



# City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker Program

## APPLICATION FORM

This application form must be filled out completely.  
Attach documentation and supporting information as required. Please type or print clearly.

### 1. Site, Property, Person, or Event to be Recognized

Peter Pfaff's farm, the property around which the Pfafftown community developed.

### 2. Proposed Title of Marker

Pfafftown

### 3. Proposed Location of Marker

*Be precise. Attach a map with the marker location shown, as well as a current photograph of the site where the marker is proposed for placement. Include cross streets, if applicable.*

Southwest corner of the intersection at Yadkinville Road and Transou Road.

### 4. Applicant Information

Applicant's Name (Individual or Organization): Pfafftown.org

Contact Person (if different): Tommy Smith

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: Pfafftown State: NC Zip: 27040

Telephone (including area code): \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: tommy@pfafftownnc.com

### 5. The marker will commemorate

☐ a person ☐ an event ☒ a historic property or district ☐ a graveyard or archaeological site

☐ an organization ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Which of the broad historic themes below best illustrate the history of the marker? Check as many as apply.

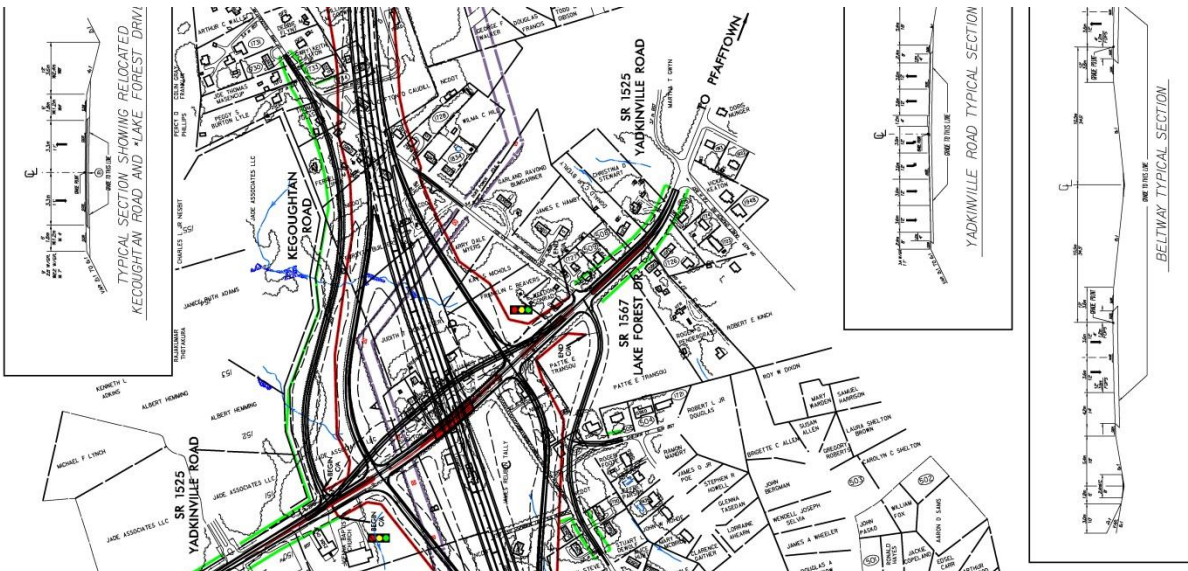
- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering              | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood/Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage          | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine          | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning & Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Law                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Social History                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local History            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Fill In Below              |

## Pfafftown - Peter Pfaff Farm

This application is being submitted on behalf of the Pfafftown community. The community would like to have a historic marker placed at the southwest corner of the intersection of Yadkinville Road and Transou Road in Winston-Salem denoting the location of Pfafftown and the Peter Pfaff farm. This intersection is located at the southwest corner of the farm granted to Peter Pfaff by Andrew Fulk in 1784. The community that became Pfafftown was formed around this farm.

