Saponi Tribal History,” Learn NC, <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nc-american-indians/7266> (accessed February 28, 2018).

pursuing Lawson and another settler, Christoph von Graffenried, who were exploring the source of the Neuse River, capturing them and putting Lawson to death.¹⁵ The tribe likely hoped to set an example for other adventurous settlers as well.

Following the attack, the Tuscarora carried out a series of larger attacks on settlements along the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers including the town of Bath. The conflict, which caught settlers who were unaware of the initial attack wholly off-guard, quickly evolved into the full-scale Tuscarora War. The Governor of North Carolina, Edward Hyde, called for assistance first from Virginia, which agreed to answer the call only if the contested land was surrendered to Virginia, then South Carolina, which sent Colonel John Barnwell, nicknamed Tuscarora Jack, along with thirty or so whites and roughly five hundred Native Americans. The group was reinforced over time with addition men from North Carolina's militia, and a second wave of whites and Native Americans from South Carolina led by Colonel James Moore.¹⁶

After nearly two years of battles, the defeated Tuscarora moved to New York where they joined the Iroquois Five Nations, afterwards known as the Six Nations. A second, peaceful, group of Tuscarora led by Tom Blunt resided in the Albemarle region of the colony and choose not to join with the hostile Tuscarora forces. In appreciation, a tract of land on the north side of the Roanoke River in present-day Bertie County was reserved for their use.¹⁷

Around this time, leaders of the Tuscarora and Nottoway tribes (both of Iroquoian lineage) met with leaders of the Saponi and several other tribes that resided in the Piedmont region to discuss a treaty with the Governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood. The treaty helped establish peace and trade between the groups while also consolidating the Saponi, Tutelo,

¹⁵ William S. Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), s.v. "John Lawson."

¹⁶ Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries*, 77-80.

¹⁷ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1141.

Occaneechi, Keyauwee, Eno, and Shakori as “The Saponi Nation” and relocated them to Fort Christanna in present-day Brunswick County, Virginia.¹⁸

Though Franklin County legend perpetuates the presence of the Tuscarora into the 1720s, the end of the Tuscarora War marks a change in the activity of Native Americans in the Carolinas. Surviving tribes continued to traverse the area, forming new alliances often with old enemies, merging tribes, and trading with settlers. One trader in particular, Colonel William Eaton of Granville County (modern-day Franklin, Warren, and Vance Counties), is well-known for trading with both the Saponi and the Catawba.¹⁹

Sometime around 1730, a number of Saponi returned to North Carolina and settled in present-day Halifax and Warren Counties in an area known as “The Meadows.” The group maintained a close-knit community despite the efforts of the U. S. government to move Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River west, and are today dispersed primarily between Halifax, Warren, Nash, and Franklin Counties. The modern tribe consists of descendants of the Saponi, Nansemond, Tuscarora, and other regional tribes and is now known as the Haliwa-Saponi. The name originally combined the beginning of Halifax and Warren—Haliwa—with Saponi added in 1979 to represent the tribe from which many of its members descended.²⁰

As relationships with native inhabitants calmed, the Carolina government began to seek resolutions to other on-going issues. Unlike Virginia, which was a royal colony, Carolina was a proprietary colony, owned by Lords Proprietors. During the seventeenth century, the proprietary government struggled to find success cycling through a series of corrupt governors while failing to maintain order or protect its citizens. In 1691, after a period of contested leadership, Philip

¹⁸ Richardson and Everett, “Haliwa-Saponi Tribal History,” Learn NC, <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nc-american-indians/7266> (accessed February 28, 2018).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

Ludwell was established as the Governor of Carolina and a period of peacefulness and good leadership ensued. However, by 1710 the colony returned to a state of chaotic governance. In hopes of achieving better management, the Lords Proprietors decided to appoint a Governor of North Carolina independent of the Governor of South Carolina. The first governor selected was Edward Hyde, a distant relative of Queen Anne through her grandfather who was one of the original proprietors and also named Edward Hyde.²¹

Though Hyde's governorship saw the beginning of the Tuscarora War, his predecessor, Thomas Pollock, oversaw its conclusion and aftermath. In addition to destroying much of the colony's building stock, livestock, and crops, the war left the colony in debt and effectively halted immigration. At the same time, it removed the threat of the Tuscarora and left the colony a much safer place than when the conflict began. Its governance, now separate from South Carolina, was also stronger with increased authority and more control over its own needs.

In 1714, Charles Eden became governor and brought even more positive change to the recovering colony. In an attempt to restore order, Eden called an assembly to revise the colony's standing laws, many of which were outdated or partial. The assembly passed nearly sixty new laws, laying a stronger foundation for the colony going forward and addressing issues such as propaganda, rebellions, elections, and religion. The new laws also addressed and encouraged the establishment of mills and the construction of roads and bridges. Governors George Burrington and Sir Richard Everard continued the era of good governance and grew the state as immigration increased and settlement expanded west and south.²²

During Governor Everard's term, the decision was made to survey and determine the long-contested boundary of Virginia and North Carolina. This decision coincided with the

²¹ Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries*, 68-69, 75.

²² *Ibid.*, 83.

decision of seven of the eight Lords Proprietors to sell their shares in the colony to the Crown and in 1729 the purchase was approved by Parliament and finalized. Each proprietor was paid £2,500 plus £5,000 to cover unpaid quitrents. The remaining share was held by John Lord Carteret, second Earl Granville, and was known as the Granville District. The district comprised roughly half of present-day North Carolina, including present-day Franklin County, and reached from the Virginia-North Carolina border south approximately sixty-five miles and spanned the state east to west. Though he retained ownership, Carteret relinquished all governmental authority of the land to the Crown. Released from the control of the Lords Proprietors, the new government hoped to provide a level of stability to the colony in the form of a well-established administration with time-tested practices and policies.²³

Early Franklin County Settlers

By the 1730s, settlers began to move into present-day Franklin County. One early settler, John Terrell, is thought to be the first person to settle on the south side of Sandy Creek, which at the time was a part of Edgecombe County, but today runs through the northern region of Franklin County.²⁴ In 1745, land grants were given to Henry Ivy, William Southerland, and Robert Southerland on Fox Swamp Creek. A year later, in 1746, Granville County was formed from a portion of Edgecombe, and in 1764, Bute County was formed from Granville.

As more settlers arrived in the area, they began to create business and social networks. In 1766, the Blandford-Bute Lodge, the first Masonic lodge in the county, was organized and by 1767, a Bute County tax list included 1,299 white males above age sixteen and 941 black males and females above age twelve.²⁵ For the most part, the settlers were reliant on themselves to

²³ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 524.

²⁴ A. R. Newsome, ed., "Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811: III," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 6, no. 2 (1929): 172, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23515197> (accessed December 15, 2017).

²⁵ George-Anne Willard, ed., *Franklin County Sketchbook* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1982), 38.

grow food and to produce clothing, tools, and other supplies. One of the first businesses to provide a service for the settlers was Whittaker's Mill, a grist mill built on Lynch or Linches Creek in 1770.²⁶

Two families that settled early in the Franklin County area were the Jeffreys and Perrys. Osborn Jeffreys owned a house west of present-day US 401 as early as 1770, and though the exact location and fate of the house is unknown, its general location and form is shown on the Old Granville Map.²⁷

An earlier, still extant house is that of Jeremiah Perry who received two land grants from the Earl of Granville. The first consisted of 382 acres south of Cedar Creek and was received in 1752. The second was for seven hundred acres and was received in 1763. Part of a large family, six other Perrys—John, Joshua, Nathaniel, William, Francis and Burwell, who are believed to have been brothers—were present in Granville County by 1751. By 1756, Perry, who named his land Cascine, built a small frame house in the Georgian style (FK0001). An uncommon name, Cascine was likely derived from La Cascine, a park in Florence, Italy, known for horse racing. Local history tells us the Perry family enjoyed horse racing as well and that the sport was often practiced on the property with a large circle of oak trees serving as the route for the race course.²⁸

Cascine remained in the same family passing from Jeremiah Perry to his son and namesake, Jeremiah Perry, then to his uncle, Burwell Perry, and from father to son for a number of generations. The original dwelling, a one-story, side-gabled house with brick exterior-end chimneys laid in Flemish bond, is three bays wide and sits on a brick foundation laid in English

²⁶ Kunickis, 10, and *Lynch Creek Farm*, "2008-JAN, Lynch Creek Historic Research Journal by Bob Radcliffe," <https://lynchcreek.com>, accessed April 14, 2018.

²⁷ John E. Buck, *Historical Map of Old Granville County*, 1931, North Carolina State Archives.

²⁸ "Cascine," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1972.

bond. It is covered with beaded weatherboard, and when documented by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) in 1940 it had four-over-four sash windows on its south (front) elevation and six-over-six sash windows on its north (rear) elevation. The interior of the dwelling is arranged with two front rooms (hall-and-parlor plan) and three small rear rooms, one of which is a stair hall, and is finished with flush sheathed wainscots, pine flooring, and doors with raised panels and HL hinges. By 1838, when Colonel Jeremiah Perry (son of Burwell Perry) died, the plantation included a mill, cotton gin, and over one hundred slaves whom he distributed between his wife and children.²⁹

Another early land grant near Cedar Creek was made to Anthony Rackly in 1745. Rackly did not own the property for long, nor is there any evidence he built a dwelling there, and in 1747 he conveyed it to Joseph Fuller. In 1758, Fuller sold two hundred acres of the granted parcel to Shemuel Kearney, and it was likely after this date that Kearney built a one-and-one-half-story gambrel-roofed dwelling (FK0010 and FK0810) on the property. Though an exact construction date is unknown, when writing his will in 1808, Kearney referred to the residence as “the old House.” Built in the Georgian style, the dwelling is very unusual for Franklin County. Only one other dwelling of this period, the Ball-Pearce House (FK0307), with a gambrel roof has been identified. Originally clad in weatherboard, the Shemuel Kearney House is three bays wide with nine-over-six sash windows that flank a single leaf entry door on the first story and three four-over-four sash, shed-roofed dormer windows distributed across the front of the second-story gambrel. The interior rooms are arranged like Cascine with two front rooms and three rear rooms, the center of which serves as a hall. Doors with raised panels are set in heavy molded frames and flat-paneled wainscot with ovolo molding display the dwelling’s Georgian

²⁹ Ibid.

influences, as do exposed beaded beams. The two east rooms have corner fireplaces and share an interior end chimney.³⁰

The Ball-Pearce House, the second gambrel-roofed dwelling, is located just outside of Louisburg and is not only unusual for its roof but also because that roof type is applied to a building of log construction. The dwelling's walls are built of squared logs and are roughly eighteen inches thick. There is no documentation of the dwelling's construction, but its structure, as well as its massive double-shouldered gable-end chimneys, suggest an early date. The Ball-Pearce House has a center-passage, single-pile plan typical of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century structures and originally had Georgian mantels and woodwork.

Log houses, like the Ball-Pearce House, were common in the early days of Franklin County, but relatively few survive today. T. H. Pearce's *Early Architecture of Franklin County* includes at least four log houses and notes that "a surprising number of houses were found in the county that were originally constructed of logs." A 1977 study prepared by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, found more than twenty examples of log construction. Log construction was popular in the eighteenth century and persisted into the nineteenth century. Most log dwellings were one story with only one or two rooms, possibly an attic or loft, stone chimneys, and modest interior finishes.³¹ Pearce also notes that many log houses were later covered with weatherboard concealing their structural system and hindering their identification.³²

An example of a log house, though no longer extant, is the W. Cleason Duke House (FK0332). Located in the eastern half of the county, the house was two stories and measured twenty by thirty feet. It was constructed of squared, hewn logs that ran the width and depth of the

³⁰ Catherine W. Cockshutt and John Baxton Flowers, III, "Shemuel Kearney House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

³¹ *Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin*, 7-3.

³² Pearce, *Early Architecture*, 8.

house, thereby displaying the size of trees available to early builders. The floor plan of the dwelling was exemplary of other early structures with two rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor. An entry door opened into the main room, which was separated from the second room by a log partition wall. A narrow stairway rose along the partition wall from the parlor to the second floor, while the exterior and partition walls extended upward roughly five feet above the plane of the second floor to create half walls and increase the livability of the upper story. Beaded siding covered the interior of the log walls and the first-floor ceiling had exposed beaded beams. On the exterior, double-shouldered stone chimneys rose from the gable ends. Narrow windows on the front and rear of the dwelling lit the first floor while small windows flanked the chimneys and lit the upper floor.³³

Though many log structures were as large as the Ball-Pearce and W. Cleason Duke houses, a smaller and likely much more common type in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is exemplified by the one-and-one-half-story log dwelling that was built near Youngsville, likely by the Wall family (FK0463, no longer extant). Measuring approximately eighteen by twenty feet, the house was comprised of hewn logs joined at the corners by diamond notching and had a single room on each floor. An enclosed corner stair, typical of early Franklin County dwellings, connected the two spaces, and a stone double-shouldered chimney heated both floors. A small addition with an exterior stone chimney extended from the rear of the dwelling. On the interior, a Georgian mantel in the principal first-floor room suggested an early construction date.³⁴

The Wheless House (FK0467, no longer extant), another example of log construction in Franklin County was a small side-gabled, one-and-one-half-story dwelling with a hall-and-parlor

³³ Ibid., 4.

³⁴ Ibid., 5.

plan, stone end chimneys and foundation piers, weatherboard sheathing, and four-over-four windows. A one-story shed-roofed porch spanned the front elevation and a one-story shed extended from the rear of the dwelling. A corner stair led to the second story, and a Federal-style mantel existed in the opposite room. A second building was connected to the rear of the dwelling by a covered breezeway. The property also contained two log outbuildings described on the site survey form as a two-pen log stable and a log corncrib with an overhang.³⁵

It would not be long before emerging families began building tall brick and frame dwellings, but for the greater part of the eighteenth century, domestic and utilitarian buildings alike were built of logs. This construction took on different forms throughout the state, as exemplified by the diversity of structures in Franklin County alone, as well as various forms of finish, from rustic to those with shingled roofs and plastered interiors. Regardless of finish, most were one-room dwellings with a sleeping loft or second story, and more often than not, a rear shed. As economic and social distinctions developed in Franklin County, so did the use of building materials and architectural styles.

³⁵ Ibid., 7.

The Federal Period Through Antebellum Period (1779 – 1864)

As North Carolina grew, its inner Piedmont region was populated primarily by small land owners who farmed to provide for their families rather than to grow their wealth. This type of subsistence farming often began with a crop of corn that provided food for the settlers and their livestock. Hunting and trapping, as well as gathering herbs and other wild vegetation, provided sustenance and provided a source of income.

The absence of established towns required farms to be self-sufficient. While clusters of homes, farms, and the occasional tavern existed throughout the region, places for purchasing clothing, tools, or additional food sources were few and far between. One such hub of commerce was the grist mill. The abundance of waterways in the area was ideal for the water-powered grist mills that ground the grains grown on each farm into meals and flours. In some cases, mills also sold goods to supplement the items produced on individual farms. An early mill, Cheaves Mill, is shown prominently on Collet's Map of 1770, as well as many creeks and tributaries.³⁶

Community organizations such as schools and churches were in the early stages of establishment. Possibly the first church built in the county was the Church of England's Portage (or Portridge) Chapel. The chapel was located between modern-day Franklinton and Louisburg on property owned by the Jeffreys family (FK0283), and is thought to have been constructed prior to 1775, and to have stood into the 1850s or 1860s. Though the chapel is now gone, the cemetery remains with the graves of many early residents including Osborn Jeffreys and Oscar Green.³⁷ Other early churches were Maple Springs Baptist Church, which began in a log

³⁶ John Collet, *A Compleat map of North-Carolina from an actual survey*, 1770, North Carolina Collection Gallery.

³⁷ Jane Ruffin House, *Communion of Saints: The History of the Episcopal Church in Louisburg, North Carolina* (Dennisport: Graphic Illusions, 1995), 4.

structure built in 1773, Sandy Creek Church, and Popes Chapel. Homes and outdoor spaces were also used for church services until the congregation was able to construct a church building.³⁸

An early inhabitant in the Franklin County area who was influential in both the establishment of the county and the growth of religious activity was Green Hill. Born in Northampton County, North Carolina, in 1741, Hill married Mary Seawell, the sister of Colonel Benjamin Seawell, in 1773, after the passing of his first wife, Nancy Thomas. Hill supported the revolution, representing Bute County at the first provincial convention at New Bern in 1775 and becoming second major in Colonel Thomas Eaton's company. He also participated in the first session of the new General Assembly where he aided in the formation of Franklin County by sponsoring the bill to divide Bute County in the House, and after its passage, was named as a commissioner and trustee for laying out the town of Louisburg.³⁹

In January 1779, just before the creation of Franklin County, Hill purchased two hundred acres of land on the south side of the Tar River from Garrett Goodlow. He purchased adjoining parcels of 325 acres from Benjamin Seawell, who was at the time serving as the sheriff of Franklin County, in 1784; thirty acres from William Green in 1786; and seventy-five acres from his son, Jordan Hill, in 1788. At some point, possibly before but likely in the early years of Hill's ownership, the house known as Green Hill Place (FK0007) was built on the property. During Hill's tenure, the one-and-one-half-story frame house served as a meeting place for many prominent visitors to Franklin County. A devout Methodist, Hill hosted Bishop Francis Asbury, a missionary for the Methodist Society of the Church of England, on multiple occasions from 1780 to 1793, and Dr. Thomas Coke, a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1785. The 1785 meeting, which also included representatives of South Carolina and Virginia, was the first annual

³⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 5-6.

³⁹ Catherine W. Cockshutt and John Baxton Flowers, III, "Green Hill House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

conference of the newly organized Methodist Episcopal Church. Three additional annual conferences were held at Green Hill Place before Hill moved to Tennessee in 1799.⁴⁰

Today, Green Hill Place remains as a well-preserved representation of Georgian architecture in Franklin County. The one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled frame house sits on a raised brick basement and is three bays wide and three bays deep. It is clad in weatherboard and exhibits a variety of window sash configurations including nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story, and small four-over-four sash pedimented dormer windows on the front and rear slopes of the gable roof. The façade has a molded cornice as well as a front-gabled single-bay porch (a replacement, believed to be similar to the original) that shelters a central paneled entry door. The dwelling is heated by large Flemish-bond, double-shouldered, brick chimneys on the gable ends. The hall-parlor plan augmented by three rear shed rooms is similar to that of Cascine and other late eighteenth-century dwellings in Franklin County. The interior is characterized by heavy Georgian finishes including molded architraves, flat paneled wainscot, and doors of six raised panels with L hinges.

Another example of Georgian architecture in Franklin County is Portridge (FK0283). Built circa 1780 for David Jeffreys, the son of Osborn Jeffreys who was a large landowner in the county, the one-and-one-half story frame dwelling is side-gabled with a rear gabled ell. Its exterior features Flemish bond chimneys and three-part molded door and window surrounds. The interior is characterized by a hall and parlor plan with raised panel wainscoting, raised panel doors, and “candle” dentil crown molding and far exceeds the detail of many of its local contemporaries. In 1984, it was moved to a new location on the property and restored to its original appearance.⁴¹

⁴⁰ Cockshutt and Flowers, “Green Hill House.”

⁴¹ Susan L. Ward, “Portridge,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1989.

The Establishment of Franklin County and Louisburg

As Bute County grew in population, its citizens became more connected with one another as well as more involved in local and statewide politics. An effort to separate from Britain was also underway with the formation of the Provincial Congress of North Carolina and approval of the first North Carolina Constitution in 1776. The first session of the newly formed North Carolina General Assembly met in New Bern in 1777 with Bute County represented by Benjamin Seawell in the Senate and Green Hill and Benjamin Ward in the House. One of the first bills introduced to the assembly, presented by Benjamin Seawell, called for the division of Bute County into Franklin and Warren Counties. A series of delays prevented the passage of the bill, but Seawell continued to press for the county's division, and on January 29, 1779, after presenting the bill for the third time he succeeded.⁴²

In April 1779, three of the new county's commissioners— Messrs. Norwood, Thomas, and Norris—purchased one hundred acres of land from Patewills and Jacobina Milner for the site of the county seat. The commissioners paid £1,000 for the land, and a bill passed on October 27, 1779, established it as the town of Louisburg, or Lewisburg as it was frequently spelled.⁴³ While Franklin County was named for the patriot Benjamin Franklin, Louisburg was named for the French King Louis XVI, a supporter of the American cause. In contrast, Bute County, formed just fifteen years earlier, was named for the Englishman John Stuart, Earl of Bute. Stuart was the Lord of the Treasury, 1762–1763, and is thought to have authored the Stamp Act. Having played a significant role in the British government, it is easy to understand Stuart's unpopularity with those living in North Carolina at the time, and though unstated in the proposal to create the new

⁴² Willard, 22.

⁴³ Ibid, 25.

counties, a detail that likely led, if not to the division, to the abolishment of the county. T. H. Pearce notes in the book *Franklin County 1779-1979* that the phrase “There are no Tories in Bute” was popular during the early stages of the American Revolution.⁴⁴

The bill that established Louisburg as the county seat also created a new commission to oversee the town’s development. This commission, which included Osborn Jeffreys, William Green, William Hill, William Brickell, and John Hunt, was responsible for laying out land for a courthouse, prison and stocks, streets, squares, a public commons, and one hundred half-acre lots. They set the price for each lot at forty dollars and organized a lottery system to distribute them. The new land owners were given four years to build a brick, stone, or “well framed” house that was at least fifteen feet square, ten feet tall, and had a brick or stone chimney.⁴⁵ A map recorded in 1859 shows the ownership of the original lots in Louisburg in the late 1700s.⁴⁶ Included on the map are W. Brickell, W. Green, J. Hunt, O. Jeffreys, and W. Milner, many of whom owned more than one lot. The courthouse lot is shown in the southern portion of the map near the Tar River where the courthouse is located today.

The first session of the Court of Pleas was held at the residence of the county’s senate representative, Benjamin Seawell, in 1779.⁴⁷ There is some uncertainty as to when the first courthouse was constructed. Some records state a log courthouse was constructed in 1781. Other sources, such as the tablet on the current courthouse, state 1786 as the date of the first courthouse.⁴⁸ T. H. Pearce, in *Franklin County, 1779-1979*, reiterates the 1786 date and shares that court was held in the county courthouse for the first time in March of 1786. Still another source, the *Franklin County Sketchbook*, which was created to commemorate the bicentennial of

⁴⁴ T. H. Pearce, *Franklin County 1779-1979* (Pine Hill Press, Freeman, S. Dak., 1979), xi.

⁴⁵ Walter Clark, ed., *State Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh: State of North Carolina, 1904), vol. 23, 497.

⁴⁶ Franklin County Deed Book 32, 213.

⁴⁷ Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. “Benjamin Seawell.”

⁴⁸ NCSHPO, Survey File, FK0492.

Franklin County's creation, references "Miscellaneous Records" at the North Carolina Archives and provides 1788 as the date of construction, with Isaac Collier credited as the builder.⁴⁹ It appears a county prison had been built by this time, though it was destroyed by a fire in 1785.⁵⁰

Once established, the court granted permission and permits to various citizens that allowed them to operate businesses within the county. For example, an order was renewed that granted Green Hill permission to erect a grist mill on the Tar River at Massie's Falls and Osborn Jeffreys was granted a license to operate a tavern at his house for one year. Other establishments include a law school operated by Judge John Haywood in the vicinity of Ingleside. Religious activity was also increasing with the first North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church hosted in Franklin County in 1785. The Franklin Male Academy was chartered by the state legislature in 1787, though it would take a decade to open its doors to students.⁵¹

Prior to the railroad, stagecoaches were the most common form of transportation for travelers. Broken into ten- to fifteen-mile "stages," the lines were dotted with stagecoach stops, inns, and taverns that provided a place for travelers to eat and rest as well as to tend to their horses during a long journey.⁵² Though Franklin County was not always a destination in and of itself, it was located along the main road from Washington and Richmond to many southern cities, making it a common resting point for travelers. The timing and frequency of travelers, however, was not guaranteed and led to many inns and taverns being operated in homes along the line rather than as full-time, stand-alone establishments. Likely correlated with this uncertainty, it is estimated that nearly half of the houses in Louisburg held tavern licenses and accommodated travelers at some point in the early nineteenth century. Like other North Carolina

⁴⁹ Willard, 35.

⁵⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 21.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 19-20.

⁵² Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1067.

towns, a majority of the licenses were held by upstanding members of the community including merchants, law enforcement officers, teachers, and doctors, such as the license granted to Osborn Jeffreys. During this period, it was most common to find inns and taverns in towns, particularly in county seats and near courthouses, where people often had to travel to conduct business.⁵³

Other dedicated stops appeared on farms across the county and operated as an additional form of income. A handful of these small buildings remain today including the early nineteenth-century Traveler's Rest (FK0432) on the Warrenton-Louisburg stage road and mid- to late nineteenth-century Stroud's Stage Coach Stop (FK0454) on the Hillsborough-Tarborough Road. Others extant stops include the Parrish House (FK0722) and a building on the plantation of Archibald H. Davis (FK0004) that is thought to have been a trading post or stagecoach stop, possibly both.

While Traveler's Rest is a small, one-room, frame structure, Stroud's Stage Coach Stop is a one-and-one-half-story frame dwelling with a center-hall plan and a one-story rear ell that may have been added after its tenure as a stage coach stop. Because of the unpredictability of travel in the nineteenth century, it is likely the single-room at Traveler's Rest was sometimes occupied by multiple guests at one time. Stroud's Stage Coach Stop, on the other hand, provided more space, including separate spaces for men and women.

The two structures provide a glimpse of the accommodations available to early travelers in Franklin County, which, it should be noted, were not always found to the liking of their temporary inhabitants. When travelling through the county during the winter of 1817, Francis Hall, a lieutenant in the British Army, stayed a night at Fox's tavern near Louisburg. In comparing the tavern with those he encountered in northern cities and Canada, Hall wrote "the

⁵³ Alan D. Watson, ed., "Ordinaries in Colonial Eastern North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review* 45 (1968): 71.

houses are all built of scantling, and are worse than any thing in the form of dwellings, but the negro huts; for they are penetrable at every crevice.” He also commented on the southern stage coach system, noting that “the stages are no longer marked by towns and villages, but by solitary taverns and stage-houses.” He also noted that while New England had adopted the British stage-coach system, the southern states relied on mail delivery coaches, which were apt to “break down on an average twice a week.”⁵⁴

Another traveler, John Bernard, described North Carolina taverns as being “mostly log-huts, or a frame weatherboarded; the better sort consisting of one story and two rooms; the more numerous having no internal divisions.” On the interior, the traveler was likely to find one corner “occupied by a “bunk” containing the family bed; another by a pine-wood chest, the family clothes-press and larder; a third would be railed off for a bar, containing a rum-keg and a tumbler” as well as “two chairs and a table, all in the last stage of palsy.”⁵⁵

In 1786, Franklin County conducted its first census, recording 5,467 residents: 1,809 white males, 1,814 white females, and 1,844 slaves. By the time of the Federal Census in 1790, there were 4,842 whites and 2,717 slaves for a total population of 7,559. The 1790 census also provides information on the ownership of slaves and shows that roughly half of the households in the county owned slaves, with approximately thirty owning more than twenty.⁵⁶

One of the earliest extant dwellings in Louisburg is the Person Place (FK0018). Constructed on land granted to William Massey from Earl Granville in 1753 and 1760, the land was acquired through three purchases by Patewills Milner in the 1760s. The tracts purchased by Milner equated to 877 acres and Massey retained one hundred acres.⁵⁷ In 1779, Milner sold one

⁵⁴ Francis Hall, *Travels in Canada and the United States in 1816*, (Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1818), 239-241.

⁵⁵ John Bernard, *Retrospections of America, 1797-1811*, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1887), 203.

⁵⁶ US Census, 1790.

⁵⁷ Warren (Bute) County Deed Book 2, 72-73, Deed Book A, 351, and Deed Book 7, 77-78.

hundred acres of his tract for the establishment of Louisburg, and roughly ten years later, around 1789, the first portion of Person Place was built by Wilson Milner, Patewills Milner's son and heir.⁵⁸

Built in two phases, Person Place is exemplary of both the Georgian and late Federal periods. The original one-and-one-half-story Georgian-style dwelling is side-gabled, clad in molded siding, and rests on a stone foundation. It has a centrally placed doorway flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows with molded sills on the east elevation and a single-shouldered chimney laid in Flemish bond on the south gable end. Attached to the north gable end is a brick two-story, front-gabled, Federal-style section thought to have been built by William Williams after he purchased the property in 1822. It is clad in plain weatherboard and has six-over-six sash windows. A small centrally placed pedimented porch supported by paired Doric columns shelters a flat-paneled door in a molded surround with a four-light transom and four-light sidelights. The front gable is lit by a large eighteen-pane lunette. In 1858, the house was purchased by Thomas A. Person, and though it was sold to Louisburg College in 1970, it has been known as the Person Place ever since.⁵⁹

Growth of Franklin County

The early years of Franklin County coincided with the formation of the United States and the return home of the soldiers who fought to make it a reality. As they returned, they resumed their previous way of life, most as small-scale farmers. For some, however, this new era was a time to build upon and improve the life they had before the war. This desire was frequently articulated by the construction of a new homestead or the replacement or expansion of a small

⁵⁸ Michael Hill, "The Person Place of Louisburg, N.C., Vol. 1," (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1980), 2-3, 6-7, 14.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 66, 95.

frontier house built in the early days of settlement. For others, particularly those with means, construction was often accompanied by an increase in land holdings and agricultural endeavors.

As the 1770s came to a close, the area outside of Louisburg was still characterized by small farmsteads. An increasing number of wealthy families, however, began purchasing large swaths of land. Sometimes these purchases were for the establishment of their own homesteads and farms and other times they were for speculation, motivated by the potential to profit from resale. The larger farmers focused on cash crops, leading to the introduction of cotton and an increase in the number of slaves brought to Franklin County. Though some slaves worked as house servants, the majority were involved in the production of cotton including planting, harvesting, removing seeds, and baling.

In 1793, the cotton gin was introduced to the rural states. The gin, which in one day could remove the seeds from fifty pounds of cotton, drastically outpaced the one pound per day rate of enslaved workers and meant a plantation owner could allocate more slaves to the fields for harvesting, greatly decreasing the time it took to clear a field. In some cases, the cotton gin reduced the number of workers needed altogether, but in most cases, it meant more land could be planted and more cotton produced at a greater profit margin. This improvement in production time and profit led to the growth of the cotton industry in Franklin County and in the greater southern United States.⁶⁰

Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Architecture

The end of the American Revolution and subsequent success of the agriculture industry led to an increase in the number of dwellings built in Franklin County. Many of the houses built were in the Georgian style and include the one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled Portridge

⁶⁰ Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Paul Vickery, and Sylvie Waskiewicz, "The Economics of Cotton," Lumen Learning, <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/ushistory1os2/xmaster/chapter/the-economics-of-cotton/> (accessed December 8, 2017).

(FK0283) built near Louisburg and the two-story, side-gabled Peggy Wright House (FK0476), which once stood near Ingleside, both of which date to circa 1780. Other two-story, side-gabled dwellings from the late eighteenth century are Locust Grove (FK0013), the Patty Person Taylor House (FK0021), the Jones-Wright House (FK0286), all near Ingleside, and the Andrews-Moore House (FK0288) near Seven Paths, which sustained a massive fire but was masterfully and authentically reconstructed. Monreath (FK0016), near Ingleside, was also built in the late eighteenth century as a one- or one-and-one-half-story dwelling but was enlarged with a second story and ell in the early nineteenth century.

Though the dwellings varied in size, they all exhibited a similar side-gabled, one-room-deep, timber-framed form, often with a one- or two-story rear ell, that was ubiquitous throughout the state. The form, which suited both one- and two-story dwellings, could be easily enlarged and contracted to meet the needs and resources of its inhabitants. Most of the dwellings were designed with a hall-and-parlor plan, typical throughout the region, an exception being the Patty Person Taylor House, which utilized the soon-to-be-commonplace center-hall plan. This house and the Peggy Wright House exemplify Georgian style houses in the county in their expression of the style through the application of decorative motifs to the traditional two-story, one-room-deep form. The timber-framed Peggy Wright House (no longer extant) was notable for its exterior-end double-shouldered chimneys in Flemish bond, stone foundation, boxed eaves with a modillion cornice, and, of particular interest, brick nogging. Like many houses, it had a one-and-one-half-story shed wing across the rear.

The well-preserved two-story, five-bay Patty Person Taylor House is also notable for its double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney and its interior that is said to surpass “in ambitiousness and sophistication any Georgian style buildings seen in the county” and to be “among the best

examples of Georgian woodwork in the state, seldom rivaled outside the coastal areas.”⁶¹

Plastered walls above paneled wainscot exists throughout the house as do heavily molded door and window surrounds, molded chair rails and baseboards, robust mantelpieces with cushion friezes, molded cornices with dentils, and raised six-panel doors hung with HL hinges. The house is further distinguished from others in the county by its unenclosed stair that occupies the center hall. In contrast to the Peggy Wright House, here the rear extension is a gable-roofed ell.

Early nineteenth-century domestic architecture perpetuated the use of the side-gabled form and other popular details while also introducing more variety into Franklin County’s building stock. Two smaller dwellings that are thought to have been built near the turn of the century are the one-and-one-half story Sandling House (FK0444) and the Wilder House (FK0470) both with hall-and-parlor plans. A third small dwelling constructed in the early nineteenth century is the Perry-Neal House (FK0435, no longer extant). Located roughly three miles north of present-day Bunn, it was a one-story, side-gabled dwelling with double-shoulder stone chimneys, an English bond brick foundation, and interior finishes with Georgian and Federal elements.

Two-story dwellings varied between the still popular hall-and-parlor and center-hall plan. Dwellings with hall-and-parlor plans include the Battle-Malone-Bass House (FK0308), McLemore-Cannady House (FK0408), and the William Ruffin House (FK0442), which are all located outside of Louisburg, as well as a dwelling on Baker Farm (FK0026) located near Bunn. The McLemore-Cannady House and the William Ruffin House have two doors on the primary elevation for entry into each of the two front rooms. The McLemore-Cannady House also has a rear ell and stair passage creating a form that is, according to Catherine Bishir in *North Carolina*

⁶¹ “Patty Person Taylor House,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1974.

Architecture, common among mid-sized plantation houses across the state.⁶² The center-hall plan is exhibited by both the Robideaux House (FK0441) near Flat Rock, the Ballard House (FK0477) east of Louisburg, and the Freeman House (FK0339) east of Bunn.

While the interiors of these dwellings are still of Georgian influence, an interesting and common feature is Chinese lattice stair rails. Of the dwellings mentioned above, the Battle-Malone-Bass House, McLemore-Cannady House, Robideaux House, and Ballard House all exhibit similar stair rails with diagonal components. The repetition of this feature suggests a commonality among the houses, likely in the form of a local carpenter or builder. In some cases, repetition is suggestive of a family connection, or a social or political network, whereby a visitor was inspired by the detail of a host's house. Encounters like this helped spread architectural designs throughout areas small and large, as well as to widen the geographical scope of an artisan's work beyond his own neighborhood or network.⁶³

The dispersion of the dwellings, many of which are in the northwest quadrant of the county near Ingleside with others in the southeast and southwest near Seven Paths and Youngsville, respectively, speaks to the growth of the county as well as the preference for different areas. Some of these areas had colloquial names and others had yet to receive any name at all; nonetheless, all experienced unprecedented change in the coming century. Many grew into small communities, even small towns, as the development of agriculture and transportation reshaped their landscapes and forever changed their way of life.

