

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fairfield Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Fairfield

vicinity of

state North Carolina

code 37

county Hyde

code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hyde County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Swan Quarter

state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hyde County Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date c1850-present

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fairfield derives its architectural significance primarily from local builders' interpretations of the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles that were popular with Fairfield's prominent merchant and professional families in the last half of the nineteenth century. Built in the picturesque tradition, these frame houses, churches, and stores from Fairfield's booming canal era form an important collection of nineteenth-century small town architecture. These fanciful, and often eclectic, buildings stand in sharp contrast to the more utilitarian and unornamented story-and-a-half cottages and traditional two-story farmhouses that were also built in Fairfield in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and that were characteristic of most building in eastern North Carolina during this period. The juxtaposition of these simple rural vernacular forms with the more exuberant decorated picturesque styles reinforces the importance of Fairfield as a built environment resource that reflects both a popular and a vernacular architectural heritage.

The village of Fairfield lies on the northern shore of North Carolina's largest natural lake, Mattamuskeet, in Hyde County. Hyde County is located in the extreme eastern portion of North Carolina and is bounded on the north by Tyrrell, Dare, and Washington Counties; on the south by the Pamlico Sound; on the west by the Pungo River; and on the east by Pamlico Sound. Primarily connected to the rest of Hyde County by a causeway which is part of North Carolina Highway 94 across Lake Mattamuskeet, Fairfield is north of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge that encompasses the lake and its immediate environs. The village is also approximately four miles south of the Intercoastal Waterway.

The Fairfield Historic District includes the 1921 limits for the Town of Fairfield. Set in the midst of carefully cultivated fields, Fairfield is a small village with streets laid out in a linear grid and with clearly defined edges where farmland abuts town lots. Although the town is built on a low elevation, it is visible from some distance because of the dense grouping of tall shade trees and frame houses. A few post-1950 buildings such as one-story gable roofed-concrete block cottages and brick, ranch-style houses depart from the local building tradition, but their numbers and siting do not detract from the overall historic architectural character of the district. The Fairfield Canal and the drainage ditches that empty into the canal are important physical features of the district's landscape.

Between 1850 and 1860, Fairfield carpenters began to build eclectic variations of the picturesque and romantic architectural revival styles that were popular nationally in the mid-nineteenth century. Builders' guides such as Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, and Gervase Wheeler's Rural Homes and Homes in Suburb and Country published in the 1850s and later works such as the 1864 Villas and Cottages by Calvert Vaux and John J. Smith's 200 Designs for Cottages and Villas of 1876 were intended for a rural audience; were widely distributed, read, and imitated in all sections of the United States; and were instrumental in spreading the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles to relatively isolated areas such as Fairfield. Often referred

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to as Carpenter Gothic because the wooden trim attempted to emulate such Gothic elements as towers, battlements, and spires, this style of building appeared in Fairfield only shortly after it began to dominate the popular architectural literature of the period. Fairfield's carpenters were apparently familiar with at least some of these building guides since such details as steeply pitched roofs, wall dormers, and intricate wooden, hard-edged or foliate, machine-made "gingerbread" bargeboard trim that were similar to those illustrated in these publications began to appear on buildings in the Fairfield vicinity as early as the 1850s. The pattern books of the period included a mix of Italianate and Gothic cottages--the same stylistic mixture that characterized popular architecture in nineteenth-century Fairfield. The use of the picturesque styles promoted in the popular architectural literature of the day as guides for the nineteenth-century ornamented cottages of Fairfield indicates a marked departure from the utilitarian, vernacular building tradition of coastal plain cottages and story-and-a-jump houses that are characteristic of Hyde County architecture in this period and may reflect an increased awareness among Fairfield's population of popular contemporary styles that can be attributed to the prosperity and greater accessibility to the outside world that the Fairfield Canal provided.

Although the fancifully decorated cottages of Fairfield are stylistically very different from the unornamented traditional dwellings of Hyde County and eastern North Carolina, they share important similarities in economy of scale, building materials, and occasionally form and shape. Downing, in The Architecture of Country Houses, offered a pair of illustrations of the same basic house form--one unornamented and the other embellished with ornament; the former, wrote Downing, was a "house without feeling," while the latter was a "house with feeling." To Downing's eye, the "house with feeling" was a beautiful house and the house "without feeling" was simply utilitarian. Downing, the son of a laborer who advanced his social standing through business and social contacts and marriage to a granddaughter of John Quincy Adams, believed that adding beauty and feeling to a house were the signs not only of taste but also of civilization and social and economic status. Downing's theory seems to apply to Fairfield where the type of "tasteful" architecture he promoted was introduced to the community by such prominent and prosperous citizens as Laura Blackwell and William Sylvester Carter, offspring of town founder David Carter, at a time when the majority of residential construction was simply utilitarian. Fairfield is a rural village with both types of houses; it is the mix of the decorated styles with the traditional vernacular of Hyde County that creates the varied yet harmonious townscape of Fairfield.

The Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House (#6) was built for Laura Blackwell in the Italianate style in the 1850s. This house and the house that was built (near Fairfield but outside the historic district) in the same decade for Laura Blackwell's brother William Sylvester Carter are the major pre-Civil War era examples of ornamented cottages in the Fairfield vicinity. Unlike many rural buildings that are considered to be Italianate because of the brackets at their eaves, the Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House (#6) is a carefully detailed, fully expressed example of the style. Attributed to Fairfield master carpenter Cason

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Emery Swindell, the house exhibits the symmetry, almost-square form, low-pitched roof, interior chimney, tall windows, characteristic dropped pendant brackets, and wide eaves that signify rich renditions of the Italianate style. The placement of brackets in the eaves of the porch, window, and door lintels, and capitals of the molded corner boards complete the careful design of the exterior. The interior presents the only known surviving instance in Hyde County of a hall across the front of the house and two rooms side by side behind, a reorientation of the traditional double-pile side hall plan.

Building in Fairfield, as in the rest of Hyde County and North Carolina, virtually ceased during the Civil War. Hyde County's recovery from the effects of the war was most strongly reflected in the village of Fairfield which was increasing in commercial vitality throughout the last three decades of the nineteenth century because of the commercial trade stimulated by the Fairfield Canal. As the Fairfield community began to recover from the disastrous economic impacts of the war that had interrupted the development of the community as a commercial center, prominent merchants, doctors, and others began to build again. The Italianate and Gothic Revival styles retained their popularity as the principal mode for fashionable structures. While Fairfield builders did not restrict the intricacy or extent of the decoration they applied to buildings, they usually retained traditional building types and limited the characteristic Victorian asymmetry to the familiar T and L shaped buildings and employed cross-gables and dormers to create varied rooflines. During this period of population growth and commercial prosperity after the Civil War, Fairfield became not only Hyde County's largest community but also a showcase of Italianate and Carpenter Gothic architecture. Fairfield, today, is distinguished as one of the few towns in North Carolina with such an intact Victorian architectural character.

Following the example of the popular pattern books in which a Gothic cottage appeared on one page and an Italian villa on the next, Fairfield's postbellum builders continued to integrate Italianate and Carpenter Gothic motifs as they had before the war. Cason Emery Swindell, who is believed to have been the builder of both the 1850's Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House and the 1871 Dr. Patrick Simmons House (#34), best exemplifies this eclectic spirit. Similarities between the two houses help support the claim that Swindell was the builder of both houses: drop pendant brackets embellish all of the eaves, window lintels, and capitals. The curved staircase with turned balusters and the tapered octagonal newel post of the Simmons house are similar to that of the earlier house. The Simmons House, however, differs from the Blackwell House in several important ways. The cruciform plan, varied roofline, sawn slats of the porch railing, and the continuous brackets that span the intervals between the porch posts of the Simmons House are typical of postbellum Carpenter Gothic construction. The Brown-Gibbs-Jones House (#28) that was built for merchant Calhoun Brown has Italianate eaves treatment, window lintels, and corner boards similar to the detailing found on the Simmons House on the opposite side of the street. The cutout design of the spandrels and lacey sawn porch railing give the house a delicate feeling that does not exist at the Patrick Simmons House.

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The Carter-Holton-Sears House (#47) that was built for David Hezekiah Carter in the late nineteenth century also displays characteristics of both pre-war and post-war architecture in Fairfield. The icicle bargeboard is identical to the antebellum William Sylvester Carter House near Fairfield. Combining both Italianate and Carpenter Gothic elements in a thoroughly eclectic composition, the David Hezekiah Carter House is notable for its scroll brackets, sawn ornamental bracking, and finial decorated gables as well as for the quatrefoil cutout trim that appears both on the porch and in the eaves. Local carpenter Israel Mooney built this house for Carter about 1890.

The Gothic Revival style was popular in rural Hyde County, as it was in most of the country, as a style for churches in the late nineteenth century. Local builders of churches tended to employ the Carpenter Gothic idiom, using interior ornamental bracing and pointed arched windows to evoke the feeling of the Gothic style without the true Gothic structural systems that the English theorists Pugin and Ruskin praised and promoted for their honesty of construction. Of the four surviving Hyde County Gothic Revival churches, the Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church (#21) is the foremost example of the style. This church, which was completed in 1877 to replace a small ante-bellum building on the site, also exhibits Italianate details. Significant features of this church include a three-sided apse, three-tiered belfry and steeple, as well as ornate molded pilasters, sawn brackets, elongated finials, corbelled dentil work and other sawn and molded decoration articulating every aspect of the building. All Saints Episcopal Church (#10) built in Fairfield between 1885 and 1890 has a much simpler design in which a faintly Gothic expression is seen in the lancet windows and pointed arched doors.

Ornate detailing was not restricted to residences or to buildings in town in the late nineteenth century. Builders also applied Gothic Revival and Italianate decoration to commercial buildings. Fairfield's late nineteenth-century E. S. O'Neal And Sons Store (#69) exhibits the Italianate sawn brackets in the eaves, window lintels, and capitals of molded corner boards that also appear in buildings attributed to Cason Emery Swindell. The Calhoun Brown Store (#59), which is next-door to the O'Neal Store, features Carpenter Gothic sawn foliate brackets beneath the porch roof and scalloped lintels above the windows and doors. The board and batten Fairfield Cemetery Pavilion (#3) is another nonresidential Carpenter Gothic style structure that dates from the late nineteenth century. The Fairfield district is significant because it includes not only an outstanding collection of nineteenth-century residences that were built in the popular picturesque mode of the day but also retains rare, intact, non-domestic examples of the Italianate and Carpenter Gothic styles in rural America.

