

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 Wimbish. Lewis, Plantation

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 1443

not for publication

city, town Grassy Creek

vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Granville

code 077

zip code 27507

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>6</u>	_____ buildings
<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<u>3</u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>10</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. Rain
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

1-29-88
Date

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

Agriculture/Subsistence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The former Lewis Wimbish Plantation is nestled amidst the streams and fields that historically watered and served it. A paved road defines its southern boundary, a fence cut through fields its eastern edge and a branch of Spewmarrow Creek its northern limit. Once bordered by Grassy Creek to the west, its reach in that direction is now restrained by the 320 foot elevation line that is the high water mark of the John Kerr Reservoir. On a rise near the southwestern reach of the former plantation stands a generously scaled and exceptionally well-finished and well-maintained, Greek Revival style plantation house. To its sides and north-facing rear are an original, neatly detailed, plaster-walled privy and a complement of early twentieth century, tobacco era outbuildings. On a second rise at the property's northwestern arm, within site of cultivated fields and the occasional high rise of the reservoir, is a one-room plan, plantation era, former dwelling that pre-dates the 1850s main house.

Low hip roofs cover the two-story, heavy timber frame, T-plan main house and its front portico. This portico, which shades the central entry bay of the three-bay front facade, is formed of four round columns and two pilasters, all of which are fluted. It is one of the most fully realized, Greek Revival style porticos in the county. Columns of less robust proportions, probably later added, support the ell porch to the east.

Wide sash windows, eight-over-twelve downstairs and eight-over-eight above, light both the front block and its centered, two-story, rear ell. Their simple rectilinear surrounds contrast with the front entry, the sidelights, transom and double doors of which are set in a fluted surround complete with bull's-eye cornerblocks. Large cut stones form the raised foundation of the house and the bases of its stone and brick end chimneys. Though a large structure from the first, a second two-story ell was added to the rear of the main block, extending straight back from the taller, original ell.

Careful attention was paid to the woodwork of the house's interior, the three downstairs and three upstairs rooms of which are divided by a wide central hallway. The hall is handsomely finished, with its tall baseboards, and the risers of its wide stairway, marbleized. The wide seven-panel doors which open off of it - each arranged with a single horizontal panel set between

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

three long, vertical panels and three shorter, lower ones - are set in fluted surrounds topped with bull's-eye cornerblocks. The craftsman who decorated the woodwork of the hall was also set to work in the other rooms, marbleizing post and lintel mantels and molded baseboards. The original extent of marbleizing is not known, for much of the interior woodwork is hidden beneath later coats of paint.

A varied group of outbuildings are arrayed to the sides and rear of the house ["A" on attached sketch map]. The earliest is the oldest known privy [B] in the county. Pegged together, the antebellum building has boxed cornices and a gable front entry that leads into a plaster-walled interior, outfitted for four visitors, cheek to cheek. Two other unusual outbuildings, raised early in the twentieth century, stand to the house's rear: a narrow, frame structure, shaded by an expansive hipped roof supported by columns, said locally to have been built as a dog house [D]; and a large, frame, hipped roof barn with corner pilasters and a gabled, front overhang [E]. The other outbuildings to the house's rear, built in the early twentieth century, include a frame stable [G] and corn crib [F], and a tobacco barn [H] and chicken house [C] built of log.

Perhaps the most unusual outbuilding on the property is the former dwelling [I] at its northwestern edge. Referred to locally as the "overseer's house," it was built earlier in the nineteenth century than the main house. A mortise and tenon structure built on a one-room-and-loft plan, it is vacant and has later shed rooms added to its western side and south-facing rear. It retains a significant portion of its fine finish, however, including a cut stone chimney similar to that of the main house, a raised panel door beneath its boxed stair, plaster walls and a transitional Georgian/Federal style mantel and interior surrounds.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance
circa 1850 to 1937

Significant Dates
circa 1850

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The virtually unaltered dwelling of Lewis Wimbish is significant as one of the most finely finished and complete Greek Revival style properties in Granville County. (See associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Coupled with its purported overseer's house - a one-room plan, transitional Georgian/Federal style dwelling that predates it - and its original, neatly finished privy and bordering streams and fields, it evokes life on one of the county's larger plantations in the decade prior to the Civil War. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865, and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) In company with its variety of log and frame, early twentieth century outbuildings, it is also evocative of life on a bright leaf tobacco era farm. (See associated Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937, and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

