

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Smith, William G., House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number State Road 1527  not for publication  
city, town Bullock  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27565

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources of  
Granville County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Price, Jr. 1-29-88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Other: transitional Georgian/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

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Rising at the head of a gravel road that winds through cultivated fields, and backed by the waters of Kerr Lake that were once confined within the banks of Beaver Pond Creek, the William G. Smith House is the only true tripartite dwelling standing in Granville County. Its distinctive three-part form - a central two-story block flanked by one-story wings - is in fair condition and intact. The finish of its exterior and interior also retains a significant portion of its original integrity and is representative of the style and craftsmanship of the county's finer Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style, plantation era properties. The property includes, in addition to the house, an original or early smokehouse and an early twentieth century tenant house.

The central block of the house is pierced by paired doors at its first floor, a single door at its second floor and a louver at the apex of its front facing gable. The raised, six-panel doors of its main entry and the fourteen light, rectangular transom above them, as well as the wide three-part surround into which they are set, are original. Matching surrounds elsewhere at the central block are also original, though the window sash has been altered over the years. A two-tier, late nineteenth century porch, adorned with sawn woodwork at its upper reach, shades the front of the central block. An original interior end, brick chimney rises at its rear gable end. Affixed to this gable is an early twentieth century, one-story, kitchen wing.

The wings that flank the central block are the subordinate elements of the tripartite composition. Shorter and more shallow than their central anchor, their gables are demurely turned to the sides. They are stylistically and physically united with the central block by their original molded box cornices, brick foundations (now supplemented in places by concrete blocks) and heavy timber framing. In company with the central block, they are sheathed in weatherboards and topped by metal roofs. Their surrounds are original and match those of the main block, though their window sash has been altered. Their gable ends have also been changed; narrow, twentieth century, brick flues now stand in the stead of the original chimneys.

The plan and form of the house - if one substitutes the words "boxed stair" for "stair hall" - is succinctly described in a related context by Thomas T. Waterman in The Early Architecture of North Carolina. "It comprises two rooms," he writes, "one

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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behind the other, in the central block, with a stair hall in one corner. . . . The facade became of considerable importance, as the central block was covered by a pediment, creating a strong focal point which was further accentuated by the wings." [1] (His description was of an early design by Thomas Jefferson of Monticello.) Much of the Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style finish of the hall and parlor of the central block and the flanking one-room wings remains intact, no notable changes having been wrought inside the dwelling. Heavily raised panels adorn the original boxed stairway and six-panel doors, some of which retain hand-forged, H-L hinges. Original three-part surrounds enframe the doors and windows. And wainscoting formed of flat panels set in a grid of heavily molded stiles continues to add to the dignity of the hall.

Its once extensive lands have been reduced to a single acre and most of its outbuildings have been removed, but the property's integrity remains intact. It still retains at the rear of its acre an original or early, unusually tall, mortised, tenoned and pegged smokehouse. A non-contributing, early twentieth century tenant house, one-story tall and of frame construction, stands to the dwelling's southern side.

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1. Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), p. 37.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The William G. Smith House is one of Granville County's oldest properties and its only true surviving tripartite dwelling. (The nearby Sycamore Valley has an exterior tripartite form, but does not conform with the common elements of the plan; the Bryant-Kingsbury House in Oxford is a close but not exact example of the form.) Its Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style finish is among the finest and most complete of the county's late eighteenth and early nineteenth century properties. (See associated Property Type 1 - Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings) A striking dwelling located at the head of a road, it stands on an acre of property almost lapped by Kerr Lake to its rear. Appropriately, its west-facing facade is slightly inclined towards Virginia, the homeland of its tripartite form, which is visible from its upstairs windows. [1] In form and fashion, it is representative of the wealth and worldliness of the county's planters during its plantation era period of significance. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865)

The exterior appearance of the house is quite similar to that of a small number of dwellings built in North Carolina's border, old tobacco belt counties in or near the last decade of the eighteenth century and the first decade of the nineteenth, six of which are pictured in Mills Lane's Architecture of the Old South, North Carolina. Two of these six were raised to the west - the William Bethel House, Rockingham County, c. 1790, and the Solomon Graves House, Caswell County, c. 1790 - and four to the east in Halifax County - the Harris Place, undated, the Thomas Blount Hill House, c. 1793, the Sally-Billy House, c. 1808, and the Reid-Williams-Macon House, c. 1810. [2] The interior of Smith's house is also quite similar to the interior plans of these residences. (All of these dwellings have porches stretching across their center blocks that rise only one-story in height, suggesting that the present porch of Smith's house is taller than its predecessor.)