Farmhouses in the Fairfield vicinity were also built with decorative ornament although they were not as elaborately or carefully detailed as the houses in town. The Carter-Swindell House (#1), constructed for Isaiah Carter in the 1870s on a parcel of land that extends to the shore of Lake Mattamuskeet, is a typical rural example of a simple one-and-one-half-story form decorated with

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the Carpenter Gothic trim of a wavelike bargeboard beneath broad cross gables.

The house (#16) that master carpenter Cason Emory Swindell is believed to have built for himself in the 1870s is a typical example of a plain traditional vernacular house; it has none of the exterior ornamental details that are usually associated with Swindell's work. The hip-roofed porch with plain supports and railing and the exterior gable-end chimney with double stepped shoulders are salient exterior features. Although this house also has a modestly detailed interior, the detailing of the steep staircase with its turned balusters and molded curved railing, the two panelled freeze for the parlor mantelpiece, and the bed moldings beneath the mantel shelf reflect Swindell's accomplishment as a carpenter. It is the interior detailing that distinguishes Swindell's house from other modest cottages dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority of Fairfield's vernacular houses consist of such story-and-a-jump or one-story frame cottages--many with ells or tees to the rear. The fact that James Carter Watson and his wife Jessie Carter, both of whom were from prominent Hyde County families, lived in a modest one-story, frame, gable-roofed cottage (#15) that was built in the first decade of the twentieth century attests to the popularity and longevity of the vernacular gable-roofed cottage.

The two-story, L-shaped, house (#37) built for Doctor Robert Nixon Cartwright and his wife Mattie Simmons around 1885 is the only Queen Anne style house known to have been built in Fairfield. Its sawn and turned ornamental bracing, cantilevered window heads supported by scroll brackets are in marked contrast to the neoclassical porch columns. By the 1890s, even fashionable architecture in Fairfield had returned to less ornamental styles than the Carpenter Gothic and Italianate that had been popular in the community since the 1850s. Later houses generally departed from the asymmetry of the earlier era and returned to the more conservative house forms that had been characteristic of eastern North Carolina since the late eighteenth century.

Local builders continued to use ells and tees to expand beyond the confines of the traditional building forms as they had during the picturesque building era. Although there is only a little documentary evidence linking any of them to specific houses, Walter Spencer, brother of canal boat captain Flavius Spencer; Samuel Lindsay Swindell II, son of carpenter Cason Emory Swindell; and the Mooney brothers, Israel and David; are believed to have been the major carpenters in Fairfield in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The major work attributable to Samuel Lindsay Swindell is the late nineteenth-century story-and-a-jump house (#49) he built as his own residence. It is not unlike the modest low story-and-a-jump house that David Mooney built as his residence in 1918. Only Israel Mooney who built the late Carpenter Gothic house for David Hezekiah Carter in 1890 is known to be associated with the picturesque building of late nineteenth-century Fairfield. Walter Spencer enlarged his father's house (#68) for his brother Captain Flavius Spencer and is believed to have been the builder of the 1913 Colonial Revival style house (#36) that was built for Mary Rebecca Simmons, daughter of Dr. Patrick Simmons. The two-story, double pile house features a low hipped-roof, center hall plan, and

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undecorated corner and cornice boards. Although a few houses were built with fashionable Queen Anne or Colonial Revival characteristics in the period between 1880 and World War I, most were built in the traditional story-and-a-jump or two-story gabled farmhouse traditions and used restrained decorative motifs applied to these basic building forms.

Whether fashionable or modest, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Fairfield houses were almost always the dominant architectural element in a cluster of buildings. Like most small rural towns in this period, Fairfield families were largely self-sufficient and needed a number of dependencies or outbuildings in association with the family residence. As utilitarian structures, the outbuildings only occasionally received any ornamentation or distinctive detailing. A wooden picket fence frequently delineated the domestic compound of the house and its dependencies and separated the yard from the street, neighbors, and adjacent farmland.

Kitchens and dining rooms were most often accommodated in an attached ell or separate structure to the rear of the house. These gable-roofed kitchens were sometimes built as the first building on the site and a family lived in the kitchen house until the larger main house could be built. Some kitchens have been demolished and several buildings that were originally kitchens have been moved to other sites and converted into residences. The kitchen from the Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House (#6), for example, was moved to a nearby lot to become the Franklin and Gladys Midyette House (#4). The kitchen from David Carter's house which was located near Lake Mattamuskeet was moved into the town in the late nineteenth century and became the basis of the Lewis-Swindell House (#18). A smokehouse, a wash house or laundry, and an outdoor toilet usually made up the rest of the complex. These small, frame, gable-roofed buildings were usually located in close proximity to the house. The Carter-Swindell House (#1) has an almost complete late nineteenth-century complex consisting of a board and batten wash house and a smokehouse with vertical board siding.

The house complex differed little from the basic farmhouse complex found in the rest of the county during this period. Many of the town residents were, in fact, farmers with farmland located to the rear of their town lots or in close proximity to the town. Fairfield residents kept cows for milk and horses for transportation through the early twentieth century and several of the properties, including the Carter-Swindell House (#1), O'Neal-Cutrell House (#9), James Carter Watson House (#15), and the David Mooney House (#43), still retain small gable-roofed, frame barns that date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. These barns were used to shelter horses, dairy cattle, and grain for the livestock. Where a cluster of outbuildings still remain in association with a nineteenth or early twentieth-century house, they enhance the rural and traditional character of Fairfield.

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## INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THE FAIRFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Carter-Swindell House. This story-and-a-half house, presently used as a second home, is believed to have been built in the 1870s for Isaiah S. Carter (1846-1891) and his wife Mary (Mame) Latham Lucas (1853-1925). While the front porch has been enclosed, the house has otherwise remained relatively unaltered. The kitchen and dining room still stand to the rear as do a board and batten wash house, a smokehouse with vertical board siding, and a barn--all dating from the late nineteenth century. Carter's son Charles William Carter (1872-1953) inherited the property from his mother and subsequent owners include Preston Earl Swindell (1882-1962) and Ida Midyett Swindell (1880-1956). The current owner is Camille Swindell Cooley. Contributing.
2. Trailer. Intrusive.
3. Fairfield Cemetery and Pavilion. The entry to this cemetery that was established in the late nineteenth century as the major burial place for Fairfield residents is marked by a modest, wrought iron arched entry bearing the name "Fairfield." Markers range from simple marble slabs with only a name inscribed to elaborately decorated and sentimentally inscribed obelisks, crosses, and other monuments of marble or granite. Most of the residents of the Fairfield community have been buried in this cemetery. The graves of such prominent citizens as town founder David Carter, Jr., his father, David Carter, Sr., his wife Sarah Spencer Carter, his children Henry Clay Carter, Isaiah S. Carter, William S. Carter, Frances Spencer and Laura Blackwell, and many of their spouses, children, and grandchildren, as well as local physicians Arthur Graham Harris, Robert Nixon Cartwright, and Patrick Simmons and their families are found in this cemetery. Board and batten walls and lattice screening partially enclose the one-story pavilion that was built in the 1880s. A bell-cast pyramidal roof terminated by a finial and a bargeboard of pendants separated by pierced panels are the pavilion's distinctive architectural features. The pointed arched openings and the combination of textures rendered in wood characterizes the Carpenter Gothic style popular in late nineteenth-century Fairfield. The cemetery with its unpaved road and family plots has a rural character that enhances the quality of the district. Pivotal.
4. Franklin and Gladys Midyette House. This twentieth-century residence incorporates the 1850's kitchen and dining ell that was moved from the Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House (#6) to this site and converted to a house. The current owners are Franklin and Gladys Midyette. There are several early twentieth century, gable-roofed, frame outbuildings including a barn, a one-and-a-half-story car garage, a pump house, an outdoor toilet, and a smokehouse. (see Laura Blackwell House #6.) Fill.
5. (Former) Fairfield School. This two-story, frame, hip-roofed school building was erected in 1920 as the Fairfield graded school. It also housed the Fairfield Business School in 1928-31; the school drew its students from the

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entire county. In the 1952-53 school year grades 9-12 were moved to Swan Quarter; by the 1954-55 session the total school was consolidated with Swan Quarter. Most recently it has been used as a honey processing facility. Contributing.

6. Blackwell-Carter-Midyette House. The splendid setting, an extensive lawn, and a backdrop of pecan trees enhance this remarkable example of rural Italianate architecture. David Carter, Jr. commissioned Cason Emery Swindell to build the house in the late 1850s for his daughter, Laura (1838-1912), upon her marriage to Edward L. Blackwell (1830-1870). One of the earliest of Fairfield's ornate Victorian designs, it is distinguished by its tall, stately proportions. Except for the extension of an original shed at the west end of the rear elevation across the entire facade, the house is intact. The one-story entrance porch reiterates the Italianate decoration of the two-story block: drop pendant brackets repeat those of the main roofline and fluted porch posts with bracketed capitals mimic the corner boards. Brackets also appear in the door and window cornices. Sidelights and a transom in a frame of fluted pilasters and consoles flank the front door. The transom retains its original panes of glass painted in a floral motif which originally also appeared in the sidelights. The gracefully curving staircase with turned balusters is similar to that of the Patrick Simmons House. Several interior raised four-panel doors with applied molding retain their original painted graining. An octagonal motif is carried throughout the house in the shape of the chimney stack, the exterior panels of the front door, and the slanted newel post. The plan of a hall across the front and two rooms side-by-side behind is unique in Hyde County. The original smokehouse and a warehouse moved from the Fairfield Canal for use as a barn stand in the yard; the kitchen-dining room was moved to a lot next door where it has been enlarged for a dwelling. Laura Blackwell sold the house to her brother Henry Clay Carter in 1902. Carter's daughter Jennie Carter Midyette inherited the house in 1919; A. B. Midyette and his wife Jennie C. Midyette sold the property to their son Allen Lindsay Midyette in 1932. Today the house is owned by the Allen Lindsay Midyette heirs--his wife Gertrude and his sons Allen and Norfleet. Pivotal.

