United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name  Foust, Daniel P., House
other names/site number __________________________________________

2. Location

street & number  439 Brightwood Church Road
not for publication N/A
city or town  Whitsett
state  North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081
zip code 27249

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide _X_ locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

[Signature]
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action

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): ______________
5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)</td>
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<td>X building(s)</td>
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<td>___ site</td>
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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

6. Function or Use

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7. Description

<table>
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<td>____</td>
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<td>other  METAL/Tin</td>
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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><em>A</em></td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>B</em></td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>X C</em></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><em>D</em></td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Criteria Considerations

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

**Property is:**

| _A_ | owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| _B_ | removed from its original location. |
| _C_ | a birthplace or a grave. |
| _D_ | a cemetery. |
| _E_ | a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| _F_ | a commemorative property. |
| _G_ | less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. |

**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**

- _X_ State Historic Preservation Office
- _Other_ State agency
- _Federal_ agency
- _Local_ government
- _University_
- _Other_

**Name of repository:**

_North Carolina Archives and History_
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21.4 acres

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

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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 Jeffrey S. Smith, Historic Preservation Consultant, in conjunction with Jerry S. Nix

organization J. Smith Consulting date April 15, 2004

street & number 1017 Montgomery Street telephone 336.703.9479

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Jerry S. Nix

street & number 439 Brightwood Church Road telephone 336.274.0174

city or town Gibsonville state NC zip code 27249

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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Situated just outside the eastern Guilford County town of Whitsett sits the picturesque nineteenth-century residence of D. P. Foust and his wife, the former Cleodora Clapp. Once part of Daniel Paisley Foust’s ninety-one acre farmstead, the well-maintained home now sits within a 21.4 acre parcel of land, just east of Brightwood Church Road and approximately one mile north of US Highway 70. Mature fruit, nut, and cedar trees as well as hardwoods, shade trees, a pond, and several agricultural outbuildings are located on the surrounding pastoral landscape. The L-plan house is one of the county’s finest extant examples of both the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. The west-facing Greek Revival block was built ca. 1856 and the south-facing Italianate block was added to the south elevation of the original block sometime between 1867 and 1881.

The Greek Revival style block of the D. P. Foust House was constructed circa 1856. The two-story, three-bay dwelling has a center-hall plan, six-over-six windows, and an exterior, end-gable, corbelled chimney on the north elevation. A brick chimney was removed from the south elevation around 1947. Weatherboard sheathes all elevations of the shallow-pitch, side-gable, single-pile, frame house. The two-paneled front door is flanked by sidelights and covered by a hipped-roof porch that wraps around to form another hipped-roof porch on the north (rear) elevation of the front block. Sometime between 1867 and 1881 a taller, two-story, three-bay addition was made to the south elevation, relegating the original house to the rear of the then-fashionable, south-facing, Italianate styled I-House. Receipts for building materials exist from 1867, the earlier of this date range. Daniel Foust, D. P. Foust’s father, passed away in 1881, and D. P. Foust could have built the addition as late as 1881 after additional inheriting land.

Upon passing through the front entry of the original ca. 1856 block into the center passage, the staircase is on the south wall. The flush-board sheathed parlor is to the north and the former dining room (present kitchen) is to the south. Around 1947, the original south wall of the ca. 1856 block was removed, which resulted in one large room that consisted of the east parlor of the front block and the south dining room of the ca. 1856 block. During a 1995 rehabilitation, the removed wall was reconstructed. Sleeping quarters and a combined dressing room/bath flank the center hall on the second floor. All of the window and door trim in the ca. 1856 section is unadorned wood trim except for a plain, one inch band. The doors are typically Greek Revival with two vertical panels and the mantels are constructed of simple flat pilasters with a plain architrave and shelf. Boards of widths that vary from two to ten inches sheath heavy timber framing in the walls and ceilings throughout the original block.

