

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Ramsey Farm

other names/site number Green Acres

## 2. Location

street & number 1853 Norwood Road

**N/A** not for publication

city or town Statesville

**N/A** vicinity

stat North Carolina

code NC

county Iredell

code 097

zip code 28677

e \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other,(explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ramsey Farm  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE: Processing  
AGRICULTURE: Storage

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE: Storage  
NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Late-nineteenth-century T-plan house  
Other: Corncrib/Granary  
Other: Meat House

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT  
METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

circa 1883

circa 1930

**Significant Dates**

circa 1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Iredell County Public Library, Statesville

Ramsey Farm  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 6.85 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1                                   
Zone Easting Northing  
2                                 

3                                   
Zone Easting Northing  
4                                 

See continuation sheet

Latitude: 35.799113 Longitude: - 80.862856

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach  
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 7/17/2021  
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661  
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name William R. Axley  
street & number 1853 Norwood Road telephone (630) 417-6376  
city or town Statesville state NC zip code 28677

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Iredell County, NC

## Setting

Ramsey Farm is located approximately two miles northeast of downtown Statesville on the south side of Davie Avenue (US 64), which was originally called the Statesville to Mocksville Road. The property is a well-known local landmark, referred to as “Ramsey Hill” in some area histories and as “Green Acres” in mid-twentieth-century newspaper articles.<sup>1</sup> The Ramseys once owned four hundred acres on the north and south sides of the Statesville to Mocksville Road, but land was gradually sold over the course of the twentieth century. Although the setting remained rural through the mid-twentieth century, the landscape changed dramatically as Statesville expanded to the northeast along the I-40, I-77, and US 64 corridors.

The I-77 corridor bisected the farm in the mid-1960s and the residual acreage is now encompassed in three tax parcels. The circa 1883 Ramsey House updated with a new porch in 1907, circa 1883 corncrib/granary enlarged around 1935, and circa 1930 meat house, all contributing buildings, stand at the south end of two parcels encompassing 6.85 acres at 1853 Norwood Road on the highway’s west side. A concrete-block tenant house, a frame shed, and a log barn, all historically associated with the Ramsey Farm, occupy the northwest quadrant of the 18.795 acres on the highway’s east side at 1437 Simonton Road. William R. Axley, the great-grandson of the farm’s original owners, William M. and Alice Ramsey, owns both tracts. However, the fact that the highway divides the farm precludes the eastern section’s inclusion within the National Register boundaries.

The nominated 6.85-acre tract is bounded by Davie Avenue (US 64) to the north, I-77 to the east, Norwood Road to the south, and parcels containing one-story brick medical buildings erected in 2000 to the west and northwest. On Norwood Road’s south side, opposite Ramsey Farm, clusters of one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided townhouses were constructed in 2017.

Ramsey Farm’s once rural character remains apparent despite the fact that it is now surrounded by early-twenty-first-century residential and commercial development. The agrarian landscape is typical of many Piedmont farmsteads during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In addition to three historic buildings, the farm includes fences, roads, fields, pastures, tree stands, and woodlands. The topography is gently rolling, allowing for the location of buildings, fields, and pastures on higher ground. Unpaved farm roads lined with cedars lead from Norwood Road to the Ramsey House and outbuildings and north to Davie Avenue (US 64). The primary egress is at Norwood Road. The rarely-used Davie Avenue outlet is secured by a tubular metal gate at the farm road’s north end.

The one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded, T-shaped Ramsey House faces south and is situated on a slight rise. Evergreen shrubs line the foundation. The front yard includes a round brick-lined planting bed southeast of the house, while a round stone-lined planting bed punctuates the east yard. A low

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<sup>1</sup> “Ramsey Farm” was selected as the property name for National Register purposes as the farm has been owned by successive generations of the Ramsey family.

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evergreen hedge separates the house from the rear yard, which once contained a vegetable garden as well as a chicken house and other outbuildings demolished in the late-twentieth century. The one-story, frame, shed-roofed meat house is the only extant outbuilding in this area. The one-and-one-half-story, frame, front-gable-roofed corncrib/granary is east of the dwelling and the farm road that runs north-south through the property. Post-and-rail and wire fences surround the pasture north and south of the corncrib/granary. North and west of the house and outbuildings, stands of mature trees border pastures, uncultivated fields, and woodlands. The trees continue to serve their historic function as windbreaks.

## Resource List

Ramsey House, circa 1883, 1907, 1972, contributing building  
Corncrib/Granary, circa 1883, circa 1935, circa 1963, contributing building  
Meat House, circa 1930, contributing building

## Ramsey House, circa 1883, 1907, 1972, contributing building

### *Exterior*

The one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded, T-shaped main block encompasses a front-gable west wing and perpendicular east wing distinguished by deep eaves and steeply pitched gables with cornice returns. A one-story gabled ell projects from the east wing's north elevation. The shed room at the ell's north end, small shed-roofed rear entrance vestibule, and shed-roofed bathroom west of the vestibule were likely built in the early twentieth century, perhaps when W. M. Ramsey remodeled the house in March 1907.<sup>2</sup> Two small gabled additions extend from the west wing's rear elevation. The central early-twentieth-century addition served as a dining room; the northernmost 1972 addition is a utility room. The Ramseys also erected a small shed-roofed bathroom at the north end of the porch on the main block's west elevation in 1972. Two interior brick chimneys with slightly corbelled stacks rise from the main block's asphalt-shingle roof.<sup>3</sup> The northeast shed room, entrance vestibule, and bathroom have standing-seam metal roofs. Rectangular louvered vents pierce the gables.

Chamfered posts support the front porch, which extends across the façade and wraps around the southeast and southwest corners. A small gable surmounts the porch's central entrance bay. The porch likely attained its current configuration in March 1907, when the *Landmark* mentions that W. M. Ramsey was constructing a new porch in conjunction with other "noticeable improvements." The beadboard ceiling was installed in 1907; the concrete-block porch foundation, floor, low wood railing with square balusters, and wood steps with tubular steel railings were added in the mid-twentieth century.

<sup>2</sup> The scope of 1907 work is unclear. *The Landmark* (Statesville), March 19, 1907, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> The roof was originally sheathed with wood shingles.

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For the most part, mid-twentieth-century six-over-six sash framed by operable louvered shutters illuminate the interior. Three upper-level windows—one in the east gable and two in the German-sided gabled dormers on the south and west roof slopes—contain original two-over-two sash. The triangular pediments surmounting each upper-level window reflect a Gothic Revival stylistic influence. Aluminum-frame storm windows were added in 2003. A pair of tall, narrow, four-over-four, first-story sash and a single upper-level sash pierce the west wing's south wall. To the east, at the wings' intersection, a single-leaf wood front door with a three-panel base, glazed upper section, and two-pane sidelights lights the central hall. A single first-story window is east of the entrance. The west elevation comprises three standard-sized windows in primary rooms and two shorter sash in the 1972 bathroom and utility room additions. Three small windows pierce the north elevation. The central single-leaf wood rear door, comprising a three-horizontal-panel base and four-vertical-pane upper section, is sheltered by a small vestibule with exposed painted-wood studs, a narrow-board floor, a beadboard ceiling, a wood-frame screen door at its west end, and north and east walls clad with weatherboards beneath wire-mesh screens and wood lattice. The east elevation encompasses two standard-sized first-story windows, a small window in the shed room, and a single upper-level sash.

## *Interior*

Four sizeable rooms flank the central first-floor hall: a southwest parlor, southeast living room, and northeast and west bedrooms. The dining room and utility room additions are north of the northwest bedroom. The kitchen occupies the shed room at the northeast bedroom's north end. A small shed-roofed rear entrance vestibule and shed-roofed bathroom are at the center hall's north end. The stair rises from the rear on the center hall's west side. A turned newel post anchors the stair railing's square balusters and molded handrail. Primary rooms are characterized by wide heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, two- and four-raised-panel doors with original hardware, flat-board window and door trim, and post-and-lintel mantels with tapered pilasters on plinths and molded shelves. Parlor mantel frieze embellishment includes a curved lower edge and three corbels and molded trim beneath the shelf. Square mid-twentieth-century red terra-cotta tiles cover the firebox opening and hearth. The living room fireplace consists of a mantel with a scalloped frieze and a cast-iron fireplace insert with a bas-relief stag, doe, and fawn in a cornfield on the central panel and lion's-head corner blocks atop bellflower-embellished pilasters. Mid-twentieth-century square red terra-cotta tiles sheathe the firebox surround and hearth. The northeast bedroom fireplace comprises a mantel with a flat frieze with a straight lower edge, a firebox enclosed with a painted-wood panel, and a brick hearth. The northwest bedroom mantel's frieze curves toward a central point above chamfered pilasters. The running-bond redbrick firebox and surround sheathing and a concrete hearth are 1972 modifications. In the living room and northeast bedroom, closets with two-vertical-panel doors are east of the fireplace. West of the chimney, a single-leaf door

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connects those two rooms. The small closet above the entrance on the bedroom side has a flat wood door. A flat wood replacement door secures the northwest bedroom closet.<sup>4</sup>

Faux redbrick vinyl-composition-tile was laid in a basketweave pattern over the center hall's wood floor in the 1980s and faux-wood-sheet-vinyl floors installed in the rear hall and kitchen in 2010. The north bathroom and utility room have late-twentieth-century large-square-ceramic-tile floors. Wood cabinets with flat-panel doors and drawers and laminate counters line the kitchen's north wall and the utility room's east wall. Two closets with six-panel doors were constructed in the rear hall around 2010. The north bathroom retains a five-horizontal-panel door, clawfoot porcelain-enamel tub, and wall-mounted porcelain sink with an oval basin. The 1972 bathroom's painted-wood-paneled walls, smooth-painted gypsum-board ceiling, faux-wood-sheet-vinyl floor, wall-mounted porcelain sink with a rectangular basin, and fiberglass tub and shower surround with aluminum-frame textured-glass sliding doors are original. The 1972 utility room has beadboard wainscoting, a smooth-painted gypsum-board ceiling, and a northwest corner closet with a louvered folding door.

