

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

John and Matthew Clayton Farm

Local Historic Landmark #102

5809 Stanleyville Dr., Rural Hall

Construction Date: c. 1816, 1879

Landmark Designation Date:

10/27/1997 (Forsyth County);

11/03/1997 (Winston-Salem)

The John and Matthew Clayton Farm dates from the late 18th century and is shown on the Moravians' *Great Map of Wachovia, Part 1*. This important early map was originally made in 1758; it was periodically updated through the end of the 18th century. At the approximate location of the Clayton Farm, the map features the notation, "*John Clayton 203 Acres the 28th of Novbr 1796.*"

It was not until February 7, 1799, however, that John Clayton actually gained title to the property in a deed from Frederic William Marshall, the administrator of Wachovia. Likely, the delay was due to the fact that it was common practice for the Moravians at that time to establish an initial agreement – an intent to sell – with a prospective buyer, but then formally convey the land by deed only when the new owner had paid in full for the property and had proved to be an "upright neighbor." Since the 1790s, five consecutive generations of the Clayton family have owned and occupied this land.

The Clayton farm was located at the junction of two 18th century roads – the Great Wagon Road (by which Moravians, Germans, and Scotch-Irish settlers found their way from Pennsylvania to North Carolina's western Piedmont), and the Quaker Road (Old Hollow Road), which connected settlers coming from the north to Quakers from Guilford County's New Garden Meeting.

Today, the John and Matthew Clayton Farm is made up of 15 historic resources on a tract of approximately 25 acres. With its early 19th century log house (John Clayton's house), 1879 Greek Revival brick house (Matthew Clayton's house), log outbuildings (including a slave cabin), c. 1900 frame store, large family cemetery, and a preserved segment of the Great Wagon Road, the Clayton Farm comprises the conjunction of homesteads of two generations: a frontier homestead and a later 19th century progressive farm set at a crossroads.



John Clayton House



Matthew Clayton House

Photographs courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

The close proximity of roads, store, houses, outbuildings, and farmlands illustrates the intimate domestic scale of 19th century life in Forsyth County. The c. 1816 John Clayton House is one of the best-preserved early log dwellings surviving in Forsyth County. The Matthew Clayton House (1879) is a two-story Greek Revival house built by John Clayton's grandson at a time when the brick industry was growing in the area. The slave cabin is a rare example of slave housing in the county. Additionally, the farm has archaeological potential, which may yield information pertaining to the history of the area.

Today the John and Matthew Clayton Farm is privately occupied by the Clayton family.



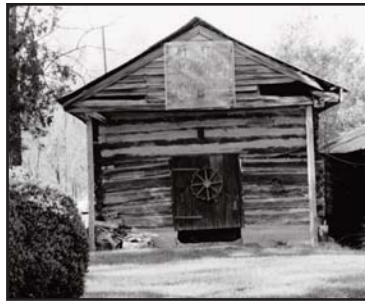
Clayton Family Graveyard, 1997
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files



John Clayton House, 1997
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files



Clayton Store
Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach



Potato House, 1997
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files



Slave House
Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**John and Matthew Clayton Farm
National Register Nomination**
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0563.pdf>



This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>