Between 1867 and 1881, the house was greatly enlarged on the south gable end of the original block. The two-story, triple-gable, frame addition became the main dwelling and front
entry and symbolized Foust’s ‘country gentleman’ persona to the community and passers-by. Six-over-six sash pierce each of the two outer bays on the first and second stories and double-leaf doors appear in the center bay on each story. The three-bay, tiered porch frames the first story windows but is only one bay wide on the second story. Chamfered posts, with plinths, in groups of two and three posts, support the first-story, hipped porch and the projecting front gable on the second story. The balustrade on the second-story porch is an example of expertly sawn woodwork that appears on all elevations of the front addition. Single brackets are mounted in the cornices of the front and rear first-story porches and pendants hang at roof corners and end gables. Paired brackets ornament the second-story cornice. Applied molding and carved elements are also featured throughout the façade.

The interior of the center hall front Italianate block also demonstrates that the Fousts could afford to decorate their home in the then-current style and with the finest materials. Upon entering the house, an eight-sided walnut newel post, handrail, and balustrade and single string staircase rise along the east wall of the center passage. The walls and ceilings throughout the main block are plaster. The room west of the center hall is the parlor, which features a plaster cornice, gilded picture rail, and a white marble fireplace breast with a serpentine shelf and keystone. D. P. Foust signed one of the window cornices in the parlor. The high baseboards and paneled door that leads into the parlor have been wood-grained to resemble mahogany and walnut, respectively.

The dining room to the east of the center hall was originally a second parlor. The wall that originally separated the south elevation of the original block and the front addition was removed circa 1947, creating one large room. The wall was reconstructed in 1995 returning the room to its original size. During the 1940s, the chimney firebox was enlarged and a Neo-Classical style mantel was installed.

The second floor of the front block has a center hall and two bedrooms. The walls and ceilings are plaster and the four-panel doors are wood-grained to give the appearance of walnut. Each door of the double-leaf porch entry, which is in the central passage, has a light with an etched floral pattern. The mantel in the west bedroom retains its original faux-grained paint scheme.

Several alterations have been made to the rear portion of the house. Prior to 1906, the one-story, brick, side-gable, freestanding kitchen was connected to the south end of the east elevation of the ca. 1856 block via a covered breezeway. During the 1940s, subsequent owners detached the kitchen and used the dependency as rental property. Some time after 1906, a covered porch was extended along the east elevation of the original block and attached to a then freestanding two-room building that was used by servants. In the 1940s, the two-room building was moved and converted to rental property and later demolished. In November 1991, the current owner, Jerry S. Nix, purchased the home and began restorative work on the house and
surrounding outbuildings. The ca. 1906 porch was removed and a full-span, one-story addition was made along the east elevation of the original block in order to house a breakfast room and sunroom. Mr. Nix also re-attached the former kitchen and uses the space as a library. A masonry chimney was reconstructed on the east elevation of the kitchen in 1995.

The D. P. Foust House remains one of the finest, and most well-preserved examples of both Greek Revival and Italianate architecture in Guilford County. The surrounding landscape also remains much as it did when the Fousts farmed the land. The current owner has removed alterations to the house that were made subsequent to the deaths of the original owners with utmost care and sensitivity and reconstructed the majority of the spaces to their original appearance. As a result, the house’s architectural and aesthetic integrity are high.

Inventory


2. Granary. ca. 1860, ca. 1995. Non-contributing building. Located northeast of the main house, this one-story rectangular front-gable, heavy timber frame building is sheathed with plain weatherboard and has Italianate brackets and rafter tails that have similar profiles. Originally used to store grain, the building was altered ca. 1995 to be used a garage. Two openings were cut into the north elevation to allow automobile access into the building.

3. Granary. ca. 1860. Contributing building. Constructed of log, this one-story, three-bay, rectangular-shaped, front-gabled building was formerly used to store grain. Because of its deteriorated condition, the building does not serve any current function. The building is located south of the ca. 1890 barn.