A steep straight run of painted-wood stairs leads to the second floor, which encompasses two bedrooms and a central hall with wide painted-heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, board-and-batten doors with original hardware, and flat-board window and door trim. A railing with square balusters, a molded handrail, and a newel post with a chamfered base, square center, and rectangular top secures the landing. The north hall closet east of the stair is original. The full-width south hall closet with sliding wood doors was added in 1972. The wood storage benches on the west room's north wall are mid-twentieth century additions. The coal-burning stoves that originally heated the bedrooms were removed about the same time. However, the two flue openings on the north walls remain, covered with round painted-metal plates. A high flat-panel door on the west room's north wall provides access to the unfinished attic. Central air conditioning was installed in summer 2019.

## **Corncrib/Granary, circa 1883, circa 1935, circa 1963, contributing building**

A one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded, circa 1883 corncrib/granary with a steeply-pitched front-gable roof stands east of the house. Shed-roofed additions erected around 1935 and 1963 surround the circa 1883 building. An open circa 1963 shed supported by stripped-log posts extends across the rear (east) elevation. The north two-thirds of the 1883 building served as a granary; the south bay was a corn crib. Weatherboards secured with cut nails sheathe the west 1883 elevation with the exception of a portion of the corncrib wall and the front gable's uppermost portion, where slatted boards provide air circulation for stored corn and grain. A sliding wooden lock secures the board-and-batten door in the central granary bay, while a small piece of lumber holds the board-and-batten shutter at the loft window closed. Within the granary, field crops such as small grains and shelled corn were stored in wooden bins and protected

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<sup>4</sup> William R. Axley and Peggy Axley, telephone conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October and November 2009 and February 2020. According to Peggy Axley, the only interior modifications made through 1993 were cosmetic updates.

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from rodents and insects by fully-sided walls. The corncrib's south wall has a weatherboard base and slatted-board upper section for ventilation. The east and north 1883 walls are weatherboarded.

The L-shaped south and east addition was constructed about 1935, while the equipment shed addition on the building's north end was erected circa 1963 around a large tree. With the exception of the north section of the circa 1963 addition's west wall, which has horizontal-board siding, the Ramseys used vertical boards to enclose the shed additions. All are accessed through wide double-leaf doors and have open plans. The corncrib/granary and shed additions currently store items including a late-nineteenth-century carriage and wagon used by the Ramseys. The circa 1963 rear shed, which extends across the south half of the east elevation and further south, provided shelter for livestock. On the shed's open east and north sides, slender stripped-log and square lumber posts support the roof. Vertical boards sheathe the south and southwest walls. The outbuilding complex included a log barn that is now on I-77's east side, but originally stood just north of the corncrib/granary, allowing for easy access to livestock feed. The circa 1963 modifications to the corncrib/granary were driven by the barn's relocation.

## Meat House, circa 1930, contributing building

The one-story shed-roofed outbuilding north of the Ramsey House retains original elements including vertical-board sheathing, exposed rafter ends that create a slight overhang beneath the standing-seam metal roof, and a board-and-batten door on the south elevation. The building, used to cure and store meat, likely replaced an earlier smokehouse by 1932, when the *Daily Record* reported the theft of three hams from the farm.<sup>5</sup> The Ramseys hung meat on thick round pegs attached to the upper edges of the interior walls. The open room has a wood floor.<sup>6</sup>

## Integrity Statement

Ramsey Farm possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation. The buildings maintain integrity of location as they stand on original sites. The residual 6.85-acre tract encompasses an agrarian landscape typical of many Piedmont farmsteads during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, thus perpetuating integrity of setting, feeling, and association. In addition to the residence, corncrib/granary, and meat house, the farm includes fences, roads, fields, pastures, tree stands, and woodlands. Land utilization within the National Register boundary has been consistent since the early-twentieth century, with little change to farm roads, field patterns, and relationship of wooded tracts to open pastures and fields. Although I-77 bisected the farm's east and west sections in the mid-1960s, historic resources and landscape features are remarkably intact within the nominated tract.

<sup>5</sup> "Three hams stolen from smokehouse of Mrs. W. M. Ramsey," *Daily Record* (Statesville, NC), April 7, 1932, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> William R. Axley, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October and November 2009, May 2010.

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The Ramsey House and outbuildings display integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The circa 1883 dwelling retains its T-shaped plan, weatherboard cladding, chamfered porch posts, three-two-over-two double-hung wood sash, and paneled wood doors with glazed upper sections. The 1907 porch shape, beadboard ceiling, and posts are intact. The porch's concrete-block foundation, floor, low wood railing with square balusters, and wood steps with tubular steel railings were installed in the mid-twentieth century. The mid-twentieth-century six-over-six double-hung wood sash completely fill original window openings. The early-twentieth-century and 1972 additions are not visible from the primary (south) elevation. Room volumes and interior finishes including wide heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, raised-panel and board-and-batten doors with original hardware, flat-board window and door trim, and post-and-lintel mantels with tapered pilasters and a variety of scalloped friezes are intact. Minor late-twentieth-century modifications such as firebox enclosure and vinyl flooring installation are reversible.

Although the circa 1883 corncrib/granary was enlarged around 1935 and 1963 with shed-roofed south, east, and north additions used for equipment storage, the original building retains weatherboard and slatted-board sheathing, a board-and-batten door with a sliding wooden lock and board-and-batten loft window shutter on the west elevation, and wooden storage bins in the granary. The circa 1963 construction of an open shed supported by stripped-log and square posts across the south half of the rear (east) elevation and further south does not greatly diminish overall integrity. The circa 2013 corrugated-metal roof replaced earlier corrugated-metal roofs. The meat house has original vertical-board siding, a standing-seam metal roof, and a board-and-batten door.

## Statement of Archaeological Potential

The Ramsey Farm is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological deposits and remnant landscape features such as building foundations, root cellars and ice pits, privies and wells, roadbeds and paths, planting beds and gardens, fence lines, accumulated debris from farming and domestic activities, and other remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the farm. Information concerning the character of daily life and the adoption of progressive farming practices, as well as structural details and landscape use, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. At this time no investigation has been done to document these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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Iredell County, NC

## Statement of Significance

Ramsey Farm is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for architecture as it contains three representative and intact buildings—a circa 1883 one-and-one-half-story T-plan house, circa 1883 corncrib/granary, and circa 1930 meat house—situated within an agrarian landscape. The buildings are of local significance as particularly good examples of resources that were once prevalent in the county but are rapidly disappearing. Ramsey Farm's ownership continuity through four generations of family use has perpetuated building and landscape preservation. The dwelling's T-shaped plan, weatherboard cladding, three two-over-two double-hung wood sash, and paneled wood doors with glazed upper sections are common elements of rural late-nineteenth-century residences. The 1907 porch shape, beadboard ceiling, and posts are intact. The main block's steeply pitched gables with cornice returns and the triangular pediments surmounting each upper-level window reflect a modest Gothic Revival-style influence. Intact interior finishes—wide heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, plaster walls and ceilings, two-and-four-raised-panel and board-and-batten doors with original hardware, flat-board window and door trim, and post-and-lintel mantels with tapered pilasters and a variety of scalloped friezes—are also typical. The corncrib/granary and meat house are built in the vernacular tradition of Piedmont farm buildings, utilizing readily available materials and basic framing techniques. Both have wood siding (placed horizontally on the corncrib/granary and vertically on the meat house), board-and-batten doors, and metal roofs. On the corncrib portion of the façade and its south elevation, slatted boards provide ventilation for stored corn. The granary retains wooden storage bins and fully-sided walls that protected stored grain from rodents and insects. The meat house's solid walls, wood floor, and wood pegs for hanging curing meat also discouraged pests. The period of significance is the circa 1883 construction date of the Ramsey House and the corncrib/granary, and circa 1930, when the meat house was erected.