Included with this application is a comprehensive history of the Pfafftown community starting with its founder Peter Pfaff along with a copy of the property deed detailing the exchange between Fulk and Pfaff. A hard copy of this deed can be obtained from the Surry County Register of Deeds from Book C pages 71 and 72. Also included is a look at Historic Pfafftown and the once-proposed Pfafftown Historic District. Despite the development which has detracted from its viability as a historic district there are still several properties peppering the Pfaff farm and Transou Road, which have been determined eligible for the National Register. The John Henry Pfaff House located on the southwest corner of Transou Road and Yadkinville Road is on the National Register of Historic Places. More information about the Pfafftown community may be obtained from [Pfafftown.org](http://Pfafftown.org).

Maps of a proposed marker location and an alternate location have been included. In light of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway and all of the development this will entail, it is the general consensus of the Pfafftown community that we deter any further disintegration of our community which has been happening since 2006. It is imperative to do everything in our power to preserve our 227-year-old heritage. Per the currently proposed map of the Western Section the proposed location will be less than one mile from the exit giving it high visibility.



# Pfafftown

Pfafftown, a local farming community began on this property, located on the west bank of Muddy Creek and granted to Peter Pfaff Sr. by Andrew Fulk in 1784. In 1786 Pfaff moved from Friedberg to live with his son Isaac and in the following years the community began to grow around this farm. Around 1850, several Greek Revival houses were built and in 1865 Pfafftown Christian Church was constructed on Transou Road . In September 14, 1888 Pfafftown was awarded a post office and by 1896 the population had grown to 100. In 1900 the Labor Exchange School was built on Transou Road, and for many years provided labor and products of labor within the community.

Proposed Marker Location – Southwest corner of the intersection at Yadkinville Road and Transou Road





Proposed Marker Location (Alternate) – East facing on the west side of bridge crossing Muddy Creek, Yadkinville Rd.



## Pfafftown – The Peter Pfaff Farm



The story of Pfafftown begins with Peter Pfaff, the son of Joseph Daniel and Anna Barbara Hartung Pfaff. Originally from Kaiserlauten, Pfaff moved to York, Pennsylvania in 1749 after finishing his education and began working as a blacksmith. A year later he married Anna Walberger Kerber and together they moved to his farm. Their marriage yielded four sons, two daughters and 30 grandchildren.

Here is an excerpt from the Memoirs of Peter Pfaff, Sr.:

*I was born June 24, 1727 in Kaiserlauten, the official seat of the Elector of the Palatinate. My father, Johann Daniel Pfaff, was a citizen and a mastermiller there. My mother was Anna Barbara, born Hartung.*

*When I was five years old, my father passed out of time. He had the reputation of being an awakened and peace-loving man, and I listened with interest to what my mother later told me about him. After a while, my mother married a miller named Jacob Bart. My step-father concerned himself about my education and sent me to school regularly. When my school days came to an end, I served various persons as driver of their horses.*

*In the year 1749, I journeyed to Pennsylvania; went first to Yorktown and worked there as a blacksmith. Soon I had an opportunity to hear the Brethren preach. Their faithful witness that nothing availed before God except the grace of the blood of Jesus was a glad message to me, and I was convinced in my heart that this was the true ground of salvation.*

*In 1750, I married Anna Walburger Kerber, and we moved at once to land which I had bought about fifteen miles from Yorktown.*

*However, we both loved the Brethren and agreed to unite with them, so I sold this land and we moved again near Yorktown.*

*Soon we had the pleasure of being allowed to join the Society of Brethren there. Much as I rejoiced in this, sometime later I wished to be received in the congregation and so be more closely united with them. When I spoke to my wife about it, she said that she did not feel that way but that she would not hinder me. I therefore applied for admission on April 4, 1766, I was so fortunate as to become a member of the congregation.*



*On November 4, 1759, my wife and I were enabled to partake of the Lord's supper with the congregation, which was a blessing to our hearts.*

*In 1771, with the blessing of the Yorktown congregation, we traveled to North Carolina and established ourselves in the Friedburg settlement. Soon after my arrival, I was elected a vestry-man of the Brethren's parish, which office I held for four years. I also held the office of steward in the Friedburg congregation which was still very small. When I became steward, I spoke simply with the Savior about it and asked Him to stand by me with His grace, as otherwise I could not manage it, and this He did throughout the thirteen years of my service. The Brethren and Sisters liked me, and I liked them; and which I from time to time laid before them officially, that were they willing to do. Before the Lord I had nothing to plead except His grace, and I remained His humble follower.*

His son Isaac married Margaretha Volk, a native of Bethania and the two moved to a farm located west of the village. On November 9th, 1774 his wife of 24 years passed. That same year, he purchased the land that would become Pfafftown from Andrew Fulk. He remained in Friedburg for two more years before joining his son and daughter-in-law. There, on a farm located at the bank of Muddy Creek the Pfafftown community was formed.