As the plantation system prospered and planters constructed their own well-appointed dwellings, another type of house began to dot the landscape, the slave dwelling. Built almost exclusively of logs, most slave dwellings were small, crudely built structures with one room, a

⁶² Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture, Portable Edition* (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 137.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 135.

dirt floor, a fireplace, and a loft. Unlike the well-finished log houses built by many settlers after establishing themselves on the land, slave dwellings were usually quickly and crudely built. In contrast to the log houses of whites, which were often chinked with stone and had plastered or paneled interiors to prevent draftiness, slave dwellings were chinked with dirt and grasses and only whitewashed on the interior. Chimneys were also crude, built of dirt and twigs opposed to masonry. Some slave dwellings were built of frame and still others, which may have been frame or log, had two rooms with a central chimney.⁶⁴ Many of these structures have been lost over time due to obsolescence, as well as their rudimentary construction. One structure (FK0993) that has been referred to as a slave dwelling exists in the northwest part of the county.⁶⁵ Constructed of stone, the type is incredibly rare for a slave dwelling, and is also one of only a few stone structures surveyed in the county. The one-room dwelling is twelve by fifteen feet with a large fireplace, an entry door, and tiny windows. Its walls are roughly eighteen inches thick and its side-gabled roof is supported by large timbers. Nearby are the ruins of another small stone building.

As the amount of land devoted to cotton production grew, so did the number of slaves working in the fields. The increase in population placed a greater demand on Franklin County's food sources, which, in turn, lead to more diversity in food crops and agricultural buildings. Beans, peas, potatoes, oats, ryes, and rice were introduced to the North Carolina fields and its economy. Wild game was also a common source of meat and many farms raised hogs. A cow was commonly kept for milk, but cattle were rarely raised for consumption.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Ibid., 186.

⁶⁵ NCSHPO, Survey File, FK0993.

⁶⁶ Willard, 42.

Continued Growth in the Early to Mid-Nineteenth Century

A description of Franklin County written in 1810 describes the county as follows:

... the soil except on the water courses is thin and stoney-the arable Land however is easily cultivated and is what is usually called a Kind free soil-the growth in general is Oak and Hickory mixed with pine. It is believed no County in the United States is better watered... there are few plantations that cannot boast of many excellent Springs. Indeed the county has been more prized for its high healthy situation and good Water than for the fertility of the soil.

The inhabitants carry to market Tobacco, Cotton, Wheat, Cattle and hogs-raise corn for their own consumption. The principal markets are Petersburg and Richmond.

The description goes on to remark:

There are few of any wealthy People in Franklin-The Inhabitants for the most part enjoy a competency-they dwell in comfortable houses, have snug plantations, make enough to support their families genteelly & to educate their Children.⁶⁷

The 1820 census recorded the Franklin County population as 9,741, slightly less than the 1810 population which was reported as 10,166, and included 4,655 whites, 5,330 slaves, and 171 free African Americans. The decrease in population is likely due to people moving throughout the region and into less populated areas as means of transportation and commerce grew and access to goods became more simplified even from greater distances away. By this time, small trading posts were located throughout the county as well.⁶⁸

One indicator of growth in the young county is told through alterations to the courthouse. In 1800, John Parker was hired to make extensive repairs including enlarging the platform and rebuilding the bar in the courtroom, adding new doors and steps, glazing windows, and shingling the roof. Despite these improvements, the county chose to construct a new building in 1811. A group of commissioners, including William Green, Alexander Falconer, William Moore, Green

⁶⁷ Newsome, 171-172.

⁶⁸ Willard, 26.

Hill, and Colonel Jeremiah Perry, were assigned the task of selling the existing courthouse and building a new one. Little is known about the courthouse that resulted, except that by 1850 another courthouse, which is still in service, was built.⁶⁹ Constructed of brick, the 1850 courthouse cost \$4,058.75 and was paid for by a special real estate and poll tax. Richard O. Britton and Henry A. Taylor were the contractors and likely acted as the original architects of the building as well.⁷⁰ However, it was almost ten years before the building received one of its most defining features, a three-story tower with a louvered belfry that served as the main entrance to the building. The bid request for the tower also included an addition measuring twenty by forty feet.⁷¹ Renovations in the twentieth century replaced the tower with a pedimented, hexastyle portico with Tuscan entablature and Roman Doric columns, and wings were added to the main block as well as a rear addition.⁷²

In 1836, the North Carolina governor was elected by popular vote for the first time. Franklin County residents also voted for the first time in both the presidential and gubernatorial elections. By 1846, the county had its own locally published newspaper as well, *The Louisburg Union*, and its second by 1848, the *North Carolina Times*. Charles Raboteau, who likely grew up in the Robideaux House (FK0441), a late-Georgian dwelling near Flat Rock, was Editor of the *North Carolina Times*. Another newspaper publisher, W. H. Pleasant, is credited with the distribution of two newspapers in the 1850s, *The American Eagle* and the *Louisburg Weekly News*.⁷³

An interesting observation can be found in a collection of papers from the early 1800s that belonged to Thomas Henderson, a publisher of the *Raleigh Star*, in which the county was

⁶⁹ Ibid., 34.

⁷⁰ NCHPO, Survey File, FK0492.

⁷¹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 58.

⁷² NCHPO, Survey File, FK0492.

⁷³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 49, 51, 56 and Pearce, *Early Architecture*, 36.

described as being valuable not “for the richness of its soil” but “for its pure air and good water.” According to the description, many gentlemen from the southern parts of the state purchased land in Franklin County for summer retreats, one of which was Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire’s Monreath (FK0016).⁷⁴ This practice increased the value of land considerably with “thin land” bringing six or seven dollars per acre, land on water courses bringing eight to ten dollars, and other land bringing three dollars.⁷⁵

Religious Activity

Franklin County’s Methodist congregation is one of the oldest in North Carolina. The early congregation was likely influenced and strengthened by the frequent visits and preaching of Bishop Asbury, a close acquaintance of Green Hill and early leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church. By 1810, there were six Methodist Churches in the county in addition to four Baptist churches and an interdenominational church named Shiloh that was organized south of Semmes Bridge.⁷⁶ Louisburg’s Methodist congregation, which is now associated with the United Methodist Church, constructed their first church sometime around 1803 though its exact location is unknown. In 1836, Louisburg’s Baptists organized and constructed their first church building (FK0152), a small cruciform frame sanctuary with gothic details and a square bell tower, on the corner of College and Cedar Streets, that is also no longer extant.⁷⁷

Missionary groups, such as the Flat Rock Female Missionary Society, also formed in the county, and many existing churches expanded, including the Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, from which a small contingency organized the Flat Rock Baptist Church. The church met in a log school house for less than a year before building a frame structure with a belfry that could

⁷⁴ Catherine W. Cockshutt and John Baxton Flowers, III, “Monreath,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

⁷⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 35.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 35

⁷⁷ Mason, “Louisburg Historic District.”

seat three hundred people.⁷⁸ Other churches were growing as well, and in 1858 Maple Springs Baptist Church built a new frame structure (FK0683). Originally finished with whitewashed clapboard, the front-gabled building with a tall hip-roofed portico was enlarged and covered with brick veneer in the 1940s.⁷⁹ Still in use today, the building is the only recorded pre-Civil War church building in Franklin County.⁸⁰

Though little is known about their original buildings, a number of other congregations were established in the first half of the nineteenth century including Red Bud in 1823, Louisburg Baptist in 1836, Ebenezer in 1839, Perry's Chapel in 1844, Franklinton Methodist in 1844, and Louisburg Episcopal in 1845. The 1850 Federal Census recorded six Methodist and six Baptist churches in the county.⁸¹

Masons

Free Masonry was also growing in popularity in the early 1800s. The first lodge in the county can be traced to 1769 when it obtained a charter from the Blandford Lodge in Petersburg, Virginia. The lodge was named the Blandford-Bute Lodge (commemorated with a marker, FK0727) and was located near the present-day Sandy Creek Township. The first lodge established after the creation of Franklin County was the St. Andrews Lodge in 1811. Officers of the organization included Jordan Hill, Green Hill, Richard Fox, James Harrison, Richard Inge, Henry Thomas, James J. Hill, and James Longum Tyler. Though the lodge only existed until 1827, other lodges, such as the LaFayette Lodge and Hayesville Township Lodge, were organized in the meantime.⁸²

⁷⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 42-43.

⁷⁹ Maple Springs Baptist Church, "Our History," <http://maplespringsbaptist.com> (accessed December 8, 2017).

⁸⁰ HPOWeb, <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/default.htm> (accessed December 8, 2017).

⁸¹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 51.

⁸² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 37.

One of the most successful lodges in the county, Franklinton Masonic Lodge No. 123 was organized in April of 1849 and is still active in the town. Its original officers were Joseph Harper, Edward F. Faulks, William F. Hilliard, and Beverly Waddell, and its first meetings were held at the J. J. Thomas House, a two-story, side-gabled frame dwelling built in the first half of the nineteenth century on E. Mason Street.⁸³ Soon after formation, the masons built a lodge hall. Concerned about the state of education in Franklin County, the masons chose to include a school room as a part of the lodge and incorporated one on the first floor. The masons also allowed other groups in the community to use the school room, such as the Baptist Church which used it for services until they were able to complete their church building 1855. At some point, the lodge hall was moved to its current location on North Main Street across from the Franklinton Methodist Church. The two-story, three-bay building is likely one of the oldest in town and is now used as a dwelling. It is known as the Railroad House (FK0485) due to being owned by the railroad company for some time.⁸⁴ The structure has a hipped roof and a symmetrical façade with nine-over-nine sash windows that flank a Greek Revival-style entry. A one-story, hip-roofed porch is supported by slender square posts and has a plain balustrade. A feature that is interesting for Franklin County is the centrally placed interior chimney; most mid-nineteenth-century structures in the county have exterior end chimneys.

Other early lodges include the Blackley Lodge No. 73, which was in Hayesville and is sometimes referred to as the Hayesville Township Lodge. This lodge was short lived, operating from 1819 until 1827. Another lodge was the Clinton Lodge No. 124 in Louisburg; it is unknown when it was established or how long it operated. Sandy Creek Lodge No. 185 in Laurel was

⁸³ Surveyed by T. H. Pearce and included in *Early Architecture of Franklin County II*, but not formally surveyed for inclusion in the HPO database.

⁸⁴ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 52.

chartered in 1856 and operated into the twentieth century.⁸⁵ None of these early lodge buildings survive today.

Education

Early on, most children were educated at home by their mother or another female member of the household. More prosperous families hired tutors, and in some cases families who lived near one another joined together to build a small school and hire a teacher. In each scenario, the curriculum taught was rarely more than basic reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The leaders of Franklin County, however, aimed to greatly improve the academic options in the county by establishing a school for boys. The school, which became Franklin Academy, was granted its first charter in 1787. Despite the charter, no plans were made, or at least not implemented, and in 1802 a second charter was requested and granted by the general assembly. The act establishing the school listed fifteen men as trustees of the academy, which was officially opened on January 1, 1805, under the direction of Matthew Dickinson, a graduate of Yale. The school offered courses ranging from reading and writing to ethics and metaphysics, Latin, Greek, surveying, navigation, natural philosophy, and astronomy.⁸⁶

The Franklin Academy (FK0264) was housed in a two-story, side-gabled, frame building located on the east side of Louisburg's public commons, a 22.25-acre tract on the north side of Louisburg that was set aside for public use.⁸⁷ The 1804 classroom building is one of the oldest buildings in Louisburg and the oldest known academic building in the county. The remarkably well-preserved building has a symmetrical three-bay front elevation with a single leaf entry door and nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story and six-over-nine sash windows on the

⁸⁵ John H. Mills Lodge No. 624, <http://johnhmills624.weebly.com/history.html> (accessed December 12, 2017).

⁸⁶ Charles L. Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790 – 1840* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1915), 84.

⁸⁷ Louisburg College, "Our History," www.louisburg.edu (accessed December 12, 2017).

second story. Though moved in the early twentieth century to accommodate the Louisburg Graded School (FK0268, later named Mills High School), the academy building is still located on the common (now at its eastern edge), which is today part of the campus for Louisburg College, and houses the Tar River Center for History and Culture.⁸⁸

In 1813, the Franklin Academy added the Female Department to instruct young ladies in reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, geography, astronomy, painting, and music.⁸⁹ The next year, the *Raleigh Register* published a bid for “A house for a Female Academy at Louisburg.” The prescribed house was to be “30 by 20 feet, two stories – 11 and 9 feet pitch” with two unequally sized rooms on the second floor. The bid goes further to specify the types of doors and configuration of windows desired on the first and second floors as well as the construction method – “good hard timber” and “brick or hewn stone” chimneys – and that the house would be “ceiled within and painted without.”⁹⁰ The building was eventually moved south of its original location and used as an annex until it was destroyed by fire in 1927.⁹¹

Arguably the most impressive antebellum building in Franklin County is the 1857 Main Building (FK0014) constructed by Albert G. Jones for the Louisburg Female College.⁹² The brick building is four stories in height and draws from the Italian tradition of raising the primary level above a first-story basement. A pedimented portico supported by four Doric columns dominates the front elevation and shelters the three center bays of the five-bay elevation. The bays are divided by brick pilasters and filled with six-over-six sash windows. The center bay differs from the outside bays with large, tripartite windows and a double-leaf entry door

⁸⁸ Mason, “Louisburg Historic District.”

⁸⁹ Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790 – 1840*, 94.

⁹⁰ “A House for a Female Academy,” *Weekly Raleigh Register*, June 24, 1814, www.newspapers.com (accessed March 17, 2018).

⁹¹ Louisburg College, “Our History.”

⁹² Catherine W. Bishir and Joe Mobley, “Main Building, Louisburg College,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1978.

surrounded by sidelights and a transom. Other Greek Revival details finish the building including a shallow hipped roof, deep overhanging cornices, and a heavy frieze supported by the pilasters.

As Franklin Academy developed in Louisburg, other private schools were being established throughout the county. These included Hickory Grove Seminary, Mount Welcome Academy, Hemdon Academy, and Midway Academy, all of which were located north of Louisburg. One of the first schools in Franklinton was operated by William S. Joyner of Virginia who moved to the area and established the school soon after the town's incorporation. Others were taught by John B. Bobbitt, Charles Applewhite Hill, and Edward G. Benners. Some of the schools provided their own boarding facilities, while others, like Mount Welcome, cooperated with nearby families who were willing to board students.⁹³

A leader in the educational movement of Franklin County and North Carolina was Charles Applewhite Hill, who served as the principal of both Franklin and Midway Academies as well as a state senator from 1823 to 1826. Prior to his academic and political career, Hill is credited with persuading twenty fellow students at the University of North Carolina to transfer to Franklin Academy in protest of the university's implementation of the honor code. At the time, the academy was under the direction of Matthew Dickinson. As a state senator, Hill continued to be an advocate for education by presenting the first act for public education in the state in 1824.⁹⁴ A revised version of the bill was passed on January 4, 1826 and provided for a literary fund to assist in the education of students who could not afford academic training. Just how the fund accumulated is uncertain, but when the state took over operation of the schools in 1839, the fund contained \$2,240,000.⁹⁵

⁹³ Coon, *North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790 – 1840*, 107-116.

⁹⁴ Willard, 62.

⁹⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 42.

In 1839, another public school law passed the general assembly. This law gave each county the power to determine school districts and provided a mechanism for funding by authorizing a tax to support the schools as well as a \$2.00 match (from the literary fund) for every \$1.00 collected through the new tax. The first public school was established in the county in 1841 with Jones Cooke, Dr. Wood T. Johnson, Jacob H. Cooley, Thomas D. Wright, and Edward Fowlkes appointed as Superintendents of Common Schools. In July, the superintendents divided the county into twenty school districts, each of which elected their own school committees. By September, the schools were in session with twenty-four school houses and 1,640 students. The small schools were built for less than \$25.00 each and paid for with taxes and the literary fund.⁹⁶

In the beginning, the school system taught only elementary education. Because of this, the private academies, which taught both elementary and secondary courses, continued to operate successfully. The 1850 census recorded nine private schools, with 167 pupils; two academies, with seventy-three pupils; and twenty-eight public schools, with eight hundred pupils.⁹⁷ By 1853, the public schools had an average of forty students each and the school year was four months long. Though the public school system was still in its nascent stages, it gave the children of less fortunate families access to an education they would likely not have received otherwise.⁹⁸

Many of the private academies were short lived, changing hands and names frequently or failing to stand out from the other options available. These circumstances, as well as the obsolescence created by the public school system, make it difficult to identify and locate the buildings used for Franklin County's earliest schools. It is likely, however, that many early

⁹⁶ Maury York, "Conservative Politics Delayed Public School Creation," *The Franklin Times*, March 10, 2016, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/publicSchools.html> (accessed December 8, 2017).

⁹⁷ Willard, 39.

⁹⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 54.

schools, private as well as public, were operated from small frame or log structures with one-room, an exterior stone or brick chimney, a few windows, and a single door.

Agriculture during the Antebellum Era

As across much of the South, this era of Franklin County's history is marked by the success of the area's cotton plantations. Not unlike the aforementioned subsistence farms, plantations were often dependent on themselves. The cotton they produced was not only planted and harvested on the farm but also ginned and baled. Other crops, such as grains, were often milled on site if the farm had its own water source, and after the invention of the cotton gin, some plantations constructed water-powered gins for their own use as well. Smaller farms that could not justify having their own mills or gins used commercially operated mills and gins throughout the county.

Though cotton remained the crop of choice for much of the nineteenth century, with annual production of 538,324 pounds in 1840 and 352,000 pounds (880 bales) in 1850, tobacco also played a considerable role in the county's economy, with 451,909 pounds produced in 1840 and 300,268 pounds produced in 1850.⁹⁹ Like cotton, tobacco was grown, harvested, cured, and packed by a single operation. The dried leaves were transported in hogsheads (large barrels) to the nearest train depot by oxcart and shipped to Petersburg, Virginia, where they were sold for approximately eight cents per pound.¹⁰⁰ Other agricultural products harvested in Franklin County during the mid-nineteenth century included wool, peas and beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, wheat, corn, and oats. The 1840 census also recorded the production of twenty tons of cast iron and \$200,000 of gold.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ US Census, 1840 and 1850.

¹⁰⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 47.

¹⁰¹ US Census, 1840.

For much of the mid-nineteenth century, agriculture remained the largest industry in the state, employing over 80,000 males, by far more than any other profession, occupation, or trade. The 1850 census recorded 588 farms in Franklin County with over 100,000 acres of improved land.¹⁰² The success of the agricultural industry, and of cotton and tobacco in particular, helped to sustain and grow Franklin County's economy. The industry also had a substantial impact on the wealth of its residents, particularly those who owned large amounts of land.

Nicholas Massenburg

A planter and one of the largest property owners in antebellum Franklin County was Nicholas Massenburg. Massenburg contributed to the historical record of Franklin County by keeping a journal detailing everyday activities on his plantation, including planting and harvesting, trips to town or market, social and religious activities, and the process of enlarging his house. He began his plantation (FK0015) with the purchase of more than six hundred acres on the waters of Fox Swamp and Mill Swamp from George F. and Robert Freeman in 1830. The property also contained an early nineteenth-century dwelling which he enlarged in 1838. The renovation transformed the original one- or one-and-one-half-story dwelling with a hall-and-parlor plan into a two-story dwelling with a two-story rear wing. The first story of the original dwelling, which is four-bays wide with two separate entry doors flanked by nine-over-nine sash windows and displays Federal details on the interior, was left mostly untouched, while the second story and wing were finished with Greek Revival details. The original dwelling rests on a high brick basement laid in Flemish bond and the rear wing rests on a stone foundation. Single-shouldered stone chimneys rise along each of the dwelling's gables.

¹⁰² US Census, 1850.

Through Massenburg's journal, we know the construction was completed by carpenter William Jones with labor from Massenburg's slaves in addition to specialized hands, such as plasterers, who were borrowed from other plantations. Massenburg itemized the expenses associated with the construction: William Jones, \$689.16; painting (also Jones) \$105.00; plastering, \$111.75; chimneys (William Kearney), \$85.75; and sheet iron plus railroad expense \$214.44, for a total of \$1,943.88.¹⁰³

Massenburg also kept detailed records of the crops he grew on the plantation. For example, in 1839 he harvested 30,000 hills of tobacco, twenty-seven bales of cotton, two hundred barrels of corn, 147 bushels of wheat, thirteen stacks of oats, and slaughtered eighty hogs. He sold the tobacco for approximately seven cents per pound, for a total of \$273.90, and the cotton for approximately ten cents per pound, or roughly \$1,000.¹⁰⁴

At its height, the Massenburg plantation was representative of a fully functioning antebellum plantation replete with a cotton gin, smokehouse, office, barns, corncrib, and eighteen slave dwellings.¹⁰⁵ These buildings, a handful of which are still extant, coupled with Massenburg's daily journal entries, provide a glimpse into the everyday operation of an antebellum plantation. If daily journals were available for other nineteenth-century plantations, it is likely they would remit similar accounts of planting, harvesting, visits from family members, or even renovations to a homeplace. Among other antebellum dwellings that are of similar scale, some of which underwent their own expansion or renovation, are the Jones Cooke House (FK0003), Dean Farm (FK0005), and the Archibald H. Davis Plantation (FK0004).

¹⁰³ Catherine W. Cockshutt, "Massenburg Plantation," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

¹⁰⁴ Willard, 42.

¹⁰⁵ Cockshutt, "Massenburg Plantation."

The frame Jones Cooke House also began as a small, one-story dwelling and was enlarged in 1841 with a two-story, three-bays-wide, Greek Revival-style front section defined by a side-gabled roof with molded box cornices, brick end chimneys, and windows with simple frames. A one-story, flat-roofed entry porch supported by square Doric columns replaced the dwelling's original hip-roofed porch and shelters a double-leaf entry door with sidelights and a molded surround with cornerblocks.¹⁰⁶

The dwelling on the Dean Farm also began as an earlier structure, unlike many dwellings that converted their original structures to a rear wing, however, the Dean Farm's original two-story Federal-style dwelling was encapsulated as the southwest front rooms (first and second story) of the current house. Characterized by the Greek Revival style, the enlarged dwelling is two stories, three bays wide, two rooms deep with a side-gabled roof, fluted corner boards, a deep unadorned frieze, and once had a pedimented entry porch similar to the one on the Jones Cooke House. On the interior, the original rooms retain Federal-style details such as two- and three-part mantels, flat-paneled wainscoting with delicate moldings, and molded door frames, while Greek Revival mantels with pilasters supporting plain friezes and molded door and window surrounds with roundel corner blocks characterize the rest of the house.¹⁰⁷

Likely constructed in the 1830s, the transitional Federal/Greek Revival-style Archibald H. Davis House predates the main blocks of the previously mentioned dwellings. It is also larger, five bays wide versus three bays, and appears to have been built in a single phase rather than by expanding an earlier dwelling. Its exterior is characterized by stone and brick chimneys on the gable ends as well as a full-width porch and false central gable which were both added in the

¹⁰⁶ Catherine W. Cockshutt, "Cooke House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

¹⁰⁷ Catherine W. Cockshutt, "Dean Farm," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

twentieth century. Like the Jones Cooke House and Dean Farm dwelling, the full-width porch replaced a pedimented entry porch with Doric columns.¹⁰⁸

The Raleigh and Gaston Railroad and the Establishment of Franklinton

One hindrance to Franklin County's early economy was the transportation of crops. Before the construction of the railroad, cotton and other produce were taken by wagons or oxcarts to Gaston, in present-day Northampton County, where they were placed on flatboats and shipped to port cities via the Roanoke River.¹⁰⁹

Construction of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, the second rail line in the state, brought tremendous change to Franklin County. Chartered in 1835, the railroad was under construction by the end of the next year. By late 1838, the railroad was complete from Raleigh to Henderson, but two bridges were needed to finish the Franklin County portion of the line. The bridges would cross the Tar River, an 846 foot stretch ninety-four feet high, and Cedar Creek, 528 feet across and seventy feet high, in the western region and were completed by November of 1839 when the first wood burning engine traveled through the county. By 1840, Franklin County had a direct connection with Gaston and additional lines connected Gaston with Richmond, Virginia, and Wilmington, North Carolina.¹¹⁰

Prior to its completion, many land owners were hesitant to provide right-of-way to railroad companies for fear that passing trains would kill livestock and thwart the growth of crops. One land owner, however, who did not object to the railroad crossing his land was Shemuel Kearney. In 1830, before construction began on the railroad, Kearney bought a 175-acre tract of land from William Conyers that lay along both sides of Hillsborough Road, which

¹⁰⁸ Catherine W. Cockshutt, "Archibald H. Davis Plantation," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

¹⁰⁹ Willard, 42.

¹¹⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 47.

connected Louisburg with Hillsborough in Orange County. (Today, the road is most recognizable as portions of Water and East Mason Streets in Franklinton.) Kearney was also part owner of a store on Hillsborough Road, Winston and Kearney's Store. During the planning stages of the railroad, Kearney made an agreement with the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company to allow the line to cross his property if the company built a depot on his land. The company agreed and Kearney soon deeded ten acres for the construction of the first depot (no longer extant) in Franklin County, close to his store.¹¹¹

It did not take long for three men – Thomas Howerton, Thomas Crocker, and William R. Hargrove – to realize the real estate potential of the property around the new depot. The three men were outstanding in the Franklin County community, though in very different ways. Howerton, who was the owner of Portridge (FK0283), a 640-acre plantation west of Louisburg, served as a state representative from 1835 to 1840, while Crocker was a Baptist minister and served on the original Board of Trustees for Wake Forest College. Hargrove, who was a native of Granville County, was a surveyor and already owned property near the new depot. In early 1839, the men purchased seventy acres from Kearney and divided it into lots, the first of which sold in May of the same year. A subsequent sale was made to Benjamin Jones, who bought lot number one in the southeast corner of the tract. That lot, which was located on the north side of Hillsborough Road, became the site of Jones's tavern and later the Franklinton Hotel, but no longer survives.¹¹²

Despite this initial success, the men struggled to profit from their investment. Crocker and Hargrove eventually filed quit claim deeds, releasing their interest in the property to Howerton. Faced with indebtedness, Howerton sold Portridge to William O. Green in 1842, then

¹¹¹ Willard, 46-47.

¹¹² T. H. Pearce and Michael T. Southern, "Franklinton Depot," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1990.

declared bankruptcy in 1843. Others who invested in the town, many of whom also suffered financial misfortunes, include Charles Alford; Howell Cooke; Henry Pearce; John C. Gardiner, who owned 124 acres southeast of the depot and operated a tobacco factory; Silas Winston; Jeremiah Perry; and John E. Twitty, who owned one of the earliest and possibly largest mercantile business in Franklinton.¹¹³

Regardless of the misfortunes of its early investors, the area around the depot quickly grew into an active and thriving community. Early on, the station and community were both known as Franklin Depot, but in 1842 the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act to incorporate the community as the town of Franklinton. The railroad brought a new era of economic and social activity to both Franklinton and Franklin County, with businesses related to the transportation of goods as well as the transportation, accommodation, and entertainment of people springing up in the new community. For much of the nineteenth century, a stagecoach operated between Franklinton and Louisburg, taking residents from the county seat to the depot where they could board the train for far off destinations. A livery stable provided carriages and saddle horses to people traveling outside of Franklinton and warehouses were built to store the goods unloaded from freight cars. The depot was also a selling factor for the boarding schools that were soon established in the area and contributed to their success through much of the nineteenth and early twentieth century.¹¹⁴

After the completion of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, which presented people with a faster and much more comfortable form of transportation, the need for remote stagecoach stops, inns, and taverns dwindled, and many of the buildings used to meet the needs of stagecoach passengers were repurposed as trading posts or small dwellings. As this transformation was

¹¹³ Willard, 46-48.

¹¹⁴ Pearce and Southern, "Franklinton Depot."

occurring in the rural areas of the county, small communities, which only occasionally needed accommodations for no more than a few people prior to the arrival of the railroad, could now justify the construction of hotels. One of the earliest in Franklin County was built in Franklinton shortly after the railroad was completed in 1840.¹¹⁵

The introduction of the railroad was not only useful for moving goods and people, it was also useful for moving and delivering mail. Its speed paired with its far-reaching tracts set the course for the post office system to expand to new places, and also set a new precedent for the time it took to receive deliveries. Soon, dedicated post offices were established in Louisburg, Franklinton, and Pacific (later Youngsville), as well as in rural locations operated by store keepers.¹¹⁶

Discovery of Gold

Franklin County is one of only four eastern North Carolina counties with a gold mine (Portis Gold Mine, FK0439).¹¹⁷ The discovery of gold in 1835 at the farm of John Portis near the community of Wood was the first such discovery in the Eastern Carolina belt. Legend states that a visitor staying at the Portis cabin noticed gold flecks in the cabin's mud daubing. It was not long before news of the discovery spread and prospectors began arriving in Franklin County. As owner of the property, Portis worked out an agreement to split what was found—seventy-five percent for the prospector and twenty-five percent for himself. Soon, claims were staked throughout the area and a mining camp was formed. Around 1850, Portis died and Thomas K. Thomas, the administrator of his estate, assumed possession of the mined property. Mining continued until the Civil War, though at a lesser pace following the discovery of gold in

¹¹⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 52.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 53.

¹¹⁷ A. Carpenter, *Gold Resources of North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1972), 13.

California. After the war, the mine operated intermittently until its final closure in 1936.¹¹⁸

Despite its demise, the mine was the most productive in the Eastern Carolina belt, with some sources reporting that an estimated three million dollars in gold was sent to the United States Mint.¹¹⁹

Located at or near the mine was a half-way house that provided a stop-over for people traveling between Franklinton and Halifax. The house had forty-two rooms and notes in the HPO survey file indicate that Mark Twain spent time there. The file also lists Thomas Edison as a visitor and says that T. Barnum showed the first one-ring circus in North Carolina at the mine.¹²⁰

Nineteenth-Century Architecture and the Influence of the Architect-Builder

During the first half of the nineteenth century, architectural styles transitioned from thin, articulated Federal details to the heavy, imposing details of the Greek Revival style. Construction methods improved greatly as a result of mass production allowing builders to complete projects in less time and at lower costs and railroads providing easier access to building supplies. It was also during this time that local builders Jacob Holt and Albert G. Jones, both of Warrenton, emerged as leaders in the building profession. The two, working independently of each other, are credited with designing, building, and, in many cases, influencing the broader development of domestic and institutional architecture of Franklin County and the surrounding area.

Like many builders, Holt relied on pattern books to inspire and guide his designs. The books, which suggested both small details and fully-formed articulations, provided a vast array

¹¹⁸ In 1866, the mine was sold to the Portis Gold Mining Company, a Philadelphia corporation. But after defaulting on a loan, the property was bought by Steven and William Sturgess, of New Jersey, who continued to mine the area into the 1880s. A new owner, Thomas Dolan attempted to reopen the mine in the early 1900s but was unsuccessful. In 1935, the Norlina Mining Company acquired 955 acres in the Portis tract and 713 in the White House tract near Fishing Creek and invested \$150,000 in the construction of a modern mining plant. (Carpenter, 14.) The gold, however, proved to be too difficult to extract from the property's sticky clay and the cost of operating the mine—three dollars per every two dollars of gold recovered—led to its final closure in 1936. (Willard, 50-51.)

¹¹⁹ Carpenter, 14 and NCHPO, Survey File, FK0439.

¹²⁰ NCHPO, Survey File, FK0439.

of options from which Holt selected a variety to share with his clients. In doing so, Holt was able to finesse and streamline his process. From a workshop in Warrenton, he and his workers mass produced brackets, balusters, and other elements that could be offered to clients as options and easily mixed with other elements to create unique designs. This method resulted in the development of details that are almost synonymous with Holt's work. At the same time, the establishment of his workshop and skill of his craftsmen allowed for the adaptation of pattern book designs to suit the needs or desires of clients.

As the overall style of buildings progressed from Federal to Greek Revival to Italianate, owners continued to rely on common building types and forms. This resulted in dwellings that were in detail very different from those built in earlier eras, but in shape, form, and arrangement very similar. This practice is true of the dwellings built by Holt as well, three of which are found in northeastern Franklin County, the Dr. Samuel Perry House (FK0017), Archibald Taylor House (FK0020), and Vine Hill (FK0022).

These three dwellings share typical Holt features including deep bracketed eaves, fluted corner posts (usually topped by delicate brackets), and heavy, molded door surrounds with sidelights, transom, and double-leaf entry doors. The interiors are also quintessentially Holt with a double-pile, center-hall plan in which the hall is divided by a large opening with louvered doors, some still in place. The halls contain both a front and rear staircase with two flights, a small landing, and square or turned details. The dwellings, all constructed in the 1850s, exhibit varying degrees of the different architectural styles Holt is known for. Vine Hill and the Dr. Samuel Perry House combine Italianate and Greek Revival details, while the Archibald Taylor House is fully Italianate. Two features that are shared among all three dwellings but less observed in earlier Georgian or Federal dwellings are hipped roofs and interior chimneys. Holt's

designs also diverged from the previous practice of reserving high-style craftsmanship for the interior of the dwelling, creating dwellings that are equally impressive on both the interior and exterior.

Another mid-century dwelling, the Clifton House (FK0024), also shows the influence of Holt. A combination of Greek Revival and Italianate elements, the Clifton House is a frame two-story dwelling with a hipped roof. The front elevation is dominated by a two-story, pedimented front porch supported by four heavy wooden posts and finished with a balustrade of narrow, arched posts on the lower level and a sawn balustrade with oval cutouts on the upper level. Both the porch posts and corner posts contain tall, arched, and fluted panels and support a wide frieze below deep eaves. Like many of Holt's projects, the interior of the dwelling is finished with marbled woodwork. The double-leaf entrance is also flanked by a simple door surround with arched sidelights and a transom flanked by circular corner lights filled with pinwheel tracery similar to the door surround at Vine Hill.

Also active in Franklin County in the mid-nineteenth century was Albert G. Jones. Like Holt, Jones is known for his interpretations of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Elements that characterize his work include spool-turned molding, oversized bull's-eye cornerblocks, triple windows, and heavy mantels with fluted columns. Two dwellings in Louisburg that are thought to be his work are the Malone-Holden House (FK0170) and Edwin Wiley Fuller House (FK0006). In addition to dwellings, Jones also built a number of educational buildings in North Carolina including the Williamston Female Institute in Martin County (MT0028, demolished) and The Columns in Hertford County (HF0001, Chowan College), before undertaking the Main Building at Louisburg Female College, later Louisburg College (FK0014).¹²¹

¹²¹ Catherine W. Bishir and J. Marshall Bullock, "Jones, Albert Gamaliel," North Carolina Architects & Builders, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000030> (accessed December 9, 2017).

