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 10-9008). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name Huffman, George Farm
   other names/site number Huffman-Herman Farm; Huffman-Punch-Herman Farm

2. Location
   street & number E side of SR 1479, 0.6 mi. SE of jct. w/Tate Blvd.
   city, town Conover
   state North Carolina code NC county Catawba code 035 zip code 28613

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property: [X] private [ ] public-local [ ] public-State [ ] public-Federal
   Category of Property: [X] building(s) [ ] district [ ] site [ ] structure [ ] object
   Number of Resources within Property
   [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] Total

   Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Architectural Resources of Catawba County, N.C.
   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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
   Date: [4/19/90]
   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: [Signature]
   Date of Action: [Date]
Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-story, mortise-and-tenon-frame house that Major George Huffman built ca. 1810 is one of the oldest surviving houses in Catawba County. Many of its vernacular Federal style features remain intact, although both exterior and interior were altered during the early twentieth century by Milton Herman, whose family had owned the property for nearly a century. Accompanying the house is the remaining 17.4 acres associated with the farm and the Huffman Family Cemetery, with approximately fifteen gravestones dating from the mid nineteenth century.

The George Huffman House faces south in a clearing located downhill from SR 1479 on the west. A large overgrown field separates the house from the road, and woods border the clearing on south, east and north. Several trees of various types surround the house in the clearing.

The George Huffman House ("A" on the attached Sketch Map) is a single pile structure with original shed rooms across the rear (north side) and full length shed-roofed porch across the three-bay facade (south side). The original, full-facade rear shed is one-and-one-half-stories, its roof extending from immediately beneath the cornice of the main block. Additions include a one-story shed-roofed kitchen with west side porch which projects from the northeast corner of the house and a light-weight twentieth century porch which extends across the remainder of the rear (north side) of the house.

Originally the house was sheathed in wide, beaded weatherboards and is said to have been painted red.1 Around 1920, however, the house was covered with German siding, except for the wall of the front porch where the early beaded boards were retained. An inspection of the house was not able to determine if the beaded weatherboards remain under the German siding elsewhere on the house, due to the tight construction of the German siding. The whole house was painted white. At the same time, the eaves of both the main gable roof and the rear shed roof were extended to create wide overhangs supported by large brackets. The fancy Federal style cornice moldings were left intact.
Handsome stone chimneys with single shoulders and free-standing stacks flank the house on east and west sides. The east chimney rises next to the east shed room, while the west side chimney rises from the center of the two-story portion of the house. Stone is also used for the foundation of the house, which is interrupted on the east side by the covered opening to the partially excavated cellar. Stone piers serve as the foundation for the plain front porch with its square posts.

The front of the Huffman House has an early twentieth century door which probably replaced a six-panel door. The exterior door on the rear shed portion of the house is especially interesting, for while the outer side exhibits the flat panels as seen on the other doors of the house, the inner side is faced with wide diagonal boards for extra strength and is held together and attached to the casing by long wrought iron strap hinges.

Many of the windows have at least partially replaced sash, but enough remain to suggest that originally the first story windows on front (south) and east side were nine-over-six sash, while those flanking the west chimney were six-over-four sash. On the second story, the front and east windows appear to have been six-over-six sash, while those flanking the west chimney were four-over-four sash (as now). The upper story window in the shed section is four-over-two sash and was probably that way originally. The first story shed windows are largely altered. Exterior window and door casings consist of a single face with beaded inner edge and quarter-round molded backband.

The interior of the Huffman House features a hall-and-parlor plan with original shed rooms across the rear and an added kitchen projecting from the northeast corner of the house. Several alterations have occurred since the house was first built.

Originally, the stair to the second floor was located along the south wall of the west shed room, so that it entered the second floor via the unfinished upper shed room. Around 1910, during the ownership of Milton Herman, the stair was moved to an enclosed space that was created from the rear of the east front room of the house. A closet for this room was also created behind (and under) the stair. Access to the stair is gained through a six-panel door opening from the main (west) room of the house. At the top of the steep stairway is a simple railing with beaded-edged hand rail, newel and balusters.
Other first story alterations, likely made during the early twentieth century, include the enclosure of the large fireplace in the east shed room, the covering of this wall with beaded boards, and the addition of the kitchen with its beaded board walls. The kitchen is entered through a five-panel door opening from the northeast corner of the east shed room.

Originally the second story consisted of one large room and the rear half story shed room which contained the stair. The attic-like shed room was floored and had a window on the west end with the same trim as other windows in the house, but the room was apparently never really finished, and the studs and rafters remain exposed. When the stair was moved (ca. 1910), the "new" stair (probably a re-use of the original) entered the second story along the north wall of the east part of the large room. A beaded board partition was installed, dividing this room into two smaller rooms, and a beaded board closet was added in the northeast corner of the newly created west room. On the west wall of the west room is a fireplace with broad stone facing but small opening and no mantel. In the northwest corner of the room a six-panel door leads to the shed room.

The decorative focal point of the Huffman House interior is the fireplace in the first story west room. Although the fireplace opening itself has been enclosed with only a stove pipe hole for a coal-burning stove, the handsome Federal style mantel and overmantel remain intact. The large mantel features a heavily molded tripartite-blocked shelf, a paneled frieze with fluted band below, delicately fluted pilasters, and sunburst medallions interrupting each pilaster and in the center block of the frieze. Above the mantel a paneled overmantel with decorative cornice rises to the ceiling.

Except for the features already described as being part of the ca. 1910 alterations, the interior finish of the Huffman House is relatively consistent and intact. The walls and ceilings are sheathed in wide flush boards, the ceiling boards having beaded edges. The rooms in the front two-story portion of the house feature a molded cornice and delicate chair rail of typical Federal profile. The cornice in the west room (with the Federal mantel) is more elaborate than is the cornice in the other rooms. The doors are of six panels, with the smallest panels at the top. Door and window casings vary in profile. Little original hardware remains intact, besides the wrought iron strap hinges and a
The only outbuilding of any age to remain with the George Huffman House is an unpainted, shed-roofed storage shed (B, contributing) located just east of the kitchen porch. This structure is said to have been part of the original kitchen. Other outbuildings include a cinderblock pumphouse (C, noncontributing), a gable roofed wood frame shed (D, noncontributing), a two hole outhouse (E, noncontributing), and a chicken coop (F, noncontributing), all which appear to date from the second or third quarter of the twentieth century.

The Huffman Family Cemetery (H, contributing) is located southwest of the house at the edge of the woods on a 1/10 acre segment next to the road (SR 1479). The cemetery consists of approximately fifteen gravestones, arranged in two rows parallel with the road. In it are buried George Huffman (d. 1848), his wife Suzanna Huffman (d. 1862), and some of their descendents in the Turner and Punch families. Recorded gravestones range in date from 1831 to 1873. Most of the stones have simple flat, rounded, or pointed tops. The most decorative is that of Gabriel Turner (d. 1857), with curvilinear and angled top designed by a carver named Tiddy.

NOTES

2Ibid.
Summary

The George Huffman Farm, located in a densely developed suburban area between Newton-Conover and Hickory, consists of an important Federal style two-story frame house built circa 1810, several outbuildings, the Huffman Family cemetery dating from the mid-nineteenth century, and the remaining seventeen acres of land associated with the once-large farm. The house and cemetery are significant under Criterion C, in association with the Property Types "Houses of Catawba County: Antebellum" and "Cemeteries" because of the fine vernacular craftsmanship evident in the construction of the house and in the design of the gravestones. The farm is understood in the Historic Context "Agriculture in Catawba County, 1820-1939." Established by prosperous farmer, wagonmaker and cooper George Huffman, and farmed by his son-in-law William Punch later in the nineteenth century, the farm now lies fallow with most of the acreage wooded and heavily overgrown, yet the acreage continues to provide an appropriate setting for the built resources.
Historical Background

The George Huffman House, constructed ca. 1810, is a two-story, hall-and-parlor plan dwelling with intact Federal details. Although simply finished with pine-sheathed interiors, the house was a fine structure for the western piedmont in the early nineteenth century. Local tradition claims that the house was the first frame house built in the section of northern Lincoln which was formed into Catawba County in 1842. The builder of the house, George Huffman, was a prosperous farmer, wagonmaker, and militia captain. Huffman's family sold the house in 1891, and from 1892 until recently it was the property of the Herman family. Except for some early twentieth century alterations, the house remains intact and in good condition. The house stands in a rural setting between the towns of Hickory and Newton-Conover.

The house was built by George Huffman sometime between 1807 and 1815; during these years Huffman acquired the 415 acres which formed his home plantation. Huffman, the son of Baltazar Huffman (1741-1798) and Catherine Wagoner Huffman, was born in Lincoln County in 1780. In 1801 he married Catherine Hook or Hook (1778-1862), and by 1810 they were the parents of five children; the Huffmans eventually had five sons and five daughters.

Huffman was evidently a respected citizen of his community as he was elected captain of the Eighth Company detached from the Second Lincoln Regiment at the out-break of the War of 1812. Only a small number of North Carolina troops saw active service in the war, and the details of Huffman's wartime experiences are unknown.

At the time of the 1820 census Huffman headed a twelve-member household and owned one female slave. In 1830 he was the head of an eight-member household with one female slave. By the time of the 1840 census Huffman's household consisted of only four persons but his slaves had increased to four in number. Two members of the household were engaged in farming and one in manufacturing; the latter person was probably Huffman himself working as a wagonmaker and cooper. Huffman was probably assisted in his work by his sons, Langdon (b. 1822), a wagonmaker, and George (b. 1812), a blacksmith. The 1840 Lincoln County tax list recorded the value of Huffman's 415-acre farm as $1,045 and his payment of taxes on three slaves and a stud horse.
Huffman died on December 9, 1848 and was buried in the family cemetery a few hundred yards from his house. He divided the bulk of his real estate among his nine surviving children. To his wife, Huffman gave for her lifetime the house and outbuildings, except the threshing machine and ninety-eight acres. He also provided her with food staples, farm crops, livestock, farm tools, $100 in cash, slaves, Mat and Eve, three beds, a desk, a table, six chairs, and all kitchen furniture as well as his cariole and horse. Other household furnishings were sold at Huffman's estate sale and included three beds, two candlestands, two chests, a table, a half-round table, a clock, a corner cupboard, a looking glass, six chairs, and a small library of sixteen books among which were two medical books, a geography book, a law book, and a dictionary. Other items sold at the estate sale were many farming tools, four horses, a bull, a threshing machine, a windmill, and slaves Squires and Judith. Huffman's work as a wagonmaker and cooper was reflected in the extensive number of woodworking tools and materials sold, such as cooper's tools, blacksmith's tools, turning tools, several work benches, wagon wood, patterns, spokes, planks, twenty-three hogsheads and wagon and tent cloth. The sale netted the estate $1,329. Huffman probably served as a local banker as many individuals owed him a total of $979.82 in notes with interest due. Judging from his will and estate sale, Huffman must have enjoyed a certain amount of financial success from his farming and manufacturing endeavors.

Huffman's widow continued to live in the house until her death in 1862. The census of 1850 recorded that her household consisted of herself and seven slaves. Her ninety-eight acre farm was valued at $450 with only forty acres cultivated, producing 300 bushels of corn, 70 bushels of oats, and 30 bushels of wheat. Livestock on the farm included a horse, a cow, a sheep, and eight pigs. Ten years later only two slaves remained in Mrs. Huffman's household and the value of her farm had increased by only $50 while farm production remained at 1850 levels. Mrs. Huffman died on July 23, 1862 and was buried beside her husband in the family cemetery near the house. Her estate sale of personal property netted $575 while notes due her estate totaled another $114.

The identity of the owners and occupants of the Huffman House immediately after Mrs. Huffman's death is unknown. When Mrs. Huffman's sons and administrators, George and Elijah Huff-
man, filed their accounts with the county court in October of 1862, they also reported their final account as the executors of their father's estate which then consisted only of the house and ninety-eight acres. The Huffman brothers reported the sale of their father's property in August of 1862 for $3,000; the high price probably reflected wartime inflation. 15 However, no deed has been located for the sale of the house until 1891 when the heirs of William Punch, son-in-law of George and Susannah Huffman, sold the house and seven acres of land. Punch (1819-1873), married to Amy Huffman, was probably the 1862 purchaser of the house. In the 1870 census he was listed as a farmer with personal property worth $300.16 His 159-acre farm, with 120 improved acres, was valued at $800 and produced 160 bushels of oats, 150 bushels of corn, 75 bushels of wheat, and 37 bushels of rye; his livestock consisted of a horse, 3 cows, 7 sheep, and 8 swine. Punch died in 1873 and his land was divided among his widow, children, and grandchildren, but the details of the division are unknown.17 In July of 1891 J. L. Punch sold the house with seven acres for $100 to J. R. Gaither who sold the property six months later for $75.00 to Milton L. Herman whose descendants owned the house until recently.18

Milton Lafayette Herman (ca. 1871/74-1950) was a member of a family long-settled in Lincoln and Catawba counties. At the time of the 1900 census he was living in the house with his wife Ida and children Lillie and Vernon.19 The census noted that Herman was a farmer but that he rented his farm. By 1915, however, Herman had acquired a thirty-three acre farm near his house tract.20 The 1915 county tax list recorded the value of the seven-acre house site at $69.00. Changes to the house during Herman's occupancy included the stair and the addition of brackets to the gable eaves when the roof was extended.21 When Herman purchased the house it was known as the "Red House" because of its reddish-brown color, but the Herman family has painted the house white.22 Milton Herman died in 1950 after living in the house for forty-eight years.23 The house was inherited by his son Wortha Herman who continued to own the house until recently. The seven acre house lot was at some undetermined date reunited with some of the original George Huffman farm, creating the remaining 17.4 acres. The house and remaining farm is currently owned by Classic Leather, Inc., a leather upholstery company. The company owners keep the house grounds mowed and plan to continue to preserve the house and cemetery.
FOOTNOTES

1Martin Huffman to George Huffman, 27 September 1807, Lincoln County Deeds, Book 23, p. 268, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Lincoln County Deeds and as Archives; John Bowman to George Huffman, 28 September 1815, Lincoln County Deeds, Book 27, p. 395. Between 1819 and 1824 Huffman purchased another 358 acres which he later deeded to his children, see Lincoln County Deeds, Book 29, p. 460; Book 30, pp. 650, 652; Book 31, p. 444.


3Lincoln County Marriage Bond, microfiche copy, Archives; Third Census of the United States, 1810: Lincoln County, North Carolina, 347, microfilm copy, Archives; see Hoffman, Hoffmans of North Carolina, 50-59, for Huffman's children.


5Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Lincoln County, North Carolina, 406; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Lincoln County, North Carolina, 243; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Lincoln County, North Carolina, 40, microfilm copies, Archives.

6Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Catawba County, population schedule, 327, 345, microfilm copy, Archives, hereinafter cited as 1850 census.

7Catawba County list of Taxables, Captain Herman's Company, 1840, Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 George Huffman Farm
Catawba County, N.C.

9Will of George Huffman, 13 March 1847, probated December
1848, Catawba County Wills, Book 1, p. 69, microfilm copy, Ar-
chives, hereinafter cited as Catawba County Wills.

10Catawba County Estates Papers, folder for George Huffman,
Sr., Archives.

111850 Census, Catawba County, population schedule, 132;
Agricultural schedule, 253; Slave schedule, 205, manuscript
copy, Archives.

12Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Catawba County,
North Carolina, population schedule, 41; Slave schedule, 432;
Agricultural schedule, n.p., manuscript copy, Archives.


14Catawba County Inventories and Accounts of Sale, 1861-
1868, p. 17, Archives.

15Catawba County Inventories and Accounts of Sale, p. 17,
Archives.

16Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Catawba County,
North Carolina, population schedule, 623, microfilm copy; agri-
cultural schedule, 1, Newton Township, manuscript copy, Archives.

17F. L. Herman was appointed Punch's administrator in Au-
gust, 1873, Catawba County Cross Index to Executors and Admin-
istrators, 1843-1927, Archives.

18See J. L. Punch et al to A. M. Punch, 31 October 1884,
Catawba County Deeds, Book 25, p. 139; A. M. Punch et al to J.
L. Punch, 1 December 1885, Book 29, p. 323; J. L. Punch to J. R.
Gaither, 20 July 1891, Book 41, p. 360; J. R. Gaither to M. L.
Herman, 19 January, 1892, Book 43, p. 136, microfilm copies,
Archives.

19Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Catawba Coun-
ty, North Carolina, 198, microfilm copy, Archives.

20Catawba County Tax List, 1915, Conover Township, p. 18,
microfilm copy, Archives.
21 Hickory Daily Record, 5 September 1930.


23 Will of Milton L. Herman, 29 October 1948, Catawba County Wills, Book 7, p. 62, microfilm copy, Archives; Herman died 5 January 1950, see Catawba County Index to Vital Statistics, microfilm copy, Archives.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Catawba County Records (subgroups: Deeds, Wills, 1840 List of Taxables, 1915 Tax List, Estates Papers, Inventories and Accounts of Sale, Index to Vital Statistics, Cross Index to Executors and Administrators), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Catawba County, North Carolina, manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Lincoln County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Lincoln County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


Hickory Daily Record, 5 September 1930.


Lincoln County Records (Subgroups: Deeds, Marriage Bonds, Wills), Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Catawba County, North Carolina, microfilm and manuscript copies, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Catawba County, North Carolina, manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Lincoln County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Third Census of the United States, 1810: Lincoln County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Catawba County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
George Huffman Farm, Catawba County, N.C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 #

X See continuation sheet

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: 17.4 acres

UTM References

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

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the west corner of property on Catawba County Tax Map 52-N, Block 1, Lot 2, where west corner meets Tate Blvd.; follow property line northeast 331 feet along Tate Blvd.; continue to follow property line east 644 feet; then turn south, follow property line 557 feet; then turn southwest, go 700 feet; then turn southeast, go 200 feet; then turn southwest, go 80 feet; then turn northwest, go 1240 feet to beginning.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Entire parcel remaining historically associated with the historic complex and cemetery.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Kooiman, compiler; Laura A.W. Phillips, description; Marshall Bullock, history
organization Catawba County Historical Assn., Inc.
street & number Rt. 1, Box 76 AB
city or town Conover
state N.C.
date 7/28/89
telephone 704/256-3040
zip code 28613
The following applies to all photographs:

1) George Huffman Farm
2) Conover, North Carolina
5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

A. 3) Barbara Kooiman
   4) June 1989
   6) House, north

B. 3) F. Bogue Wallin
   4) October 1979
   6) House and shed (B), west

C. 3) Randall Page
   4) March 1982
   6) House, shed (B, left) and pumphouse (C), south

D. 3) Randall Page
   4) March 1982
   6) House interior, first story west room mantel

E. 3) Laura Phillips
   4) March 1983
   6) House interior, doors

F. 3) Laura Phillips
   4) March 1983
   6) Cemetery, northwest

NOTE: The photographs used in this nomination were taken in 1979, 1982, 1983 and 1989. All resources have been thoroughly field checked by Barbara Kooiman in 1989 and have been determined to be unchanged from their appearance and condition portrayed in photographs taken prior to 1989.
**LOCATION**
CATAWBA CO., N.C.
NEWTON/CONOVER VIC.
SECTION 52-N
BLOCK 1, LOT 2

**SCALE**
1" = 400'

C = contributing
NC = noncontributing

17.4 ACRES

**BUILDINGS**
A - GEORGE HUFFMAN HOUSE (C)
B - SHED (C)
C - PUMP HOUSE (NC)
D - SHED (NC)
E - OUTHOUSE (NC)

**STRUCTURE**
F - CHICKEN COOP (NC)

**SITE**
- HUFFMAN FAMILY CEMETERY (C)

Map Drawn by B. Kooiman, July 1989