Flynt House
Rural Hall, Forsyth County, FY0587, Listed 05/31/2018
Nomination by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc.
Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, July 2017
# 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>other names/site number</td>
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## 2. Location

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<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>Rural Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>Forsyth</td>
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<tr>
<td>state code</td>
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## 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of certifying official/Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</td>
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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.)

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<tr>
<td>State or Federal agency and bureau</td>
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## 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:)______________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
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If the property is removed from the National Register, explain the basis for removal:

<table>
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<th>Date of Action</th>
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### 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.)

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<th>Contributing</th>
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**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

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

- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

### 7. Description

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

- COLONIAL REVIVAL

**Other: hewn log dwelling**

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: STONE
- walls: WOOD: Weatherboard
- roof: STONE: Slate
- 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

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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### Areas of Significance

<table>
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<th>Area of Significance</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Architecture</td>
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### Period of Significance

1935

### Significant Dates

1935

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Wallace, William Roy, architect, 1935

### 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:

- Moravian Archives, Southern Province, Winston-Salem
- North Carolina State University, Raleigh
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Approximately 23.48 acres
See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</table>

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  7/25/2017
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  Charles Matthew and Erika Skinner von Isenburg
street & number  6780 University Parkway
telephone  336-972-6447
state  NC
zip code  27045

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.
Section 7. Narrative Description

Setting

The Flynt House occupies a 23.48-acre tract on University Parkway’s west side that was part of a much larger farm owned by successive generations of the Flynt family for almost two hundred years. The property, located in north Forsyth County approximately two miles south of Rural Hall and ten miles north of downtown Winston-Salem, is situated between University Parkway/NC Route 66 and a Norfolk Southern Railway corridor and US Route 52 to the west.

The parcel is bounded by sizable wooded lots to the west, north, and south. The Modernist 1972 Kingswood United Methodist Church at 6840 University Parkway north of the Flynt House stands on acreage that was historically farmed by the Flynts. The congregation’s property also encompasses the Flynt family cemetery on the church parking lot’s south side. NCDOT moved the cemetery to its current site, which was then owned by the Flynt family, in conjunction with US Route 52’s 1963 shift to a new corridor. The relocated cemetery is not part of this nomination.

Modest mid-twentieth-century one-story brick and frame Minimal Traditional and Ranch houses line Opal and Sunset Drives south of the Flynt property. Commercial and residential buildings border University Parkway. A recreational vehicle dealership occupies a large lot southeast of the Flynt House parcel on the road’s east side.

Landscape, contributing site

The Flynt House and outbuildings are clustered at the end of a long cedar- and boxwood-lined asphalt-paved drive near the center of the lot’s west section. The cedar-lined portion dates to the nineteenth century, while the west section and boxwoods were added in or after 1935. Most of the remainder of the tract is an open field that gradually slopes down to the east. Long curved agricultural terraces are clearly visible on aerial views. Although the exact date of the field terracing is unknown, contour terraces were a popular soil erosion control method by the 1930s, so it is probable that the Flynts had them constructed to facilitate hay production in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The lot’s perimeter and much of the southwest quadrant is wooded.

The drive terminates at a circa 1935 frame garage west of the house. Landscaped beds containing flowers and evergreen shrubs surround the residence, which faces north. Deciduous and evergreen trees punctuate the grass lawn. A circa 1935 rectangular boxwood parterre with stone entrance steps is east of the house. A one-story mid-nineteenth-century log building renovated and perhaps relocated around 1935 is south of the parterre. The stone rear terrace, bench, well, and pavers leading from the house to all of the landscape features were also likely added in conjunction with the house’s 1935
Flynt House, ca. 1775-1790, late 1830s, 1935, contributing building

Exterior

The Flynt House achieved its current configuration during a 1935 renovation and expansion undertaken by Vernon and Mary Flynt under the direction of Winston-Salem architect William Roy Wallace. The weatherboarded tripartite main block comprises a central two-story, three-bay-wide, side-gable-roofed, log residence erected in the late eighteenth century and updated in the late 1830s as well as two one-and-one-half story 1935 wings. The weatherboarded one-story rear ell, which extends south from the west wing, encompasses a short frame 1935 hyphen and a one-story gable-roofed log dwelling built circa 1775 to 1790 that has served as a kitchen for much of its history. The one- and two-story buildings may have remained freestanding until 1935, or the 1935 hyphen may have replaced an earlier hyphen or open porch.

The one- and two-story dwellings likely initially had exposed log exteriors. However, in the 1830s the Flynts added clapboards and Greek Revival-style elements such as the one-story pedimented portico at the center of the main block’s north elevation, a deep cornice with gable returns, and simple flat fascia, corner boards, and window and door surrounds. These modifications may have occurred soon after Fountain Flynt’s 1837 purchase of the property upon which the family had been living for five decades. As some elements were replaced in kind—often with salvaged materials using reproduction cut nails—in conjunction with the 1935 renovation, the 1830s fabric is difficult to delineate. It appears that much of the structure received new weatherboards in 1935. Wide flush boards sheathe the north elevation beneath the portico, which is characterized by a deep boxed cornice, a plain frieze, and paired square replacement posts. The wood railings with thin rectangular balusters and rounded hand and base rails spanning the porch posts were probably installed in 1935 along with the tongue-and-groove floor and the wood-frame screen door at the primary entrance. The single-leaf Greek Revival-style front door with two tall vertical panels hangs on mid-nineteenth-century cast-iron butt hinges and is secured by a reproduction wrought-iron thumb latch as well as a mid-twentieth-century deadbolt. Four tall double-hung, six-over-six, wood sash—two on each story—flank the portico. Operable louvered wood shutters with round cast-iron hold-backs frame the windows on all elevations.

Further 1935 alterations include the installation of a slate roof. The single-shoulder brick end chimneys

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have been rebuilt and the continuous stone foundation pointed with concrete mortar.

The wings maintain their 1935 appearance. The one-bay-wide and deep east wing has an open first-story porch with a flagstone floor beneath a single room lit by three six-over-six sash—one on each elevation. On the main block’s east elevation, a 1935 entrance with a single-leaf Greek Revival-style door and a wood-frame screen door provides access to the east first-floor room.

A shed-roofed front porch with square posts and exposed rafter ends shelters the entrance on the two-bay-wide and one-bay-deep west wing’s north elevation. The porch has a flagstone floor. The west wing’s north elevation encompasses an entrance with a single-leaf Greek Revival-style door and a wood-frame screen door as well as one six-over-six first-story sash and a smaller, centered, six-over-six second-story sash. Two matching windows pierce the wing’s west elevation. The south elevation has one short six-over-six second-story sash.

The main block’s south elevation fenestration is the same as the north elevation with the exception of an offset, short, six-over-six, second-story window that illuminates the bathroom added in 1935. Furthermore, the first-story window and door surrounds are beveled rather than flat. Shed-roofed porches supported by square posts and dimensional lumber rafters with exposed ends wrap around the south elevation and the rear kitchen ell’s east elevation. Wide boards sheathe the porch ceilings. The ell’s porch floor level is lower than that of the main block and hyphen, requiring a single wood step to ameliorate the difference in height. The porches were likely modified during the 1935 renovation.