Though it was heavily altered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Malone-Holden House was originally constructed as a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling with a hipped roof and large six-over-six sash windows that flanked an entry porch and balcony. The porch sheltered a double-leaf entry door with a transom and sidelights, and four heavy square posts supported the balcony which was accessed by double-leaf entry doors with multi-light sidelights. A sawnwork balustrade wrapped the balcony and filled only the side bays of the porch. Today, the porch extends the full width of the front elevation but retains the center four columns of the original porch as well as the original first-floor door surround.

The second house attributed to Jones is the Edwin Wiley Fuller House built in 1856-1857, the same time as Jones's commission for the college. The frame dwelling is two stories with three symmetrical bays, typical of other Greek Revival-style dwellings in Franklin County. Its full-width front porch has a hipped roof supported by four fluted square posts with spool-turned molding at the corners. Molded corner posts also exhibit spool-turned moldings, and a deep frieze spans the width of the building. The porch shelters double-leaf entry doors surrounded by a transom and sidelights with geometrically arranged panes, and large six-over-six sash windows flank the door and fill the upper-story bays. While the exterior of the building exhibits the spool-turned molding often credited to Jones, the interior displays a center-hall plan with front and rear staircases, a feature often attributed to Holt.

Aside from the buildings' architectural details, their locations provide us with insight into the socioeconomics of the antebellum era. Each of the three dwellings attributed to Holt are located within a few miles of each other and in close proximity to Warren County, which was wealthier than Franklin County. The southwest region of Warren County was particularly successful during the antebellum period and led to a greater than average number of high-style

dwellings in the area, almost all of which are attributed to Holt. In contrast, the buildings attributed to Jones are all located in Louisburg. These geographical similarities suggest connections between the builders and locations. For Holt, it is likely that families in northeast Franklin County had stronger connections with people in Warren County, where they would have been exposed to his work, while Jones's connection with Louisburg grew out of his work with the college.

In addition to the architecture attributed to Holt and Jones, the nineteenth-century countryside was scattered with Federal-style dwellings such as the two-story Mitchell House (formerly FK0291, moved to Rowan County in 1988); one-and-one-half-story cottages like Holly Grove (FK0354) near Gupton; the old Methodist Parsonage (FK0200) in Louisburg; and the Kearney-Gupton House (FK0343) near Wood; as well as the tripartite William A. Jeffreys House (FK0009) near Youngsville, which is representative of a form popular in northeastern North Carolina but is the only specimen of its kind in Franklin County. The house on the previously mentioned Dean Farm (FK0005), east of Louisburg, is exemplary of the transition from the Federal to the Greek Revival style, while the one-story Williamson House (FK0023) and the two-story Brown-Bodie-Allen House (FK0168), both in Louisburg, fully display the Greek Revival style. Still other dwellings, like the story-and-a-half James Madison White House (FK1041) near Bunn, perpetuated the use of traditional and vernacular forms.

As the nineteenth century reached its halfway point, the romantic, picturesque Italianate and Greek Revival styles gained in popularity. The integration of these styles, evident in the work of both Holt and Jones, is also seen in the one-story, hip-roofed Colonel Jordan F. Jones House (FK0012), which rests on a raised brick basement and features a heavy bracketed cornice, weatherboard siding, fluted square porch and corner posts, six-over-six sash windows, and a

centrally placed hip-roofed entry porch that shelters a double-leaf door flanked by sidelights. The house is located at the top of a hill overlooking Laurel Mill, which was owned and operated by Colonel Jordan F. Jones in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Like many houses built in the third quarter of the nineteenth century with Italianate exterior details, the interior of the house is finished with heavy Greek Revival details. The Dr. Cooley House (FK0325), located east of Bunn, is another example of a one-story dwelling that combines Greek Revival form with fanciful, picturesque details.

As popular details and aesthetics changed, builders were slow to diverge from the simple side-gabled form with exterior end chimneys, eventually modifying it with hipped roofs and interior chimneys like those on the Carlyle-Pleasants-Elam House (FK0121) and Jessie Taylor House (FK0562). It was also in the mid-nineteenth century that the earliest extant brick dwelling, the Wheless House (FK0233), was constructed in Louisburg.¹²²

For the first half of the nineteenth century, Franklin County experienced steady growth in its population, reaching a total of 14,107 people (6,465 whites, 7,076 enslaved African Americans, 566 free African Americans) as well as its industries and civic causes, particularly education. The Franklin Male Academy rivaled the University of North Carolina, receiving twenty transfer students from the university early in the century, and the Louisburg Female Academy reached such a level of success as to be reorganized as the Louisburg Female College and have a building designed and constructed by Albert G. Jones.¹²³ Private schools were also thriving throughout the county, and strides were being taken to establish a public school system. Possibly the greatest development was the construction of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad and Franklin Depot. These amenities revolutionized the way planters and manufacturers transported

¹²² Pearce, *Early Architecture*, 96.

¹²³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 31.

their goods and made it possible for local products to reach new markets. At the same time, the railroad brought new goods and products, greatly increasing the selection of items that store keepers could offer to their customers. People, too, some of whom may never have left the county before, were now connected with the outside world in ways previously unimaginable, but it was all about to change.

The Civil War

By the eve of the Civil War, Franklin County's agriculture-based economy had grown to include many small, supportive trades including mills, cotton gins, tanneries, shoemakers and cobblers, an iron and brass foundry, and distilleries. The county had become self-sufficient, with businesses capable of fulfilling almost any need a resident might have. The earliest known copy of the *The American Eagle*, a newspaper printed in Louisburg and dated October 31, 1857, lists W. H. Ferguson's Carriage Works, The Eagle Hotel, The Union Hotel, W. H. Strother & Sons' Grocery Store, Skinner and Baker Apothecaries and Druggists, and T. N. Carlile, a confectioner, as well as various other enterprises.¹²⁴

On May 20, 1861, the State of North Carolina officially seceded from the Union, and Raleigh quickly became a strategic supply depot and training site for the Confederate Army.¹²⁵ Of the 6,465 whites recorded in Franklin County by the 1860 Census, somewhere between 1,200 and 1,400 men served in the Confederate Army. Many of these were conscripts, while others enlisted in the army at their own volition. In fact, though North Carolina's population comprised only one-ninth of the Confederate State white population, North Carolina furnished one-sixth, or 120,000, of the Confederate Army's forces and nearly one-fourth of its conscripts.¹²⁶ Of those who fought from Franklin County, 368 men died for the Confederacy and three died for the Union, two of whom belonging to the U.S. Colored Troops. Many more returned home wounded, including several who lost limbs.¹²⁷

¹²⁴ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 57.

¹²⁵ E. C. Waugh, *North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh* (Raleigh: North Carolina State University Print Shop, 1967).

¹²⁶ Lindley S. Butler and Alan D. Watson, "Unwilling Hercules," *The North Carolina Experience*, (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1984), 265.

¹²⁷ Mark Anderson Moore, *The Old North State at War, The North Carolina Civil War Atlas* (Raleigh: The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2015), 178.

Located in the interior of the state and well removed from major rivers and other strategic objectives, Franklin County was spared from the war's major battles and military campaigns. Some residents of more tumultuous areas, like George Dill of Morehead City on the Atlantic Coast, even moved their families inland to Louisburg for the duration of the war.¹²⁸

Following the Confederate surrender, Union troops passed through Louisburg, camping on the campus of the Louisburg Female College in May 1865. Unlike the other academic institutions in Louisburg, the female college stayed in session for most of the war and quickly reopened when the troops departed for Washington D.C. For the most part the occupation was uneventful, though unpleasant for the residents in the town who sympathized with the Confederate cause.¹²⁹ Anna Long Thomas Fuller, who lived in the Edwin Wiley Fuller House (FK0006) during the Union occupation of Louisburg described it as:

“The town is full of Yankee soldiers, riding and walking up and down every street, and coming into our Yards and Kitchens... I must say for them, they have behaved very orderly, so far. Their tents are pitched in the College and Male Academy groves. A General Wood has made his Head Quarters in Mr. Noble's front yard... Would that I could describe my feelings, but I have not the power. The reality is upon us, that we are a subjected people... The Negroes seem wild with excitement they expect now to be free, and never more do any work but poor deluded creatures, they are sadly mistaken... None of ours have yet left us, but I expect they will.”¹³⁰

¹²⁸ M. Ruth Little, *A Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Carteret County, North Carolina's Archipelago*, (Raleigh; The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2012), 45.

¹²⁹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 69.

¹³⁰ *Diary of Anna Long Thomas Fuller*, “May 1-2, 1865,” Louisburg College Library, Louisburg, N. C., 1856-1857.

The decline in the male population at the onset of the war combined with a ten-percent in-kind tax on food crops levied by the Confederate States Congress and an understanding that armies could acquire provisions without upfront payment significantly impacted the agricultural output and income of North Carolina farms. In Franklin County, the 1870 census recorded that since 1860, the number of horses decreased by over 500, cows by 600, sheep by 2,500, and swine by 12,700, the decrease often equaling a quarter or more of the prewar stock. The acres of improved farmland dropped from 118,968 to 82,926, with decreases in the production of corn, rye, potatoes, wool and almost every other agricultural product. Tobacco fell from 1,732,883 pounds to only 36,243. One of the few crops to show a significant increase in production was cotton, which rose from 2,673 bales to 3,356.¹³¹

Pleasant and successful in the years prior to the Civil War, everyday life in Louisburg drastically changed for the greater part of the 1860s and much of the remaining century. All of the schools, aside from the female college, closed when the war began in 1861 and most remained closed until 1870. Many businesses, such as the newspaper and gold mine, suspended operations as well. The production of goods and supplies was limited and much of what was available was provided to the troops during the war. The lack of commerce and absence of men to participate in the county's workforce and to care for farms and businesses dwindled the income and savings of even the most prosperous families. By the end of the war, many were completely insolvent.

¹³¹Agricultural Census, 1860 and 1870.

From the Postbellum Period to the Early Twentieth Century, 1865-1910

Following the Civil War, the residents of Franklin County were faced with economic instability coupled with new political and social systems. The plantation system, and agriculture in general, was forever changed, causing cash-strapped landowners to reevaluate the way they operated and redefine the relationship between planters and farmhands.

The resulting situation, in which landowners needed workers and freed African Americans needed jobs, led to a system of tenant farming and sharecropping and by the end of the nineteenth century, nearly two-thirds of the farms in Franklin County were operated by tenant farmers. The change in agricultural practices also led to a decrease in the size of farms. When the 1860 census was recorded, 332 farms, or just shy of fifty percent, fell between one hundred and 499 acres. By 1870, the majority of farms, 741, were between twenty and forty-nine acres. The decrease in size correlates with an increase in the number of farms, rising from 668 to 1,709. In addition, while there were seven farms over 1,000 acres in 1860, there was only one in 1870.¹³²

Some planters chose to employ former slaves, drawing up contracts that outlined wages and expectations, and while these contracts compensated workers for their labor, the expectations they set forth differed little from the expectations of the slavery system. Consequently, many freed African Americans choose to work as tenant farmers. In the tenant system, landowners allowed workers to farm small plots of land, usually twenty to fifty acres, in exchange for rent or a share of their harvest. Aside from land, a landowner often lent tools or other supplies to the tenant farmer, who was likely beginning without anything of his own, for a larger share in his output. Shares could range anywhere from one-third to one-half, and a landlord's take was often

¹³² Agricultural Census, 1860, 1870, and 1900.

enough to ensure that a tenant had no other option but to remain a part of the tenant system.¹³³

The outcome of the Civil War had a negative effect on Franklin County's white farmers as well, causing many to participate in the tenant system alongside freed African Americans.

Large landowners and wealthy families were also affected. The heirs of Archibald H. Davis, who passed away in 1854, were set to receive portions of his estate, which included ninety-three slaves, nearly 4,000 acres of land including the homeplace (Archibald H. Davis Plantation, FK0004) and three other plantations, as well as a sum of money and good debts. However, by January of 1865, when his daughter, Maria, came of age, her inheritance, primarily in Confederate bonds and slaves, was lost. At the time, her uncle, Nicholas B. Massenburg, was noted in the estate papers as describing her losses as "the losses which she, in common with every-body in the South, whose estate were in any way dependent upon slavery, has sustained." Maria's brother, William, was allotted his portion, including the homeplace, in 1859, but after the war he was forced to sell parcels of the property, eventually mortgaging a large portion for \$5,000 in 1875 and losing the property sometime later.¹³⁴

Southerners, whether rich or poor or free or enslaved before the Civil War, all experienced some form of financial hardship after the war's end. For many, like the Davis family, this meant the loss of land, and for others, it meant finding the means to pay the newly created workforce. For those who did not own land, it meant finding a way to pay for goods, supplies, and equipment with no cash on hand and no collateral on which to borrow. To cope with the financial situation, the North Carolina State Legislature, along with the other southern states, passed "crop lien" laws. These laws allowed farmers to use the profits of future crops as collateral for goods purchased on credit. Like landlords in the tenant system, the merchants who

¹³³ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County North Carolina*. (Wake County: Wake County Government, 1994), 60.

¹³⁴ Cockshutt, "Archibald H. Davis Plantation."

extended credit to farmers were paid first, with the remainder (after rent and credit was paid) going to the farmer. The new law incentivized the operation of general merchandise stores throughout the county and added another layer to the south's recovering economy.

An early example of a store in rural Franklin County is Riley's Crossroads Store and Post Office (FK0440, in a collapsed, ruinous condition). Built around 1870 southwest of Bunn, the store occupied a one-story, front-gabled, frame building with a side-gabled wing and a rear shed extension. Like many nineteenth-century buildings, it was covered with weatherboard sheathing and had a metal roof, batten doors, window shutters, and a porch that ran along its south and east elevations. The building was used as a general store until the 1940s, and the original letter boxes, maildrop chute, desk, stools, and counters remained in the post office area, as did shelving and storage in the general store area until its demise sometime prior to 2015. W. W. Perry Sr. the first postmaster built the store and post office with Thomas G. Riley.¹³⁵

From 1870 to 1880, the population of the county increased by 47.7 percent, for a total of 20,829 people, listed in the US Census as 9,474 white and 11,355 African Americans.¹³⁶ In 1875, the county's boundary was adjusted, with a small section of Granville County given to Franklin County. This section, which extended from the Wake County line north to the Tar River, included approximately thirty-five square miles, and contained Popes Chapel (FK0991), Mount Olivet Church, and the area referred to as Pocomoke.¹³⁷ A few years later, in 1881, the boundaries changed again when a portion of Franklin County was given for the formation of Vance County to the north. An 1881 article in the *Franklin Times* measured the amount of

¹³⁵ NCHPO, Survey File, FK0440.

¹³⁶ US Census, 1880.

¹³⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 79.

taxable property contributed to the new county as \$70,122, and the number of persons as ninety-one whites and thirty-nine African Americans.¹³⁸

By 1884, Franklin County's ten townships were established—Cedar Rock, Cypress Creek, Dunn, Franklinton, Freemans (later Youngsville), Gold Mine, Harris, Hayesville, Louisburg, and Sandy Creek—and nine post offices—Cedar Rock, Franklinton, Laurel, Louisburg, Mapleville, Youngsville, Pugh's, Riley's Crossroads, and Sutton. Lightly populated, the rural townships (excluding Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville) supported a variety of businesses, churches, and schools in the countryside and crossroads communities. Businesses included general stores in Cedar Rock, Laurel, Mapleville, and Pugh; public gins in Mapleville, Laurel, and Cedar Creek; Millwrights in Cedar Creek, Pugh, and Sutton; and six builders and contractors in Cedar Rock, Pugh, and Sutton. Pugh, Sutton, and Laurel also had their own physicians, while Pugh had an academy taught by W. A. Brown and a boarding house operated by Mrs. L. A. Powell. Churches included Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cedar Rock as well as three African American Baptist churches in the county's northwestern region—Walnut Grove, Haywood's Chapel, and Perry's Chapel.¹³⁹

One community that coalesced around 1880 was Centerville, located at the intersection of NC 561 and NC 58, it was an equal distance from Louisburg, Warrenton, Nashville, and Littleton—hence its name. By 1888, the town had a post office, a handful of dwellings, and likely a store or two.¹⁴⁰

At the end of the nineteenth century the county was serviced by twenty-five post offices. Though small, they represented the dispersion and accumulation of the county's population and

¹³⁸ Ibid., 82.

¹³⁹ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina, Business Directory for 1884* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 309-315.

¹⁴⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 97, 100, 165. For many years, the town's population hovered around one hundred, and in 1965 Centerville was incorporated. Its population peaked at 135 in 1980 but dropped to 89 in 2010 before the town dissolved in the early part of 2017 (US Census, 1970-2010).

included the communities of Cedar Rock, Laurel, Mapleville, Justice, Centerville, Moulton, Ingleside, Pugh, Riley's Crossing, Cheaves, Franklinton, Katesville, Letha, Louisburg, Mitchiner, Oswego, Pilot, Pocomoke, Privett, Ransom's Bridge (Nash County), Royal, Stallings, Sutton, Views, and Youngsville. Unlike modern mail delivery, in the 1800s letters were addressed with a name or business and a post office, such as "Oswego," rather than a street address. Letters were then delivered to the post office and picked up by recipients at their convenience. Occasionally, if recipients did not retrieve their mail within a given time, a postmaster listed their names in the newspaper. Many of the post offices were operated out of small country stores like Riley's Crossroads Store (FK0440) with mail service provided by the store owner in lieu of a full-time postmaster.¹⁴¹ In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries these small stores were often a center of social activity, providing a meeting place for local residents.

While most community names derived from a shop owner or a prominent family, some such as Centerville were based on their location. Another example, Mapleville is named for Maple Springs Church. Legend shares that Justice, once known as Bowden's Store after Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Bowden, received its current name after Mrs. Bowden stated that she believed in justice for everyone and the name stuck.¹⁴² Duke's Corner, or Pungo as some called it, was originally named for the owner of the local general store and was a gathering spot for the men in the community. The store, however, struggled to find a name acceptable to the post office system and eventually Dr. Bennett Perry Alston, inspired by the products on Duke's shelves, suggested Epsom.¹⁴³

Postbellum growth of industry in Franklin County began not in one of its towns, but on a large parcel of land on Sandy Creek in the northern end of the county. Here, Colonel Jordan

¹⁴¹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 113.

¹⁴² Bowden was already assigned to a post office in eastern North Carolina.

¹⁴³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 100-101.

Jones purchased Laurel Mill (FK0011) soon after the Civil War ended. No records remain of when the grist mill was constructed, but at the time of his purchase it was already known as “old Laurel Mill.” Jones realized the potential of the mill for more than just grinding grain and soon installed a water-powered cotton gin. After its success, he built a spinning plant and began producing yarn and cloth from the raw cotton that was harvested in the area. Jones sold the yarn to mills in the north who were eager for materials and willing to pay high prices for the commodity. Eventually Jones added a water-powered saw mill and planer. In all, he produced corn meal, flour, cotton yarn, and lumber.¹⁴⁴

Though the gristmill operated well into the twentieth century, an early downfall of the spinning plant was its distance from rail and water transportation. In the beginning, Jones could absorb the cost of transporting goods by an ox-drawn wagon to Henderson, where it was loaded on rail cars and taken north. However, as the local agricultural economy recovered and more cotton entered the market, Jones’s spinning business could no longer compete with mills located closer to railroads and navigable rivers. Jones’s other ventures—the cotton gin, grist mill, and saw mill—persisted, though the saw mill was eventually destroyed by fire. The last person to operate the mill was J. E. Perry, Jr., under the ownership of F. H. Allen in the 1960s. After he sold the property, the cotton mill building on the west side of the creek was torn down.¹⁴⁵ The two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed grist mill, however, remains in good condition. Covered in plain weatherboard siding, the mill rests on massive stone piers. A large portion of the building extends over the water and a concrete wall below the building extends from the shore to the damn. Doors exist on the east (creek side) and west (land side) elevations and windows light at least three of the four elevations.

¹⁴⁴ Willard, 51.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid., 52.

Mills and cotton gins, were not new to the Franklin County landscape. Many mills had been in operation since the settlement era grinding flour and other grains for residents, and the cotton gin was now approaching one hundred years of existence. The late nineteenth century was no different, and by 1884 there were water or steam powered grist mills, cotton gins, and saw mills in every neighborhood of the county. Aside from Laurel Mill, other mills in operation during the nineteenth century included Mort Harris Mill (FK0387) near Mapleville, Cascine Mill (FK0318) south of Louisburg, Clifton Mill (FK0024) near Royal, Perry's Mill (FK0437) near Pearces, Moore's Mill (FK0414) near Youngsville, Ira Weldon's Mill (FK0465) near Kearney, and the Alford-Whitaker Mill (FK0299) near Rocky Ford. The Clifton, Perry, Moore, and Alford-Whitaker mills are gone, leaving only a mill pond, dam, or foundation indicating their original location, but the Mort Harris, Cascine, and Ira Weldon mills, as well as Laurel Mill, remain. In 2006, Cascine Mill began undergoing restoration after many years of deterioration, and today it and Laurel Mill are the best preserved of the mill sites in Franklin County.¹⁴⁶

Through the end of the nineteenth century, cotton remained one of the county's most reliable and productive crops. From 1870 to 1900, the amount of cotton produced in Franklin County increased from 3,356 bales to 9,831 bales with nearly 20,618 acres devoted to the crop.¹⁴⁷ However, as the century came to a close, a new cash crop began to rise in popularity.

Prior to the Civil War, a new variety of tobacco, referred to as "lemon-yellow" or, more commonly, "bright leaf," was being cultivated in Caswell County, North Carolina. Its production sharply declined during the Civil War, but soon increased after the war ended due to the desirability of the leaf for plug fillers and wrappers. Unlike other tobacco varieties, bright leaf tobacco is flue cured, creating a product superior to that of other curing methods. The quality of

¹⁴⁶ "Historic Cascine Mill," Preservation North Carolina, www.cascinemill.com, (accessed December 15, 2017).

¹⁴⁷ Agricultural Census, 1870 and 1900.

the tobacco produced led to an increase in both its demand and its price. Other counties in North Carolina, as well as Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee, quickly followed suit, and by 1876 there were over 43,000 acres of bright leaf tobacco planted in the United States with a yield of 20,000,000 pounds.¹⁴⁸

Louisburg

As the economy of Franklin County improved, many people and businesses began to resume their previous ways of life. Grey's New Map of Louisburg, printed in 1882, shows a well-developed town with many large and small dwellings, municipal buildings, law offices, and the Eagle Hotel. Churches include St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church (FK0228), a "Baptist Church" (FK0208), a "Colored Baptist Church" (location of FK0153), a "Presbyterian Church" (site of Louisburg Baptist Church, FK0165), and Louisburg United Methodist Church (FK0157). Only three buildings existed on the large town common: the original Louisburg Female Academy building and the Greek Revival Main Building (FK0014) on the west and the Louisburg Male Academy (FK0264) on the east. Just south of the business district is the Tar River which flows in an S-shape across the town limits. A dam stretched across the river and a cotton gin operated by B. Clifton rested on the west side of the dam and a grist mill operated by J. F. Jones was on the east side. Further south was the "Colored Presbyterian Church" as well as a swath of land reserved for a cemetery on the west side of South Main Street. Notable on the east side of Main Street was the property of Thomas White, known as Kenmoor.

In 1884, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* listed the population of Louisburg as 818 persons. It also listed fifteen churches—Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopal, and Methodist—two of which were African American churches. Businesses included five hotels and boarding

¹⁴⁸ Agricultural Census, 1900.

houses, seven lawyers, ten physicians, and a selection of general merchandise, liquor, grocery, and drug stores, plus saloons, jewelers, insurance, liveries, and a painter. A variety of Franklin County manufactories were also listed including multiple public gins—steam, water, and horse powered—blacksmiths, tanneries, saddle and harness makers, carriage and wagon factories, boot and shoe makers, cabinet shops, cooperages, spinning wheel makers, mattress factories, and an iron foundry.

The 1880s also saw the establishment of a rail line in Louisburg. Originally deterred by fears of adverse effects, planters and business owners realized the benefits of a nearby train depot and railroad line and in 1885 constructed a branch line connecting Louisburg to the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad line in Franklinton. The new rail line was funded by the Louisburg Railroad Company, which was formed by and sold stock to many of Franklin County's most prominent citizens. The rail line began on the east side of South Main Street, just south of the Tar River, and a freight and passenger depot (FK0495, no longer extant) was originally situated on the south side of the tracks. In the late 1880s the 10.33-mile line was assessed for tax purposes and given a value of \$1,000 per mile, an indicator of the amount of business the line brought to the community. The line had an immediate effect on the economy of Louisburg, particularly its cotton market which handled 2,500 bales of cotton per year before the completion of the branch. Two years later, the market handled 6,500 bales per year. Additional growth can be attributed to Louisburg's tobacco market, which opened in September of 1890 at the warehouse of William T. Hughes near the depot. A second warehouse, which was constructed of brick and owned by Dr.

J. S. Meadows, opened a short time later.¹⁴⁹ In 1895, the railroad company was valued at \$31,440 and a number of prize houses and warehouses existed in the area south of the tracks¹⁵⁰

In 1893, a map of Louisburg was created by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. The map depicts a diversity of businesses in the town's commercial core including the Eagle Hotel and Hotel Meadows, a bank, a cotton gin, two barbers, multiple drug stores and general merchandise stores, a printing press, a post office, a cobbler, a grocery, a cooperage, saloons, offices, restaurants, liveries, and carriage houses.

In 1870, George Strother Baker began printing the *Franklin Courier*, more than likely the county's first newspaper printed after the Civil War. The paper was bought by James A. Thomas and A. M. Hall in 1875 and in 1879 was renamed the *Franklin Times*. The paper has been in publication ever since.¹⁵¹

In 1895, the Farmers and Merchants Bank was established as the first commercial bank in Louisburg. Its founder and president, William Bailey, built an impressive Queen Anne-style dwelling, the Bailey-Yarborough House (FK0204) on North Main Street in the same year. Also in Louisburg by 1895 was the Louisburg Telegraph Company, which was owned and operated by twenty-year-old E. Joe Cheatham and valued at \$250.¹⁵²

By 1904, there were at least five tobacco warehouses and four tobacco prizes in Louisburg's business district. These included Harts, J. B. Thomas, W. H. Pleasants, G. W. Ford, and Riverside Tobacco Warehouses, and C. B. Cheatham, Carlisle's, Harts, and J. B. Thomas's Prize Houses.¹⁵³ A two-story brick warehouse, which was also used as a tobacco factory, was

¹⁴⁹ Maury York, "Robust 'Leaf' Market Opened Here Early," *The Franklin Times*, May 12, 2016, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/tobaccoMarket.html> (accessed January 4, 2017).

¹⁵⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 95, 109.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 78.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, 109.

¹⁵³ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, *Louisburg, North Carolina*, 1904.

located south of Louisburg on the northeast corner of South Main and Perry Streets as well (FK0028, no longer extant).

Louisburg was once again devastated by fire in March of 1905. The blaze began in C. B. Cheatham's tobacco factory located south of the Tar River near Louisburg's depot. Damaged buildings included John Carlisle's prize house, the Thomas Warehouse, Mrs. Jennie B. Hart's prize house, Allen Bros. gin house, and the residences of Mrs. Kate Crenshaw, Barry Wilcox, F. N. Eagerton (who also owned three damaged tenant houses), and two dwellings owned by G. W. Ford. Also damaged were the poles and wires of the Henderson Telephone Company for an estimated total of \$60,000 to \$75,000 in damages.¹⁵⁴ To what extent Louisburg had a fire department in 1905 is unknown, but in 1906, William Bailey, a Louisburg Commissioner, was authorized to purchase a horse and wagon for the department.¹⁵⁵

A Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map confirms that by 1908 Louisburg had a fire department with "35 volunteers, 2 paid & 1 permanent man, 1 horse, one independent hose cart... hose in good condition." It also adds that the courthouse bells and church bells were used for fire alarms. The map depicts the town with nearly complete rows of buildings in the blocks facing the courthouse and extending north and south along Main and Nash Streets. A large undeveloped swath of land is shown on the west side of the block bound by Main, Nash, and Church streets and the Tar River. Aside from tobacco warehouses and prizeries, businesses include the Louisburg and Magon Hotels, several law offices, groceries, drug stores, an opera house, a wood and paint shop, furniture stores, and a fire department. A number of dwellings are shown on large parcels just outside of the business district.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁴ "Louisburg Again Ablaze," *The Franklin Times*, March 31, 1905, www.newspapers.com (accessed December 9, 2017).

¹⁵⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 126.

¹⁵⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, *Louisburg, North Carolina*, 1908.

The opera house, which was located on the southeast corner of Market and Nash streets, charged twenty-five to fifty cents for performances and hosted travelling groups like the Edsall Winthrop Stock Company, which performed the play the “Power of Man” for Louisburg residents in 1905. Other entertainment was readily available by catching the train to Raleigh.¹⁵⁷

Two of Louisburg’s most influential citizens of the late nineteenth century began their political careers during Reconstruction. Joseph J. Davis and Charles Mather Cooke, who both graduated from the Franklinton Male Academy, are noted not only for their successful law partnership but also for their service at the state and national levels. Davis served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1868 to 1870, the United States House of Representatives from 1875 to 1881, and later in the North Carolina Supreme Court from 1887 until his death in 1892.¹⁵⁸ Cooke’s lengthy political career included serving in the North Carolina Senate in the 1880s, the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1879 to 1883, then again from 1889 to 1891. In 1881 he was elected as speaker of the house. From 1895 to 1897 he served as the North Carolina Secretary of State, then as a state superior court judge from 1903 until 1915.¹⁵⁹

As Louisburg grew, many property owners divided their large lots into smaller parcels and sold them for the construction of new houses. These families included the Boddies (FK0132, demolished), Browns (FK0168), Malones (FK0006), Neals (FK0215), and Persons (FK0018), who owned houses along Main, Church, and Nash streets. The son of George S. Baker, owner of the *Franklin Courier*, parceled off a portion of his father’s estate (FK0276) in 1908 to create the

¹⁵⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 125.

¹⁵⁸ “Davis, Joseph Jonathan,” Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=D000123> (accessed November. 6, 2017).

¹⁵⁹ Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. “Charles Mather Cooke.”

westward extension of Noble Street.¹⁶⁰ Soon, the town extended south of the Tar River where the railroad line and depot were already established. South of the warehouses that built up around the depot, the property of Thomas White, known as Kenmoor, was developed into a neighborhood with the creation of Kenmoor Avenue and several intersecting streets. Though the early demographics of the neighborhood are unknown, the purchase of land on South Main Street by the county's African American Presbyterian congregation in the mid-1870s suggests that the area began as an African American neighborhood. The congregation began construction of a frame building for St. Paul Presbyterian Church in 1880.¹⁶¹ By 1900, the population of Louisburg was 1,178 and by 1910 it was 1,775.¹⁶²

Franklinton

Franklinton was also growing in large part due to the railroad and the burgeoning industry it supported. Its greatest industry, and perhaps the greatest competitor of Colonel Jones's spinning business at Laurel Mill, was the Sterling Cotton Mill (FK0287). Founded in Franklinton in 1895 by Samuel C. Vann, Sterling Cotton Mill was originally half the size of Laurel Mill, with 2,500 spindles compared to Laurel Mill's 6,500 spindles. Sterling's plant, however, was ideally located on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad and by 1899 it was by far the largest single employer in the county, employing two hundred persons.¹⁶³ In 1900, sixty-seven

¹⁶⁰ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

¹⁶¹ "A Past to Cherish and a History to Fulfill," a history of St. Paul Presbyterian Church, <http://www.stpaulpc.org/history/> (accessed June 16, 2018; and Maury York, "Presbyterians Active in Franklin County after the Civil War," *The Franklin Times*, March 26, 2015, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/presbyterians.html> (accessed December 8, 2017). After the first church was destroyed by fire, a larger brick church was built in 1917 (FK0045).

¹⁶² US Census, 1900 and 1910.

¹⁶³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 108-109, 114.

men, eighty-two women, and forty-six children in Franklin County were listed as engaged in the textile industry, a majority of whom worked at the Sterling Cotton Mill.¹⁶⁴

The mill itself began as a one-story, load-bearing brick building with a two-story section at its east end. The building was originally lit by segmental-arched windows, but the windows were filled with brick when the building was air conditioned in the 1960s. The exterior is finished with a corbelled brick cornice and a shallow gabled roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. A one-story brick boiler room, original to the complex, extends from the front of the one-story section of the mill building and is lit by paired nine-over-nine wooden sash windows set in segmental arched openings and finished with pilasters and a corbelled brick cornice. A massive brick chimney rises from its east elevation.

The establishment of Laurel and Sterling Cotton mills and the decision to produce finished yarns rather than raw cotton was influenced by a larger movement that established textile factories across the state. One of the largest influences of this movement was the upheaval of the state's agricultural economy and the resulting strains placed on farmers, particularly small-scale farmers who practiced subsistence farming. Unlike large farms that grew cash crops, subsistence farmers grew food crops and raised livestock to sustain their own families, with any surplus being sold or traded for items that were not produced on the farm. Following the Civil War, many farm families found that they could no longer maintain this way of life. Increased property taxes, new fence laws that limited the grazing of livestock, and crop liens forced even the smallest farms to begin planting cash-rich crops like tobacco and cotton. At the same time, the increase in supply caused the price of tobacco and cotton to drop, and many farmers, both large and small, struggled to pay their debts. Some farmers responded by selling their land in

¹⁶⁴ Maury York, "Sterling Cotton Mills Had a Big Impact on Franklinton," *The Franklin Times*, July 10, 2014, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/sterling.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).

whole or in divided parcels, and an increasing number of farmers fell into the tenant and sharecropping systems. By 1900, one-third more farmers rented or otherwise tended another person's land than in 1880. Not seeing an end to their toil, some farmers began to look for employment elsewhere, sometimes seeking work in larger towns and cities, other times at mills.¹⁶⁵

Another factor that gave the textile industry an advantage over other occupations, while also benefitting farm families, was that it did not require skilled labor. For this reason, the mill could hire almost anyone and often employed whole families, including children above the age of twelve. Jobs within the mill ranged from doffers, who removed full bobbins from spinning frames and replaced them with empty ones; spinners, who repaired breaks and snags in the thread as the machines spun; spoolers, who operated a machine that combined the thread from multiple bobbins, and warpers, who helped prepare yarn for weaving. Shifts were long, lasting ten to twelve hours, and employees often worked six days a week, while wages ranged from forty cents to one dollar a day for men, thirty to fifty cents for women, and around thirty cents for children. Though the environment of the factory was harsh and unhealthy due to the dust particles that filled the air, it offered rural families a steady salary along with a break from the uncertainty of crop seasons, fluctuating prices, property taxes, and crop liens.¹⁶⁶

Further encouraging the establishment of mills was the passage of legislation designed to help pull the southern states out of the economic depression created by the Civil War. One law that was passed exempted mills from paying federal taxes on cotton textiles that were manufactured in the same district the cotton was grown. Soon after the law's passage, New

¹⁶⁵ Jacquelyn Dowd Hall et al., *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 4-6.

¹⁶⁶ Maury York, "Sterling Cotton Mills Had a Big Impact on Franklinton," *The Franklin Times*, July 10, 2014, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/sterling.html> (accessed January 4, 2017).