In 1850, a year before his death at the age of 36, Lewis Wimbish purchased for \$7,000 a 736 acre tract of land upon which he almost certainly erected the plantation's handsome Greek Revival style dwelling [Deed Book 16, Page 123]. He apparently spared no efforts on his house, which was given one of the finest and most complete classical porticos in the county, cut stone and brick chimneys, generously scaled rooms, windows and doors, and handsomely crafted and marbled interior woodwork. A wealthy man at his death, Wimbish was credited with owning 21 slaves in the 1850 federal census. In 1860 his estate sold his plantation of 730 acres to Thomas R. Carrington for \$14,000 [Deed Book 21, Page 142]. Carrington - who owned 15 slaves housed in six slave dwellings in the district of the house at the taking of the 1860 federal census - added an additional 250 acres to the plantation, at the cost of \$5,050, in 1863 [Deed Book 21, Page 608].

In 1905, Lizzie T. Carrington, Carrington's widow, sold the 980 acre farm to George H. Everall of New York for the much reduced sum of \$5,000 [Deed Book 58, Page 360]. Everall is credited locally with having built the unusual, columned, dog house to the main house's rear. [1] The property passed through a number of further hands early in the century [Deed Book 71, Page 436 (1916); Deed Book 76, Page 310 (1919); Deed Book 80,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Page 404 (1922)] until the tract including the house and land historically associated with the plantation was purchased in 1931 by Fred L. Pittard, its present owner [Deed Book 92, Page 120]. Pittard continued to raise bright leaf tobacco on the farm using traditional methods and outbuildings into the 1950s.

[1] Interview with Fred L. Pittard, February, 1987. Pittard, who has lived in the house for 56 years, possesses a precise and detailed memory concerning his house and others in the area and their owners. He was born in the area in the 1890s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Interview with Fred L. Pittard, February, 1987.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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 31 acres

UTM References

A
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	716110	4044700	F	17	715680	4044450
B	17	716050	4044740	G	17	715620	4044320
C	17	715690	4044550	H	17	715720	4044290
D	17	715880	4044470	I	17	715730	4044210
E	17	715900	4044340	J	17	716040	4044230

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 716110 4044700 on the USGS polygon, where the fence line marked on the USGS map meets the southern bank of the branch of Spewmarrow Creek, continuing west approximately 850 feet to point B: 17 716050 4044740 on the polygon, where the southern bank of the branch of Spewmarrow Creek meets the 320 foot elevation line (the high water mark of the John H. Kerr Reservoir identified on the USGS map). Continuing southwest from point B, along the 320 foot elevation line, approximately 1100 feet to point G: 17 715620 4044320 on the polygon where the 320 foot elevation line meets the tree line. Continuing from point G in a straight line southeast approximately 300 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point H: 17 715720 4044290 on the polygon, where the tree line turns south. Continuing from point H on the polygon in a straight line south approximately 375 feet to point I: 17 715730 4044210 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1443. Continuing from point I east approximately 900 feet, along the north side of State Road 1443 to point J: 17 716040 4044230 on the polygon, where the fence line meets the north side of State Road 1443. Continuing from point J in a straight line north approximately 1600 feet, along the fence line marked on the USGS map, to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Approximately 31 acres that include the dwelling, outbuildings, and cultivated fields that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. Some of the property has been excluded because it is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house or because it is now woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In the latter case the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic integrity or historic significance of the property as a plantation era or bright leaf era farm.

The northern boundary, from UTM points A to B, includes the outbuildings and fields to its south and excludes property that is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house to its north. The western boundary, from UTM points B to G, includes the outbuildings and dwelling to its east and excludes property outside of the owner's property line to its west. The remainder of the western boundary, from UTM points G to H and H to I, includes the outbuildings and dwelling to its east and excludes woodland to its west. The southern boundary, from UTM points I to J, includes the dwelling and fields to its north and excludes property outside of the owner's property line to its south. The eastern boundary, from UTM points J to A, includes the fields to its east and excludes property that falls outside of the owner's property line to its west.