Pfaff continued to aid his son Isaac on his farm as his health permitted. In 1793, while en route to Bethania, he became dizzy and fell from a horse. Following that moment his health deteriorated. He passed on January 22, 1804 at around 4:00am surrounded by his family.



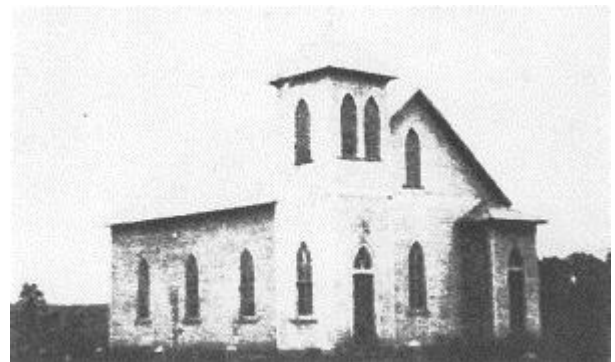
In 1855, the traditional German preaching switched to English and in 1865 Pfafftown Christian Church was founded on Transou Road. Jesse Styers and Mary K Pfaff, owners of the mill on Muddy Creek provided the heart-pine lumber used in the 1869 initial construction. Their home is pictured above. Pfafftown Christian Church is still around today and is very active. Their site is available [here](#).

After 100 years of relying on Bethania for its postal services Pfafftown was awarded its own post office on September 14, 1888. Ellen S. Transou served as the first postmaster for 23 years. The new post office was one of 22 dedicated to rural routes, of which now there are only ten.

By 1896 the small community had grown to a population of 100. In 1900 the Labor Exchange School was built on



Pfafftown Christian Church 1870. Pictured are Julius Abraham Transou and Mrs. Virgil Angelo Wilson.

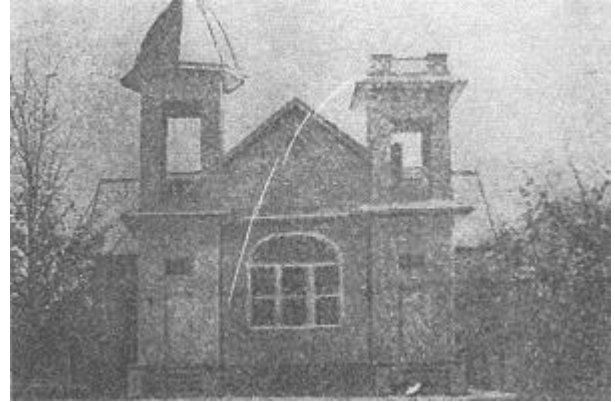


Pfafftown Christian Church 1927.

Transou Road. The purpose of the Exchange was to provide labor and products of labor within the community. For years it excelled but eventually went out of business. Today it is used by the Boy Scouts.



Students in front of the Labor Exchange School



Pfafftown Christian Church 1939.



Pfafftown Christian Church today.

Some of the prominent family names in Pfafftown are Pfaff, Transou, Goslen, Miller, Flynt and Hauser. A wiki is being built which will expound on these names, their homes and their contributions to Pfafftown's development. There you will learn more about Solomon Augustine Miller (far left), pioneer deacon of Pfafftown Christian Church and Julius Abraham Transou (left), the first resident disciple of Pfafftown and a confederate soldier of the NC 26th regiment.

Nearly 100 years later Pfafftown faced a fateful moment. It became known to many of the locals that eventually much of the unincorporated land in Forsyth County would be annexed and that Winston-Salem and Lewisville were both eyeing Pfafftown for its tax value. One of the men who saw this coming was the late Senator Sam Horton. He encouraged a man named Robert Reed to pursue incorporation for the sake of preserving the 200 year old community.