England textile manufacturers moved their mills to southern states and began capitalizing on the exemption as well as the available labor. North Carolina was chosen over more southern states due to its mild climate—a necessity for the mill’s hot, pre-airconditioned production facilities. The new factories produced cotton products ranging from fibers, yarns, and cloth to finished clothing and apparel and between 1880 and 1900 the number of textile mills in North Carolina grew from around fifty to over 220, many of which were in the Piedmont region.¹⁶⁷

Sited along rivers and streams, some of the earliest mills in the state were far removed from populous cities and the associated building stock, including housing, that mill employees needed. To solve this deficiency, mill owners constructed villages to accompany their mills. Though the earliest mill villages likely began as little more than houses close to the mill, the villages developed into small communities. Perhaps as a product of function rather than a choice of aesthetics, builders borrowed construction methods and forms from vernacular architecture instead of following defined styles developed by architects. This approach resulted in dwellings that were reminiscent of those in the rural landscapes and on the farms from which many of its residents hailed. Villages were designed to have open space and workers were known to bring along chickens and pigs preserving their agrarian lifestyle even while living the life of a mill employee. In some cases, residential streets were arranged in irregular patterns and vegetative barriers were used to screen the neighborhood from the factory.¹⁶⁸

Though Sterling Cotton Mill was developed on the outskirts of Franklinton, it still faced the same housing shortage as earlier, more rural mills. At the time, a large portion of Franklin County’s rural residents, those more likely to be attracted by the mill’s steady salary, were still indentured to the tenant and sharecropping system and did not own their own houses. To address

¹⁶⁷ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1111-1113.

¹⁶⁸ Hall, *Like a Family*, 114-116.

this need, the mill's directors purchased parcels of land adjacent to the mill and began constructing employee housing. A parcel west of the mill contained nine dwellings, a second parcel just north of the mill contained eighteen dwellings, and the largest parcel, east of the mill, contained forty dwellings (FK1138). The neighborhoods, or mill villages, were developed in three or more phases between 1895 and 1926.¹⁶⁹ In the early twentieth century, the typical rent in mill villages across North Carolina was ten cents per room and in the case of the Sterling Cotton Mill's three-bedroom dwellings would have cost mill families thirty cents per week.¹⁷⁰ This amount was just less than one day's pay for mill workers.

Constructed first, the dwellings along Sterling and Mill streets show the most variety of the three neighborhoods and include both one-story single-family and two-story two-family residences. The neighborhood displays some experimentation on the part of the mill by offering different forms likely to add variety and meet the diverse needs of its employees and their families. However, by the time Sterling Cotton Mill began constructing the large neighborhood east of the mill, it had settled on one form. The one-story, cottage-like residences follow a standard plan with a triple-A roof, full-width front porch, and a rear wing. The dwellings reflect the designs of D. A. Tompkins, who published *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features* in 1899, a guide for "textile schools and investors" that detailed everything from the cost of equipment to the organization of the company and the design of gin houses and dwellings. Sterling Cotton Mill's dwellings are most similar to the four-room gable house, though they lack a second rear wing resulting in only three rooms.¹⁷¹ Most of the dwellings have endured some alteration over the past one hundred years—a new front porch or rear deck—but the original form and scale of the dwellings have been surprisingly well-maintained.

¹⁶⁹ Franklin County Tax Office, http://maps2.roktech.net/franklin_GM4.

¹⁷⁰ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1111-1113.

¹⁷¹ D. A. Tompkins, *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features* (Charlotte: D. A. Thompkins, 1899), 120-121.

The success of Sterling Cotton Mill stimulated the economy of Franklinton and led to a high concentration of cotton gins in the town; at least five were in operation at the end of the nineteenth century.¹⁷² Though production in the town was low compared with other counties (Franklin County had less than 50,000 spindles in 1929 compared with some counties that had over 200,000), the resulting job creation at the mill and its supporting businesses drew an increasing number of people from the rural areas of Franklin County to Franklinton.¹⁷³

In 1884 Branson's North Carolina Business Directory listed ten churches in the community—one Presbyterian, one Baptist, three Christian, and five Methodist, none of which is noted as African American. In contrast, of the town's three schools—the Male and Female Academy, Normal College, and Christian College—the second two are noted as African American. Franklinton also had nineteen “manufactories” including five public gins, a tannery, a shingle factory, two millwrights, a blacksmith, a carriage factory, shoe maker, two cabinet makers, and three builders and contractors—J. Harris, Patrick Hopkins, and J. Lassiter. Thirty additional merchants and tradesmen were listed in the directory including general stores, drug stores, a liquor store, an insurance agent, a furniture store, an auctioneer, a millinery, and a nurseryman.¹⁷⁴

An interesting business at the time was a patent medicine company that sold an elixir labeled as Mrs. Joe Person's Remedy and described as “specific for all Blood Diseases; as an Alternative is unequalled; as a Purifier of the Blood, is endorsed by all who have used it. It is a Tonic and Nervine giving good, natural sleep to those who are restless. It will cure Cancer in its early stages, Erysipelas, Rheumatism, Eruptions, Eczema, and all diseases that come from

¹⁷² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 111.

¹⁷³ Hall, *Like a Family*, map 1.

¹⁷⁴ Branson, 309-315.

Impurity of the Blood.” The business used a Franklinton post office box, but the elixir’s label indicates it was made in Kittrell.¹⁷⁵

In 1886 and again in 1889, nearly all of Franklinton’s business district was destroyed by fire. The 1886 fire burned for roughly four hours and destroyed a number of businesses on the west side of the rail line near the depot including H. S. Furman, drugs and post office; R. W. Mangum, liquors; Lapiansky & Co., dry goods; S. C. Vann, dry goods; H. S. Lowry, groceries; Mrs. A. M. Wall, dry goods; T. C. Joyner, drugs; A. B. Wester & Bro., dry goods; Mrs. C. V. Massenburg, millinery; Caudall & Kelly, fancy groceries; Massenburg & Green, feed store; T. B. Pharington, liquor; B. G. Long, liquor; J. S. Joyner, farm implements; and W. R. Harris, liquor. The value of the damage to the frame buildings, many of which were uninsured, and goods lost was reported as \$50,000. The greatest losses were incurred by a warehouse that contained two hundred tons of fertilizer and by S. C. Vann, who lost two buildings valued at \$7,000. At the time, Franklinton did not have a fire department.¹⁷⁶

The second fire originated in W. Alley’s bar room and affected the same block of businesses as the 1886 fire.¹⁷⁷ Several houses across the street were damaged as well, with total damages estimated to be above \$30,000. Soon after the fire, many of the business owners, including A. B. Wester, L. G. Staunton, S. C. Vann, made plans to rebuild using brick.¹⁷⁸ Captain William Joyner was one of several people who owned brick kilns in the Franklinton area and supplied the bricks to rebuild the businesses lost in the fire. Joyner also made the bricks for

¹⁷⁵ Branson, 309-315 and “Mrs. Joe Person’s Remedy label,” East Carolina University, Digital Collections, <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/949> (accessed Nov. 6, 2017).

¹⁷⁶ “Destructive Fire,” *The Charlotte Observer*, October 31, 1886.

¹⁷⁷ “Fire at Franklinton,” *The Chatham Record*, December 26, 1889.

¹⁷⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 101.

the new Franklinton Baptist Church (FK1154), which began construction in 1893 on the corner of Mason and Hillsborough Streets.¹⁷⁹

In 1874, the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad was acquired by the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad in an effort to retain control over the growing network of railroads in the region. A year later, the Seaboard Air Line Agency was formed and continued to operate the two railroad companies, as well as to acquire additional lines.¹⁸⁰ Still operating as the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, the company replaced the original Franklinton Depot with a one-story, rectangular frame building in 1886 (FK0284). Though moved roughly two hundred feet from its original location in 1973, the building still displays Victorian era eclecticism in a variety of Italianate, Queen Anne, and Gothic Revival elements. The depot is sheltered by a steeply pitched roof with a small baggage room covered by a low-pitch hipped roof on the west gable end and a shed-roofed waiting area on its south elevation. An interesting detail is the shouldered door surrounds on the depot's doors and six-over-six sash windows. The detail first appeared in the region in the mid-nineteenth century and is exhibited on the door and window surrounds of at least two dwellings on North Main Street in Franklinton (FK1120 and FK1126). The depot is one of only a few surviving railroad structures built by the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad and is the only remaining example of its type, which was constructed at other stops in the same period. It remained in operation as a passenger depot until 1973 when it was abandoned by Seaboard Air Line.¹⁸¹

Youngsville

Located southwest of Louisburg, the local post office was originally known as Pacific. Conveniently sited on the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, the community experienced a surge of

¹⁷⁹ Ibid., 114.

¹⁸⁰ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1014-1015.

¹⁸¹ Pearce and Southern, "Franklinton Depot."

growth in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. On March 17, 1875, the town was incorporated as Youngsville in honor of John Young who conveyed a parcel of land to the railroad company for the construction of the depot. Though no mayor is mentioned at the time of incorporation, the first board of commissioners included James Sidney Timberlake, David W. Spivey, Jr., Julius A. Clifton, John Young, and A. T. Uzzle.¹⁸²

The new town grew quickly as farmers in the area raised crops of cotton and tobacco and conveniently shipped their harvests to larger markets via the depot. The depot also made it easier for general merchandise and farm implement stores to receive goods and meet the needs of the growing economy, spurring the establishment of more businesses and industries. By 1884, the town had twenty merchants and tradesmen, three steam-powered public gins, a millwright, four physicians, one lawyer, and a hotel. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory lists a Methodist church as the only congregation in town. There is just one school listed, the Mixed School, which taught white students, likely of "mixed" ages.¹⁸³

Youngsville's tobacco market was established in 1896 by a group of local leaders including B. H. Winston, J. S. Timberlake, J. B. Perry, G. C. Patterson, J. W. Woodlief, and Dr. Ivey Riddick and by 1899, it had grown to rival that of Louisburg.¹⁸⁴ A newspaper article from the *Raleigh News and Observer* conservatively estimated that the market would bring in three million pounds of tobacco in the current season. The article also boasted of Youngsville's three large warehouses—two of which were the Eagle and Cheatham's Warehouses—one stemmery, and eight buyers who represented leading tobacco firms in North Carolina and other states. The town's mercantile businesses also were growing, with twenty stores that brought in roughly \$250,000 per year. The Bank of Youngsville was organized around this time and offered \$5,000

¹⁸² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 78-79.

¹⁸³ Branson, 309-315.

¹⁸⁴ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 111.

in capital to the townspeople. Its board of directors included J. B. Perry, J. S. Timberlake, G. T. Sikes, W. S. Riddick, J. W. Halstead, C. C. Cheatham, and J. W. Duke.¹⁸⁵

The warehouses mentioned in the article are only three of five warehouses that existed in the town in the late 1890s. The first of these was built in 1896 by a stock company and operated by E. W. Harris. The second was the Eagle Warehouse, which opened the same year and was leased by the Cheatham brothers who were originally from Oxford, North Carolina.¹⁸⁶ Though no longer extant, one of the oldest tobacco warehouses in Youngsville was located on the southwest corner of Persimmon and Cross Streets (FK0541). One-story in height, the building was constructed of brick and had a stepped parapet, its date of construction is unknown.¹⁸⁷

Education

Rebounding from the lack of educational opportunities during the Civil War, many families banded together to form small schools in the county. The community of Cedar Rock was home to two private schools. The first school, the Franklin Institute, was chartered by the General Assembly in 1847 and operated into the 1850s before waning in the 1860s, likely due to the Civil War. The second school was chartered in 1895 as the Cedar Rock Academy and Business Institute. It was housed in a newly constructed two-story, six-room school and in its first year it accepted ninety-one white students—male and female—from Franklin, Chatham, Nash, Wake, and Warren counties. Academy trustees included John W. Sledge, John A. Coppedge, W. T. Dean, W. A. Parrish, J. F. Fulghum, William B. Collins, G. B. H. Stallings, R. R. Boone, W. B. Coppedge, and J. E. Poythress. Reverend W. A. Smith, a graduate of Wake Forest College, was the principal and teacher, along with his wife who taught vocal and instrumental music, and three other teachers. The curriculum offered by the school was diverse,

¹⁸⁵ “Youngsville,” *News and Observer*, August 24, 1889.

¹⁸⁶ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 111.

¹⁸⁷ *Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin*, 7-26.

aiming to prepare students for “the highest classes in college and for the practical pursuits of life, teaching &c.” This curriculum was in addition to a primary department that taught students who had not attended school before. The school remained in operation until 1925 when the county school system opened the Edward L. Best High School and the principal of Cedar Rock Academy, T. H. Sledge, was hired as the director of the new school. Located on Highway 56, Cedar Rock Academy’s “old red academy building” was still extant in the early 1980s. The building, however, was not recorded as a part of this survey or any past surveys included in the HPO database, suggesting that it is no longer extant. The school was closely associated with Cedar Rock Baptist Church (FK0675).¹⁸⁸

Private schools established prior to the Civil War revived during Reconstruction. The Franklinton Masonic Lodge continued to be an advocate for education in the community, reopening its high school in the late 1860s or 1870s. At the time, the school was located on the north side of East Mason Street just east of Chavis Street. The building was later used for the first graded school in Franklinton with Reverend George W. Neal acting as director. The Louisburg Female Academy, which had become the Louisburg Female College in 1855, continued to educate young ladies in English grammar, mythology, geography, botany, physiology, trigonometry, Latin, and French for the duration of the war and the years to follow. However, for reasons unknown today, the college closed and reopened several times during the 1870s and 1880s. In 1889, the school re-opened for the last time with S. D. Bagley as president. He was followed by Matthew S. Davis, who was previously the principal of the Franklin Male Academy. Davis served as president from 1896 until his death in 1906, at which point his daughter, Mary Davis Allen, became president.¹⁸⁹ Another change to the administration of the

¹⁸⁸ Willard, 66-67.

¹⁸⁹ Louisburg College, “Our History.”

college occurred in 1891 when the ownership of the school passed from the directors of the Louisburg Female College Company to Durham philanthropist Washington Duke. Duke died in 1905, and in 1907 his son, Benjamin Newton Duke, gave the college to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church.¹⁹⁰

Following emancipation, numerous northern missionaries provided financial aid for the establishment of African American schools. As a result, Franklinton gained three schools, Albion Academy (FK0025, no longer extant), Franklinton Christian College, and the Baptist Training School.¹⁹¹

The first of these schools, Albion Academy, was founded in 1879 by Dr. Moses A. Hopkins and was funded by the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen. Dr. Hopkins was born to enslaved parents in Virginia in 1846 and received his first education at the age of twenty. He then attended Avery College and Lincoln University, both in Pennsylvania, and Auburn Seminary in New York from which he was the first African American to graduate. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Hopkins moved to Franklinton to be a minister and educator. Albion Academy was originally located at the corner of South Main and College streets but was eventually moved to the east side of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad to a property purchased by Dr. Hopkins. By 1885, it was a state Normal School, educating future teachers in the norms and methods of teaching.¹⁹²

In 1885, Dr. Hopkins was appointed as the U.S. Minister and Consul General to Liberia and Dr. J. A. Savage took over the leadership of the school. Born to missionaries, Dr. Savage spent much of his childhood in Africa before returning to the U.S. and attending Lincoln

¹⁹⁰ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 139.

¹⁹¹ Willard, 64.

¹⁹² Maury York, "Albion Academy Served African Americans for Decades," *The Franklin Times*, March 20, 2014, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/albion.html> (accessed January 8, 2018).

University. As the principal of the academy for forty years, he expanded the school's campus from two to sixty acres with multiple buildings including dormitories for male and female students. At its height, the school's attendance was over five hundred students. After Dr. Savage's death in 1933, the private school closed and the campus became a part of the Franklinton public school system; none of the buildings are known to remain.¹⁹³

Built in 1881, the school's classroom building, Albion Hall, is depicted in an early postcard as a two-story, square, side-gabled building. Seven bays in width and five bays in depth, it featured a projecting center bay of the front elevation that rose as a tower above the gabled roof. The tower was lit by pointed-arch windows while the main body of the building was lit with rectangular six-over-six sash windows. Fire destroyed the hall in 1925.¹⁹⁴

In 1880, Franklinton's second school for African Americans was founded, the Franklinton Christian College. Like Albion Academy, the college was supported by a religious organization, in this case, the American Christian Convention, which offered free tuition to all African American youth in North Carolina and Virginia. H. E. Long, a resident of Franklinton and graduate of Harvard, founded the school, which included three buildings—a main building, president's residence, and a boarding hall—on the west side of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad roughly one mile north of Franklinton; none of the buildings remain.¹⁹⁵

An additional school for African American students was the Baptist Training School, or Girl's Training School. Similar to the other African American schools in the county, it was funded by a religious group, in this case Baptist missionaries from northern states as well as the

¹⁹³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 82 and Willard, 64.

¹⁹⁴ Willard, "Albion Hall," 65.

¹⁹⁵ Willard, 64 and Pearce, *Franklin County*, 83.

Wake Association.¹⁹⁶ The school was formed in 1892 by Reverend Thomas Oscar Fuller, an African American and graduate of Shaw University. Fuller served two years as the school's first principal before becoming the principal of the Shiloh Institute in Warrenton and later serving as a North Carolina Senator.¹⁹⁷ Initially, the training school focused on the education of female students and maintained a dormitory for their housing. It later accepted male student and coordinated with local property owners, including Mr. Ulysses Allen, to provide separate housing. Early teachers at the school, all of whom were white women and many of whom moved from the North, included a Miss Hawkins, who also served as the school's second principal.¹⁹⁸ Over time, the school's leaders made a point to hire African American teachers as well. Teachers and principals recalled by students of the school include Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Southern, Mrs. Hockaday, Mrs. Cooke, Dr. A. W. Pegues, Reverend Tucker, and Reverend Shepard Person. The school had a significant impact on the education of African American students in the latter part of the nineteenth century before being dissolved around the turn of the century.¹⁹⁹

Concurrent with the emergence of new private schools, the county's public school system developed. In 1868, the state legislature passed a new school law that included a general school tax, laid out the school term, and provided for the education of African Americans. It also stipulated that all children between ages six and thirteen were required to attend school for a total of sixteen months or be otherwise educated. Lastly, the law assigned the administration of the county school system to the county commissioners and called for a county examiner to certify

¹⁹⁶ The Wake Association is likely the Wake Baptist Association, an organization of African Americans formed in 1866. (https://archive.org/stream/historyofwakebap00trot/historyofwakebap00trot_djvu.txt)

¹⁹⁷ Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. "Thomas Oscar Fuller."

¹⁹⁸ "Church History," First Baptist Church of Franklinton, <http://firstbaptistfranklinton.org> (accessed January 9, 2018).

¹⁹⁹ "History of the Wake Baptist Association, its auxiliaries and churches, 1866-1966," Archive.org, https://archive.org/stream/historyofwakebap00trot/historyofwakebap00trot_djvu.txt (accessed April 2, 2018).

teachers. Charles M. Cooke, who studied at Wake Forest College, was appointed as Franklin County's first examiner in 1869. Cooke was followed by A. Thomas and then Matthew S. Davis before the position's title was changed to Superintendent of Education in 1881 and filled by Arthur Arrington.²⁰⁰ By 1885 there were eighty-four public schools with 3,646 students.²⁰¹ Most of these schools were small, one-room structures, like the circa 1880 school (FK0818) on Hillsboro Street in Youngsville, which is clad in weatherboard and has a front-gabled roof.²⁰² In the mid-1880s E. G. Conyers was the Superintendent of Public Instruction and teachers were paid an average of \$28.00 per month.²⁰³

N. Y. Gulley, a teacher and lawyer from Johnston County, acted as principal of the public school in Franklinton in the 1880s and is given credit for leading the first graded school in the community. Prior to the graded concept, students advanced at their own pace. The graded system, however, added structure by setting standards for the various grade levels and providing a method for advancing students from year to year.²⁰⁴ Gulley's involvement in academics was very influential in Franklinton, and by 1887 the community decided it needed a better school. In 1888, the board of trustees acquired five acres just north of Franklinton and soon built a frame structure large enough to accommodate all the white children in Franklinton and the neighboring sections of the county. They also furnished the school with new desks and other equipment. Named the Franklinton Male Academy, it was first directed by Major C. H. Scott. Many female students and young children still attended private schools, particularly Miss Mary Perry's Female Academy and a children's school ran by Mrs. Bettie Moss out of her home.²⁰⁵

²⁰⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 76-77, 81, 83.

²⁰¹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 93.

²⁰² History provided by committee member.

²⁰³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 93.

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 85.

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 98-99.

In 1892, George H. Crowell took over the academy, completely overhauling Franklinton's educational system. Crowell hired both Miss Perry and Mrs. Moss, as well as Miss Lula Purnell and Miss Sallie Wingate as art and music teachers, respectively. With the addition of the new teachers and expansion of topics, the school became the Franklinton Classical and Military Institute. Older male students began wearing uniforms and military training was integrated into their studies.²⁰⁶ According to the school's charter, it was formed to educate "white males" leaving some uncertainty as to the education of female students and young children now that Miss Perry and Mrs. Moss were employed by the institute.²⁰⁷ Mr. Crowell stayed for two years before taking a position in another state, at which point R. B. White, a Wake Forest graduate, became director and did away with military training.²⁰⁸

The number of public schools in Franklin County reached a peak in the 1902-1903 school year with one hundred schools, fifty-eight of which taught white students and forty-two taught African American students. The subjects taught included elementary level arithmetic, geography, English grammar, North Carolina history, and civic government, and several private institutions taught classes in advanced studies. By 1905, the number of students in the public school system was 8,385 and the school year was sixteen weeks long.²⁰⁹

A year earlier, the General Assembly voted to allow towns to hold elections for the levying of taxes to fund high schools, and in 1905, Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville each held elections. The municipalities all voted in favor of bond programs to fund the new public schools.²¹⁰ The same year, the General Assembly passed an act to create the Louisburg Graded

²⁰⁶ Ibid., 101-102.

²⁰⁷ "An Act to Incorporate the Franklinton Military and Classical Institute, 1889," carolana.com, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Education/1889_03_11_Act_to_Incorporate_the_Franklinton_Military_and_Classical_Institute.html (accessed April 11, 2018).

²⁰⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 101-102.

²⁰⁹ Ibid., 121.

²¹⁰ Ibid., 123.

School District. The act defined the school district, a board of trustees, and stipulated that the system provide for students between ages six and twenty-one years living in the district. In 1906, the Louisburg Grade School (FK0268, no longer extant), the first public school in Louisburg, opened with William R. Mills as principal. It was an impressive two-story, three-bay brick building with one-story side wings and a slightly projecting entry bay. The board of trustees—T. W Bickett, William Bailey, J.R. Collie, William Ruffin, F N. Egerton, J.M. Allen and S.S. Meadows—had chosen to place the school on the east side of the town commons on the original site of the Male Academy building (FK0264), which was moved to the east of the new school. In 1925, the building was remodeled with Gothic Revival details and renamed Mills High School in honor of the first principal, William R. Mills.²¹¹ In 1961, after the completion of a new Louisburg High School, Mills High School was sold to Louisburg College. The building continued to serve academic purposes before being demolished to make way for the Seby B. Jones Performing Arts Center.

One year after the Louisburg Graded School opened, Franklinton opened its own graded school with Emmett E. Sams as the first superintendent. For its first year, the school operated from an 1899 frame structure until the Franklinton Township School (FK0850) was completed on North Main Street in 1908.²¹² The brick school building rests on a raised foundation and has a two-story, hip-roofed central section flanked by one-story hip-roofed wings. The central section has two entry doors with sidelights and transoms that flank a projecting four-bay section defined by blocked pilasters and a pediment. Built as the first consolidated school in Franklin County, it operated in the North Main Street building for less than twenty years as it is shown as abandoned on the 1926 Sanborn map.

²¹¹ Willard, 70.

²¹² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 133.

Franklin County's third public high school was in Youngsville. Little is known about the school today except that J. R. Conley served as the first superintendent. In 1907, Bunn Academy requested to join the Franklin County school system and became the county's fourth public high school. The frame building with three large classrooms was located on Cheves Road and was constructed during R. B. White's tenure as County Superintendent; it is no longer extant.²¹³

As more county high schools were chartered, White found it difficult to cover the costs of operating the school system and in 1907 convinced the county commissioners to raise the school tax above the limit allowed by the state constitution. The act resulted in a law suit which soon reached the North Carolina Supreme Court. White, an attorney, and Charles B. Aycock, another attorney who also served as governor of North Carolina from 1901 to 1905, defended the decision on the basis that the public welfare was at stake. The court soon ruled in favor of the commissioners, setting a precedent for other school districts across the state.²¹⁴

Though over 75 years had passed since Franklin County native Charles Applewhite Hill first proposed the creation of a public school system to the North Carolina Senate, the system was finally gaining ground. Private schools, for both white and African American students, as well as males and females, were also making strides in the education of North Carolina's youth with an increasing number of students enrolling in the county's academies.

Architecture: Greek Revival to Queen Anne

In the years before and after the Civil War, building activity slowed nationwide. The decades to follow, however, were described by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Howard Mumford Jones as "The Age of Energy."²¹⁵ Advancements in industrialization led to changes in building traditions and a departure from handcrafted materials and architectural components. The

²¹³ Ibid., 133.

²¹⁴ Ibid., 133-134.

²¹⁵ Leland M. Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1980), 126.

growing availability of commercially sawn lumber and machine-made nails in the nineteenth century attributed to faster construction as well as the execution of more complex plans and forms. Together, these advancements contributed to the creation of a variety of new architectural styles that borrowed from the past while creating wholly new idioms. These included the Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne styles among others, and the successive emergence of nationally popular styles is visible in Franklin County, just as in other locations across the country.

With the end of the Civil War, people began to rebuild their lives, and for those with resources, that often meant building a new home or remodeling and enlarging an existing one. Many Franklin County residents held onto the styles that were most familiar to them. One- to two-story, side-gabled houses such as the house (FK1152) on South Hillsborough Street in Franklinton continued to dot the landscape while the Italianate and Greek Revival styles honed by Jacob Holt and Albert G. Jones continued to influence new construction and renovations as displayed by the Dr. J.B. Clifton House (FK0141), built just after the Civil War. As the agricultural and textile industries grew and residents regained financial stability, however, new style began to appear in Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville, as well as the rural parts of the county. The most popular style by far was Queen Anne, followed by Italianate, Neoclassical-Revival, Colonial Revival, and a smattering of less popular styles such as the Second Empire and Gothic Revival. These motifs were disseminated by an abundance of architectural handbooks and builder's manuals that made new designs and trends accessible to everyone.

The earliest of the styles, the Italianate, began appearing in Franklin County's countryside as early as the 1840s. Perpetuated in the region by the designs of Jacob Holt, the style originated in England as part of the Picturesque movement and is often characterized by a

low-pitched roof; a decorative, bracketed cornice below a wide overhanging eave; ornate, molded window surrounds; and a square tower or cupola. The style was applied to a variety of forms, mostly two or three stories, with symmetrical and asymmetrical plans. Similarly decorative, the Queen Anne style was popularized by a group of English architects and makes use of contrasting forms, materials, and textures.²¹⁶ The style is characterized by a variety of decorative elements from patterned shingles to elaborate spindlework and exterior, as well as interior, elevations that were rarely left unadorned. The Queen Anne style is also characterized by its reliance on irregular floor plans with complex rooflines, projecting bays, and the occasional tower.

In contrast, the Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles utilized more regular forms with symmetrical facades and drew from past classical motifs. Inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the grandiose Neoclassical Revival style draws from Roman architecture, and is the more ornate of the two, often featuring full-height porches with pediments supported by Ionic or Corinthian columns and gabled or hipped roofs. Following the centennial of the United States, an interest in earlier, colonial period styles arose first in the country's major cities and gradually spreading throughout the country. These dwellings displayed more variety with porch forms ranging from one-story, pedimented entry porches to full-width porches or no porch at all. The porches that do exist are often simpler than those found on Neoclassical Revival-style dwellings and usually feature slender, occasionally fluted, columns. Colonial Revival-style dwellings also display a variety of roof types including side-gabled, hipped, or gambrel. Features exhibited by both styles include dentilled cornices, fanlights

²¹⁶ Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1997), 159-162.

and sidelights, broken pediments, and tripartite windows, though elements found on Neoclassical Revival-style dwellings are often more pronounced.

The success of the county's agriculture-based economy brought a wave of building activity to the now-one-hundred-year-old county. Most of the early houses in the town limits of Louisburg were constructed between 1895 and 1910 and include examples of the Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Franklinton and Youngsville also experienced a surge in construction around and following the turn of the century.

Louisburg

Louisburg is characterized by numerous large dwellings like the Queen Anne-style Barrow-Wilson House (FK0174) and Bailey-Yarborough House (FK0204), both of which were built in the 1890s and are situated on North Main Street. The houses display the breadth of the style with one-story full-width and wrap-around porches, respectively, projecting bays, and double-leaf entry doors below transoms. The Barrow-Wilson House also shows the influence of the Italianate style with molded brackets at the eave of the roof and on the porch's slender, chamfered posts, as well as a sawnwork balustrade. In contrast, the Bailey-Yarborough House is an example of a fully articulated Queen Anne-style dwelling with an asymmetrical plan and irregular rooflines, a three-story circular tower, and patterned shingles that adorn the gables as well as the belt course between the first and second story.

Less popular than the Queen Anne style, yet still prominent in Louisburg's oldest neighborhoods, is the Neoclassical Revival style as displayed by the Egerton-Pruitt House (FK0247). Located at the juncture of Elm Street and the western terminus of Nash Street, the impressive two-story, frame dwelling was built in 1905 and overlooks Louisburg's commercial core. The house's most outstanding feature is its full-height portico with a pediment, dentilled

frieze, and Ionic columns. Other architectural details include chamfered corner posts and a second-story balcony with double-leaf doors and sidelights above the first-story entrance which also features double-leaf doors, sidelights, and a transom.

The Colonial Revival style emerged in Franklin County at the turn of the twentieth century. More restrained than the Neoclassical Revival style, it is exemplified by the Furgurson-Hicks House (FK0246). A defining feature of the house is its one-story, full-width porch with a centered and gabled entrance bay that projects slightly and is supported by paired Tuscan columns on wooden paneled piers. Turned balusters span the space between the piers while a wide, unadorned frieze exists below the eave of the porch's roof. Evidence of advancements in the glass-making process, the dwelling's windows and doors display large, single panes. These apertures include the single-leaf entry door with a large pane over a panel, single-pane sidelights, and one-over-one sash windows. Two gabled dormer windows with multi-pane-over-pane sashes, also characteristic of the style, rest on the front slope of the roof.

New and revival architectural styles were not only applied to new construction, but also to existing dwellings as exemplified by the 1907 remodel of the 1838 Williams-Timberlake-Allen House (FK0217) on North Main Street. Originally built in the Greek Revival style for Louisburg's wealthiest planter, William Williams, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling was remodeled with elaborate Neoclassical details.

Similar to the influence of Jacob Holt and Albert G. Jones in the mid-nineteenth century, a handful of builder-contractors left their mark on Louisburg during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Perhaps the most prolific was Frank Houck, who was responsible for many of the commercial and residential buildings in the Louisburg area, particularly the Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival-style houses in the vicinity of North Main Street and Kenmore Avenue.

Houck's own dwelling, a two-story frame house with a pyramidal roof and projecting, gabled bays known as the Houck-Leonard House (FK0119, no longer extant) was located at the corner of Nash Street and Bickett Boulevard. Other houses attributed to Houck display the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical Revival styles and include the Captain R. F. Yarborough House (FK0176), the only dwelling in Louisburg that features half-timbering; the Hughes-Watson-Wheless House (FK0205), Reavis-Allen House (FK0190), Egerton-Pruitt House (FK0247), Hill-Allen-Stovall House (FK0179), and Collie-Best-Taylor House (FK0192), as well as two dwellings that were built in 1900 for brothers W.T. Hughes, a tobacconists and merchant, and A. Clark Hughes, a hardware merchant: the Hughes-Watson-Wheless House (FK0205) and Hughes-Tucker House (FK0211), respectively.²¹⁷

In addition to being a builder, Houck was a partner in a brick manufacturing plant along with G.W. Ford. The plant was located near Fox Swamp Bridge, west of Louisburg.²¹⁸ Ford, who was originally from Pennsylvania, moved to Louisburg in 1871 and is credited with building many of the commercial buildings in the downtown area. Ford was also influential as a businessman with interests in a hotel, tobacco warehouses, and other real estate including the brick factory.²¹⁹

Newspaper advertisements and census data suggest that a handful of architects, builders, and carpenters worked in and around Louisburg in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Thomas Raney and George Williamson, general carpenters, placed advertisements in the *American Eagle* in 1860, and architect J.R. Brummitt placed an advertisement in the *Franklin Courier* in 1872.²²⁰ After Brummitt's death in 1873, Samuel Green placed an advertisement in

²¹⁷ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

²¹⁸ "A New Brick Plant," *The Franklin Times*, 11 May 1906.

²¹⁹ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

²²⁰ "Local Advertisements," *American Eagle*, September 15, 1860, and *Franklin Courier*, November 15, 1872.

1887 announcing that he had taken over the "old Brummitt Shop."²²¹ Another firm, Conway and Beacham, operated a "Coach Factory and carpenter shop" in the 1880s.²²² By 1900, the census listed Houck as the only contractor in Louisburg, along with nine carpenters (three white and six African American) who likely worked under builders such as Houck.²²³ Builders based in nearby counties also worked in Franklin County. For example, Samuel Harris of Warren County is credited with constructing the Allen-Bruton House (FK0169) on North Main Street around 1908 for Felix Hill Allen.²²⁴ The two-and-a-half story, three-bay-by-three-bay, frame dwelling combines elements of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles with a pyramidal roof broken by lower pedimented gables and a wrap-around porch with grouped Tuscan columns and a circular portico below an iron railing balcony.

As Louisburg's residential building stock grew, so did its commercial core. New stores and warehouses were built in brick, as was the national trend at the time, and no doubt encouraged by the presence of Houck and Ford's brick factory. Late nineteenth-century buildings include three stores, a livery, and a cotton gin built by Allen Bros. and Hill, L.P. Hicks's two-story brick store; and several tobacco prize houses and warehouses built by R. G. Harts, C.T. Stokes, Colonel W.T. Hughes, Peter Reavis, and C.B. Cheatham.²²⁵

A series of devastating fires in 1903, 1904, 1905 ravaged downtown areas including the commercial core and the complex of warehouses near the depot station.²²⁶ The 1908 Sanborn map shows that the damaged buildings along the south side of Court Street had been rebuilt in brick. The block on the east side of Church Street between River and Nash Streets that once

²²¹ *The Franklin Times*, February 4, 1887.

²²² *The Franklin Times*, November 29, 1880.

²²³ US Census, 1900.

²²⁴ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

²²⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 114-115.

²²⁶ *Ibid.*, 124.

contained tobacco prizes and warehouses, however, was still empty. Despite this, other buildings had been constructed including, a brick building near the northwest corner of River and Church Streets that replaced the frame-Hart's Prize House and a large frame building that replaced a much smaller frame structure on the northeast corner of Church and Nash. Additional brick buildings also filled gaps on the north side of Nash Street, and by this time, all the buildings that faced the courthouse were constructed of brick.