## Architectural Context

Forty years of development have dramatically altered the Iredell County landscape, particularly near major transportation corridors such as Interstates 40 and 77 and US Highways 70 and 64, but also along secondary routes including US Highway 21 and NC Highways 115 and 901. Only a few properties have been listed in the National Register since the Iredell County architectural survey, so the county's architectural context has not been updated in almost fifty years. The status of most buildings documented during the late 1970s is unknown, but based on a cursory 2010 survey of historic resources similar to those on the Ramsey Farm undertaken by Heather Fearnbach in conjunction with environmental review for a North Carolina Department of Transportation I-77 interchange improvement project, it appears that many have been lost. On a more positive note, it also seems that quite few properties that have never been documented could be recorded when the Iredell County architectural survey is updated.

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## Late-nineteenth-century T-plan Houses

Architectural historian Ruth Little-Stokes and Iredell County historian and photographer Gary Freeze conducted an inventory of Iredell County's historic architecture in 1977, documenting 316 properties, most of which were constructed in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Of the 179 houses they recorded in the county's rural areas, eighty were log buildings sheathed with plain weatherboards. A number of modest log and frame dwellings built before 1830 featured decorative elements such as mantels; molded door and window surrounds; paneled doors, wainscots, and shutters; beaded clapboards; and chamfered porch posts. The county's wealthiest planters occupied more elaborately finished houses, many of which were executed in Classical Revival styles. By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, rural residents erected dwellings in two predominant forms: the two-story, three-bay, single-pile I-house; and a one- or one-and-a-half-story pyramidal cottage. Both forms utilized porches to create additional living space.<sup>7</sup>

Architectural historian Laura A. W. Phillips prepared a Multiple Resource Area (MRA) nomination for Iredell County in 1978-1979 that was completed with the assistance of HPO Survey and Planning Branch staff members Catherine W. Bishir and Renee Gledhill-Earley in 1980.<sup>8</sup> The buildings listed in the MRA are the most architecturally significant resources identified during the county survey. Residential property types included log houses, early frame dwellings (1790-1830), ambitious antebellum residences, and picturesque postwar houses (late 1860s-1920s).

The Ramsey House was neither included in the Iredell County survey nor mentioned in the MRA, perhaps due to the large number of intact late-nineteenth-century dwellings that were extant at that time, or the proximity of the house to downtown Statesville, where much more architecturally distinctive dwellings were erected during the period. However, the Ramsey House is more comparable to rural farmhouses than city residences, as it was built about two miles east of town as the seat of a four-hundred-acre farm, and now serves as a significant unaltered example of a modest late-nineteenth-century T-plan, or gable-and-wing, dwelling. Such houses, ranging from one- to two-and-half-stories in height, have T-shaped main blocks encompassing a front-gable wing and intersecting perpendicular wing, which results in an irregular façade. Most dwellings, particularly in rural areas, are frame, but some prosperous property owners commissioned the construction of brick or stone residences. Front, rear, and wraparound porches were ubiquitous. Although ornamentation was usually minimal, mass-produced millwork brackets, friezes, porch posts, balusters, and decorative wood shingles were used to embellish some of the homes. T-plan dwellings could be easily enlarged with rear wings. On the interior, central passages provide access to flanking rooms, and, in multi-story dwellings, contain staircases. Common finishes include

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<sup>7</sup> Gary Freeze and Ruth Little-Stokes, *An Inventory of Historic Architecture: Iredell County, North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1978), 5, 8-9, 13.

<sup>8</sup> Iredell County's MRA was North Carolina's first multiple resource documentation form. The National Park Service no longer uses the term "MRA."

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wood floors, tall baseboards, raised-panel-doors, flat-board window and door trim, post-and-lintel mantels, and plaster, flush-board, or beaded-board walls and ceilings.

Rural residences both fulfilled domestic needs and functioned as work centers for the business of agriculture. Women prepared and served meals for their families and farm workers, preserved food, sterilized canning and dairy equipment, washed laundry, and performed myriad other tasks in their homes. Houses were typically modest in size and finish, as farmers constantly invested their often limited resources in land, livestock, seed, and fertilizer purchases; farm equipment acquisition and maintenance; and outbuilding and fencing construction, leaving little money for home building. Families expanded their dwellings as their circumstances required, and, if they replaced earlier homes with more up-to-date residences, often repurposed the older buildings as tenant houses, barns, sheds, or granaries. Reformers attempted to improve rural roads, schools, mail service, and public utility availability during the first decades of the twentieth century, but many North Carolina farms provided their own utilities—running water, sanitary sewer, and electricity—through the 1940s.<sup>9</sup>

Heather Fearnbach's April 2010 windshield survey indicated that a large number of Iredell County's late-nineteenth-century farmhouses have been modified, abandoned, or demolished. The predominant extant examples are I-houses, modest one- or one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed dwellings, and hip-roofed cottages, often with a decorative front-gable above the façade's central bay and sawn and/or turned porch elements. Bungalows, which were inexpensive, easy to build, and appealed to families' desires for a modern, efficient home, became the ubiquitous rural house type by the late 1910s.

The one-and-one-half-story weatherboarded Ramsey House is an excellent example of a modest rural late-nineteenth-century T-plan residence with minimal embellishment. The T-shaped main block, constructed circa 1883, encompasses a front-gable west wing and perpendicular gabled east wing distinguished by deep eaves and steeply pitched gables with cornice returns. The dining room and north bathroom and rear entrance vestibule were added in the early-twentieth-century and the west bathroom and utility room erected in 1972. Chamfered posts support the 1907 front porch, which extends across the façade and wraps around the southeast and southwest corners. A small gable surmounts the porch's central entrance bay. For the most part, mid-twentieth-century six-over-six sash framed by operable louvered shutters illuminate the interior. Three upper-level windows—one in the east gable and two in the German-sided gabled dormers on the south and west roof slopes—contain original two-over-two sash. A pair of tall narrow four-over-four sash pierces the west wing's south elevation. The triangular pediments surmounting each upper-level window reflect a modest Gothic Revival-style influence.

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<sup>9</sup> Gemini Research. *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms, 1820-1960* (St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 2005), "Farmhouses," 6.143-6.146, [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/cultural\\_res/farmsteads.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/cultural_res/farmsteads.html) (accessed February 2020).

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The Atkins-Myers Farm, first documented in April 2010, contains a one-story residence similar in form to the Ramsey House. The Atkins family erected a dwelling and frame outbuildings on their property in Chambersburg Township just west of the Iredell/Rowan County line (northeast of the Ramsey Farm) in the late nineteenth century. According to current owner Roger Myers, the Atkinses acquired the property in the eighteenth century and owned it until the 1930s, when Mark Atkins was forced to sell the farm during the economic depression. Grady Hall bought the property at an auction subsequently sold the 650-acre property to John A. and Emma Myers in 1950. The Myers family constructed concrete block outbuildings including a chicken house and a milking parlor and began operating a dairy farm. Before building a new brick-veneered residence in 1964, John Myers moved the one-story weatherboarded house approximately six hundred feet southeast of its original location at what is now 640 Barry Oak Road to its current location at 136 Barnhill Road, where it rests on a concrete block foundation. The one-story, weatherboarded dwelling then housed African American sharecropper Blanche McGee and her family for many years.<sup>10</sup>

John and Emma Myers's son Roger began renovating the house in 1994, replacing the weatherboards, the porch posts and balustrade, and the decorative sawnwork bargeboard in the front gable in kind and installing a standing-seam metal roof in place of the original pressed-tin shingle roof. Like the Ramsey House, the house has a T-plan, with a front-gable wing at the north end and a side-gable wing extending to the south. The porch wraps around the south wing, which features a central gable on the front roof slope. The north wing retains original four-over-four sash windows and pointed arch window surrounds; some of the other windows have been replaced. Roger Myers used salvaged paneled doors, transoms, mantels, flooring, and interior window and door trim from the demolished Nooe Apartments in Statesville to upgrade the interior.<sup>11</sup>

Several Iredell County residents constructed stylish homes around the turn of the twentieth century in the small rural community of Elmwood, located east of Statesville in Chambersburg Township. Railroad tracks and US Highway 70's original two-lane corridor and new four-lane alignment bisect Elmwood, but two particularly intact historic dwellings that were not included in the 1977 Iredell County architectural survey stand north of the railroad tracks on Thompson Lane east of its junction with Elmwood Road. N. R. Kinney's 1917 "Map of Iredell County," shows that A. L. Lowery owned property at that approximate location at that time.