Reed immediately began working with local state senators and representatives to gain their support and to keep them abreast of the actions of what became the Pfafftown Steering Committee. The committee consisted of Reed, Elmer Kearney, Shirley Folger, Frances Roberts, Wes Arrington, Ronald Palm and William Ammons. Reed also gained the support of Grandview Food Market, Grandview Development and Grandview Golf Course. Only Grandview Development would survive what was to come. The committee held their meetings at the old Vienna Men's Club. Reed reached out to Mayor Cavanaugh of Winston-Salem and Mayor Stebbins of Lewisville as their borders came within five miles of the proposed limits. Both were presented with written proposals. Reed also attended two Lewisville town council meetings.

It was an exciting and stressful time. The incorporation consumed Reed's schedule. There were many challenges that Pfafftown faced and ultimately the committee met every single one of them. A petition requiring signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters was required. Reed led the charge in getting this accomplished, parking his van beside the Post Office (which also offered much support), posting banners and asking for signatures. Ultimately, 675 signatures (19.27%) were obtained. That petition can be viewed online [here](#).

In addition to this a [charter](#) had to be created along with a workable [budget](#), an [interim government](#), a painstakingly detailed [map](#), a statement on population density and the [degree of development](#). Their submission, made in October of 2000 was entitled "[Initial Application of the Steering Committee – Concerning The Proposal to Incorporate The Village of Pfafftown](#)". In order to save Lewisville's plans for expansion and to gain the town's approval the committee reworked the map to give 20% of its proposed territory (the western side) to Lewisville.

Section 2.2 read:

*(1) The Village of Pfafftown shall not annex the areas lying between the Yadkin River and a line beginning at the point on Seward Road where a creek flows south paralleling Vienna Dozier Road approximately one half mile to the east, thence along that creek to the Village's corporate limits at tax lot 4604D019 thence following the Village's corporate limits adjoining the Town of Lewisville's corporate limits. This subsection expires December 31, 2016.*

*(2) The Village shall not annex, by petition or otherwise, areas lying south of Yadkinville Road and north of Robinhood Road between Chickasha Road and the proposed Beltway.*

The proposal went on to become [senate bill 676](#) Pfafftown Incorporated/Lewisville Limits and unfortunately, despite the boundless and tremendous effort, the bill withered on the vine when referred to the state senate finance committee. Reed made repeated attempts to contact Senator Linda Garrou to no avail.\*

This inaction was the prime mover. With the death of bill S676 Lewisville was immediately allowed to annex the western portion of Pfafftown, crippling its proposed fire department, one of its schools and hundreds of taxpayers. Things only got worse. Winston-Salem was poised to strike as well. Many of the citizens rose to fight against it including John Hopkins of Forsyth Citizens Against Forced Annexation (Forsyth CAFA), who helped take it to the Supreme Court. In the end, the court sided in favor of Winston-Salem due to North Carolina's laws, laws that have since changed, and in 2006 17,000 residents and virtually all of Pfafftown's businesses were annexed into Winston-Salem. The city extended its border to the eastern side of Kecoughtan Road. This was the worst possible scenario as it prohibited any future chance of incorporation.

Seven years have passed and the community has changed drastically. Many businesses didn't survive the annexation. The future threatens more compromise with plans of the "Belt" coming through the heart of Yadkinville Rd. This small, farming community is slowly being absorbed and within a generation *could* go the way of nearby Old Town, which has disappeared altogether. The goal of this site is to promote the preservation of Pfafftown by serving as a shared resource for the community. As with all communities worth preserving there is a twist to the tale of

Pfafftown. There was an option that should have allowed for immediate incorporation. Robert Reed remembers:

*"One thing could have saved us all the effort and would have been the foundation for an almost automatic incorporation. There was the land grant received by Peter Pfaff which would have had a survey document specifying the boundaries of his property grant. There is historic evidence of the fact that a grant was made; however, a survey document (property deed) has never been located."*

Forsyth County was originally part of Stokes County, so I visited the library in Danbury as well as the main library in Winston-Salem to search for any record of the land survey but without success. If we had located that document, our incorporation for the property defined in that grant would have been a sure thing. After that, annexations would have been necessary to bring in the remaining parts of our proposed village."