The dwelling was probably raised within the quarter century that preceded the 1816 death of its first known owner, William G. Smith, a wealthy planter. (Smith is recorded as having purchased 23 tracts of land in the county between 1760 and 1815 and, because of the inexact descriptions of property boundaries in these deeds, it cannot be determined which deed applies to the property upon which he built his dwelling.) According to the will of Smith's daughter-in-law, Sally Smith [Will Book 15, Page

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

109], the plantation in 1841 included 32 slaves. In 1842, the year it left the Smith family, it encompassed 1416 acres [Deed Book 13, Page 329]. It subsequently changed hands a number of times [Deed Book 20, Page 235 (1858); Deed Book 63, Page 493 (1904); Deed Book 92, Page 499 (1932); Deed Book 97, Page 239 (1936); Deed Book 108, Page 242 (1941); Deed Book 106, Page 126 (1942)] until it was given to its present owner, Fred Henderson, a former tenant, by Alma Stovall in 1985. One outbuilding still survives from the plantation era, an original or early, pegged smokehouse at its rear; a non-contributing early twentieth century tenant house also stands near the house. (See associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) The dwelling's period of significance does not extend beyond 1865, the end of the plantation era, however, because its property has been reduced to one acre and it retains no contributing buildings or structures, other than the nearby tenant house, that relate to its use in the post-Civil War years as a bright leaf tobacco farm.

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[1] Frances Benjamin Johnston and Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Early Architecture of North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1941), p. 37. Waterman credits the origins of the form to the Randolph-Semple (or James Semple) House built in Williamsburg, Virginia, c. 1782, and to Robert Morris' Select Architecture, published in London in 1765. Mills Lane at page 111 of his Architecture of the Old South, North Carolina, (Savannah: Beehive Press, 1985) gives more credit to Morris' illustrations, because the form had become so widespread in North Carolina's border, old tobacco belt counties by the opening of the nineteenth century. The Semple House is pictured at page 91 in Early Architecture of North Carolina.

[2] Architecture of the Old South, North Carolina, pages 111-121.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Johnston, Frances Benjamin and Waterman, Thomas Tiletson, The Early Architecture of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985

Lane, Mills, Architecture of the Old South, North Carolina, Savannah: Beehive Press, 1985

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 22130 404610  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the William G. Smith House is the entire one acre parcel on which it is located, as shown on the accompanying 1985 survey map of the property of Freddie and Mary B. Henderson, and as described in the accompanying deed of 1985 recorded on Deed Book 255, Page 741.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include the house and smokehouse that have been a part of the William G. Smith House and that maintain historic integrity. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines. Former lands associated with the plantation have been sold off and subdivided.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian  
organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/17/87  
street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491  
city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

NORTH CAROLINA

GRANVILLE COUNTY

THIS DEED, made and entered into this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1985, by and between C. Allen Stovall and wife, Alma Y. Stovall, parties of the first part, to Freddie Henderson and wife, Mary B. Henderson, parties of the second part;

W I T N E S S E T H:

That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of natural love and affection, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, as tenants by the entirety, their heirs and assigns, and to the survivor, his or her heirs and assigns, that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being situate in Sassafras Fork Township, Granville County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point designated as the control corner on the hereinafter referred to survey, said beginning point being in the northern margin of N.C.S.R. #1527, at the eastern end of said N.C.S.R. #1527, and being 0.6 miles east of N.C.S.R. #1500, and from said beginning point and being new lines in the lands of C. A. Stovall S. 72° 42' 20" E. 217.23 feet to an iron pipe; thence S. 20° 58' 15" W. 219.79 feet to an iron pipe; thence N. 72° 10' 17" W. 181.50 feet to a point; thence N. 11° 37' 15" E. 218.57 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 1.00 acres, more or less, according to plat and survey by G. Vance Powell, R.L.S., dated November 19, 1985, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid tract or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto them the said parties of the second part, as tenants by the entirety, their heirs and assigns, and to the survivor, his or her heirs and assigns in fee simple forever.

