

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Boyette Slave House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E. side SR 2110 opposite junction w/SR 2157

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kenly

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Johnston

CODE

101

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Glenn W. and Donell F. Stancil

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 114

CITY, TOWN

Kenly

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27542

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Johnston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market & Second Streets

CITY, TOWN

Smithfield

STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Standing in the middle of a cultivated field and easily visible from what would have been the main farmhouse, the Boyette Slave House in Johnston County is a little altered relic of the past. A small, one room, log dwelling built of hewn and pit sawn planks held together by full-dovetail notches and dowels, the slave house is distinguished by its stick and mud chimney set at the western gable end. Thought to be a holdover of medieval building methods brought to the Southern colonies by early English settlers, stick and mud chimneys were so prevalent before 1750 that one writer described this region as "a landscape of wooden chimneys." <sup>1</sup> Soon, however, most of these fragile and highly flammable chimneys were replaced by more substantial ones of brick or stone. Those which remained were usually attached to slave quarters and can be seen in documentary photographs as late as 1899. With the end of slavery the quarters were abandoned and the chimneys allowed to fall into ruin.

Measuring 16' x 12' and 8' tall from sills to eaves, the Boyette Slave House is covered by a tin gable roof which extends in a deep overhang at the western end to protect the chimney. This type of gable extension is also seen at the Ebenezer Log Church (NR-Chatham Co.) and the Leigh Farm (NR-Durham Co.), both of which have stick and mud chimneys, but with log bases rather than being built entirely of sticks. The gable ends of the Boyette house are filled with lapped boards of various widths. Battened plank doors are set opposite each other in the center of the north and south elevations and surrounded with plain board frames. Wooden dowels have been inserted vertically through the logs near the doors to stabilize the walls and hold the logs in place around the openings while full-dovetail notches are used to join the walls at the four corners. A four-light window is in the center of the eastern facade. The floor is of random width boards. The remainder of the interior is quite bare, except for an early or original iron box lock on the north door.

Built entirely of heart pine sticks daubed with mud, the base of the Boyette chimney is lined with field stones which were coated with mud from nearby clay pits. Unlike the other two recorded and registered stick and mud chimneys in the state, the chimney of the Boyette house has a base composed of sticks rather than logs and is wedged against the house by board jambs on either side of the fireplace opening rather than notched into the planks which form the walls of the building. Beginning at the top of the fireplace opening, the sticks are laid in a square pattern with overlapping ends and gradually decreased in length so as to form the freestanding shoulders and stack of the chimney. Probably constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Boyette Slave House has not been altered or restored and only recently, when adding a new tin roof, did the owner construct a simple board brace to prevent the stack of the chimney from toppling to the ground.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Chandlee Forman, The Architecture of the Old South: The Medieval Style, 1535-1850 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1948), 20-21.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Standing in the middle of a cultivated field and easily visible from what would have been the main farmhouse, the Boyette Slave House in Johnston County is a rare and unaltered relic of the past. Probably built in the mid-nineteenth century for the Boyette family slaves, it is a small, one-room log house of hewn planks joined together with full-dovetail notches and dowels and distinguished by its remarkably intact stick and mud chimney. The most intact stick and mud chimney known to survive in the state, this chimney has a base, as well as the stack, constructed entirely of sticks daubed with mud and held in place by board jams. The stick and mud chimneys at the Leigh Farm (Durham County) and the Ebenezer Log Church (Chatham County) were built with bases made of logs notched into the walls of the buildings and stacks of sticks and mud. Considered a holdover of medieval building methods brought to the southern colonies by early English settlers, wood and clay chimneys were soon replaced by more substantial and less flammable chimneys of brick or stone. Those which remained were usually attached to slave quarters and with the end of slavery were abandoned and allowed to fall into ruin. The Boyette Slave House with its stick and mud chimney is therefore a remarkable survivor of a fragile and ancient building method that has nearly disappeared from the architectural history of North Carolina.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Boyette Slave House is associated with the economic and agricultural history of rural antebellum North Carolina which was based on small farms worked by the landowner and a few slaves.
- C. The Boyette Slave House with its stick and mud chimney is a rare example of a type of structure and construction method which originated in medieval building traditions and since the end of slavery has nearly disappeared from the architectural history of North Carolina. Remarkably intact, the Boyette chimney is the only known stick and mud chimney in the state built entirely of sticks daubed with mud and attached to the house by board jams.

