

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Waddell House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W side S.R. 1532 0.4 mi. N. of jct w/S.R. 1531

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Grassy Creek

VICINITY OF Sussex

5th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Ashe

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

X NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Edith Young

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 215

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Grassy Creek

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ashe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Jefferson

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Waddell House, set in a narrow valley off the trade route between Mouth of Wilson, Virginia and Jefferson, North Carolina, is unique in the New River Valley. It is one of four extant brick houses constructed there in the nineteenth century; but its most distinguishing quality is the very elaborate and extensive molded and scroll-sawn woodwork used to ornament the porches, door and window surrounds and eaves of the houses. The house, an "L" plan with a two-story main block and a one-story ell, was constructed ca. 1820-1830. When the interior was burned out after the Civil War ca. 1868-70, the present ornamental woodwork was installed throughout the house by William Waddell.

The three-bay wide, two-bay deep main block is set on a stone foundation and stands two stories high with a gable roof of standing seam metal. A one-story ell at the rear (west) of the main block completes the "L" plan. The house was constructed of Flemish bond on the east (front) elevation and random bond elsewhere. The joints which have been partially re-pointed and painted belie the fineness of the original brickwork which can be seen in the first rows above the stone foundation on the east elevation. The common bond exterior end chimneys at each gable end and at the back of the ell have corbeled weatherings. A two-story gable front (east) porch shelters the center (entrance) bay. The first floor porch, rebuilt ca. 1955, is now supported by commercial metal posts. The second floor porch remains as built. It has three chamfered posts, connected at the top by scroll-sawn brackets and a balustrade consisting of plain balusters, square-in-section, set diagonally beneath a beaded handrail rectangular-in-section. The gable has a flush sheathed tympanum with a central trefoil window. Pairs of paneled curvilinear brackets support the overhanging eaves of the roof which return at the gable ends. The same treatment is used on the south side of the ell and along the porch pediment. In the latter case, a curvilinear bargeboard completes the treatment.

The window and door surrounds on the front elevation are most unusual. While formed of plain boards, they have a robustly curved-outline architrave. The surround of the front entrance is further enriched by thin applied moldings, which repeat the curves of the surround and those of the backband. Identical surrounds occur on the south side of the main block and of the ell. On the north and west side of the main block, the surrounds are much simpler with pointed angular elements at the upper corners and a sharp point at the center of the lintel. A curved skirt occurs below the sill. Windows on the north side occur only at the first level; at the back of the house there is a window at each level of the northwest corner. The remainder of the rear wall is given to the ell. All window openings contain four-over-four sash. A common bond brick chimney stands at the rear ell. The dining room, with a common bond brick flue stack, has been partitioned and a bathroom installed at the western end.

The interior of the house retains its peculiar woodwork of ca. 1868-70 which has its original painted, and stained and grained finishes. The mantel,

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door, and window surrounds in each room are rendered in a thoroughly individual scheme of motifs. The walls are plaster. The main block has a center hall plan, one room deep. In the hall the door surrounds splay out at the top and bottom and peak at the center. A quarter-turn stair with winders rises to the second floor. The newel, rectangular-in-section, is heavily molded with a series of stylized motifs which present the general outline of a lyre. The balusters under the handrail are rectangular boards sawn in a lyre motif and pierced with circular and quatrefoil patterns. This woodwork as well as the baseboard retain their original brown paint.

In the living room the door and window surrounds are executed with circular and curved devices which are very similar to those on the front facade. They have an applied raised edging which follows the outline of the surround. The vernacular mantel displays a wealth of heavy applied circular motifs which scallop around the fire opening and across the chimney breast above the shaped mantel shelf. The molded baseboard and all other woodwork are painted brown. The mantel in the parlor is more traditional. Molded pilaster boards flanking the fireplace rise from a base to the panel which supports the molded mantel shelf. The window and door surrounds are rectangular and have applied moldings. The door connecting to the hall is painted and grained as are most of the doors leading into the hall. The three-panel door to the kitchen is painted brown, as is the rest of the woodwork. The kitchen has a wide fire opening for cooking; the mantel has an angular outline. The architraves have a pediment-like lintel.