4. Cold frame. ca. 1880. Contributing structure. Located in the southwest corner of the front yard, this six feet by three feet rectangular, partially subterranean brick structure originally had angled, multipaned glass doors that were used to protect plants during the winter months. In the late 1940s, the above ground portion (approximately one-fourth of the structure) was leveled. The top portion of the wall was reconstructed using original bricks in 2001. The glass doors will be replaced in 2004.

5. Spring House. ca. 1945. Non-contributing building. Located on the northeast side of the pasture, this one-story, front-gable, rectangular
cinderblock building was constructed to contain the spring water and electric pump. The building is in good condition and is still used as a secondary source to supply water to the main house and ca. 1890 barn.

6. Allemance/ Sedalia Post Office. ca. 1799-1820. Non-contributing building. The southeast corner of the front yard was the original site of D. P. Foust’s store and post office (1865 to 1905). During the 1930s, the former store/post office building was demolished. Despite the demolition, two stone foundation walls and a single shouldered brick chimney were retained. In 1993, the one-story, single-pile, early nineteenth century front-gable, rectangular frame Sedalia Post Office and R.B. Andrew General Store was moved to this site to prevent its demolition. It now rests upon the ca. 1865 foundation and is currently used as a local postal museum.

7. Barn. ca. 1890, ca. 1945. Non-contributing building. Located in the southeast pasture, the two-story, front-gable, gambrel roof, rectangular frame barn was originally used to shelter livestock and store hay. The barn was originally clad in board and batten, but the batten was removed circa 1945 and German siding was applied over the remaining vertical boards. The building is used to board horses.
Summary Statement

According to historian H. McKelden Smith, no other eclectic styles except for the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles were popular throughout rural Guilford County before the late nineteenth century. The Daniel P. Foust House, near the eastern Guilford County community of Whitsett, exemplifies these nineteenth century architectural modes in North Carolina’s Piedmont region. Built in two distinct phases, the two-story, side-gable original block of the Foust House was constructed ca. 1856 in the Greek Revival fashion. The post-bellum I-House front addition to the original block is an Italianate showcase with its distinctive single and paired pendant drop cornice brackets and an elaborately decorated two-tiered front porch. It was built sometime between 1867 and 1881. This date range is based on the fact that receipts for building materials date to 1867, and Foust could have added the Italianate block as late as 1881, when he inherited additional land after his father’s passing. The Foust House compares in its ornamentation to the Ingle-Kraus-Hodge House, the county’s only other highly decorated rural Italianate style house. For this reason, the D.P. Foust House is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture, and the period of significance is ca. 1856 to ca. 1881.

Historical Background

The Foust family emigrated from Germany to the British held colonies in the eighteenth century, and settled in what was then Orange County, North Carolina. Daniel Paisley Foust’s father, Daniel, was born in then Orange County, present day Alamance County, and settled in eastern Guilford County in the early part of the nineteenth century. By 1860, Daniel Foust had become a successful farmer with hay, rye, corn, oat, sweet potato, sugar cane crops and various fruit trees. His real estate was valued at $15,000 and he owned twenty-six slaves, making his personal estate value at $60,700.2

Daniel Paisley was the eighth son and tenth child born to Daniel and Mary Clapp Foust. He was born October 25, 1827, at the family plantation in the community formerly known as Allemance, now recognized as Whitsett. Daniel P. Foust married Cleodora T. Clapp (born February 2, 1835) on April 26, 1855 and settled on part of his father’s Allemance estate that he would later inherit in 1881.

Farming the surrounding land proved fruitful for Foust, who was listed as a farmer in the 1870 and 1880 census reports. The 1870 agricultural schedule reported Foust growing the following crops: wheat, corn, oats, potatoes (Irish and Sweet) and hay. Foust also raised horses, mules, cattle and pigs. The 1880 schedule reported that Foust ran a tannery, corn, grist, and sawmills and grew corn, oats, wheat and potatoes; raised horses, cattle and pigs; and had two orchards: forty acres of apple trees and three acres of pear trees. Foust also operated a general store from the 1860s until 1908 out of which he ran the post office until 1905. Foust also served as a Justice of the Peace, and according to local tradition he married many freed African Americans.