7. Isabelle Midyette (Cartwright) Howard House. This barn was moved from the Robert Cartwright property by Isabelle Midyette (Cartwright) Howard. About 1950 the barn was remodeled as a one-and-a-half-story frame gable-roofed house with shed-roofed dormer across the front and rear shed. There is a small frame storage shed to the rear of the house. Fill.

8. Johnnie Albin Armstrong House. This brick veneer ranch-style house was built in 1974 as a residence for Johnnie Albin Armstrong on the site of an earlier house which was demolished. Intrusive.

9. Cutrell-O'Neal House. Harry O'Neal (1889-1942) had this two-story, frame farmhouse built between 1910 and 1920. A garage and barn contemporary with the house complete the complex. George Millard Cutrell, the current owner, is the only other person to have owned this house. Contributing.

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10. All Saints Episcopal Church. This charming diminutive church in the vernacular Gothic Revival style with its pointed windows is characteristic of rural Episcopal churches and is notable for its completely unaltered exterior. Perhaps most remarkable is the survival of the wooden roof shingles in alternating split and scalloped bands. The narrow vestibule topped by the belfry and octagonal steeple contributes to the overall verticality. Although the Fairfield parish was organized in 1868, it was not until 1876 that it invited a minister to hold services, conducted first in the Fairfield Academy and then at other unspecified sites. Construction of a permanent building occurred between 1885 and 1890 on land that Laura Blackwell donated to the Church Trustees with the stipulation that it not contain a cemetery. Pivotal.

11. Frank Young House. This two-story Colonial Revival style house is a composite of two nineteenth-century buildings. The small one-story east wing is a portion of the Luther Young House which formerly stood in a field to the northwest. Luther's son, Frank (no dates available), moved that wing of the Luther Young House to this site and attached it to the east end of his one-story store building which he then enlarged with a second story and with one-story wings on the west and rear elevations. The molding which frames an arched built-in bookcase (formerly a window) and a large interior arched doorway were removed from the Luther Young House, as was the Greek Revival mantelpiece with fluted pilasters and dentils. Thadeous Robbins, Homer Robbins, and Jackqueline Wilkinson Robbins are the current owners. Contributing.

12. Chadwick-Ballance-Sadler House. This one-and-one-half-story house with a triple-A roofline was built in the second half of the nineteenth century for Irwin Chadwick (1828-1899). Originally located next to Chadwick's Store on the southeast corner of the junction of NC 94 and SR 1305, the house was moved to its present location around 1940 for Chadwick's granddaughter, Janie Chadwick. At the same time, the store was cut in half and moved to this site where it was appended as wings to the house. Madison Ballance acquired the house and built the two-story rear addition and one-story wings on the south elevation around 1950 as lodging for duck hunters. Although the main portion of the house has reverted to a single-family dwelling, the one-story wings continue to be used as accommodations for hunters. Ballance's daughter, Ruth Sadler, had the southern-most wing built around 1977. Contributing.

13. Chadwick-Cutrell House. This modest, frame, one-and-one-half story house, believed to have been built by the Chadwick family, is a characteristic Fairfield dwelling dating from the early twentieth century. Henry Carroll Cutrell, the current owner, is responsible for adding the rear shed. Contributing.

14. Annette W. MacRae House. This one-story stucco over concrete block house was built in the 1960s for Annette W. MacRae. Intrusive.

15. James Carter Watson House. James Carter Watson (1877-1961), son of George Israel Watson of Watson's Corner in Hyde County, married Jessie Carter, daughter of Isaiah S. Carter, in 1907 and built this modest one-story, gable-roofed frame

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house between 1905 and 1910. A deteriorated gable-roofed barn remains on the property. The house remains in the Watson family today and has been rented since Watson's death in 1961. Contributing.

16. Swindell Family House. Master Carpenter Cason Emery Swindell (1853-1914) is believed to have built this gable-roofed story-and-a-jump house for his own residence in the 1870s. A deed search revealed that he acquired the property in 1876. The hip-roofed porch with plain supports and railing, the flush horizontal boards on the wall, and the exterior gable-end chimney with double stepped shoulders are salient exterior features of the house. The rear ell, attached earlier in this century, has been enlarged in recent years. Narrow flush vertical boards sheath the interior. The detailing of the steep staircase with turned balusters and molded curved railing and the parlor mantelpiece with two panels in the frieze and bed moldings below the shelf reflect Swindell's accomplishment as a carpenter. Two small, frame, gable-roofed outbuildings--a dining room that is now used as a store room and an outdoor toilet--are located to the rear of the house. The house has remained in the Swindell family to the present time; W. Durant Swindell is the current owner. Pivotal.

17. O'Neal-Cutrell House. Stanley O'Neal (1855-1956), who is believed to have moved to Fairfield from the Outer Banks, bought this property in 1882 and is believed to have built this house about 1890. The grouping of the three second story windows in the center of the front facade is an unusual feature. The varied rooflines of multiple rear additions add visual interest. The tall single-shoulder chimney is retardataire, a characteristic feature of mid-nineteenth-century houses in the same two-story form. O'Neal, who had purchased the land from William S. Carter in 1882, left the property to his wife Mattie O'Neal and then to his son Robert O'Neal. D. W. Cutrell purchased the property from the O'Neal family in 1938. His widow Alice Cutrell is the current owner. Pivotal.

18. Lewis-Swindell House. This house includes the kitchen and dining room of the 1850's David Carter House that was moved to this site from the environs of Lake Mattamuskeet. Dina Lewis had acquired this land and a portion of the Carter house from William S. Carter in 1881. William D. Murray, who acquired the property from Captain and Mrs. Lewis in 1883, sold it to Thomas Alexander Franklin Swindell (1861-1926) and his wife Rebecca (1876-1931) in 1896. The Swindell heirs still own the house today. The flush beaded horizontal sheathing on the main facade and the interior-end exposed-face chimney reflect the second quarter of the 19th century construction date of this two-story house. Capt. Lewis is believed to have replaced the original two-tiered front porch with an ornate porch decorated with latticework, sawn spandrels, and pierced bargeboard. Wide flush boards line the wall of the open-well, two-run staircase. Pivotal.

19. Tobe Whitney House. Tobe Whitney built this stucco covered frame house as his residence in 1939 on the lot that was left vacant by the 1939 fire that destroyed the Fairfield Academy building. Fill.

20. Edward Armstrong House. The first known occupant of this

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twentieth-century, one-and-one-half-story, frame bungalow was Monroe Clayton (1850-1922). Moses and Jane Watson, long term tenants, were caretakers for the adjacent Fairfield Methodist Church. The house was extensively remodeled in 1981-1982 by the present owners Edward E. and Brenda M. Armstrong. Contributing.

21. Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage. This outstanding example of Gothic Revival cum Italianate architecture is the most elaborate and finely detailed church in Hyde County. A three-tiered belfry surmounted by a steeple rises from the front of the narthex projecting from the traditional, gable-front form of the sanctuary; a three-sided apse with a bell-cast hip roof extends from the rear gabled facade. Carefully detailed trim lends the building special character by articulating its every part. A molded base defines the perimeter of the structure which is set on brick piers with lattice infill. A molded pilaster with a capital surmounted by a sawn bracket supporting the eaves marks every corner of the building as well as the divisions of the main block. The ornamentation is richest on the main facade and becomes more concentrated with the increased height of the belfry; turned, elongated finials accentuate the vertical orientation of the tower which terminates in a molded steeple topped with a ball. Entrance porches with bell-cast hip roofs and sawn ornament fill the recesses on either side of the base of the tower. Molded pilasters supporting a pointed arch defined by curved dentils and filled with a carved sunburst motif surround the doors. All of the tall, narrow windows terminate in pointed arches; a group of lancet windows marks the main facade. The stained glass windows consist of panes of variously colored glass around the edges and oblong central panes decorated with a stencilled pattern. A cove ceiling broken by a barrel vault with carved ornamental bracing defines the tall space of the two-aisle plan interior. Plastered walls rise above beaded wainscoting and dark stained trim mark all edges. Curved dentils decorate molded door and window surrounds. A turned baluster rail partitions the raised altar enclosed in the half-domed apse. Winding stairs lead to the balcony supported by fluted posts.

The one-story parsonage next door also is decorated with corner boards, although they are not molded. Scroll brackets appear in the level eaves while ornamental bracing and scalloped bargeboard with pendentives emulating icicles (identical to the trim on the nearby David Hezekiah Carter House) decorate the four gables.

Regular Methodist services began in Fairfield in 1851 and shortly thereafter a church and parsonage were constructed on a lot opposite the present buildings. Until recently, Laura Blackwell was believed to have donated this land to the Fairfield Methodists in 1870; deed searches, however, have failed to find any supporting evidence for this claim. It seems more likely that the church was built on the former site of the Sons of Temperance Hall. Laura Blackwell's father David Carter, Jr. had been a founding member of the organization and a co-owner of the property. The lodge site was sold several years after Carter's death as part of the settlement of his estate. Although the present church building was not dedicated until 1887, the date "1877," carved on a beam, is accepted as the year of construction. No building records are known to survive, but according to local tradition, master carpenter Cason Emery Swindell built the stairs to the balcony. Details such as the curved dentils also appear on St. John's Episcopal Church and may indicate that the same

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architect-builder executed all three churches. Upon completion of this second Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church, the earlier church was moved to Engelhard. The fate of the original parsonage is not known. Pivotal.

22. Willie Mack Carawan House. This one-story, brick veneer, ranch-style house was built in 1967-68 for Willie Mack and Sandra S. Carawan. Intrusive.

23. Mann-Ballance House. Extensive expansion and alteration have transformed this two-story L-shaped house from its original two-room form. Dr. Joseph Allen Mann (1850-1916), the earliest known owner of the house, had the structure enlarged and ornamented with a bargeboard in the gables between 1890 and 1900. Dr. Mann practiced medicine in Fairfield for forty-four years after receiving his medical degree from the Medical Institute of New York. The current owners Henry Leigh and Grace Ballance are responsible for converting the house into a two-apartment rental unit in 1965. Contributing.

24. Ballance House #1. This one-story, concrete block, ranch style, rental house was built in the 1960s for Henry Leigh and Grace S. Ballance. Intrusive.

25. Ballance House #2. This one-story, concrete block, ranch style, rental house was built in the 1960s. Intrusive.

26. Ballance House #3. The front section of this house was moved from the Dr. Joseph Allen Mann property where it had been used as the doctor's office by Henry Leigh and Grace Ballance in the 1960s to use as a rental unit. This structure is believed to have been used as a school between 1915 and 1920. Contributing.

