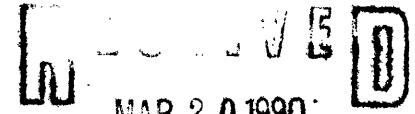


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National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of Catawba County, North Carolina

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

See Continuation Sheet

**C. Geographical Data**

Boundaries of Catawba County, North Carolina

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.

*William S. Frie, Jr.*  
Signature of certifying official

2-28-90  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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.

*Ray Lederer*  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

4/27/90  
Date

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Historic & Architectural Resources  
of Catawba County, N.C.

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Associated Historic Contexts:

- \* Exploration and Settlement of Catawba County, N.C., 1747 to circa 1820.
- \* Religion in Catawba County, 1747 to 1939.
- \* Education in Catawba County, 1747 to 1939.
- \* Agricultural Development of Catawba County, N.C., circa 1820 to 1939.
- \* Development of Catawba County's Seat, Newton, 1842 to 1939.
- \* Industrial Development in Catawba County, circa 1800 to 1939.

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

### Outline of Historic Context

#### Introduction

- 1) Exploration and Settlement of Catawba County, 1747 to 1820
  - 2) Religion in Catawba County, 1747 to 1939
    - A) Camp Meeting Tradition of Catawba County, 1790 to 1939
  - 3) Education in Catawba County, 1747 to 1939
  - 4) Agricultural Development of Catawba County, ca. 1820 to 1939.
  - 5) Development of Catawba County's Seat, Newton, 1842 to 1939.
  - 6) Industrial Development in Catawba County, ca. 1850 to 1939.
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#### Introduction

Catawba County is located in the western Piedmont of North Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its rolling hills and valleys average 1,142 feet above sea level. Thus, the terrain is varying, with a variety of flat, agricultural field lands, valleys defined by numerous minor creeks and streams, and the notable Anderson Mountain in the southeast portion of the county, as well as Baker's Mountain in west-central Catawba County, both serving as introductions to the Blue Ridge Mountains approximately 30 miles to the west. The county covers 406 square miles. The principal waterway, which borders Catawba County on the north and east, is the Catawba River. Through a series of dams, the Catawba River creates Lake Hickory to the north and Lake Norman to the east. Secondary waterways in the county include Lyle's Creek, Ball's Creek and Mountain Creek in the eastern portion of the county which are all tributaries of the Catawba River. Jacob's Fork Creek and Henry's Fork Creek converge into South Fork Creek in the southwest portion of the county, where the South Fork flows south into Lincoln County. The counties of Caldwell, Alexander, Iredell, Lincoln and Burke lie adjacent to Catawba County.

Catawba County population centers include the city of Hickory (pop. 20,757), located in the northwest portion of the county; the county seat of Newton (pop. 7,624), approximately in the center of the county; Conover (pop. 4,245), immediately north of Newton; and Maiden (pop. 2,574), approximately eight miles south of Newton, near the Lincoln County line. (Rand McNally:125) The major roadways in Catawba County are Interstate 40, which crosses the county east (from Winston-Salem, N.C.) to west (to Asheville, N.C.); U.S. Highway 321, which extends south to north through the center of the county; U.S. Highways 64 and 70, which extend east to west through the center of the county; State Highway 127, which crosses the western part of the county south

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to north; and State Highway 16, which enters the county from the southeast (from Charlotte, N.C.) crosses through Newton and Conover, and then leaves the county directly to the north.

The area which is known today as Catawba County acquired its first settlers in 1747. (Preslar:16-19) At that time the territory was known as Bladen County. In 1749 a series of boundary divisions began which resulted in the creation of Lincoln County in 1779, which by 1784 until 1842 contained the future Catawba County. In 1842 Catawba County was created out of Lincoln County, in response to a plea by area residents that a closer county government seat was gravely needed. (Preslar:219)

1. Exploration and Settlement of Catawba County: 1747 to ca. 1820.

The first white settlers in present-day Catawba County came in 1747 when Adam Sherrill and his family, originating from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, crossed the Catawba River and settled on the western bank. (Ramsey:48) It is believed that Henry Weidner (also known as Johann Heinrich Weidner), a German immigrant from the region of Saxony, was also among this first party to cross the Catawba. He had arrived in Philadelphia in 1741 and received his first land grants in what was then Anson County in 1750. His holdings amounted to 1,240 acres on Henry's Fork of the south fork of the Catawba River. Local tradition claims that Weidner built a stone house, in a style typical to Germans, and lived there for some years before leaving the state for South Carolina because of violent Indian disputes. Weidner stayed away for several years and returned to his homestead before the end of his life. (Blume:8)

Another early pioneer to present-day Catawba County was "Gentleman" John Perkins. Perkins also is believed to have come into the county as a young man with the Adam Sherrill party. Perkins became known as an experienced frontiersman and in 1752, at the age of nineteen, was chosen by Bishop Gottlieb Spangenberg of the Moravian Brotherhood of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to aid the brotherhood in its search for the site of a proposed permanent settlement in western North Carolina. It is possible that the Bishop helped Perkins obtain a sizable land grant from the Earl of Granville. By 1755 Perkins owned several thousand acres of land in present day Catawba and Burke Counties. Perkins apparently killed a Catawba Indian the following year and was threatened by the governor to be handed to the tribe as retribution, so

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Perkins and his family fled to South Carolina until 1773, when he returned to his land holdings, and remained in the county until his death in 1804. (Observer-News-Enterprise:5/17/79)

A great number of the early settlers of Catawba County were Scotch-Irish. Driven by a lack of religious freedom, many Scotch-Irish Protestants left England for the rural lands of Pennsylvania and Maryland. However, in the 1730s and 1740s, mass European migrations caused Pennsylvania land prices to inflate, thus encouraging the Scotch-Irish to seek cheaper lands in Virginia and North Carolina. Following a trail through the Shenandoah Valley, from the 1740s to the 1760s, the Scotch-Irish settled in areas of the western Piedmont of North Carolina, primarily between the Yadkin River and the Blue Ridge Mountains. (Ramsey:17) The Scotch-Irish settled mainly in eastern Catawba County, and in the village of Catawba one still finds such family names as Bandy, McNeil, Love, Boggs, Rabb, Drum, Wilson, etc. (Preslar:46)

Also among the county's early settlers were the Germans. In the early 1700s thousands of Germans had been forced to flee their native land because of intolerable political, religious and economic conditions. So large a number of these people migrated to Pennsylvania that by 1775 one-third of its population was German, or so-called "Pennsylvania Dutch." (Lefler:86) Due to economic and land pressures, the Germans, much like the Scotch-Irish, moved southward into and through the Shenandoah Valley during the mid-1700s. Coming into present-day Catawba County, the Germans settled primarily in the South Fork valley of south central Catawba County. (Preslar:39)

In 1771 settlers living west of the Catawba River had presented a petition to the Colonial Assembly requesting a new county be composed of territory covering the present counties of Catawba, Burke, McDowell, Caldwell, the greater part of Alexander and half of Wilkes. Western Carolinians set forth the argument that, if authorized, the new county would be 100 miles in length and 60 miles in width, and would contain an estimated 2,000 taxable white and black males between the ages of 16 and 60. The area which is present-day Catawba County was estimated as supporting approximately 200 families in 1771. (Preslar:76) In 1779 Tryon County was split, forming Lincoln and Rutherford Counties. Lincoln County in 1779 then incorporated all of present day Lincoln, Catawba and Gaston Counties, as well as a portion of Cleveland County. (Preslar:22) According to the first (1790) Census of

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the United States, there were approximately 342 families in Lincoln County. (Preslar:48,49)

Pioneer families of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries had adapted to the frontier ways as they continued to develop their lands. Johannes Wilhelm Bost was a typical Catawba County farmer from this era. He moved from Pennsylvania in 1754, bringing his family to nearby Cabarrus County. In 1762 he received a land grant for 565 acres in the Clarks Creek area of present-day central Catawba County, where he raised his family. In 1790 he owned no slaves, however by 1820 he had six bondsmen, who were presumably indentured workers. In 1797 Johannes sold forty-seven acres of the Clarks Creek grant to his son Elias, who, in 1810, built a house on the land. Elias Bost farmed on a modest scale, owning three slaves in 1810, and eleven slaves by 1820. (Hill, Bost-Burris House:8:1,2)

Jacob Shuford was another important settler in the late eighteenth century. Born in 1770 in Lincoln County, Shuford was the son of Martin Shuford, who was fatally wounded in the Battle of Ramsours Mill of the Revolutionary War. Jacob Shuford built a log house for his family in 1789 in the Jacob's Fork Township of south central present-day Catawba County. Jacob became a wealthy land, slave and mill owner. By 1821 he owned 1,175 acres on the South Fork River, valued at \$6,000, making him the wealthiest man in the area. Shuford also owned a grist-mill on the Catawba River, and owned a store operated by one of his sons. (Bullock:Shuford-Hoover House:8:1)

In 1790 Lincoln County (then comprised of present-day Lincoln, Catawba, Gaston and part of Cleveland counties) had a population of 10,096 people, which dropped in 1800 to 8,701 and rose again in 1810 to 11,757. By 1820 the county had 13,253 people in the rural county, paving the way for a strong antebellum agricultural society. (Cheney:1086)

## 2. Religion in Catawba County: 1747-1939.

Present-day Catawba County's religious history begins with the earliest settlers, who no doubt brought their religious faiths and practices to the frontier. Until facilities could be provided, they used private homes, open groves, or barns as places of worship. They often waited anxiously for traveling ministers to baptize children, perform marriages, and hold memorial services for loved ones. (Preslar:88)

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of Catawba County, N.C.Churches

Some of the area's first churches were "union churches," where congregations of usually two faiths shared the use of the same building, often on alternate Sundays. There have been instances in which the congregation of one church "loaned" the use of its church structure to an infant congregation which was in the process of building its own meeting house. (Preslar:90)

German settlers built three of the first four pioneer churches in the county. These are St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grace Union Church and Zion Lutheran Church. The first church built west of the Catawba River is believed to be St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church, circa 1759, located about one and one-half miles from Newton. This first church was a log structure, which was remodelled in 1818 using the old logs for the frame. (Preslar:91) St. Paul's was a union church, first referred to as the "Dutch Meeting House" by non-German settlers because of its predominately German congregations. The Lutheran and Reformed faiths shared St. Paul's until 1901 when the Reformed congregation moved west to the Startown community. An impressive cemetery, with stones dating to the 1700s, remains with the church today. (Preslar:93-97)

The second oldest church in the county was the Zion Lutheran Church, founded in 1790. Its original church building no longer exists. (Preslar: 90)

Grace Union Church, formed in 1796, is located eight miles southwest of Newton. The Lutheran and Reformed congregations owned the church jointly and respective bodies worshipped on alternate Sundays. This arrangement continued until about 1941, when a mutual division of property was agreed upon. The first Grace Union church was a two-story log structure, 25 by 30 feet. By 1856 the two congregations agreed to build another church, resulting in the existing brick Greek Revival church. (Preslar:101-103)

One of the early pioneer ministers in the area west of the Catawba River was Daniel Asbury, who is associated with forming the Lincoln Methodist Circuit in 1789 and founding Rehobeth Methodist Church in 1791 in the Terrell district near Catawba County's eastern edge. This first church was hewn log, with a shed on one side for colored people. (Grissom:274)

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Nineteen churches (including the above-mentioned) were founded in present-day Catawba County between 1759 and 1842, representing Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Evangelical and Reformed congregations (Preslar:91) From the county's formation in 1842 until 1900, another seventy churches were established in Catawba County, representing Baptist, Catholic, Episcopalian, Evangelical, Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and non-denominational Protestant congregations. (Preslar:116-119)

The gradual emergence of urban churches in the predominantly rural county is illustrated by the following three congregations: Grace Reformed Church of Newton, Memorial Reformed Church of Maiden and St. Paul's Reformed Church. Grace Reformed Church was first formed in 1846 in the county seat of Newton, and soon after built a small, white painted frame church in town. This church became closely related with Catawba College in Newton, until the college moved to Salisbury in 1923. Reverend J. H. Crawford served as Grace Reformed Church's minister, as well as the first Chairman of the Board at Catawba College. The church also served as an early classroom to the college. (Cross: Grace Reformed Church:8:1-2) Memorial Reformed Church was founded in the mid-1880s in the southern Catawba County village of Maiden, largely under the auspices of the prominent Carpenter family who ran a local cotton mill. The congregation grew from 29 in 1886 to 112 in 1890, and reached as high as 200 before the Great Depression. Memorial Reformed was Maiden's first church and thus closely linked with the town's development. St. Paul's Reformed Church is a good example of an early twentieth century Catawba County congregation. Actually forming in union with St. Paul's Lutheran Church near Newton in 1759, St. Paul's Reformed felt increasing shifts of population which prompted them to separate to form and build their own church in the rural Startown community in 1902. The congregation continued to grow so rapidly that by 1955 the church leaders began action to build a larger church. (Cross: St. Paul's Reformed Church:8:1)

Camp Meetings

Camp meetings, as a manifestation of the Great Revival, emerged in North Carolina in the 1790s, and swept over the United States periodically from about 1800 to 1860. (Lefler:418) However, the only place where the tradition has been carried on to the present is the Catawba Valley, with at least four camp meeting sites known to remain in Catawba County alone.