On the second floor the woodwork is simpler. The surrounds and mantel in the bedroom on the north have an angular outline with applied angular modeled boards on the mantel. In the south bedroom the outline of the mantel is curvilinear as are the boards applied to it. Both rooms have stained and oak grained three-panel doors.

The farm buildings date from the late nineteenth century to about 1940. William Waddell built the dovetail construction log granary ca. 1875. It has weatherboarded gable ends and a standing-seam metal roof. Irwin Young built the large gable roof barn with its attached shed and silo. Set on a concrete foundation, it has three tiers of vertical sheathing under the tin roof. A frame meathouse with wide eaves under a gable roof has a weatherboarded exterior and a later board-and-batten shed. The Waddell cemetery is located on a hilltop to the east of the house.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>Folk Art |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |   |

SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1820-30      ca. 1868-70      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grassy Creek area has probably the richest farm land on the New River Valley of Ashe County and since it was settled early in the nineteenth century has been the setting for many prosperous farms and a rather ambitious agricultural society. Cattle and dairy farming gave the section a financial advantage which was very often reflected in the architecture. John Baker (1783-1855), one of the most prominent of these early settler-farmers, built this large brick house ca. 1820-1830 as the seat of his farm which eventually included 288 acres. The late Federal woodwork was burned ca. 1868-70 after the Civil War by which time William Waddell (1835-1912) was living there. It was he, an important cattleman and citizen of Ashe County, who had the vigorous vernacular woodwork installed; it is the woodwork that gives the house its unique character. Mr. Waddell lived on the farm until 1912 when he was interred in the family cemetery on the top of a hill northeast of the house.

The home locally known as the William Waddell House near Grassy Creek in Ashe County stands on land granted to Jonathan (John) Baker on December 7, 1814 by the state of North Carolina. The initial tract was 100 acres on the east side of Grassy Creek along the branch near the wagon road.

Baker had entered his claim for the Grassy Creek property on October 23, 1813 but apparently had been living in the area for some time. He was born in Grayson County, Virginia in 1783 and had come to North Carolina during the first decade of the nineteenth century. By 1810 he had married a North Carolina woman, fathered three children, and appeared to be living with his family in the home of his mother-in-law. After purchasing the 100 acres on Grassy Creek, Baker began an extended period (the last in 1835) of acquisitions of the adjoining property. He eventually amassed a total of 288 acres that ultimately became known as the John Baker lands.

The 1820 census shows seven members in Jonathan Baker's household, four males and three females. His mother-in-law died between 1810 and 1820, and during that decade Baker apparently decided to build a house on the property along Grassy Creek. By 1830 his household had nine members, and it seems probable that they resided in the large house now standing on the property. That would indicate that the house was constructed between 1814 and 1830.

John Baker's first wife (name unknown) died between 1820 and 1830. On

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April 8 of the latter year Baker posted a marriage bond naming Kiziah Cerealy as his intended bride. The date of the actual marriage was not given, but one child, a daughter, was born to John and Kiziah Baker about 1836.

John Baker died before the third Monday in August of 1855. His will, dated July 3, 1855, was probated at the August term of the county court. Kiziah received a life estate in the dwelling house and premises; after her death the property was to be equally divided among Baker's three daughters: Elizabeth Duvall, Sarah Greer, and Evalina Smith. Evalina's husband, William B. Smith, was named as executor of the will.

With no children left at home it is uncertain whether or not Kiziah Baker continued to live in the homeplace. She did agree to a sale of the property but only after the insertion of a clause protecting her right of dower. William B. and Evalina Smith, James and Elizabeth Duvall, and Shadrach and Sarah Greer, heirs of John Baker, sold 240 acres on Beaver Dam Branch and Grassy Creek near the wagon road to William B. Greer on June 13, 1857. The consideration was \$950 and the description read in part, "known as the lands of John Baker dec."