27. Murray-Jones House. This story-and-a-half house with steep gable roof appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century. William Gaston Murray (1834-1888), who acquired this property in 1871 from Joseph P. Patrick, is believed to have built this house in 1873 at the time of his marriage to Florence Martindale of Baltimore. The zig-zag bargeboard is reported to have been added later when the short gable-roofed ell was built for Mrs. Murray's mother. William Gaston Murray left the house to his wife Florence. In 1904 Florence Murray married William S. Carter and sold the property to Thomas Jones (1862-1937). Jones left the property to his wife Margaret Murray Jones (1859-1936). Their grandsons Michael Fisher Jones and Thomas Carlisle Jones own the house today. Elizabeth C. Jones, mother of Michael Fisher Jones, lives in the house today. Two small, frame, gable roofed outbuildings with vertical wooden siding--a buggy house and a smoke house--survive to the rear of the house. Contributing.

28. Brown-Gibbs-Jones House. The Italianate ornamentation of scroll cornice brackets, fluted corner boards, and diminutive pendant brackets at corners and beneath arched window heads, distinguishes this house. The house also has a cross-gable roof and side hall plan. The combination of the Italianate ornament with the more delicate lacey Queen Anne railing and pierced bargeboard on the entrance porch and the gables of the kitchen lend the house an eclectic and

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fanciful air. This house is believed to have been built by J. Calhoun Brown when he married Clara W. Sadler in 1874. Calhoun Brown (born 1843) was a local merchant and postmaster. Brown's storeroom remains as part of the property and is an important survivor documenting Fairfield's commercial activity in the late nineteenth century. Lillian Brown sold the property to N. M. Gibbs in 1899; N. M. Gibbs and his wife Rosa sold it to T. B. Jones in 1919. H. C. Jones purchased the property in 1921. Lessie F. Jones bought the property in 1933 and sold it back to H. C. Jones in 1934. Lessie F. Jones inherited the property from her husband H. C. Jones in 1959. Their daughter Dorothy J. Dudley is the current owner. A pair of small frame outbuildings -- a wash house and toilet--associated with the house also survive. The store (#59) that Calhoun Brown operated still remains across the street. Pivotal.

29. East Carolina Bank. The East Carolina Bank occupies this one-story enclosed trailer. Intrusive.

30. Ballance House #4. This one-story, stucco-covered, concrete block house with flat roof was built c1960 for Henry Leigh and Grace Ballance. Their son Pascal Ballance lives in the house today. Intrusive.

31. Masonic Lodge. The Fairfield Masonic Lodge built this two-story frame building in 1950. Fill.

32. Roten-O'Neal House. This one-story, brick veneer ranch style house was built in 1966 for Dane Roten. The house and its adjacent metal shed are typical examples of construction in Hyde County in the later half of the twentieth century. The current owners are Edward and Barbara P. O'Neal. Intrusive.

33. Mooney-Cahoon-Carawan House. This house was originally the kitchen and dining room of the Patrick Simmons House (see #34). Dr. Simmons lived in this building while waiting for his house to be completed. The building was converted into a residence in the twentieth century for Clifton Mooney. Hubert and Marie Mooney Cahoon later lived in the house. Willie Mack and Sandra S. Carawan are the current owners. Contributing.

34. Dr. Patrick Simmons House. This cruciform Italianate house with side hall plan was built in 1871 for Dr. Patrick Simmons (1836-1914) and his wife, Eliza Saunderson (1840-1903), considered at the time to be the wealthiest woman in Hyde County. The builders of the house are said to be the same as those who constructed the Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church, including Cason Emery Swindell. Swindell is purported to have constructed the curving staircase in the side hall. The general form of the staircase as well as its turned balusters and slanted octagonal newel post are similar to the staircase in the Laura Blackwell House. Other similarities between the two houses are the fluted pilasters with diminutive sawn brackets which form the corner boards, window surrounds, and porch posts. Heavier drop pendant brackets appear beneath all of the deep box cornices with returns. In addition to the fluted posts and drop pendant brackets, foliate bargeboard spans the spaces between the posts and uniformly pierced bargeboard forms the railin of the porch, the wall of which is

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sheathed in flush beaded horizontal boards. While the dramatic effect of the curved staircase has been minimized by the insertion of a partition in the hall, the original marble Italianate mantelpieces and heavily molded baseboards and door and window surrounds survive. The original kitchen-dining room, in which the Simmons lived while their house was being built, has been moved to the lot just to the south where it has been converted to a residence. Dr. Simmons, who was born in Currituck County, moved to Hyde County from Currituck County in 1861 in order to treat slaves suffering from typhoid and smallpox epidemics. Simmons' son Brigadier General Benjamin Taylor Simmons was born the same year that the house was built. General Simmons graduated from West Point and was a member of the Federal Staff at Washington and Commander of the 19th Division and the 163rd Depot Brigade, Fort Dodge, Iowa during World War I. In 1947 General Simmon's widow and son and his sister Mary Rebecca Simmons sold the house to Clifton Mooney (1890-1968). The Fairfield Church of Christ, the current owner, purchased the property in 1969 from the Mooney heirs and held services here until building a church adjacent to the house in 1971. Pivotal.

35. Fairfield Church of Christ. This concrete block church was constructed in 1971 as the Fairfield Church of Christ. Intrusive.

36. Simmons-Blake House. This two-story, double-pile Colonial Revival house with low hip roof and center hall plan was built for Mary Rebecca Simmons (1862-1951) by carpenter Walter Spencer in 1913. The subtle detailing consists of undecorated corner and cornice boards. One-story hip-roofed wings project from the north and south sides of the house. The bungalow-style supports of wood pylons on brick plinths may be replacements. Miss Simmons was the daughter of Dr. Patrick Simmons and a teacher at the Fairfield Academy. The current owner and occupant is Mrs. Exiedell Smith Blake. Contributing.

37. Dr. Robert Nixon Cartwright House. This two-story L-shaped house has Queen Anne decoration of sawn and turned ornamental bracing, cantilevered window heads supported by scroll brackets, and paneled interior chimneys, all in contrast to the neoclassical porch columns. The house was built for Dr. Robert Nixon Cartwright (1858-1922) of Pasquotank County and his wife, Mattie Simmons (1862-1964), daughter of Patrick and Eliza Simmons, around 1885. Dr. Nixon's first wife was Annie Blackwell (1865-1887), daughter of Laura and Edward Blackwell and granddaughter of town founder David Carter, Jr. Benjamin C. and Gaynell P. Simmons are the current owners of the house which is now rented. Contributing.

38. O'Neal-Armstrong House. Two tall interior chimneys with paneled stacks distinguish the roofline of this one-and-one-half-story, L-shaped house with original rear one-story wing. Wainscoting of narrow vertical beaded boards and fireplaces with carved mantelpieces and mirrored overmantles appear on the interior. Turned balusters and a paneled newel post decorate the long open-well, two-run staircase. According to family tradition, the house was not quite finished when Willie and Carlos O'Neal (1883-1936) were married in September 1910. During a sympathetic renovation, the present owners, Jerry Dewey and Mary S. Armstrong, added the latticework to the porch and built a

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pavilion above the cistern at the rear of the house. There is a small, frame storage building to the rear of the house. Contributing.

39. Williams-Swindell House. This traditional two-story, single-pile house with center hall plan and interior gable-end chimneys was built for Albin and Maude Williams near the time that they were married in 1912. The turned porch supports and narrow vertical sheathing on the porch wall are typical of the believed 1912 construction date. Several additions have been made to the rear elevation by the current owners, Clifford and Rosa Lee Swindell. Contributing.

40. Trailer. Intrusive.

41. Sawyer-O'Neal House. This one-story frame house was built for Lonnie Sawyer in the 1950s. Clifford Swindell and Edward Emery O'Neal are the current owners. Fill.

42. Lindsay G. Mooney, Sr. House. The core of this brick house was built in 1947. Pauline and Lindsay G. Mooney, Sr. Intrusive.

43. David Mooney House. David Mooney (1869-1951), who was the brother of local carpenter Israel Mooney, built this one-and-one-half-story, frame house in 1906. The porch has been enclosed and there have been several additions. Lindsey G. Mooney, Sr. is the current owner and his son Lindsay G. Mooney, Jr. is the current resident. Several twentieth-century frame, gable-roofed outbuildings--a barn, a smokehouse, a mower shed, and a shed--are located to the rear of the house. Contributing.

44. Clifton Hudson Mooney, Jr. House. This one story frame bungalow was built in 1949 for Evelyn and Clifton Hudson Mooney, Jr. A frame smokehouse and garage are contemporary with the house. Fill.

45. House. This one-story frame house that appears to date from the early 1950s is owned by Charles Rodney Sears. Fill.

46. House. This one-story stucco building that appears to date from the early 1950s is owned by Charles Rodney Sears. Intrusive.

47. Carter-Holton-Sears House. Elaborate Carpenter Gothic trim decorates this one-and-one-half-story house with a cross-gable roof. "Icicle" bargeboard and ornamental bracing mark the gables, scroll spandrels with quatrefoil cut-out appear beneath the box cornice returns, and a lattice railing and scalloped spandrels decorate the porch. Originally the house was painted brown with white trim. Carpenter Israel Mooney (1868-1924) built the house around 1890 for David Hezekiah (1855-1944) and Jennie Simmons Carter (1863-1921), who lived in the rear kitchen-dining room building during construction of the main house. The house was built on land that Jennie Simmons Carter acquired during a division of the Simmons property in 1880. According to local tradition, Carter decided that he didn't need such a large house, so he never had the upstairs rooms finished. David Hezekiah Carter was the son of William Sylvester Carter and grandson of

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David Carter, Jr. David H. Carter's unmarried daughters Mary (1893-1962) and Emily Carter sold the property to David Q. Holton in 1957. D. W. and Mary G. Sears acquired the property from Holton's widow Kathryn L. in 1960. Mary Sears still owns and lives in the house today. Pivotal.