The circa 1900 one-story residence at the northeast corner of Elmwood Road and Thompson Lane (1135 Elmwood Road) most resembles the Ramsey House. The dwelling has a T-plan, with a front-gable east wing featuring a projecting hip-roofed bay at its south end, a west wing with a gabled rear ell, and boxed cornices with gable-end returns. Bracketed, chamfered posts on plinths support the wraparound porch,

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<sup>10</sup> Roger Myers, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 2010. According to N. R. Kinney's 1917 "Map of Iredell County," J. A. Atkins owned the farm at that time.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

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which has an enclosed section at its northwest end. The standing-seam metal roof was replaced with asphalt shingles in 2017, the same year that vinyl siding was installed over German siding. The original two-over-two sash windows were replaced in 2021.<sup>12</sup>

These two houses demonstrate the level of alteration typically seen in rural late-nineteenth-century T-plan Iredell County dwellings comparable to the Ramsey House. The April 2010 windshield survey indicated that a large number of such resources have been modified, abandoned, or demolished since the 1977 Iredell County architectural survey, making the Ramsey House a particularly important example due to its high degree of integrity.

## Agricultural Outbuildings

Much of Iredell County, particularly near Interstates 40 and 77 and US Highways 70 and 64, but also along US Highway 21 and NC Highways 115 and 901, has lost its bucolic character to commercial, industrial, and residential development. Northern Iredell County's setting remains predominantly rural, however, with gently rolling topography and an intact agrarian landscape including farm buildings, roads, creeks, fields, pastures, fences, and wooded areas. Such landscape features convey the visual character typical of many Piedmont North Carolina farmsteads during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Although the numbers of Iredell County dairy farmers have declined dramatically since the mid-twentieth century, many farmers are still raising beef cattle.

Most historic farms reflect the efficiency of diversified, progressive agricultural operations. Building arrangement was intended to take advantage of the topography while economizing labor. Farm buildings were erected in high, well-drained areas, with outbuildings located far enough away from the house to minimize odors, insects, noise, and fire danger, but not at such a distance that chore completion routes were needlessly long. Outbuildings and structures associated with the domestic sphere were closest to the family dwelling, while buildings needed for crop and livestock production were farther away. Farm buildings were grouped according to function.<sup>13</sup>

General purpose and livestock barns stood close to farm roads, fields, and pastures. Equipment sheds were conveniently located in farmyards and along the farm roads. Some farm machinery, carriages, and later automobiles were housed and serviced close to dwellings, while tractors, plows, and harvesting machines were stored in the large equipment sheds closer to the agricultural fields. Granaries, corncribs, silos, and hay sheds were located close to barns and pastures to allow for easy access to livestock feed.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Iredell County GIS property record card, <https://iredell.connectgis.com> (accessed July 2021).

<sup>13</sup> Gemini Research, *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms*, 6.179.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 6.61, 6.233.

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The earliest Iredell County outbuildings were erected in the vernacular tradition of Piedmont farm buildings, utilizing readily available materials and basic framing techniques. Late-nineteenth and early-to mid-twentieth-century outbuildings manifest progressive agricultural trends, conforming to specifications published in *The Progressive Farmer* and Agricultural Extension Service bulletins. The Iredell Test Farm (also known as the Piedmont Experiment Station and the State Farm), established on two hundred acres west of Statesville in 1902 to serve as the state's third experimental farm, included models of the most up-to-date outbuildings for educational purposes.<sup>15</sup>

F. T. Meacham superintended the Iredell Test Farm from 1903 until 1930, and James A. Butler, formerly Iredell County's school superintendent, became North Carolina's first farm extension agent in 1907. Farm agents conducted site visits, distributed bulletins, organized meetings and demonstration farm tours, and developed soil conservation and crop rotation plans for hundreds of farms. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture held farmers' institutes to promote new agricultural practices, and attendance was particularly high at the Iredell Test Farm.<sup>16</sup>

Building planning, financing, and construction are always an important part of farm operation, no matter the farm size or type, but were particularly significant concerns during the depression years of the 1930s. Farmers erected buildings in the most economical manner possible, using inexpensive, readily available, or salvaged materials. Farm buildings were often remodeled, expanded, or moved as productivity increased or needs changed. Utility was typically the primary consideration; appearance was secondary. Many farmers learned about trends in building construction and farm arrangement through interaction with specialists, reading agricultural extension service publications, and discussions amongst themselves. Their information network also included private industries, from building material and farm equipment manufacturers to seed companies, who offered technical assistance as they promoted products designed to increase labor efficiency, reduce maintenance and operational costs, and increase output.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Homer Keever, *Iredell: Piedmont County* (Statesville: Brady Printing Company, 1976), 371-373.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.; William L. Carpenter and Dean W. Colvard, *Knowledge is Power: A History of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University* (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1987), 133, 137-141. North Carolina was the first Southern state to invite farm women to the institutes, where, in meetings held separately from the men's sessions, extension agents addressed topics ranging from growing home gardens to cooking, baking, canning, basic medical care, and education. Statesville leaders recognized the importance of maintaining an interest in farming among the younger generation, and appointed Celeste Henkel as Iredell County's first home demonstration agent in 1915. Henkel worked with white students, while Mary A. Charlton, who married Statesville physician Dr. R. S. Holliday, organized agricultural education initiatives in the African American community beginning in 1919. Melissa Smith, ed., *Preserving Our Heritage: The History of African Americans in Statesville and Iredell County* (Statesville: Secure Development Corporation, 1998), 2.

<sup>17</sup> Gemini Research, *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms*, 5.1-5.9.

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## Iredell County Outbuildings

During her 1978-1979 Iredell County architectural survey, Laura Phillips found that three Iredell County farms possessed agricultural and architectural significance. All were listed in the National Register in 1980. Two properties—the circa 1861 Greek Revival-style Henry Eccles House and two-story log barn in Cool Spring and the circa 1820 hall-parlor plan Perciphull Campbell House and log smokehouse in the Union Grove vicinity—had only a few, but noteworthy, associated farm buildings. As these outbuildings are not comparable to the Ramsey Farm outbuildings in terms of construction date, form, and materials, FHS did not document them and their current status is unknown. The Waddell-Click Farm in the Elmwood vicinity contains the county's most extensive antebellum log building collection—a circa 1810 two-story dwelling and circa 1820-1860 log outbuildings including a smokehouse, a one-and-one-half-story slave quarter, and a corncrib/granary. This property is substantially intact.<sup>18</sup>

Identifying Iredell County agricultural outbuildings similar to those on the Ramsey Farm was a difficult task. Barns, smokehouses, corncribs, granaries, wellhouses, and tobacco barns were so plentiful in the late 1970s that only the most unique and intact examples were included in the survey, but such buildings have greatly diminished in quantity and integrity since then. In April 2010, Heather Fearnbach visited previously documented properties such as the Waddell-Click Farm and identified some farms which had never been surveyed but contain outbuildings comparable to the Ramsey Farm complex. However, as log barns are often sheathed with later wood or metal siding and outbuildings are usually located some distance from the public right-of-way, windshield survey results are certainly not comprehensive. Generally, northern Iredell County retains more intact outbuildings than the area south of Interstate 40 and the Interstate 77 corridor, which has been heavily developed.

The discovery of significant undocumented complexes such as the Hellard-Hartness and Cartner farms underscores the need for an updated Iredell County architectural survey, as resources that were ubiquitous thirty years ago are now rare survivals. The Hellard-Hartness Farm at 258 Bailey Farm Road near Central encompasses a circa 1900 frame I-house, a two-room frame kitchen, a frame smokehouse, a log outbuilding (perhaps an earlier smokehouse) with frame equipment shed additions, a two-story frame barn with shed additions, a frame corncrib/granary flanked by equipment sheds, a five-bay frame equipment

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<sup>18</sup> Additional research was conducted for the MRA preparation, and sometimes resulted in building construction date conclusions that differ from earlier assessments. Therefore, the building dates referenced in this report are drawn from the MRA rather than the survey publication. Laura A. W. Phillips, Catherine W. Bishir, and Renee Gledhill-Earley, "Historic Resources of Iredell County," Multiple Resource Area Nomination on file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1980. All of the Waddell-Click outbuildings were extant in 2000, but only the smokehouse, slave quarter, well house, and log corncrib/granary were documented during the 2010 survey as the property owner was not home. The log stable may still be extant, but it was only possible to verify the status of buildings visible from the road.

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shed, and two modern hay sheds.<sup>19</sup> The Cartner Farm at 123 Cartner Road near Harmony contains an intact, weatherboarded, two-story dwelling erected in 1905; a log barn with frame additions; frame outbuildings including a smokehouse, an equipment shed/corncrib, a metal-sided building (most likely a granary), cattle and hay sheds, and a barn; a concrete block milking parlor; and cement stave and metal silos.<sup>20</sup> Both farms are still functioning.