Interested in community affairs, Foust gave the land for the Springwood Presbyterian Church in 1868. He later joined the church and became an elder. Upon his death, Foust bequeathed the bulk of his estate to Orange Presbytery.

Daniel P. Foust died on July 20, 1911. His inventory listed 1,384 acres in Rock Creek Township as well as four rental houses in nearby Morehead Township and eighteen rental houses along Market Street in Greensboro. Foust had also accumulated bank and North Carolina railroad stock. The total estimated worth of his estate was $77,111.36. Foust’s estate helped to care for Cleodora Foust until her death in 1919. Subsequent to her death, since the couple was childless, all personal property and 400 1/3 acres were willed to Mrs. Foust’s great-niece, Margaret Greeson and her husband, Floyd Greeson. The Greasons helped to care for the Fousts during the last years of their lives, for which the Fousts were indebted. Upon the Greasons’ deaths, ownership of the property would transfer to the Orange Presbytery.

The Daniel P. Foust House became rental property circa 1921 when Margaret Greeson relinquished her right to the property and the Orange Presbytery (now known as Salem Presbytery) became owner. In November 1944, the church trustees sold the 400 1/3 acres to T. L. and Clara Hooper. On that same day, the Hoopers then sold all of the property to F. G. Screen and upon his death, his wife, Robbie Gould Screen, became the sole heir. Mrs. Screen died in September 1998 and Guilford County became owner of the property. In November 1991, Guilford County sold the property to the current owner, Jerry S. Nix. Mr. Nix completed restoration work on the main house and converted one of the former heavy-timber framed granaries into a two-car garage in 1995.

3 Ibid, 26.
4 Dr. Rollin M. Steele, Jr., From Trial to Promised Triumph: A Short History of Springwood Presbyterian Church from the Painful, Often Deadly, Ideological Wars of Reconstruction to the Verge of the Twenty-first Century, 1995, p.20
5 Guilford County flat file docket number 20, 144.
Architectural Context Statement

The Greek Revival architectural style was first employed in Guilford County in the late 1830s and was popular for almost thirty years. Unlike the examples found on Eastern North Carolina plantations, the Greek Revival houses found in the North Carolina Piedmont are more conservative and austere. All of the Greek Revival houses in Guilford County are traditional two-story, single- or double-pile forms with shallow-pitched side gable or low-hip roofs with six-over-six windows, and, typically interior or interior-end chimneys. 6

The Greek Revival style was integrated into the Guilford County vernacular with simple adornments. The decoration is usually minimal on the exterior and restricted to the windows and doors. The central hall plan became the chosen form in the area. The ca. 1840 Shubal-Coffin House, located in the Jamestown Historic District, is the definitive Greek Revival house. The two-story, side-gable, three-bay home has a pedimented porch, center entry, and six-over-six sash embellished with simple molding. Closer in proximity to the D. P. Foust House is the ca. 1850 Dr. Joseph McLean House. The McLean House also stands two stories high and is three bays wide with a pedimented porch over the central entry. The double-hung sash windows are nine-over-nine. The interior displays Greek Revival styling as well. All interior doors are two-paneled and the open staircase with its simple turned newel post and string brackets adjoins one wall within the center hall.

Of approximately twenty Greek Revival style houses remaining in Guilford County, all but four are frame structures and most are modest in scale and their details, much like the original block of the Daniel P. Foust House. The greatest concentration of the Greek Revival style appears in the western part of the county. Of this group of ten houses, all but one are frame buildings and have simple period detailing. The ca.1850 Elihu Mendenhall House near High Point and the 1858 Jesse Benbow House near Oak Ridge are both double-pile and have interior chimneys and decorative interior painting, while the others are side-gable I-Houses with exterior end chimneys, like the Daniel P. Foust House. 7