48. Blake-Hudson House. This structure is a typical example of story-and-a-jump houses concentrated along this stretch of NC 94 and scattered in large numbers throughout Hyde County. The house has undergone extensive renovations that include replacement of the chimney and the application of asbestos siding. Thomas David Blake (1894-1970) acquired the property from Laura Midyette Carter (1874-1942) in 1923. T. D. Blake's brother James Matthias Blake, Jr. (1877-1938) is believed to have built the house and to have lived here until his death. The T. D. Blake heirs sold the property to Dorothy Hudson, the current owner and occupant, in 1972. Contributing.

49. Swindell-Hudson-Burrus House. This story-and-a-jump house with rear shed and detached kitchen-dining room, is a good example of the folk type popular throughout Hyde County for more than 150 years. Except for the removal of sidelights at the entrance, the house appears unaltered on the exterior. Local carpenter Samuel Lindsay Swindell II (1867-1942), son of Cason Emery Swindell, built the house as a residence for his wife Minnie Gibbs (1869-1951) and himself in the second half of the nineteenth century. A late nineteenth-century frame, gable-roofed barn survives to the rear of the house. Columbus Hudson (1910-1968) lived in the house following Mrs. Swindell's death. Lee Thomas and Betty Burrus are the current owners. Contributing.

50. Roosevelt Spencer House. Like the Blake-Hudson House (#48), this house is characteristic of the story-and-a-jump houses found throughout Hyde County. It appears to date from the turn-of-the-century and was moved from near Lake Mattamuskeet to this site between 1965 and 1970 by Roosevelt and Blanche E. Spencer, the current owners. Contributing.

51. Mooney-Harris House. This example of a low story-and-a-jump house, retains its original weatherboarding, pressed tin roof, and interior end-chimney. The house is believed to have been built by carpenter David Mooney (1869-1951) as his residence about 1918 on a lot he purchased from Allie Young (1862-1942) in the same year. Mooney sold the house in 1923 to R. L. Harris. Orene Harris is the current owner. A small barn and car garage--both with vertical wooden siding--remain on the property. Contributing.

52. Sadler-Bates House. Sam Sadler (c1855-1906) and his wife Lula Hunt, daughter of Rev. Moses Hunt (a Methodist minister and grandfather of Governor Jim Hunt) had this simple one-story house built when they married in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. There have been numerous later shed additions. Gussie Mae Betts is the current owner. Contributing.

53. Snow Hill Baptist Church. The Snow Hill Baptist Church congregation built this stucco covered concrete block church with bell tower in the 1960s on the site of an earlier church. The building is on land that Laura Blackwell deeded

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to the congregation in 1883. Fill.

54. (Former) Fairfield Canal Warehouse. This late nineteenth-century, frame gable-roofed warehouse with a shed addition was moved to this site from a site located across NC 94 adjacent to the Fairfield Canal. The Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company owned and operated the warehouse until its dissolution. The warehouse is one of a small number of surviving wholesale warehouses in Fairfield. The current owners are Lindsay G. Mooney, Jr. and Clifton H. Mooney, Jr. Contributing.

55. Fairfield Post Office. This one-story concrete block post office with brick veneer front was built in 1964. Intrusive.

56. Store. This vacant, one-story, frame commercial building with a later concrete block facade appears to date from the early twentieth century. There is no known source of information documenting the history of the store. Albert F. and Marie Whitaker are the current owners and live in the house adjacent (#57). Fill.

57. House. This deteriorated, frame, story-and-a-half house with attached kitchen and dining ell is a characteristic Hyde County house form dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. A wooden picket fence separates the front yard from the street. There was no known source of information concerning the history of the house. Albert F. and Marie Whitaker are the current owners. There are two small, frame sheds and an outdoor toilet. Contributing.

58. Fairfield Exxon. The concrete block Fairfield Exxon and grocery were built in 1960. Intrusive.

59. (Former) Brown-Mann Store. One of two, adjacent, surviving, one-room, gable-front, nineteenth-century stores in Fairfield, the Calhoun Brown Store is typical of Fairfield's late nineteenth-century commercial architecture. The store, which has been vacant for many years, retains its scalloped molding above doors and windows and a hip-roofed porch with sawn scroll brackets. Calhoun Brown (1843-before 1899) operated a store and post office here in the second half of the nineteenth century. Dr. James Emory Mann (1879-1962) owned the store after Brown and it was operated by Jephthah Mason for many years. Branson's Business Directory for 1896 listed Mann as operator of a drugstore. The store has been vacant since 1956. Henry Leigh and Grace S. Ballance are the current owners. Pivotal.

60. (Former) E. S. O'Neal And Sons Store. With the Calhoun Brown Store, the E. S. O'Neal And Sons Store represents the vitality of Fairfield's nineteenth-century commercial architecture. Rich Italianate decoration of sawn brackets in the eaves and the capitals of the grooved corner boards adorn the building that once accommodated the E. S. O'Neal and Sons Store. It is possible that E. S. O'Neal (1845-1936) was already conducting business in this store in 1870 when the federal census counted him as a merchant. In 1917 E. S. O'Neal gave a one-fourth interest in his store to each of his three sons--

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Carlos (1883-1936), Robert, and Harry (1889-1942). His wife Mattie (1860-1926) inherited E. S. O'Neal's remaining fourth upon his death the following year and his sons inherited the store property. By 1921 the Fairfield map of incorporation shows the store as the O'Neal Brothers Store. Henry Leigh and Grace S. Ballance are the current owners of the property. The building has been vacant since 1980 when it was used as a saloon. Pivotal.

61. Cutrell Store. This vacant, one-story, frame store with side gables and long porch along the nongable end was built in 1942 for Dallas Cutrell. Phillip Ray West is the current owner. Fill.

62. Harris-Mooney House. This single pile, gable roofed building originally served as a cotton gin facility in the Camur area. Early in this century, Dr. Arthur Graham Harris (1877-1944) had the building moved to its current site converted into a house. Alterations included construction of the interior panelled chimney and shed-roofed porch with chamfered posts and sawnwork railing. Myrtle C. Mooney is the current owner. Contributing.

63. House. This frame, story-and-a-jump, single pile house with rear shed is typical of late nineteenth-century vernacular architecture in Hyde County. Its screened porch is its only major alteration. There is no known information about the early history of this house. Camille S. Cooley, the current owner, rents the house to Mrs. Meta Watson. Contributing.

64. Russell Cutrell House. The living room and north bedroom were originally used as a coffin house by George Swindell who made coffins in the 1920s and 1930s. The building was later used as a millinery shop. There were major alterations made to the building in 1952 when Russell Cutrell, the current owner, converted it into a residence. Contributing.

65. Fairfield Christian Church. Organized in 1887, the Fairfield Christian congregation built its one-room gable-front church in 1892 on a one-fifth acre lot deeded to the church by Laura Blackwell. Sawn curved and arched window heads defined with moldings that resemble dentilling ornament the building. The two-story narthex and open belfry were completed in 1906. A modern rear addition obscures the one-story polygonal apse. The interior has been thoroughly altered. Contributing.

66. Dr. Arthur Graham Harris House. Arthur Graham Harris (1877-1944), noted local "horse and buggy" physician, had this two-story house built around 1907 when he married Rena Livingston Bell of Halifax. Dr. Harris, a graduate of the Fairfield Academy, attended the Medical College of Virginia 1901-1904, and received a medical degree from the South Medical School of Sewanne, Tennessee in 1905. The cubical, double-pile structure with low hip roof punctuated by a tall central chimney, has two front entrances, one of which opened into Dr. Harris' office. Harris' son Arthur Bell Harris is the current owner. Several frame outbuildings--including a barn, wash house, and pump house--remain on the property. Contributing.

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67. Rue-Hudson House. Unlike the majority of the larger late nineteenth century Fairfield houses, elaborate sawnwork decoration appears only at the porch of this two-story house and does not embellish the cross-gabled roofline. Except for screening in the front porch and enclosure of the rear breezeway in order to attach the kitchen-dining room, the side hall plan house remains unaltered. Leonard Lee Rue (1857-1928), a merchant, was the original owner. Jessie (1906-1969) and Mattie Laveda Hudson who were married in 1928 purchased the house after Rue's death. Mattie Hudson is the current owner. Contributing.

68. Spencer Family House. Frederick Spencer (1828-1872), father of carpenter Walter Spencer and boat captain Flavius Spencer, had the original portion of this house built in the late nineteenth century. The two-story L-shaped house with polygonal two-story bay achieved its present form in the late nineteenth century when Walter Spencer (1855-1930s) substantially remodelled and enlarged the original two-room dwelling as the residence of his brother Captain Flavius Spencer (1859-1931), a boat captain who became owner and president of the Fairfield Canal. Spencer was instrumental in developing a thriving shipping business for the Fairfield area. Ornate sawnwork decorates the two-story front porch and large interior chimneys pierce the gabled roofline. The property remains in the Spencer family today; F. F. Spencer is the current owner. Pivotal.

69. House. This frame, one-story double pile house appears to date from the first half of the twentieth century. There is no known information concerning the history of this house. F. F. Spencer is the current owner. Fill.

70. Spencer-Burgess-Fortiscue House. Edward Napoleon Spencer (1855-1921) built this cottage for his dwelling in the second half of the nineteenth century. The hip-roofed wing on the main facade contains a winding staircase to the attic rooms. After Spencer moved to Raleigh, his sister and brother-in-law, Helen (1838-1918) and Francis Marion Burgess, occupied the dwelling; their granddaughter, Desdamona Fortiscue, was responsible for moving from the front yard the small frame building (which had been used as the Fairfield post office for a time in this century) and having it attached to the south end of the house. Contributing.

71. Trailer. Intrusive.

72. House. This characteristic venacular frame story-and-a-jump house is in an advanced state of deterioration. There is no known historical information. Contributing.

73. Fairfield Missionary Baptist Church And Parsonage. Although a Baptist mission began in Fairfield around 1880 when Rev. Josiah Elliott visited and preached a sermon, the Fairfield Baptist Church did not organize until 1925. Construction of this Colonial Revival style church in the form of a Latin cross began in 1928 and was completed two years later. The pedimented entrance porch repeats the lines of the gable-front building surmounted by a short steeple. This one-story pyramidal-roofed bungalow that was built in the 1930s serves as

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the parsonage for the adjacent church. The two interior chimneys have corbelled caps and tuscan columns support the gable-roofed screened porch. Contributing.