## *Corncribs and Granaries*

Only a few corncribs are mentioned in the Iredell County survey publication and the MRA, and, as with barns, the primary focus was on log buildings. Frame corn cribs and granaries are not noted in either source, perhaps due to their prevalence as essential outbuildings on every farm, making it difficult to create a context for the frame corncrib/granary adjacent to the Ramsey House. Heather Fearnbach's April 2010 survey documented several comparable corncribs and granaries. However, these resources, like many other historic outbuildings, are rarely still in use and are thus rapidly disappearing from the landscape.

The general appearance of frame corncribs and granaries changed little from the late nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century. The lower wall sections of frame corncribs are usually sheathed with boards and/or metal siding, while the upper sections consist of slatted boards to provide air circulation to dry the stored ears of corn, which were stripped of husks but remained on the cobs. Wire mesh was often secured behind the wood slats to discourage rodents. Farmers often used interior ventilators (slatted frameworks) to create open space at the cribs' centers.<sup>21</sup>

Granaries typically have fully-sided walls and contain wooden storage bins for field crops such as small grains and shelled corn. Farmers often constructed buildings that would serve multiple functions, with corncribs and granaries under the same roof. Corn storage occupied the area with the best air circulation, while lofts frequently served as granaries. These buildings usually stood in well-ventilated locations near barns and fields, allowing for easy access to livestock feed. By the 1950s, new combines called "picker-shellers" separated corn kernels from cobs as they were harvested. Grain dryers removed moisture from the shelled corn in a few hours, a process that took often took six months in a wood-slatted corncrib, and the feed was then stored in large prefabricated metal silos, making frame corncribs and granaries obsolete.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> N. R. Kinney's 1917 "Map of Iredell County" illustrates that A. N. Hellard owned property just south of Snow Creek Church. The Hellard House and the church were located adjacent to an old road bed that is still visible through the woods. The current road alignment is east of both properties.

<sup>20</sup> N. R. Kinney's 1917 "Map of Iredell County" illustrates that A. A. Cartner owned property at this approximate location. According to Herman Cartner, his grandfather Lonnie Cartner built the house. Conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 2010.

<sup>21</sup> Gemini Research. *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms*, "Corncribs," 6.62 -6.63.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

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The Ramsey Farm includes a remarkably intact one-and-one-half-story, weatherboarded, circa 1883 corncrib/granary with a steeply-pitched front-gable roof. The north two-thirds of the building served as a granary; the south bay was a corn crib. Weatherboards secured with cut nails sheathe the west 1883 elevation with the exception of a portion of the corncrib wall and the front gable's uppermost portion, where slatted boards provide air circulation for stored corn and grain. A sliding wooden lock secures the board-and-batten door in the central granary bay, while a small piece of lumber holds the board-and-batten shutter at the loft window closed. Within the granary, field crops such as small grains and shelled corn were stored in wooden bins and protected from rodents and insects by fully-sided walls. The corncrib's south wall has a weatherboarded base and slatted-board upper section for ventilation. The east and north 1883 walls are weatherboarded. Shed-roofed additions erected around 1935 and 1963 surround the 1883 building. An open circa 1963 shed supported by stripped-log posts extends across the rear (east) elevation.

Frame corncrib and granary forms vary widely throughout the region. In some cases, like the Tomlin Farm, farm owners erected separate buildings to store corn and grain. The frame corncrib and granary at the Tomlin Farm stand on opposite sides of Tomlin Road. The corncrib, just east of the barn, has a tall, narrow, front-gable-roofed central section with wood-slat walls flanked by frame equipment sheds. The granary, located to the southeast, is a large side-gable-roofed building with vertical board siding on the west end, German siding on the façade, and weatherboarded gable ends. A large double-leaf board-and-batten door on the north elevation's west end and a single-leaf door on the same elevation's east end provide access to the interior.

The tall, narrow, circa 1930s corncrib at the Pickney Alexander Shinn House has a formed concrete foundation designed to protect stored corn from rodents and insects. Wood-slat walls allowed for air circulation. The building is now utilized as a storage shed, and thus has a modern storm door.

A circa 1930s German-sided outbuilding with a narrow room, likely a granary, between two equipment sheds is centrally located in a complex of deteriorated frame outbuilding behind a brick Ranch house at 657 Bailey Farm Road (several miles south of the Hellard-Hartness Farm). James Clay Campbell constructed two-story granary on the Morrison-Campbell Farm east of Harmony in 1939. The front-gable roof extends to create equipment sheds flanking the central section, which has board-and-batten doors at both levels of the façade. Two small, square, four-light windows—one on either side of the second story door—illuminate the interior.

Outbuildings that served multiple functions were also common. Northern Iredell County resources include a weatherboarded building on the Hellard-Hartness Farm that is similar to the Ramsey's corncrib/granary in that a central tall, narrow, frame corncrib/granary section flanked by two equipment sheds stands adjacent to the barn and pasture. Flush boards sheath the granary's side walls, while wood

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slats cover the corncrib's walls. A board on the granary wall bears the inscription: "Blake R was born July 1, 1904."

A 124-acre farm at 289 Ford Farm Road in the Central vicinity encompasses a 1923 bungalow and circa 1920s frame outbuildings including chicken houses, barns, a garage, and a two-story, front-gable roofed, weatherboarded building with a corncrib and an open equipment shed on the first story and a large room, perhaps a granary, on the second story. Flush boards sheath the base of the corncrib section below the wood slats that extend to the second story level. Ethel F. Pierce currently owns the property.

The circa 1920s, two-story, weatherboarded outbuilding at the Atkins-Myers Farm also served multiple functions, as it contains an equipment shed, a corncrib, and a meat storage room on the first story, and a granary with wood-sided bins in the loft.

The Cartner Farm near Harmony reflects the mid-twentieth century transition from frame corncribs and granaries to silos, in that the small frame corncrib with wood-slat walls that occupies the corner of an early-twentieth-century, two-bay, frame, metal-sided equipment shed is the only frame corn storage remaining on the farm. Two large metal silos to the west and a cement stave silo to the southwest stored cattle feed.

## *Meat Curing and Storage Buildings*

Smokehouses, used to preserve and store meat before the advent of refrigeration, were usually located near residences to protect their contents from animals and thieves and to allow for monitoring during the curing process, but at enough of a distance from other buildings to reduce fire risk. Smokehouses required solid walls to hold heat and facilitate smoking rather than cooking the meat inside. The most effective examples possessed a good ventilation system—which often took the form of louvered vents or holes in the eaves or roof—to draw smoke out of the building. Smokehouse floors were often dirt, with central fire pits, but some buildings had wood or concrete floors. Farm extension agents encouraged the construction of fireproof concrete block or hollow tile smokehouses during the mid-twentieth century.<sup>23</sup>

Meat curing houses were essential components of every farm. Most early smokehouses were log, although some were built of brick or stone, with farmers transitioning to frame construction in the late nineteenth century. Cured meat was typically wrapped and hung from the rafters to discourage insects and animals. Wooden troughs and barrels were frequently employed to salt or pickle smaller cuts of meat.

The one-story, shed-roofed, circa 1930 meat house north of the Ramsey House retains original elements including vertical-board sheathing, exposed rafter ends that create a slight overhang beneath the standing-

<sup>23</sup> Gemini Research. *Historic Context Survey of Minnesota Farms*, "Smokehouses," 6.465-6.466.

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seam metal roof, and a board-and-batten door on the south elevation. The fully sided walls discouraged insects and rodents. The Ramseys cured meat by salting and pickling rather than by smoking. Wrapped cuts hung on thick round pegs attached to the upper edges of the interior walls. The open room has a wood floor.<sup>24</sup>

The Iredell County architectural survey focused on nineteenth-century log smokehouses. The survey publication and the MRA list the one-story, front-gable-roofed, log smokehouses at the Templeton House, the Waddell-Click Farm, and the Perciphull Campbell House as noteworthy examples, and many others were included in the inventory. Heather Fearnbach's 2010 fieldwork verified that the Waddell-Click smokehouse was intact and in good condition and documented other examples including the weatherboarded hewn-log smokehouse James Clay Campbell built behind the Morrison-Campbell House in 1880 and a log building that appears to be a smokehouse at the Hellard-Hartness Farm. Resilient chinked log walls withstood smoking and curing and discouraged insects and rodents.

Frame meat curing and storage buildings are not mentioned in the Iredell County survey publication or the MRA, perhaps due to their prevalence in the late 1970s. Fearnbach thus attempted to identify examples comparable to the Ramsey Farm meat house. The front-gable-roofed, weatherboarded smokehouse on the Hellard-Hartness Farm is an early-twentieth-century frame building with a deep overhang sheltering a board-and-batten door. The smokehouse rests on stone piers in the dwelling's front yard near the old road alignment, and may have been moved to this location. As was often the case with farm buildings, some meat houses were incorporated into buildings that served multiple purposes. An early-twentieth-century, two-story, weatherboarded outbuilding at the Atkins-Myers Farm in Iredell County has a meat storage room at a corner on the first story beside an equipment shed and a corncrib, while a granary with wood-sided bins is in the loft.