LEWIS WIMBISH PLANTATION Granville County, NC

Contributing Building-:

- A- Lewis Wimbish House
- B- Mortise and tenon, antebellum privy
- E- Early 20th century frame barn
- G- Early 20th century frame stable
- H- Early 20th century log tobacco barn
- I- Mortise and tenon, pre-Civil War, former dwelling

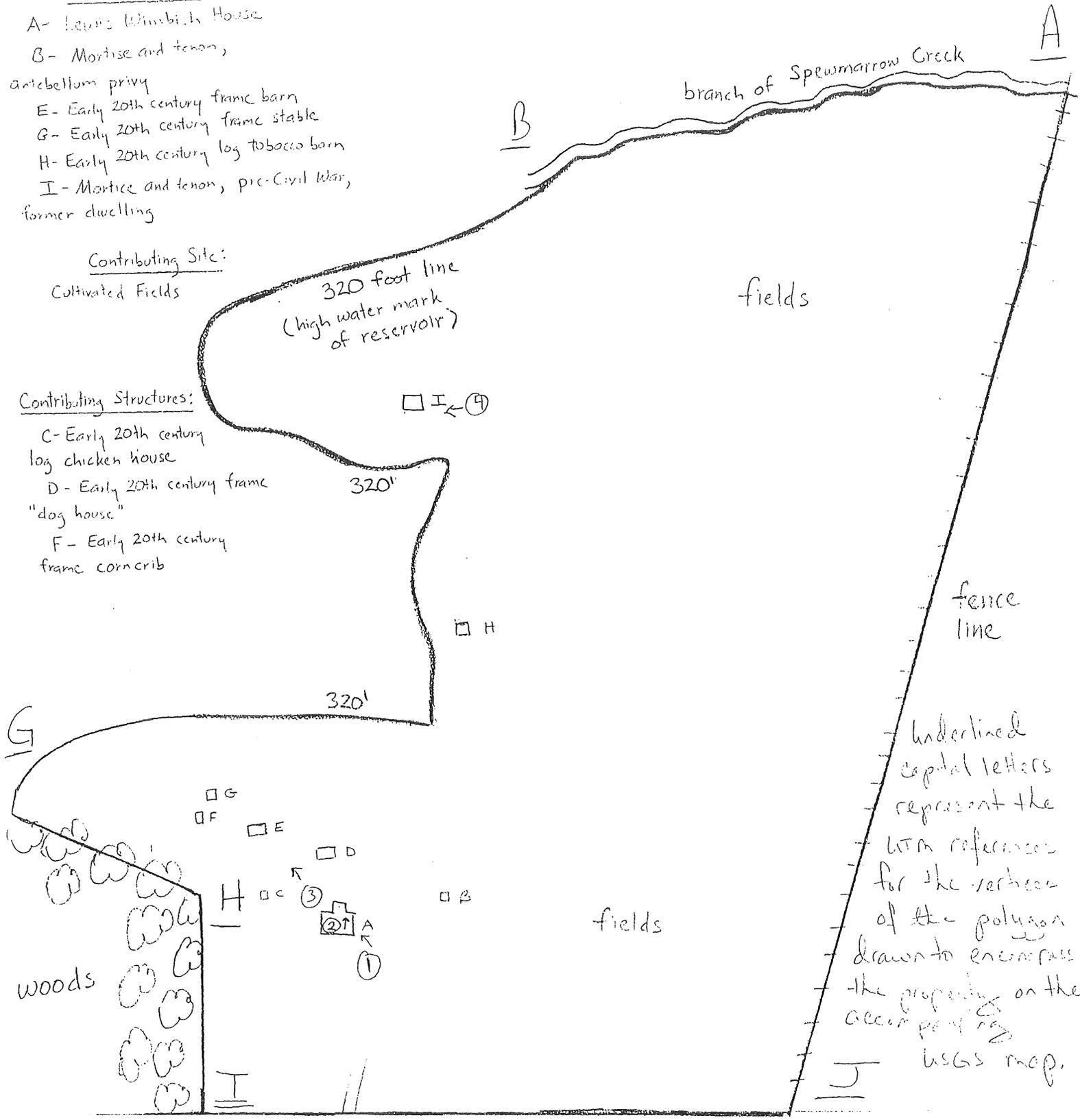
Contributing Site:

Cultivated Fields

320 foot line
(high water mark
of reservoir)

Contributing Structures:

- C- Early 20th century log chicken house
- D- Early 20th century frame "dog house"
- F- Early 20th century frame corner crib



SR 1443

approx. scale - 1" = 200 ft.

approx. 31 acres



underlined capital letters represent the WTM references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying USGS map.

drawn by Marvin A. Brown, February, 1937