74. Carawan House. This one-story frame dwelling was originally the kitchen of the Stephen Cutrell House (#76) on the adjoining lot to the south. The owners moved the building and added enclosed porches and picture windows altering its historic character. Earl L. and Myrdis B. Carawan, the current owners, rent the house to tenants. Fill.

75. Trailer. Intrusive.

76. Cutrell-Mason-Smith House. This story-and-a-half frame dwelling is characteristic of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century houses built in Hyde County. The house was built for Stephen and Susan A. (1841-1893) Cutrell. Jephthah Mason (1852-1934) who operated the J. E. Mann Store (#59) for many years lived here after the Cutrells. Ethel C. Smith is the current owner. The kitchen was moved to an adjoining lot where it was converted into a house. (#74) Contributing.

77. (Former) Richard Luther Young Store. This one-story frame store dates from the late nineteenth century. The forebay was added to shelter the gas pumps in the early twentieth century. The Fairfield post office was located in the store between 1884 and 1889. The store was operated by the Young family until 1952 when Frank and Herma (Gibbs) Young (1889-1969) sold it to G. M. and Mona Cutrell. The Cutrells sold it to J. E. Armstrong in 1965. His son Johnnie Armstrong currently owns the store building and uses it as a barn; it has not been used as a store for several years. Contributing.

78. Fairfield Canal. The North Carolina General Assembly authorized the formation of the Fairfield Canal Company in 1840 to build a canal to connect Fairfield with the Alligator River to provide drainage for farmland and transportation for both passengers and produce. About 2,100 feet of the canal are included within the district boundaries. The canal was the major impetus for the growth and development of Fairfield as a major commercial center. The canal gradually fell into disuse with the completion of the Intercoastal Waterway in the late 1920s and the adoption of ground transportation in the 1920s and 1930s led to the decline of both canal transport and Fairfield as a mercantile center. The canal which survives today was originally about twenty-feet wide and approximately two-and-a-half feet deep. Erosion has resulted in the widening of the canal today; it is probably as wide as fifty feet in some areas. Although the canal is not used for transportation today, adjacent drainage ditches empty into it--allowing the canal to continue to serve one of its original functions. The Fairfield Canal follows the same bed today as it did in the nineteenth century; its southern terminus is at the junction of NC 94 and SR 1305 and its northern terminus is at its intersection with the Alligator River--the boundary between Hyde and Tyrrell counties. Pivotal.

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DEFINITION OF INVENTORY PROPERTY CATEGORIES

**PIVOTAL** used for properties of outstanding architectural and historical significance. These properties establish the dominant character of the district and are associated with people who were instrumental in the founding and development of Fairfield.

**CONTRIBUTING** used for properties that as part of the whole tell the story of human occupation in the district in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These properties form a harmonious grouping of buildings that embody the distinctive local building tradition and exhibit a uniformity of scale, materials, use, and siting.

**FILL** used for structures that neither add to nor detract from the physical character of the district and that do not meet the fifty-year age requirement for National Register listing.

**INTRUSIVE** used for structures that not only do not meet the age criteria for National Register listing but that because of siting, scale, use, materials, or other factors actively detract from and interrupt the historic character of the district.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fairfield, a village located on the north shore of Lake Mattamuskeet in agrarian-based Hyde County has significant historical and architectural associations with the boom and bust economy of the Fairfield Canal. The economic prosperity and mercantile activity associated with the canal transformed Fairfield over the course of last three decades of the late nineteenth century from a simple farming community into a town with substantial dwellings, stores, and churches. The Fairfield Canal--connecting Hyde County with the Albemarle Sound via the Alligator River--gave both merchants and farmers in the vicinity access to such desirable markets as Elizabeth City and Norfolk. The opening of the Intercoastal Waterway in the Fairfield area in 1928, the completion of the Fairfield Bridge (now part of North Carolina Highway 94) in 1939, and improved roads and ground transportation in the twentieth century resulted in easier and faster transport of goods by land than canal transport provided. With the decline of canal travel, Fairfield lost its commercial vitality and has undergone little physical change since the early twentieth century. The pleasant rural village has an outstanding collection of buildings that date from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century and that survives remarkably intact and free from incompatible modernizations and intrusions. These buildings include both vernacular story-and-a-half and coastal plain cottages and exuberantly decorated Italianate and Carpenter Gothic houses, churches, and stores. The juxtaposition of simple vernacular forms with the decorated picturesque styles not only creates a varied built environment but one that also reflects both the local vernacular building tradition of Hyde County and the tastes of Fairfield's mercantile and professional elite who, like their counterparts in almost every section of the country, were influenced by the popular architectural literature of the nineteenth century. The boundaries of the district coincide with the town limits of Fairfield in 1921; the 1920s mark the end of the period of major construction and the conclusion of the Fairfield Canal era.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

The Fairfield historic district possesses significance in North Carolina and Hyde County history and architecture and possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

A. is associated with the development and decline of the Fairfield Canal which had significant associations with commerce, agriculture, and transportation in both Hyde County and the state of North Carolina;

B. is associated with the lives of significant Hyde county residents, including the community's founder David Carter, Jr. and his family and associates,

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prominent local merchants such as Edward Blackwell, E. S. O'Neal, and J. Calhoun Brown, and canal boat captains such as F. F. Spencer; and

C. that embodies the distinguished body of work of the nineteenth-century, local carpenter Cason Emery Swindell as well as a distinctive nineteenth-century grouping of vernacular and popular pattern book architecture and that also includes rare, intact surviving non-domestic examples from the same period.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Fairfield is one of several small villages in Hyde County. First called Wickham, Hyde County was named in honor of Edward Hyde, an early governor of North Carolina. Most of the land presently occupied by the village of Fairfield was part of a 640 acre patent to James Clayton in 1757.<sup>1</sup> Local residents attribute the name as well as the founding of Fairfield to David Carter, Jr. (1801-1862), a later owner of much of the land that today encompasses the portion of the village that is west of the canal. Carter, like his father David Carter, Sr., represented Hyde County in the General Assembly. The Carters were part of the Hyde County political, economic, and social elite who dominated local affairs. David Carter, Jr. was one of the few Hyde County planters who could afford to educate his children: his son David M. Carter graduated from the University<sup>2</sup> of North Carolina in 1851 and another son William also attended the university.<sup>2</sup> Carter was evidently a man of some learning himself since he possessed an inventory of books at the time of his death in 1862.<sup>3</sup> David Carter, Jr. lived originally in the Middle Creek vicinity of Hyde County on land that he inherited from his father. The younger Carter sold those holdings in 1842.<sup>4</sup> From that time, he appears to have concentrated his efforts on farming and canal development in the Fairfield area. The inscription on Carter's tombstone in the Fairfield Cemetery bears out local tradition that Carter was responsible for making the swampy environs of Lake Mattamuskeet suitable for human habitation and agricultural cultivation. The inscription describes Carter as a "pioneer of internal improvements" who "reclaimed fair fields from Swamps and left it a garden."<sup>5</sup>

Although little is known of the specific improvements that Carter made to his holdings in the Fairfield area, it is likely that Carter, like other Hyde County farmers, shared in the prosperity that North Carolina experienced in the period following the War of 1812.<sup>6</sup> The farmland in the Mattamuskeet environs was rich and did not require fertilizer for large yields and steady crops. Although farms north of the lake in the Fairfield vicinity had higher elevations and were less vulnerable than those on the south side of Mattamuskeet, the water level of the lake was a constant threat to farmland. The swamps and marshes in the lake area also prevented the cultivation of many acres. Hyde County farmers followed the advice of Edmund Ruffin, a nationally recognized leader in the development of scientific agriculture, in developing drainage ditches that allowed farmers to surface drain these rich lands near the lake. Ruffin, who visited the county in the 1830s and again in 1856, compiled a report entitled "Sketches of Lower North Carolina and Similar Adjacent Lands"

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that described this system of ditches. Unfortunately, this well-balanced system occasionally broke down as it did in 1836 when heavy rains and subsequent runoff from the swamplands destroyed all crops even on elevated lands and prevented further cultivation for the entire season.

The digging in 1838 of a seven mile long canal, which Ruffin had recommended, from Lake Mattamuskeet at Lake Landing Township to Wyesocking Bay lowered the lake level by approximately three-and-one-half feet and laid bare a rim of land between one-half to three miles wide around the lake. Although this effort resulted in the unfortunate consequence of silting in Wyesocking Bay and diminishing its effectiveness as a harbor, it did provide farmers both north and south of the lake with enlarged and protected fields.

Farmers in the Fairfield vicinity benefitted from this increase in tillable land and improved drainage. Although farming conditions were improved, Fairfield was isolated from transportation routes to market its agricultural products. In January of 1840, the North Carolina General Assembly which was encouraging internal improvements in transportation, authorized the formation of the Fairfield Canal Company. The company was empowered to construct a canal (#78) from Lake Mattamuskeet to the Alligator River for drainage and the transportation of produce at designated tolls. In 1859, the General Assembly amended the act pertaining to the Fairfield Canal Company, and the Company was rechartered as the Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company with David Carter, Caleb Spencer, Allen Burrus, Thomas Mann, and S. S. Simmons as the charterers. The preamble to the charter stated the problem which existed in the Fairfield area:

Whereas, the want of a sufficient and permanent channel of navigation between the village of Fairfield and the Alligator River and through said river to Albemarle Sound is a serious injury to the agricultural and commercial interests of the citizens of Hyde and Tyrrell Counties; and whereas there is no direct and convenient communications by road between said counties which now constitute one senatorial district and whereas it is desirable and necessary to the interests and convenience of the citizens of said counties to establish a direct, safe, and easy communication both by road and canal between said counties..."<sup>10</sup>

The North Carolina General Assembly authorized the company to complete a canal of uniform depth of at least two-and-a-half-feet of water and to construct a turnpike road on the west bank of the canal to connect Hyde and Tyrrell counties. The company was also given the right to acquire title to any land necessary for the construction of the canal and turnpike.<sup>11</sup>

The canal is believed to have been dug primarily by slaves. The costs of constructing both the road and the turnpike and the continuing expense of maintaining them, however, were defrayed by the toll charged for all vehicles and all merchandise carried on either. Perhaps, because an owner who could afford a closed carriage could afford a higher toll, the toll for four-wheel buggies was five cents but fifty cents for a closed carriage. Tolls were set for fixed amounts of local products including fish, pork, corn, sweet potatoes,

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wheat, and sawed planks as well as for the necessary imports of molasses, sugar, coffee, dry goods, and bricks. A Hyde County farmer, for example, could ship one barrel of pork for five cents and a bushel of sweet potatoes for one-half cent; the cost of transporting items sold in the area's general stores ranged from two cents for a bag of coffee, five cents for a box of dry goods and ten cents for a hogshead of sugar or molasses.<sup>12</sup>

In Edmund Ruffin's 1861 report of the area, the Fairfield Canal is described as being twenty feet wide and extending from Fairfield to the Alligator River. Ruffin further characterized the waterway: "The canal is not connected with the lake because the entrance of the turbid lake water, when high, would be injurious in choking the canal and its outlet with fluid sludge."<sup>13</sup>

Despite continuing drainage problems, Ruffin was amazed at the productivity of Hyde County land. He estimated that there were 32,000 acres of land under tillage around the former margins of the lake and that this land yielded, when new, about fifty-five bushels of corn to the acre and as much as thirty bushels after fifty years of constant farming without the addition of fertilizer.<sup>14</sup> The distribution of substantial plantation houses built in the Lake Landing and other agricultural areas of Hyde County are testimony to the agricultural wealth of the county and the need for a reliable transportation system such as the Fairfield Canal to transport farm products. Similarly, the development and growth of the Fairfield community during the canal era reflected the prosperity associated with storing and transporting the agricultural yield and selling necessary goods to farmers.