Rural electrification programs in the 1920s and 1930s allowed farmers to utilize refrigerators and freezers to preserve meat, beginning a decline in the need for smoke- and meat- curing houses. As with other outbuilding types, these once-essential outbuildings are rapidly disappearing from the landscape, making all survivors increasingly significant.

## Historical Background

The rich farmland of North Carolina's western piedmont attracted Scots-Irish, German, and English settlers, who moved south from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia to the backcountry beginning in the 1740s. These pioneers built farms, churches, and schools along the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers and their tributaries. In an attempt to protect them during the French and Indian War, the colonial legislature funded the construction of Fort Dobbs, North Carolina's only frontier provincial fort, in 1756. Migration west resumed after the war's end in the early 1760s and continued during the Revolutionary War years.

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<sup>24</sup> William R. Axley, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October and November 2009, May 2010.

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Population increases fueled a need for more localized government and state legislators created Iredell County, named in honor of Edenton lawyer James Iredell, from Rowan County's western section in 1788. Statesville, established the same year to serve as the county seat, remained a small backcountry town with less than one hundred residents in 1800. The population slowly increased to two hundred and fifteen by 1850, when the community consisted of "five stores, a hotel, a tavern, a tan yard, three doctors, and twenty-eight homes."<sup>25</sup>

Most of Iredell County's 14,719 residents in 1850 were self-sufficient white farmers. Census takers enumerated 1,138 families and 1,096 farmsteads encompassing 92,053 improved and 192,740 unimproved acres that year. Farmers typically relied upon family labor, but 604 households enslaved a total of 4,142 people. The vast majority of those households included one or two enslaved persons, with only a few planters enumerating more than twenty, and an even smaller number listing more than fifty. Farm families and enslaved people grew subsistence crops, raised livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens), and sold goods including flax, buckwheat, fruit, butter, cheese, beeswax, honey, and wool at local and regional markets.<sup>26</sup>

Many Iredell County farmers prospered during the mid-nineteenth century. In 1850, fifty-five-year-old Thomas A. Allison, one of the county's wealthiest planters and a descendant of some of the area's earliest settlers, owned property east of Statesville valued at \$6,700 and forty-seven enslaved people ranging in age from less than a year to one hundred. His household included his fifty-six-year-old wife, Letitia; two sons, twenty-seven-year-old Thomas and nineteen-year-old John; and twenty-four-year-old M. A. Houston and her two-year-old son, John. Sixty-five-year-old A. R. Simonton's neighboring farm was comparable in value—\$6,500—and occupied by Simonton, his twenty-year-old son Julius, and twenty-five enslaved people, most of whom were in their teens and twenties. Fifty-three-year-old J. H. McLaughlin owned an adjacent farm valued at \$1,000 and two female enslaved persons aged sixty and twenty. Fifteen-year-old Milas Smith, one of only thirty free African American Iredell County residents in 1850, was enumerated as a farm laborer in the household along with McLaughlin's four teenagers. Most farmers, however, owned far less property. Thirty-two-year-old William Neill Ramsey's holdings fell within the average range for subsistence farmers, as his thirty-three-year-old wife Sarah and their five young children resided on a southern Iredell County farm valued at \$400.<sup>27</sup>

The Ramseys struggled to hold onto their farm in the early 1850s. William mortgaged his 205-acre plantation including cattle, sheep, hogs, household and kitchen furniture, and farming tools to Alexander

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<sup>25</sup> Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 444; Sandra Douglas Campbell, *Iredell County, North Carolina: A Brief History* (Charleston: The History Press, 2008), 19, 41, 55.

<sup>26</sup> Homer Keever, *Iredell: Piedmont County* (Statesville: Brady Printing Company, 1976), 129-131.

<sup>27</sup> U. S. Census, *Population and Slave Schedules, 1850*. Thomas A. Allison's ancestors—Andrew, Thomas, Robert, and Adam Allison—were part of the "Fourth Creek Settlement" of 1750-1762. See Map 1 in Drawer 1 of the map file in the Local History Room of the Iredell County Public Library's Statesville branch.

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Clark on December 4, 1851 to satisfy a \$400 debt to J. F. Alexander. He repaid Clark on October 9, 1853 and sold the farm, located “on the waters of what was formerly called Oliphant Mill Creek” adjoining Robert Allison’s property, to Levi Venderburg for \$1,250. The farm was part of the tract William had inherited from his father Andrew Ramsey Jr.’s estate.<sup>28</sup>

The Western North Carolina Railroad extension from Salisbury to Statesville in 1858 greatly improved transportation and encouraged commercial agriculture and industry, but, even then, isolated rural subsistence farms and crossroads communities predominated. Many farmers increased production during the 1850s and sold surplus crops including wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, and sorghum molasses in Statesville. In 1860, census takers valued Iredell County farms at \$2,292,814. Thomas Allison’s net worth increased significantly by that time, as he owned real estate valued at \$23,308 and personal property, including sixty-six slaves, worth \$66,520.<sup>29</sup>

William N. and Sarah Ramsey’s family was not enumerated in the 1860 census, so their place of residence after they sold their farm in 1853 is unknown. Iredell County deeds do not show that William N. Ramsey participated in any land transactions after 1853. The couple’s four oldest sons—Wilson A. (b. 1840), James A. (b. 1842), John L. (b. 1844), and William M. (b. 1846)—served the Confederate cause during the Civil War. Wilson, James, and John entered Company B of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the North Carolina Calvary as privates. Wilson enlisted on June 18, 1861, was assigned to Company B on August 30, 1861, and was promoted to full sergeant on December 1, 1862. James signed up on September 29, 1861 and was the regiment’s flag bearer. John enlisted a year later on September 7, 1862. William, who turned sixteen on December 16, 1862, served as a private in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the North Carolina Junior Reserves, which was composed of young men ages fifteen through eighteen and later combined with several other units to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the North Carolina Junior Reserves. The Ramsey family was exceedingly fortunate, as all four young men survived the war and returned to Iredell County.<sup>30</sup>

Most southern farmers suffered great economic challenges including substantial losses of material goods, livestock, and labor during and after the Civil War. These stressors resulted in declining farm values. Thomas Allison’s farm reflected this trend; by 1870, his real estate and personal property values had decreased dramatically, worth only \$10,000 and \$1,650 respectively according to the census from that year. His household included his wife Leticia, his son John, a physician; John’s wife Laura, originally from Alabama, and the couple’s two young children; and Margaret Bailey. John A. Houston and Edward

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<sup>28</sup> Iredell County Deed Book Y, pp. 567-568; Deed Book 1, pp. 40-41, 55-56. The William N. Ramsey property appears to have been located in south Iredell County based on the property description in the deeds, “The Fourth Creek Settlement, 1750-62” map (no surveyor or date noted), and the Iredell County early settler map drawn by the Iredell County Genealogical Society, circa 1988. Both maps are on file in Map Cabinet 1 in the Local History Room of the Iredell County Public Library’s Statesville branch.

<sup>29</sup> U. S. Census, Agriculture and Population Schedules, 1860.

<sup>30</sup> “Wilson A., James A., John L., and William M. Ramsey,” Civil War Records Collection, ancestry.com (accessed October 2009).

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Bailey were away at school. It is likely that the next three large African American households enumerated that year consisted of formerly enslaved people who continued to work on the Allison farm, as two of the extended families took the Allison surname and none owned property. The first household, headed by Sam Allison, a farm laborer, contains several families: his wife Bettie, a cook, and their four young children; Vira, a domestic servant; Tilley and Prime, who worked on the farm; Phebe, a domestic servant, and three young children. The situation in the next household, headed by Daniel Allison, is similar, as the home was occupied by five male farm laborers; sixty-five-year-old Sopha, who kept the house; and eight-year-old William. Dick Hampton, his wife Judith, and seven extended family members, including four children under the age of six, resided in the third household and worked as farm laborers.<sup>31</sup>

J. H. McLaughlin's farm and the home of Elizabeth Sowers and her extended family were enumerated between the Allison farm and that of William N. Ramsey, who owned \$500-worth of personal property in 1870 but no real estate. His household included his wife Sarah, six of their children—William M., Margaret J., Sarah J., Marshall, Mary, and Julia—and forty-year-old Mike Allison, an African American farm laborer.<sup>32</sup> The census information supports the family's oral tradition that William was forced to start over after selling his farm. It seems logical that he would have approached Thomas Allison for assistance during this difficult time, as the Ramseys and the Allisons had a long history. Thomas Allison was one of the administrators of William's father Andrew Ramsey Jr.'s estate in 1828.<sup>33</sup>

On January 8, 1872, Thomas and Leticia Allison sold their son John four hundred acres for one thousand dollars. On September 20 of that year John leased the same property, referred to in the agreement as the Roseman tract, to William M. Ramsey for four years beginning on January 1, 1873. William's payment terms were one-third of his harvested corn, hay, wheat, oats, cotton, and tobacco, and farm upkeep including ditch, fence, and meadow maintenance. John agreed to pay William "to repair the house by laying two floors and running a partition," adding stairs, erecting chimneys, and sheathing the dwelling's north side, as well as putting a new roof on the barn, cleaning the well, and repairing the cribs. William could "cover and repair at his own expense the sheds around the barns" if he so desired. He was not to clear any new fields, but could timber land on the south side of the "public highway leading from Statesville to Mocksville" as needed.<sup>34</sup> It appears that this document formalized a prior lease agreement, as the Ramseys were enumerated as renters on a farm in close proximity to the Allisons in the 1870 census.