William B. Greer owned the property about fifteen months. On August 14, 1858 Greer conveyed the 240 acres to John Richardson for \$1,000. The tract was located near the head of Beaver Dam Branch, "known as the John Baker land," and subject to the dower of Baker's widow during her lifetime.

Richardson appears to have rented the property for a while before selling it to the lessees, but the evidence is circumstantial. Both Joseph Young and William Waddell eventually owned a portion of the old Baker land, and inter-marriages of the two families indicate that they had been in the area for some time. According to family tradition, William Waddell made renovations on the interior of the house ca. 1868-1870. Waddell purchased 133 acres of the old Baker land on Beaver Dam Branch and Grassy Creek for \$600 on March 8, 1879.

William Waddell was born in 1835 to Alfred and Nancy Waddell. Alfred was a native of Virginia who had crossed the state line into Ashe County and had married a North Carolina woman about a year before William was born. Young William worked as a laborer on his father's farm until he married and set up a farm of his own.

William and Nancy Waddell were parents of ten children living in 1880. The children were Malvina (deaf mute), Mary, Emmett, Henry, Joseph, Roby, Eugene,

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Robert, Cora, and Alice.

Waddell died intestate in November, 1912 at the age of seventy-seven. His real estate was divided among the legal heirs with his son Emmett receiving Lot #10 containing the dwelling house and about eight acres. The records are not clear regarding Emmett Waddell, but he seems to have died shortly after receiving his share of the estate. The next person to hold full title to the property was Irwin R. Young, husband of Emmett's younger sister Alice. The manner of his acquisition is not entirely clarified in the existing documents.

Young's will was dated January 28, 1946 and probated after his death in 1957. One clause of the will refers to his property as "being Lot #10 allotted to Emmett Waddell in the division of William Waddell's estate." Emmett Waddell does not appear in Ashe County Deed Books as a grantor or grantee of any property. He died intestate and no estates papers have been found. The only clue as to how Young came into possession of Emmett Waddell's lot is a deed from G. B. and Dora Waddell to Young dated April 12, 1913. Young paid \$193.75 for a one fourth interest in Lot #10 of "William Waddell's home tract . . . eight acres and one sq. pole more or less. . . ." Of the consideration \$56.25 went to the administrators of Emmett Waddell's estate. Just how Young acquired the remaining three-fourths interest is uncertain. A portion may have come through his wife. There are, however, no records to verify any of the various possibilities.

Irwin and Alice Young lived in the old Waddell House for many years while Irwin served as the clerk of the Superior Court. The couple had nine children: Edith (never married), Carl, Blanch Young Porter, Ola Young Halsey, Lester, Blair, Darell, Stanley, and Pauline Young Walters. Later in life Irwin and Alice apparently suffered health problems. Daughter Edith chose to remain home and take care of her parents rather than seek a married life of her own. For her long and faithful devotion, Irwin bequeathed the house and land to her. For nearly twenty years the old Waddell House has been the property of Miss Edith Young.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |                |                  |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|----------------|------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 7  | 4 6 10 8 10 10 | 4 10 4 6 9 16 10 | B |      |         |          |
|   | ZONE | EASTING        | NORTHING         |   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C |      |                |                  | D |      |         |          |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Research by Jerry Cross, researcher; architectural description by Davyd F. Hood, consultant

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street TELEPHONE 919/829-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

# 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 *Larry E. Kim*

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 7/8/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Ashe County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina,  
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Association, (c. 1965).