Along with dwellings and commercial buildings, a number of religious buildings were constructed in Louisburg during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth. These include Saint Matthias Episcopal Church (FK0027), the Louisburg United Methodist Church (FK0157) and the Louisburg Baptist Church (FK0165).

Possibly one of the first African American churches in Louisburg, the Saint Matthias Episcopal Church was constructed on South Main Street near the Tar River in 1894. An article in the *Franklin Times* describes the small, front-gabled frame building as "strong and beautiful" and credits J. H. Williamson with its construction. The article also states the cost of the building as \$2,500.²²⁷ Simple in design, the church has two sets of paired two-over-two, wooden sash windows and a pointed arch vent on its front elevation with a gabled entrance on the south side. Henry Beard Delany of Raleigh, a member of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina's Commission for Work Among Colored People, was involved in making the church a reality. In addition to the church, the Saint Matthias congregation sponsored the Good Shepherd School for African American children, which by 1919 was considered the largest parish school in the Diocese of North Carolina.²²⁸

²²⁷ "Saint Matthias Episcopal Church," *The Franklin Times*, May 25, 1894.

²²⁸ "Tour Historic Louisburg, North Carolina." Tar River Center for History and Culture Foundation, Inc., (Louisburg, 2015).

At the end of the nineteenth century, Louisburg's Methodists replaced their frame building. By 1900, the new sanctuary was complete, the previous building having been demolished and the old parsonage and pastor's study moved to Spring Street in 1896 (FK0154). The new brick church was designed by Benjamin D. Price, an architect from New Jersey, and is cruciform in plan with side towers placed in the L's created by the nave and transept wings. The primary entrance is located at the base of the south tower, which is taller than the north tower and is capped by a lancet-arch panel. Triple stained-glass lancet windows light the primary (west) elevation of the church and the towers are finished with six-sided, slate roofs, and spherical finials.²²⁹

Following the Civil War, Louisburg's Baptists split into white and black congregations, and in 1879, the white Baptists replaced their 1836 church at the corner of College and Cedar streets with a new building on Sunset Avenue. In 1901, the Baptist congregation exchanged properties with the Presbyterian congregation and had their third church, designed by Raleigh architects Barrett & Thompson, erected on the corner of North Main and Middle Streets. The brick building's most impressive feature is the bell tower that rises from the southwest corner of the building and contains the main entrance, a slightly recessed double-leaf door capped with a round arched transom. The main structure of the church is covered by a pyramidal hipped roof with parapeted gables on the west and south (primary) elevations. Both gables are lit by three tall rounded arch windows.

Franklinton

As in Louisburg, construction picked up in Franklinton during the last decade of the nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth century as the county's agricultural markets

²²⁹ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

grew and the Sterling Cotton Mill brought new jobs and opportunities to the community. While early post-Civil War architecture held on to traditional forms, popular turn-of-the-century architectural styles appeared, though with fewer high-style examples and more reliance on traditional/vernacular forms than in Louisburg. High-style examples include the stately Neoclassical Revival-style dwelling (FK0364) at 312 East Green Street and the Queen Anne-style Dr. J. H. Harris House (FK0008).

The Sterling Cotton Mills Superintendent's House (FK0364), a Neoclassical Revival-style dwelling on East Green Street, is said to have been built by a local pharmacist whose insistence on the finest materials for the dwelling led to his bankruptcy. The two-story, double-pile dwelling is nearly square and features a hipped roof with hipped dormer windows on the east and west (side) slopes of the roof. A full-height porch supported by columns with Ionic capitals dominates the front façade and shelters an entry with sidelights and a divided-light transom below a balcony. The porch is capped with a heavy entablature including a deep frieze and dentilled cornice. Sam C. Vann, owner of Sterling Cotton Mills, purchased the house as a home for the superintendent of the mill through the 1950s.²³⁰

Two additional Neoclassical Revival-style dwellings in Franklinton are the Whitaker-Hines House (FK1128) and Wheeler-McGhee House (FK1157). Like other houses in Franklinton and the surrounding area, the Neoclassical Revival details of the Whitaker-Hines House were added as part of a remodel in the early twentieth century. A parged stone chimney on the west elevation is one of the few indications of the dwelling's original construction. Like the Neoclassical Revival-style dwelling discussed above, the Whitaker-Hines House is also a two-story, double-pile dwelling with a hipped roof and dormer windows, though its dormers are gabled. Differentiating the dwelling is the configuration of the front porch, which is full-height

²³⁰ Pearce, *Early Architecture*, 186.

and gabled at the entrance, and intersected by a one-story, full-width porch that may relate to the original design of the dwelling. The third Neo-Classical dwelling, the Wheeler-McGhee House, has a full-width, full-height porch sheltered under the main roof of the dwelling, which is hipped. The roof is supported by heavy square columns with little detail, but fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals on the façade suggest they are replacements. Like the Sterling Cotton Mills Superintendent's House, the porch shelters an entry bay with a second-story balcony. Both dwellings also feature a gabled dormer with a Palladian window on the front slope of the roof.

Queen Anne was by far the most popular style of the period in Franklinton, chosen for houses on North Main, North Hillsborough, East Green, East Mason, Cheatham, Winston, Joyner, and College Streets. Possibly the best representation of the style in the county was constructed between 1902 and 1904 by J. H. Whitfield for Dr. J. H. Harris (FK0008). The dwelling is said to have been designed by Dr. Harris' wife in partnership with an architect from Raleigh and is likely one of the county's few dwellings built during this period designed by a professional architect. Mrs. Harris, however, died before the fanciful two-story dwelling with a three-story engaged round tower, an ornate wrap-around porch, projecting bays, and cross-gables was constructed.²³¹

Other examples of the Queen Anne style filled Franklinton with a variety of forms and articulation ranging from complex cross-gabled and finely detailed dwellings to simple gable-and-wing and one-roof-deep forms, usually with a triple-A. Popular nationwide, the form of a hip-roofed center block with lower cross-gables wings is displayed by the dwelling at 211 North Main Street (FK1123) and the Winston-Rose House (FK1106) on Winston Street. The two-story dwellings have both been renovated, but retain their form and character-defining details,

²³¹ Catherine W. Cockshutt, "Dr. J. H. Harris House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

particularly the shaped shingles in the gables and the turned porch supports with sawn brackets on the North Main Street dwelling. Similar one-and-one-half-story forms include dwellings on Cheatham, Joyner, and East Mason Streets (FK1100, FK1111, FK1113, respectively), all of which were built circa 1910. The dwelling on East Mason Street stands out for its finely crafted porch with a spindlework frieze, turned porch supports with brackets, and a cut-away-bay window below the front gable.

Gable-and-wing and triple-A dwellings embellished with the decorative millwork characteristic of the Queen Anne style exist throughout Franklinton and Franklin County. Early examples date to the 1880s, but the forms can be found well into the twentieth century. Most gable-and-wing dwellings in Franklinton follow traditional/vernacular trends with limited details like the dwellings at 318 South Hillsborough Street (FK1166, circa 1890) and 15 West College Street (FK1168, circa 1900). Triple-A-roofed dwellings range from the small, well-preserved house at 202 North Main Street (FK1118, circa 1890) to modest two-story dwellings like the one at 11 West College Street (FK1169, circa 1900), and more-detailed, two-story dwellings such as the M. W. Hardy House (FK1127, circa 1910) on East Mason Street, which has a full-width porch with a balustraded roof and classical details. Strikingly similar to 202 North Main Street is a triple-A-roofed house at 619 East Mason Street (FK1129). This late example of the type, estimated to have been constructed in 1925, is slightly wider, but exhibits a similarly scaled (pitch and size) center gable. Both houses have eave returns at the gables, a generous frieze, and a wide hip-roofed porch. Similar triple-A-roofed houses fill Sterling Cotton Mill's mill village (FK1138) in southeast Franklinton.

The Italianate is another common style in Franklinton, where an assortment of Italianate details are repeated on a variety of buildings, but most commonly to triple-A and gable-and-wing

dwelling. In some cases, the same element is reused on multiple buildings. Exemplary of this trend is the two-story triple-A Miss Dollie Best House (FK1120) on North Main Street which shares elements with at least four other properties in Franklinton. The front façade of the dwelling is defined by a one story, full-width porch supported by simple, chamfered posts and decorative brackets with pendant finials painted in contrasting colors. On the dwelling's north and south (side) elevations, are small, flat-roofed awnings supported by decorative gallow brackets that shelter a side-door and tall window. Though entirely different in form, the small one-story, gable-and-wing Britt-Collins House (FK1117), also located on North Main Street, shares the same square posts and decorative brackets on its front porch which is nestled in the L created by the gable and wing, as well as a flat-roofed awning with identical brackets above a side entrance.

A third common feature, in addition to brackets and chamfered posts, exhibited by the Miss Dollie Best House is shouldered door and window surrounds—wider at the top and bottom, and stepped-in for the center one-third—which are found on the Franklinton Depot (FK0284) and another North Main Street dwelling, the Ballard-Joyner House (FK1126). The Dollie Best House also shares two features with the house at 202 North Main Street (FK1118). The first feature is the dwellings' trefoil shaped vents in the front and side gables, and the second is a set of additional entrances that flank a central entry door. The entrances differ in that the Miss Dollie Best House has tall two-over-four wooden sash windows that raise to create additional passages, while the other dwelling has narrow double-leaf doors with two panes over ornate carved details and a panel as well as a two-pane transom above.

The similarity of details as well as the location of the dwellings on North Main Street suggests some commonality between the structures. This could be in the form of a common

builder or craftsmen, or the result of mass-production, which allowed decorative elements to be ordered and applied on an abundance of building types. If nothing else, it represents a connection between the owners of the homes and a desire for or admiration of the elements one chose to use on his own dwelling. The similarity with the Franklinton Depot, which was constructed in 1886, also helps to date the dwellings and place them in the same 1880s or 1890s time frame.

Worth discussing in a little more depth is the eclectic Ballard-Joyner House, which was built in stages. The oldest section of the dwelling, which today reads as an enlarged gable-and-wing, is thought to pre-date 1860. Eventually the dwelling was renovated in the Queen Anne style, at which point the porch was finished with turned posts, a spindlework frieze, and a geometric balustrade with vertical and horizontal elements. The dwelling, however, still retains elements of its earlier construction including a massive door surround reminiscent of the Greek Revival style that is unusual for a dwelling this size. The impressive surround encompasses a double-leaf entry door with sidelights, a transom, and has heavy molding that recalls the door surround crafted by Jacob Holt for the Edwin Wiley Fuller House (FK0006). Other notable features are the corbelled brick chimneys with recessed pointed arches, which give the dwelling a Gothic Revival touch, and the shaped, Italianate window surrounds.

Other houses that exhibit less common styles or features include the McGee House at 204 Dayton Street (FK0483) and a dwelling at 111 North Hillsborough Street (FK1156). The two-story, side-gabled McGee House is likely one of the oldest dwellings in Franklinton, with a traditional single-pile, central hall plan. Its centered entry door is surrounded by multi-light sidelights and a transom set in a heavy molding with a deep frieze below the cornice and corner posts which suggest the dwelling was originally representative of the Greek Revival style. The dwelling, however, was remodeled with Gothic Revival and Italianate details in the late-

nineteenth century. The most pronounced alterations include the addition of a steep center gable that projects above the hip-roofed porch and shelters a small second-story porch, hood molds above the windows, and a roughly L-shaped rear addition that is clad in board-and-batten siding and has multiple gables. The addition's gables and eaves are finished with decorative vergeboard and each gable, including the gable on the front elevation, has a finial. Two chimneys with Gothic inspired corbelling rise from the addition.

Built in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the dwelling on North Hillsborough Street is one of few Second Empire-style buildings in the county. The style's identifying feature is the mansard roof at the second story, pierced by gabled wall dormers. On the east (front) elevation, a centered gable with paired two-over-two windows echoes the shape and pitch of the mansard roof. Both the McGee House and the North Hillsborough Street dwelling display more playful applications of the period's eclectic architectural styles while also representing the unique compositions that were popular at the time.

After fires in 1886 and 1889, Franklinton's commercial core was rebuilt with brick buildings. The type of buildings constructed are exemplified by the commercial building at the southeast corner of East Mason and South Front Streets (FK0481) which is two stories tall with a corbelled cornice, segmental-arched windows, a parapet, and two street-level storefront facades with wooden divides and mid-level cornices (FK0481). Other early commercial buildings include identical two-story buildings at 2 and 4 North Main Street (FK1163 and FK1164), a one-story building with a parapeted façade on South Main Street (FK1143), and the classically-styled Citizens Bank Building on North Main Street (FK1147). Most of the buildings on the east side of South Main Street between Water and Mason Streets are attributed to 1910, while only one

building on the west side of South Main Street and one on the south side of West Mason Street date before 1910.²³²

At least two religious buildings were constructed in Franklinton in the late nineteenth century, the First United Church of Christ (FK1151) and the Franklinton Baptist Church (FK1154). The First United Church of Christ was constructed in 1888 on the corner of Hillsborough and West Green Streets. The structure is front-gabled and consists of a raised sanctuary above a fellowship hall. Remodeled in 1955 with the application of brick veneer and stone applied at the front entrance, the building retains its original pointed-arched windows. The frame belfry also appears to be early, if not original.

In contrast, the imposing brick Franklinton Baptist Church, erected in 1893 on West Mason Street and finished in stucco, features two decorative towers, one four stories and the other two, each containing an entrance and topped by a pyramidal steeple. The towers flank a large, front-facing gable with two lancet-arch, stained glass windows. Both round- and lancet-arch, stained glass windows light the sanctuary and a polygonal bay projects on the south (side) elevation.

Youngsville

Established in 1875, Youngsville followed the same trends as those seen in Louisburg and Franklinton, though with more dependence on the traditional one-room-deep and gable-and-wing forms with triple-A roofs and with less variety in style. Few, if any, buildings in the town limits appear to date to or before the 1870s, though Pearce noted in his 1988 survey update that “there are a number of earlier structures, but many of these have been much altered.”²³³ One possibly early structure is a side-gabled dwelling at 101 East Persimmon Street (FK1258) with

²³² Franklin County Tax Office, http://maps2.roktech.net/franklin_GM4. Note: The tax assessment office uses the year 1901 for almost all properties built before 1900.

²³³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 198.

asymmetrical fenestration. The off-center placement of the front door as well as a slightly off-center parged chimney suggest the dwelling was built in multiple stages, while turned posts and spindles on the front porch hint that the expansion occurred in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The earliest post-Civil War buildings that have been recorded in Youngsville include the circa 1878 Church of the Living God (FK1234); the no longer extant William T. Young's Hotel (FK0543), which was built around 1882 near the northwest corner of Franklin and West Railroad Streets; a building that according to local resident Jim Moss was a school house (FK0818); and a handful of dwellings that are attributed to the 1880s and 1890s.²³⁴ The latter group includes the one-and-one-half-story J. Wayne Back Place (FK1231), which has a triple-A roof and minimal applied ornament; a one-story, side-gabled dwelling at 123 West Main Street (FK1249); and three Queen Anne-style dwellings (FK1232, FK1252, and FK1262), that range from one-and-one-half stories to two stories with a triple-A or hipped roof with cross gables and full-width or wrap-around porches.

In 1896, Youngsville's tobacco market was established. The town was already profiting from the proximity of the railroad and the advent of the market brought even more prosperity and growth in the form of dwellings. Among the most outstanding houses of the early twentieth century are three properties attributed to architect-turned-doctor, Dr. Epp Timberlake; the Claude Cheatham House (FK1218); the James Timberlake House (FK1220); and the Hatch-Pearce- Holden House (FK1225). Each of these two-story Queen Anne-style dwellings exhibits complex cross-gabled roofs and wrap-around porches. Of particular note is the James Timberlake House, which has a large cut-away-bay sheltered by a wrap-around porch with Ionic columns. A large,

²³⁴ A two-story, triple-A dwelling with a double height front porch that fits the description of William T. Young's Hotel is visible in a photo in the Youngsville Depot (FK0544) survey file.

round balcony rests on the porch roof above the entrance and stained-glass oculus windows pierce one of the side elevations. Along with Timberlake, it is possible that a local builder named Sanderford may have been involved in the construction of the dwellings.²³⁵

Another stately Queen Anne-style dwelling is that of J. B. Perry (FK0559) a prominent businessman in Youngsville. Situated on a slight rise and overlooking the rail line, the dwelling has an irregular plan with a cross-gabled roof defined by projecting gables, many with cut-away-bay windows, and a one-story wrap-around porch that boasts its own projecting gables at its entrances and corner. The porch features slender Tuscan columns and a turned balustrade, while one-over-one sash windows light each elevation, and a door on the second story permits access to a balcony above the main entrance.

One of the most impressive and well-preserved dwellings is at 115 North Cross Street (FK1236). The two-story dwelling has a hipped slate roof with cross gables and a wrap-around porch supported by Ionic columns and retains its weatherboard siding. Breaking from the complex hip and cross-gabled form is a two-story dwelling at 119 North College Street (FK1215) with a gable-and-wing form. Larger than most of this type, the dwelling has cut-away-bay windows below the front-gable and a hip-roofed porch.

Smaller dwellings are scattered throughout Youngsville, many of which are south of Main Street along Southwest and Southeast Railroad, Persimmon, and Pine streets. The majority are one story and have a triple-A roof (FK1230, FK1253, FK1257, FK1263, and FK1264). Unlike in Franklinton, these houses display more variety in the size and shape of the center gable, which is often smaller and more steeply pitched. The center gable is more likely to be open or closed as well, as opposed to the more standard form with eave returns. The dwellings differ in window configuration with some exhibiting a single window to the left and right of the

²³⁵ Pearce, *Early Architecture*, 200.

entry door and others exhibiting paired windows (FK1263 and FK1264, respectively). Aside from one-story triple-A-roofed dwellings, there also are a handful of one-and-one-half and two-story triple-A-roofed dwellings in the city limits (examples include FK1255 and FK1214, respectively).

On West Persimmon Street (FK1254) is an interesting dwelling that is thought to have been a school at one time. The one-story dwelling has two prominent front-facing gables, the large one marking a slightly projecting bay that renders the building a modified gable-front-and-wing form. A hip-roofed porch supported by chamfered wood posts and decorative brackets spans the façade of the original structure. The two front entrances imply the structure may have been a two-teacher school, but a lack of evidence makes it difficult to determine the building's original function.²³⁶

Tobacco warehouses and prizeries once populated downtown Youngsville, but today the only remaining late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings in Youngsville are a row of four one-story brick commercial buildings (FK1237) and a former hotel (FK0540). The row of commercial buildings at the intersection of East Main Street and North Cross Street have nearly identical storefronts and share party walls. The row has a flat roof with a tall parapet, a corbelled cornice, and recessed panels above each storefront. A full-width standing-seam-metal shed-roof porch projects over the sidewalk and is supported by plain brackets and slender tree trunks that have not been planed or treated other than being painted white. The storefronts on the east and west ends retain their original configuration with large plate glass windows that flank recessed double-leaf entry doors. In contrast, the former hotel on West Main Street is a two-story building. Its small, pedimented entry porch likely replaced a full-width one- or two-story porch.

²³⁶ The current resident was informed that the dwelling was originally a school.

The Youngsville Depot (FK0544) once rested on the west side of the railroad line just north of Main Street. Built in 1909 to replace an earlier depot that burned in 1907, the depot was photographed by the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in 1974. At the time, the long industrial building was clad with vertical board and battens and had a low-sloped metal roof with deep overhanging eaves supported by gallows brackets. Three large warehouse doors spanned the east side of the building as well as a long, raised platform for moving goods off the train and into the holding area. The depot was dismantled and removed from the site in 1985.²³⁷

Religious buildings from the period include the former Methodist Church (FK1234) and the Youngsville Baptist Church (FK1229), both in the vernacular Gothic-Revival-style. Constructed around 1878, the simple gable-front frame building erected by the Methodist Church at the corner of East Main and Nassau streets features molded cornices with returns and lancet windows along the side elevations. Its front-facing gable contains two stained-glass lancet windows that flank double-leaf entry doors topped by a Gothic-arched transom. Organized circa 1880, Youngsville Baptist Church erected their first building in 1882. The frame building, however, was destroyed by a windstorm in 1900 and replaced by the current church in 1902. Here the Gothic Revival style is more robustly expressed with a three-story corner entrance tower and a large lancet-arch stained-glass window with intersecting tracery in the front gable. Originally, the church was clad in weatherboard siding but in the 1920s it was enlarged with transepts and clad with brick veneer.

Rural Architecture

The diversity of architecture exhibited by each of Franklin County's towns is also displayed throughout the county in its rural communities and across the countryside. Dwellings

²³⁷ *Franklin County Heritage, North Carolina, Vol. 1* (N.p.: Franklin County Heritage Book Committee, 2008), "Youngsville Depot," 13.

range from high-style edifices to early traditional forms and include examples of the Greek Revival style as well as the Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. Most dwellings are the traditional side-gabled, I-house form and roughly half of these feature a triple-A gabled roof. In addition to nationally popular architectural styles and trends, a couple of distinctly local trends also appeared: the elaboration of the I-house with a front-projecting central pavilion and flared eaves and the application of a Masonic emblem to the vent in the front gable of a triple-A roof.

While the majority of Franklin County's most stylish rural dwellings are not the academic expressions found in the county's towns or in the state's larger towns and more prosperous regions, they do display an awareness of architectural trends and convey social and economic status. The Greek Revival style was by far the most commonly used in rural Franklin County. Often melded with other classically inspired styles, such as late Federal and early Colonial Revival, it is displayed by the circa 1860 Boone-Collie House (FK1096) near Stallings Crossroads, a circa 1870 house (FK0662) southwest of Bunn, and the circa 1900 Banks House (FK0838) near Katesville.

The purest example of the style, the Boone-Collie House, is a one-story Greek Revival cottage with large six-over-six sash windows, stylized door and window surrounds with blank corner blocks, cornerboards, and a deep unadorned frieze. The house near Bunn, which is also one story, represents a more transitional style with Greek Revival cornerboards, a heavy multilight surround at the front entrance, and delicate bargeboard and turned columns suggesting the influence of the Queen Anne style. The Banks House represents the transition from Greek Revival to Colonial Revival with fluted cornerboards, a one-story, full-width porch, and an entry door surrounded by a transom and sidelights with hexagon-shaped panes.

Other examples of high-style architecture in the county outside the towns include the circa 1900 Colonial Revival-style Banks Hill (FK0840) near Katesville, which was constructed by the same owner as the Banks House and is characterized by two-story pedimented portico supported by massive paired columns. The Queen Anne style is represented by the circa 1904 Joseph Turner Inscoe House (FK0697) near Stallings Crossroads which has an irregular floorplan with projecting gabled bays, decorative shingles and bargeboard.

Despite a growing interest in high-style architecture, most of the dwellings constructed in rural Franklin County continued to display traditional side-gabled forms. These ranged from one-story to story-and-a-jump and two-story dwellings as well as dwellings with a front gable and side wing, known as gable-and-wings. A number of side-gabled dwellings also continued to be constructed of log, such as the original circa 1865 two-room block of the Dalton H. Taylor House (FK0736), a one-story dwelling near Centerville. An example of a circa 1900 story-and-a-jump dwelling can be found near Bunn (FK0601). Differing from a typical one-and-one-half-story dwelling, the second story of a story-and-a-jump is defined by half walls that extend the height and space of the upper story and increase its livability. Like the house near Bunn, the second story is often lit by small square windows placed just above floor level. The house also displays a full-width, hip-roofed porch and stone end chimneys. The gable-and-wing form, which was applied to one- and two-story dwellings, is exemplified by the main block of a circa 1910 dwelling in Pilot (FK1016) which displays a projecting front gable and a small shed-roofed porch supported by boxed columns on brick piers nestled between the gable and wing.

Another common feature in the nineteenth century was the application of a center gable to side-gabled structures. Known as a triple-A roof due to its three gables, the type is often displayed on one-story, cottage-like structures, such as the circa 1900 Charles Jones House near

Social Plains. Aside from its distinctive roof, the dwelling also features a three bay, hip-roofed porch and a gabled rear wing.

Many larger dwellings were constructed with an I-house form and frequently finished with triple-A roofs. Two examples that retain high integrity include a circa 1900 farm complex (FK0583) near Harris Crossroads and the circa 1910 Pearce House (II) (FK0674) near Stallings Crossroads. Like other I-houses from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the dwellings have one-story, full-width porches supported by turned posts, paired two-over-two windows, rear ells, and exterior chimneys on the gable ends. The form was often adorned with details from more defined styles as well, such as a circa 1900 dwelling near Centerville, which displays light Queen Anne details through patterned shingles in the front gable and chamfered porch supports.

While these styles and forms are prevalent across Franklin County and much of North Carolina, a variety of less common trends appeared in rural parts of Franklin County in the latter half of the nineteenth century. These include the addition of a projecting front gable to I-houses, as well as flared eaves and Masonic emblems in the front gable of a triple-A roof. Most of the houses with flared eaves and projecting front gables are located near the community of Epsom in northern Franklin County. Typical of the type is the dwelling at the Frazier Farm (FK0870). The I-house with a triple-A roof is three bays wide with a center bay that projects just a few feet beyond the side bays. It has a one-story, hip-roofed porch supported by classical columns that follows the contours of the front elevation and has a small centered gable. The roof has flared eaves, curved rafter tails, exposed purlins, and turned gallows-like brackets at the corners of each gable.

Other houses in the area are strikingly similar to the dwelling at the Frazier Farm, including two dwellings (FK0873 and FK0874) built in the late 1800s; three dwellings (FK0577, FK0871 and FK0921), built around 1910; the Charles & Addie Lou Eaves House (FK0922), built circa 1925. Most of the houses have a similar I-house form with a projecting center bay, though one dwelling (FK0871) is one-and-one-half stories and another (FK0921) is one story. Half of the dwellings (FK0873, FK0871, and FK0922) display flared eaves, curved rafter tails, and exposed purlins, while the Charles & Addie Lou Eaves House and the dwelling at Bachelor's Farm only display flared eaves: the features were likely removed from the last dwelling (FK0874) when its current asphalt shingle roof was installed. Other variations between the dwellings include their window configurations, individual and paired, as well as two-over-two and six-over-six sashes, with some one-over-one replacements. The windows of the one-and-one-half-story dwelling (FK0871) vary the most with paired, tripartite (possibly a replacement), and wall dormers. This dwelling also has a one-bay entry porch in place of the other dwelling's full-width porches. Lastly, two dwellings (FK0577 and FK0873) stand out due to the front of the projecting bay being clipped or rounded on the first floor, as well as for having a Craftsman-style porch and decorative Queen Anne-style woodwork, respectively.

At least three urban properties exhibit a projecting center gable wrapped by a full-width porch and flared eaves as well. In Louisburg, the circa 1890s Barrow-Wilson House (FK0174) displays both trends, while the Winston-Allen House (FK0207) displays only the projecting center gable and full-width porch. On the other hand, the circa 1900 Miss Dollie Best House (FK1120) in Franklinton exhibits flared eaves, though they are executed in a different manner than the rural properties and have a heavier cornice. Though the dwellings vary, their

similarities, as well as the heavy concentration of the dwellings in Epsom, suggests the involvement of a common, as yet unidentified builder.

The Masonic emblem began appearing on dwellings in the latter part of the nineteenth century. While it is commonplace to find masonic imagery on lodges as well as the buildings of organizations funded by masons, it is less common to find emblems on domestic architecture. Of the survey in Franklin County, three such dwellings were identified, the John and Ethel Ball House (FK0881), the Daniel House (FK0706), and the Gupton House (FK0724). Each of these is in the northeast quadrant of Franklin County, though in different communities. It is unclear if the emblems are an original element of the dwelling, or if they were added later, but it is known that multiple masonic lodges operated in the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century. It is most likely that the masons associated with the three dwellings belonged to the Sandy Creek Lodge as it also was in northeast Franklin County.²³⁸ The earliest dwelling with the masonic emblem is the John and Ethel Ball House. Constructed circa 1880, the I-house has a triple-A roof and projecting center bay with a one-story, hip-roofed porch that follows the contours of the front elevation and is finished with a small centered gable like the dwellings near Epsom, approximately five miles to the northeast. The Masonic symbol is located at the top of the front gable. Another I-house with a triple-A roof, the Daniel House was constructed around 1900 and is located in between Justice in Franklin County and Castalia in Nash County. It was documented as having the masonic symbol in its front gable although the emblem has been removed, perhaps at the same time the decorative sawnwork was stripped from its porch.²³⁹ The last dwelling identified with a Masonic emblem is the circa 1900 Gupton House. One story and two rooms

²³⁸ Sandy Creek Lodge was active in the community of Laurel from 1856 until after the turn of the century. Other early lodges include Franklinton Lodge No. 123 and Youngsville Masonic Lodge No. 377, which was chartered in 1881. (Youngsville Masonic Lodge #377, <http://www.youngsville377.org>.)

²³⁹ Historic background was provided by the current owners of the nearby Coppedge-Hunt House. They also possess a photograph of the house with the emblem.

deep, the hip-roofed dwelling has a projecting front-gabled bay, embellished with the emblem, as well as a hip-roofed porch that follows the contours of the front elevation.²⁴⁰

Commercial buildings outside the county's three largest towns include numerous stores. The one-story front-gabled Charles Burnette Store (FK0737) near Centerville is one of the best-preserved examples, built in the early 1900s and still in use. Its primary elevation has double-leaf entry doors with a multi-light transom and large six-over-six wooden sash windows sheltered by a front-gabled porte-cochere. Like many other stores in the county and elsewhere, the store is paired with a dwelling. In this case, the dwelling was built as an addition to the rear of the store in 1954.

Other county stores include the Howard Carden Store (FK0669) and Jack Collins Store (FK0710) in Justice and White Level, respectively, and Bower Store (FK0866) and Banks Store (FK0839) in Katesville. Each of the stores are of frame construction with front gables and as elsewhere in the county they are primarily one to one-and-one-half stories; the Banks Store is the only two-story late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century example surveyed. Like two of the smaller stores, the Banks Store has a double-leaf entry flanked by large windows, now covered, as well as two six-over-six sash windows on its second story. Each of the side elevations has a single entry door below four, equally-spaced and covered, second-story windows. The first-story side elevations, as at other stores large and small, were likely left windowless so that shelving could line the interior walls. Another common feature is side and rear wings, which were often used for offices or dwellings. The feature is exemplified by the small shed-roofed wing that extends from the north (side) elevation of the Howard Carden Store, likely an office. The outline and some framing of a gabled wing remain on the east (side) elevation of the Jack Collins Store

²⁴⁰ Randy Thomas, a member of the local committee, provided a historical background of the building.

as well. The smallest of the group, Bower Store, also has a double-leaf entry flanked by six-over-six sash windows with one six-over-six sash window at the rear of both side elevations.

As the need for residential and commercial structures increased, so did the need for more agricultural buildings. This need was particularly influenced by the increase in tobacco production and led to the construction of tobacco barns across the county's farms, as well as warehouses and prizeries in the county's larger towns. Influenced by the popular flue-cure method, the barns were tall, roughly twenty-foot-square buildings of log or frame construction. A small U-shaped furnace, built of either stone or brick, located on the exterior of the barn was used to circulate indirect heat in the form of smoke throughout the barn. The type is still present across the county, and though many have been covered with sheets of standing seam metal or asphalt siding, with an occasional shed addition, most have experienced minimal alteration. Well-preserved examples from the nineteenth and early twentieth century include two barns constructed of log (FK0396 and FK0746).

As in the county's three largest towns, the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw increases in church buildings in the rural communities. Many congregations split when freed African Americans formed their own congregations, while other churches simply outgrew their current buildings or branched out into new communities. One of the first churches constructed following the war was the circa 1870 Shiloh Baptist Church (FK0446) on the plantation of Thomas W. Davis near Justice. Typical of small rural churches of the Victorian era, it is a frame front-gabled structure with cornice returns, but it is unusual for its delicate sawn bargeboard and pendant embellishing the front gable. Round vents in the gables of the church and entry porch once contained sawn five-point stars. The original six-over-six wooden sash windows were replaced with stained glass and the porch was added after 1939.

Built in 1895, Serepta Church is a front-gabled, frame building with wooden weatherboard siding and tall nine-over-six wooden sash windows. Unlike other similarly constructed churches from the nineteenth century that were covered with brick veneer in the early twentieth century, Serepta Church is remarkably intact. It retains its original siding, and has not been embellished with a steeple, another addition made to many early churches.

Other churches of the period include Poplar Spring Baptist Church (FK1017, ca. 1885) and Cypress Chapel Baptist Church (FK0608, ca. 1900) near Bunn, and Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church (FK0827, ca. 1900) east of Youngsville. Each of these churches has a large pedimented front entrance that either extends or telescopes from the structure's main roof and is supported by simple round or square supports. Different window shapes ranging from rectangular to lancet- and triangular-arched distinguish the buildings. Today, all three churches have centrally placed entrances, but when it was constructed, Poplar Spring Baptist Church had two front doors, said to be separate entrances for male and female parishioners.

Two of Franklin County's rural churches of the period stand apart from the others. Mt. Calvary Holiness Church (FK0587), a diminutive frame building erected circa 1910, is one story tall and only one bay wide. It consists of a notably small main block with a triple-A roof and two telescoping gable-roofed rear wings. The narrow front elevation contains slightly off-center double-leaf entry doors that lead directly into the church's sanctuary. One of the few early brick churches outside of Franklin County's incorporated towns is Corinth Baptist Church (FK0879) near Ingleside. The congregation, which was established in 1785, built the Neoclassical Revival-style church around the turn of the twentieth century. The high-style church has an Ionic temple front with wooden fluted columns, a four-tier belfry and steeple, and round-arched windows on the front and side elevations.

Following the end of the Civil War, Franklin County residents endured periods of financial insecurity as well as periods of growth in new and old industries. The tobacco market became strong and the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company continued to expand into new territories. Education made great strides in the county, as elsewhere throughout the state; religious and social groups expanded, creating new organizations; and many smaller areas in the county gained recognition with the establishment of post offices. By 1900, telephone service connected the residents of Louisburg, Centerville, Franklinton, and Youngsville, and by 1905, a \$56,000 waterworks plant and standpipe serviced Louisburg residents. Electric power came to Louisburg in 1906.²⁴¹ Though the population of the county decreased from 25,116 in 1900 to 24,692 in 1910, the populations of Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville increased. This was particularly true for Louisburg, with an increase of over forty percent, and Youngsville, with nearly thirty percent.²⁴²

²⁴¹ Willard, 40.

²⁴² United States Census, 1900 and 1910.

The 1910s to Circa 1960

As Franklin County entered the second decade of the twentieth century its economy continued to be reliant on agriculture and the many jobs it supported. Other industries, such as textile milling and lumbering, were growing as well. Still relatively new to the county, textile milling continued to expand and bring new opportunities for many residents while the lumbering industry brought jobs and created new communities. At the same time, the automobile and statewide road improvements connected residents with places large and small, and in 1917 the county provided the state with its 54th Governor, Thomas W. Bickett. The era, however, also experienced its share of hardship. Many Franklin County men were sent overseas during the conflicts, and those at home experienced the strains produced by both rationing and worry. The Great Depression, though crippling to the county's economy, brought numerous public improvement projects, and health and social inequality issues gained more awareness.