Fairfield and Hyde County began to experience the prosperity brought about by the construction of the canal during the decade preceding the Civil War. David Carter, Jr. and his family appear to have been the dominant land owners and most prominent figures in antebellum Fairfield. Carter made generous gifts of land to his children; his sons received farmland and William Sylvester Carter (1833-1902), Isaiah S. Carter (1846-1891), and Henry Clay Carter (1843-1920) became prosperous farmers in the Fairfield community. Carter's daughter Laura Elizabeth married Edward Blackwell in 1858. Carter assured that his daughter Laura would have a secure future by giving her, at the time of her marriage, land in Fairfield on which he commissioned local carpenter Cason Emery Swindell to build a fine Italianate style house (#6) and by also giving her a storehouse and a warehouse. Although both commercial structures have been demolished, it is believed that they were located along the canal. It appears that Blackwell whose father Josiah who had been a merchant in Middletown in Hyde County assumed operation of the business property that Laura (Carter) Blackwell acquired from her father. The combination of Blackwell's business abilities and Laura's property was a successful one that assured Blackwell's position as Fairfield's leading merchant until his death in 1870.

Fairfield, like most North Carolina communities, did not escape the physical, social, and economic disruption of the war. Many Fairfield men served in the Confederate forces; Carter's son Captain James Henry Carter was killed in

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battle in 1862. In March 1863, the Federal Army dispatched raiding parties from the occupied port at Washington, North Carolina, in Beaufort County, to Hyde County. Two of the expeditions by the 3rd New York Cavalry under Captain Colin Richardson and the 101st Pennsylvania Infantry under Colonel David B. Morris clashed with the Confederate Partisan Rangers and the Independent Cavalry at Fairfield and Swan Quarter, the county seat. Richardson, after ordering the destruction of Rose Bay Bridge in the present Swan Quarter Township, moved around Lake Mattamuskeet and routed Confederate forces at Fairfield. The Union army found a rich source of supplies in the area as evidenced by Col. Morris' itemized list that included cotton, bacon, and corn. Morris also wrote an account of burning the outbuildings at a farm near Fairfield and described the Confederate forces as "scattered about in small parties of from six to eight through the almost impassable swamps."<sup>15</sup> Local tradition holds that the door of the Laura Blackwell House (#6) still bears axe marks from Union forces trying to gain entry. The full extent of physical damage to property at Fairfield, however, is not known although it appears to have been minimal.

David Carter's son William S. Carter, a farmer in the Fairfield vicinity, wrote to Governor Zebulon B. Vance in September 1863 of the effects of the Federal presence in the Fairfield vicinity:

The peculiar situation of our people at this time being entirely surrounded by the enemy leads me to seek your instructions as to the proper manner for us to govern ourselves in our intercourse with each other. The enemy have overrun and claim to hold in their line ten or eleven counties in eastern Carolina with complete possession of the Sound and contiguous waters. Our county is included in this number. Interspersed among our population is a class of men disloyal to the Confederacy and the best interests of North Carolina. These men are constant spies on our actions, are running off our property, leading the enemy to our doors, and encouraging him to commit all manner of degradation upon us. If an outlet to this county could be opened we could soon rid ourselves of the class and could give to the Confederacy 250 fighting men. Besides this, our county alone could and would send to the upcountry hundreds of thousands pounds of bacon and a million bushels of corn. Our granaries are full of the old crops and our prolific earth is groaning under the abundance of the new. Our intercourse with each other is very much restricted by the strict police system of the enemy.<sup>16</sup>

With the Albemarle Sound controlled by Union forces and sympathizers in control of commerce in Fairfield, the early prosperity of the canal era ended abruptly. Fairfield, like most other communities, felt the disruption and loss of much of its male population during the war years, when many of its citizens enlisted in Companies F and H of the 33rd Regiment.<sup>17</sup>

Hyde County probably recovered more quickly from the effects of the Civil War than did many North Carolina communities. The area was not dependent upon the repair, rebuilding, or establishment of a railroad as were many areas of the

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state since its major transport needs were met through water transportation. A flourishing agricultural area of independent farmers, Hyde County did not need to concentrate on industrialization and manufacturing to recover from the war as did less fertile parts of the state. As William S. Carter's letter attests, the land in Hyde County had continued to be farmed during the war, and local food supplies were not seriously interrupted. The isolation that characterized the county with its few roads and expanses of marshes and forests offered some degree of protection from the more severe ravages of war that more accessible areas in the state experienced. Although most Hyde County farm families had used slave labor to some extent in the antebellum period, the economy was not entirely dependent upon it; the steadfast self-reliance of the people in this area sustained them both during and after the war. Most importantly, the Fairfield Canal which had ushered in a period of prewar prosperity survived the war undamaged and quickly reassumed operation.

Over the course of the three decades following the Civil War, Fairfield became Hyde County's most thriving commercial center. As befitting a growing commercial center, Fairfield was the location of the most prestigious school in the county. The Fairfield Academy at the residence of Thomas Mann was listed in the Branson's Business Directory of 1869.<sup>18</sup> The school attracted children from both Fairfield and other areas of Hyde County. As the nineteenth century progressed Fairfield grew as a mercantile center. Branson's Business Directory for 1869 listed only three merchants in the Fairfield vicinity.<sup>19</sup> An analysis of census records for 1870 indicates that the leading merchant of the community was thirty-nine year old Edward L. Blackwell, son-in-law of Fairfield's founder David Carter.<sup>20</sup> Blackwell, like Carter, had moved to Fairfield from the Middle Creek vicinity of the county. Blackwell had been a clerk in his father's store before relocating to Fairfield.<sup>21</sup> Blackwell owned real estate and was a farmer as well as a merchant in 1870. According to the 1870 census, Blackwell held \$10,000 worth of real estate and personal property valued at \$2,000. Blackwell's financial worth in 1870 is in marked contrast to two younger merchants--E. S. O'Neal with an inventory of \$800 and J. Calhoun Brown whose inventory was valued at only \$500. Blackwell, Spencer, and Brown were among six merchants in the Fairfield District of Hyde County in 1870.<sup>22</sup>

During the next three decades the number of Fairfield merchants tripled: by 1896 Branson's Directory listed eighteen Fairfield merchants, including fifteen general merchants, a jeweler, a druggist, and a milliner.<sup>23</sup> The 1870s had been a time of change marked by the death of Blackwell and the construction of the two existing Italianate style commercial buildings for O'Neal's and Brown's stores. A number of Fairfield's late nineteenth-century merchants and professionals, including Calhoun Brown (#28 and #60), who obviously had risen in prominence as a merchant, and Dr. Patrick Simmons (#34) built fashionable Carpenter Gothic and Italianate residences during this period of economic growth. These ornate houses and the increased mercantile activity reflect both Fairfield's recovery from the disruption of the Civil War and its significance as Hyde County's largest community and a major commercial center of the Albemarle Sound region.

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Although local tradition suggests that Fairfield possessed a flourishing Methodist congregation earlier in the nineteenth century, its first recorded Methodist minister was the Reverend Henry Gay who began to conduct services in 1851. Church records show that membership increased in the years between 1851 and 1860, a likely indication not only of the appeal of Methodism but also of the increasing population that Fairfield was experiencing as a result of the canal.<sup>24</sup> The date that the Fairfield Methodists built their original church is unknown; but the existing Gothic Revival style church is believed to have been built in 1877 on the former site of the Sons of Temperance Hall.<sup>25</sup> David Carter, Jr. had been one of the founders of the Sons of Temperance and an owner along with several other Fairfield citizens of the land that the lodge occupied. The Sons of Temperance property was among those properties sold to settle Carter's estate.<sup>26</sup> The Branson's Business Directories for 1869, 1872, and 1877-78 indicate that the Fairfield Methodists shared their minister with Hyde County's other Methodist congregations; by 1884, however, the directory shows that Fairfield had the membership and financial and other resources to support a resident Methodist minister.<sup>27</sup> Methodism was the predominant religion in Fairfield as it was in the rest of the county.<sup>28</sup>

Although Methodism was the major denomination in Fairfield, other religious groups formed congregations, acquired ministers to hold services and built churches in the nineteenth century. Episcopal services were held in Fairfield as early as 1866. Bishop Thomas Atkinson authorized the organization of a parish in 1868 but it was not until 1877 that the Reverend H. G. Hilton became the first rector of Fairfield's All Saints Episcopal Church. The congregation used the Fairfield Academy and unidentified sites for services until it built its existing frame church between 1885 and 1887 on land donated by Laura (Carter) Blackwell, daughter of town founder David Carter, Jr.<sup>29</sup> Ministers of the Church of Christ originally called the Christian Baptist Church visited Fairfield before 1867 when a minister of this denomination established residence in the county. In 1892 Laura Blackwell, who had also deeded land to the Episcopal congregation, gave land to the Church of Christ for a church; construction began soon after.<sup>30</sup> The Reverend Josiah Elliot's visit to Fairfield in 1880 is the earliest record of Baptist services in Fairfield. Evidently, there was a friendly spirit of cooperation between Methodists and Baptists in Fairfield since Elliot visited Fairfield's Methodist minister Joseph T. Arrington. Families in the Fairfield vicinity however had been Baptists long before this time and had been members of the Primitive Baptist Church that had organized in the early nineteenth century and located their church on land outside the Fairfield community. The Baptists were the only major religious group represented in Fairfield not to build a church in the community in the nineteenth century. The Fairfield Baptist Church (#73) was not built until 1928.<sup>31</sup>