Johnson, Ressie Baker and others (comps). "Baker History, Descendants of John  
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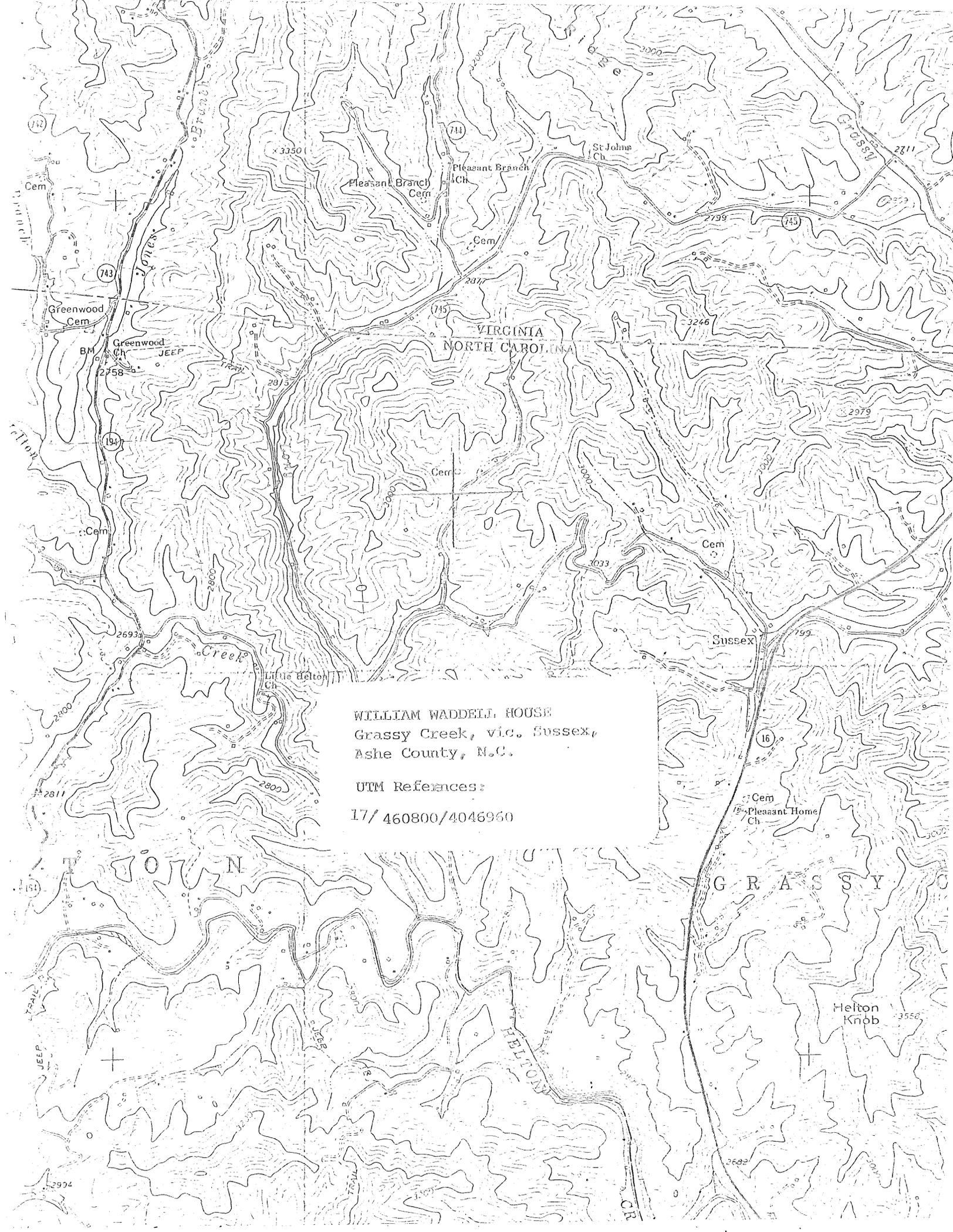
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VIRGINIA  
NORTH CAROLINA

WILLIAM WADDELL HOUSE  
Grassy Creek, vic. Sussex,  
Ashe County, N.C.

UTM References:  
17/ 460800/4046960

TOWN

GRASSY

Helton Knob

Cem

Pleasant Branch Cem

Cem

Greenwood Cem

Greenwood Ch

Cem

Cem

Sussex

Cem Pleasant Home Ch

Creek

Lifus Helton Ch

2994

743

745

745

194

16

742

744

2811

3350

3000

2877

2799

3246

2979

3000

3033

3000

2693

2800

2811

3424

3550

2602

3000

3507

CR