A single-leaf door in the 1935 hyphen’s east wall provides access to the attic stair and the hyphen corridor. To the south, two single-leaf doors with tall vertical-panel bases, six-pane upper sections, and wood-frame screen doors allow breakfast room and kitchen egress. Southeast of the porch, stone steps lead to the kitchen entrance and to the below-grade basement entrance. Stepped stone walls line the stairwell and extend above grade. The hyphen has a single short six-over-six sash on its west elevation. The rear ell and hyphen’s 1935 roof systems include dimensional lumber rafters with exposed ends.

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2 While William Roy Wallace’s 1935 floor plan shows central support posts at the north, south, and east openings of the porch, they do not exist today. It is not known whether the porch was built as drawn and the supports were lost over time, or if they were never built at all.
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National Park Service  

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Interior

The two-story house probably originally comprised two rooms on each level: a hall-parlor plan on the first floor and two roughly equal-sized second-story bedrooms.3 The first floor’s west room or parlor is slightly narrower than the east room or hall, which contains a central stair that leads south in a straight steep run along the west wall to the upper floor. The stair rises from two winder steps at its base adjacent to the north elevation. The 1935 railing comprises a square newel post with a pointed oval finial, thin round balusters, and a molded handrail. The stair enclosure projects into the west room. A shallow closet occupies the space beneath the steps. The stair terminates at a short, narrow, second-story hall between bedrooms.

Circular-sawn, hand-planed, and painted vertical boards secured with cut nails sheathe the first floor’s central partition wall and stair enclosure. Wide horizontal boards cover the walls and ceilings. Pine floor boards, narrow crown molding, and flat-board window and door surrounds and baseboards are intact. The two-vertical-panel doors on the partition wall south of the stair and at the stair closet hang on butt hinges and are secured by cast-iron thumb latches and keepers attached with cut nails. This evidence suggests a mid-nineteenth-century installation date for the partition wall, stair, and doors. Both rooms feature fireplaces with post-and-lintel mantels and handmade brick fireboxes and hearths. The oversized hearth brick probably dates to 1935, as do the doors that provide access to the east porch and the west addition.

The second story retains mid-nineteenth-century wall and ceiling sheathing, floor boards, window and door surrounds, and doors that are identical to those on the first story. The main block encompasses a large east room, two west rooms, and a central bathroom adjacent to the south wall. The closets, some partition walls, and the bathroom were added in 1935. The east room retains a fireplace with a brick firebox, hearth, and a simple post-and-lintel mantel. Two closets flank the window on the south elevation. A central partition wall constructed in or after 1935 divides the west section into two roughly equal-sized rooms. This change resulted in the removal of the fireplace centered on the west wall. The bathroom at the south wall’s center retains square, taupe, ceramic-tile 1935 wainscoting, while the square ceramic-tile floor and white porcelain fixtures were later additions. The bedrooms in the east and west 1935 additions have lower floor levels, requiring a wood step to allow access. Closets flank the entrances. Mid-twentieth-century wallpaper remains in several second-floor bedrooms.

On the first-story west room’s west elevation, a doorway south of the fireplace and three wood steps provide access to the 1935 west addition, which served as a dining room. The 1935 doors match the

[3] In keeping with typical early-nineteenth-century room arrangement, the first story may have originally had an open plan with a corner stair leading to the second story, which may also have had only one room, but residual architectural evidence is inconclusive.
mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival-style doors. Unpainted, salvaged, hewn rafters and wide-board wall sheathing contribute to the renovation’s Colonial Revival theme. Vertical-board wainscoting covers the lower three-quarters of each wall beneath a bracketed plate rail cap. Horizontal boards sheathe the upper wall sections. A small closet occupies the room’s southeast corner. A cupboard with three open upper shelves, a scalloped cornice, and a base enclosed with a double-leaf door embellished with X-shaped battens is recessed in the east wall’s north end. A door on the north elevation leads to the front porch, while the door in the south wall opens into the hyphen.

The rear ell comprises a narrow corridor, restroom/laundry room, breakfast room, and kitchen. On the corridor’s east wall, two-panel doors secure the attic and basement stair halls. In May 2017, the current owners replaced the louvered wood closet doors on the corridor’s west side with a salvaged raised six-panel door mounted on a sliding track. The space to the west, a shed room added after 1935, now serves as a laundry and restroom, with a toilet, sink, washing machine, and dryer. During the room’s renovation, the owners discovered a penciled notation on the wall sheathing boards that was illegible other than the date “August 22, 1935.” The hewn logs in the south wall were left exposed behind the sink and toilet. The room’s square footage was increased from twenty to fifty-six square feet, necessitating the hyphen’s west wall’s movement slightly further west than that of the breakfast room and kitchen.

The ell has pine floors, horizontal-board wall sheathing, flat-board window and door surrounds and baseboards, and Greek Revival-style vertical-panel doors with cast-iron thumb latches, sliding bolts, and hinges. As with the exterior, the use of salvaged materials during the 1935 renovation makes it difficult to determine material installation dates. The wall separating the breakfast room and kitchen may have been added in 1935. The large kitchen firebox was also modified at that time. The opening is likely the original size, but has been refaced with oversized handmade brick and topped with a bracketed heavy-timber mantel shelf. The current owners removed the faux-wood vinyl that covered the floor around the deep granite hearth. A wide cabinet with a six-drawer and three-door base and a stainless-steel counter and sink was installed on the west wall in 1935. The unit’s two hanging wall cabinets with double-leaf four-pane doors flank the window. A shelf-lined pantry fills the kitchen’s northeast corner. Doors on the east and west elevations allow egress.

Two steps lead to the Greek Revival-style vertical-panel door at the base of the attic stair’s enclosed upper run. The door hangs on butt hinges and is held closed by a thumb latch and keeper. The log walls visible inside the stair enclosure were once whitewashed, but only a few remnants of the finish remain. Hewn upper logs in the exterior walls are exposed, but most of the original attic elements are obscured by mid-twentieth-century updates. Insulation fills the spaces between the dimensional lumber 1935 rafters. Plywood panels cover the floors with the exception of the area above the 1935 hyphen, which has wide wood floor boards.
The 1935 renovation included the creation of a two-room basement beneath the rear ell. Wood steps with a dimensional lumber handrail and newel post provide access. Both rooms have unpainted brick walls and poured-concrete floors. The north room houses mechanical equipment, while the south room has built-in wood storage cabinets on its west wall. A narrow-beadboard-sheathed wall and a board-and-batten door separate the rooms. Beaded boards also cover the storage room’s ceiling. A diagonal board-and-batten door in the west wall leads to the exterior stair.

Log Building, mid-nineteenth-century, circa 1935, contributing building

This one-story, side-gable-roofed, log building may have originally served as a slave quarter based on oral history. Fountain Flynt owned one slave in 1850 and is not listed as a slave owner in 1860. The building was extensively renovated and perhaps moved to its current site during the second quarter of the twentieth century, likely in conjunction with the 1935 house remodeling and expansion. The V-notched hewn logs have heavily weathered surfaces but are in good condition. Concrete chinking fills the space between logs. Vertical boards sheathe the gable ends. Small, double-hung, four-over-four, wood sash illuminate the interior. One window pierces each of the west, south, and east walls. The six-pane loft window is centered in the south elevation’s gable. The structure originally rested on stone piers but white granite infill creates a continuous foundation. The infill matches the single-shoulder chimney at the north elevation’s center. These elements, along with the Rustic Revival-style board-and-batten door with a reproduction thumb latch and strap hinges on the west elevation and the poured concrete gutter adjacent to the east elevation, all date to around 1935.