The construction in the late nineteenth century of Fairfield Methodist Episcopal Church, of All Saints Episcopal Church on land given to the congregation by Laura (Carter) Blackwell, and of the Fairfield Christian Church also on land deeded to the congregation by Laura Blackwell represent the

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religious and social development of Fairfield. Laura Blackwell's gifts establish her as a benefactress of Fairfield's religious institutions. It appears that Laura Blackwell remained a prominent and influential woman after the deaths of her father and husband. Just as her father had provided a university education for at least some of his sons, Laura Blackwell also offered her children educational opportunities. Her son who was deaf attended boarding school in Baltimore and her daughter attended St. Mary's in Raleigh and Salem College. The prominence of the family is documented by Edward Blackwell's estate administrator J. S. Carter's concern that Annie receive enough support while at school to be in accordance with her social position and station.<sup>32</sup> Today, members of the Carter family recall that Laura Blackwell was a "strong, very matter-of-fact type of woman who showed very little emotion" although she suffered in 1870 the deaths of both her eleven year old son Josiah and her thirty-nine year old husband Edward Blackwell, and in 1877 of her twenty-two year old daughter Annie (Blackwell) Cartwright.<sup>33</sup> In 1902 Laura Blackwell sold her house to her brother Henry Clay Carter and moved from Fairfield to Greensboro where she died in 1912. Although she left no direct descendants, her influence is still evident in the built environment of Fairfield.

As Fairfield grew in population and its residents established businesses, built new houses, and constructed churches, the Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company continued to make improvements to the canal and turnpike. In 1884, company president William S. Carter purchased a sixty-foot easement on each bank of the canal for \$1,265 and built two warehouses and an office on the canal bank. One of the warehouses is still in use today by the Mooney Brothers firm. At the turn-of-the-century, William S. Carter requested that the charter for the corporation be extended beyond the original fifty years agreed upon. His eloquent letter to the Honorable C. W. Davis of the North Carolina Legislature stated that "This canal and turnpike have developed this section and made it what it is. Prior to the digging of the canal, the whole region around about was on Sunken Swamp. Since the digging of the canal and draining of the swamp in opening transportation, the whole region around has grown up into the thriving town of Fairfield, with its churches and schools and several hundred population." The amendment to the charter was passed in 1899, and the canal was dug out again by a Norfolk company for \$2,960.<sup>34</sup>

At the turn of the twentieth century, people throughout the county were bringing their produce to Fairfield for shipment. Understandably, the captains of the ships transporting the county's goods became well known, and their adventures on the uncertain waters of the rivers and the sound were told far and wide. In 1900 Lizzie Burrus, piloted by Captain Flavius F. Spencer, Jr., (#68) was the premier ship operating out of Fairfield. Spencer was also the major stockholder in the corporation at this time. When Spencer's boat burned, it was replaced by the Alma which was built in 1898 at Fairfield by W. E. Krause. Krause built his boat in the Recess, an area near the village which gave the large boats room to turn around. In 1918, the canal froze, and that same winter the Guide, piloted by Captain Dan Haymen, burned when its boiler exploded. Several people were injured,<sup>35</sup> and one person died aboard the Alma enroute to the hospital in Elizabeth City. Many boats plied the waters between Fairfield

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and the Albemarle Sound ports during the years between 1900 and 1919, when the Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company first entertained the idea of dissolution. By that time, more roads had opened throughout the county--giving residents more opportunities to trade and shop in larger cities and enabling farmers to transport their goods to market at first by horse-drawn wagons and eventually by truck.

The difficulties facing the operators of the Fairfield Canal and Turnpike Company continued to increase. In 1925-28, the Army Corps of Engineers dug through the canal and turnpike to build the part of the Inland Waterway passing between the Alligator and Pungo Rivers.<sup>36</sup> During the construction of the waterway, a ferry carried highway traffic across the cut in the canal and turnpike. Flavius Spencer fought the Inland Waterway project because he insisted that the new dredging would raise the water level in the surrounding areas. Passage of a few years proved Spencer correct, but more than two decades passed before the Fairfield Drainage District was formed in 1957 to pump water from the area's farms. In 1957, the old Fairfield Canal became the major drainage for all neighboring ditches, canals, and dikes. Water from the Fairfield Canal was, and still is, pumped into the Intercoastal Waterway.<sup>37</sup> The canal gradually fell into disuse for commercial purposes, and in 1927, Hyde County purchased the turnpike for \$3,000. The west branch of the canal is now part of North Carolina Highway 94. The Spencers again considered dissolving the company in 1933. Ten years after the death of Captain Spencer in 1927, the company was formally disbanded, and Spencer's widow became the sole owner of the Fairfield Canal. Today, the canal which is more than 130 years old is still owned by the Spencer family. Since the 1930s, Fairfield has been a quiet rural residential village that retains much of its historic built environment, including the canal that influenced its growth, development, and decline.

FOOTNOTES

1. Patent Map, Hyde County Courthouse, Tax Office.
2. John H. Wheeler, Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851, (Philadelphia, Lippincott, Grambo, and Co., 1851), p. 128.
3. Estate papers of David Carter, hereinafter cited as Carter papers, Raleigh, Division of Archives and History.
4. Hyde County Deed Book 1, pp. 127-128.
5. Hyde County Historical Society, Hyde County History: Hyde County Bicentennial Project, (Charlotte: Herb Eaton Co., Hyde County Historical Society, 1976), p. 47, hereinafter cited as History.
6. Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina, hereinafter cited as North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), p. 327.

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7. Edmund Ruffin, Agricultural, Geological, and Descriptive Sketches of Lower North Carolina and Similar Adjacent Lands, (Raleigh: Institute for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, 1861), unpaginated microfilm, hereinafter cited as Sketches.
8. Ibid.
9. History, p. 18.
10. Ibid. and Session Laws of North Carolina, 1858-59, c. 146, and Private Laws, p. 157.
11. Ibid.
12. History, p. 18.
13. Sketches.
14. Ibid.
15. John A. Reed, History of the 101st Regiment: Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry, (Chicago: L. S. Dickey and Co., 1919), p. 24.
16. History, p. 74.
17. Ibid., p. 75.
18. Branson's Business Directory for 1869, (Raleigh: J. A. Jones), p. 81.
19. Ibid.
20. United States Census, Hyde County, North Carolina, Fairfield District, 1870.
21. United States Census, Hyde County, Mattamuskeet District, 1850.
22. United States Census, Hyde County, North Carolina, Fairfield District, 1870.
23. Branson's Business Directory for 1896, (Raleigh: Levi Branson), p. 344.
24. Hyde County History, p. 28.
25. Ibid., p. 36.
26. Carter papers.
27. Analysis of resident ministers, Branson's Business Directory for 1869, 1872, 1877-78, (Raleigh: J. A. Jones).

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28. History, p. 28.
29. Ibid., p. 27-28.
30. Ibid., p. 25.
31. History, p. 23.
32. Estate Papers of Edward L. Blackwell, Raleigh, Division of Archives and History.
33. Interview with Laura Burrus conducted by R. S. Spencer, Jr., Hyde County, North Carolina, August, 13, 1983.
34. History, p. 18.
35. Ibid.
36. Congressional Record, 80th Congress, 2nd Session, 1948, House of Representatives H. R. 723, Letter from Secretary of the Army, p. 11.
37. History, p. 18.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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south along the west property line to the southwest corner of this property, turning and proceeding east along this and adjacent property lines to the intersection with NC 94 (approximately .3 mile south of the junction with SR 1305), going east across NC 94, proceeding north along this right-of-way to the southwest corner of the Willie Mack and Sandra S. Carawan property, proceeding east along this property line and then north along this and adjacent property lines to SR 1305, proceeding across SR 1305 and along the rear (east) property lines of the Jerry Dewey and Mary Sears Armstrong and the Rosa Lee and Clifford Swindell properties to the Edward Emory O'Neal and Clifford Swindell property line, proceeding east, north and then west along this property to the Fairfield Canal, proceeding west across the Fairfield Canal and west across NC 94 right-of-way (approximately .4 mile north of the junction with SR 1305), proceeding south along the west side of the NC 94 right-of-way to the northeast corner of the Dorothy R. Hudson property, proceeding west and south along this property to the intersection of the northwest corner of the Lee Thomas and Betty Burrus property with SR 1309, proceeding west across SR 1309 to the northeast corner of the William J. and Mary Joyce Swaim property, proceeding west and south along this property and south along the adjacent property lines of the Ina Whitney Farrow and Rosevelt and Blanche E. Spencer properties to the Orene Harris property, proceeding west and south along this property to the Mattie Hudson property to the northeast corner of the Johnie Albin Armstrong property, and proceeding west along this and adjoining properties to the northwest corner of the Virginia Osgood property, proceeding south across SR 1305 (approximately .5 mile west of the junction with SR 1309) to the northwest corner of the Camile S. Cooley property.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hyde County Historical Society, Hyde County: Hyde County Bicentennial Project, 1976.  
Spencer, Ann, "The Fairfield Canal Company," (Hyde County Society, Swan Quarter).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 210

Quadrangle name Fairfield, N. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	1	8
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3	8	8	0	6	1	0
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3	9	3	3	7	5	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	1	8
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3	8	9	0	7	1	0
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3	9	3	4	4	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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3	8	9	2	1	6	1	0
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3	9	3	3	1	5	1	0
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3	8	8	2	9	1	0
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3	9	3	2	9	0	1	0
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwest corner of the Camile S. Cooley property (south side of SR 1305, approximately .5 mile west of the junction with SR 1309), then proceeding (continued)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Timothy Keller

organization Land and Community Associates date July 1, 1983

street & number 1410 Holly Road telephone 804 295-3880

city or town Charlottesville state Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration