

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name John Bunyan Green Farm
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	S side SR 1114 0.5 mi. E of jct. with SR 1178	n/a	not for publication
city, town	Midland	x	vicinity
state	North Carolina	code	025
		county	Cabarrus
		code	zip code 28107

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	12	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	2	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	15	objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NONE

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fain, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

4-26-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Agriculture: agriculture field

Industry/Processing: manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding

Agriculture: agriculture field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Other: half-dovetail log

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other log
brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Bunyan Green Farm is located just east of the small hamlet of Midland in southeastern Cabarrus County along the Rocky River in the western piedmont. A small dirt road leading off State Road 1114 divides into a fork. The western fork leads to the main house and outbuildings; the eastern fork leads to the mill site, the tenant house and miller's house. Pastures and fields flank the dirt road, concealing the mill site. The main facade of the house is almost concealed by trees. The approximately 371.25 acre farm district contains sixteen resources, all contributing: the farmhouse, ten outbuildings, one structure (well canopy), the mill site, the miller's house, and the fields and woods (counted as one site). The railroad track which cuts across the northern tip of the farm is considered noncontributing because it is not connected with the farm's significance.

1. Farmhouse ca. 1880 Contributing

According to family tradition, the mortar and slate foundation of the John Bunyan Green House was laid by John Griffith between 1852 and 1853 for Michael Garmon, the miller who operated Garmon Mill. It is said that Griffith also built the frame walls of the house, but the house as it stands today appears to have been built all at the same time soon after 1880, when John Bunyan Green bought the property. The two-story frame one-room deep house has a magnificent two-story gabled front porch, a gable roof, and two exterior end chimneys. The mortise-and-tenon frame of the house is covered with plain weatherboard. The principal entrance, in the center of the three bay facade, is a double door, each leaf with five flat panels, with four-pane sidelights above panels and a three-pane transom. The door leading from the center bay of the upper facade out onto the front porch has the same sidelights and transom, but is a single four-panel door. All four elevations of the house have identical six-over-six sash with wide plain surrounds. The low gable roof has wide boxed eaves accented with ornate sawn brackets. The gable ends feature returns embellished with paired brackets. The single stepped shoulder exterior end chimneys are laid in common bond brick and rest on slate bases.

The two-tier front porch, the width of the center bay, features triple posts at each corner, square in section, with ornate curvilinear sawnwork brackets. A similar curvilinear sawnwork balustrade encloses the porch at both levels. A three-foot section of the balustrade is missing from the upper porch. The fascia boards between the two levels are flat-paneled.

The rear one-story ell, with exterior detailing similar to the main block, is apparently an early addition.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

The house follows a center hall plan, and retains the flanking rooms at each level as well as the three small rooms in the rear ell. Throughout the main block, the original Italianate interior finish is remarkably intact. The floors are heart pine, the walls are plaster, and molded baseboards and molded surrounds finish off each room. All doors are the original four flat paneled designs. The four original fireplaces have original mantels, of late Greek Revival post and lintel style. The most notable interior feature is the open-string staircase which rises front to back in a single run through the hall. It has simple curved brackets adorning the open string, a robust turned newel and turned balusters. The only significant interior alteration is the replacement of some of the plaster walls with sheetrock.

2. Wellhouse 19th century Contributing

Rectangular frame building, gable front

3. Pumphouse Early 20th century Contributing

Square brick building, laid in common bond

4. Smokehouse 19th century Contributing

Frame rectangular building, gable front

5. Log Barn 19th century Contributing

Impressive center passage double-crib log barn, 40' x 40', laid in half-dovetail notching. The facade features projecting logs extending in a canopy.

6. Blacksmith Shop ca. 1900 Contributing

One-room frame rectangular building with low gable roof, single door in long side.

7. Log Crib/Stable 19th century Contributing

Tall, two-story log building, laid in half-dovetail notching, with gable front, two front doors. According to family tradition this was originally a stable, and later became a corncrib.

8. Corncrib 1885 Contributing

1½ story rectangular log building, laid in half-dovetail notching, with gable front. Gable roof forms deep overhang over front. Original log interior walls partition the crib into three "rooms."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

9. Granary 19th century Contributing

Two-story frame rectangular building, low gable roof, some six-over-six sash windows.

10. Cotton House 1920 Contributing

One-story frame rectangular building, low gable roof, gable front.

11. Cropper (Tenant) House Early 20th century Contributing

One-story frame, two room building with gable roof, longitudinal facade.

12. Miller's House 19th century Contributing

One-story frame, board-and-batten house with gable roof, longitudinal facade, rock foundation, single-shoulder exterior end brick chimney, shed front porch. According to local tradition it was built prior to 1850 by Linker and Amos Jenkins who ran the grist mill prior to Michael Garmon.

13. Garmon Mill Site Early 1800s-1930s Contributing Site

The site of the Garmon Mill is several hundred feet from the fork of the dirt road on the west bank of the Rocky River, approximately 100 yards from State Road 1114. The grist mill was built in the early 1800s, and was washed away by a freshet in 1908. A second mill was built and operated until the mid-1930s. At various times, in addition to grist milling, sawmilling and cotton ginning were conducted here. All that is visible today is rubble, including pieces of the turbine machinery.

14. Farm Fields and Woods Contributing Site

The approximately 250 acre farm site is counted as one contributing resource, since it remains in exactly the same use and general appearance as it had during the period of historical significance.

15. Well Canopy Early 20th century Contributing Structure

Hip-roofed canopy on square posts.

16. Norfolk and Southern Railroad Track Noncontributing Structure Early 20th century

These tracks were laid through the north end of the farm in the early 20th century, but did not interfere in the use of this acreage because it has always been timber.

Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureAgriculture

Period of Significance

mid-nineteenth to
1934

Significant Dates

ca. 1880
1934

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The 1981 comprehensive inventory of Cabarrus County identified the John Bunyan Green House, built ca. 1880, as one of the two finest Italianate farmhouses in the county. The inventory identified the John Bunyan Green Farm, containing twelve outbuildings and the site of a water-powered roller mill, saw mill, and cotton gin, as a notable late nineteenth and early twentieth century agricultural complex. The farmhouse is a traditional two-story frame I-house with a magnificent two-story gabled porch with sawn balustrades and a molded and bracketed cornice. The finest feature of the original Italianate interior is the well-executed stair in the center hall. The most significant outbuildings are an unusually large three-pen log corncrib, a substantial center passage log barn, and a two-level log crib/granary. The nineteenth century board-and-batten miller's house is the only intact building directly associated with the milling operations, as the mills ceased operation in the mid-1930s and have disintegrated.

Architecture Context

The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, 1981, by Peter Kaplan, is the definitive architectural history of the county. The following discussion of the architectural significance of the John Bunyan Green House is drawn from Kaplan's chapter, "The Cabarrus Farm House, 1865-1930," pages 15-20. Kaplan identifies the Green House as one of the two finest Italianate style farmhouses surviving from the early post-war years. The dominant form of the farmhouse throughout the entire period was the traditional I house, the two-story single-pile house with end chimneys and the entrance on the long side. Nearly all of these houses had symmetrical, three-bay facades and followed center hall interior plans. Frame was

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

the principal construction material. During the late 1860s and 1870s the Italianate Revival succeeded the Greek Revival as the style whose features were most commonly applied to Cabarrus County farmhouses. The adoption of the style produced several changes in the form and detailing of the county's rural dwellings. Facades and window openings became taller relative to their width. The low hip roof popular during the Greek Revival period disappeared and the gable roof regained its former dominance. Exterior and interior detailing reflected the increasing availability of sawn, turned, and molded woodwork produced by machines. As with the earlier Federal and Greek Revival idioms, rural Cabarrus builders rarely designed fully developed examples of the Italianate style. Rather, they adapted the style to traditional house forms, and blended its elements with those details of the Greek Revival that had become part of their vocabulary. The earliest post-war farmhouses were transitional, blending elements from both Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The John Bunyan Green House and the Michael Scott House represent the finest examples in which the Italianate style is dominant. Between the 1880s and 1910, the I house lost its status as the preeminent symbol of rural prosperity. Such asymmetrical forms as the L-shaped house, the "Triple A" house, and later, the bungalow, entered the local builders' vocabulary.