The interior walls are exposed log. Window and door openings have flat-board surrounds. The first-story floor boards were replaced, a white granite mantel erected, and the southwest corner stair to the loft with hewn log treads installed circa 1935. In the loft, wide floor boards span wood joists. The loft ceiling is open to the replacement roof system comprised of dimensional lumber rafters spanned by narrow nailing strips for wood shingles.

Garage, circa 1935, contributing building

The one-story, front-gable-roofed, single-bay, German-sided garage west of the house has a poured-concrete floor, a stone foundation, and a shed addition on its west elevation. The current owners added the sliding vertical-board garage doors on the north elevation as well as the shed-roofed chicken coop on the east elevation. Scalloped eave brackets and rafter ends remain exposed on the east elevation. A six-pane wood sash pierces the rear elevation. The shed addition comprises an open bay secured by a metal gate and a narrow storage room with a board-and-batten door. Four sections of a wood picket fence extend from the addition’s northwest corner along the driveway.

5 United States Census, Slave schedules, 1850 and 1860.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Stone well, circa 1935, contributing structure

A round stone well is southwest of the house and garage. The well rises above the center of a flagstone platform and has a wood cover.

Stone bench, circa 1935, contributing object

The U-shaped white granite bench south of the house has a slate seat and wall cap. Large boxwoods frame the bench, which wraps around a spring that pools at its center.

Boxwood Parterre, circa 1935 (part of contributing site)

East of the house, a rectangular boxwood hedge surrounds an open area punctuated by a central boxwood cluster. A sculpture once served as the garden’s focal point, but it had been removed by 2012. Four stone steps at the opening at the center of the parterre’s west side provide access to the interior of the boxwood garden.

Integrity Statement

The Flynt House possesses the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation. The dwelling maintains integrity of location as it stands on its original site. Although the Flynt family holdings have been subdivided and some commercial and residential development undertaken, the residual 23.48 acres associated with the house is sufficient to convey its rural character, thus allowing for integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The landscape appearance has been consistent since the 1935 renovation. Historic cedar- and boxwood-lined entrance drive, field patterns, and wooded areas remain. Significant circa 1935 additions include the rectangular boxwood parterre, boxwoods elsewhere on the property, foundation plantings, and the weatherboarded garage, flagstone rear terrace, bench, well, and pavers leading from the house to all of the landscape features. The mid-nineteenth-century log building was renovated and perhaps relocated in conjunction with the circa 1935 site improvements.

The Flynt House also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The dwelling has remained remarkably unaltered since 1935. Elements including the tripartite form, symmetrical fenestration, front and rear porches, slate roof, weatherboards, multi-pane double-hung windows, operable louvered shutters, paneled doors, flagstone wing porch floors, and continuous stone foundation manifest a Colonial Revival aesthetic. Interior finishes such as flush-board walls and ceilings, simple crown molding, Greek Revival-style two-vertical panel doors, flat board door and window surrounds, and tongue-and-groove pine floors are in excellent collection.
The Flynt House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture as an intact Forsyth County example of a William Roy Wallace-designed Colonial Revival renovation. Although the prolific Winston-Salem architect rendered plans for many houses, the Flynt House is notable due to its rural location and the project’s execution soon after Wallace established an independent practice. Vernon and Mary Flynt engaged him to oversee the remodeling and expansion of two late-eighteenth-century log dwellings that the Flynt family had updated in the Greek Revival style in the 1830s. The 1935 addition of one-and-one-half story wings and a frame hyphen created a tripartite main block with a one-story rear ell. A slate roof and the amalgamation of original, salvaged, and reproduction elements including weatherboards, window and door surrounds, doors, wall and ceiling sheathing, and baseboards resulted in a uniform Colonial Revival appearance.

The Flynt House, which occupies a 23.48-acre tract that was part of a much larger farm owned by successive generations of the Flynt family for almost two hundred years, also meets Criterion C for landscape architecture due to its Colonial Revival aesthetic. The setting was enhanced circa 1935 by the planting of boxwoods along the drive, in the rear yard, and in a parterre east of the house. The one-story mid-nineteenth-century log building south of the parterre was renovated and perhaps relocated in conjunction with other site improvements. A stone rear terrace, bench, and paver walkways enhance connectivity between the dwelling and its setting. The period of significance is 1935, the dwelling and landscape renovation date.

Colonial Revival Architecture Context

The Flynt House serves as an intact example of the nationally prevalent Colonial Revival aesthetic promoted in Forsyth County by architects including Northup and O’Brien, Harold Macklin, William Roy Wallace, and Luther Lashmit. Wallace, who partnered with Macklin after working with Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen, prepared plans for the Flynt House’s 1935 renovation and expansion three years after establishing his independent firm. Wallace became highly regarded for Revival–style designs and meticulous historic building restorations. Like his colleagues, he found that the Colonial Revival aesthetic enjoyed enduring popularity. Architectural historians have documented that between 1910 and 1940 Colonial Revival elements were more often utilized in American houses than any other style. Events such as the United States’ 150th anniversary celebration in 1926 fueled emulation of iconic American buildings. Richard Guy Wilson asserted that the Colonial Revival is “the United States’ most popular and characteristic expression. Neither a formal style or a movement, Colonial Revival embodies an attitude that looks to the American past for inspiration and selects forms, motifs, and symbols for replication and reuse.”

Although the incorporation of European architectural elements into the homes of wealthy Americans had long been popular, salvaging American artifacts did not become common until after the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876, which highlighted the country’s decorative arts and architectural legacy and spawned the Colonial Revival movement. The Metropolitan Museum of Art began to collect historic interiors to use as backdrops for antique furniture and period artifacts in the early twentieth century, and after the Metropolitan’s American Wing opened in 1924 other museums and individuals including Henry Francis du Pont, whose collection became the Winterthur Museum, followed suit. Nationally publicized projects such as J. D. Rockefeller Jr.’s restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, initiated in 1926, and Henry Ford’s 1929 creation of Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan, also increased awareness of historic preservation.7

Dwellings that display Tudor, Georgian, Colonial, and Classical Revival stylistic influences were constructed throughout Forsyth County’s early- to mid-twentieth-century subdivisions. The use of salvaged and replica architectural elements reflected national trends as well as the original owners’ social and economic status. Sizable lots often contained curving driveways and formal gardens, but even smaller parcels featured foundation plantings and landscaped beds that provided appropriate settings for such residences.

Winston-Salem’s elite erected residences that emulated European country estates within the city limits and in outlying areas. Industrialist Hugh Gwyn Chatham and his son Richard Thurmond Chatham acquired approximately one hundred acres on Reynolda Road’s west side, north of what is now Robinhood Road, in the 1920s to create a rural retreat complete with a manager-operated farm and a fishing lake. Hugh Chatham enjoyed the property until his 1929 death, after which his heirs proceeded to develop three contiguous estates. His widow Martha Thurmond Chatham engaged William Roy Wallace to oversee the move of Middleton House, a ca. 1829 Savannah River plantation, to the property in 1930 to serve as her residence. Martha and her sisters, antiques collectors and dealers Dewitt Thurmond Chatham and Margaret Thurmond Kavanaugh, had become aware of Middleton House when they traveled to McCormick County, South Carolina, in response to an estate sale advertised in Antiques magazine. On discovering that Robert H. Middleton Jr. intended to demolish the home erected by his grandparents, John and Elizabeth Scott Middleton, Martha purchased the building.8

Wallace guided the structure’s disassembly, relocation, reconstruction, and renovation and also designed the one-story weatherboarded garage and apartment behind the house in coordination with landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman. Her 1930 plan defines the main residence and auxiliary

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7 Ibid., 90.
building’s setting with a winding driveway, a terraced front lawn, a brick patio, and boxwoods bordering the brick walk and small formal garden. Shipman assisted with the interior finishes and furnishings selection, a service that she began offering when her landscape design commissions waned during the Great Depression.9

During the same period Wallace and Shipman were working on Middleton House, Winston-Salem architect Luther Lashmit oversaw the construction of Graylyn, an expansive Norman Revival mansion erected by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company president and director Bowman Gray and his wife Nathalie Lyons Gray. Graylyn stands on Reynolda Road’s east side opposite Reynolda, the estate erected by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company founder R. J. Reynolds and his wife Katharine. Lashmit distinguished Graylyn through the use of salvaged antique wood paneling, marble mantels, door surrounds, and other European architectural elements. At the time of its 1932 completion, the sixty-room, 46,000-square-foot mansion was among North Carolina’s largest private residences. Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears created a landscape plan for the eighty-four-acre estate’s gardens and grounds.10

Lashmit also utilized salvaged elements in the more modest Georgian Revival–style house in West Highlands that he designed in 1937 for Pleasant Henderson and Lizora Hanes’s granddaughter Rosalie Hanes and her husband, New Bern lawyer Thomas O. Moore.11 Like the Flynt House, the Moore residence has a tripartite form, with a two-story, three-bay central block flanked by two slightly shorter offset wings. Masons utilized local brick maker George H. Black’s handmade bricks to execute the Flemish bond exterior walls. New Bern preservationist Gertrude Carraway was a friend of the Moores and facilitated their purchase of the façade’s focal point, a classical open-pedimented frontispiece salvaged from the ca. 1819 Bank of New Bern during its 1924 demolition.12 Skilled finish carpenters

incorporated antique wainscoting, window and door trim, doors, cornices, and mantels, much of which also came from the Bank of New Bern, into the primary rooms on the Moore House’s first floor, creating a fine Colonial Revival interior. The dining room’s scenic landscape wallpaper is also historic, featuring a design initially manufactured around 1800 by French wallpaper purveyor Joseph Dufour as a twenty-four-panel set titled *Ruins of Rome.*\(^{13}\)

William Roy Wallace designed dwellings in an array of styles for all budgets. In 1934, Vernon and Mary Flynt commissioned him to execute drawings for a two-story, weatherboarded, Colonial Revival-style residence to be erected for them in Winston-Salem. The house featured a symmetrical three-bay façade, a gabled portico, double-hung eight-over-eight sash, brick end chimneys, a one-and two-story rear wing, screened rear porch, and slate roof. The dwelling had a center hall plan, while the wing encompassed a kitchen, breakfast room, and dining room on the first floor and a second-story bedroom. Wallace proposed an oak log game room mantel, a Classical Revival-style living room mantel, and built-in corner cupboards in the dining and breakfast rooms.\(^{14}\)

However, the residence was never built, as the couple decided to renovate and expand the Flynt House near Rural Hall. In June 1935 Wallace rendered schematic drawings to guide the project. The addition of one-and-one-half story wings to create a tripartite plan and a slate roof epitomized the Colonial Revival aesthetic. Wallace also incorporated elements of the Flynt’s conjectural Winston-Salem residence such as the kitchen, breakfast room, and dining room wing. The plan evolved during construction. A first-floor bathroom at the rear porch’s east end was not built, nor was a partition wall in the first-story’s east room that would have created a central hall.\(^{15}\)

The Flynt House has remained remarkably unaltered since 1935. Intact exterior elements include the slate roof, weatherboards, continuous stone foundation, multi-pane double-hung windows, operable louvered shutters, paneled doors, front and rear porches, and flagstone wing porch floors. Interior finishes such as flush-board walls and ceilings, simple crown molding, Greek Revival-style two-vertical panel doors, flat board door and window surrounds, and tongue-and-groove pine floors are in excellent collection.

\(^{13}\) The paper was later reissued by another French wallpaper manufacturer, Defosse. The first scene is “Temples of Saturn” or “Weeping Willow,” the second an unidentified church, the third “Apollo Belvedere,” the fourth “Antique Arch in Ruins,” and the fifth is “Circular Temple Sibylla at Tivoli.” Evelyn Moore Horton remembers that the foyer also originally had a scenic landscape paper. Wallpaper attribution by Kerri Robinson at the Zuber wallpaper showroom in New York in correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, December 2008.


\(^{15}\) “Alterations and Additions to Residence Near Rural Hall, NC For Vernon W. Flynt. Esq.,” Drawing 591.1, June 1, 1935, Tube Box 66, William Roy Wallace Architectural Papers, MC 00517, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
Wallace likely also directed the creation of the stone rear terrace, bench, paver walkways, and the renovation of the log outbuilding. He probably provided plans for the weatherboarded garage. Wallace, who had worked with landscape architects including Ellen Shipman, was well-versed in creating complementary settings for Colonial Revival dwellings. Elements of the Flynt House landscape that manifest the aesthetic include the boxwoods along the drive, in the rear yard, and in a parterre east of the house.

Wallace’s subsequent commissions included Moravian interior designer and historic preservationist Ada Huske Allen’s 1938 residence and garage at 730 South Church Street in Winston-Salem. The two-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, symmetrical dwelling amalgamates Colonial Revival characteristics and architectural elements from the surrounding town of Salem. Running-bond walls are executed in oversized handmade brick with a molded brick water table and interior end chimneys with corbelled brick stacks. Operable louvered wood shutters frame multipane, double-hung, first- and second-story sash with keystoned soldier-course lintels, while elliptical relieving arches surmount the smaller attic windows. The six-panel wood front door, four-pane transom with X-pattern muntins, and gabled entrance hood are among the features reminiscent of John and Christina Vogler’s 1819 house nearby at 700 South Main Street.

**William Roy Wallace, Architect**

After graduating from high school, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, native William Roy Wallace (1889–1983) received an academic scholarship sufficient to cover his freshman year at Swarthmore College. However, realizing that his family would be unable to subsidize the remaining three years’ tuition, Wallace pursued other options. Acting on the advice of his Sunday school teacher, who was architect Charles Barton Keen’s chief draftsman, he secured employment as an office assistant at the Philadelphia firm. Wallace undertook evening drafting classes at the city’s Drexel Institute in 1909 and 1910 and studied Beaux Arts design at the T-Square Club atelier with instructors such as influential French architect Paul Philippe Cret from 1910 through 1914. That year, Keen promoted him to the position of “outside superintendent,” a role he maintained until his elevation to chief draftsman in 1916. Keen’s North Carolina projects during the period included R. J. and Katharine Reynolds’s home, Reynolda, completed in 1917, after which the firm’s Winston-Salem commissions multiplied exponentially.

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16 “Miss Ada Allen, residence and garage,” 1937, Drawer 77, Folder 2; Oversize Box 85; Drawer 405, William Roy Wallace Architectural Papers, MC 00517, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
Keen and Wallace moved to Winston-Salem in 1923 to oversee the execution of their R. J. Reynolds High School and Auditorium plan, remaining only ten months before returning to Philadelphia. Wallace attained associate partnership in 1924, but left the firm four years later when he collaborated with Harold Macklin to form the Winston-Salem practice Macklin and Wallace. Gorrell R. Stinson, who had also worked in Charles Barton Keen’s Philadelphia office, served as a senior draftsman for Macklin and Wallace from 1930 until 1932. That year, when the dearth of building activity due to the Great Depression prompted Macklin to take a short sabbatical, Wallace organized an independent practice. He perpetuated the classical building tradition he had learned from his mentors, becoming highly regarded for Revival–style designs as well as meticulous restorations. Wallace also facilitated the completion of Charles Barton Keen’s final Winston-Salem commissions as Keen’s health declined prior to his 1931 death. William W. Pollock, who been employed by Charles Barton Keen and other Philadelphia architects since 1922, moved to Winston-Salem in 1935 to assist Wallace. Pollock accepted a position with Northup and O’Brien two years later.  

Wallace’s longest-tenured employees were his son William Roy Wallace Jr., known as “Bill,” and James Malcolm Conrad. The practice rendered plans for residential, commercial, educational, ecclesiastical, and industrial buildings throughout the eastern United States. Conrad, a Forsyth County native, began working for the firm the year following his 1938 graduation from R. J. Reynolds High School. After a four-year World War II enlistment in the US Army Air Forces, he returned to Wallace’s employ. Bill Wallace gained architectural experience at Norfolk Naval Shipyard’s Hull Drafting Department in Portsmouth, Virginia, during the war. He then assisted with his father’s practice. Both men remained with Wallace until his 1982 retirement, operating from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Headquarters Building, where the firm’s office had been located since the building’s 1929 completion. They were the structure’s last tenants other than Reynolds American. After William Roy Wallace Sr. died in 1983 at the age of ninety-three, Bill Wallace and James Conrad partnered to accept residential commissions until Conrad’s 1996 retirement. Wallace ceased practicing soon thereafter.

Colonial Revival Landscape Architecture in Winston-Salem

Early-twentieth-century landscape architecture reflected the era’s eclecticism, drawing from naturalistic nineteenth-century picturesque boulevard, park, and subdivision design principles as well as more formal Italian, French, and English Renaissance and Edwardian garden design tenets.

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American interest in commemorating Colonial history inspired idealized interpretations of eighteenth-century landscapes. Commissions executed by landscape architects such as Ellen Biddle Shipman manifested this approach by incorporating elements including axial walks, terraces, parterres, fountains, dovecotes, pergolas, tea houses, benches, and walls into expansive lawns and gardens filled with diverse evergreen and deciduous vegetation.20

Philadelphia native Ellen Biddle Shipman, born in 1869, studied briefly at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before marrying aspiring New York playwright Louis Shipman in 1893. The following year, the couple relocated to the Cornish, New Hampshire, artists’ colony created by American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, residing there and in nearby Plainfield, where they purchased a late-eighteenth-century home around 1903. Ellen planned the subsequent expansion and remodeling of the dwelling they called Brook Place as well as the gardens. After the Shipmans’ 1910 separation, Ellen sought means to support her three children. Her neighbor Charles Platt, an architect who specialized in country estate design, noted Ellen’s skills and accepted her as an apprentice, imparting drafting and construction precepts. His guidance complemented her horticultural expertise and aesthetic sensibility, resulting in distinctive landscapes that combined classical and naturalistic elements. The pair formally collaborated on projects by 1912; Shipman also accepted work independently and soon built a wide-ranging national clientele. She moved to New York City in 1920, purchasing a Beekman Place townhouse that served as her residence and office. Shipman added draftswomen and secretaries as her practice grew, and she became a significant mentor for women struggling to find employment in the landscape architecture field. She returned to work at her rural New Hampshire home every summer until World War II, bringing her all-female office staff with her.21

Shipman’s papers indicate that she planned eleven Winston-Salem gardens, five of which retained original elements in 2014. Three of these are contiguous as part of the Chatham-Hanes estate. Industrialist Ralph P. Hanes and his wife Dewitt Chatham Hanes were the first family members to seek Shipman’s services, engaging her in 1929 to orchestrate the setting of their Julian Peabody-designed residence. Dewitt’s mother, industrialist Hugh Gwyn Chatham’s widow Martha, and Ralph’s brother James and his wife Molly Ruffin Hanes, who owned the adjacent properties, were also among Shipman’s clients. At James G. and Molly Hanes’s 1932 home, the garden affords a bucolic view of the lawn and lake that all three households enjoyed. An intact Shipman-designed boxwood parterre garden also complements P. Huber and Evelyn Hanes’s Georgia Avenue residence. For the rear garden at Robert M. and Mildred B. Hanes’s Stratford Road residence, Shipman specified a flagstone terrace

and brick and stone walls to delineate outdoor rooms. Boxwood-lined brick walks and perennial beds radiate from a sundial and an octagonal fountain pool. A rectangular pond and a brick garden house erected in 1937 complete the composition.  

Other Winston-Salem patrons included Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham, Thomas O. and Rosalie Hanes Moore, S. Douglas and Ruth Hanes Craig, Gordon and Jane Gray, and Kenneth and May Coan Mountcastle, none of whose historic gardens survive. Shipman may have also undertaken smaller consultations in the area. As her notoriety spread, lectures such as “Evolution of a Garden,” which she developed for a Winston-Salem event in October 1932, drew large audiences nationwide. Periodicals such as House and Garden, House Beautiful, and The Garden; trade journals; books; and exhibitions highlighted her work both in narrative form and with images taken by accomplished photographers including Jessie Tarbox Beals, Mattie Edwards Hewitt, and Frances Benjamin Johnston. 

Although Shipman’s papers do not include any drawings or correspondence related to the Flynt House, it is highly likely that Vernon and Mary Flynt would have been familiar with and perhaps influenced by her work. Shipman’s clients included elite Winston-Salem citizens who were well-known to the Flynts, although not in their social circle. She executed over six hundred commissions prior to her 1947 retirement, a prodigious oeuvre for any professional, but an even more significant accomplishment in light of the lack of women in the field as she began her career. On her 1950 death at the age of eighty, accolades included a New York Times obituary heralding her as one of the United States’ leading landscape architects. 