The Agricultural Economy Strengthens

Just as they dominated Franklin County's economy in the nineteenth century, cotton and tobacco continued to drive the county's economic activity in the early twentieth century. The markets in Louisburg and Youngsville were still strong and the Sterling Cotton Mill, one of the few large-scale industrial facilities in the county, continued to operate and grow in Franklinton. Most residents still lived outside the county's three largest towns. By 1910, the population of Franklin County was 24,692 people with 1,775 in Louisburg, 809 in Franklinton, and 431 in Youngsville.²⁴³

Louisburg's tobacco market, which had been in operation for nearly thirty years, continued to flourish in the early 1900s. An article from the January 22, 1915, issue of *The Charlotte News* shares that approximately four million pounds of tobacco were sold at the

²⁴³ US Census, 1910.

Louisburg Tobacco Market that year, “a considerable increase over last year’s figures.” The article also predicted a shift in the acreage of land planted in tobacco and cotton, with more devoted to tobacco and less to cotton in the next season.²⁴⁴

A factor that likely led to this prediction and ultimate shift was an effort to keep cotton prices high. Around 1905, agriculture leaders began meeting to discuss cotton prices and how to balance the price with demand. The consensus was to decrease the amount of cotton planted and the slogan “Do you want five cent cotton or ten cent cotton” was often heard from advocates of the reduction. Cotton farmers responded by shifting their unplanted cotton fields to new crops, and more often than not, tobacco was the chosen replacement.²⁴⁵

Tobacco, however, did not immediately overtake cotton. In 1910, the census reported cotton as the state’s leading crop, followed by cereals (corn, oats, wheat, rye, etc.) and tobacco.²⁴⁶ Furthermore, the years 1916 to 1924, when sixty-two cotton gins were in operation in the county, are considered as the “heyday” of cotton production in Franklin County.²⁴⁷ It may, however, be more appropriate to consider these years as cotton’s last hurrah. Overproduction, as well the introduction of the boll weevil, an invasive pest that swept the country’s cotton fields in the early twentieth century, continued to cause the crop’s price to plummet. Between 1910 and 1930, the amount of Franklin County farmland planted in cotton rose slightly from 29,267 acres to 33,877 acres; the quantity of bales, however, dropped from 13,049 to 12,554. In contrast, the amount of tobacco produced in Franklin County more than tripled over the same period, from 2,872,878 pounds to 9,216,851 pounds. The acreage devoted

²⁴⁴ “Louisburg Tobacco Market,” *The Charlotte News*, January 22, 1915.

²⁴⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 124.

²⁴⁶ Agricultural Census, 1910.

²⁴⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 148.

to tobacco increased significantly, as well, rising from 5,909 to 15,770.²⁴⁸ By 1940, the census reported only 5,062 bales of cotton produced in Franklin County.²⁴⁹

Sanborn maps depict the growth of an industrial area on the east side of South Main Street in Louisburg, just south of the Tar River. The first map, from 1893, shows a freight house with a cotton platform directly on the south side of the rail line. Just to the east is a smaller warehouse that also sits on the line, and south of these structures are two tobacco prize houses, a tobacco warehouse, horse sheds, and a small dwelling. The buildings are labeled one through seven and additional inset maps depict buildings eight and nine as tobacco prize houses owned by American Tobacco Company and located on Church and Main streets. Several tobacco warehouses and prize houses, as well as a cotton gin, were in the downtown area. The 1908, Sanborn map shows the complex had grown to include the Seaboard Air Line Freight Depot and Railroad Station, eight warehouses for the storage of merchandise and tobacco, three prize houses, a cotton platform, mattress factory, stemmery, cotton gin, and the Louisburg Cotton Oil Mill, which consisted of a hull house, processing rooms, and seed houses.

Sanborn maps show that a series of warehouses were constructed along the north side of the railroad tracks between 1908 and 1914. By 1922 the warehouses had been developed into two contiguous rows of buildings. Sometime prior to 1922, the freight depot and passenger station were destroyed by fire and rebuilt on the north side of the rail line in a space previously occupied by the A. Reavis Company's grocery warehouse. The new location bordered North Main Street on the northwest end of a row of warehouse buildings (FK1203). While some warehouses were elongated and the occasional small structure filled in between larger ones, the largest change to the complex was the removal of many of the buildings associated with the

²⁴⁸ Agricultural Census, 1910 and 1930.

²⁴⁹ Agricultural Census, 1890, 1910, 1930, and 1940.

Louisburg Cotton Oil Mill. Located in the parcel created by Kenmoor Avenue, Perry Street, and the curve of the railroad line, the only buildings that remained were a gin and press, a single cotton seed house, and a small office (FK0091). The 1922 map also shows two cotton gins and a grist mill on the west side of South Main Street, opposite the railroad complex, and the Colonial Pine Planing Mill a quarter mile southwest of the courthouse. A few warehouses, including Planters Tobacco Warehouse, Meadows and Harris Tobacco Warehouse, and G. W. Ford Tobacco Warehouse, one prize house, R. Taylor Prize House, and one cotton gin, King Seed Co. Cotton Gin, were still located in Louisburg's commercial core, but new businesses began to fill empty lots and transition the town from agriculture-related endeavors to service and retail proprietors.

The 1930 Sanborn map shows a number of the same warehouses, though a few are missing as well. Of note is the reappearance of the Seaboard Air Line Passenger and Freight Station on the south side of the rail line and additional buildings associated with the cotton oil mill. The buildings show a greater diversity of use as well: an auto storage building, a machine shop, and an ice house, in addition to general merchandise, grocery, and tobacco warehouses, and prize houses. The new functions, auto services and ice production, represent the beginning of a wave of change that soon shifted Franklin County's economy from purely agricultural to an assortment of industrial and technological pursuits. These changes would have an immense effect on the daily lives of Franklin County residents as well.

Though the price of tobacco continued to rise in the mid-twentieth century, reliance on the railroad decreased drastically with the introduction of the automobile. The Louisburg tobacco

market continued to operate into the 1940s with James D. Speed, the owner of the Speed Farm (FK0285), as its sales supervisor for the much of the decade.²⁵⁰

Since the removal of the railroad line around 1990, many of the buildings associated with the tobacco and cotton markets have been demolished, repurposed, or abandoned.²⁵¹ Surveyed buildings include a tobacco factory and warehouse (FK0028, no longer extant) that stood on the northeast corner of South Main and Perry streets, and a complex that included a cotton gin (FK0091), warehouse, storage, and offices near the northeast corner of Kenmoor and Perry streets. The Louisburg Depot (FK0495) has also been lost, but a row of abandoned warehouses (FK1203) remains along the old railroad line, which has been repurposed as a trail.

Unlike Louisburg, which was established over a hundred years before dipping its toes in the tobacco market, just twenty-one years after it was established in 1875, Youngsville, too, became a tobacco market. The young town quickly flourished, and its tobacco market established in 1896 rivaled Louisburg's and was soon one of the largest in the state. Two of Youngsville's earliest warehouses, the Harris Warehouse and the Eagle Warehouse built in 1896, reportedly handled one million pounds of tobacco in their first year.²⁵² During the early 1900s, the small town was home to fifteen mercantile stores, several livery stables, two hotels, blacksmith shops, drug stores, a "hearse house," Youngsville Academy, and Youngsville Bottling Works, which produced a variety of flavors of soft drinks including orange, strawberry, ginger-ale, hop-ale, and My-Cola.²⁵³ Aside from its strong tobacco market, Youngsville also had a viable cotton market that handled 5,000 to 8,000 bales each year.²⁵⁴

²⁵⁰ "Franklin Man Named to Sales Supervisor Post," *The Nashville Graphic*, June 2, 1949.

²⁵¹ Julie B. Bollinger, et al., *The 2014 Franklin County & Louisburg Comprehensive Transportation Plan* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2014), I-12.

²⁵² Maury York, "Youngsville: A Boomtown in 1897 Thanks to Agriculture," *The Franklin Times*, January 23, 2014, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/youngsville.html> (accessed January 8, 2018).

²⁵³ Willard, 54 and Pearce, *Franklin County*, 136.

²⁵⁴ York, "Youngsville: A Boomtown..."

Between 1920 and 1925, the town had a number of tobacco-related businesses including the Perry and Lumpkin Warehouse, W. Monk Prizery, Akin and Pearce, R. D. Clark, five Cheatham Brothers warehouses, American Tobacco Company, Imperial Prizery, Export Prizery, R. J. Reynolds Prizery, and J. Taylor Prizery. As the 1920s progressed, however, the market in Youngsville began to decline. Originally it was ideal due to its location on the railroad, but the automobile and road improvements meant farmers no longer had to rely on the rail system to transport crops. Trucks and improved roads also provided easier access to far-off markets, many of which offered more competitive prices.²⁵⁵ As the market declined, so did Youngsville's population, which dropped from 431 in 1910 to 395 in 1920.²⁵⁶

The decline of Youngsville's tobacco market was expedited by the deaths of some of the town's earliest businessmen and leaders. Among these was Claude Cheatham, who died in 1921. Cheatham came to Youngsville with five of his brothers from Oxford, North Carolina, in the late 1890s and became involved early on in Youngsville's tobacco market.²⁵⁷ He was a buyer for the Imperial Tobacco Company, and along with his brothers owned warehouses in Louisburg as well as Youngsville. In 1904 Cheatham purchased drying and ordering equipment and established a tobacco factory. The "wonderful machinery" took the tobacco in at one end and turned it out ready for the prizers at the other.²⁵⁸

Similar to Louisburg's experience, many of the warehouses and prizeries associated with Youngsville's industry have been lost over the years due to the decline of the tobacco and railroad industries. One warehouse that was documented before its demise was located on the southwest corner of Persimmon and Cross Streets (FK0541).

²⁵⁵ Willard, 54.

²⁵⁶ US Census, 1910 and 1920.

²⁵⁷ Willard, 54.

²⁵⁸ York, "Robust 'Leaf' Market..."

Franklinton also had a tobacco market, but unlike Louisville and Youngsville's markets, it operated for only a brief period. Instead, the textile industry, largely dependent on Sterling Cotton Mills, was Franklinton's primary economic engine. The mill originally produced cotton yarn for apparel and canvas, and with the onset of World War I, the demand for U. S.-made textiles, particularly uniforms, blankets, and other apparel, increased.²⁵⁹ Following in the war, the demand remained high and by 1921 North Carolina mills produced 191 million dollars in textiles annually, more than double the amount produced in 1914. By 1923, North Carolina produced more textiles by value than any other state in the country.²⁶⁰

In 1914, after operating for just shy of twenty years, Sterling Cotton Mills tripled its production space with the addition of a two-story, 60,000-square foot building between the original mill and the railroad track and increased the mill's spindles from 2,080 to 26,112. The new building, like the original mill, is constructed of load-bearing brick with a shallow gabled roof and rests on a raised basement. Segmental arched windows with triple-header arches lit the upper floors of the building before being infilled with brick, but the basement level retains its paired nine-over-nine wooden sash windows. The mill was expanded again in 1960 and 1966.²⁶¹ A series of early cotton sheds on the east side of the complex were recently demolished, and the remaining complex is being renovated as part of an adaptive re-use project.

Profiting from their successes, mill owners, including S. C. Vann, made contributions to public improvement projects including the new Franklinton High School (FK1148). They were also known to build churches, parks, and other public amenities for their workers. During the holidays, some mills went so far as to provide employees with Christmas trees and a gift for each

²⁵⁹ M. Ruth Little, "Sterling Cotton Mill," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Longleaf Historic Resources, Raleigh, 1996.

²⁶⁰ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1111-1113.

²⁶¹ Little, "Sterling Cotton Mill."

of their children. While these incentives were certainly beneficial for employees, they were often more beneficial to the mills by ensuring their employees were content, dependent, and loyal.²⁶²

Though the mills offered a new way of life to many of Franklin County's farm families, the option to work in a mill was not available to everyone. The shift in employment displays a clear line of disparity between white and black workers. Mills almost exclusively hired white workers, driving up the percentage of tenant and sharecroppers who were African American. As cotton prices fell and the boll weevil decimated crops, this population was harder hit than whites, spurring an out-migration of African Americans from southern states. Many found factory jobs in the less-discriminatory North. The onset of World War I, which brought an increase in the demand for factory-made goods as well as a decrease in the available labor force, created more opportunities for African Americans. As they left the South, North Carolina experienced a shortage of farm laborers. A campaign began to keep black laborers "down on the farm" and southern law enforcement officers went so far as to forcibly remove African Americans from northbound trains and ban newspapers from including advertisements for jobs in the North.²⁶³

Despite set-backs and increased pressure from labor unions to improve factory conditions, the textile industry remained strong through the mid-twentieth century. Many textile manufacturers chose to innovate, developing new fibers and materials, while others produced new products for new markets. Sterling Cotton Mills, which originally focused on the production of cotton yarn for shirts, suiting, and canvas, began supplying yarns to the growing automobile industry for use in pneumatic rubber tires. As the importation of goods increased in the U. S., however, North Carolina's mills found it more and more difficult to compete with overseas

²⁶² Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1111-1113.

²⁶³ Shepherd W. Mckinley and Cynthia Risser Mckinley, "The Great Migration and North Carolina," Learn NC, www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newcentury/5996 (accessed November 6, 2016).

factories and many were forced to close in the latter half of the twentieth century. Sterling Cotton Mills remained in operation until 1991.²⁶⁴

Infrastructure and Automobiles

A wealth of amenities arrived in Franklin County in the early part of the twentieth century. By 1906, Louisburg already had telephone service, running water, and electricity, and by 1910, Franklinton had both telephone service and electricity. Franklinton's first electric power plant was privately owned and operated by George Whitaker, who along with J. O. Nowell wired their own houses to become the plant's first customers.²⁶⁵ Around 1920, the town installed a water and sewer system and soon organized its first official fire department—having previously relied on volunteer bucket brigades—and purchased a Model T Ford to use as a firetruck.²⁶⁶ By 1926, the Carolina Power & Light Company built a substation in Franklinton as listed on the year's Sanborn Insurance Map.

In 1914, Home Telegraph and Telephone Co. established a fifty-line telephone office in the Main Street dwelling of Mrs. Charles Strickland in Youngsville. Mrs. Strickland operated the line from her house for over twenty years. Electricity arrived in Youngsville in 1920 and though it is unknown when running water reached the community, a fire department was organized and chartered in 1944 with the first fire station located on West Railroad Street.²⁶⁷

Along with this new infrastructure came new businesses. In Louisburg, F. L. Herman owned and operated the Louisburg Bottling Works, and L. T. Horton and the McKinne Bros. offered plumbing services. Existing businesses, like the Louisburg Wagon Co., shifted their

²⁶⁴ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 1111-1113 and Little, "Sterling Cotton Mill."

²⁶⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 136.

²⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 155.

²⁶⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 140 and 155; and "Youngsville Fire History," Youngsville, NC, www.yvfd.com/history.html (accessed January 4, 2018).

focus to accommodate the changing times.²⁶⁸ The era of prosperity also encouraged the establishment of banks and by 1915, Louisburg had three—First National with W. H. Ruffin as president, Farmers and Merchants with F. N. Egerton as president, and Farmers National with J. M. Allen as president.²⁶⁹ The three bank presidents, who had already established themselves as prominent businessmen before entering the financial field, were also original members of the Louisburg Graded School System Board of Trustees and were instrumental in the establishment of the school system in 1905.²⁷⁰ Youngsville had a bottling plant, Youngsville Bottling Works, founded by Will C. Young; a livery stable operated by R. C. Underwood; and the Bank of Youngsville, with J. B. Perry as president. New and established businesses in Franklinton included the Washboard Manufacturing Co., R. A. Speed’s livery stable, and Citizens Bank with E. J. Cheatham president.²⁷¹

The automobile made its way to Franklin County in the early twentieth century. The first person in the county to own an automobile was Dr. R. F. Yarborough in Louisburg, quickly followed by Dr. Arthur Fleming, also in Louisburg, then Joe Cheatham, owner of the Louisburg Telegraph Company, and Al Vann of Franklinton, who purchased an automobile together.²⁷² The new mode of transportation revolutionized the way citizens traversed the county, shortening the commute from town to town and reducing the reliance on the train to reach places further away such as Raleigh and Weldon.

The automobile brought awareness to the state of the county’s roads and prompted local bond issues to fund road improvements. Before the bond issues, many of the county’s roads were simple dirt paths carved into the landscape by frequent use. Making things worse, the roads,

²⁶⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 136-137.

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 141.

²⁷⁰ Mason, “Louisburg Historic District.”

²⁷¹ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 136-137, 141.

²⁷² *Ibid.*, 133.

which were dusty when dry and muddy when wet, were often deeply rutted. Laws established that all able-bodied men should contribute to the maintenance of the roads, though, with no mechanism for enforcement, it is uncertain how often this actually occurred. The rule changed in the early part of the twentieth century when Louisburg issued the first of a series of bonds and special taxes to maintain its roads. Youngsville and Franklinton followed, issuing their own bonds by 1910. A subsequent bond issue of \$40,000 was voted on and passed in Louisburg in 1914. Shortly thereafter, in 1916, Louisburg approved a contract to build a new bridge constructed of concrete where Main Street crossed the Tar River. The low bidder was the Roanoke Bridge Company, and though the bid was accepted for \$19,275, the final cost came to only \$16,677.²⁷³

While existing roads were improved and new ones built in North Carolina's incorporated areas, most county roads across the state received little attention. To remedy this problem, the North Carolina legislature established a state highway commission to oversee the pavement and maintenance of rural roads in 1915. In doing so, the state was able to ensure its roads were consistent from county to county and safe for travelers to use.²⁷⁴

As road improvements occurred throughout the county and state, macadam roads emerged as the most popular method of construction. The method, which required grading of the road and greatly improved drainage, consisted of a layer of five to nine inches of crushed stone smoothed with a steam-powered roller, sprinkled with water, and covered with a layer of dust before being rolled a second time. The layer of dust helped to fill voids in the crushed stone and

²⁷³ Ibid., 138-139, 149.

²⁷⁴ Lisa Gregory, "Twentieth Century Overview," NCpedia, www.ncpedia.org/history/20th-Century/overview (accessed December 1, 2017).

likely served as a form of mortar, while also repelling water from the road's surface. Eventually, a layer of bitumen, or asphalt, was used to seal the surface of the road.²⁷⁵

While the network of navigable roads improved, residents found themselves in need of businesses to support the new method of transportation and auto-related establishments began to appear throughout the county. New businesses included garages, automobile livery agencies (the predecessor of car-rental/taxi agencies), and dealers. One of the first automobile dealerships in the county was opened in Franklinton by J. O. Green in 1912.²⁷⁶ A variety of other businesses near the railroad depot are indicated on the 1922 Sanborn map of Louisburg, including three auto repair shops, an auto sales business, an auto storage, and a Texas Oil Co., Petroleum &c depot. Located in the residential areas of Louisburg were over thirty auto garages. In the county, gasoline stations were either established or added to existing stores. Two examples include Bowers Store (FK0866) in Katesville and another store (FK0882) near Ingleside which retains the ghost mark of a painted Shell Gasoline sign.

Along with advancements in transportation and daily life came a greater awareness of public health issues. The North Carolina Public Health Association formed around 1910, spurring the creation of new hospitals across the state as well as many statewide public health campaigns and a general interest on improving the quality of life of North Carolina residents.²⁷⁷ In 1930, Franklin County Commissioners established the Franklin County Health Department and the following year organized a tonsil and adenoid summer clinic at Mills High School in Louisburg. During the four-day clinic, eighty-four children had their tonsils and adenoids removed. The popular clinic continued for several summers in the 1930s, offering a low-cost

²⁷⁵ Powell, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, 977-978.

²⁷⁶ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 138-139.

²⁷⁷ Gregory, "Twentieth Century Overview."

service to the community.²⁷⁸ In the 1950s the Franklin Memorial Hospital opened and the growing health department moved into a new health center on Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg.²⁷⁹

The introduction of the automobile also revolutionized the healthcare industry. Prior to and in the early days of automobiles, doctors traveled to patients as needed rather than relying on centrally located offices and appointment times. The automobile, as evidenced by Drs. Yarborough and Fleming being the first to own such vehicles in the county, made travelling between patients and doctors a much faster process. As an increasing number of people purchased automobiles and roads improved throughout the county, doctors found it more convenient to establish offices in the town centers, rather than scattered throughout the county. Incorporated cities also offered the added benefits of electricity and running water.²⁸⁰

Lumbering and New Communities

While the new mode of transportation was changing the way people and goods crossed North Carolina, an existing industry was growing in the rural parts of the county, bringing new purpose to the railroad system and new life to some of Franklin County's smallest towns. In the second decade of the twentieth century, two lumber companies established roots in Franklin County: the Montgomery Lumber Company and the Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Company. The first community to experience the changes brought by the lumber industry was the small town of Bunn at the south end of the county. Just a few years before expanding into Franklin County, the Montgomery Lumber Company established a lumber mill in Spring Hope, which was roughly ten miles southeast of Bunn in Nash County.²⁸¹ Around 1910, the mill purchased land just north of Bunn and laid a railroad line from there to its mill in Spring Hope.

²⁷⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 178, 181.

²⁷⁹ Willard, 41.

²⁸⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 163.

²⁸¹ Richard Mattson, "Spring Hope Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1988.

Named for one of the area's first settlers and largest landowners, Green Bunn, the area was inhabited as early as 1788 when Poplar Springs Baptist Church (FK1017, circa 1885 church) was established just south of the eventual community. It was not until 1901, however, when a post office was established in the store of James Weathers, that the community decided to name itself after Bunn.²⁸² At the time, the community was centered around the intersection of three roads, NC 39 and 98, and SR 1731, but with the introduction of the lumber company and rail line, interest in the area shifted north. By the time the town was incorporated in 1913, its boundary encompassed the rail line and excluded the crossroads and store. Peyton Sykes was the town's first mayor, and by 1915 the town had several stores, a stable, livestock company, and its own bank, the Bunn Banking Company. The post office was also moved to the new town.²⁸³ In 1916, North Carolina's Corporation Commission granted the lumber company permission to carry passengers and other commodities on the rail line, giving the residents of Bunn easy access to new places and new goods. The 1920 U.S. Census recorded Bunn as having 150 residents and 32 dwellings. A variety of new professions were represented as well, including a general contractor, carpenter, automobile mechanic, and a blacksmith in addition to jobs associated with the lumber company and railroad. Eventually, the rail line came into the possession of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and later the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad.²⁸⁴

As Bunn developed, a number of new buildings were constructed. Extant buildings from the early days of the town include Bunn Baptist Church (FK0315), a Colonial Revival building with Gothic elements; Bunn United Methodist Church (FK0619); and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Depot (FK0622). Many early twentieth-century dwellings are present in the town limits

²⁸² Kathy Cockrell, "From Railroads to Highways: The Bunn Story," *The Grey Area News*, March 15, 2012, <https://greyareanews.com/feature/history/railroads-highways-bunn-story> (accessed March 30, 2018).

²⁸³ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 138.

²⁸⁴ Maury York, "A Century Ago, Bunn was Poised for Faster Growth," *The Franklin Times*, July 25, 2013, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/bunn.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).

as well. These exhibit a range of styles from traditional forms with triple-A roofs such as a house on Jewett Street (FK0614) to Queen Anne-style dwellings, including two on Main Street (FK0615 and FK1034).

Extant dwellings of the period just outside of Bunn include the White House (FK1042) and a dwelling on Baptist Church Road (FK0601). Both story-and-a-half dwellings were built circa 1900, possibly earlier, and have exterior-end chimneys with stone bases and brick stacks, gabled rear eaves, and, in the case of the White House, gabled wings that extend from each side elevation. The unnamed dwelling retains more of its original features with a hip-roofed porch that shelters a five-panel entry door and two four-over-four wooden sash windows. Two-story dwellings in the area include the Holland House (FK0598) and Mitchell Farm House (FK0624), I-houses with triple-A roofs, full-width porches, and light Queen Anne details such as patterned shingles and turned porch supports. The Cheves House (FK1038) and a dwelling on NC 39 (FK1036), also are I-houses but with two-story, full-width porches.

West of Bunn is the Dickerson Farm (FK0605), which has an unusual one-story dwelling, built circa 1915, with a U-shaped footprint consisting of two triple-A roofed wings connected by a gable-roofed section. The property also contains numerous historic ancillary structures, including a salt house, a pack house, an ordering house, tobacco barns, and the remnants of an illegal still that was destroyed by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural, and Allied Workers in the 1950s.

Bunn continued to operate as a small rural town despite the conclusion of the Montgomery Lumber Company's lumbering operations in 1930.²⁸⁵ The town's population, which was first reported as 150 in 1920, reached 243 in 1930 and slowly rose to 332 in 1960.

²⁸⁵ Mattson, "Spring Hope Historic District." and Cockrell "From Railroads to Highways."

The population peaked at 505 in 1980 but has been in the mid-three hundreds since 1990.²⁸⁶ The area remains primarily agricultural with large swaths of farm land and dependent on crop production, particularly tobacco.

In 1911, the Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Company began buying woodlands and railroad right-of-way near a small rural community in the northeastern part of the county at the intersection of Collins Mill Road and modern-day NC 561. Originally called Gold Mine after the discovery of gold in the 1830s, the community had become known as Wood's Store after the store operated by Charlie and Lula Gupton Wood. Mrs. Wood was the daughter of Thomas Buck Gupton and, according to T. H. Pearce, inherited a great deal of the land on which the town was located.²⁸⁷ Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Company expanded its activities in 1912, harvesting timber from the woodlands it had purchased and establishing a saw mill. The following year, the community was connected to the Seaboard Air Line Railroad at Vaughan in Warren County. The new depot was called Greenleaf-Johnson and the train transported passengers as well as lumber to Vaughan.²⁸⁸

In 1913, the Atlantic Coast Realty Company placed a full-page advertisement in Raleigh's *News and Observer* announcing the auction of "212 valuable Business and Residential lots." The announcement goes on to say that "Wood's Store has a bright outlook to become a town and real estate values in such places increase rapidly." It also declares "Woods [sic] ... one of the richest farming sections in the state" and lists the amount of cotton, tobacco, and corn in the area each year. Providing some insight into the community at the time, the article lists the successful business of Woods Supply Company, which was owned and operated by McKinne

²⁸⁶ US Census, 1920-2010.

²⁸⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 100.

²⁸⁸ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 137. Note: The name Gupton is still present in the area with many parcels of land owned by and houses named for members of the family. Franklin County Tax Office, http://maps2.roktech.net/franklin_GM4.

Bros. and C. G. Wood, as well as a school (FK0733) and two churches which were going to be moved to new lots.²⁸⁹

The community became Franklin County's fifth full-fledged town when it was officially incorporated as Wood in 1917. With a population of 372 the town was already double the size of Bunn and almost as large as Youngsville. The Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Company was thriving and as such the community was thriving too. Wood quickly boasted its own bank, the Wood Bank and Trust Company (FK0730), a doctor's office and pharmacy (FK0731), a hotel, and two churches, one Methodist and one Baptist. Originally known as Bethany Baptist Church, the Baptist church changed its name to Wood Baptist Church. Notable people in the community included Mr. Newsome, the town's first mayor; J. S. Shearin, manager of the hotel; and Will Carter, the town policeman. From 1918 to 1931, Sid Hamlet was the town's postmaster, and from 1931 to 1957, F. A. Read was the town's second and last postmaster.²⁹⁰

In 1922, the Montgomery Lumber Company purchased the interest of the Greenleaf-Johnson Company in the community and continued logging activities until 1924. By then, the railroad extended east to White Level, but its operation ceased with the lumber company and the tracks were removed a year later. The departure of the lumber company marked the end of Wood's heyday and commerce in the small town began to decline.

Though the town conceded its charter in 1961, a plat drawn in 1913 provides a glimpse of the plans for Wood's growth with lots laid out on the south side of NC 561 east of the railroad line. The grid of proposed streets is still visible on the Franklin County parcel map, although there is little evidence that they were ever developed. The lots are also larger than originally

²⁸⁹ "Big Auction Sale," *News and Observer*, November 29, 1913, newspapers.com (accessed December 9, 2017).

Note: It is likely that C. G. Wood is Charlie Wood of Wood's Store, though it is unclear if he operated two stores in the area or if Wood's Store had been renamed Woods Supply Company.

²⁹⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 150-151.

intended with two to four per block opposed to the ten to twelve platted and some blocks have not been subdivided at all. Property lines and changes in terrain still reflect the route of the railroad on its way to Vaughan.²⁹¹

A few early commercial buildings remain in Wood. The one-story, frame Bank of Wood (FK0730), built around 1920, has a cutaway corner on the northwest gable end, which is angled to run parallel to Wood Lane. There is a large porte-cochère on the northeast (front) elevation that shelters a window and double entry door and likely dates to the period when the bank was converted into a service station. The one-story brick building that housed Doctor Perry's office (left) and a pharmacy (right) (FK0731) features a parapet. Large rectangular windows flank the recessed double entry doors to the pharmacy while double-hung sash windows flank the glazed door to the doctor's office. Possibly the original Wood's Store is a one-story, front-gabled building on Collins Mill Road near the intersection with NC 561 (FK0729). The weatherboard-clad store has a simple shed-roofed porch that shelters two large four-light store windows and a recessed entry. East of the store are three ancillary structures including a secondary dwelling and to the south is a modest Craftsman-style dwelling, all on the same parcel.

As in many of the small hamlets in Franklin County, the residents of Wood established a local school for the area's children (FK0733). The small school, built circa 1920 north of NC 561 on Wood Church Road, has a one-and-a-half-story central section flanked by one-story front-gabled wings creating a truncated H-shaped footprint. Originally, two shed-roofed dormers were located on the front slope of the roof and pairs of nine-over-nine wooden sash windows lined the elevations. In 1946, the school closed due to the town's declining population and students began attending Gold Sand School, roughly seven miles away.²⁹² Soon thereafter, the congregation of

²⁹¹ J. O. Craig, *Map of Wood – N.C.*, 1913, Franklin County Register of Deeds.

²⁹² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 205.

Wood Baptist Church adapted the school as their church, altering the windows and main entrance and expanding the northwest wing to create a sanctuary.

Education

Education continued to play a large role in Franklin County as segregated public and private school systems operated concurrently and in some cases cooperatively with one another. Large building campaigns that expanded and consolidated the county's stock of educational facilities reshaped school systems, while new leadership and new laws transformed the systems to be more efficient and inclusive. Louisburg Female College also grew with the addition of new buildings and diversification of its student base. By the end of the third quarter of the twentieth century the landscape of both general and higher education bore little resemblance to its early beginnings.

State laws regarding education were also changing. In 1913, the state legislature passed the first Compulsory Attendance Act requiring children between the age of eight and twelve to attend school for at least four months each year, and in 1919, the school term was increased from four to six months. At the federal level, the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 and the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, provided funds for vocational training, agriculture, and home economics.²⁹³ The additional funding, as well as increased interest in obtaining a high school education, led the high schools in Franklin county to broaden their curriculum, and in addition to offering vocational and home economics courses, they also added college preparatory classes.²⁹⁴

Change within the county system began in 1913 when Edward L. Best was chosen as the first full-time Superintendent of Education. One of Best's first objectives was to consolidate the system's ninety schools with the construction of larger, more accommodating buildings. In 1916,

²⁹³ "The History of Education in North Carolina," North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED369713.pdf> (accessed December 1, 2017).

²⁹⁴ Willard, 68.

one of the first new schools—a two-story building with five classrooms, a music room, library, office, and a three-hundred-seat auditorium—was constructed in Bunn. Likely known as Bunn School (no longer standing), it provided for 155 of the county’s roughly 9,000 students and served grades one through eleven.²⁹⁵

By 1930, there were seven high schools for white students: Bunn, Edward Best (FK0804), Epsom, Gold Sand, Louisburg (FK0268), Franklinton (FK0850), and Youngsville. High schools established for African Americans included Franklin County Training School (FK0554) in Louisburg, Gethsemane in Bunn, B. F. Person-Albion in Franklinton, and Perry School (FK0549) in the Centerville community. According to Pearce, most of the high school buildings for white students were one-story brick buildings with classrooms arranged around a central auditorium.²⁹⁶

The Franklin County Training School and Perry School were among fourteen schools built for the county’s African American students in the 1920s with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. Inspired by Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, created the fund to promote the education of African Americans in the South by distributing matching grants for the construction of public schools. Funds for the local match were raised through school taxes and supplemented with private contributions from individuals in the community, both black and white. In June and December of 1928, the *Franklin Times* published lists of contributions for a proposed African American high school in Louisburg that shows most of the donations were a single dollar.²⁹⁷ In addition to offering grants, the Rosenwald Fund developed architectural plans and specifications for the schools it helped to

²⁹⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 140, 149, 151.

²⁹⁶ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 159.

²⁹⁷ “Colored Folks Raise Money for High School,” *The Franklin Times*, June 15, 1928 and “Contributors to Colored School Fund,” December 14, 1928.

construct. These plans were grounded in progressive ideas and emphasized sturdy construction, adequate lighting and ventilation, as well as generous classroom sizes. Plans ranged from one-teacher schools to schools with upwards of ten classrooms. Overall, the program funded nearly 5,000 schools for African Americans, including 787 in North Carolina, more than any other state.²⁹⁸

Most of Franklin County's Rosenwald Schools followed two- and three-teacher plans; one example each of a four-teacher, six-teacher, and seven-teacher plan was also built. While desegregation led to the abandonment of many of the schools, at least three are still standing. These include the three-teacher Concord (FK0545) and Copeland-Perry (FK0898) schools and the two-teacher Wilder's Grove School. Another two-teacher school, White Pine, was lost to a fire in recent years, while others have fallen into disrepair. Of the identified and extant schools, Concord, which is used as a community center, is the best preserved. Others, such as the Copeland-Perry School, have been repurposed as residences.²⁹⁹

Completed in 1929, the Franklin County Training School's seven-teacher Rosenwald school (FK0554, original building is no longer extant) followed plan 7-A, one of the larger Rosenwald plans. The construction of the school was supervised by Marion Stuart Davis, an architect and the son of Matthew S. Davis, an early principal of the Franklin Male Academy, and completed by W. H. Allen Co. as the contractor. The brick-veneered building faced north toward River Road and had an H-shaped plan with two front-gabled wings flanking a side-gabled center section. Paired nine-over-nine wooden sash windows lit the gable ends while ribbons of nine-

²⁹⁸ Marvin A. Brown, *Research Report: Tools for Assessing the Significance and Integrity of North Carolina's Rosenwald Schools* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2007).

²⁹⁹ Crossroads School may be a Rosenwald school or may have utilized a Rosenwald plan without receiving financial assistance from the Rosenwald Fund; its status has not been determined. There may be additional extant schools yet to be identified because they have been so extensively altered or have been moved from their original locations and not readily available to surveyors.

over-nine wooden sash windows lit the side elevations. The school contained an auditorium with a stage at one end that doubled as a classroom, a library, a home economics room, boys' and girls' restrooms, and offices. Coal burning potbelly stoves were used to heat the classrooms while the large windows and high ceilings provided light and ventilation.