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The camp meeting can best be described as the meeting of many people in one locality to participate in religious worship for several days. Families would come from miles around to the camp meeting site and live out of wagons and canvas tents, as well as simple wooden cottages called "tents." During the day, ministers, ususally Methodist or Baptist, would preach and hold prayer meetings in a centrally located, open-air "arbor," which was often built of hand-hewn timber or poles.

The camp meeting tradition in North Carolina appears to have its origins in the Piedmont, with documentation claiming that Rehobeth Camp Meeting in Lincoln County was the first. Reverend Daniel Asbury conducted the first camp meeting there in 1794. (Powell:32) By the early 1800s the camp meeting site was moved to Denver, Lincoln County, near the present Catawba County line, and it was renamed Robey's Camp Ground. By 1828, a permanent site was deeded for the camp meeting and finally came to be called Rock Springs Camp Ground, after the small stream which flowed on the south side of the camp. (Keener:8) A hand-hewn arbor was constructed in 1832, and since that time several hundred tents were constructed in rows around the arbor. Blacks and whites worshipped together at Rock Springs until 1868, when the blacks built their own campground, Tucker's Grove, near Machpelah, Lincoln County. Rock Springs Camp Ground continues to be used for camp meetings up to the present. (Keener:9)

Wesley's Chapel Arbor Camp Ground, near Hickory, Catawba County, is possibly the oldest camp meeting in the state still holding its identity. The date of origin of this primarily white camp meeting site is thought to be around 1809. Though no longer used for regular camp meetings, Wesley's Chapel Arbor is still used occasionally for outdoor religious services. Tents which were on the camp meeting grounds were razed in the 1920s. (Powell:37)

Several other camp meeting sites in the Piedmont have been significant in the past, including Pleasant Grove at Mineral Springs, Union County, 1829; Prospect Camp Meeting, Union County; Center Camp Meeting, Lenoir, Caldwell County, 1820; Little Johns Camp Meeting, Lenoir, Caldwell County, 1820; Mount Pleasant Camp Meeting, Lenoir, Caldwell County, 1845; Marvin Camp Meeting, Morganton, Burke County, 1879; Asbury Camp Meeting, Asheville, Buncombe County, ca. 1879; Love Joy Camp Meeting, Montgomery County, 1880; Reem's Creek Camp Meeting, Weaverville, Buncombe

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County, ca. 1844; Turkey Creek Camp Meeting, Leicester, Buncombe County, ca. 1806; Bethel Camp Meeting, Concord, Cabarrus County; as well as others. (Powell:32-68)

One camp meeting site of particular note, due to its size and present-day significance, is the Balls Creek Campground in southeastern Catawba County. The first meeting was held there in 1853 by the primarily white congregations of the Catawba County Methodist Circuit. (Powell:44) Since that year, meeting groups expanded and popularity increased. To the present, only two years have passed when the Balls Creek Camp Meeting was not held. (Powell:43-50) Balls Creek holds not only religious significance to the Methodists of Catawba County, it also holds highly important social significance. Since the nineteenth century, people attending Balls Creek Camp Meeting have looked at it as a chance to meet with old friends, meet new friends, see relatives, and encourage romances. Many of the participants of Balls Creek Camp Meeting consider the one week in August as their vacation time from work and daily chores. The nearly 300 neatly maintained tents attest to the popularity of the campground. (Hill:Balls Creek Campground:8:1-3)

Before the Civil War, many of the white Methodist camp meeting worshippers took their slaves to camp meetings, both to help with the set-up and cooking and to ensure their spiritual education. However, after the war, free blacks no longer were openly accepted at the white camp meetings. Thus, the emergence of the black campgrounds, based on the doctrines of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E.Z.) Church, became evident. The first black campground to exist in Catawba County was Mott's Grove Campground, one and one-half miles north of Terrell, founded in 1870 by the A.M.E. congregations of the county. As many of Mott's Grove's participants had gone to Balls Creek with their owners before the war, the plan of the grounds and format of the services were loosely based on Balls Creek. (Sumner:8:1-2) The second black Catawba County campground was McKenzie's Grove Campground, founded in 1875, about four miles south of the town of Catawba, by the A.M.E. Zion Church. This campground, too, was based on the plan at Balls Creek, even to the extent of calling itself, at first, the "Balls Creek Campground of the A.M.E. Zion Church." (Sumner:8:1-2) Both black campgrounds continue to hold sporadic camp meetings up to the present.

Many reasons have been given for the rise and continued

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popularity and success of the camp meeting. Camp meetings in North Carolina originated in the Piedmont, where populations were sparse and roads were limited and poor. Thus, camping at a site for one week out of the year provided a way for many people to worship at one time. The camp meetings sometimes offered experienced ministers as orators, and allowed these ministers the opportunity to spread the Methodist doctrines to areas deprived of established churches and trained ministers. Perhaps the most important function of the camp meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Methodist church to make conversions, which resulted in the organization of new churches and the rapid growth of Methodism. (Powell:88)

The meetings also offered the ministers, themselves, the opportunities to meet with their colleagues and exchange ideas. The educational benefit of the camp meeting, as a bond between educated and illiterate people, is of note. The exchange of ideas encouraged less-educated people to learn more. (Powell:69-79)

The social aspect of the camp meeting is equally important. The camp meeting gave friends a once-a-year opportunity to meet. Young people came together and romances often started during camp meeting week. Families would reunite at the meetings, often coming from surrounding states. In the case of Bethel Camp Meeting, near Concord, Cabarrus County, the location is no longer used for camp meetings, but to this day is a popular location for family reunions. (Powell:69-71)

The camp meeting tradition in Piedmont North Carolina is important as a wide-reaching religious and social phenomenon which has endured from the late eighteenth century to the present.

### 3. Education in Catawba County: 1747 to 1939

Education, in rudimentary form, came to Catawba County with the first pioneers. The first school house believed to have existed in Catawba County was built by Phillipe Henry Greder (Grider) as early as 1767, located about one and one-half miles southeast of Newton on the creek known as School House Branch. The school house stood as late as 1791. Greder performed as the first school teacher. (Preslar:124-5)

A school was conducted at St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church, which was formed in 1771. Land surveys specify "school

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land" as early as 1779 within the present corporate limits of Newton. (Preslar: 125)

At least ten more pioneer schools were built between 1797 and 1833 in the county, some associated with churches, such as the Grace Lutheran and Reformed Church school (1823), while others were independently built in communities, such as Whiten-er's School (founded 1803), the Hop Creek School (founded ca. 1823) and the Yoder School (founded 1833). (Preslar:125-6)

These first, pioneer schools were likely subscription schools, supported by the community or, perhaps, a wealthy benefactor. By the mid-1800s academy schools, which were educational institutions chartered by the legislature and governed by a board of trustees, became an alternative to the educational limits of the subscription schools. Academies gave more rounded educations and often emphasized classical curriculums. (Preslar:129) An advertisement in the Lincolnton Transcript of March 25, 1837, points out what is believed to be Catawba County's first academy. The advertiser, a woman named Nancy Campbell, claimed to run a "Female School," five miles south of the Island Ford on the Lincolnton Road, offering the "usual branches of English educa-tion" for \$5.00 per five month session. (Preslar:129) Four other academies were believed to have been established in the county before 1840. (Preslar:129-30)

Catawba County's first college was established in 1851, when Catawba College was formed in Newton by the congregation of Grace Reformed Church. The college failed to meet financial obliga-tions in its first years and assumed the status of a high school curriculum. By 1859 a \$25,000 endowment restored the school's college status, and it operated alternately as a college and high school until it relocated to Salisbury in 1923. (Preslar:142-3) One of the instructors at Catawba College was John A. Foil, who taught Greek, mathematics and science to its pupils from 1873 to 1902. Foil also devoted time to community work, serving as the chairman of the county board of education in the 1890s and as superintendant of schools. (Preslar:150)

The state of North Carolina passed public education legisla-tion as early as 1776, however, no legislative action forwarded the movement of public schools until the passage of the first public school law of the state in 1839. With the formation of Catawba County in 1842, the new county quickly organized to create a free school system, in place by 1845. By 1847 there

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were 38 school districts in the county, supporting 3,772 school children. These figures dropped slightly to only 37 school districts and 3,621 students in 1868, due to a drop in attendance and a lack of funding caused by post-war depression. (Preslar:132, 142) The Civil War took a great toll on the public school system when it was realized at the end of the war that funds ear-marked for education were needed to be diverted to bank and railroad stocks. By 1868 legislation was passed putting the burden of public schools on county taxpayers. (Preslar:144)

In 1880 the average school term in the county was twelve weeks for both white and black students. In 1894-5, however, the term for white schools increased to fifteen weeks, while the term for black schools decreased to ten weeks. Teachers' salaries fluctuated during the last thirty years of the nineteenth century, revealing an average \$30 per month in 1870 for first-grade certificates, and \$22.50 per month for the same position in 1894, determining that an increasing number of women took these lower paying jobs. Twenty-one out of 84 teachers in the county in 1894 were women. (Preslar:147)

Between 1870 and 1900 the increasing popularity of academy, or preparatory and private, schools created the formation of seventeen such institutions in the county. A few examples are Catawba High School in Hickory (1865); Wesley's Chapel Academy, near Vale (1870); Union Academy, Hickory (1877); St. Joseph's Academy, a girls school and convent in Hickory (circa 1880); and Highland Academy (later known as St. Paul's Academy), located near the present Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory (1882). (Preslar:148-9)

Concordia College was chartered in 1881 in Conover. It was a Lutheran school, preparing young men for the ministry. It was discontinued in 1935. (Preslar:151-2)

Lenoir-Rhyne College, sponsored by Evangelical Lutheran synods since its inception, was opened in Hickory in 1891. Considered a very capable institution, by 1910 Lenoir-Rhyne College graduates were accepted for post-graduate work without examination by the University of North Carolina. By 1915 the college officially was rated one of ten A-grade colleges in the state. (Preslar:152-3)

The Catawba County public school system grew rapidly in the first two decades of the twentieth century. In 1905 the total

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fund allocated to the public schools was \$12,078, which constituted 68% of the county property taxes. By 1920 the school fund was \$94,276, which came from 32% of the county property taxes. (Whitener:45) The number of teachers serving the county schools increased with the augmented funds. In 1905 the Catawba County schools supported 85 teachers, a figure which jumped to 175 teachers by 1920. (Whitener: 46) In 1905 the county supported 78 schools, of which 68 were one-teacher schools. By 1919, the county still had 78 schools, however only 21 were one-teacher schools, while 17 schools supported three or more teachers, reflecting the rebuilding of schools, and/or expansion of existing school buildings in this period. (Whitener:47)

The 1920s brought consolidation of school districts in order to better utilize tax money. Catawbans initially resisted consolidation, as indicated in 1920 with the existence of as many as 78 school districts. By 1923, consolidation was instituted by the state legislature, but it was not until the late 1930s that consolidation was clearly evidenced by the appearance of a smaller number of schools throughout the county. (Preslar:155) Outside of the municipalities of Hickory and Newton, in 1938 a total of 24 consolidated schools existed in the rural parts of the county, 11 of which contained a high school curriculum. High school courses in commerce, agriculture and home economics were introduced during this period. A total of 198 teachers taught 6,638 pupils in the rural county schools in 1938. (Hickory Daily Record: U.D.C. Section, Feb. 1938)