William M. Ramsey's lease expired on December 31, 1876, but it seems that the family remained in residence as he purchased the four-hundred-acre farm from John Allison on December 3, 1877 for

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<sup>31</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1870.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Charles Ramsey, "Record of William Neill Ramsey and Family," undated letter in the in the Ramsey family vertical file in the Local History Room of the Iredell County Public Library's Statesville branch.

<sup>34</sup> Iredell County Deed Book 5, pp. 19 and 20.

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\$1,675.<sup>35</sup> Although William M. Ramsey was the property owner, the census enumerates his sixty-two-year-old father, William N. Ramsey, as the head of household in 1880. His sixty-three-year-old wife Sarah; three of the couple's daughters—Sarah, Mary, and Julia, all in their twenties; two young granddaughters, Annie and Margaret Fleming; Sarah's seventy-two-year-old sister Margaret Walker; and Caesar Allison, a twenty-year-old African American farm laborer, also resided on the property.<sup>36</sup>

The Ramsey farm, valued at \$4,000 in 1880, encompassed 100 improved acres, 10 acres of meadows, and 290 wooded acres. The family owned \$100-worth of farm equipment and livestock valued at \$464 (2 horses, 1 mule, 6 dairy and 8 other cows, 21 sheep, 14 pigs, and 37 chickens). The Ramseys paid African American laborers \$375 for the equivalent of 104 weeks of work in 1879. The farm produced 130 bushels of wheat, 3 bales of cotton, 1000 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels of oats, 20 tons of hay, 20 bushels of cow peas, 3 bushels of beans, 12 bushels of Irish potatoes, 10 bushels of sweet potatoes, 500 pounds of butter, 6 pounds of cheese. The orchard contained 3 apple trees that yielded 5 bushels of fruit and 30 peach trees that yielded no fruit. Beehives on the property produced no honey and 5 pounds of beeswax.<sup>37</sup>

After the Ramseys became more established, Bethany Presbyterian pastor Dr. Rockwell married William M. Ramsey and Alice Elizabeth Stevenson at her family home in the Cool Spring Community on River Hill Road on November 3, 1883. The couple built a new house on the Ramsey property shortly after their marriage and began their family, eventually having eight children. They attended First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Statesville.<sup>38</sup>

The early 1880s were a difficult time for Iredell County farmers, as crops suffered from several years of drought followed by flooding, particularly along the Catawba River, in the mid-1880s. These environmental factors combined with economic concerns such as high interest rates, fertilizer cost, and freight charges, inspired local farmers to become politically active. Periodicals such as Leonidas L. Polk's *Progressive Farmer*, first published in Winston in 1886, provided support and advice. William M. Ramsey's brother, Mooresville farmer John L. Ramsey, wrote articles for Polk detailing the farmers'

<sup>35</sup> Iredell County Deed Book 6, pp. 631 and 632.

<sup>36</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1880. Caesar was born to James and Tena, slaves on the Allison plantation. He learned to read the bible, attended church services, and began preaching. Caesar worked on the Ramsey farm for many years after emancipation. He eventually purchased a small house on South Green Street in Statesville, married Cora Knox in 1889 and, with the assistance of the Davis family, erected a small frame church near the pond he used for baptisms and established what became the Davidsonville Baptist Church in 1905. His son Caesar Jr. also became a pastor. Ralph Sloan, "Humble Man's Reward: An ex-slave leaves his mark," undated newspaper clipping in the Ramsey family vertical file in the Local History Room of the Iredell County Public Library's Statesville branch; "Rev. Caesar M. Allison," *The Heritage of Iredell County* (Statesville: Genealogical Society of NC, 1980), 135.

<sup>37</sup> U. S. Census, Agriculture Schedule, 1880.

<sup>38</sup> William Neill and Sarah Ramsey resided on the farm until their deaths in 1889 and 1899, respectively. Charles Ramsey, "Record of William Neill Ramsey and Family;" "Mrs. W. M. Ramsey Celebrates 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a Big Dinner," *The Landmark*, February 9, 1942, p. 7.

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plight, and helped to establish an Iredell County chapter of the Farmers' Alliance, a Texas-based advocacy organization, in 1888. John served as a "roving editor" of the *Progressive Farmer* and then as general editor for seven years after Polk's death in 1892. John and William's brother, Mooresville farmer M. E. Ramsey, was a local correspondent. John hired sixteen-year-old Chatham County native Clarence H. Poe to work for the Raleigh-based paper in 1897. Poe, who had little formal education, became editor in 1899 and transformed the *Progressive Farmer* into the South's most widely circulated farming periodical.<sup>39</sup>

Farmers made up much of Iredell County's rural population at the close of the nineteenth century and were undoubtedly influenced by progressive farming practices as they introduced new crops and debated the best methods for selecting and caring for poultry and livestock. They grew crops including wheat, oats, rye, corn, potatoes, peas, beans, hay, cotton, and sugar cane on 3,897 farms—averaging 90.7 acres in size—in 1900. Owners operated approximately half of the farms (1,867), with sharecroppers working 1,451 properties. Many farmers raised dairy cattle and chickens and harvested honey and wax from bees. Most farmsteads had a vegetable garden, fruit trees, and berry bushes for the use of the family, and some families sold the surplus.<sup>40</sup>

During the early twentieth century the average North Carolina farm size dropped but productivity increased in response to advances in farm machinery, soil conservation, crop rotation, pest control, and fertilizer availability. Iredell County farmers were quickly exposed to new developments, as the North Carolina Department of Agriculture purchased two hundred acres west of Statesville in 1902 to serve as the state's third experimental farm. The property, known as the Iredell Test Farm, the Piedmont Experiment Station, and the State Farm, was highly influential in the evolution of the region's agricultural practices through the 1950s. F. T. Meacham superintended the State Farm from 1903 until 1930, and James A. Butler, formerly Iredell County's school superintendent, became North Carolina's first farm extension agent in 1907. Statesville leaders recognized the importance of maintaining an interest in farming among the younger generation, and appointed Celeste Henkel as Iredell County's first home

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<sup>39</sup> John L. Ramsey married Emma Adams of Mooresville and the couple raised their eight children in Huntersville. M. E. Ramsey was elected to serve as the Iredell County Register of Deeds in 1895 and moved to Statesville, where he purchased a general store in the Tays Building. He later partnered with J. F. Bowles, C. F. Tomlin, and W. H. Morrison, and the store name reflected the various ownership changes. M. E. Ramsey was seriously injured in a horse accident around 1905 and never recovered. Keever, *Iredell: Piedmont County*, 271-273; William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 425; "Progressive Farmer," <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/82/entry> (accessed October 2009); "Mr. John L. Ramsey Dead," *The Landmark*, March 14, 1905, p. 3; "Death of Mr. M. E. Ramsey, Sr.," February 2, 1925, clipping in the Ramsey family vertical file in the Local History Room of the Iredell County Public Library's Statesville branch; "City's Second Oldest Business is Observing 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," *Record and Landmark*, November 2, 1955, p. 16.

<sup>40</sup> William R. Merriam, *Census Reports, Volume V, Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part I, Farms, Livestock and Animal Products* (Washington: United States Census Office, 1902), 108-109, 550, 657; William R. Merriam, *Census Reports, Volume V, Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Agriculture Part II, Crops and Irrigation* (Washington: United States Census Office, 1902), 177, 253, 384, 433, 488, 566, 736.

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demonstration agent in 1915. Henkel worked with white students, while Mary A. Charlton, who married Statesville physician Dr. R. S. Holliday, organized agricultural education initiatives in the African American community beginning in 1919.<sup>41</sup> Little is known about the Ramsey's farming practices, but given their involvement with the progressive farming movement, it is likely that they closely followed new agricultural trends.