In the eastern part of Guilford County, only six Greek Revival houses remain. As is the case in the western part of the county, most of these houses are frame I-Houses and have simple decoration and exterior end chimneys. The most intact Greek Revival dwelling in the eastern part of the county is the ca. 1850 Dr. Joseph A. McLean House. Unlike the Daniel P. Foust House and the other Greek Revival-style houses in this part of the county, the McLean House still retains its original temple-like front porch. Although the porch on the original block of the

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7 Ibid, page 5.
Foust House is a reconstruction, ghost marks discovered during the 1995 restoration, indicated a hipped porch roof. Another Greek Revival house is the 1866 Henry Cobb House in McLeansville. Both the Foust House and the Cobb House are two-story, three-bay, single-pile I-Houses with hipped porch roofs, exterior-end chimneys, and simple Greek Revival details. All of the window and door trim in the ca.1856 section is unadorned wood trim except for a plain, one inch band. The doors are typically Greek Revival with two vertical panels and the mantels are constructed of simple flat pilasters with a plain architrave and shelf. Boards of widths that vary from two to ten inches sheath heavy timber framing in the walls and ceilings throughout the original block.

During the post bellum period from 1865 into the 1880s, many style trends were disseminated through pattern books and became quite fashionable for rural houses and town mansions alike. Decorative details became mass produced and widely available. The Odell Hardware Company, based in Greensboro, was regionally recognized and could have been a resource for local contractors and/or carpenters for acquiring decorative details. The Ingle-Kraus-Hodge House, near Whitsett, is the county’s most distinctive example of the Italianate style, according the McKelden Smith. Italianate style houses are found in greater numbers in the eastern half of Guilford County than in the Quaker-dominated west. Including the Italianate block of the Daniel P. Foust House, there are four Italianate houses in the county’s northeast section. There are approximately ten Italianate houses in the southeast quadrant of the county. All of the Italianate dwellings are two-story, single-pile frame houses except for the brick Parker-Troxler House.

The cornice of the Foust House features paired eave brackets, typical for the Italianate style. The windows in the façade of the front addition have a rectangular top. Chamfered posts support the full-width porch, another common feature for the period. Paired doors pierce the first and second stories. The central hall of the front addition prominently features an eight-sided walnut newel post and a double-string staircase, fireplaces in all rooms of the addition, one with original faux graining on its mantle, high baseboard moldings throughout, and wood-grained, four-panel doors.

Virginia and Lee McAlester’s *Field Guide to American Houses* states that the “principal areas of elaboration in Italianate house are windows, cornices, porches (including porch-support columns), and doorways.” All of the windows in the eastern Guilford County Italianate houses have rectangular surrounds except for the ca. 1880 Greeson House where the windows have “flattened arches.” The bracketed cornice appears in all of these houses except the late nineteenth century Anthony House. Single- and double-leaf doors pierce the façade of each house. All of

these houses feature one-story hip-roof porches with the exception of the Daniel P. Foust House; the porch is two-tiered in the central bay. The porch is also the location where each builder expressed his carpentry skills most freely. Chamfered porch supports, molded, turned, and sawn balustrades all ornament the porches. The degree to which the houses are ornamented sets the Daniel P. Foust House and the Ingle-Kraus-Hodge House apart from the remaining Italianate houses in the eastern portion of Guilford County. These two houses are the most elaborate and most intact examples of Italianate architecture in eastern Guilford County.
Bibliography


Bicentennial Commission. *Guilford County Physical Characteristics*. Greensboro: Bicentennial Commission in cooperation with the school units of High Point, Guilford County and Greensboro. 1971


Foust Family Bible.

*Greensboro Record*, April 11, 1966.

Guilford County Records. Deed Books, Will Books, Flat File Dockets, Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, NC.


Nix, Jerry S. Guilford County Local Historic Designation Application, 1985.


Nix, Jerry S. Oral interview conducted with Lucille Whitsett Holt on June 19, 1984.


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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Daniel P. Foust House is delineated on the attached 1”= 200’ survey site plan by the heavy black line.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the current tax parcel that was historically associated with the Daniel P. Foust House.