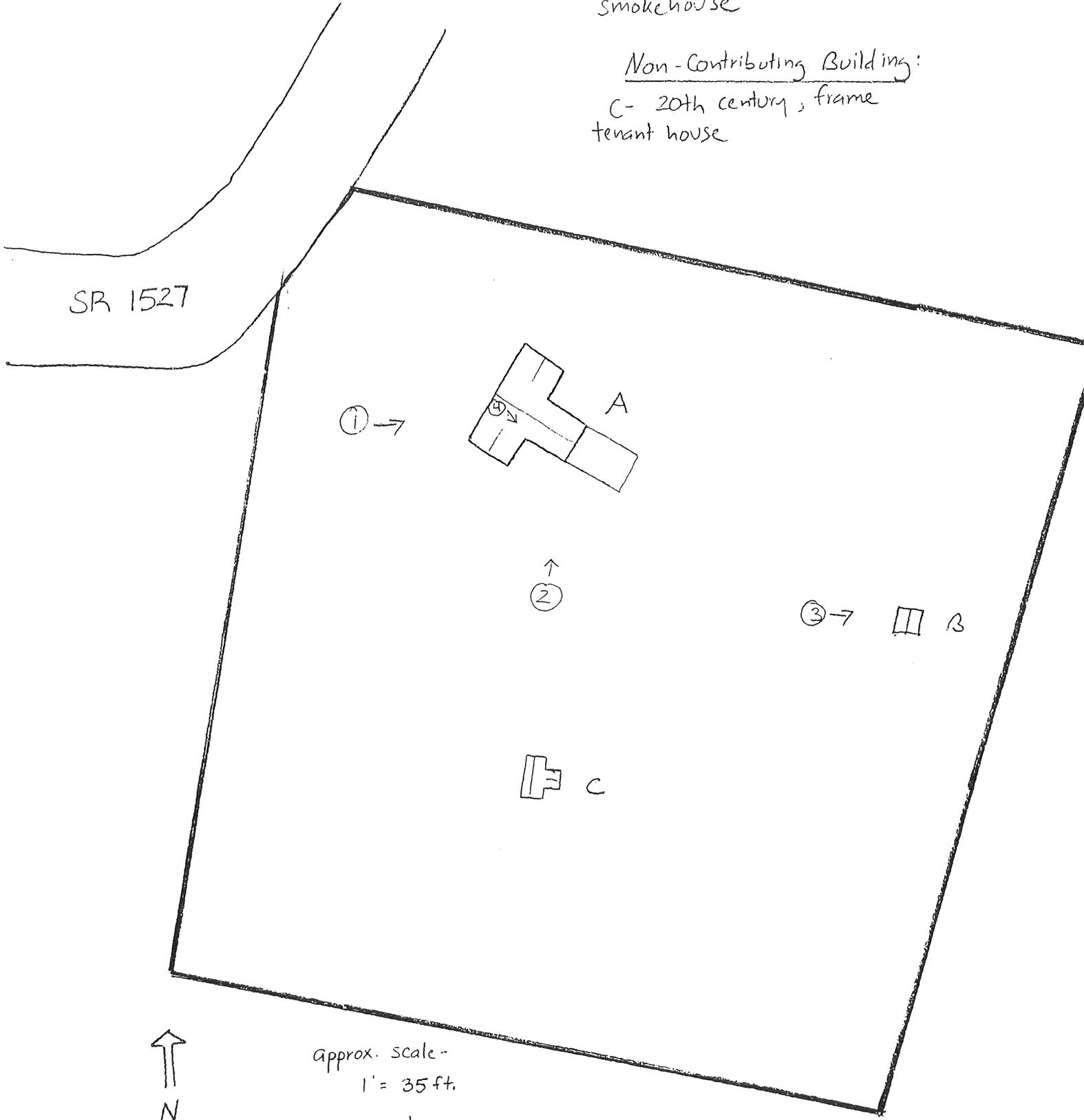
NO EXCISE STAMP TAX  
NO TAXABLE CONSIDERATION