The Ramsey family suffered two significant losses in 1905. William's brother John L. Ramsey died in March. William and Alice Ramsey's son Jamie Lloyd, a Craig-Flanigan Harness Company employee who resided with his parents, died in June, two weeks after contracting typhoid. In 1910, the Ramsey household included six of the couple's children and Alice's brother David Lonnie Stevenson. William and his sons worked on the farm, while his eldest daughter, twenty-two-year-old Jettie, was a saleswoman in a Statesville department store.<sup>42</sup>

The household composition soon changed, as Reverend J. H. Pressley married Jettie and Murphy, North Carolina native Carl Clifton Axley in the parlor of the Ramsey home in 1911. After a honeymoon trip to Washington D. C., the couple returned to Statesville, where they resided with Carl's brother Felix and his family on Mulberry Street. Jettie worked at Allison's Bookstore and Carl was employed by the Piedmont Red Cedar Chest Company and the French Tobacco Company.<sup>43</sup> The couple had two sons who survived to adulthood, William Porter Axley (b. 1915) and Richard Ramsey Axley (b. 1926).<sup>44</sup>

In 1920, William and Alice Ramsey, their children John and Lillie Belle, and Lonnie Stevenson remained in residence at the Ramsey home. Their daughters Sara Jane, known as Sadie, and Alice, called Allie, lived at 206 Davie Avenue in Statesville with William's widowed brother Marshall; his son Fred, a department store bookkeeper; and white servant John Cook. Sadie made hats in a millinery shop and Allie was a stenographer for a wholesale grocer.<sup>45</sup> William continued to farm until his death in 1922 at the age of seventy-six. His obituary states that "with the exception of the short time he was in business in Statesville he devoted his life to farming." He was interred at Oakwood Cemetery.<sup>46</sup> As William died without a will, his eldest son Clarence served as the estate's administrator. The final settlement, filed on January 30, 1925, included \$127.26 in payments to two hardware stores for building materials, \$66.30 to

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<sup>41</sup> Keever, *Iredell: Piedmont County*, 371-373; L. Melissa Smith, ed., *Preserving Our Heritage: The History of African Americans in Statesville and Iredell County* (Statesville: Secure Development Corporation, 1998), 2.

<sup>42</sup> "Mr. John L. Ramsey Dead," *The Landmark*, March 14, 1905, p. 3; "Death of a Young Man," *The Landmark*, June 30, 1905, p. 5; U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1910.

<sup>43</sup> "Miss Jettie Ramsey Becomes the Bride of C. C. Axley," *Daily News* (Greensboro, NC), December 29, 1911, p. 2; "The Holiday Marriages," *The Landmark*, December 29, 1911.

<sup>44</sup> Carl and Jettie Ramsay's son Carl Ramsey Axley was born and died in 1921. Iredell County Birth Records, Book 7, pp. 455 and 1040.

<sup>45</sup> U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1920.

<sup>46</sup> "Mr. W. Melvin Ramsey Dead," *The Landmark*, March 30, 1922, p. 1.

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four contractors for work on the house, \$207.50 in funeral expenses, and the satisfaction of a \$430 note to Lonnie Stevenson.<sup>47</sup>

Alice Ramsey celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday in 1942 with large gathering at the family home, referred to as "Green Acres." She passed away on August 16, 1944. Her brother Lonnie Stevenson resided in the Ramsey House and assisted with the farm's operation until his death on September 28, 1954. Jettie Axley succumbed to colon cancer on July 31, 1968, but four of Alice's other children—John Richard, called Dick; Lillie Bell; Sadie; and Allie—never married and lived in the Ramsey House until their health declined. Jettie's grandsons, William R. and Thomas Axley, spent part of every summer at the farm during the 1950s and 1960s, and remember that their aunts and great-uncle grew corn and wheat and raised cows, pigs, mules, horses, and chickens.<sup>48</sup>

In order to alleviate financial difficulties over the years, the Ramseys sold land, including right-of-way for the construction of I-77, which the State Highway Commission purchased for a sum of \$12,560 on July 18, 1963. The family retained rights for vehicular and cattle underpasses at the locations of two proposed bridges. The log barn that stood within the highway corridor was moved east to its current location as part of the right-of-way agreement. Despite the mitigation, I-77's completion greatly diminished the family's ability to sustain a viable farming operation. The property has not been actively farmed for almost sixty years.<sup>49</sup>

Jettie Axley's son, Richard R. Axley, and his wife Peggy moved into the Ramsey House to care for his aunts and uncle, all of whom died in the 1980s. The Axleys, who lived in the house from 1980 until 1992, purchased the property in 1983 and sold it to Richard's nephew, William R. Axley (William M. and Alice Ramsey's great-grandson) in 1990. Peggy still resides in Statesville; Richard passed away in 1996. William R. Axley is also the sole owner of the residual acreage east and west of I-77. He leased the Ramsey House to a series of tenants until April 2019, after which the house was vacant until he returned from Illinois upon his 2020 retirement. The family keeps horses on the east tract.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Iredell County Clerk of Court, Book RA 12, p. 349; Book AEG 6, p. 75.

<sup>48</sup> "Mrs. W. M. Ramsey Celebrates 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a Big Dinner," *The Landmark*, February 9, 1942, p. 7; "Mrs. W. M. Ramsey Slips Free From Bonds of Earth," *The Landmark*, August 17, 1944, p. 3; William R., Thomas R., and Peggy Axley, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October and November 2009.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid*; Iredell County Deed Book 379, pp. 67-68; Iredell County Clerk of Court, "Petition for Dower," and "Final Settlement," William M. Ramsey estate, 1923. William M. Ramsey's heirs were his wife Alice and their children John Richard, Lillie Bell, Alice, Sara Jane, W. Clarence and his wife Allene, and Jettie R. and her husband C. C. Axley.

<sup>50</sup> William R., Thomas R., and Peggy Axley, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, October and November 2009, February 2020; Iredell County Deed Book 683, p. 988; Deed Book 807, p. 229; Deed Book 2125, p. 5.

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## Section 10. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of two parcels totaling 6.85 acres as indicated by the heavy solid line on the enclosed map. Iredell County Parcel Number 4745716305 encompasses 2.61 acres and follows the existing right-of-way along Davie Avenue (US 64) to the north and I-77. Iredell County Parcel Number 4745716132 contains 4.24 acres, the Ramsey House at 1853 Norwood Road, a corncrib/granary, and a meat house, and follows the existing right-of-way along I-77 and Norwood Road to the south. The National Register boundary corresponds with tax parcel boundaries. Scale: one inch equals approximately one-hundred-seventy-five feet.

### Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary encompasses the Ramsey House, outbuildings, landscape features, and sufficient acreage to convey the farm's rural character and architectural significance. The uncultivated field on the east side of the 2.656-acre tax parcel northwest of the nominated tract, once part of Ramsey Farm, is not included within the boundary as the property does not contribute to the architectural significance of the resources, is owned by Davie Real Estate LLC, and contains a one-story brick medical building erected in 2000. The fact that I-77 bisected the farm in the mid-1960s precludes the eastern section's inclusion within the National Register boundaries. The surrounding area is characterized by early-twenty-first-century residential and commercial development.

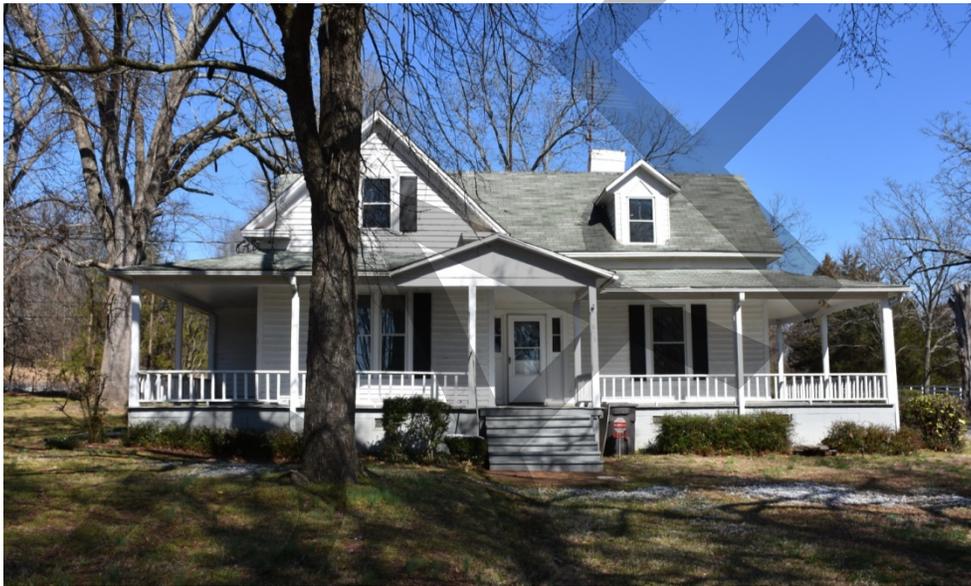
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## Photographs

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in February 2020. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.



1. Ramsey House, south elevation (above), and 2. southwest oblique (below)



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3. Ramsey House, northeast oblique (above), and 4. corncrib/granary (below)



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5. Meat house, southeast oblique (above) and 6. parlor mantel on north elevation (below)



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7. Living room, north elevation (above), and 8. northwest bedroom, south elevation (below)



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**9. Northeast bedroom, south elevation**