

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Pfafftown



Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library
Photograph Collection

The farming community of Pfafftown was settled on the west bank of Muddy Creek around the farm of Peter Pfaff Sr., who purchased the land from Andrew Fulk in 1784. A few years after purchasing the land, Pfaff Sr. moved from the Friedburg community in Bethania and joined his son Isaac to farm the land, slowly forming his own community. By the mid- to late-1800s, several houses in the Greek Revival and other popular styles were built, and in 1865, the first

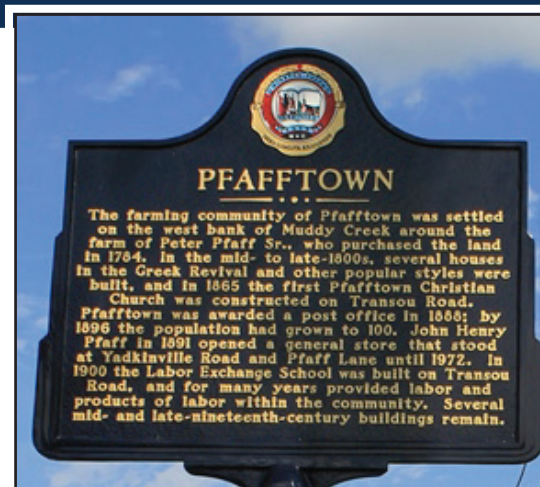
Pfafftown Christian Church was constructed on Transou Road. In September of 1888, after relying on Bethania's postal services, the Pfafftown community received its own post office, located at Alex Transou's house.

Transou Road was named after the well-known wagon-building family that moved to North Carolina from Emmaus, PA in 1762, first settling in Bethabara, then Bethania, and finally in Pfafftown. The Transou brothers' wagons became famous for their durability and craftsmanship.

Julius Abraham Transou and twenty-eight other local residents chartered Pfafftown Christian Church. Dr. Beverly Jones, a founding member, bought the original three-acre plot where the first church would be built. This original structure was replaced in 1917 with a Gothic Revival sanctuary, and was remodeled in 1927, 1939, 1954, and again in 1973.



John H. Pfaff House, Photo Courtesy of www.Pfafftown.org



The Pfafftown population grew to 100, by 1896. In 1900, the Labor Exchange was built on Transou Road. The three-story, wooden structure was a place where labor and products of labor were exchanged and included a heavy machinery repair shop on the first floor, a grist mill on the second floor, and a social hall, a Labor Exchange office, and storage on the third floor. Additionally, the Labor Exchange established and organized a merchandise store, a harness and shoe shop, a brickyard, and a sawmill near the premises. The Labor Exchange was later purchased by the Wilson brothers and renamed the Wilson Brothers Labor Exchange School. The school was demolished in the 1930s. John Henry Pfaff opened a general store in 1891 that stood at Yadkinville Road and Pfaff Lane until 1972. John H. Pfaff operated the store until a few years prior to his death in 1949.

Several mid- and late-nineteenth-century buildings remain, including three Transou brothers' homes and a Pfafftown Local Historic Landmark, the John Henry Pfaff House.



Pfafftown Marker Unveiling, September 2015



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