The school was originally a part of the Louisburg Graded School District and taught elementary and high school students, producing Franklin County's first public high school graduating class of African Americans students in 1933. Sometime prior to World War II, an "Ag Building" (FK0867) was erected on the campus. No Rosenwald funds were used for the building, but its form—long and narrow with side gables and ribbons of nine-over-nine wooden sash windows—recalls many Rosenwald designs for the smaller weatherboarded schools. (In fact, the Rosenwald Fund provided complimentary plans to any school that desired them, whether or not a matching grant had been rewarded.) The building housed agriculture and shop classes and was eventually enlarged with an additional room on each end. Sometime after 1965, it was moved to a pallet mill on NC 56 West near Katesville, placed on a raised concrete block foundation, and had two garage doors installed.³⁰⁰ Despite the alterations, the building retains a great deal of original material and appears to be the oldest extant structure associated with the county training school.

In the 1940s, Franklin County Training School began to feel the pressures of a growing population. Around the same time, the school also began a farm training program for veterans returning from World War II and by 1946 expanded the program to include buildings trades. Through the building trades program, the school was able to construct a combined gymnasium/auditorium and classroom building. Though it is no longer extant, the two-story

³⁰⁰ John Hadley Cabbage, *The Louisburg Rosenwald School: Franklin County Training School/Riverside High School* (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2005), 93-94, 116.

building housed classrooms on the first floor with the gymnasium/auditorium on the second floor. Another classroom building, constructed in 1951, is the “Porch Building” (FK0554, extant). The long, side-gabled concrete block building veneered in brick rests ten to twenty feet to the west of the Rosenwald building’s site and has a shed-roofed porch (perhaps not original but in place by 1960) that spans its front elevation to shelters five entry doors, each of which accessed a classroom. The building’s only decorative elements are simple gallows brackets below moderately deep eaves.

In March of 1960, the original Rosenwald building was lost to fire. Following its demise, the school system used the Oak Grove Lodge 393 (FK1201), located across the street from the campus, and a church on South Main Street to hold classes. Roughly a week after the fire, the school board directed Mr. Ralph Reeves, of the Raleigh Holloway-Reeves architectural firm, to draft plans for a 14-classroom school, with the intention of comparing the cost of 10, 12, and 14 classrooms once the insurance settlement was determined. Ultimately, plans for a 12-classroom building were implemented. The design represents the school system’s gravitation toward a more modern building aesthetic as well as a change in school design principles that placed greater value on the experience of the pupil versus the adult. These principles, which are apparent in other Franklin County academic buildings of this era, emphasized child appropriate scales, and paid more attention to social spaces, such as hallways, entrances, and courtyards, where children could gather and interact. The new designs for unimposing one-story buildings were further enhanced by new technologies that allowed for the creation of large multi-use spaces unobstructed by pillars and posts. The one-story, brick-veneered, concrete block building that replaced the Rosenwald School rests on a concrete slab and has a low-slope roof with exposed

precast concrete joists. Like all modern schools, it has metal doors and window sashes, here consisting of paired windows with three-horizontal lights over large steel panels.³⁰¹

The school system continued to use the campus to educate African American students, constructing a brick-veneered cafeteria building in the 1960s. The school was renamed as the Riverside Union High School, then as the Riverside High School, and after desegregation in 1969 it became Louisburg Elementary School, teaching grades one through four. In 2006, the school system converted the campus to administrative offices for the Franklin County School System.³⁰²

Another multi-building public school for African Americans is the Perry School (FK0549). The campus originated with a frame three-teacher Rosenwald School in 1928. In 1941, after fire destroyed the Rosenwald school, it was replaced with a frame Colonial Revival-style building, the construction of which was supervised by Marion Stuart Davis. One story in height, the side-gabled building has two projecting gables with returns at each end of the west façade. Two entry porches feature gabled roofs with cornice returns supported by posts with caps and shelter replacement doors under transoms. Individual and paired nine-over-nine double-hung windows light the school and entrances on the north and south elevations provide additional access to the six classrooms, auditorium/cafeteria, and restrooms. The school was funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA), with a portion of the labor for the building provided by the National Youth Administration (NYA). Both the NYA and the PWA were programs created by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal to help communities recover from the Great Depression. Though the second school post-dates the Rosenwald fund, its design, particularly its paired nine-over-nine windows and multiple exterior entrances, recalls Rosenwald buildings while also displaying

³⁰¹ Ibid., 113.

³⁰² Nancy Van Dolsen, "Franklin County Training School – Riverside Union School," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2012.

a tendency toward the nationally popular Colonial Revival style. Later additions to the campus include a 1949 concrete-block rear wing that runs perpendicular to the main block of the school, a 1952 one-story brick modernist high school building designed by Holloway, Weber, and Reeves of Raleigh, and a 1963 gymnasium designed by Holloway-Reeves. The plans for the high school building were duplicates of the plans provided for the construction of a new Gethsemane School in Bunn.³⁰³ Unlike the campus of the Franklin County Training School, the Perry School was permanently closed after the desegregation of the school district.

One significant African American school in Franklin County was not associated with the Rosenwald Fund: the B. F. Person-Albion School in Franklinton. The first building of the campus, which stands between South Hillsborough and South Main streets, was constructed in 1929 as the Franklinton Graded School for Negroes to replace a school by the same name that had been located a few blocks away and had burned. The nearby Albion Academy taught high school students and though it was a private school, an agreement with the Franklinton School District Superintendent, G.B. Harris, and the principal of Albion Academy, Dr. John A. Savage, allowed African American students in the public school system to take high school classes at the academy. In 1934, the elementary school was named B. F. Person School in honor of its first principal, Benjamin Franklin Person, and between 1953 and 1967 it was expanded with a cafeteria, additional classrooms, a high school, all with flat or low-sloped roofs and brick veneer, as well as a combination gymnasium/auditorium with a barrel roof. In 1957, the school merged with the Albion Academy, which joined the Franklinton public school system in 1933, and in 1961 it was renamed B. F. Person-Albion High School. Following desegregation, in 1969, high school students were moved to Franklinton High School and the B. F. Person-Albion School

³⁰³ Jennifer Mitchell, "Perry School," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2011.

became the Franklinton Elementary School.³⁰⁴ The pre-World War II buildings are no longer extant, but the multi-building campus retains the 1950s buildings, although the classroom buildings have replacement gable roofs.

As the Franklin County School system dealt with overcrowding and the provision of schools for both white and African American students, the Franklinton Graded School District was experiencing its own struggles with overcrowding. In 1922 the school board met to discuss the construction and financing of a new high school for white students (FK1148). Initially, the board proposed to issue bonds but in the end accepted an offer from S. C. Vann of Sterling Cotton Mill to personally finance the project. A site in the center of town, bound by Main, Mason, Hillsborough, and Vine Streets, was chosen for the school, and except for the Citizens Bank building (FK1147) included the whole block. The school district purchased portions of the land from the descendants of the Joyner and Henley families, as well as Miss Mollie Harris, whose dwelling was removed from the site. Another parcel of land, which contained the Franklinton Masonic Lodge's building (FK0485), was donated to the district by the masons and the lodge building was moved to a new site. Construction began on the building in 1923 and it opened for classes in 1925.³⁰⁵

The three-story Neoclassical Revival-style brick building, which is still in use as a school, dominates the north end of Franklinton's central business district. Its primary elevation, facing Main Street, features five slightly projecting bays defined by cast stone pilasters. Here, the first floor is veneered in cast stone block and a decorative broken pediment tops the middle of the three recessed entries while large six-over-six and nine-over-nine windows fill the bays on

³⁰⁴ Cheryl Faye Hollar, *A Walk Through History: A Town Called Franklinton Celebrates Its 150th* (Louisburg: Cypress Creek Publications, 1992).

³⁰⁵ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 158.

the second and third floors. Six bays to each side of the central projecting bays feature a pronounced belt course, large eight-over-eight windows on the first floor, and paired nine-over-nine windows on the upper floors.

Up until the 1930s, school systems relied primarily on local funding to construct and maintain buildings as well as to pay teachers and other staff members. After the stock market crash of 1929, however, the school systems struggled to raise adequate funds, putting the operation of the schools in jeopardy. In 1931, the North Carolina General Assembly stepped in with the creation of the School Machinery Act. The act, which was refined over the next two years, shifted full support of the school systems to the state while also promoting the application of a uniform curriculum in each district. Local municipalities remained responsible for the construction and maintenance of their facilities and were encouraged to supplement state funds to build upon and improve programs, but were no longer required to provide funds in order to receive a match from the state government.³⁰⁶ Schools were required to be a part of the county school system to receive funding, and consequently all of the chartered school districts in Franklin County, aside from the Franklinton district, joined the county system.³⁰⁷

In 1941, Wiley F. Mitchell became the superintendent of the Franklin County School system. By then, the number of schools in the district had dropped drastically from its high of one hundred to around forty schools, but still consisted of mostly small, expensive-to-operate schools. Like Best, Wiley continued the effort to consolidate schools and improve the course offerings available to all students. Mitchell served as county superintendent until his death in 1963, by which time the district had been consolidated to fourteen schools.³⁰⁸

³⁰⁶ “The History of Education in North Carolina.”

³⁰⁷ Willard, 68.

³⁰⁸ Ibid.

Despite the U. S. Supreme Court’s decision in the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* case, which ruled against the separation of races in public schools, the Franklin County school system, along with many other school systems across the state, remained segregated well into the 1960s. Following the 1954 ruling, the North Carolina General Assembly in 1956 passed the Pearsall Plan, a constitutional amendment that transferred the responsibility of enrollment and assignment of students from the State Board of Education to local boards and thereby allowed the school systems to continue assigning students to schools based on race. In 1966, the amendment was declared unconstitutional and the desegregation process began across the state.³⁰⁹ In Franklin County, however, desegregation did not occur until after the landmark ruling in the case of *Harold D. Coppedge v. Franklin County Board of Education*, which challenged the school system’s approach to integration. The case resulted in a court order issued by Judge Algernon Butler, a member of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, stating that “freedom of choice” was an “illusion” and calling for total desegregation of the races in schools.³¹⁰ The Franklin County school system followed suit and in 1968 opened the school year with ten desegregated schools.³¹¹

As shown by the campuses of the Franklinton Training School and Perry School, integration had both positive and negative effects on the continued use and preservation of existing schools in the county. It also displays that the school system’s decisions regarding which schools to keep in use were not solely made on the previous designation of the school—African American versus white—or the age of the school’s infrastructure, as the Perry School, with its recently built classroom building and gymnasium, was decommissioned. It is possible that these decisions were made because many African American schools did not have the same amenities,

³⁰⁹ “The History of Education in North Carolina.”

³¹⁰ McDonough, 48.

³¹¹ Willard, 68.

such as central air, as white schools or because newer structures, like the gymnasium at Youngsville Elementary School (FK1251), had been built at more of the white schools in the interim.

As the public school system was adapting to modern times, Louisburg Female College continued to develop as well, earning junior college status in 1915. Four years earlier, the college enlarged the Main Building with a north wing, named the Davis Building in honor of the school's president, Matthew S. Davis, and designed by his son, Marion Stuart Davis.³¹² Arthur D. Mohn became the college's president in 1917 and in the 1920s he embarked on a building campaign.³¹³ In 1924, the college added a south wing with both classroom and dormitory space, which was designed by Davis and known as the Franklin Building due to the financial support received from the community during its construction. Both wings are two stories in height, rest on raised basements, and exhibit Greek Revival details in keeping with the Main Building's design. Other additions to the campus in the 1920s include the Pattie Julia Wright Dormitory (FK0263) and a rear wing on the Main Building.³¹⁴

Along with the construction, however, two devastating fires left their mark on the campus. The first, in 1927, destroyed the original Female Academy Building, which had become the Louisburg College Annex, and the second, in 1928, ravaged the interior of the Main Building as well as the newly constructed rear wing.³¹⁵

The school continued to grow over the next few decades. In 1931, it became co-educational, significantly increasing its enrollment, and in 1952, it was accredited by the

³¹² Bishir and Mobley, "Main Building, Louisburg College," and Maury York, "Architect Marion Davis had Major Impact on County," *The Franklin Times*, December 24, 2015, <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/davis.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).

³¹³ Louisburg College, "Our History."

³¹⁴ Bishir and Mobley, "Main Building, Louisburg College," and York, "Architect Marion Davis..." Note: The sources differ on the dates of construction for the Davis Building and Franklin Building with 1913 and 1929, respectively, provided by York and 1911 and 1924, respectively, provided by Bisher.

³¹⁵ Louisburg College, "Our History."

Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1961, the college purchased the Franklin Male Academy (FK0264) property including the Mills High School and soon thereafter remodeled the high school as an auditorium and classroom building to better suit the needs of its student body. Over the next decade the school continued to grow constructing four dormitories, a library, a cafeteria, and a student center.³¹⁶

In the aftermath of the 1929 stock market crash, families, businesses, and government entities struggled to make ends meet. Farmers experienced unprecedented drops in the value of their crops, with cotton and tobacco bringing in roughly half as much as in the 1928 season. As a result, farmers and homeowners were unable to pay property taxes and newspapers were filled with listings of properties for sale. To compensate for the loss of taxes, Franklin County raised property taxes in hopes the payments received from those who could pay would make up for the unreceived payments of those who could not.³¹⁷

As the Great Depression worsened, all levels of government, from local to federal, devised ways to assist their populations. In Franklin County, the county commissioners consolidated jobs, the state took over the maintenance and construction of all public roads, and the federal government's New Deal created assistance programs geared toward agriculture, unemployment, youth, and the elderly.³¹⁸

Though the new programs did not entirely offset the challenges brought by the Great Depression, many communities still benefitted from public improvement projects they funded. New Deal projects in Franklin County included the Perry School (FK0549), and a malaria control project at the Edward Best School (FK0804). The Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) assisted with the improvement of the school systems in 1938 by constructing a one-room

³¹⁶ Ibid.

³¹⁷ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 178-179.

³¹⁸ Ibid., 181, 185.

addition to the three-room Mitchell School, near Louisburg, which had been built in 1934. The school system was further improved when the Public Works Administration (PWA) constructed Justice School (FK0670) and an addition to Bunn School.³¹⁹

Another project completed with New Deal funding is the Louisburg Post Office. Constructed in 1937, the building is one-story, five-bays, and is clad in brick laid in Flemish bond. Large eight-over-twelve sash windows fill the bays flanking the main entry. A mural by Richard Kenah that depicts a bustling tobacco warehouse highlights the lobby. Murals were common additions to post offices and other projects completed by the WPA and were installed both to celebrate the defining characteristics of a community, such as Louisburg's tobacco market, as well as to create jobs for unemployed artists during the Depression.³²⁰

Civil Works Administration (CWA) funds were used for a variety of projects across the county including servicing sidewalks and dirt streets in Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville; grading, leveling, and draining school grounds in several school districts; building and remodeling privies at public schools; employing janitors and maids in at least six of Franklin County's school districts; and extending the water main and sewer in Louisburg. ERA funds were utilized for many projects as well, and were often paired with CWA funds. Some ERA projects included building eight hundred school desks for Franklin County and addressing a variety of maintenance issues ranging from roof repairs to repairing the gymnasium floor at the Mills High School. Non-school related projects included plowing relief gardens (gardens that

³¹⁹ Mitchell, "Perry School."

³²⁰ "Projects in Louisburg," The Living New Deal, <https://livingnewdeal.org/us/nc/louisburg-nc/> (accessed December 1, 2017). Note: Kenah is known for completing several murals for the WPA including the winner of the Treasury Department's 48-State Post Office Competition, which depicted the "Ohio Harvest," and can be found in the lobby of the Bridgeport, Ohio Post Office.

were created to provide food for financially struggling families), unloading cattle, and building stables and barns.³²¹

Twentieth-Century Residential Architecture: Colonial Revival to Modernism

The era of new architectural styles that began in the nineteenth century continued to develop and influence the landscape of twentieth-century Franklin County. While changes in taste paved the way for even more creative interpretations, as evidenced by some of Louisburg's stately Main Street dwellings, many residents held fast to traditional forms, applying Victorian detail only in moderation. At the same time, advancements in construction methods and building materials led to a more expedient construction process as well as a quicker dissemination of new forms and design aesthetics.

In contrast to the Victorian period, which opened the door to styles inspired by other countries and eclecticism, the late nineteenth century, particularly the centennial of the American Revolution, led to a greater awareness of early English and Dutch houses along the Atlantic seaboard. This new awareness resulted in the Colonial Revival style and though it reused many elements of the Georgian and Federal styles, the new style was manifested in inspired interpretations rather than exact replicas.

The earliest examples of Colonial Revival-style architecture combine classical columns, Palladian windows, and dentilled cornices with elements of the Queen Anne style, which remained popular in Franklin County into the 1920s. Often referred to as "Free Classic," the transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style is exhibited by the 1908 Allen-Bruton House (FK0169, discussed in the previous chapter), which pairs the asymmetrical form and varied

³²¹ J. S. Kirk, et al., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina. A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1936).

window types of the Queen Anne style with a dentilled cornice and a porch supported by slender Tuscan columns reflective off the Colonial Revival style.

Another dwelling that merges elements from the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles is the Claude Cheatham House (FK1218). Built in Youngsville in 1912, the dwelling has a quintessential Queen Anne-style form with a hipped roof and lower cross gables on each elevation. Its gables and porch, however, lack the patterned shingles and turned details found on true Queen Anne style dwellings, instead opting for clean lines and a wrap-around porch with a rounded projection at its center and Tuscan columns with Ionic capitals. The roof of the porch once acted as a second story porch and had a low balustrade.

Smaller than the Allen-Bruton and Claude Cheatham houses is a one-story, gable-and-wing cottage (FK0621) with a wrap-around porch supported by slender classical columns. Built circa 1915, the dwelling is an example of Colonial Revival-style details applied to a traditional form often associated with the Queen Anne style.

More fully articulated examples of the Colonial Revival style in Franklin County are characterized by a classic box form with a porch, classically detailed cornice, double-hung windows with various pane configurations, leaded glass sidelights and transoms, and Tuscan columns. Such characteristics are visible on the 1913 McKinne-Beam House (FK0267) on Sunset Avenue in Louisburg. It was built for Frank McKinne, who, along with two brothers, owned the successful McKinne Brothers Hardware store. The McKinne-Beam House, clad in weatherboard siding, is a three-bay-wide, double-pile house with a hipped roof and a one-story, full-width porch supported by Tuscan columns. The dwelling's elevations are trimmed with fluted Doric corner boards that support a plain frieze beneath overhanging eaves. A central entry door is framed with a leaded glass transom and sidelights and flanked by large, one-over-one,

double-hung sash windows. A porte-cochère with square columns extends from the east side elevation.

Rural examples of the Colonial Revival style are most often traditional house types embellished with classical elements. The Harris House (FK0563), near Harris Crossroads in southeastern Franklin County, is a three-bay, hip-roofed I-house with a one-story, full-width, hip-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns. Paired windows flank the central entry door, which has large, single-pane sidelights, and surmount the entry at the second story. Clad in plain weatherboard siding, the dwelling is finished with simple corner boards and a pressed tin roof.

Another weatherboarded example (FK1093) near Stallings Crossroads on the eastern boundary of the county, also has paired windows that flank a central entry door, but here the roof is gabled and there is no porch. Instead, the entrance is accessed by a small stoop, now sheltered by a metal awning, and flanked by Doric pilasters with a delicately dentilled entablature. Dentils also top the surrounds of the paired windows to either side. Though unusual on original colonial examples, except as later additions, one-story wings with flat roofs were often incorporated in twentieth-century reinterpretations as seen here. On one gable end there is a sunroom and on the other a flat-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns.

A number of the county's more fully expressed Colonial Revival-style houses display brick exteriors. A stately example is the W.N. Fuller House (FK0254) on Sunset Avenue in Louisburg. Constructed in the mid-1920s, the side-gabled dwelling features a ceramic tile roof, modillion cornice, a single-leaf entry door framed by a Federally inspired fan light and multi-pane sidelights, a gabled portico with fluted Doric columns, and tripartite windows flanking the entrance. In Franklinton, the house at 102 Williams Street (FK1102) is similar in form and massing, but here the roof is hipped, the entry is sheltered by a pediment and surrounded by

leaded glass sidelights and transom, and stylized modillions embellish deep eaves. Unusual brick patterns of stretchers flanked by headers suggest pilasters rising full-height at the corners of the house and defining the middle bay of the second-story façade.

Subtypes of the Colonial Revival style include the Dutch Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival styles. The less prominent of the two in Franklin County, the Dutch Colonial Revival style is exhibited by the Shaw-Ragland House (FK0229) and R. W. Smithwick House (FK0222) in Louisburg, both of which feature quintessentially Dutch gambrel roofs. The Shaw-Ragland House was built in the early 1920s for Chester Ragland, a road contractor credited with constructing over 200 miles of roads in Franklin County, and incorporates an earlier dwelling that was once owned by Josephine Shaw.³²² The remodel is credited to William H. Edens (FK0137), a master carpenter known for his work throughout Louisburg. The three-bay, double-pile, brick dwelling exhibits a steeply pitched, side-gambrel roof with flared eaves that are pierced on the east front elevation by three shed-roofed dormers with single and paired windows. The main roof of the dwelling shelters a full-width front porch that wraps around the south side of the dwelling where it is enclosed as a sunporch. Bulbous Doric columns support the porch, which shelters a symmetrical façade with paired six-over-six sash windows and an impressive paneled entry door with sidelights and a broken swan's neck pediment. Simpler in form, the brick R. W. Smithwick House also has a side-gambrel roof with shed-roofed dormers, but here they are full-façade on front and rear and a pedimented portico shelters a multi-pane entry door with multi-pane sidelights that is flanked by paired six-over-six windows.

The Georgian Revival style is most fully expressed by the Pleasants-Yarborough House (FK0230), which was designed by Raleigh architect, Howard Satterfield, and constructed by William H. Edens in 1927. Situated on a large corner lot on the west side of Church Street in

³²² Pearce, *Franklin County*, 159.

Louisburg, the striking two-story, five-bay by three-bay, brick dwelling has a hipped slate roof and a one-story frame sunporch on each side distinguished by paired pilasters and Chinese Chippendale balustrades. A gabled entrance portico is supported by two groupings of four slender Tuscan columns as well as paired pilasters. Above the grouped columns, a festoon motif decorates the entablature and the porch ceiling is round-arched to frame a blind fanlight.

The most grandiose of the revival styles is the Neoclassical Revival, which first appeared in Louisburg early in the century, as exemplified by the Egerton-Pruitt House of 1905 (FK0247, discussed in the previous chapter). While the style remained popular across the country until the mid-twentieth century, the Hicks-Perry-Bland-Holmes House (FK0166), built in 1914, was one of the last examples of the style constructed in Louisburg. The dwelling is defined by a massive, two-story portico supported by Ionic columns and intersected by a one-story porch that also serves as a second-story balcony. Additional classical details displayed by the portico and porch include deep friezes and dentilled cornices, while fluted corner posts, window surrounds with entablatures, and a leaded glass door surround with a fanlight detail the façade.

Despite renewed interest in colonial styles, historic Old World architecture continued to inspire twentieth-century revival styles. One such style is the Tudor Revival, inspired by English manor houses of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Adaptations of these dwellings became popular across the country following World War I, but in comparison to the classically inspired styles, full-blown expression of the Tudor Revival style were relatively few. The style's main following was among successful upper-middle- and upper-income families for whom the style of the English country house was more comfortable than the classical forms of the Italian or French Renaissance.³²³

³²³ Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004), 230.

In Franklin County, the Tudor Revival style is fairly restrained, exhibited by two residences in Louisburg, the Aaron Tonkel House at 714 North Main Street (FK0173) and the N. F. Freeman House at 903 North Main Street (FK0220), as well as a dwelling at 9 South Hillsborough Street in Franklinton (FK1150) and one near the Epsom Community in the northern part of the county (FK0942). All but the Freeman House are small, brick, period cottages with steep front gables and chimneys on the main façade. The Aaron Tonkel House and the house near Epsom have round-arched openings and varied window configurations. The N. F. Freeman House, on the other hand, is a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled, stone house, one of few in the county, designed by M. Stuart Davis in the late 1940s. The house features half timbering in its front-gable as well as in a pediment above the entry door. Three shed-roofed dormer windows span the front slope of the roof and a variety of window configurations light the dwelling.

Another dwelling displaying European influence is the Classical Revival-style Aldridge H. Vann House (FK0290) on North Main Street in Franklinton, which melds classical details and symmetry with the aesthetic of Italian villas. The two-story, tan brick dwelling was designed by architect James A. Salter for the son of S. C. Vann, the original owner of the Sterling Cotton Mill. Completed in 1918, the dwelling has an “H” shaped footprint and is capped with a Spanish tile hipped roof with deep eaves and large brackets. The entry bay recessed between the feet of the “H” is fronted by a one-story porch supported by six metal Doric columns; similar columns support the one-story side porches. Aside from its unique style, the dwelling is the only known poured concrete residence in the county.³²⁴

³²⁴ Ellen Turco, “Aldridge H. Vann House,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2008.

In addition to several Raleigh architects, two local individuals, the architect Marion Stuart Davis and the carpenter William Henry Edens, are credited with numerous Franklin County houses during the early to mid-twentieth century. Davis, a native of Louisburg attended the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University) before transferring to Trinity College in Durham. He then received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he continued his studies. Despite his academic endeavors and continuing to study architecture through a correspondence school, Davis never received a college degree. By the early 1900s, he had opened a practice in Franklin County and in 1905 he completed one of his first residential projects, the Neoclassical Revival-style Egerton-Pruitt House (FK0247) on Elm Street in Louisburg. Other residential projects credited to Davis include the Neoclassical Revival-style Hicks-Perry-Bland-Holmes House (FK0166), which along with the Egerton-Pruitt House is notable for its monumental Ionic portico; the Furgurson-Hicks House (FK0246), a Colonial Revival-style house featuring a full-façade porch with a pedimented entrance bay and a convex side porch; and the remodeling of the Carlyle-Pleasants-Elam House (FK0121) in the Colonial Revival style, all in Louisburg. It should be noted that the Hicks-Perry-Bland-Holmes and Egerton-Pruitt houses are also attributed to Frank Houck, possibly indicating a relationship between the architect and builder.

In 1906, Davis was appointed as superintendent of buildings for Louisburg College. The position marked the beginning of a decades long relationship with the college and led to Davis designing four buildings on campus: the Davis Building (North Wing of FK0014), named for his father, Matthew S. Davis, the noted principal of Franklin Male Academy; the Pattie Julia Wright Dormitory (FK0263); the Franklin Building (South Wing of FK0014); and the Holton Gymnasium (FK0104). In addition to working for the college, Davis was employed by the

Franklin County School Board and involved in the construction of two schools for white students, Bunn and Justice, as well as the Perry School (FK0549) for African American students.³²⁵ Davis also designed commercial buildings including the First National Bank building (no longer extant), which sat on the northwest corner of Main and Nash streets, and a number of religious buildings. As a Methodist layman, he built a relationship with the Duke Endowment, which was established in 1924 and funded the construction and maintenance of Methodist churches in rural North Carolina. His work includes churches of other denominations as well, including Cedar Rock Baptist Church (FK0675).³²⁶ As a civil engineer, Davis worked for the State Highway Commission and developed estimates for paving roads in Louisburg, and planned road projects in Iredell, Nash, and Wake counties.

Little is known of the early history of William Henry Edens, one of the most prolific carpenters in Louisburg. At some point, he worked with M. Stuart Davis and was established by the early 1920s. Edens remained active in the community through the 1930s and is credited with the construction of quite a few dwellings in a variety of styles. These include the Colonial Revival-style George Cobb (FK0261) and Harvey Bartholomew (FK0122) houses, the Tudor Revival-style Aaron Tonkel (FK0173) and Fuller-Green (FK0219) houses, the Dutch Colonial-style Shaw-Ragland House (FK0229), the Georgian Revival-style Pleasants-Yarborough House (FK0230), which was designed by Raleigh architect Howard Satterfield, and the brick-veneered and minimally detailed Mary C. King Rental Duplex (FK0182).³²⁷

Another style that emerged in the early twentieth century was the Craftsman style. Initially appearing on the West Coast and quickly spreading across the county, the style is often applied to the bungalow house type and interchangeably referred to as Bungalow style. The

³²⁵ Mitchell, "Perry School."

³²⁶ York, "Architect Marion Davis..."

³²⁷ Mason, "Louisburg Historic District."

bungalow, which derives its name from deep-roofed, informal cottages or *bangla* in India, is characterized by low silhouettes with low-pitched, overhanging roofs and engaged or recessed porches.³²⁸ The term Craftsman comes from the Arts and Crafts Movement popular in England in the late nineteenth century. Its ideology was introduced in the United States through New York furniture maker Gustav Stickley's magazine *Craftsman*. The style's philosophy, which valued efficiency and modern conveniences, saw the modest bungalow as a practical expression of its ideals.³²⁹

In Franklin County, the Craftsman style first appeared in the 1910s. Though the style is articulated in many ways, most Craftsman dwellings in Franklin County follow the ubiquitous form of a one- or one-and-one-half-story house with a side-gabled or hipped roof and an engaged porch. Most are frame with weatherboard siding, though a handful are constructed of brick. Most also have some form of dormer window, wooden shingles in gables, gallows brackets below deep eaves, windows with a multi-pane sash over a single-pane sash, and battered box columns on brick piers.

The largest concentrations of Craftsman-style houses are found in the county's incorporated towns. An early example of the style is a one-and-one-half-story dwelling on Glenn Street in Franklinton (FK1110) with a hipped roof, weatherboard siding, and a full-width, hip-roofed front porch supported by battered-box columns. Large, hip-roofed dormers with paired and tripled two-over-two windows are situated on the north, west, and east slopes of the roof. The 1920s one-and-one-half-story brick Julia Scott House (FK0202) in Louisburg reflects a slightly different take on the style, with a side-gabled roof and a large, off-center, front-facing gable that projects on the front elevation and is supported by two groupings of three square posts

³²⁸ Bisher, *North Carolina Architecture*, 499.

³²⁹ Foster, 346.

on brick pedestals connected by a low, brick balustrade. Filled with wooden shingles surrounding a small triple window, the gable shelters the entry door, which is flanked by fluted pilasters and crowned with a broken pediment. The style is also visible in Youngsville as exhibited by a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house on Franklin Street (FK1221). The style is most apparent in the dwelling's one-story, integral porch, which is supported by battered box columns on brick pedestals and partially wraps a side elevation, and in the large, centrally-placed, gabled dormer with a tripled, multi-pane-over-single-pane sash window. Similar windows, though displaying various configurations—individual, paired, and tripled—light the dwelling, and deep eaves with exposed rafter tails and simple gallows brackets characterize the eaves of the roof and dormer.

Many houses built prior to the early twentieth century acquired Craftsman styling through the replacement of a front porch with turned or sawn posts with a Craftsman-style porch. Less often, a Craftsman-style porch was added to a newly built dwelling with a traditional form, such as an I-house or a one-story house with a triple-A roof. Some examples of dwellings with replacement Craftsman-style porches include the Yarboro-Cobb-Holden House (FK0225), Neal-Clifton House (FK0218), and a house on Spring Street (FK0515), all of which likely added the porches in the late 1930s and 1940s.

In many ways, bungalows suited North Carolina's needs and habits; bungalows also tended to be cheaply and easily built. Their broad eaves and deep porches were appropriate for the state's climate and their open floor plans suited modern lifestyles.

While the Craftsman style and bungalow were being popularized in the state, another concept, the pre-manufactured house or kit house, was gaining awareness. Many the Craftsman style dwellings built in North Carolina are pre-manufactured houses that were produced by firms

such as the Aladdin Company, which had a mill in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Sears, Roebuck and Company. All of the framing and finishing pieces were delivered to buyers across the county via the railroad. The Raymond Mitchell House (FK1109) on Glenn Street in Franklinton is generally accepted as the first kit house in the area. More elongated than typical Craftsmen style dwellings, the one-story, front-gabled house has unusually deep eaves with gallows brackets in the gable and retains its original pressed metal roof. One side of the roof extends as a side of a gabled roof of an almost full-façade porch with slightly battered box posts on brick piers. A rectangular gabled bay with very slender six-over-one windows extends from a side elevation.

Contemporaneous with the revival and Craftsman styles is the Foursquare, which was meant to express the virtues of simplicity and efficiency. Characterized by its two-story, cubed massing, usually under a hipped, sometime pyramidal, roof, the Foursquare is defined by its floorplan of four, roughly equal-sized rooms on each floor. True Foursquares lack a center hall, although some two-story, two-room-deep, houses with center-hall plans are Foursquares. Many Foursquares have dormers, primarily on the front slope of the roof, and a one-story, full-width front porch. Initially, the style incorporated architectural detailing from Colonial Revival architecture or the Craftsman style, and while it flourished in other parts of the country, only a few specimens are found in Franklin County. One example of the style is the circa 1920 Elmore-Ferguson-Phillips-McDonald House (FK0255) in Louisburg which combines the form with modest Craftsman-style details. Two stories in height, the rectangular dwelling has a pyramidal roof and a full-width, hip-roofed porch that shelters an entry door on the west and paired windows. The second-story elevation repeats that of the asymmetrical first story with a window

in place of the entry door. Craftsman details include exposed rafter tails, battered-box columns supporting the porch, and nine-over-one sash windows.

As the 1920s came to a close, the stock market crash prompted a standstill in construction across the country. During the 1930s and 1940s, construction picked up with the erection of additional Craftsmen-style dwellings, by far the most popular style, as well as the introduction of the Minimal Traditional style. The pace of construction, however, effected by the World Wars, Great Depression, and the decline of the cotton and tobacco markets, was never able to resume its pre-1930s momentum.

The Modern movement and the International style emerged in the United States in the years leading up to World War II and eventually became the dominant influences on residential architecture in Franklin County. The Minimal Traditional style and the Ranch house are the two most prevalent modes influenced by the Modern movement, which gradually shed ties to historical precedents to form wholly new, modern styles. Characteristics of the Minimal Traditional style include roof eaves with little to no overhang, double-hung, multi-pane windows, and minimal ornamental detail, while Ranch houses are characterized by elongated, low-to-the-ground forms with low-pitched roofs and moderate to deep eaves, large picture windows, off-center and recessed entrances, and attached garages and carports.

The Ranch house, which originated in California in the mid-1930s, rose in popularity in the 1940s and by the 1960s was the dominant house type in the United States. Ranch dwellings are one story with low-pitched roofs, wide roof overhangs, off-center and often recessed entrances, and usually have attached garages or carports, and a variety of window configurations including large picture windows. Though it is streamlined and minimal like the Minimal Traditional style, the Ranch tends to be more expansive, with an emphasis on

horizontality. Occasionally, Ranch houses display Colonial Revival elements at entrance surrounds and cornices.

The popularity of Minimal Traditional and Ranch houses is closely tied with the development of planned neighborhoods and tract homes as well as the expansion of existing neighborhoods away from downtown cores. A neighborhood of frame Minimal Traditional dwellings, referred to as the K. Hill Subdivision (FK0849), exists east of Franklinton on the south side of NC 56. Developed around 1936, the similarly scaled dwellings exhibit a variety of forms with both front- and side-gabled roofs. Over time, most of the dwellings have been altered, but those that most closely reflect their original form are two bays wide, front-gabled, and have a small front-gabled portico that shelters the entry door in one bay and a single window in the second bay. Just west of the neighborhood was an industrial complex related to Burlington Mills, suggesting the subdivision was built as speculative housing for its workers. Two other dwellings typical of the Minimal Traditional style are on Hayes Street (FK1205 and FK1206) in Louisburg. Situated on adjoining lots, these one-story houses are three bays in width and display similar fenestration of a single-leaf entry door flanked by paired windows on one side and a single window on the other. The dwellings differ in that one has a front-gabled roof and six-over-six windows (FK1205) while the other has a hipped roof and one-over-one windows (FK1206), both being common variations within the style. Many other examples of Minimal Traditional houses surrounding the county's downtowns are brick-veneered.

