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National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

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This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic and Architectural Resources in Kernersville, N. C.

B. Associated Historic Contexts

I. Early settlement and development, ca. 1834-1873

II. Industrial and Commercial "Boom" Period, ca. 1873-1900

III. Maturation and Diversification, 1900-1930

C. Geographical Data

City limits of Kernersville, North Carolina

Nominations submitted with this cover:

South Main Street Historic District

North Cherry Street Historic District

Kernersville Depot, 121 Railroad St.

Roberts-Justice House, 133 N. Main St.

Isaac Harrison McKaughan House, 506 Salisbury St.

Harmon-Reid Mill, 208 Bodenhamer St.

(former) First Baptist Church, 126 N. Main St.

Stuart Motor Company, 109-111 E. Mountain St.

See attached map "Kernersville Multiple Properties Nomination" with properties marked and labeled.

☐ See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

12-18-87

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

Date

2/25/88

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

Introduction to the Historic Resources of Kernersville, N. C.:

Kernersville, North Carolina, is situated on a ridge on the eastern edge of Forsyth County in the Piedmont region of the state. The area is a natural watershed, and is the source of the Haw and Deep rivers, and Abbotts, Salem, Belews and Muddy creeks. There are also a number of fresh-water springs in the area. The area was settled as early as 1756, and the town developed around the intersection of two colonial roads, one connecting Salem, a Moravian settlement about twelve miles to the west, and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and one connecting Salem with Fayetteville and Wilmington to the south. Dobson's Inn, located at the crossroads, was the first stage stop on these two roads. The resources in the town consist of residential and commercial historic resources dating from ca. 1834 to 1930.

Within the town are two districts, the South Main Street Historic District and the North Cherry Street Historic District, as well as six individual properties: the Kernersville Depot (1873), the Roberts-Justice House (ca. 1875), the Isaac Harrison McKaughan House (ca. 1877), Harmon and Reid Roller Mill (1897), the (former) First Baptist Church (1915/16), and the Stuart Motor Company (1926). One property, "Korner's Folly" (#43; 1880) and its three attendant outbuildings, located within the South Main Street Historic District, is already listed to the National Register of Historic Places.

The resources of Kernersville can be divided into three distinct phases:

I. Ca. 1834-1873. The historic resources from the initial period of development, prior to incorporation of the town and the arrival of the railroad, are residential, consisting of frame or log dwellings, and later brick dwellings with Greek Revival detailing.

II. 1873-1900. The period of commercial and industrial development after the incorporation of the town and the arrival of the railroad produced both brick and frame residences which display primarily Victorian detailing. Commercial and industrial properties from this period are brick, generally two to three stories in height, and again, display Victorian detailing. This period of development and growth was fueled by the arrival of the railroad and the growth of the tobacco industry. As tobacco conglomerates grew the smaller manufactures were lost. By 1900 there were no tobacco factories left in operation in Kernersville, which had been home to five factories and two warehouses during the 1880s.

III. 1900-1930. During the period of maturation and diversification the economic base of Kernersville diversified. The Colonial Revival style was dominant in both residential and commercial development. Homes tend to be frame; commercial properties are brick.

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 - A. Early frame dwellings
 - B. Early Brick residences
- II. Commercial "Boom" Period, 1873-1900
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 - B. Frame Victorian residences
 - C. Brick Commercial and Industrial architecture
- III. Maturation and Diversification, 1900-1930
 - A. Early twentieth century dwellings
 - B. Commercial and Religious architecture

Key:

After the mention of any property certain information is given to identify the property, the nomination, and the date(s) of construction or significant alterations. In order to avoid lengthy repetition of district names the following key has been used:

SMSHD South Main Street Historic District

NCSHD North Cherry Street Historic District

If no initials follow a property name the property is an individual nomination.

Date(s) The date of construction is listed first, and dates of any significant remodeling or alterations are given in order.

NR Property is already listed to the National Register of Historic Places

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I. Early Settlement and Development in Kernersville, ca. 1834-1873

The area which became Kernersville was owned by at least four other men prior to its acquisition by Joseph Kerner in 1817. Caleb Story, the first recorded owner, received a land grant from the Royal Colony of Carolina in 1756. Story sold the property to David Morrow in the 1760s, and Morrow in turn sold the property to William Dobson in 1781. Known as Captain Dobson, he was a Justice of the Peace and a respected citizen, who ran an inn and stage stop and storehouse at the crossroads. The area was known as Dobson's Crossroads for years. Dobson added to his original 400-acre purchase until he owned 1133 acres along the ridge. Dobson's Inn became the first overnight stop on the road from Salem, North Carolina, to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Dobson and his son sold their land to Gottlieb Schober of Salem in 1813. Schober and his son, Nathaniel, operated the inn at the crossroads for several years, and in 1817 Nathaniel Schober sold the 1032-acre tract to Joseph Kerner. (1)