Agriculture Context

The following discussion is drawn from Kaplan, pages 22-24. The principal crops in Cabarrus County from the Civil War into the twentieth century were cotton, corn, wheat and oats. The numerous, well-preserved outbuildings on the Green Farm are graphic proof of John Bunyan Green's activities with these crops. Two corn cribs, a cotton house, and a granary are among the extant outbuildings. In addition to being a representative farm, the property is significant within the context of the rural Reconstruction era economy in the county, when agricultural processing was shifting to commercial mills that served entire rural neighborhoods. During the antebellum period these operations were generally located on individual plantations, but emancipation of the slaves made labor-intensive methods of ginning cotton and sawing lumber uneconomic. Crossroads commercial centers that comprised a general store, grist and saw mill, a cotton gin and a post office became focal points of economic and social activity in several sections of the county. Throughout the county, stores, grist mills, saw mills, and cotton gins were established at locations that did not attract additional enterprises. John Bunyan Green was one of the enterprising farmers who operated a milling and ginning operation, but, like all but a few such rural businesses in the county, the structures have disappeared.

Historical Background

According to family tradition, related by John Bunyan Green's son Worth in a 1979 interview (notes in file), one John Griffith built the foundation of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

house for miller Michael Garmon shortly before the Civil War, but Garmon was unable to complete the residence he had planned. Garmon ran the mill on Rocky River, the predecessor of the mill operated by John Bunyan Green. In 1875 Garmon sold the house property to John and Mary Griffith (Cabarrus County Deed Book 26, p. 496). In 1880 they sold the tract, totalling 371 acres, to John Bunyan Green (Cabarrus County Deed Book 42, p. 236). This is the original John Bunyan Green Farm, and it is this tract, including the small mill lot on the river, that is being nominated.

John Bunyan Green (1850-1934) was the son of Dillman Green of adjacent Union County, North Carolina (Cabarrus County Death Certificates, Vol. 20, p. 383). He married in 1875, and he and his wife Margaret had at least eight children, including J. Bain Green (1892-1971), who later owned the farm, and Worth Green (1899-1984) whose descendants own it today. (1900 Census, Population Schedule, Cabarrus County, p. 126B). Green bought a half-interest in Garmon's mill in 1885, and bought out Garmon's successor in 1912 (Cabarrus County Deed Book 34, p. 196; 38, p. 459). The earlier mill washed out in 1908, and was replaced by a turbine-powered mill which Green and then his son Bain until 1934.

Shortly after his 1880 purchase of the site, John Bunyan Green constructed the farm house. His farming and milling operations prospered, and he gradually acquired additional acreage to the south and north along the Rocky River. At his death the farm included some 1000 acres. While no will is recorded for John Bunyan, at his death in 1934 the property passed to his son Bain, himself a farmer and operator of the cotton gin. (Obituary, Concord Tribune, September 8, 1971). At his death, Bain left the property to his brother Worth, and in 1984 at his death he left the property to his wife, Katherine Hartsell Green and her son, John Bunyan Green II (Cabarrus County Deed Book 430, pp. 101-102). The current owners are Katherine Green, John Bunyan Green II, and his sister Margaret Green Oktavec.

10. Geographical Data Continuation:

E. 17 545900 3896660

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cabarrus County Deeds, various volumes

Cabarrus County Register of Deeds, Death Certificates, Vol. 20

The Concord Tribune, Obituary of Bain Green, September 8, 1971

Green, Worth, interview, 1979. Notes in nomination file, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

Kaplan, Peter R. The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Charlotte: Historic Cabarrus, Incorporated, 1981.

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. North Carolina, Population Schedule, Cabarrus County.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 371.25 acres

UTM References

A 11 7 5 4 6 1 4 0 3 8 8 7 3 0 0
Zone Easting Northing
C L 7 5 4 1 7 1 2 1 0 3 1 8 9 6 5 1 4 0

B 1 1 7 5 4 6 8 3 0 3 1 8 9 7 3 6 0
Zone Easting Northing
D 1 1 7 5 4 1 6 2 1 5 0 3 1 8 9 6 0 5 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property nominated here is shown on the accompanying tax maps as Cabarrus County Tax Parcel 5463, Township 10, Sheets No. 5553 and 5554

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This 371.25 acre tract is the home tract of the John Bunyan Green Farm. Although the farm grew to approximately 1000 acres in the early 20th century, this home tract is the original 371 acres purchased by John Bunyan Green in 1880 and also includes the small mill lot to which he acquired full title in 1912.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheila A. Bumgarner, David Brown, Peter Kaplan (1985); M. Ruth Little (1988)
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