However, Stokes County was formed out of Surry County in 1789. Andrew Fulk granted the land to Peter Pfaff in 1784. The deed is available online at the Surry County Register of Deeds. A copy has been included with this application. This is the document that would have virtually ensured the incorporation of Pfafftown.

Of course a copy can be obtained by mailing \$1 to the following address below. In your request, include the location of the deed in the index which is book C pages 71 & 72.

Register of Deeds  
201 E. Kapp Street  
P.O. Box 303  
Dobson, NC 27017

Andrew Fulk & Gaff a Dued

This Instrument made the twenty fifth Day of July in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and eighty four, between Andrew Fulk and his Wife Margaret Fulk of Surry County and State of North Carolina of the one Part, and Peter Gaff of the same County of the other Part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the Sum of one hundred and Fifty Round Law full Money to me in hand paid by the said Peter Gaff, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by the said Andrew Fulk and his Wife Margaret Fulk, and they themselves therewith fully and entirely satisfied, have given, granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents to give, grant, bargain and sell unto the said Peter Gaff a certain Tract or Parcel of Land situate lying and being in the aforesaid County on a Branch of Muddy Creek BEGINNING at a white Oak on Bethany Road, running East, crossing Bethabara Road twenty Chains to a red Oak in Gunrods Line, thence on Line North fifteen Chains to his Corner Red Oak, thence on his line East Eighty Chains to his Corner white Oak in the Murrain Line, thence on his Line North eighteen and a Quarter Chains to Joseph H. Grier's Corner white Oak, thence on his Line West thirty Chains to his Corner Red Oak, thence on his Line North one and a half Chains to his Corner red Oak, thence on his Line West one hundred and twenty Chains to a Post Oak on Bethany Road, and thence to the

Book C.

72.

Beginning containing Four Hundred Acres, with the same more or Less, To have and to hold and occupy possess and enjoy the same with every part and parcel thereof to be to the only proper Use and behoof of him the said Peter Gaff his Heirs Executors Admrs. and assigns forever against the Claim and Demand of him the said Andrew Fulk and his Wife aforesaid, and against the Claim and Demand of all Persons Claiming whatsoever, according to the true Intent and meaning of these presents. In Witness whereof the said Andrew Fulk and his Wife Margaret have hereunto set their hands and seals in the Day and Year above written.

Signed sealed & delivered  
in the Presence of us  
Henry Spenshaw Junr.  
George Hauser Junr.

his  
Andrew A Fulk  
mark



her  
Margaret + Fulk  
mark



Surry County August Sessions 1784. The Execution of the within Deed was duly proved in open Court by the Oath of George Hauser Junr. a subscribing Witness & ordered to be registered Test J. Williams Clk



## Historic Pfafftown

Between 1981 and 2006, 33 properties within the Pfafftown community were surveyed by the NC State Historic Preservation Office. Years ago, just after the turn of the century the heart of Pfafftown centered around the intersection of Transou Road and Yadkinville Road was analyzed as a prospective "Pfafftown Historical District". Unfortunately, due to resource alteration, loss and new construction the area has been deeply impacted, affecting its viability.

However, two houses that were surveyed have been designated in the National Register of Historic Places as Local Historic Landmarks: The [John Jacob Schaub House](#) and the [John Henry Pfaff House](#). Three properties have been listed in the NC Study List for the National Register (Pfafftown United Church of Christ, Pfafftown Christian Church, and Jeremiah Bahnson Conrad House at 2650 Spicewood Drive.

In 1992 five other properties, including the [Claude Transou House](#) (below left and right) were deemed eligible for the National Register.

Below is a list of the properties surveyed, four of which have been demolished. You can read the result of each survey by following the links.