Joseph Kerner (1769-1830) was an immigrant from Germany. He was apprenticed to a clock-maker in New York, and arrived there in 1785 at the age of sixteen. He was then drawn to the German-speaking settlement of Friedland, near Salem, North Carolina. With his two sons, John Frederick (1789-1883) and Philip (1805-1875), Kerner operated an inn and stage stop, a tannery, and a mill, which drew nearby farmers. He also manufactured horse-powered fans which were used in mills to clean grain. Kerner added to his initial tract, and when he died in 1830, the property, consisting of 1144 acres, went to his sons, and daughter, Salome (1799-1841) and her husband Apollos Harmon. (2)

The Kerner's inn served travelers on the stage roads, and the success of the Kerner family's enterprises drew local farmers to trade. The mill, store and tannery were used by a number of local residents, and the area soon was called Kerner's Crossroads, rather than Dobson's Crossroads.

The Kerner land at the Crossroads began to split up and to go out of Kerner hands in 1837 when John Frederick Kerner, who had married Nancy Landrum, a Methodist, in 1821, donated a tract of land to the Methodist congregation for a church and cemetery. (3) A small mortise and tenon frame church was soon built on the site. The cemetery contains a collection of mid-to-late-nineteenth century monuments, including that of the builder of the first church, John Ross. (4) [That building was replaced in 1874/75, and it was replaced in turn by the present brick sanctuary (SMSHD #29; 1924/25) in 1924/25.]

The Kerner-owned property was gradually split up among the second and third generations of Kerners, and was sold out of family ownership. Salome and Apollos Harmon sold a tract on what is now Salisbury Street about 1840, and in 1848 Philip Kerner sold the crossroads tract and inn to William Penn Henley. (5) Francis M. Stafford purchased a house and land, and the crossroads began

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to take on the atmosphere and character of a small village.

The community had taken on the aspects of an agricultural trading center by the advent of the Civil War. The war slowed growth, but the return of production to surrounding farms brought trade back to the village, and set it up for its next phase of growth. In 1871 the crossroads community, with a population of about 100 people, was incorporated as the town of Kernersville. (6)

I.A. PROPERTY TYPE: Early frame dwellings from the period of settlement, ca. 1834-1873.

Description:

The earliest surviving dwellings in Kernersville are generally heavy frame or log, and with one exception, have been dramatically altered over the years. No dwellings survive from the first and second generation of Kerners, but several homes built for third generation Kerners in the 1850s and 1860s, and houses built by non-Kerner residents, remain in the South Main Street Historic District. By the 1850s residential architecture took on a more sophisticated, refined appearance with the introduction of brick dwellings built in the Greek Revival style. Three of these brick dwellings survive in town.

The heavy frame house now known as the Spears House (SMSHD #41; 1834) gives the best picture of early, modest residential architecture in Kernersville. It retains its three-bay, single-pile massing, rear sheds, and exterior chimney. The Sam Vance, Jr., House (SMSHD #55; ca. 1834), also heavy frame construction, was built about the same time as the Spears House, but has been remodeled substantially. The original single-pile form and exterior-end chimneys remain, along with the flush-board-sheathed ceiling in the front parlor, but the exterior was remodeled in 1942 in the Colonial Revival mode.

The Harmon House (SMSHD #36; 1858, ca. 1880, 1928/29) has a similar history, beginning as a two-story, two-room log house, enlarged to a center-hall plan about 1880, and remodeled in the Colonial Revival mode in 1928/29.

Significance:

The earliest dwellings of Kernersville reflect the modest but substantial frame and log dwellings of the early settlement period of the crossroads community. Only isolated examples of these early dwellings survive.

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Registration Requirements:

Because of the extreme rarity of settlement era buildings in Kernersville, any building which falls into this property type which retains design integrity of materials, workmanship and association is eligible for the National Register. Almost all of the buildings in this property type will have been enlarged, and might possibly have been moved. Therefore, loss of integrity of location and partial loss of integrity would not render the building ineligible. However, the building must retain enough integrity of materials and workmanship to convey an association with the settlement period. It is thought that all of the buildings in this property type are included in this nomination, but more may be discovered later.

I.B. PROPERTY TYPE: Early brick dwellings from the period of settlement, ca. 1834-1873.

Description:

As the crossroads grew, the Greek Revival style was introduced and brick became the preferred building material and the "I-house" the dominant form. Three of these brick houses survive. Two were built in the 1850s and one similar house was built in 1867. Constructed in common-bond brick, these houses are two stories in height and center-hall in plan. The Nathaniel Macon Kerner House (SMSHD #22; 1857) retains its closed-string stair and original woodwork. The cornice is bracketed and the bays are flat-arched. A nearly-full facade porch was replaced by a one-bay portico early in the twentieth century, and a two-story brick wing was added in the late nineteenth century. The Richard P. Kerner House (SMSHD #18; 1867) is similar in form and finish, and also has an early twentieth century replacement one-bay portico. The five-bay facade of the Dr. Elias Kerner House (SMSHD #27; 1857) is dominated by its three-bay, two-story gabled portico. The turned balusters have been replaced by plain balusters, and the ornamental brackets have been removed.

Significance:

The early brick houses in Kernersville tell a story which progresses from modest frame and log dwellings to the more substantial residences of the 1850s and 1860s, which were the forerunners for the typical Kerner T or L-plan brick house of the 1870s. This development of architecture reflects the growing prosperity of the community and a growing emphasis on stylistic embellishments.

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Registration Requirements:

As with the early frame dwellings, the early brick residences have been altered over the years to accomodate changes in style and taste. All three known surviving examples from this period have replacement early twentieth century porches, or have had some original decorative elements removed or replaced. In addition, all have received significant additions to the rear. In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, any house considered under this property type must retain the form of the original block. The addition of rear ells and replacement of porches would not alter the eligibility of these properties. It is believed that all the surviving examples of this house type have been included in this nomination, but any other examples which retain original block form, plan and a significant amount of interior woodwork would be considered eligible for nomination.

II. Industrial and Commercial "Boom" Period, 1873-1900:

The incorporation of Kernersville was followed within two years by the arrival of the Western North Carolina Railroad in Kernersville. The line was built to connect Greensboro, which had rail service prior to the Civil War, with Winston, which did not. Citizens of Kernersville, led by various members of the Kerner family, raised \$10,000, and Joe Kerner supervised the building of a four-mile section of tract to bring the railroad through Kernersville. The Depot (1873) opened in 1873, with Richard P. Kerner serving as freight and passenger agent, telegrapher, and express agent, a position he held for forty years. (7) The arrival of the railroad which brought cheap, reliable transportation to nearby markets, marked the beginning of a boom period for the community.

The population of Kernersville had grown to 500 in 1880, and the estimated population of 1888 stood at 1000. (8) Tobacco was the largest employer in Kernersville in the 1880s, with five factories employing about 300 people. (9) These five factories were: J. W. Beard and J. C. Roberts, est. 1881; W. H. Leak, est. 1873; J. M. Greenfield (SMSHD #23; 1884), est. 1881; Brown Sapp and Co., est 1884; and W. A. Lowery and E. J. Stafford, est. 1886. (10)

In 1888 Kernersville boasted the above-mentioned tobacco factories, two tobacco warehouses, a carriagemaker, two blacksmiths, a saw mill, a tannery, two grocery stores and three general stores, including Beard and Roberts General Store, established in 1870, and operated by Calvin Roberts (Roberts-Justice House, ca. 1877) and J. W. Beard, who also operated a tobacco factory. The town also had four doctors, a hotel, and a newspaper. (11) It was this diversity in the economic base which allowed Kernersville to survive the demise of the tobacco industry as tobacco corporations in Durham and nearby Winston began forcing smaller manufacturers out of business.

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One of the most successful businessman at the turn-of-the-century in Kernersville was DeWitt Harmon (SMSHD #36; ca. 1840, ca. 1860, 1928/29), who built and operated the three-story Harmon and Reid Roller Mill (1897) in partnership with John G. Reid. Harmon had inherited the two Kerner mills grist from his parents, and he operated them, first as water-powered, then as a steam-powered mills. Harmon served in a number of civic and political positions, both in Kernersville, and in Forsyth County. Trained as an engineer, he served as the Forsyth County engineer for thirteen terms, oversaw construction of a rail line from Winston-Salem to Barbers Junction to the south where the terminus of the line was located, and where the line split to Salisbury, Statesville and Charlotte. (12) Harmon served on the North Carolina Board of Highway Commissioners (1912), and on the Kernersville Board of Commissioners (1916-1920). (13)

Jule Gilmer Korner, great-grandson of Joseph Kerner and one of the earliest commercial artists in the South, was certainly the most famous resident of Kernersville. He constructed for himself over a period of years a studio and living quarters flanking a central carriageway and stables in a massive four-story brick cross-gabled house dubbed "Korner's Folly" (1880, NR) by family members. Korner, who devised the Bull Durham billboard campaign for the Dukes and American Tobacco Company in Durham, used the "Folly" as a showcase for his ability as an interior designer and builder. (14) There are twenty fireplaces, a number of which are non-functional, in the Folly, intended to show the diversity of styles Korner could incorporate in an interior design for his customers. Everything about the Folly is exaggerated, but it adds up to a delightful example of extravagant Victorian architecture.

With its broad economic base and relatively large labor force already used to manufacturing, Kernersville faced the twentieth century with every expectation of continued growth.

II.A PROPERTY TYPE: Brick Italianate Residences of the "Boom" Period, 1873-1900

Description:

The prosperity of the 1870s saw the rise of a distinct style of house in Kernersville, associated primarily with members of the Kerner family. Five examples of this style, consisting of a two-story "L" or "T"-shaped house, usually with the the leg of the "L" or "T" parallel to the street, with porches along this leg, survive in Kernersville. These houses are generally constructed of hand-made brick, with walls sixteen to eighteen inches thick. The houses are generally center-hall in plan, with interior chimneys. The interior trim is Italianate, with simple post and lintel mantels with low arched fire openings. The Theodore Kerner House (SMSHD #34; 1877) is perhaps the best example of the style, with segmentally-arched bays, heavy drip molding, corbelled cornice and stone lintels. The Rephelius Byron Kerner House (SMSHD

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#39; 1880) is similar to the Theodore Kerner House (SMSHD #34; 1877), except that the brickwork is not as elaborate.

The style was popular outside the Kerner family as well. Isaac Harrison McKaughan (ca. 1875) built his home on what is now Salisbury Street as the seat of his 450-acre farm. The Roberts-Justice House (Ca. 1877, ca. 1916) was built in the same style. Although the interiors were remodeled in the Colonial Revival style about 1916, the original massing and plan of the house survive.

Certainly the epitome of brick residences and extravagant late-nineteenth century architecture is found at "Korner's Folly" (SMSHD #43; 1880, NR), the home of Jule Gilmer and Polly Anne Marston Korner. The cross-gabled roof shelters a brick house with twenty-two rooms on four floors, with a theater in the attic and a ballroom on the third floor. The house was planned as a studio and living quarters for Korner before his marriage, and as such, contains twenty fireplaces, all with different detailing, as well as a variety of floor and woodwork treatments. Korner, a master builder and designer, is said to have been involved in the construction of a number of houses in Kernersville, and his own house shows the evolution of the decoratively finished brick residence in the town.

Significance:

The brick T- and L-plan houses of Kernersville are one of the most significant architectural styles in the town. The houses build on the tradition of residences built of local hand-made brick which had begun in the 1850s. These houses all feature decorative brickwork, including segmentally arched bay openings, cornices, molded hoods, and porches with decorative posts and bracketing. The tradition reached its peak with the construction of Jule Gilmer Korner's four-story, cross-gabled house in 1880. The house exhibits the extravagance of Victorian architecture expressed in brick. These houses reflect the prosperity of the period, and owners included tobacco manufacturers, prosperous farmers and merchants in Kernersville and are the logical, end expression of a tradition of brick residences, which reflect the popularity of the Italianate and Victorian styles.

Registration Requirements:

Requirements for registration of this property type are slightly more stringent than those of the earlier brick settlement period houses because more of this type survive. To be eligible, these buildings should retain a greater degree of design, materials, and workmanship integrity. Furthermore, if the building has been moved, it might no longer be eligible. Eligibility would then depend on whether it still retained some geographic relationship to

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the other examples of the property type and to the original historic context.

II.B PROPERTY TYPE: Frame Victorian Houses of the "Boom" Period, 1873-1900

Description:

The 1880s in Kernersville saw the introduction of elaborate decorative work, usually found on one-story frame cottages. Three excellent examples of the style exist; the Elias Kerner Huff House (SMSHD #37; 1880) which has been called the best example of the Victorian Cottage in Forsyth County, is the best example of the type. This house was built by Elias Kerner Huff, a local carpenter who also worked on Kerner's Folly (SMSHD #43; 1880) and many decorative details of the Folly can be seen in the Huff House. The exterior of the house is a wealth of turned and sawn work with a wraparound porch with lattice work, bargeboards, decorative shingling, turned balustrade and spindle frieze. The interior is equally well-appointed with turned work, decorative arches in the hall, and ornate surrounds. The Henry C. Korner House (SMSHD #40; 1889), also a one-story cottage, is a bit more restrained than the Elias Kerner Huff House (SMSHD #37; 1880), but retains much of its decorative trim.

In addition to the one-story frame Victorian Cottages, Kernersville has five two-story frame houses, generally one-room deep, with a center-hall-plan, exterior end chimneys, and rear ells. These houses are generally not as ornate as the one-story cottages, but exhibit late Victorian detailing. The James P. and Addie Kerner Adkins House (SMSHD #28; ca. 1890) best typifies the style. The house has a false facade gable, or "Triple-A" roofline which contains decorative shingling. There are exterior end chimneys on either end of the main block. The Professor Weatherly House (SMSHD #51; ca. 1890) is similar to the Adkins House, but the facade gable contains an Eastlake-style window rather than decorative shingling. The Rufus Harmon House (SMSHD #; ca. 1880) is smaller than the Weatherley House, but retains its nearly full-facade porch with decorative turned posts and brackets.

Significance:

The frame Victorian houses in Kernersville reflect the general trend toward decorative trim work which occurred during the late nineteenth century throughout the state and country. These houses have equally well-appointed interiors, with decorative trim including molded surrounds and bulls-eye corner blocks.

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Registration Requirements:

The requirements for registration are equal to those for the brick houses of the period. The houses must retain a great degree of integrity of form, materials, workmanship and decorative work, including their porches and trim. If any of these buildings were to be moved integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling would be required for nomination.

II.C PROPERTY TYPE: Brick Commercial and Industrial Architecture of the "Boom" Period, 1873-1900

Description:

Commercial and industrial building in Kernersville is almost entirely of brick construction, the exception being the frame Depot. Numbering about ten, surviving examples of brick commercial and industrial buildings from this period are more numerous than any other previous property type. These brick commercial buildings are generally two to three stories in height, and feature decorative brickwork and pilasters and banding which give a paneled appearance to the principal facades. The tobacco industry, which was the base on which the boom period of Kernersville rested, relied exclusively on brick for building factories. Two of the five tobacco manufacturies built in Kernersville still stand. The Greenfield and Kerner Tobacco Factory (SMSHD #23; 1884) is a massive three-story brick building which has a stepped-back roofline, and three-bay facade. The building was recently converted to condominiums, but the exterior detailing, including segmentally arched bays, remains. The W. H. Leak and Company Tobacco Factory stands outside the nominated districts and because of substantial overbuilding was not considered for nomination, although the original facade with paneling and corbelling can still be seen.

Contemporary with the Greenfield and Kerner Tobacco Factory is a carriage repair shop on South Main Street (SMSHD #10; ca. 1880). This is a two-story brick building, which began as a carriage repair shop, three-bays wide and five bays deep. Original segmentally arched openings, pilasters, and corbelled cornice remain, indicating its close stylistic association with the tobacco factories.

As Korner's Folly sums up the ambitions of residential development in Kernersville, the commercial architecture of the "Boom" period reaches its peak in the Harmon and Reid Roller Mill (1897). This three-story brick Second Empire roller mill is one of the finest examples of the style found in an industrial building in the state, rivaled only by the Grimes Mill in Salisbury, North Carolina. Although executed in a style not common in Kernersville, certain locally characteristic details, including the pilastered "paneled" facade, and segmentally arched bays, are found in the mill.

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Significance:

The commercial architecture of the Boom Period reflects primarily the brick tradition found in domestic architecture, and growth from a rural village to a town. The Kernersville Depot represents the arrival of the railroad in Kernersville and the opening of markets by cheap transportation, which fueled the growth during Kernersville's boom period, and made the slightly later rise of brick commercial properties possible. In addition, this depot is the second-oldest known surviving depot west of the fall line in North Carolina. The brick commercial properties reflect the trends in domestic architecture of the 1870s, and repeat many of the stylistic elements such as corbelling, segmentally arched bays and the use of pilasters and banding to create a paneled effect on front facades. These buildings reflect the growth and development in the manufacturing and commercial economy of Kernersville, principally in the area of tobacco manufacturing, on which the economy was largely based in the 1880s.

Registration Requirements:

Requirements for registration of this property type are approximately parallel to the requirements of the brick and frame Victorian dwellings of the same period, and are even more stringent than for surviving buildings of the earlier housing types. In order to be considered for nomination, these buildings must retain their original form, plan, and workmanship, including decorative elements. Substantial overbuilding or additions which obscure the original form make a building of this property type ineligible for nomination.

III. Maturation Period, 1900-1930:

Kernersville entered the twentieth century with a population of about 1000 and a strong economy based on manufacturing, including milling, textiles, and furniture. George Virgil Fulp, founder of the (former) Bank of Kernersville, organized the Kernersville Furniture Company in 1901, which manufactured kitchen and dining room furniture. A second furniture company, Ring Furniture Company, was organized in 1910 by Fulp and S. G. Ring, Sr., as a subsidiary of the Kernersville Furniture Company. (15)

As tobacco manufacturing was phased out the five factories in Kernersville were turned to other uses. Sanborn Maps and the town history show how three of the five factories, including the Kerner and Greenfield factory (SMSHD #23; 1884) were converted to textile manufacturing; a fourth was converted to a garage; and the fifth, the W. H. Leak and Company Tobacco Factory on North Main Street, housed a furniture manufacturing plant. This factory still stands at the core of the Hooker of Carolina Furniture Factory. (16)

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In the late 1910s, the town of Kernersville underwent a period of civic improvement. About 1912 the town laid its first cement sidewalks, and about 1917 electric service was introduced. (17) In 1919 the town had a fire department, thanks to the efforts of local auto dealer Ned Stuart, and the town purchased a fire truck in 1926. A Fire Station was built in 1928. Police protection was being provided, and water and sewer systems were put in place. A paving program was undertaken and several less-well traveled streets were graded, and in 1927, bonds were sold to purchase land and to construct a municipal water works. (18).

In addition to civic and commercial development, religious architecture reflected the growth of Kernersville in the early twentieth century. In 1915/16 the (former) First Baptist Church was built for a congregation organized in 1884. In 1922 the Moravian congregation built a large two-story brick educational facility next to their sanctuary (SMSHD #29; 1867, 1888, 1892, 1922, 1962) on South Main Street, and the Methodist Congregation built a large brick Colonial Revival sanctuary in 1924/25.

The advent of the Depression effectively halted growth in Kernersville. The town itself went bankrupt, but with the careful management by its mayors, Harmon Linville and Dr. O. L. Joyner (SMSHD #1; ca. 1920), and treasurer, DeWitt Harmon, was able to reorganize, and to repay all its debts. (19) The Bank of Kernersville operated until all banks were closed during the Depression, and reopened the first day banks were able to conduct business after the Depression. (20). The town only briefly regained lost ground between the end of the Depression and World War II, but never returned to its role of manufacturing center.

III.A PROPERTY TYPE: Early Twentieth Century Dwellings of the Maturation Period, 1900-1930

Description:

The most numerous property type in Kernersville is the early twentieth century dwelling. Among the approximately twenty examples of early twentieth century dwellings nominated, most of the major style trends of early twentieth century residential architecture are found, including modest frame cottages, Colonial Revival frame houses, and bungalows. Typical of the turn of the century frame cottages in Kernersville is the Elliot Larston House at 605 South Main Street (SMSHD #48; ca. 1900). This L-shaped cottage, with engaged porch and one-

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story rear ell, is a forerunner of the frame cottages built in the 1920s in Kernersville as large lots were divided and additional development took place.

A blend of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles are represented in the Sam Vance, Sr. House (SMSHD #53; ca. 1900) on West Mountain Street. This massive frame house has a hip roof with cross gables and Palladian-inspired attic lights. A porch, carried on columns, wraps around the front and sides of the house.

The Colonial Revival style is epitomized in two houses, the Roberts-Justice House (ca. 1877, ca. 1916) and the George Virgil Fulp House (NCSHD #1, ca. 1916). The Roberts-Justice House, originally one of the brick ca. 1870s L-plan houses, was heavily remodeled between 1909 and 1916; stylistically, the later date being more likely the time of the remodeling. The woodwork is dark, with hall arch and Colonial Revival mantels and overmantels. Very similar in finish is the George Virgil Fulp House (NCSHD #1, 1915), which has perhaps the finest interiors in town, with mahogany woodwork, French doors, beamed ceiling in one parlor, Colonial Revival mantels and overmantels, and a dining room with five-foot mahogany paneling with plate shelf, and built-in china cupboards.

Three small houses built in the 400 block of South Main Street by W. O. Doggett characterize the one-story frame cottages built in Kernersville in the early 1920s. These houses all have modest bungalow detailing, including engaged porches and bracketing. There are a few houses in Kernersville which can be classified as true bungalows. The Dr. O. Y. Joyner House (SMSHD #2; ca. 1920) features a pyramidal roof with exposed rafter ends, full-facade porch, interior chimneys, and a rear ell. The P. A. Fontayne House (SMSHD #49; ca. 1920) is a low bungalow with a nearly-full facade engaged porch supported by slender posts on piers. In the 100 block of North Cherry Street is the R. C. Morris House (NCSHD #6, ca. 1925) is an example of the bungalow style executed in brick, with low multiple gabled roof, porte cochere/car port, and triple window arrangements.

Significance:

Indicative of Kernersville's entry into the socio-economic mainstream, homes built in Kernersville during the first three decades of the twentieth century reflect many of the popular building styles of the period, including the Queen Anne/Colonial Revival blend, the Colonial Revival, cottages and bungalows. Most of the homes of this period are of frame construction and the majority reflect the popularity of the Colonial Revival style in particular. The style was so popular that several earlier homes were remodeled in the style, and it continued to be utilized until the Depression, and made a come-back after World War II.

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Registration:

The requirements for nomination for early twentieth century houses are the most stringent, with very little allowance for alteration. Exterior detail must be intact, and the original block must not be compromised by significant additions. Given the large number of surviving examples of this type, careful consideration must be given to any moved structures. During the second half of the twentieth century rapid development has taken place in Kernersville, and several buildings have been moved. These buildings have been considered eligible for nomination only in the cases where careful consideration was given to the retention of materials, orientation, and proximity to original historic context.

III.B PROPERTY TYPE: Brick Commercial and Religious Architecture of the Period of Maturation, 1900-1930.

Description:

Both commercial and religious buildings of this period are built of brick in popular styles. The (former) Bank of Kernersville (SMSHD #4; 1903) and Bodenhamer's Store (SMSHD #42; ca. 1910) are two-story brick structures which continued the tradition of segmentally arched bays and pilasters suggesting paneling. The Jim King Store (SMSHD #5; ca. 1905), which was built about the same time as the bank, has received a mid-twentieth century brick veneer facade, but retains decorative brickwork on side and rear elevations.

The brick commercial buildings of the 1920s and 1930s are much more functional in design and detailing than those built earlier. A truly twentieth century commercial type is the Stuart Motor Company (1926) which is the earliest and most intact automobile showroom in Kernersville. The utilitarian building is two-stories in height, and of brick and steel beam construction. Similar, but less decorative, is the S and R Motor Company (SMSHD #15; ca., 1928). A bracketed metal canopy at the cornice is the principal decorative element. Shortly after the construction of the two motor companies Pinnix Drug Store (SMSHD #35; 1904, ca. 1930) was remodeled in an austere version of the Colonial Revival, with molded cornice and large display windows.

About the turn of the twentieth century congregations, began building new sanctuaries to accommodate their growing numbers. These new churches are primarily brick Colonial Revival style buildings, with the exception of the (former) First Baptist Church (1915/16) which is the only Tudor Revival structure in Kernersville. In keeping with the mainstream religious architecture, and the best example of the style in town, is the Main Street Methodist Church (SMSHD #23; 1924/25). This structure has a front-gabled roof which engages a full-facade portico with Ionic columns, pedimented gable, belfrey, and three

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arched-bay facade. Massive brick educational wings have been added to the rear of the sanctuary.

Significance:

The commercial properties of the period from 1900 to 1930 reflect a gradual turn to function rather than decoration. The earliest two buildings exhibit the popularity of decorative brickwork, but by the mid-1920s functional massing was more evident than decoration. The motor companies in Kernersville best reflect this trend toward function. The religious architecture of the period, including additions made to earlier churches is also primarily of brick, and also reflects the popularity of early twentieth century styles, particularly the Colonial Revival although one church is built of brick in the Tudor/Gothic Revival.

Registration Requirements:

As with the early twentieth century residential architecture, the commercial and religious architecture of the period is subject to the most stringent requirements. Exterior plan, workmanship, detailing and site integrity are necessary for nomination. Necessity of a move, attention to geographic orientation and proximity to historic context of any moved building must be considered carefully, along with degree of integrity of design, material and workmanship.

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FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Bicentennial Committee. Kernersville, North Carolina, Bicentennial. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1971, revised 1976, pp. 6-7, 9-10; hereinafter cited as Bicentennial. See also Korner, Joseph Gilmer. Joseph of Kernersville. Durham, N. C.: Seiman Printery, Inc., 1958, pp. 33-34; hereinafter cited as Joseph of Kernersville.
- 2 Bicentennial, pp. 9-10; Joseph of Kernersville, p. 34.
- 3 Bicentennial, p. 24; Joseph of Kernersville, p. 100.
- 4 The earliest marker in the United Methodist Cemetery is that of Wesley Ross, 1859, a school teacher.
- 5 Bicentennial, p. 11; Joseph of Kernersville, pp. 99-100.
- 6 Bicentennial, p. 11. The text of the statute called for the town to be named Kernersville; for the town to encompass an area 1-1/2 miles from the Academy Building; for elections to be held within three months, and on the first Monday of May afterward; and for the incorporation to take place upon ratification (March 31, 1871).
- 7 Bicentennial, pp. 8, 73-74.
- 8 Robbins, D. P. "Descriptive Sketch of Winston-Salem, Its Advantages and Surroundings." Winston-Salem: Sentennial Job Print, 1888; hereinafter cited as "Descriptive Sketch."
- 9 Fries, Adelaide, et. al. Forsyth County: The History of A County on the March. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1976, p. 187; hereinafter cited as Forsyth County.
- 10 Bicentennial, pp. 74-75; see also Forsyth County, p. 187.
- 11 "Descriptive Sketch," p. 86-88.
- 12 Bicentennial, pp. 40-41.
- 13 Bicentennial, pp. 40-41; see also interview with Harmon Linville, May 7, 1987, in Kernersville, N. C., notes on file with Survey and Planning Branch. Mr. Linville was born in the Totten-Goslen House (NCSHD #2); hereinafter cited as Linville Interview.
- 14 Bicentennial, pp. 10-11. See also nomination of Korner's Folly to the National Register of Historic Places.

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- 15 Stewers, R. C. Forsyth County, Economic and Social. Winston-Salem, 1924.
- 16 Bicentennial, pp. 74-75.
- 17 Bicentennial, p. 36; see also interview with Mrs. J. T. Justice, Jr., February 28, 1987, in Kernersville, N. C., notes on file with survey and Planning Branch.
- 18 Bicentennial, pp. 36-37; 60-61.
- 19 Linville Interview.
- 20 Bicentennial, p. 79.

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

☒ See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency

- ☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

I. Form Prepared By

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods:

The town of Kernersville was surveyed in 1978-79 by Gwynne Taylor during a survey of the resources of Forsyth County. The files from this survey were the basis for the 1986 survey by the consultant. The original survey suggested a district stretching from the 300 block of North Main Street to the 700 block of South Main Street, and to include the side streets one block off South Main Street.

The Kernersville, North Carolina, Multiple Properties project was the result of a grant to resurvey the originally suggested district and to prepare a district nomination. After the survey, and in consultation with members of the North Carolina Survey and Planning Branch and staff of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County/Kernersville Historic Properties Commission, it was determined that a number of buildings which had originally been included in the larger district no longer retained sufficient architectural and/or historic integrity, or had been demolished. In the 100-300 blocks of North Main Street, near or on which four individually nominated properties are located, ca. 1940s to 1960s brick commercial buildings have been built as replacement and infill material. All along the edges of the proposed districts and encircling many of the individually nominated properties, new development, primarily commercial and residential, has been built, effectively defining the remaining historic properties in Kernersville. The district boundary was tightened to include the most intact core of South Main Street, the 100-600 blocks. Seven properties which had been included in the larger, originally proposed district were determined to retain sufficient integrity and contributed strongly enough to the story of the development of Kernersville to be included as individual nominations. The North Cherry Street Historic District is composed of a block of early twentieth century residences and was not included in the initial district proposal. Changes in the perceptions of the importance of early twentieth century resources since 1979 made this district feasible. All properties believed at this time to be eligible for National Register nomination are included in this Multiple Property submission.

Properties in the two historic districts are identified as either contributing (C) or non-contributing (N) to the character and integrity of the districts. In order to be considered contributing, a property had to have been constructed, or to have reached its present appearance during the period of significance of the particular district. Buildings built after 1930, or which had been altered significantly after 1930 were considered non-contributing.

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The survey files from the initial 1978/79 survey, with additional files from the 1986 survey, are in the Survey and Planning files of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, and the information from the multiple properties nominations are to be stored in the Cultural Resources Evaluation Program computer files. Each file contains a data sheet with detailed architectural analysis, black and white photographs, and color slides. This information is available to researchers.

The survey and research for the Kernersville Multiple Properties nominations was conducted during the fall of 1896 and spring of 1987. The work was hampered by the relative lack of primary documentation. There are no city directories prior to 1960. There are only two Sanborn Insurance Maps of Kernersville, 1915 and 1924. Town records are also scanty, and deal mainly with day-to-day matters of running the town, rather than the development of the town, its commerce, economy and industrial development. Finally, newspapers for Kernersville include only 1882-1884. Fortunately, the town of Kernersville had compiled a book of historic and architectural resources, principally interviews with a number of early residents, to celebrate the town's centennial (1971) and the nation's bicentennial (1976). The survey of Forsyth County also resulted in a publication of the architectural resources of Forsyth County. Field notes and interviews with residents, many of whom were descendents of early settlers, were invaluable, particularly the interview with Harmon Linville, who has served as mayor and post-master of Kernersville.

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