#### 4. Agricultural Development of Catawba County, ca. 1820 to 1939

Agriculture was the predominant occupation of the people of North Carolina in the early nineteenth century. According to 1820 census records, approximately 98 percent of the state's total population lived in rural areas. (Lefler:315) Catawba County was no exception, following the Piedmont trend of being a strong farming region. Due to lack of adequate transportation to markets, trade was difficult for Piedmont farmers, thus farming was generally conducted on a subsistence level. Early subsistence crops included corn, wheat, cotton, flax, garden vegetables, as well as peaches, apples, pears, grapes, plums and berries. (Preslar:52-4)

Plantation farming was rare in antebellum Catawba County. Relatively small land-tracts, usually a few hundred acres, or

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less, reflected the subsistence level of farming performed by Catawba County families. Often, if farms were larger, much of the land was unimproved. Poor transportation to move agricultural goods to market and the small number of slaves in the western Piedmont could explain the subsistence level of farming in this period. Germans and Scotch-Irish tended not to be large slaveholders, keeping anywhere from one or two to a dozen or so slaves. These trends can be seen by looking at the records of successful Catawba County farmers in the mid-1800s. Solomon Warlick's farm in southwestern Catawba County consisted of 100 improved and 508 unimproved acres in 1850. In that year he and his four slaves produced 600 bushels of corn, 130 bushels of wheat and ten pounds of tobacco. He owned six horses, six cows, 13 cattle, 14 sheep and 25 swine. (Bullock:Warlick-Huffman Farm: 8:1) David Baker farmed in the western part of the county in the 1850s. He owned 800 acres, however, only 100 were improved. Records show he produced 400 bushels of corn, 175 bushels of wheat, and lesser amounts of oats, wool, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter, hay, honey and beeswax. His livestock included 20 cattle, 21 sheep and 38 swine. He was not listed as a slaveholder in 1850, though he owned ten slaves in 1840. (Sumner:Baker Farm: 8:1)

The agricultural economy was supplemented in antebellum Catawba County by small trades on the farmsteads. Farmers often were not just agriculturalists, but also blacksmiths, like David Baker; wagonmakers, like Solomon Warlick; and cabinetmakers, like Frederick Hoke of Rock Barn Farm.

As elsewhere in North Carolina and the Piedmont, the Civil War retarded agricultural production in Catawba County. As the majority of North Carolina's young men went off to war, fields lay fallow and livestock herds dwindled. By the late spring of 1865, when the Civil War ended, it was too late to plant a "full crop." Poor growing seasons in 1865 and 1866 added to the burden. Additionally, all previous slaveholders now were without the work-force for which they had adapted their agricultural style. (Lefler:520) Since, as it has been shown, Catawbans were not big slave-owners before the war, their agricultural economy did not suffer greatly due to a diminished work force. Rather, it likely was due to post-war inflation, a state-wide drop in prices of farm crops, and high property taxes which hindered the Catawba farmer in the years immediately following the Civil War.

Despite these handicaps, within ten to fifteen years state-

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wide agricultural volumes were meeting and surpassing pre-war levels. This was particularly true of cash crops, such as cotton and tobacco. (Lefler:521) Many of the strong antebellum farmsteads of Catawba County dwindled in size and production volume, where others increased production. The Alexander Moore Farm, in eastern Catawba County, is listed in the 1860 census records as having 320 acres growing 1,200 bushels of corn, 358 bushels of wheat and 1,200 pounds of cotton, as well as several other crops. By 1880, despite the loss of fourteen slaves, Moore's son Daniel was producing 800 bushels of corn and 1,350 pounds of cotton. (Sumner:A. Moore Farm: 8:1) He and other Catawba farmers probably hired day laborers to do the work which formerly would have been done by slaves for an operation of this size.

In 1870, most Catawba County farms were under 100 acres, and farmers grew mostly grain crops such as corn, wheat and oats. Some cotton was being grown, however, no tobacco was grown in the county at this time. For example, the average farmer of Bandy's Township, in east central Catawba County, kept an average of 40 improved and 100 unimproved acres of land, while growing approximately 30 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of corn, 65 bushels of oats, and smaller amounts of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, wool and molasses. The Bandy's Township farmer kept an average of ten hogs, eight sheep and a few cattle. (Ninth U.S. Census, 1870)

In 1880s, the farmers of Bandy's Township were producing slightly less than the previous decade. The average farmer had thirty improved and 100 unimproved acres. He grew 150 bushels of corn, ten bushels of oats, 30 bushels of wheat, 1/2 to 1 bale of cotton, six bushels of Irish potatoes, seven bushels of sweet potatoes, and some fruit trees. He kept three sheep, three hogs, 20 chickens, two horses and two milk cows. (Tenth U.S. Census, 1880)

Subsistence farming continued in the county, as shown by the Abraham Anthony Farm. In 1880, Anthony owned 300 acres, but cultivated only sixty-two, growing small amounts of corn, wheat and potatoes, as well as small fruit orchards. Anthony also supplemented his income with his trade as a shoemaker, thus continuing the antebellum practice of Catawba County farmers supplementing their agricultural efforts with small trade. (Bullock:A. Anthony Farm: 8:2)

By the turn of the century, while agriculture continued as an important way of life for many Catawba County residents, the



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emergence of industry in Hickory and Newton drew larger populations away from the farm, gradually competing for domination as the county's economic backbone. In 1890 Catawba County's population was considered 100 percent rural, however, by 1900 about 12 percent of the population had congregated in emerging urban areas. (Cheney:1086) Despite this trend, small subsistence farms continued to thrive in the rural areas. The Sharpe-Gentry Farm, in western Catawba County, is a good example of the early twentieth century farm in Catawba County. The house, barn and granary were built in 1903 by John O. Sharpe. He performed subsistence farming on his sixty-seven acre tract, while probably harvesting the timber from the land. He sold the farm to John Gentry in 1919. Gentry's wife, Lucille, kept a few milk cows and a number of chickens, and she sold the milk and eggs to supplement his income as a crane operator. (Hill: Sharpe-Gentry Farm: 8:2-3)

In 1925 there were 259 farm owners listed in the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Catawba County Farm Census. The average Catawba County farmer cultivated 75 acres, and one in six farmers kept one or two tenants on the farm. The Catawba farmer grew some cotton, averaging ten acres or less, though sometimes up to 40 acres. He grew about ten acres of corn, smaller amounts of wheat, some sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, and usually kept a home garden. Most people kept orchards of 30 to 50 trees. Nearly every farm kept one or two milk cows, and plenty of chickens. (Farm Census, 1925)

By 1930 the average Catawba County farmer continued to grow primarily corn, cotton and wheat. County-wide statistics show that a total of 21,460 acres of corn were planted, yielding an average of 17 bushels per acre, with a total yield of 359,320 bushels. 10,100 acres of wheat were planted in the county in 1930, averaging a yield of 11 bushels per acre, totaling 111,440 bushels for the county. Cotton farmers harvested 24,790 acres, yielding 250 pounds per acre of cotton, with a total of 13,400 bales. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

In 1939 the primary crops in Catawba County were still corn, wheat and cotton. Catawba County farmers harvested 19,760 acres of corn in 1939, with an average yield of 20 bushels per acre, totaling 403,400 bushels. Wheat farmers harvested 15,020 acres, yielding an average of 13.3 bushels per acre, totaling 204,080 bushels in the county in 1939. Cotton had dwindled as one of the most important crops in the county by 1939. Cotton farmers harvested a total of 12,740 acres, nearly half of the 1930

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acreage. They reaped a much higher yield than in 1939, however, with 422 pounds per acre of cotton, which gave the county a total of 10,990 bales. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

5. Development of Catawba's County Seat, Newton, 1842 to 1939

Newton, North Carolina, was created to be the county seat of Catawba County, after the North Carolina General Assembly voted to "lay off and establish a new County, Catawba," in 1842. (Preslar:219) Many people from the northern part of Lincoln County, which became Catawba County, felt that due to poor transportation and communication, they should have a closer county seat than Lincolnton. (Preslar:221)

Shortly after the legal establishment of Catawba County, a number of property owners donated property near the center of the county for the construction of a courthouse and jail, and the creation of the town of Newton. The donated lots were sold and proceeds went to fund construction of the new courthouse. (Preslar: 359) In 1843, the people of Catawba County built a wood courthouse, however, by 1846, it was replaced by a second courthouse, which was described by a reporter from the Press and Carolina in 1890, after the 1889 remodeling, as follows:

"We point with pride to our last recent change which gives us the most commodious and handsome edifice of its kind in all this section of the State, containing comfortable apartments for judge, juries and the bar, and ample provision for every suitor and witness whose attendance may be required." (Preslar:234)

The second courthouse was replaced by the present Catawba County Courthouse, a handsome stone Classical Revival edifice (NR), built in 1924.

The town of Newton was incorporated in 1855 and was governed by a board of commissioners until 1872 when a mayor was appointed. Newton experienced slow, steady growth during the 1840s and 1850s, an era characterized in North Carolina by vastly improved agricultural conditions, the beginnings of industrialization, internal improvements and increasing economic prosperity. The

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town began to develop as a center of trade and education, but agriculture dominated the economy. By 1850, Newton had 84 inhabitants, with such occupations as tavern keeper, physician, merchant, saddler, furniture craftsman, carpenter, cobbler, grocer, tailor, carriagemaker, and farmer. (Seventh U.S. Census, 1850) Expanding population, possibly encouraged by new opportunities in commerce, industry and education not previously available to the otherwise wholly rural community, kept the carpenters at work, as 18 dwellings in 1850 expanded to 54 dwellings in 1860. (Eighth U.S. Census, 1860)

Education was of importance to early residents of Newton, reflected in 1851, when the Reformed Church established Catawba College. The school operated in Newton, alternately as a college and a high school, until the early 1920s, when it closed, to reopen in 1925 in Salisbury. (Preslar:142-3)

The Reformed and other denominations affected the religious life of Newton's citizens. Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church was established in 1845, and Lutherans formed Beth-Eden Church in 1850. The Methodists founded their congregation in 1854 and the Presbyterian Church organized in 1858. (Mohney:Newton:8:2)

By 1849 Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church had built a small, white painted frame church approximately one block west of where the court house now stands. The first chairman of the Board of Trustees of Catawba College, Reverend J. H. Crawford, also became Grace Reformed Church's first pastor. The two institutions were closely related, and the church offered classroom space to the college when the college was new. (Clapp)

The Civil War took its toll on the people of Newton and Catawba County, the same as others throughout North Carolina, with inflated prices of goods, depreciated currency, and shortages of food and clothing. However, during Reconstruction, rural counties such as Catawba made steady progress as farmers reached and sometimes surpassed pre-war production volumes by 1880. (Mohney:Newton:8:2)

The construction of railroads facilitated Newton's development during the late nineteenth century. The Western North Carolina Railroad, which had been chartered in 1855 to provide rail facilities between Salisbury and Asheville, had passed just north of Newton and reached a point thirteen miles east of Morganton, in Burke County, to the west, by the summer of 1860. An

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amendment to the charter provided for a branch road from the main line to create a Newton line, where previously the closest rail of the Western North Carolina Railroad was two miles north of town. In 1860 the depot in Newton was under construction. Construction of the railroad was stalled by the Civil War, and though it did reach as far as Old Fort in McDowell County, between Morganton and Asheville, by 1869, the rail did not meet its original destination until 1880. (Mohney:Newton:8:3-4)

The Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Rail Road, chartered in 1872-3, reached Newton, via York, South Carolina and Lincolnton, North Carolina (Lincoln County, to the south), by July 1883. It approached Newton from the southeast and converged with the Western North Carolina Railroad at the northern end of town, where Newton's industrial development naturally followed next to the tracks. (Mohney:Newton:8:4)

Newton's development during the post-war era paralleled statewide trends. The town experienced slow growth prior to about 1880, and rapid development thereafter. Census records show that the population, which had been 219 in 1860, grew only to 323 in 1870 and 884 in 1880. The residents in 1880 lived in 111 dwellings, an increase of 57 in twenty years. (Eighth (1860), Ninth (1870), Tenth (1880) U.S. Censuses)

During the two decades after 1880, Newton experienced increasing prosperity. The development of industry, especially textile mills; the physical growth of the town; and the various improvements in public facilities caused this prosperity. The Newton Cotton Mills opened in 1883; Michael, Sherrill & Co. produced tobacco products; and by 1885 Rhyne, Mehaffey and Company had opened the Newton Flouring Mill near the depot. By the 1890s, the Newton Hosiery Mill opened and the Newton Cotton Mills expanded dramatically. (Mohney:Newton:8:5)

Newton's population during this time increased gradually. Between 1880 and 1890, the county seat's population augmented from 884 to 1,038. Within another ten years the town had a population of 1,583. (Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth U.S. Censuses) Increased population required firefighting equipment by 1887 and street lights had been installed by November 1889. (Mohney:Newton:8:5)

Residential development could hardly keep up with the influx of newcomers at the turn of the century. In 1885 many of the

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residences were still located around the blocks near the court-house, however, by 1891, houses were being built in "Eastern Newton," near the railroad tracks. (Mohney:Newton:8:5-6)

As Newton stepped into the early decades of the twentieth century, it became an increasingly industrial town. Several textile industries, such as Catawba Cotton Mill (1902), Clyde Cotton Mill (1905), and Ridgeview Hosiery Mill (1910), established themselves within Newton's city limits. (Mohney:Newton:8:6)

The number of inhabitants steadily increased during the first three decades of the century. Between 1900 and 1910, the population rose from 1,583 to 2,316. Ten years later 3,021 persons lived in Newton, and in 1930 the number had risen to 4,394. (Twelfth - Fifteenth U.S. Censuses) Local government responded by providing improved services and facilities. The Newton Electric Light Company was in place by 1902 and a water system was installed by 1908. By 1920, the town had gained eight miles of sidewalks and paved streets. The first graded school had been built by 1905 and the first high school was established by 1923. (Mohney:Newton:8:7)

Residential development continued as industry and public improvements made Newton an increasingly desirable location to live. Residential construction filled the North Main Avenue area by the 1920s and individuals interested in new home construction found themselves seeking property in the northern and western sections of town.