**Historical Background**

**Area Settlement History**

In what is now Forsyth County, the Muddy Creek basin’s abundant water supply, natural resources, 

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and fertile soil proved attractive to English, Scots-Irish, and German settlers including Maryland farmers John Douthit and Christopher Elrod, who joined the movement south to homestead in the North Carolina Piedmont by 1750. Most colonists initially erected log dwellings, replacing them with more finely-crafted heavy-timber frame and masonry structures as circumstances allowed. The population influx precipitated the formation of Rowan County, encompassing the area west of Orange and north of Anson Counties, in 1753. That same year, after six months of exploring North Carolina in search of suitable land to settle, Bishop August G. Spangenberg led the Moravians to purchase 98,985 Rowan County acres from English Lords Proprietor John Carteret. They called the land “Wachau” after an Austrian estate that had belonged to their benefactor and spiritual leader Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf. The tract later became known as “Wachovia,” the Latin form of the name.25

In an effort to expand the Moravians’ American presence, fifteen unmarried men traveled from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to the North Carolina backcountry, arriving on November 17, 1753. Twelve of them remained to create a settlement called Bethabara. The majority of Moravian immigrants were craftsmen and shopkeepers, most of whom who had little farming experience but possessed the necessary skills to establish congregation towns.26 A second Moravian community, Bethania, followed Bethabara in 1759. In February 1765, after carefully evaluating sites delineated during Reuter’s demarcation of Wachovia’s 154 square miles, church elders selected a central location for the permanent congregation town they named Salem. The community’s builders erected a log dwelling in January 1766 to provide shelter while they crafted substantial heavy-timber and brick structures, many designed by Wachovia administrator and planner Frederic William Marshall.27

The backcountry’s population burgeoned after a 1763 treaty ended the French and Indian War. Moravian elders modified their original land use plan in order to attract settlers who required sizable tracts to farm profitably and wished to purchase rather than rent acreage. By allowing carefully-vetted colonists to move to North Carolina and acquire land from the church, they not only increased Wachovia’s work force but recruited new congregants and clientele for Moravian craftsmen and shopkeepers. This decision permitted typical dispersed frontier settlement patterns rather than the

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Moravians’ usual town planning approach.\textsuperscript{28}

By 1769, Bethania’s sixteen households leased 123 tracts encompassing 330 acres, resulting in a median land holding of around 22 acres, which was comparable to German farms of the period but much smaller than the average 250-acre parcels owned by North Carolina colonists. At the request of Frederic William Marshall, surveyor Philip Christian Gottlieb Reuter remapped Bethania that year, removing the central square and enlarging residential lots. Many inhabitants replaced their rudimentary log houses with more commodious dwellings at this time.\textsuperscript{29} Settlers including Peter Feiser acquired property in the outlying area in the 1770s. Around 1783, Richard Flynt and his family moved from Culpeper County, Virginia, to Stokes County, which then encompassed the area that would become Forsyth County, and leased Feiser’s farm.

In 1790, census takers enumerated 8,528 Stokes County residents. Almost all were self-sufficient farmers who depended upon the labor of family members, day laborers, and slaves to facilitate the relentless cycle of tasks related to planting and harvesting fields, tending livestock, and erecting and maintaining farm buildings and structures. The county’s African American inhabitants included 13 free blacks and 787 slaves.\textsuperscript{30} Given that many land grants and property acquisitions encompassed sizable tracts, residents typically lived at great distances from each other, meeting at churches and in crossroads communities and small towns to socialize, trade, and address business matters.

\textbf{Flynt Farm History}

According to local tradition, trapper Peter Feiser (1744-1819) erected the one-room dwelling that now serves as the Flynt House kitchen soon after acquiring the property around 1775. He may have also built the two-story log residence at the main block’s center, but it seems more likely that the Flynt family, who leased the property after their 1783 arrival in Stokes County, erected the house in the late eighteenth century.\textsuperscript{31} Exact construction dates of the buildings are impossible to determine without scientific analysis such as dendrochronology.

Moravian records indicate that Peter Feiser and Heidelberg, Pennsylvania native Anna Maria Frey (1749-1784) married on October 6, 1769. The couple initially lived close to her parents, Valentine and


\textsuperscript{31} Rural Hall Women’s Club, \textit{History of Rural Hall, North Carolina} (Rural Hall: The Rural Hall Women’s Club, 1977), 6.
Anna Maria Frey, between Hope and Friedberg. Peter and Anna Maria moved to property about one-and-one-half miles north of Bethania in 1770. Both joined the Moravian church, Peter in September 1773 and Anna Maria in August 1774. In 1775 the couple moved approximately two miles northeast of their initial holdings. Peter frequently traveled between Bethania, Moravian towns in Pennsylania, and other markets such as Charleston, South Carolina, as he sold his wares. He also transported letters, diaries, books, goods (some of which were sold in the Bethania store), and people between the Moravian communities. The Feisers had eight children between 1770 and 1783. After Anna Maria’s 1784 death, Peter wed widow Demuth Moser on April 6, 1786.32

Although late-eighteenth-century maps of Wachovia illustrate the location of Feiser’s holdings, they do not include building footprints. Feiser is not listed in the federal census of Stokes County in 1790, but Moravian records document his continued presence through 1811. Lancaster County, Virginia, native Richard Flynt (1720-1791), his wife Ann Fountain (1731-1796) of Culpeper County, Virginia, four of their children, and seven slaves are enumerated in 1790, but it is impossible to determine exactly where they resided. Oral history indicates that Richard, his brothers Thomas and John, and their families moved to Stokes County around 1783. There are no records of Richard purchasing acreage at that time, but family tradition asserts that he leased Feiser’s property.33

Little is known about the Flynt’s early years in Stokes County. However, a November 1792 estate inventory taken by Richard’s eldest son after his 1791 death provides important information regarding the family’s holdings. The list includes the names of the family’s slaves: three women, Jude, Mirney, Grace; two girls, Tab and Liddey; and two boys, Charles and Harry. It also itemizes livestock—a mare, a two-year-old colt, two cows, and twenty hogs—as well as furnishings, bedding, kitchen accoutrements, table wares, bedding, agricultural implements, and other household items. Following Ann Fountain Flynt’s 1796 death, an auction to settle the estate yielded proceeds totaling 877 English pounds that were divided among Richard and Ann’s ten children.34

Richard and Ann’s son William, born on March 23, 1762, and William’s wife Elizabeth Ballard, born in July 1765, were the next stewards of the Flynt House. The couple, both Culpeper, Virginia, natives, married in their hometown on January 19, 1788. Few sources illuminate the family’s Stokes County


undertakings. Federal census takers documented that by 1800 William and Elizabeth had seven children and owned two slaves. When William died in 1810, the household encompassed ten children and two slaves. Elizabeth, nine children, and one female slave resided on the property in 1820. Elizabeth inherited slaves, personal property, a coach, and a horse from her father John Ballard and sister Ann Ballard of Madison County, Virginia, upon their respective deaths in 1823 and 1824. The Flynts finally obtained title to their Stokes County farm in February 1837, when William and Elizabeth’s youngest son Fountain W. Flynt, born in 1809, paid landowner Jacob Shouse $750 for the 334-acre tract. Elizabeth died in 1838.35