Ranch houses are found throughout the county's towns and unincorporated areas. An early circa 1950 example with a hipped roof and a recessed entrance is located on Cross Street in Youngsville (FK0820). Here, the entry door is placed on a side wall of the recessed bay and a three-part picture window serves as the focal point of the bay. An additional picture window and

a semicircular bay window flank the entry bay. The main block of the dwelling is clad in linear concrete bricks with rounded corners at the doors and windows, a feature that is both indicative of the style as well as a growing interest in new materials and forms.

An unusual Ranch-style dwelling (FK1101) is located on the corner of Lee Street and Ramey Circle in Franklinton. Constructed in the 1950s, the side-gabled brick dwelling rests diagonally on its lot. The house's most defining feature is the use of alternating yellow and red bricks to outline windows and doors and distinguish a belt course of soldier bricks. Other Ranch-style features include picture windows and single and paired windows with a two-over-two horizontal-pane configuration.

One of the more impressive Ranch-style dwellings in the county is located on Jolly Street in Louisburg (FK1174). Constructed in 1957, the dwelling has a side-gabled, standing-seam metal roof, is clad with horizontal stone and board and batten siding, and combines a variety of window types—a ribbon of windows with diamond-shaped panes and pairs of large, horizontal-pane windows. A large carport addition extending from the center of the front elevation shelters two entry doors and two full-height, single-pane windows, while a stone deck extends from the side of the dwelling and a large chimney rises from the roof's front slope.

In contrast, the Herbert Landis Preddy House (FK0832) is an example of a rural Ranch-style dwelling. Laid in crab orchard stone from Tennessee, the dwelling displays an unusual form for the style with a gable-on-hip roof and short hip-roofed rear wings. More typical features include an integral one-car garage, a recessed entry, and a tripartite picture window as well as single and paired louvered windows.

Though most dwellings in the latter part of the twentieth century returned to a state of eclecticism borrowing from previously established styles and combining features and materials

in new but familiar ways, some designs created wholly new forms. Such houses are rare in Franklin County, but one such property, located in a wooded neighborhood east of Louisburg, deserves mention (FK1195). The two-story dwelling is defined by a steeply pitched and truncated (flat at the center), side-gabled roof that slopes to just a few feet above ground level. On the front elevation, below the eave of the roof, the dwelling is clad in brick, while the side elevations are clad in plain wooden siding. The shape of the gable is replicated in the dwelling's entry porch.

Agricultural Buildings

Along with changes to domestic architecture, the twentieth century brought change to agricultural outbuildings. Advances in the preservation and refrigeration of foodstuffs meant that many traditional outbuildings needed in the nineteenth century were no longer necessary. As house types evolved and plumbing was integrated into dwellings new and old, the kitchen was moved from detached auxiliary structures and rear wings into the main block of the house. Shifts in farming practices led to the demand for different types of agricultural outbuildings. With the growth of the tobacco market and the decline of cotton's profitability, the flue-cured tobacco barn began to dominate Franklin County's rural landscape. The tall, roughly square structure remains a characteristic feature of the landscape despite having been supplanted by bulk-curing barns introduced in the 1950s. Modern bulk barns were fully automated and required a smaller labor force than the pre-automated method. The modular metal units could also be used for drying a variety of crops, such as peanuts and small grains, as well as for curing crops like sweet potatoes.

Though it did not play a major role in Franklin County's agricultural economy overall, several the county's larger farmsteads incorporated dairying. One such example is the Harris

Farm (FK1058). Originally owned by Clyde Harris and his wife Annie, the farm is today 640 acres but once contained over 1,000 acres. It retains numerous domestic and agricultural outbuildings including a summer kitchen, sheltered well, chicken house and other animal shelters, silos, greenhouses, and a variety of barns including two Gothic-roofed dairy barns.

The design of the dairy barns is the result of early twentieth-century advances in science, particularly how bacteria is spread, and in construction methods. Barns were built at ground level, eliminating the previously common manure basement, and had improved ventilation and increased interior lighting. Materials were changing as well. While early-twentieth-century barns were constructed of post-and-beam frames, dimensional lumber and concrete became more common towards the middle of the century. Also rising in popularity was the use of prefabricated curved rafters like those on the Harris Farm's Gothic-roofed barns. Similar to gambrel roofs, which provided more space than a gable roof and did not require cross beams, the curved rafters of Gothic roofs maximized the enclosed volume of the hayloft to allow for more storage and maneuverability. Many of these barns were designed by the Loudon Machinery Company and like many houses, barns could be purchased from mail order catalogs distributed by the Aladdin Company and Sears, Roebuck and Company.

Constructed in the 1950s, the Harris Farm's Gothic-roofed dairy barns have a concrete block first story below a frame structure that is clad in German siding and sheltered by a soaring arched roof with slightly flared eaves. The roofs are covered with gleaming standing seam metal and have large air ventilators. Both barns have large loft doors flanked by four-over-four windows and above them, a triangular extension of the roof shelters an interior hay track that extends past the front gable wall to facilitate loading hay into the loft. Though the barns are

unique in Franklin County, they are representative of the influence mail order catalogs and plans had on architecture across the country.

Commercial Architecture

The twentieth century was an exciting time for architecture. Not only were new materials introduced and construction methods improved, but life overall was changed by advances in transportation, entertainment, and industry. These changes had drastic effects on the way people lived their lives and on the types of buildings necessary to conduct business, accommodate travelers, and entertain people young and old. As building types were developed and new types were introduced, commercial architecture, for the most part, exhibited the same styles that were popular in residential architecture, ranging from simple traditional structures to eye-catching and sometimes gravity-defying modern feats.

For the first few decades of the century, the types and styles of commercial architecture perpetuated those already established by the turn of the century. Several stores, such as Hale's Grocery (FK0752) built around 1915 in Alert and a store (FK0729) built around 1920 in Centerville, display these traditional forms. Like stores built in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the structures are front-gabled with large windows flanking an entry door, and are clad in plain weatherboard siding. The store in Centerville has recessed, double-leaf entry doors with additional windows on the side walls of the recess, typical of storefronts in both rural and urban areas. It also has a simple shed-roofed porch that shelters the entrance and windows. It doesn't appear that Hale's Grocery had a porch, though it did have two gas pumps as evidenced by the remains of a concrete island in front of the store.

As the century progressed, stores began to borrow from other architectural styles popularized by residential construction. This trend is displayed by a handful of stores with

Craftsman-style porches such as Pearce Service Station and Store (FK0676) built around 1930 near Stallings Crossroads and a store (FK0743) built around 1940 near Alert. Both stores have porches with battered box columns on brick pedestals that support the forward projection of the store's roof. Pearce Service Station and Store also has exposed rafter tails and stands apart due to its brick veneer, rather than weatherboard siding.

Concrete block, which was easy to produce and quick to assemble, became a popular material for commercial structures. It also was convenient and economical as it could be used for the structure of a building and either left exposed or covered with a stucco or veneer and finished with architectural details of almost any style. Many small stores, such as Jones Hart Store (FK0830) near Flat Rock and a store (FK1028) near Alford Mill, both built around 1940, utilized the material. The gable-roofed Jones Hart Store has a stepped-parapet wall on the front gable end finished with brick veneer, while the store near Alford Mill is built of exposed concrete block and has a hipped roof, multi-light steel casement windows, and a porch supported by cast iron columns. A one-story commercial building on East Mason Street (FK1139) in Franklinton features a façade finished with rusticated concrete block while the side and rear elevations are composed of smooth concrete block. Large stores used the material as well. Like many concrete block structures, particularly those that leave the blocks exposed, a 1940s two-story commercial building on West Green Street in Franklinton has little architectural detail.

Concrete block buildings constructed in Louisburg and Youngsville display a wide variety of materials and finishes. A one-story building (FK1191) constructed around 1935 on the south side of Nash Street in Louisburg has a large stepped parapet finished with stucco and side and rear elevations that exhibit rusticated concrete block. Youngsville's Main Street is scattered with one-story concrete block buildings (FK1240, FK1241, FK1247, and FK1248) that range in

finish from painted concrete block to brick veneered and stucco. These buildings represent the time-tested popularity of the material: the earliest of which was constructed around 1920 and the latest around 1975.

Despite the introduction of concrete block, brick remained popular structural and was usually the preferred exterior material for commercial buildings. Notable examples include the Scoggin Building (FK1188) in Louisburg and a row of commercial buildings (FK1142) in Franklinton. The Scoggin Building, built in 1915, is three stories and occupies a prominent corner at the intersection of Main and Nash streets. Its primary elevations are defined by large single-pane windows on the second floor and arched, single-pane windows capped with decorative brickwork on the third floor. A corbelled brick cornice wraps the building's roofline as well.

Many of the buildings in Franklinton's central business district were constructed of load-bearing masonry around 1920. The building at 104 East Mason Street features large segmental arched second-story windows between recessed panels corbelled at the top. The cornice consists of two rows of brick dogtoothing below three rows of stepped running bond. The adjoining building to the west is simpler and more typical, displaying rectangular window openings and a corbelled cornice above a band in a basket-weave pattern. A unique brick commercial building (FK1146) is located at 104 South Main Street. Constructed in 1922, the one-story building stands out due to the stone veneer covering much of its façade, apparently added in the mid-twentieth century when roadside architecture and eye-catching designs were popular. The veneer leaves exposed a stuccoed band, which likely contained the business's name, and a prominent arched, brick parapet.

Youngsville’s business district is similarly characterized by brick buildings, usually one or two stories with parapet roofs; a few retain original storefronts. A well-preserved two-story example at 132 East Main Street (FK1242) retains an original or early storefront of large plate glass windows flanking a recessed entrance. The first story of the two-story building is almost entirely consumed by a large storefront with a recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows and topped by tall transoms. At the west side of the façade, a segmental-arched doorway accesses the stairs to the second story, which is illuminated by segmental-arched windows. A distinctive cornice of three different bands of brickwork -- raised and recessed soldier bricks, stepped running bond, and dogtooth – caps the facade.

A new building type generated by technological advancements in entertainment was the movie theater. Like traditional theaters, early movie theaters often incorporated a stage as well as a projection screen and had ornate, often fanciful, façades to capture the attention of the public. The first “talking pictures” in Franklin County were shown in Louisburg in 1929 and in Franklinton in 1930.³³⁰ Two early movie theaters still exist in each town, though neither is in operation. According to the Franklin County Tax Assessment Office, the Louisburg Theater (FK1182), the more distinctive of the two built in the county seat, was constructed in 1910 and likely did not originate as a theater. The three-story brick building has a crenelated parapet that rises above the other buildings on the block. The lower portion of the front elevation has been altered, but the upper façade is largely intact, stepped forwards towards the center as pilasters that add an element of verticality to the building, drawing the eye to the top. Two rows of metal sash windows light the interior. In Franklinton, the Franklin Theater (FK1141) was built around 1940 and is now very deteriorated. It displays understated Art Deco details, including a large

³³⁰ Pearce, *Franklin County*, 178.

half-circle window at the first floor. Above, vertical recesses with windows and courses of recessed bricks create a stripe effect on the brick facade.

Franklin County is home to a variety of modern buildings in Louisburg, including a small, light-industrial building, the Franklin Times Building, a collection of medical office buildings, the Franklin County Administration Building, and the National Guard Building. These buildings range in function from utilitarian to recreational and display a variety of architectural details including linear glass and steel facades and flat and arched roofs. They also break from traditional forms, often emphasizing horizontality and verticality in new ways and pushing the boundary of what is possible structurally.

The earliest of these modern buildings is a small workshop erected in 1940 at 114 Elm Street (FK1180). This austere concrete block building displays a barrel-vaulted roof and an asymmetrical front elevation that is recessed at one end for a garage bay. Like many early modern buildings, aspects of established styles are not forsaken, and here exposed rafter and purlin tails harken back to the Craftsman style.

The 1956 Franklin Times Building (FK1194) is a tame, though impressive, example of a modern building. Constructed of concrete block and painted blue, the structure is defined by a prominent boxy cornice that projects roughly two feet from the front and side walls elevations of the building to emphasize its horizontality. Multi-paned steel windows, mostly casements, line the side elevations, while on the main façade there is only a single large, multi-paned picture window and an entrance of double glass doors with sidelights and transom, both sheltered by a taller projection of the cornice supported on the ends by thin metal posts.

At the north end of Louisburg, near the county hospital, three one-story, brick medical office buildings erected between 1956 and 1964 exhibit a distinctly Modernist aesthetic. The flat-

roofed building at 948 North Main Street (FK1172) displays the influence of the International Style architect Mies van der Rohe in its street façade that is primarily a seven-bay, three-tiered grid of clerestory windows at the top and windows, painted panels and vents at the middle and bottom. On the side facing the parking lot, a flat cantilevered awning that extends past the walls shelters the recessed main entrance. In contrast, the two buildings at 111 (FK1175) and 113 Jolly Street (FK1176) feature prow-gable roofs with very deep eaves marked by exposed joists. At the gabled main facades, plate-glass windows fill the gables and much of the facades below.

A restrained example of modernist architecture is the National Guard building (FK1212), built ca. 1974. The one-story flat-roofed, brick-veneered building lined by paired casement windows separated by narrow pilasters extends from two sides of a tall shed-roofed gymnasium. The main entrance of two sets of glass double-leaf doors, thin sidelights, and transoms is centered on and deeply recessed into the primary elevation of the one-story section where it meets the gym. On the main façade of the gymnasium, there are five bays of vertical, four-pane, clerestory windows separated by shallow pilasters and recessed beneath deep eaves

While many modern buildings blend into their settings, the Franklin County Administration Building (FK1192) of 1977 stands out from the surrounding buildings as a rare example of Brutalist architecture in the county. The two-story building with a full basement exposed on the rear and one side is constructed of steel-reinforced concrete. The top-heavy second story of solid walls of textured concrete block and an unbroken band of clerestory windows angled outward to meet a tall concrete cornice almost appears to float above the recessed first story consisting of a tinted glass curtain wall above an apron of the same textured concrete block. At front and back, an off-center, rounded projection of poured concrete accommodates a stairwell.

A building type that emerged for the first time in the twentieth century is the motel. Previously, travelers stayed at stage coach stops or hotels in the residential or commercial architectural styles popular at the time. With the advent of the automobile, the need arose for accommodations with ample, convenient parking. The motel, usually one or two stories with exterior entrances and a parking lot that wrapped the building, was a convenient response.

The Lanford Motel (FK1178, now an Economy Inn) on North Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg exemplifies mid-century motels. Built in 1956, the one-story, L-shaped building is constructed of long, narrow concrete blocks that resemble Roman bricks and is topped by a low-pitched hip roof that extends beyond the main façade to cover the front walkway. An office with aluminum-framed walls of plate glass windows above solid panels projects from the middle of the long, original portion of the motel facing the boulevard. Extending from the rear of the motel is a two-bedroom apartment built as a residence for the motel manager. The motel was enlarged over time with two additional one-story buildings, the more recent one of which is gable-roofed. A second hip-roofed building against the row of rooms on the rear elevation, and a detached row that rests to the west of the main block.

The introduction of the automobile also necessitated garages and repair shops such as the one-story brick-veneered building (FK1239) with a flat parapet roof that was erected in 1960 at the corner of East Main and North Cross streets in Youngsville. The office, marked by large plate-glass windows and a glazed entry door, occupies the northeast corner of the building and two garage bays (one later converted to a second storefront) occupied the rest of the main façade. Another mid-century, but much altered, automotive repair shop (FK1200) can be found at 938 South Main Street in of Louisburg.

Religious Architecture

Over forty churches were built in Franklin County from 1910 through 1970. While the majority of these followed established architectural traditions, many exhibit their early to mid-twentieth-century date in their construction material. Most of the earlier churches of this period are of frame construction and clad in weatherboards, but as the century progressed, an increasing number were constructed of concrete block, usually finished with stucco or a brick veneer, and many churches initially erected with weatherboard siding were remodeled with an application of a brick veneer.

One example of a church that was originally clad in weatherboard siding and finished with brick veneer in the latter part of the twentieth century is the former First Baptist Church at the corner of Main and Green streets in Franklinton (FK1145), built in the late 1910s to replace an earlier building that was destroyed ca. 1915 by fire. A three-stage corner tower capped by a pyramidal roof, and a boxy form topped by a hipped roof with gabled side dormers, and lower hipped and gabled projections on the main façade distinguish the building. A pair of lancet windows in a round-arched opening mark the front-gabled projection while the rest of the windows are rectangular and topped by round-arched transoms. Several other early twentieth-century churches that were remodeled with brick veneer later in the century include Manasseh Chapel Baptist Church (FK0848) near Needmore, Trinity United Methodist Church (FK0880) near Ingleside, and Rowland Chapel Christian Church (FK0887) near Rocky Ford.

Constructed in 1953, Perry's Missionary Baptist Church (FK0718) near Centerville represents a classically inspired church. The front-gabled church built on a raised basement and sheathed in brick veneer features a gabled portico supported by four Tuscan columns that

shelters double-leaf entry doors capped by a broken pediment with an urn and is accessed by a tall flight of brick steps. (The tall fiberglass steeple appears to be a modern addition.)

Though more than fifty years had passed since the conclusion of the Civil War, many aspects of daily life in early to mid-century Franklin County remained divided by race. This division was particularly apparent in the development and growth of African American churches. Scattered throughout the county, numerous African American congregations built small and medium-sized churches.

Enlarged or otherwise altered over time, most of these buildings are important primarily as emblems of the development of their African American communities. A few the churches, however, merit note for their architectural features. The diminutive Old Phelps Chapel Baptist Church (FK0644, on NC 98 southeast of Youngsville), demonstrates the continuation of long-established architectural traditions in its overall form stylistic attributes. The frame gable-front building, originally sheathed in weatherboards and later brick-veneered, has a simple square belfry above the narthex and small gabled wings extending from each side of the three-bay-deep sanctuary that give the original portion of the church a T-shaped footprint. The main block of Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (FK0763), between Ingleside and Centerville, is very similar to Old Phelps Chapel Baptist Church, but it is larger, has a lower-pitched roof, and is constructed of concrete block finished with stucco. Like the smaller church, its windows are in Gothic arches, but the windows of Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church are double-hung sash with arched transoms, in contrast to the double-hung sash windows with Gothic-arched upper sashes at Old Phelps Chapel Baptist Church.

Another church building important to African American history is the former Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church (FK1171) at the corner of South Main and College streets in

Franklinton, which was closely affiliated with nearby Albion Academy through its pastors who taught at the school.³³¹ Constructed in 1921, the brick building has a distinctive form: a cruciform plan with pedimented side wings and entrance porch on a raised basement. The form is further distinguished by a frame (now asphalt-shingled) gable-front section set back from the entry that rises above the side wings and has small, square stained-glass that act as clerestory windows to provide additional light to the sanctuary. Elsewhere the windows are tall rectangles with transoms, all filled with stained glass.

Like the county's residential architecture of the period, a number of twentieth-century churches were designed by architects. Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church may have been designed by an architect, as yet unidentified, but Cedar Rock First Baptist Church (FK0675) is firmly documented as the work of local architect Marion Stuart Davis. Completed in 1951, the brick building displays imposing classical revival details including a tetrastyle Doric portico, brick quoins, and tall round-arched openings. A two-story, gable-roofed Sunday school wing, completed in 1958, extends from the north gable end of the sanctuary and a side-gabled brick fellowship hall built in 1964 extends off the east elevation of the Sunday school wing.

Masons

Franklin County's Masonic organizations remained active through the mid-twentieth century and later, increasing in both number and type and constructing at least three new lodges. All are notably austere and have very few windows, in keeping with the secretive nature of these societies. One of the first lodges constructed in the twentieth century is a two-story, front-gabled building constructed of concrete block for Oak Grove Lodge No. 393 (FK1201) in Louisburg around 1920. A similar structure was constructed around 1950 for the African American Level

³³¹ Ansley Wegner, "Hopkins, Moses Aaron," NCPedia, www.ncpedia.org/biography/hopkins-moses-aaron (accessed January 4, 2018).

Traveler Masonic Lodge No. 583 (FK0717), which is associated with the Free & Accepted Masons. It is one of just over three hundred Prince Hall-affiliated lodges in North Carolina, of which there are four in Franklin County. The front elevation has only a central door at the first floor and a single one-over-one wooden sash window at the second, while centrally placed one-over-one wooden sash windows pierce the side elevation and the rear gable end.

The most recent of the lodges surveyed is the James A. Johnson Lodge No. 413 (FK1177) on North Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg. Erected in 1965, it exhibits the influence of Modernism in its minimal architectural detailing. The elongated rusticated white bricks sheathing the one-story, hip-roofed building are in an irregular bond except for two projecting, full-height panels on the north and east elevations where they are stacked four-bricks-wide. The panel on the east side contains a plaque bearing the masonic symbol; the panel on the north side facing Jolly Street is towards the east end and is balanced at the other end of this façade by the main entrance with sidelights and transom. The building's only other openings are two very small windows and a basement entrance on the west elevation.

Conclusion

During the early part of the twentieth century, the population of Franklin County slowly increased, peaking in 1950 with 31,341 before declining to 26,820 in 1970. Since then, the population has steadily grown as the Research Triangle Park area to the southeast (Wake, Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties) has developed. The largest impact has been in the area around Youngsville, which grew from 651 people in 1990 to 1,157 in 2000, an increase of 77.7 percent. As of the 2010 census, the overall population of the county was 60,619. Despite this growth and the corresponding introduction of chain businesses and residential sprawl, the rural areas of the county remain primarily agricultural in nature with vistas of plowed fields and pine forests. The incorporated towns, though dotted with alterations and largely sympathetic infill, also retain their historic feel.

The comprehensive architectural survey documents the tendency of Franklin County to retain its historic character despite numerous alterations to buildings in the form of vinyl siding, replacement windows, and additions. Beginning with a reconnaissance level update of previously recorded resources and ending with a survey of previously unrecorded resources, between 2015 and 2017 the project documented over 700 historic buildings dating from the 1700s to the mid-1900s that altogether express the county's primarily agricultural identity. Many of the resources surveyed are small, one- to two-story, frame dwellings with vernacular elements adapted to the climate of the region and the preferences of owners. Tobacco barns, mills, cotton gins, and other utilitarian buildings scattered across the landscape convey the county's agricultural way of life, and the presence of early churches and cemeteries attests to the importance of religion since the first settlers arrived in the region. The Franklin Academy, early school houses, Rosenwald schools, and mid-twentieth-century academic buildings reflect a continuous interest in the

education of the county's youth. Despite late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century fires, the commercial cores of Louisburg, Franklinton, and Youngsville exist as timelines of the communities' periods of growth and decline, and once-incorporated areas provide glimpses of short-lived commercial ventures. Large, stylish dwellings in Ingleside and Centerville represent the wealth of early families and the success of the cotton industry, while dwellings in Louisburg and Youngsville express the success of tobacco markets and the advantages introduced by the railroad. Similarly characterized by a variety of architectural styles and popular trends, Franklinton, through its mill and associated housing, provides insight into the importance of the textile industry as both a catalyst for commerce in the community and an alternative to post-Civil War farming systems. From its agricultural roots to its strong academic ties, Franklin County is a unique historic landscape worthy of being preserved, enjoyed, and cherished.

Bibliography

- “A House for a Female Academy.” *Weekly Raleigh Register*. June 24, 1814. newspapers.com (accessed March 17, 2018).
- Agricultural Census, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1930.
<http://agcensus.mannlib.cornell.edu/AgCensus>. (accessed December 9, 2017).
- “A New Brick Plant.” *The Franklin Times*. May 11, 1906.
- “An Act to Incorporate the Franklinton Military and Classical Institute, 1889.” Carolana.com.
http://www.carolana.com/NC/Education/1889_03_11_Act_to_Incorporate_the_Franklinton_Military_and_Classical_Institute.html (accessed April 1, 2018).
- Bernard, John. *Retrospections of America, 1797-1811*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1887.
- “Big Auction Sale.” *News and Observer*. November 29, 1913. newspapers.com (accessed December 9, 2017).
- Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005 (Portable Edition).
- Bishir, Catherine W. and J. Marshall Bullock. “Jones, Albert Gamaliel.” *North Carolina Architects & Builders*. <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000030> (accessed December 9, 2017).
- Bishir, Catherine W. and Joe Mobley. “Main Building, Louisburg College.” *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1978.
- Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Bollinger, Julie B., Rupal Desai, Scott Walston, *The 2014 Franklin County & Louisburg Comprehensive Transportation Plan*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2014.
- Branson, Levi. *Branson’s North Carolina Business Directory for 1884*. Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884.
- Braun, E. Lucy. *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*. Philadelphia: Blakiston Co., 1950.
- Brown, Marvin, A. *Research Report: Tools for Assessing the Significance and Integrity of North Carolina’s Rosenwald Schools*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2007.

Butler, Lindley S. and Alan D. Watson. "Unwilling Hercules." *The North Carolina Experience*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1984.

Carpenter, P. A. *Gold Resources of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1972.

"Cascine." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1972.

"Church History." First Baptist Church of Franklinton. <http://firstbaptistfranklinton.org> (accessed January 9, 2018).

Cockrell, Kathy. "From Railroads to Highways: The Bunn Story." *The Grey Area News*. March 15, 2012, <https://greyareanews.com/feature/history/railroads-highways-bunn-story> (accessed April 1, 2018).

Cockshutt, Catherine W. "Archibald H. Davis Plantation." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Cooke House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Dean Farm." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Dr. J. H. Harris House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Massenburg Plantation." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

Cockshutt, Catherine W. and John Baxton Flowers, III. "Green Hill House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Monreath." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

_____. "Shemuel Kearney House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1975.

"Colored Folks Raise Money for High School." *The Franklin Times*. June 15, 1928.

"Contributors to Colored School Fund." *The Franklin Times*. December 14, 1928.

- Coon, Charles L. *North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790-1840*. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1915.
- Corbett, P. Scott, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Paul Vickery, and Sylvie Waskiewicz. "The Economics of Cotton." Lumen Learning. <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/ushistory1os2xmaster/chapter/the-economics-of-cotton/> (accessed December 8, 2017).
- Cubbage, John Hadley. *The Louisburg Rosenwald School: Franklin County Training School/ Riverside High School*. Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 2005.
- Diary of Anna Long Thomas Fuller*. Louisburg College Library. Louisburg, North Carolina, 1856-1857.
- "Davis, Joseph Jonathan." Biographical Directory of the United States Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=D000123> (accessed November 6, 2017).
- "Destructive Fire." *The Charlotte Observer*. October 31, 1886. newspapers.com (accessed Dec. 5, 2017)
- "Fire at Franklinton." *The Chatham Record*. December 26, 1889. newspapers.com (accessed Dec. 5, 2017).
- Fisk University Rosenwald Database. rosenwald.fisk.edu (accessed December 1, 2017).
- Foster, Gerald. *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
- Franklin County Heritage, North Carolina, Vol. 1*. Franklin County Heritage Book Committee, 2008.
- Franklin County Tax Office, http://maps2.roktech.net/franklin_GM4.
- Franklin County Register's Office, Deed Book 32, Page 213.
- "Franklin Man Named to Sales Supervisor Post." *The Nashville Graphic*. June 2, 1949. newspapers.com (accessed Nov. 6, 2017).
- Gregory, Lisa. "Twentieth Century Overview." NCpedia. www.ncpedia.org/history/20th-Century/overview (accessed December 1, 2017).
- Hall, Francis. *Travels in Canada and the United States in 1861*. Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1818.

- Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones, and Christopher B. Daly. *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987.
- Hill, Michael. "The Person Place of Louisburg, N.C., Volume 1." Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1980.
- Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Division of Archives and History, 1977.
- "Historic Cascine Mill." Preservation North Carolina. www.cascinemill.com (accessed December 1, 2017).
- "History of the Wake Baptist Association, its auxiliaries and churches, 1866-1966." Archive.org. https://archive.org/stream/historyofwakebap00trot/historyofwakebap00trot_djvu.txt (accessed April 2, 2018).
- "The History of Education in North Carolina." North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED369713.pdf> (accessed December 1, 2017).
- Hollar, Cheryl Faye. *A Walk Through History: A Town Called Franklinton Celebrates Its 150th*. Louisburg: Cypress Creek Publications, 1992.
- House, Jane Ruffin. *Communion of Saints: The History of the Episcopal Church in Louisburg, North Carolina*. Dennisport: Graphic Illusions, 1995.
- HPOWeb, <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb>.
- John H. Mills Lodge No. 624. "History." <http://johnhmills624.weebly.com/history.html> (accessed December 12, 2017).
- Kirk, J. S., Walter A. Cutter, and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina. A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935*. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1936.
- Kunickis, Sheryl Hallmark. *Soil Survey of Franklin County, North Carolina*. United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., 2004.
- Lally, Kelly A. *The Historic Architecture of Wake County North Carolina*. Wake County: Wake County Government, 1994.
- Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Bernard L. Herman. *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1997.

- Lefler, H. T. and A. R. Newsome. *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963.
- Little, M. Ruth. *A Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Carteret County, North Carolina's Archipelago*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2012.
- _____. "Sterling Cotton Mill." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Longleaf Historic Resources. Raleigh, 1996.
- Lilley, Charles A., L. S. Hardin, Thomas H. Delano, Wilfred Pocklington Pond, "Prominent Carolinian," *Tobacco: An Illustrated Weekly Journal for the Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Cigars, Manufactured Tobacco and Smoker's Articles* 69 (February 1920).
- "Local Advertisements." *American Eagle*. September 15, 1860.
- "Local Advertisements." *Franklin Courier*. November 15, 1872.
- "Louisburg Again Ablaze." *The Franklin Times*. March 31, 1905. newspapers.com (accessed November 6, 2017).
- Louisburg College. "Our History." www.louisburg.edu/about/history.html (accessed December 12, 2017).
- "Louisburg Tobacco Market." *The Charlotte News*. January 22, 1915.
- Maple Springs Baptist Church. "Our History." <http://maplespringsbaptist.com/our-history> (accessed December 8, 2017).
- Mason, Vickie. "Louisburg Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1986.
- Mattson, Richard. "Spring Hope Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1988.
- McDonough, Molly. "Making Brown Real: A North Carolina Family Fought Threats and Intimidation After Suing to Integrate Schools." *American Bar Association Journal*, 2004.
- Mckinley, Shepherd W. and Cynthia Risser Mckinley. "The Great Migration and North Carolina." Learn NC. www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-newcentury/5996 (accessed November 6, 2016).
- Mitchell, Jennifer. "Perry School." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2011.
- Moore, Mark Anderson. *The Old North State at War, The North Carolina Civil War Atlas*. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2015.

- “Mrs. Joe Person's Remedy Label.” East Carolina University. Digital Collections. <https://digital.lib.ecu.edu/949> (accessed Nov. 6, 2017).
- Newsome, A. R., ed. “Twelve North Carolina Counties in 1810-1811: III.” *The North Carolina Historical Review* 6, no. 2 (1929). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23515197> (accessed December 15, 2017).
- “Patty Person Taylor House.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 1974.
- Pearce, T. H. *Early Architecture of Franklin County II*. Freeman: Pine Hill Press, 1988.
- _____. *Franklin County 1779-1979*. Freeman: Pine Hill Press, 1979.
- Pearce, T. H. and Michael T. Southern. “Franklinton Depot.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1990.
- Powell, William S. ed. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
- _____. *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
- _____. *North Carolina Through Four Centuries*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.
- _____. *The North Carolina Gazetteer, A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places*. Seventh Printing. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987.
- “Projects in Louisburg.” The Living New Deal. <https://livingnewdeal.org/us/nc/louisburg-nc/> (accessed December 1, 2017).
- Richardson, Marvin and C. S. Everett. “Haliwa-Saponi Tribal History.” Learn NC. <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nc-american-indians/7266> (accessed February 28, 2018).
- Rights, Douglas L. *The American Indian in North Carolina*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 1957.
- Roth, Leland M. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1979 (Reprint 1980).
- “Saint Matthias Episcopal Church.” *The Franklin Times*. May 25, 1894.
- State Board of Education Plant Operations Division Plant and Sanitation Survey Reports, 1940, State Archives, Raleigh, N.C.

- Tompkins, D. A. *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features*. Charlotte: D. A. Thompkins, 1899.
- “Tour Historic Louisburg, North Carolina.” Walking Tour Brochure. Tar River Center for History and Culture Foundation, Inc., Louisburg, 2015.
- Trimble, Stanley. *Man-Induced Soil Erosion on the Southern Piedmont, 1700-1970*. Ankeny: Soil Conservation Society of America, 1974.
- Turco, Ellen. “Aldridge H. Vann House.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2008
- United States Census. <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>
- Van Dolsen, Nancy. “Franklin County Training School – Riverside Union School,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2012
- Watson, Alan D., ed. “Ordinaries in Colonial Eastern North Carolina.” *The North Carolina Historical Review* 45 (1968).
- Waugh, E. C. *North Carolina’s Capital, Raleigh*. Raleigh: North Carolina State University Print Shop, 1967.
- Wegner, Ansley. “Hopkins, Moses Aaron.” NCPedia. www.ncpedia.org/biography/hopkins-moses-aaron (accessed January 4, 2018).
- Willard, George-Anne ed. *Franklin County Sketchbook*. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1982.
- Will of Colonel Jeremiah Perry. www.ncgenweb.us/franklin/wills/wills-estates6.htm#perry-jerem (accessed December 9, 2017).
- York, Maury. “Architect Marion Davis had Major Impact on County.” *The Franklin Times*. December 24, 2015. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/davis.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).
- _____. “A Century Ago, Bunn was Poised for Faster Growth.” *The Franklin Times*. July 25, 2013. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/bunn.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).
- _____. “Albion Academy Served African Americans for Decades.” *The Franklin Times*. March 20, 2014. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/albion.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).
- _____. “Conservative Politics Delayed Public School Creation.” *The Franklin Times*. March 10, 2016. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/publicSchools.html> (accessed December 8, 2017).

_____. "Robust 'Leaf' Market Opened Here Early." *The Franklin Times*. May 12, 2016. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/tobaccoMarket.html> (accessed December 8, 2017).

_____. "Sterling Cotton Mills Had a Big Impact on Franklinton." *The Franklin Times*. July 10, 2014. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/sterling.html> (accessed January 4, 2018).

_____. "Youngsville: A Boomtown in 1897 Thanks to Agriculture." *The Franklin Times*. January 23, 2014. <http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter/youngsville.html> (accessed January 8, 2018).

"Youngsville." *News and Observer*. August 24, 1889.

Youngsville Masonic Lodge #377. <http://www.youngsville377.org> (accessed December 1, 2017).

"Youngsville Fire History." Youngsville, N.C. www.yvfd.com/history.html (accessed January 4, 2018).