Buoyed by improved roads and additional industrial development during and after the 1920s, Newton continued to grow. Highway 10 (Now Hwy. 16), which facilitated north-south travel, followed Main Avenue through town. Newton, like the neighboring cities of Hickory, Lenoir and Statesville, attracted furniture factories, such as the Southern Furniture Company. Such firms as the Carolina Glove Company, founded in 1943, maintained the town's reputation as a textile producer. The population reached 6,039 in 1950 and steadily increased in ensuing decades. (Mohney:Newton:8:8)

6. Industrial Development in Catawba County, ca. 1800 to 1939.

Industrial development technically began in Catawba County when the first pioneers crossed the Catawba River and settled on the west side. These pioneers brought the tools of their cottage

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industries with them, such as looms, blacksmith forges, and the specialized tools of coopers, wheelwrights, wagon-makers, cobblers, and so on. However, as a broader-reaching influence on the local and state economy, industrial development really did not begin until the turn of the nineteenth century.

The first important industry in present-day Catawba County was iron manufacturing, which flourished in the western North Carolina piedmont during the first half of the nineteenth century. John Fulenwider, an industrious Swiss entrepreneur, founded the first of these -- the Jenny Lind Forge, near Maiden, present-day Catawba County, in 1806. (Preslar:182-3) Local orebeds made the location excellent for the forge, and by 1823, ten forges and four furnaces in old Lincoln County were making nine hundred tons of bar iron and two hundred tons of casting in the forms of skillets, pots, pans, and ovens for local trade. (Cappon:331-48) Competition in the iron industry increased by the 1850s and cheaper products shipped from the north eventually drove many of the western Piedmont iron forges out of business. Fulenwider's Jenny Lind Forge continued production during the Civil War, as it provided needed iron for gunboats and other war implements. However, by 1880, the forge finally closed, being one of the last North Carolina forges to succumb to the economic pressures issued by Northern competition. (Preslar:186)

#### Railroad Era Industry

The coming of the first railroad -- the Western North Carolina Railroad--was the turning-point in Catawba County's industrial development. The charter for this railroad company was granted in 1855, and construction from Salisbury toward Asheville began immediately. The rail line ran through the eastern Catawba County village of Catawba, on to a depot stop in Conover, two miles north of Newton, and on through Hickory into Burke County toward Morganton. By the time the Civil War began, the rail line extended seventeen miles west of Hickory. (Preslar:169) As with all other production throughout the state, railroad expansion was temporarily delayed during the War, and the rail did not reach Asheville until 1880.

After the Civil War was over, with the effects of Reconstruction, North Carolina realized its need for economic diversification if it was going to survive. The railroads and a shifting workforce of free blacks encouraged industrial development during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Two cotton

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textile mills opened in Catawba County as early as 1867, one being the Long Island textile plant on the Catawba River, and the other being the Granite Shoal textile plant. (Preslar:188) Other industries listed in the Branson's Business Directory during this period included: Levi Plank and M. M. Rauch as Newton saddle and harness makers; Newton shoe makers Haller, Abernathy, James Murphy and A. J. Helton; Newton tanneries Seagle, Clapp & Finger, J.S. Cobb & Sons, David Pitts, H.F. Carpenter and T.D. Marlow, and, in Hickory, David Link; Newton carriage manufacturers J. M. Berry & Jones Baker; Jacobs Fork cabinet maker Henry Reichert; and Newton manufacturer of threshing machines M. Herman. By 1875, tin-ware making by H. Hofner & Company in Hickory and cigar making by J. Flaum, also of Hickory could be added to the list. (Branson, as cited in Preslar:188-9)

The diversification and influence of industrial development in Catawba County can best be observed by looking at the development in each of Catawba County's major towns:

Hickory

Hickory began its development as a trade center when the Western North Carolina Railroad came through just prior to the Civil War. However, Hickory did not really begin to diversify in industrial development until the 1880s. Part of the problem was the lack of available banking facilities. The Bank of Hickory was founded in 1886, but it folded in 1890. The next year the First National Bank of Hickory was founded. (Sumner:Geitner House:8:1)

One of Hickory's most successful industries was the Piedmont Wagon Company, established in 1878 by George C. Bonniwell and Andrew L. Ramseur on the banks of the Catawba River. The site was originally on the north bank of the river at Ramseur's grist mill site, however, by 1880 the company was moved to Hickory for access to the railroad and to increase capital. Piedmont Wagon Company manufactured, primarily, horse-drawn wagons, which were used on farms throughout the Southeast. The company grew quickly, and by the 1890s the company employed over 100 workers and had a production level of 1,000 wagons per month, making it one of the nation's largest wagon producers. With the introduction of the automobile, demand declined in the 1920s, and the company ceased production by the 1940s. (Hill:8:1)

Shuford Mills, founded by Abel A. Shuford, became one of

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Hickory's most important industries in the last part of the nineteenth century. Established in 1880 in neighboring Caldwell County, the company moved to Hickory three months later. Before the company was fifty years old it had attained the position of the largest manufacturer of cotton cordage in the world, and by the 1950s employed up to 900 people. (Preslar:485)

According to the 1890 Branson's Directory, a wide variety of manufacturing businesses, 28 in all, were in Hickory. Four shoemakers, three cigar and smoking tobacco makers and two each of millwrights, plug tobacco makers, saddlerys, tanneries, building contractors, and foundrys functioned, while one each of sash and blind maker, blacksmith, building material manufacturer, carriage maker, furniture maker and lumber and flour mill serviced the town of Hickory. Mills in Hickory included one corn mill, three flour mills, one roller mill, and four saw mills. (Branson, 1890:171-3)

According to the 1897 Branson's Directory, there were twenty manufacturing businesses in Hickory, including one each of blacksmith, foundry, furniture making, plug tobacco making, shingle makers, shoe makers and wagon manufacturing. Two millwrights worked in the Hickory area as well as two tanning establishments and saddlerys. Five building contractors enjoyed business in Hickory in that year. Eleven mills were found in Hickory in that same year, including one corn mill, three flour mills, one lumber mill, one roller mill, and four saw mills. (Bransons, 1897:167-8)

Newton

Newton was founded as Catawba's county seat in 1842, however, due to its proximity to the Western North Carolina Railroad and the Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad after the Civil War, the governmental center also expanded as an industrial center.

During the 1880s, Newton augmented its growing reputation as an increasingly industrial town. William H. Williams presided over Newton Cotton Mills, a substantial steam-operated factory which opened early in 1883 in the northeast section of town. The one-story brick carding and spinning facility, which operated 200 spindles, relied on machinery purchased in Lowell, Massachusetts. Michael, Sherrill & Co. produced plug tobacco products at their factory which was located on the corner of Pine and Eighth Streets. By 1885, Rhyne, Mehaffey and Company had opened Newton Flouring Mill near the depot, about three-fourths of a mile north



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of the courthouse. Another mill, Killian & Cline, stood three blocks south of the courthouse. J.F. Finger's foundry and machine shop occupied the land one-fourth mile northwest of the seat of government. (Branson, 1884: 197) A visitor in 1886 noted the recent construction near Newton Cotton Mills of a shuttle block factory at which a variety of implements were manufactured from local hardwoods. An annual mercantile trade of \$225,000 supplemented a considerable barter of local produce. ("Sparkling Catawba")

Newton advanced industrially into the 1890s. The Newton Hosiery Mills opened. The firm of Finger and Dakin operated a sash, door and blind factory as early as 1897. Newton Cotton Mills expanded, operating 7,500 spindles by 1902. (N. C. Year Book, 1905: 161) According to Branson's Business Directory, in 1890 Newton supported seventeen manufacturing companies, including three saddlerys, two each of millwrights, tanneries, and whiskey distilleries, and one each of shoe maker, shuttle maker, building contractor, carriage maker, cigar maker, cotton mill, foundry, and marble cutter. (Branson, 1890:171-2) By 1897, ten manufacturers remained in Newton, with two saddlerys and one each of building contractor, cotton mill, foundry, marble yard, millwright, window sash manufacturer, shuttle maker, and tannery. (Branson, 1897:167-8)

The Catawba Cotton Mill opened a factory on North Main Avenue in 1902. Clyde Cotton Mills, which made yarn, was established in 1905 near the depot. Ridgeview Hosiery Mill Company built a plant near the depot in 1910. Additional enterprises developed during the 1910s and 1920s, including City Cotton Mills, H.M. Yount's glove factory, and Warlick Manufacturing Company, which produced woven dress goods. (Mohney:Newton:8:6)

Conover

Perhaps the single most significant industrial venture in the smaller town of Conover was the Bolick Buggy Shop. In 1880, Jerome Bolick had a successful wheelwright business in Conover, and in 1888 he patented his "perfect steel spring wheel", which was the ingredient to his future success. He expanded into the manufacture of a number of buggy styles by the early 1900s. At the peak of his production, in 1918, his company produced twenty-eight buggies per week. As the buggy market began to decline in 1919 with the widespread use of combustion-engine automobiles, the Bolicks shifted manufacture to modified truck

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bodies. After the company manufactured its first school bus in 1929, it expanded sufficiently to make the company one of the largest school bus manufacturers in the South, a claim they held until almost 1950. (Hill:Bohick Historic District:8:1-2)

The only other manufacturing companies in Conover listed in Branson's Business Directory in 1890 were the J. J. Cline Tannery, the G. D. L. Yount Flour, Corn and Saw Mill, and the J. P. Cline & Company Flour and Corn Mill. (Branson, 1890:171, 173) By 1897, the tannery and two mills were no longer listed, however, Shell, Herman & Company ran a flour and corn mill as well as a saw mill.

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  - 2. Antebellum (ca. 1800 to ca. 1864)
    - a) Federal
    - b) Greek Revival
  - 3. Postbellum and Late Nineteenth Century (ca. 1865 to ca. 1900)
    - a) "I" Houses
    - b) One-story Houses
    - c) Catawba County's First Architect: Charles H. Lester
  - 4. Twentieth Century (ca. 1900 to 1939)
    - a) Hipped Cottage
    - b) Bungalow/Craftsman
    - c) Colonial Revival
- B. Rural Outbuildings of Catawba County
- C. Schools
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CT1	Bunker Hill Covered Bridge
CT2	Mundy House
CT3	Perkins House
CT4	Powell - Trollinger Lime Furnace
CT5	Propst House
CT6	Rudisill - Wilson House
CT7	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
CT8	Adolphus L. Shuford House
CT9	Weidner Rock House
CT10	Catawba County Courthouse
CT12	Yoder's Mill (Archaeology)
CT13, PR29	Murray's Mill Historic District
CT147	Kenworth Historic District, Hickory MRN
CT171	2nd Street Place SW Historic District, Hickory MRN
CT174	(former) Southern Railway Depot, Hickory MRN
CT175	(former) U.S. Post Office, Hickory MRN
CT177	(former) Worth - Carnegie Library, Hickory MRN
CT178	First Presbyterian Church, Hickory MRN
CT179	Clement Geitner House, Hickory MRN
CT180	Houck's Chapel Baptist Church, Hickory MRN
CT181	John Lentz House, Hickory MRN
CT182	Joseph Moretz House, Hickory MRN
CT82	Oakwood Historic District, Hickory MRN
CT183	Piedmont Wagon Factory, Hickory MRN
	Terrell Historic District, Terrell MRN
	Catawba Historic District, Catawba MRN
	North Main Avenue District, Newton MRN

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A) Houses of Catawba County

Description

1) Eighteenth Century

Present day Catawba County's earliest settlers arrived 1747. These pioneers and many of the area's other earliest residents settled in the Catawba River Valley, an obvious and practical location. When the Catawba River was dammed and Lake Norman was formed (1959-1963), many of these earliest settlements were destroyed and covered by the lake.