Fountain Flynt remained head of the household, and, on October 29, 1839, married Mary Elizabeth Spainhour, called Eliza. Her parents operated a tavern in Dalton, a crossroads community southeast of Pinnacle, and the couple met while Fountain was driving a stagecoach route from Salem to Mt. Airy.36 In 1840, federal census takers enumerated Fountain, Eliza, and two slaves in Stokes County. The couple had four children by 1850, at which time the census taker estimated their holdings—then 55 improved and 330 unimproved acres—to be worth $1,000. Their household also included eighteen-year-old Elizabeth Mosher and one eighteen-year-old male slave. Farm yield was good: 67 bushels of wheat, 400 bushels of Indian corn, 150 bushels of oats, 12 bushels of Irish potatoes, 8 bushels of sweet potatoes, 16 tons of hay, 40 pounds of flax, and three bushels of flax seed, 15 pounds of wool, and 104 pounds of butter. Livestock comprised 3 horses, 4 milk cows, 9 other cattle, 5 sheep, and 37 hogs worth $507. Fountain’s brother Proctor died in 1848, leaving his wife Elizabeth to raise three children on his portion of the Flynt acreage. Her personal property’s value was $175 in 1850. Fountain, as the executor of his brother’s estate, reimbursed Elizabeth annually for expenses related to the children’s care.37

The 1860 federal census lists Fountain and Eliza as owners of land valued at $1,900 and personal property worth approximately $5,000. Their household included eight children ranging in age from infant Solomon to twenty-year-old William, a school teacher. Farm production increased, with 100 acres under cultivation and 280 remaining unimproved. The harvest consisted of 150 bushels of wheat, 400 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels of oats, 15 bushels of Irish potatoes, 12 tons of hay, 10 pounds of flax, and three bushels of flax seed, 100 pounds of butter, 6 pounds of honey, as well as orchard products with an estimated $200 value. The family tended 4 horses, 4 milk cows, 5 other cattle, 13 sheep, and 32 hogs worth $585. Several relatives resided on contiguous farms. Elizabeth Flynt and her children lived between Fountain and their brother Allen, his wife Nancy, and four of

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37 US Census, Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1850; Flynt, Probate Records, 1850s, Stokes County, N. C.
The Civil War significantly impacted the lives of farmers in Forsyth County and throughout the divided nation who suffered great economic challenges including substantial losses of material goods and livestock during and after the war. The absence of a young male labor force due to military service made farm management difficult, and the cost of basic staples rose dramatically, leaving many households unable to afford basic necessities. These stressors generally resulted in declining farm values.

Fountain and Eliza Flynt fared better than most, however. Their children did not enlist in the military. After their eldest son William, a Trinity College (now Duke University) student, was drafted and reported to training camp, they engaged a substitute whom they paid $2,000 to serve in his stead. According to family tradition, William did not support this action and was deeply embarrassed. He returned to Forsyth County and embarked upon a long career as an educator, initially in public schools. On April 10, 1865, the family directly encountered Union troops when a raiding party—the Second and Third Brigades led by General George Stoneman—passed through their property. Fountain Flynt was bedridden with pneumonia. The family hid provisions, valuable possessions, and livestock. Although soldiers threatened to burn the house, Stoneman dispersed the troops upon his arrival and instructed the family to prepare a meal for him and senior staff. He then paid for the meal and posted guards to ensure that the farm was not looted.

Other area residents were not as fortunate. Bethania merchant O. J. Lehman was among those who elected to serve in the Confederate army. After surrendering at Appomattox, he undertook a seven-day walk home, discovering upon his arrival that only “old men and women” remained in the town, which had been looted by Stoneman’s troops. In addition to the scarcity of provisions, he remembered that all of the banks were “closed and bankrupt.”

Former slave Bettie Koger recalled that when “Yankee soldiers,” likely referring to Stoneman’s calvary, passed through Bethania, the military forces appropriated all of the meat, liquor, and horses on the Jones plantation and five or six male slaves departed with the soldiers. Two of the formerly enslaved men journeyed to Yadkinville and then returned to Bethania, but the others left in pursuit of freedom.

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39 Vernon Flynt, “Flynt Family History.”
41 Bettie Koger, interview with Esther S. Pinnix as part of the “Negro Folklore of the Piedmont” series (Volume XI, North Carolina Narratives, Part I). Stoneman’s Calvary passed through Bethania on April 10, 1865.
Although the Flynts faced challenges during Reconstruction, the 1870 federal census indicates that they retained $2,700-worth of real estate and personal property valued at $500. Seven children resided in the home along with nineteen-year-old black farm laborer Yancy Leach. African American freedmen occupied three neighboring farms. Elizabeth Flynt was enumerated after Fountain, followed by two households headed by his sister-in-law Nancy’s sons Dewitt and John R. Flynt. Fountain, an active Democrat, was appointed to serve as a county commissioner in 1875 following the death of Philip Kerner.

In 1880, four of Fountain and Eliza’s children remained at home. Twelve-year-old white laborer Jacob Martin assisted with the farm’s operation. Federal census takers next enumerated the household of Fountain’s sisters-in-law Lucy Vest and Elizabeth Flynt; his sister Betsy’s son John A. Shouse and his family, and John R. Flynt. Fountain died intestate on October 19, 1880, leaving property valued at about $1,000 to be distributed amongst his widow Eliza and their seven surviving children. His son William administered the estate settlement, which included the division of 383 acres.

Eliza and her unmarried daughters Mary (born 1843), Louise (born 1850), Susan Artansia, called Fanny (born 1854), and Martha Harriett, known as Mattie (born 1857), constituted the household in 1900. Fanny was a public school teacher. Mary was no longer in residence in 1910, but the other siblings remained at home and cared for Eliza, who died on June 11, 1911 at the age of ninety-four. Their brother William (born 1840), a teacher, never married and lived near Rural Hall at the time of his death in 1918. His career included serving as the principal of a boarding school, Dalton Institute, that he operated in the southwest Stokes County community of Danbury for forty years. Mary died in 1919. Louise, Fanny, and Mattie remained in the family home in 1920.

Their younger brother, physician Soloman Spainhour Flynt (born 1860), lived in Rural Hall with his wife and children. Soloman studied at Dalton Institute and briefly taught in the late 1880s at the “Number One Schoolhouse,” a Forsyth County public school located at what is now 1412 Turfwood Drive. He then attended the Baltimore College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1891 until 1893. On January 23, 1894, Soloman wed Sallie Stauber, a young woman he had met while teaching. She was the daughter of his father’s close friend and neighbor Samuel B. Stauber. The couple raised eleven

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42 US Census, Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1870.
43 “Commissioners Court,” Union Republican, February 4, 1875, p. 3; “Convention in City Years Ago,” WSJ, May 21, 1914, p. 3.
45 “Obituary: Flynt,” unidentified and undated newspaper clipping; Fountain Flynt estate probate records, February 5, 1881; Charles Emerson, Charles Emerson’s North Carolina Tobacco Belt Directory: Embracing the Counties of Alamance, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Rockingham, Vance and Wake (Greensboro: Charles Emerson, 1886), 244.
46 US Census, Population Schedules, 1900-1920; “Death of Mrs. Mary Flynt Near Rural Hall, aged 94,” unidentified newspaper clipping, June 17, 1911; “Mrs. Fountain Flynt,” WSJ, June 13, 1911, p. 8; “Professor W. A. Flynt Died at His Home,” WSJ, May 21, 1918, p. 2.
children in their Rural Hall home. Solomon spent little time in his medical office, as he traveled throughout the county making house calls during his four-decade-long practice. Although he did not reside in his childhood home as an adult, Solomon inherited acreage and assisted his sisters as needed.47