For information on preserving the Pfafftown community:

[North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office](#)  
[Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission \(HRC\)](#)



[John Jacob Schaub House](#)  
[Click here to look inside.](#)



[John Henry Pfaff House](#)



**Historic Designations:**

Local Historic Landmarks (LHL)

National Register Properties (NR)

North Carolina National Register Study List Properties (SL)

Determination of Eligibility for the National Register (DOE)

**Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a Local Historic Landmark:**

[John Jacob Schaub House, 5622 Balsom Road, ca.1830 – FY00185, NR# 844, Local# 89](#)

**Designated a Local Historic Landmark and had a DOE:**

[John Henry Pfaff House, 4798 Pfaff Lane, ca. 1900 – FY00666, DOE: ER 1992, Local #103 \\*](#)

**Listed on the North Carolina Study List for the National Register and has a DOE:**

[Pfafftown United Church of Christ, 3410 Community Church Road, ca. 1910s, 1950s, 198 FY00638, SL: 1982](#)

[Pfafftown Christian Church, 3295 Transou Road, ca. 1917, 1939, 1947, 1954, 1973, 1990s FY00630, SL: 1982, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

[Jeremiah Bahnson Conrad House, 2650 Spicewood Drive, ca. 1870-1873 FY00639, SL: 1982, DOE: ER 1992](#)

**Recommended for the North Carolina Study List for the National Register and had a DOE:**

[Claude Transou House, 3500 Transou Road, ca. 1903-04 – FY00628, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

**Properties that were Determined Eligible for the National Register:**

[Will Wilson House, 3471 Transou Road, ca. 1897 – FY02138, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

[Eugene Romulous Pfaff House, 4796 Pfaff Lane, ca. 1870s – FY00636, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

[Alexander Transou House, 3334 Transou Road, ca. 1848 – FY00629, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

[Evan Transou House, 3255 Transou Road, ca. 1860 – FY00634, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

[Julius A. Transou Log House, 3231 Transou Road, ca. 1856 – FY00635, DOE: ER 1992 \\*](#)

**Surveyed**

[Jessie Thomas Conrad House, 2271 Chipwood Lane, ca. 1870s – FY00640 House, 5025 Skylark Road, ca. 1937 – FY03221](#)

[House, 2216 Olivet Church Road, ca. 1934 – FY03223](#)

[George F. Wilson House, 3368 Transou Road – FY02137\\*](#)

[Albert Pfaff House, 4680 Pinehill Drive, – FY02133](#)

[Schultz-Roberts House, 4250 Shattalon Drive, ca. 1850 – FY00645](#)

[Olivet Moravian Church, 2205 Olivet Church Road, ca. 1980, 1989 – FY00641](#)

[Frederick Leonard Ziglar House, 2222 Olivet Church Road, ca. 1894, 1904 – FY00672](#)

[Sandy Boose House, 2465 Hilltop Drive, ca. 1820-1840 – FY00674](#)

[Henry Long House, 4510 Balsom Road, ca. 1870s – FY00626](#)

[Pfafftown Christian Cemetery, Yadkinville Road, ca. 1860 – FY00637](#)  
[House, 3341 Transou Road, ca. 1910 – FY03219 \\*](#)  
[Wade Yarborough House, 4350 Shattalon Drive, ca. 1890s – FY00643](#)  
[Julius Whitman House, 4725 Balsom Road, ca. 1850-1880 – FY00624](#)  
[Monroe Conrad House, 2273 Olivet Church Road, ca. 1891 – FY00642](#)  
[Kearney Houses, 5025 Balsom Road, ca. 1894, 1914, 1924; ca. 1860-1880 – FY00623](#)  
[Ziglar House, 2251 Olivet Church Road, ca. 1860-1880 – FY00673](#)  
[James W. Franklin House, 5338 Skylark Road, ca. 1910 – FY02129](#)

**Properties that were surveyed in for the 1981 architectural inventory survey but were found to be gone in the survey update completed in 2009:**

[House, 5084 Skylark Drive, ca. 1860-1880 – FY00627](#)  
[Wilson Brothers Labor Exchange Building, Transou Road, ca. 1890-1910 – FY00632](#)  
[Rueben Holder House, Transou Road, ca. 1880-1900 – FY00633](#)  
[Holder-Flynt House and Barn, Transou Road, ca. 1860-1880 – FY00631 \\*](#)

\* These properties were within the Pfafftown Historic District proposed in the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway Report (Western Section) by Langdon Oppermann in Oct 1991.