Judging from the few surviving and known houses, the dominant late eighteenth century dwelling was a one or two story structure with a gable end roof, one room deep with three bays across the main facade and either a log or mortise and tenon frame structure. Usually lacking any high architectural style or academic influence, this type of building could be referred to as "vernacular." This form of architecture was a practical response to climate and location, where the builder, often the property owner himself, relied on the available natural resources of wood, stone and clay, and built within the limits of his own knowledge of construction techniques.

Only two structures dating from the late eighteenth century are known to remain in Catawba County. The John Perkins House (NR) was constructed in 1790. It is a rare brick house, presumably the county's only remaining brick structure constructed prior to the Civil War. The floor plan is continental, and the main first floor room originally had some Adamesque features including a mantel, wainscoting, doors and stairway. These details have since been removed to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Johann Theobald Hunnsucker House, located on SR 1487, 0.5 mile northeast of the junction with NC 16 in the Newton-Conover vicinity, is a log structure built circa 1790-95. The house originally had a central chimney and still contains many of its original doors and door hardware.

The original, log portion of the Shuford-Hoover House, located on SR 1008 near the junction with N.C. 10, circa 1790, is another example of early log construction in the county. Originally a rectangular structure with a gabled roof, it features a stone foundation and a large interior brick chimney near the center. Now weatherboarded, the log portion now serves as a back

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room to the transitional Federal/Greek Revival style house built in front of it circa 1840.

2) Antebellum (ca. 1800 - ca. 1860)

Catawba County farmhouses of this period have a remarkable homogeneity. Approximately 39 antebellum houses were identified in the Catawba County survey. The dominant surviving house type of this group is the two-story, three-bay side gable house. It is generally constructed of either log or frame, with exterior end chimneys and a one-story front shed porch. Its proportions tend to be squarish, with a narrower three-bay facade than in post-Civil War houses of this type. The houses of this type with a hall and parlor plan generally have asymmetrical fenestration, with only two front second-story windows, and the front door is usually located off center, while symmetrical three-bay facades often indicate a center hall plan. An example of an asymmetrical hall and parlor plan house in the county would be the Hallman House, located at SR 2004, one-quarter mile north of the Lincoln County line. This two-story log frame house has a three-bay facade and is single-pile with a front door which is slightly to the left of center. It is weatherboarded and features a hipped-roof porch and two gable-end single shoulder brick chimneys.

a) Federal Style

In the early nineteenth century many vernacular dwellings in Catawba County were embellished with features characteristic of the nationally popular Federal style of architecture. Approximately twelve such dwellings were identified in the Catawba County survey. The Federal style is characterized as a simple box, one or two rooms deep, with door and windows arranged symmetrically. The box may be modified by projecting wings or attached dependencies and is topped by a side gabled roof. Windows are double-hung sashes, usually with nine or six panes per sash. The windows are aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows and never in adjacent pairs. Occasionally cornices are decorated with dentils or other decorative molding. In Catawba County it is common to see exterior gable-end single shoulder brick chimneys from this period. The Federal style was popularized through a number of pattern books written for carpenters. At least a few Catawba County houses of

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the early nineteenth century contain features exemplified in Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant, published in 1810.

One example of a Federal style dwelling using pattern book stylistic features would be the circa 1820 Henry W. Connor House, located on SR 1858, 0.35 miles southeast of the junction with SR 1961 in the Terrell vicinity. It is a one and one-half story frame late Federal style house, with a hall and parlor plan with two front doors opening from the porch to the two front rooms. The main stair in the house, rising from front to rear along the southwest (inner) wall of the parlor, is notable with slender turned newels, rectangular balusters, a molded handrail and an open string with delicately carved tulip brackets taken from Plate 31 of Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant. Unfortunately, the house was moved in 1964 to protect it from the creation of Lake Norman, and its historic integrity has been seriously compromised.

Several houses in the county from this early nineteenth century period have interior woodwork of a stylish vernacular Federal character which reveals a local Catawba Valley school of woodworking of high quality. It is probable that the same craftsmen associated with these houses produced some of the finely crafted Federal furniture which has survived from this region. Carpenter Elias Bost's house, located at the junction of SR 1149 and SR 1154 near Newton, contains the finest interior decorative woodwork of the group. Known as the Bost-Burris House, its oldest, circa 1810, section is a two-story hall-and-parlor plan, with coursed-dentil molding on the southeast cornice. The parlor contains the most elaborate and fully developed early Federal style detailing of nearly any house remaining in the county. Particularly impressive are its mantel, overmantel, crosssetted window surrounds, and paneled corner cupboards. Bost is also believed to have been associated with the construction of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (NR), less than one mile away from the Bost-Burris House. Other houses in the county which exhibit fine woodwork details include the George Huffman House with its fine mantel; the Miller-Cansler House, featuring a fine carved mantel and stipled woodwork; the Neill-Turner-Lester House, with several impressive mantels and molding; and the Wilfong-Wilson House, with carved mantel and stipled woodwork.

The only remaining rock house constructed before the Civil War was built by Heinrich Wiedner. The Weidner Rock House (NR) was originally constructed between 1794 and 1804, on a flood

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plain overlooking the confluence of the Henry and Jacobs Fork rivers. The two-story, three bay wide, side gabled house was later moved, circa 1844, up the hill to its current location and rebuilt. As a result of this reconstruction, the house has a unique amalgam of pre-Federal and Federal stylistic features.

b) Greek Revival

By the late antebellum period, the local vernacular farmhouse lost its distinctly Federal features, as farmers settled for plainer, less decorative houses or turned to the Greek Revival style. Approximately nine dwellings representing features of this style were identified in the Catawba County survey. The Greek Revival style is typified by gabled or hipped roofs; cornice line of main roof and porch roof emphasized with wide band of trim; porches, either full or entry, supported by prominent square or rounded columns, typically of Doric style; and front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above, often incorporated into a more elaborate door surround.

A good example of the transitional Federal/Greek Revival in Catawba County is the circa 1840 Shuford-Hoover House, located on SR 1008 south of the junction with NC 10. The single story, three bay wide hall and parlor plan house features a symmetrical exterior with a center bay porch with classical Doric corner posts, weatherboarded pediment, molded cornice and boxed eaves. The porch shelters the center, six-panel door with sidelights and transom. The interior features elegant Federal woodwork, including tripartite mantels, Federal style doors, and chair rails and cornice molding.

The William Pinckney Reinhardt House (located junction SR 2012 & SR 2013) and Franklin D. Reinhardt House (located junction 0.6 mile northwest SR 2012 & 2013) are excellent examples of the style. These two houses in the Maiden vicinity were built in the mid-1840s by Reinhardt brothers. Both houses are two story, three bay wide, vernacular frame houses, with Greek Revival features such as boxed cornices, raked molding and single shouldered exterior end brick chimneys. Both houses feature Greek Revival entrances with stuccoed Doric columns, eight paneled doors, sidelights and transoms. These doorways are thought to have been inspired by designs seen in Asher Benjamin's pattern book, The Practical House Carpenter, published in 1827.



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3) Post-bellum and Late Nineteenth Century (ca. 1865 to  
ca. 1900)

Nineteenth century post Civil War houses in Catawba were largely affected by the new technologies which came about at this time. The first railroad was completed through the county in 1860, at the outbreak of the Civil War, and brought building materials and technologies which before were not available to the frontier farmer. Balloon framing, introduced at this time, was a form of construction which used pre-sawn lumber rather than heavy timber to frame the structure, and proved to be an inexpensive construction technique which was simple to learn. Approximately 80 houses were identified in the Catawba County survey as dating from this era.

a) "I" Houses

One of the most popular vernacular forms during this period was the "I" house. According to Michael Southern's essay (Swaim:71) on the "I" house, it was:

"...the two story house at least two wide but only one room deep, with the main entrance on the long side. This house type originated in the English folk culture. It has been identified as the dominant folk house type throughout the Upland South from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, as a symbol of economic achievement and social respectability in a democratic agrarian society. Its popularity has been attributed to the fact that it presents to the viewer on the road the largest, most impressive facade possible for a house of only four rooms. In addition, its good ventilation properties make it especially suitable for a hot, humid Southern climate."

Of approximately 80 houses inventoried in Catawba County from the post-bellum period, 71 are "I" houses or variations on the basic plan. The "I" house in Catawba County is most fre-

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quently made of wood frame with weatherboard siding and frequently has a one-story rear ell, which may or may not have been added at a later date. A good example of a typical "I" house in Catawba County is the Bollinger-Summit House located near Bandy's Crossroads on SR 1813. It is a frame weatherboarded, three-bay house with a stone foundation, two single shoulder stepped gable-end chimneys and a pressed tin roof. Though now gone, it once apparently had a single-story shed porch roof.

Brick was definitely the exception, but at least five examples of the "I" house built of brick remain in the county and constitute a sub-property type. The 1877 Abraham Anthony House located on SR 1008 in the Blackburn vicinity is a good example of this brick "I" house. The Anthony House is a two story brick, L-shaped structure with a one story frame rear addition. With the exception of the front porch, the brick portion of the house is austere in its simplicity, but impressive because of its generous proportions. The front of the house is three bays wide and two bays deep, and the ell adds an additional two bays to the depth of the north end. Bricks are in common bond. North and south ends have exterior brick chimneys, while the west end of the ell has an interior brick chimney. The house is covered by a low hipped roof with boxed eaves.

The brick houses of the postbellum period are important due to their relative scarcity. Though it has not been substantiated, it is believed that some of these houses may have been built by the same masons, based on similar design attributes. Often made with custom-made, local brick, these buildings often exhibit a high degree of skilled workmanship. Other brick "I" houses in this group are the Theodore Lafayette Bandy House, 1884, and the Joseph Schofield Bandy House, 1887, both on SR 1003, south of junction with SR 1813 in the Bandy's Crossroads vicinity; the Keever-Cansler House, ca. 1879, at the junction of SR 2024 & 2026 in the Blackburn vicinity; and the David F. Propst House, ca. 1887, at the junction of SR 1810 & 1879 in the Maiden vicinity.

b) One Story Houses

One story houses exist in the county in sizable quantities, however the 1979-1981 county survey did not inventory them because they were not considered significant at the time. The circa 1881 one story frame Litton House (junction of SR 1833 & 1885), in the Long Island vicinity, is an example of a one story

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house which also features a triple-A roof line. The gable, centered perpendicularly to the gable roof, accentuates the center entrance and serves a decorative purpose. It has a tin shingle roof and is weatherboarded with a brick foundation.

c) Catawba County's First Architect: Charles Henry Lester

Among the most distinguished houses of the late nineteenth century found in Catawba County are those designed by Charles H. Lester. Originally from New London, Connecticut, Lester came to the Catawba Valley in 1872 at the age of twenty-one, already having received his training as an architect. Lester settled in the southwest corner of the county, married, and eventually opened an office in Statesville, to the east in Iredell County. Lester is responsible for building many homes in the county in the late nineteenth century. He also built the cotton mill at Monbo, the school at Sherrill's Ford, and the Hub Theatre in Hickory. (Hickory Daily Record: 7/14/1965) The school is the only one of his non-residential buildings in the county known to survive. He is also credited with buildings in Statesville, Winston-Salem and at Davidson College.