Louise died in 1926 and Fanny followed in 1930, leaving Mattie as the sole occupant of the family residence. Solomon and Sallie’s son Vernon William Flynt lived in Rural Hall with his parents and siblings in 1930 and served as the Forsyth County tax supervisor. He maintained his job with the county after wedding Mary M. Merritt, also of Rural Hall, in Bethania on March 11, 1933. In November 1934, the couple, who resided at 2424 Elizabeth Avenue in Winston-Salem, engaged local architect William Roy Wallace to design a two-story dwelling to be erected for them in the city. However, the house was never built, as the couple decided to move to the Flynt House near Rural Hall to care for his aunt Mattie. Wallace prepared plans for that dwelling’s renovation and expansion in June 1935. Vernon, Mary, and their children Patricia and Michael moved in after the work was finished. In 1939, Vernon became a clerk at Chatham Manufacturing Company in Elkin. He was subsequently promoted to administrative positions with increasing levels of responsibility.48

Vernon and Mary assumed the Flynt House’s ownership after Mattie’s 1943 death. The family had long ceased farming themselves, but employed local day laborers to plant and harvest hay. In 1945, twenty-nine of the tract’s sixty-one acres were cultivated, six acres were fallow, and the remainder was wooded.49 Although the exact date of the long, curved agricultural terraces east of the house is unknown, it is probable that the Flynts had them constructed to facilitate hay production in the late 1930s or early 1940s.

The Flynts attended Bethania Moravian Church, where Mary participated in women’s fellowship and Vernon, a life-long member, was a trustee. He also served on the Church Aid and Extension Board of the Southern Province. The family was active in local organizations. Vernon, a World War I veteran, was a member of the John Long Post of the American Legion and the Rural Hall Civic Club. Mary was employed in the Forsyth County courthouse for several years, and served as Rural Hall School’s secretary during the 1950s. Patricia attained degrees in piano and English from Salem College in

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49 Forsyth County Plat Book 11, page 231; North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, Farm Census Reports, 1945, Box 99 (Durham-Forsyth Counties), North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
1957. She subsequently embarked upon a thirty-year career as a teacher in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system. After Vernon retired from Chatham Manufacturing Company in 1965, he spent much of his time gardening and writing a history of the Flynt family. He died on February 4, 1974.50

Mary conveyed the property to Patricia on April 5, 2001, just days before her death on April 16. Patricia’s brother Michael died on December 21, 2003.51 She placed a preservation easement on the property through Preservation North Carolina in 2007. Patricia bequeathed her estate to Salem College. After her death on January 28, 2011, the institution auctioned her personal property and sold the house and twenty-three acres in a separate transaction. Charles Matthew and Erika Skinner von Isenburg purchased the dwelling in November 2013 and have maintained it in accordance with the preservation easement.52

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section 9. Bibliography


“Feiser, A. Maria.” Memoir, 1784, Moravian Archives, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, N. C.


Forsyth County Register of Deeds. Deed and Plat Books, Forsyth County Governmental Center, Winston-Salem, N. C.


Stokes County Register of Deeds. Deed Books, Danbury, North Carolina.


U. S. Censuses. Population and Agriculture Schedules, 1850-1940.


*Winston-Salem Journal*. Winston-Salem, N. C. Abbreviated “WSJ” after first mention in notes.

*Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel*. Winston-Salem, N. C.

*Winston-Salem Sentinel*. Winston-Salem, N. C. Abbreviated “WSS” after first mention in notes.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number 10 Photos Page 28 Flynt House Forsyth County, NC

Section 10. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.217899 Longitude: -80.289648
2. Latitude: 36.217873 Longitude: -80.285435
3. Latitude: 36.215794 Longitude: -80.284989
4. Latitude: 36.215112 Longitude: -80.288947

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of Forsyth County tax parcel # 6920-00-2273.00, as indicated by the heavy solid line on the enclosed map. Scale: one inch equals approximately two hundred feet.

Boundary Justification

Although the Flynt family holdings have been subdivided and some commercial and residential development undertaken, the residual 23.48 acres of the tax parcel associated with the house is sufficient to convey its rural character.

Additional Documentation: Current Photographs

Name of Property: Flynt House
City or Vicinity: Rural Hall
County and State: Forsyth County, NC
Name of Photographer: Heather Fearnbach
Date of Photographs: July 22, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files: NC State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC

Photo 1: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0001)
Boxwood parterre and outbuilding, camera facing southwest

Photo 2: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0002)
Northeast oblique and garage, camera facing southwest

Photo 3: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0003)
North elevation, camera facing south
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Photo 4: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0004)
West elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo 5: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0005)
Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

Photo 6: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0006)
First floor, east room, camera facing north

Photo 7: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0007)
First floor, west room, camera facing west

Photo 8: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0008)
West 1935 addition, camera facing east

Photo 9: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0009)
Kitchen, camera facing south

Photo 10: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0010)
Second floor, east room, camera facing southwest

Photo 11: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0011)
Log outbuilding, camera facing east

Photo 12: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0012)
Stone bench and spring, camera facing south

Photo 13: (NC_ForsythCounty_FlyntHouse_0013)
Stone well, camera facing southwest
1. Looking southwest at house, boxwood parterre, and outbuilding (above)
2. Northeast oblique and garage (below)
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3. North elevation (above) and 4. West elevation (below)
5. Southeast oblique (above) and 6. First floor, east room, looking north (below)
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Flynt House  
Forsyth County, NC

7. First floor, west room, looking west (above) and 8. West 1935 addition, looking east (below)
9. Kitchen, looking south (above) and 10. Second floor, east room, looking southwest (below)
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1. Log outbuilding, northwest oblique (above) and 2. Stone bench and spring (below)
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13. Stone well
Flynt House, 6780 University Parkway, Rural Hall, Forsyth County, North Carolina
Site Plan & Photo Key

House, ca. 1775-1790, late 1830s, 1935

Stone bench, ca. 1935

Log outbuilding, mid-nineteenth century, ca. 1935

Terraced agricultural fields

Garage, ca. 1935

Well, ca. 1935

Boxwood parterre, ca. 1935

Scale 1” = 40 feet

Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / November 2017
Base 2014 aerial photo courtesy of Forsyth County GIS
http://maps.co.forsyth.nc.us/forsythjs/
Flynt House, 6780 University Parkway
Rural Hall, Forsyth County, North Carolina
Basement Plan

Base plan drawn by William Roy Wallace, “Alterations and Additions to Residence Near Rural Hall, NC For Vernon W. Flynt, Esq.,” Drawing. 591.1, June 1, 1935, Tube Box 66, William Roy Wallace Architectural Papers, MC 00517, North Carolina State University, Raleigh

Annotated by Heather Fearnbach to reflect existing conditions, July 2017

Basement excavated and exterior door and stair added in 1935

Exterior door and stair not constructed

stair
Flynt House, 6780 University Parkway
Rural Hall, Forsyth County, North Carolina
First Floor Plan & Photo Key


Annotated by Heather Fearnbach to reflect existing conditions, July 2017

Proposed bathroom not added, remains open porch

Proposed partition wall not constructed

Sliding corridor door and restroom/laundry room installed, May 2017

Shed addition, 1935
Flynt House, 6780 University Parkway
Rural Hall, Forsyth County, North Carolina
Second Floor Plan & Photo Key


Annotated by Heather Fearnbach to reflect existing conditions, July 2017

Fireplace removed and partition wall constructed in or after 1935