This instrument is prepared by  
N. KYLE HICHS, Attorney at Law

WILLIAM G. SMITH HOUSE  
Granville County, NC

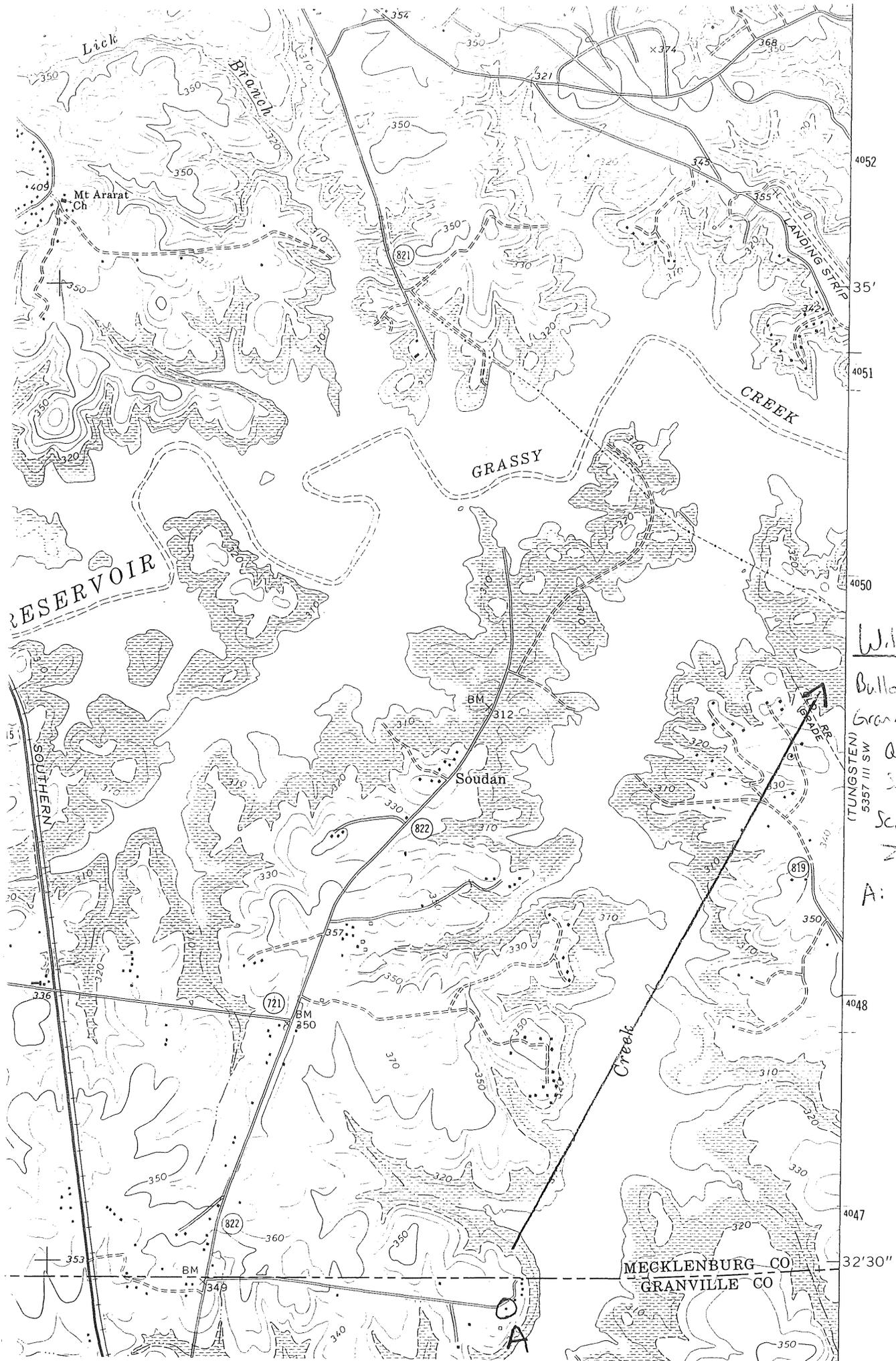
Contributing Buildings:  
A - William G. Smith House  
B - Early/mid nineteenth century, mortise and tenon smokehouse

Non-Contributing Building:  
C - 20th century, frame tenant house



approx. scale -  
1" = 35 ft.  
approx. 1 acre

drawn by Marvin A. Brown, February 1987



William B. Smith, 1962

Bulllock vicinity  
Granville County, N.C.

Quad: Clarksville  
South, 1A - N.C.

Scale: 1:24,000

Zone: 17

A: 722730

4046460

(TUNGSTEN)  
5357 III SW

MECKLENBURG CO  
GRANVILLE CO

4052  
35'  
4051  
4050  
4048  
4047  
32'30"

A