In Catawba County, C. H. Lester built the 1886 T. F. Connor House (NR- Terrell Historic District), which was built for Thomas Franklin Connor, a prominent county merchant. It is a large frame structure, two and one-half stories with asymmetrical massing. Exterior details alternate between various types of cut shingling, German siding, sawn brackets and louvered blinds, articulating a well fenestrated wall. The 1886 Miles Alexander Sherrill House, located on SR 1849, south of junction with SR 1848 in the Sherrill's Ford vicinity, is another example of Lester's work in the area. It is a two-story frame, Stick style cottage characterized by irregular massing; steeply pitched gable and shed roofs; German siding with an overlay of vertical and horizontal boards from which its Stick style appearance is derived; multiple porches with chamfered or turned posts and brackets; a stone pier foundation now infilled with brick; and four-over-four and one-over-one sash windows, mostly in pairs. Based on the plan of the Sherrill House, it is believed that C. H. Lester used examples from photographic plates in Palliser's Model Homes, published in 1878 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Lester also did major renovations in 1889 to his own circa 1820 Federal style home, the Neill-Turner-Lester House on SR 1836, northeast of junction with SR 1837 in the Sherrill's Ford vicinity. Lester

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died in 1940 at the age of 91. (Hickory Daily Record: 7/14/1965)

Lester's Victorian houses represent a radical departure from the vernacular "I" house norm of the post-war period in Catawba County, for he brought popular, picturesque massing to Catawba residential architecture. The rectangular simplicity of the "I" house stood in sharp contrast to the double pile massing with corner towers of the Connor House and the Miles A. Sherrill House. It is likely that Lester influenced house design in certain areas of the county during this period. Farmhouses that break out of the rigid rectangularity of the "I" house form, becoming L-shaped, may reflect his influence.

4) Twentieth Century

The early twentieth century in Catawba County was an era of rapid industrial growth with the textile and furniture factories creating a shift in population away from the rural to the urban.

Approximately 69 early twentieth century houses were identified in the Catawba County inventory. Of those identified, approximately 23 were determined to be continued variations on the late nineteenth century "I" house. Examples of the early twentieth century "I" house include the circa 1915 Brown House in the Smyrna Church vicinity and the circa 1905 Quint Little House in the Bethlehem-Claremont vicinity.

a) Hipped Cottage

Approximately 18 hipped (including pyramidal) and cross gable early twentieth century cottages were identified in the inventory. Perhaps the best example of this house type is the Sharpe-Gentry House, on NC 10 in the Propst Crossroads vicinity. This two story frame house was built in 1903 and features a pyramidal roof with two front-facing gables, separated by a small, centered dormer. The house is squarish, with two interior chimneys. The exterior is weatherboarded and features a porch which runs the length of the house on two sides. Other examples of similar houses in the county include the circa 1914 Fry House in the Startown vicinity and the circa 1910 Goble House in the Bandy's Crossroads vicinity.

b) Bungalow/Craftsman Style Houses

The typical twentieth century craftsman house became very

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popular in Catawba County during this period, and approximately 18 were identified in the Catawba County survey. It is characterized by one, one-and-one-half, and two stories, low horizontal lines, clapboard and/or stucco cladding, gently pitched roofs, and wide projecting eaves. An excellent example of the twentieth century Catawba County craftsman bungalow is the circa 1902 Luther F. Long House on North Main Avenue in Newton. It is a large, one-and-one-half story structure, weatherboarded on the first story and covered with square cut wood shingles on the upper story. Its gabled roof with overhanging bracketed eaves sweeps low in front to encompass a broad facade porch with heavy brick posts, brick skirt and stuccoed arched fascia. The porch extends beyond the body of the house on the north side to form a porte-cochere. Typical of this form of bungalow, the front slope of the roof is interrupted by a large projecting dormer with low gable roof and front windows flanking a central door which leads to a balustraded deck. Also typical of the bungalow are the paired sash windows on front and sides of the house, as well as the bands of casement windows at second story level on the sides and rear.

Other examples of the Craftsman style in Catawba County include the circa 1902 Grover E. Murray House in Newton and the 1936 (first) Oscar W. Bolick House in Conover.

c) Colonial Revival Style

Colonial Revival style dwellings found acceptance in Catawba County during this period also. Only three houses of this style were identified in the Catawba County survey, but numerous other examples exist in the county. This style is typified by an accentuated front door, normally with decorative crown, supported by pilasters or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form an entry porch. The facade normally shows symmetrically arranged windows and center door, and windows have double-hung sashes of multi-pane glazing. Variations of the Colonial Revival style in Catawba County include hipped roof with entry porch and a gambrel roof subtype.

The three surveyed examples of this style are among the four Bolick houses in Conover. The Bolick family built three Colonial Revival houses on adjacent lots in the southern section of the town. James F. Bolick built the first one circa 1905. It is a two story frame house, distinguished by its steeply pitched gambrel roof. The front gambrel projects outward above the first

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story bay window and has large carved brackets under the corners which appear to be supportive. A wraparound porch with paired Doric posts set on brick plinths stretches from the center bay of the facade nearly to the rear south elevation. Its last bay extends outward to create a porte-cochere.

The (second) Oscar W. Bolick House, built circa 1936, designed by Hickory architect R. L. Clemmer, is a large, two story brick veneered structure with a slate tile hipped and gabled roof. The main facade is symmetrically arranged with three major sections. The central section is three bays wide with central, six panel door and one-story porch with paired Doric posts, full classical entablature and deck roof surrounded by an ironwork balustrade. This portion of the facade has a high hipped roof with three gabled dormers with round arched, traceried windows. A large chimney rises from the center of the roof. Flanking the central three bays are two slightly projecting gabled bays, each two bays wide.

Significance

Approximately 217 houses, ranging from late eighteenth century to the second quarter of the twentieth century, were surveyed in Catawba County. Due to the wide range of construction dates and architectural styles of these buildings, this property type has been broken down into four chronological categories, roughly corresponding with four eras of the development of Catawba County. Eighteenth century houses represent dwellings from the settlement phase of the county's history. Antebellum houses represent dwellings from an era of county-wide agricultural development, when most residents were subsistence farmers. Post-bellum dwellings represent a changing, post-war economy, in which the residents experienced economically strained times and a shift in demographic patterns from a wholly rural economy to an infant industrial economy. Late nineteenth and twentieth century dwellings represent the shift toward a stronger industrial and emerging urban economy indicated by more prosperous times.

All houses, in general, are significant for their relationship to domestic architecture in the county and reflect vernacular trends and high-style applications of their respective era. Some houses relate to the agricultural development of Catawba County, while others represent the development of towns in the county. A few hold special significance for their relationship to key people in Catawba County's history and for their link to

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master builders and architects.

Registration Requirements

Houses in Catawba County, as a group, is the single most populous property type in this Multiple Property Listing. Thus, special consideration for nomination must be given to each category of house according to its scarcity in the county. Eighteenth century dwellings in the county are extremely rare and consideration should be given to these buildings based on the potential value each structure may offer about early county history and domestic building construction practices. Early nineteenth century houses in Catawba County are also very rare, and in most cases reflect the architectural stylistic tastes of the county's early rural residents. Post-bellum houses are more numerous and, in general, have experienced many integrity compromises, such as modern additions and the application of modern siding materials. Condition of the structure must be a consideration for these buildings, and a careful look at the scarcity of a particular representation of style will also determine whether or not the property will be eligible. Twentieth century dwellings, being the most numerous, require close scrutiny, and only those which best represent their respective architectural style, unless otherwise significant, should be considered. Criteria issues which should be addressed for all potentially eligible houses include structural additions, the use of non-original exterior siding and roofing materials, extensive changes to the original interior fabric and layout, and extensive changes to the original site and landscaping. Due to the inadequate county survey conducted in the late 1970s, and its emphasis on pre-1865 houses, special attention must be given to post-1865 dwellings which may have been overlooked. This is particularly true in the case of twentieth century dwellings, which were seldom cited in the survey, despite the relatively large number of such potentially eligible buildings.

B) Rural Outbuildings of Catawba CountyDescription

Rural outbuildings in the county are almost always associated with agricultural complexes. They are found in a variety of construction materials and techniques, including log, wood frame, brick and poured concrete. These structures have performed

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functions which relate to subsistence farming, including shelter for livestock, such as barns and chicken coops; storage facilities, such as granaries, corn cribs, potato houses and wagon sheds; processing facilities, such as smokehouses; and cottage and farm industry facilities such as cobbler shops, blacksmith shops, forges, harness and saddle shops, and buggy and wagon shops. These outbuildings are often found a short distance from the main house. Variations in construction depended on resources of material and knowledge available to the builder relative to any particular era. Most rural outbuildings in the county are simple square or rectangular structures with gabled roofs, often covered in raised seam tin. Many feature board and batten doors, and both open and closed shed additions. Barns, though sometimes constructed of log, are often large, rectangular wood frame buildings with gabled roofs and center aisles, both with and without stalls. In general, outbuildings in the county feature log and frame as the most common construction style. Brick, though seen in a few cases in the county, most notably at the Joseph S. Bandy Farm in the Bandy's Crossroads vicinity, is not common for outbuilding construction. Condition of these buildings varies greatly, depending on age and continual use. Many of the outbuildings from old farmsteads are no longer in use and suffer deterioration, while others have been adapted for modern use and may or may not have retained sufficient integrity to be considered contributing to a particular historic district.

No rural outbuildings standing alone were identified in the Catawba County survey. A number have been judged eligible for nomination as a component of domestic and agricultural complexes in the county. A very good example of such a complex is the Abraham Anthony Farm, located on SR 1008, south of junction with SR 2021 in the Blackburn vicinity. The house was built circa 1877, however, some of the outbuildings have been determined to date prior to the house, possibly the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Of 17 outbuildings on the property, 13 were determined contributing, including a smokehouse/milkhouse, smokehouse/washshed, cobbler shop, log workshed, granary/plowshed, new granary, barn, shed, potato house, brooder house, outhouse and chicken coop.

Another good example of an agricultural complex is the Baker Farm, located just off NC 127, north of the junction with SR 1132. The circa 1822 house is accompanied by eight outbuildings, all which contribute to the district's historic character. They include a tractor shed, barn, smokehouse, corn crib, chicken



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coop, granary, blacksmith forge and spring house. The Baker Farm is especially distinctive in the German ethnicity of its outbuilding styles, particularly its distinctive log granary. This structure is distinguished by its projecting gable roof, half-dovetail log construction and wrought iron hinged batten door.

Another example of a farmstead exhibiting distinctive German style outbuilding construction is the Wilfong-Wilson Farm. Among the outbuildings on this farm are the small V-notched log smokehouse with gable roof and the mortared stone potato house, with openings on the gable ends, sawn roof construction and double batten doors. This farm, as well as many others in the county, exhibits an important feature to the rural landscape with the relatively intact collections of Germanic style outbuildings.

Significance

Rural outbuildings obtain their significance only from their association with historic agricultural operations. Thus, they are significant under Criterion A under the Historic Contexts "Exploration/Settlement of Catawba County (1747-1820)" and "Agricultural Development of Catawba County (1820 to 1939)." Occasionally a rural outbuilding may exhibit architectural merit which renders it significant under Criterion C. Rural outbuilding resources are an important component to the farmsteads in Catawba County because they reflect the multi-faceted nature of farming in the county through various stages of agricultural development. Nineteenth century farmers often farmed at subsistence levels, and particularly in the case of German-descent farmers, often augmented their incomes with other occupations as blacksmiths, cobblers and wagon makers. This is evident in the blacksmith forge and abundant hardware found at the Baker Farm, the cobbler shop found at the Abraham Anthony Farm and the work sheds at the Warlick-Huffman Farm. Late in the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, farmers turned toward cash crops such as cotton, corn and wheat, as well as livestock which went beyond the subsistence level. Evidence of this is the existence of larger frame barns, such as at the Sharpe-Gentry Farm. The existence of these rural outbuildings is the evidence of the types of historic farming trends in Catawba County.

Registration Requirements

Rural outbuildings must derive their significance in association with an agricultural complex. The design of these build-

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ings will nearly always be considered vernacular and varying degrees of workmanship will be exhibited. It is important that an outbuilding be intact, and not altered drastically by modern changes. Due to the high incidence of physical deterioration among rural outbuildings, it is important to consider each building carefully in relation to its overall farm site and patterns across the county. Sufficient integrity of materials, workmanship and construction methods are important, as well as integrity of setting and location. The Rock Barn at Rock Barn Farm is a good example of deterioration mitigated by a unique construction technique. The Rock Barn is the only rock bank barn known to exist in the county and is representative of a major ethnic German construction technique. The barn is somewhat deteriorated and reconstructed of modern materials on two sides, but due to its rarity and distinctive construction it remains eligible for nomination.

C) School Buildings of Catawba County

The 1984 survey identified seven school buildings. Six of these are of frame construction, dating from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, and are no longer in use in their original function. Some of them are used as barns, some as residences. One of them, the former St. Joseph's (later St. Paul's) Academy in Hickory, is a large two-story frame building built circa 1880 as a Catholic academy, and later operated by the Lutheran Church. From the 1930s onward the building has been used as a private residence. It is the only known private academy that has survived in the county.

The other five surveyed frame schools are:

1. Schoolhouse, jct. of SR 1819 and 1004, Catawba vicinity
2. Shawnee School, Brown's Chapel
3. Schoolhouse, jct. SR 1884 and 1880, Newton vicinity
4. Mt. Olive Schoolhouse, jct. SR 1735 and NC 10, Newton vicinity
5. Mott's Grove School, SR 1848 opposite Mott's Grove Methodist Church, Sherrill's Ford vicinity

These frame schoolhouse are all one or one and one-half stories

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in height and probably contain two classrooms. Three of them have a distinctive cross-gabled form, with the main entrance and cloakrooms in the front projecting cross-gable, and the classrooms in the main, side gabled block. One of these, the Shawnee School, apparently built for black students, has a plain front-gable form, and the Schoolhouse at the jct. of SR 1884 and 1880 is a simple, side-gabled, two-room building.

Because the 1979-81 survey was not comprehensive, it is likely that other abandoned schoolhouses exist in the county in addition to these that were surveyed.

All of the existing pre-1940 public schools which are still in use in the county as schools date from post-1900. These twenty buildings, most of which were not surveyed in the Catawba County Inventory, are as follows:

NAME	CONSTRUCTION DATE
Balls Creek	1927
Balls Creek Elementary	1938
Blackburn Middle School	1926*
Catawba Middle School	1940
Claremont Elementary	1922
Claremont Elementary	1936
Maiden Elementary	1924*
Maiden Elementary	1928
Mountain View	1924
Oxford Elementary	1922*
Sherrills Ford	1922
Sherrills Ford Elementary	1933
St. Stephens Elementary	1933*
Startown	1924
Sweetwater Elementary	1926
Hickory City	1917
Hickory City	1917
Viewmont Elementary	1919
Newton-Conover Jr. High	1905*
Newton City	1934*

\*have later additions  
and/or alterations

The only one of these schools surveyed is the Balls Creek School, located at the junction of SR 1815 and 1810 in south central Catawba County. Believed to have been built by local architect C. H. Lester, this 1927 brick building is a good example of the consolidated schools built throughout North Carolina during the 1920s as a byproduct of the "Good Roads Movement" and of a school

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bus system. The handsome two and one-half story Flemish bond brick building has twenty-six classrooms.

Significance

The approximately 20 pre-1940 public school buildings known to exist in Catawba County represent approximately half of the public schools in the county in 1940, according to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Biennial Report of 1939-1940. In that year there were a total of 43 schools in the county: 16 rural white schools, 9 rural black schools; 10 white schools in Hickory, 2 black schools in Hickory; and 3 white schools and 3 black schools in Newton. All of these old school buildings are significant under Criterion A in the context of the history of education in the county. If they retain architectural integrity from their period of construction, the schools would also be significant under Criterion C, as examples of typical schoolhouse construction and planning of the pre-World War II period. Any remaining private schools are even more rare and would be significant under the same criteria.

Registration Requirements

Any county school building fitting the above description is eligible for the National Register if it retains sufficient physical integrity. In addition to integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, integrity of location is especially important. The original location of schools in school districts or of private schools adjacent to churches or other institutions is a crucial element in the integrity of a particular building. It is possible that a moved school might be eligible if it retained a high degree of integrity in the other areas and if its new site were close to the original site.

D) Religious Buildings and SitesDescription

The Catawba County inventory identified approximately nineteen religious buildings and sites. These include a variety of churches, cemeteries and camp meeting grounds. Since religious properties are often used to the present day, many have changed dramatically throughout history. Recent renovations and alterations to "modernize" functional churches often jeopardize the historic integrity of these buildings. Most of the first generation of Lutheran and Reformed congregations established in the county replaced their church buildings in the first half of the

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twentieth century, although the cemeteries, dating to the late eighteenth century, retain large important collections of decorative gravestones. Cemeteries and camp meeting grounds also are subject to modern changes. However, cemeteries often retain the oldest sections separate from more recent sections. Camp meeting grounds are more important for the continuity of their use rather than their structural integrity.

1) Churches

Physical characteristics of these resources vary with each category. Churches in Catawba County tend to be vernacular interpretations of traditional church forms, such as Gothic and Classical Revival. They are made either of brick or wood frame. Size varies, from very small chapels to relatively large sanctuaries. The earliest churches are found in rural locations, where they were available to a mostly rural population. By the twentieth century it was more common to build churches in the towns. These properties, due to their use up to the present in most cases, can be expected to be found in relatively sound condition; because they are often used until the present, however, architectural integrity is sometimes compromised with renovations and unsympathetic additions.

Eight historic churches were identified in the Catawba County inventory.

1. St. Paul's Lutheran Church (NR) Catawba County's oldest church, founded in 1771, was listed on the National Register prior to the Catawba County Inventory. The present building, circa 1818, was constructed using large logs from the original church for structural supports in the new building. It is a two story rectangular frame structure.

2. Grace Union Church in the Blackburn vicinity, was built in 1857. It is apparently the second oldest surviving church building in the county. Grace Union was constructed as a union church for the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations of the mid-nineteenth century. It is constructed of common bond brick in a simple, elegant Greek Revival style. It is the only Greek Revival period church known in Catawba County, however, similar examples do exist in other Piedmont counties, including Back Creek Presbyterian Church (1857) in Rowan County and Centre Presbyterian Church (1854) in Iredell County.

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3. Grace Reformed Church, circa 1887 in Newton. This is the most accomplished example of the Gothic Revival style church surviving in Catawba County. The brick structure has a cruciform plan, a steeply pitched gable roof, brick buttresses and lancet arched doors and windows.

4. Memorial Reformed Church, circa 1887, Maiden. This is a two-bay-wide, four-bay-deep, front gable roofed brick structure with an unusual combination of Classical Revival and Gothic Revival stylistic traits. The entrance and bell tower were added in 1914 and in 1936 a Sunday School wing was added.

5. Rehobeth Methodist Church, circa 1889, Terrell vicinity. This church was once a quaint, weatherboarded frame structure, with a hipped and gabled roof. Doors and windows were elaborately decorated with intricate sawnwork, giving it a very light, airy look, not unlike Victorian style houses of the era. The building was dramatically altered when it was brick veneered in a 1950s remodeling.

6. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, circa 1889, Bandy's Township vicinity at the junction of SR 1003 and SR 1821. This is a one and one-half story, simple rectangular, gable roofed frame structure which is weatherboarded. It was closed for many years, shortly after it was built. Then it was reopened in 1954, after a rear addition was made in that year.

7. Mt. Pleasant Church, circa 1893, Denver vicinity. This is a two story, load-bearing, common bond brick structure, with a rear addition.

8. St. Paul's Reformed Church, circa 1903-4, Startown vicinity. This unique rural church is wood frame, weatherboarded, and is a fine example of vernacular Gothic Revival. The building has an assymetrical plan, with an offset front wing, shallow rear apse and corner entrance tower.

2) Cemeteries

A number of historic cemeteries exist in Catawba County, both secluded near old family farms as family cemeteries, and in the shadow of the county's oldest churches. A number of these cemeteries, particularly those associated with Lutheran and Reformed German congregations in the nineteenth century, have stones which exhibit a high level of artistic design, exhibiting traditional German folk art designs.

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Many of the stones in Catawba County cemeteries associated with the German population have been attributed to the Caveny-Crawford Workshop of South Carolina. This workshop supplied German folk art gravestones to the Catawba Valley from the mid-1820s to the mid-1870s. The Caveny-Crawford Workshop generally utilized a greenish-gray local stone. Their basic shapes were a Baroque shape, dominant until the late 1840s, and a tall, narrow rectangular slab, dominant from the 1840s on. Design motifs included the early urn-and-willow imagery, found on stones from 1802 to 1841 and the folk German motifs more dominant after the late 1840s, following a formula of: a star-flower, sunburst or leafy branch flanked by quarter-sunbursts above the area of inscription and a tree-of-life decoration under the inscription.

Nine historic cemeteries were identified in the county inventory. They are as follows:

1. St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, (in association with St. Paul's Lutheran Church) Newton vicinity, founded 1771. This cemetery has many old German stones, many of which likely came from the gravestone workshop of Caveny-Crawford in South Carolina.

2. St. Peter's Lutheran Church Cemetery, early 1800s, Conover vicinity.

3. St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery, established in 1798, Conover vicinity. This is a very early rural cemetery in the county.

4. Grace Union Church Cemetery, established 1822, Blackburn vicinity. A number of stones here date prior to 1870, with Germanic design motifs, characterized by curvilinear tops, peaked tops and a variety of designs incorporating leaf and concentric circles to decorate the tops, again, believed to have come from the Caveny-Crawford Workshop of South Carolina.

5. Rehobeth Church Cemetery, founded 1828, Terrell vicinity. Many of the county's earliest settlers are buried here.

6. Sherrill Family Cemetery, established as early as 1775, Sherrill's Ford vicinity. This cemetery is located near the Sherrill Family homestead, and because many of the stones are now illegible, it is assumed that some could date back to circa 1775.

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7. Huffman Family Cemetery, established 1831, Conover vicinity. This small, family cemetery remains intact near the George Huffman homestead. The stones are for the most part simple, flat, rounded or pointed tops. They range in dates from 1831 to 1873.

8. Wesley's Chapel Cemetery, established 1840s, Blackburn vicinity. This cemetery reflects a strong German influence in the tombstone design, such as rounded, curvilinear, pointed or flat tops with a combination of abstract and realistic design motifs, such as circles, stars, flowers, leaves and vines. This cemetery, again, may represent Caveny-Crawford Workshop designs.

9. Hopewell Methodist Church Cemetery, established 1800s. This is the burial location of Catawba County's first known and possibly most important architect, C.H. Lester (1849 to 1940).

3. Camp Meeting Grounds

The camp meeting tradition in Catawba County has been a long and enduring local religious and social phenomenon. The history of the local camp meeting tradition can be traced as far back as the late eighteenth century. Catawba has four known camp meeting sites remaining, an unusually high number for Piedmont North Carolina. Two have been important to the white Methodist populations of the county and western Piedmont: Ball's Creek Campground, in the Bandy's Crossroads vicinity, and the arbor at Wesley's Chapel, in the Blackburn vicinity. Two others have been important to the emancipated blacks of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: Mott's Grove Campground in the Terrell vicinity, and the McKenzie's Grove Campground in the Catawba vicinity.

The typical camp meeting ground is set, generally, in a rural location which provided ample shade and fresh water. The camp meetings usually were held for one week out of the year and virtually all of the participants "camped" at the site for that week. The center of the site is typified by an "arbor", which is an open-air, hipped roof shelter which would shade the participants during the prayer meetings and sermons. A rustic pulpit, occasionally capped by a sound board, is found in the front. Rustic benches or pews fill the remainder of the shaded space.



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The area surrounding the arbor often is circled with "tents," which are simple wood frame shacks simply furnished to provide the campers with rudimentary shelter during the camp meeting. They are one to one and a half stories, with sleeping lofts and often a front shed roof for a porch. These are usually built abutting each other, in rows angling around the arbor in a large square. Larger camp meeting grounds have concentric squares of tents. The vernacular style of the arbor and tents has remained constant from the 1850s to the present, and despite continual upkeep most camp meeting structures have retained a certain level of integrity.

Significance

All religious buildings and sites are significant under the Historic Context "Religion in Catawba County: ca. 1747 to 1939." They may also be significant under Criterion A for their association with important events and activities as indications of the development of towns in the county. Several of the churches are eligible under Criterion C as fine examples of their respective architectural styles. Some of the cemeteries have collections of gravestones that are significant under Criterion C as a reflection of the decorative arts tradition of the Catawba Valley. The camp meeting grounds have significance as examples of unique structural ensembles and as physical manifestations of a social phenomenon. Due to the temporary nature of the camp meeting ground structures, the primary importance of these sites is not found in the structures themselves, but rather in the ongoing tradition of using a particular site or location for the meeting each year.

Registration Requirements

Particular care should be taken in determining the eligibility of churches. Due to twentieth century alterations, many nineteenth century churches may be deemed not eligible for nomination based on loss of architectural integrity. It is less likely to find that eighteenth and nineteenth century cemeteries have been altered, and if they exhibit high levels of artistic design, they should be eligible under Criteria Exception C. Camp meeting grounds in the county are very rare, and extremely important on a statewide level for their contribution to the

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history of the camp meeting tradition in the state. Special consideration must be given to these sites; although integrity may be a difficult issue, due to continual refurbishing, the unchanging overall character of these sites should be a stronger consideration when determining eligibility. It is understood that in order to maintain their existence their materials and workmanship must be replaced from time to time. Particularly as camp meeting structures are generally refurbished with traditional materials, issues such as association, feeling, location, setting and design should be weighed more heavily than materials and workmanship. These issues are more important than the actual fabric.

E) Commercial Buildings of Catawba CountyDescription

Commercial buildings in the county were, in the nineteenth century, often associated with the rural crossroads communities found throughout the county. By the twentieth century, with increasing shifts in population away from the farms, commercial centers sprung up in the towns, such as Catawba, Maiden, Newton, Conover and Hickory. These buildings, often utilitarian in nature, are made of wood frame, or after the late nineteenth century, of brick. They offered access to main routes of transportation and adequate display and work space for each respective business. Some of the nineteenth century commercial buildings may be found in varying states of deterioration due to abandonment; most twentieth century commercial buildings, however, particularly those found in towns, are in good condition.

Ten commercial buildings were identified in the Catawba County Inventory. Other commercial buildings are listed in the National Register as part of historic districts, such as the country store in Murray's Mill Historic District; the store in the Terrell Historic District; and the brick row buildings of the Lowrance Shoe Shop, Sherrill Tobacco Company Building, J.U. Long and Company Store and Catawba Drug Company, all in the Catawba Historic District.

A number of typical "country stores" built from the late nineteenth century well into the twentieth century remain in Catawba County's rural areas and often are associated with cross-road communities. Most of these were not surveyed. They are generally small, one story, gable front, three bay wide frame or

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brick structures, occasionally with a shed porch roof, or a porte cochere to shelter a gas pumping area in front. Killian's Store, a wood frame building found near the intersection of NC 150 and NC 16 in the Killian's Crossroads vicinity, is a good example, built circa 1890. Kale's Gas Station, found at the junction of SR 1833 and SR 1831 in the Catawba vicinity, is also typical. Built circa 1930, it also is a one story front gabled frame structure, with a front porte cochere, shading the old gas pump in front of the store.

Significance

Commercial buildings are often associated with the development of towns in the county under Criterion A, and may sometimes reflect important people in the county's history under Criterion B. Some also may exhibit levels of architectural importance, and may be nominated under Criterion C.

Registration Requirements

Commercial buildings are subject to frequent alterations, particularly of the storefront area. The replacement of the original storefront does not necessarily remove a commercial building from eligibility for the National Register. In the case of row buildings located on the main streets of the towns and cities in the county, the logical unit of nomination is a district, containing all or a portion of the row, rather than an individual building. In such a district, integrity levels of individual buildings could be somewhat lower, because of the strong significance of the whole ensemble as a historic streetscape.

F) Industrial Buildings in Catawba CountyDescription

Seven industrial resources were identified in the Catawba County Inventory, and six other resources are already listed on the National Register as follows:

1. The Powell-Trollinger Lime Furnace
2. Murray's Mill
3. Yoder's Mill
4. Grist Mill, Terrell Historic District
5. Gabriel Cotton Gin, Terrell Historic District
6. Piedmont Wagon Company

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The range of these resources represents both typically rural industries such as grist mills, forges and cotton gins, and manufacturing complexes which located along the railroad, often near population centers, beginning in the 1860s.

Industrial buildings in Catawba County vary in construction and design depending on function and era. Early buildings, such as water-powered mills, are often made of wood frame or brick and tend to be extremely utilitarian in design, with little or no architectural style. Many of these early resources were sited for accessibility at crossroads. By the twentieth century, industrial buildings were constructed of material such as brick, wood frame or steel frame sheathed with galvanized tin or other types of corrugated metal. They are often located near major roads, the railroad lines, and more often in towns, with their larger employment pools.

Condition of these properties varies, depending on age and continuity of use. Many resources which are now no longer needed, such as water-powered mills or blacksmith shops, are often abandoned and in a deteriorated condition. Twentieth century industrial buildings are often still used, though it is likely that adaptations have been made to accommodate advances in technology, which may compromise integrity.

The Powell-Trollinger Lime Furnace (NR), circa 1865, in the Maiden vicinity, is a complex of three stone structures on the side of a hill, with openings at the tops and bottoms. These structures were ovens; used to heat raw lime to create pure lime for construction and agricultural purposes.

Grist and grain mills were common along the Catawba River and its tributaries in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1884, lists 43 mills in the county. Most have been destroyed by floods or have been abandoned and deteriorated. However, one excellent example exists yet at Murray's Mill (NR) in the Catawba vicinity. This circa 1910, rectangular, two story, gable roofed frame building is functional today, due to a massive restoration project undertaken by the Catawba County Historical Association. Yoder's Mill (NR), a circa 1857 grist mill, where molasses and lumber were also produced, was badly damaged in a 1916 flood. Today it is preserved as an archaeological site.

One blacksmith shop was identified in the survey. The William Poovey Blacksmith Shop, in the Startown vicinity is a circa 1890 one-story, wood frame building located at a crossroads, probably typical of artisans' shops which once were more

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numerous in the county.

When cotton became an important crop in Catawba County in the early twentieth century, numerous cotton gins were built. Two surviving gins were surveyed. Bandy's Cotton Gin, circa 1910, in the Bandy's Crossroads vicinity, is a simple, two story frame structure, with metal siding. Another cotton gin (no name given) located on NC 10 one-quarter mile east of Startown, is a one story frame structure with a shed porch. With the demise of Catawba County's cotton industry in the early 1960s, all of these old gins have been abandoned or converted into sheds and barns.

Catawba County's industrial landscape began to change dramatically in the late nineteenth century as a more varied economy emerged after Reconstruction. The need to shift economic emphasis away from agriculture brought large industries such as the cotton textile mills and furniture factories. All of this was the result of the coming of the railroad, which went through Newton, Conover and Hickory by late 1860, just as the Civil War was erupting. The buildings containing these large industries were often utilitarian, as large, open floor plans, usually one story. The materials were usually inexpensive and durable, such as brick, concrete, structural steel and sheet metal.

An outgrowth of the cotton industry in late nineteenth century Catawba County were the textile mills. The earliest mill still remaining is the Providence Mill, approximately one mile north of Maiden on SR 1810. Located near the site of the Jenny Lind Iron Foundry, the Providence Mill was built in 1882, with a capacity of 2,000 spindles. The mill operated by steam, except the carding process, which was powered by water running under the mill. The capacity of the successful plant tripled before the turn of the century, and the mill continued to operate until 1965. The mill is a large, two-story gabled roof rectangular brick building, which now functions as a furniture factory.

Transportation industries emerged in the late nineteenth century as well. The Piedmont Wagon Company (NR), built in 1889, is the oldest remaining industrial building in Hickory. It is a two and one-half story common bond brick structure, with segmentally arched window and door heads. The company, which located near the Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad tracks, quickly grew in its business of building such things as wagons, carts, and wheelbarrows for farmers all over the western Piedmont.

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The Bolick Buggy Shop, in Conover, had a similar beginning. Jerome Bolick constructed his buggy shop in 1883, as part of early expansion of his blacksmith/wheelwright business. The buggy shop is a small one story brick building, one bay wide and four deep with a gable front. The lower third of the building is constructed with cut stones, while the upper two thirds of the walls are of brick construction laid in common bond.

Significance

Historic industrial resources in Catawba County are significant under the Historic Context "Industrial Development of Catawba County: ca. 1850 to 1939." Some buildings may represent certain levels of architectural significance based on engineering design, or even artistic style under Criterion C. Some buildings may also have significance for association with important people in the county's history and association with the development of Catawba County towns under Criteria A and B.

Registration Requirements

Nineteenth century pre-industrial sites in Catawba County are quite rare and consideration must be given to these sites as to their importance to their respective industry. Relatively intact representative examples of a particular industry should be eligible for nomination. For twentieth century industrial complexes which are much more common, eligibility should be determined based on a variety of factors, such as overall integrity of the site and relationship of the industry to the development of the community.

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**G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

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Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

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**H. Major Bibliographical References**

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See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency

- Local government  
 University  
 Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Barbara M. Kooiman, compiler  
organization Catawba County Historical Assn., Inc. date 10/30/89  
street & number Rt. 1, Box 76 AB telephone 704/256-3040  
city or town Conover state N.C. zip code 28613

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## METHODOLOGY

This multiple property submission is the culmination of ten years of work in Catawba County, funded throughout most of this time by federal Survey and Planning Grants matched by various non-profit organizations in the county, especially the Catawba County Historical Association, Inc. The effort to identify and register the historic resources of Catawba County began in 1979 with the initiation of a comprehensive survey of the county. F. Bogue Wallin, the principal investigator, had an undergraduate history degree from Colgate University with an American Studies concentration. He worked sporadically on the inventory until 1981, and ceased the project before writing an acceptable final survey report. Historian David Brown also worked on the survey during the early 1980s. Wallin surveyed approximately 300 properties, but both the data which he gathered and the photographic documentation were inadequate. In addition to problems with field techniques, the standards regarding the scope of a comprehensive inventory at that time were considerably lower than current North Carolina SHPO standards. The general cut-off period for comprehensive survey was circa 1865, and only landmark buildings built from the circa 1865-1930 period were considered worthy of documentation. Therefore the Catawba County Inventory currently consists of some 300 file folders with incomplete survey forms and a few photographs and needs to be updated with a new survey according to current standards. Three particular groups of resources that need attention are small, vernacular postbellum houses, turn-of-the-century crossroads communities, and industrial resources.

All subsequent documentation work in the county has concentrated on registration. In 1983, architectural historian Laura Phillips (M.A. Tulane University), and the SHPO staff, primarily Michael Hill, Jim Sumner and Marshall Bullock, collaborated on the description and historical background essays for thirty-one of the most significant historic buildings in the county. These were primarily farmhouses and associated outbuildings. Historian Maury York also assisted in this project. These nominations were not completed.

In 1983-1984, architectural historian Kirk Mohny (M.A., Cornell University), and Laura Phillips prepared a multiple resources nomination for the city of Hickory, consisting of three historic districts and seven individual properties. Jerry Cross, Jim Sumner and Michael Hill of the SHPO prepared the statements



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of historical significance. In 1988 Mohney and Phillips coauthored a fine publication: From Tavern to Town: The Architectural History of Hickory, North Carolina (City of Hickory Historic Properties Commission and Hickory Landmarks Society, Inc.)

When work resumed in 1987 on the nominations of properties outside Hickory, it was decided to prepare a multiple property documentation form and to update the 1983 draft nominations to current National Register standards. Barbara M. Kooiman, a public historian (M.A., University of Wisconsin), conducted this work from January to October 1989. Barbara has the distinction of providing the hard work to pull together a large amount of very valuable, but disjointed material to complete this long quest for registration. North Carolina SHPO editors for Barbara's work were Claudia Brown and M. Ruth Little.

This multiple property framework for Catawba County includes in its geographic area the "Historic Resources of Hickory," a 1984 multiple resource submission that covered the city limits of the largest city in the county. The major focus of this county multiple property form is rural and small town resources, and researchers should refer to the "Historic Resources of Hickory" for an analysis of architectural resources by which to measure the significance of resources in the city of Hickory which may be considered for nomination in the future.

The ethnic German farmsteads included in this submission, and the extent to which they reflect German material culture up to the mid-nineteenth century, cannot be understood in the local context through which all of the Catawba County properties are evaluated here. This study will hopefully be undertaken on a regional scale, as a Catawba Valley German Decorative Arts study, in the future. At that point the resources of Lincoln and Gaston counties can be analyzed along with those of Catawba County, and many of the farmsteads will be viewed in a different light.

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