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In 1800 the State of North Carolina granted to George Boyett (1770-1852) 400 acres of land in Johnston County.<sup>1</sup> On this tract Boyett (later spelled Boyette) built a farm on which he lived until his death in 1852. Sometime between 1800 and 1852 he or his son Larkin G. Boyett built the structure now known locally as the Boyette Slave House. (Architectural historians cannot date the building any more precisely than to say that it was built in the first half of the nineteenth century.)<sup>2</sup>

Of his total holdings, George Boyett only farmed 100 acres on which, according to the 1850 agricultural census, his chief crops were corn and sweet potatoes. He also raised and slaughtered some livestock and grew hay. The value of his farm in 1850 was \$600. In the last years of his life Boyett, who became blind, and his wife Tamsy lived in the household of their son Larkin G. Boyett (single) who ran the farm. George and Larkin Boyett (1850-1901) jointly owned eight slaves in 1850.<sup>3</sup> In his will probated in 1852 George Boyett declared:

I lend unto my beloved wife Tamsy Boyett the land and plantation whereon I now live containing 350 acres including my houses and plantation during her natural life or widowhood and at her death or marriage to belong to my son Larkin Boyett to him and his heirs forever.<sup>4</sup>

Tamsy Boyett, who was 73 in the 1850 census, must have died before 1860 because she is not listed in the household of Larkin Boyett in the census of that year. With her death the Boyett property passed to Larkin Boyett in keeping with the terms of George Boyett's will. Sometime between 1850 and 1858 Larkin Boyett married Chloe Bagley and they subsequently had eleven children. In 1860 Larkin and Chloe Boyette owned four slaves.<sup>5</sup>

Larkin Boyett continued to farm. During the Civil War he served as a private in the Sixth Cavalary, 65th State Troops, from 1863 to September, 1864.<sup>6</sup> After the war he resumed farming but the value of his real estate had fallen from \$1,200 in 1860 to \$800<sup>7</sup> in 1870 and the value of his personal estate from \$5,935 to \$500 in the same period. The 1880 census indicates that he owned 586 acres of woodland and forest and 75 acres of tilled land in Johnston County. The value of his farm had risen to \$1,500. His chief crops remained corn and sweet potatoes, but he raised some cotton, wheat, and livestock, swine and sheep. He also devoted a portion of his land to an apple orchard.<sup>8</sup> It is not certain for what purpose the Boyett Slave House was used after the Civil War, but one family tradition states that some of the Boyett family held a school in the structure in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>9</sup>

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Larkin Boyett died in 1901 and in that year his property including the slave house passed to one of his ten heirs, Stephen A. Boyette (1880-1958).<sup>10</sup> Stephen A. Boyette suffered bankruptcy in 1932 and sold his property to the Farmer's Cotton Oil Company, but retained the "15 acre lot described as the homestead tract."<sup>11</sup> In 1937 the cotton oil company sold the rest of the original property to Boyette's wife Sallie Ann Lamm Boyette (1881-1943.)<sup>12</sup> In 1959 W. E. Boyette and S. A. Boyette, Jr., (heirs of Stephen A. and Sallie A. Boyette) sold 150 acres "originally known as the S. A. Boyette home-place" to W. Odell Boyette.<sup>13</sup> In 1957 his heirs, Stephen Odell Boyette and Mary Lamm Boyette Prevatte, sold 127.99 acres including the slave house to Donell F. Stancil and wife, Alva C. Stancil, and Glen W. Stancil and wife, Erma Stancil.<sup>14</sup> The Stancils still own the Boyette Slave House.

Discussion of the stick and mud chimney construction is to be found in item 7, Description.

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Johnston County Deed Books (microfilm), Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Deed Book A2, p. 1, hereinafter cited as Johnston County Deed Books.

<sup>2</sup> Author's interview with Renee Gledhill-Early, architectural historian, June 8, 1979.

<sup>3</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Johnston County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 155; Agricultural Schedule, 671; Slave Schedule, 412.

<sup>4</sup> Johnston County Will Books (microfilm), Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, Will book 1, p. 659. Among the slaves mentioned in Boyette's will were three females, Silvia, Caroline, and Maryan, and two males, Alfred and James. They may have lived in the slave house.

<sup>5</sup> Eighth Census of the United States, 1860; Johnston County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 199; Slave Schedule, 431; author's telephone interview with Mrs. Ray Boyette, Kenly, N. C., June 13, 1979.

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(11/78)

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<sup>6</sup>U. S. National Archives, compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from North Carolina, microfilm copies in Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>7</sup>Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Johnston County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 386.

<sup>8</sup>Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Johnston County, North Carolina, Agriculture Schedule, O'Neal's Township, 3.

<sup>9</sup>See notes of Mrs. Ray Boyette, Boyette Slave House file, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

<sup>10</sup>Johnston County Estate Papers, Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Johnston Deed Book Y-7, 240.

<sup>11</sup>Johnston Deed Books 295, p. 287, 320, p. 582.

<sup>12</sup>Johnston Deed Book 372, p. 188.

<sup>13</sup>Johnston Deed Books 575, p. 548, 576, p. 204.

<sup>14</sup>Johnston Deed Book 835, p. 314.



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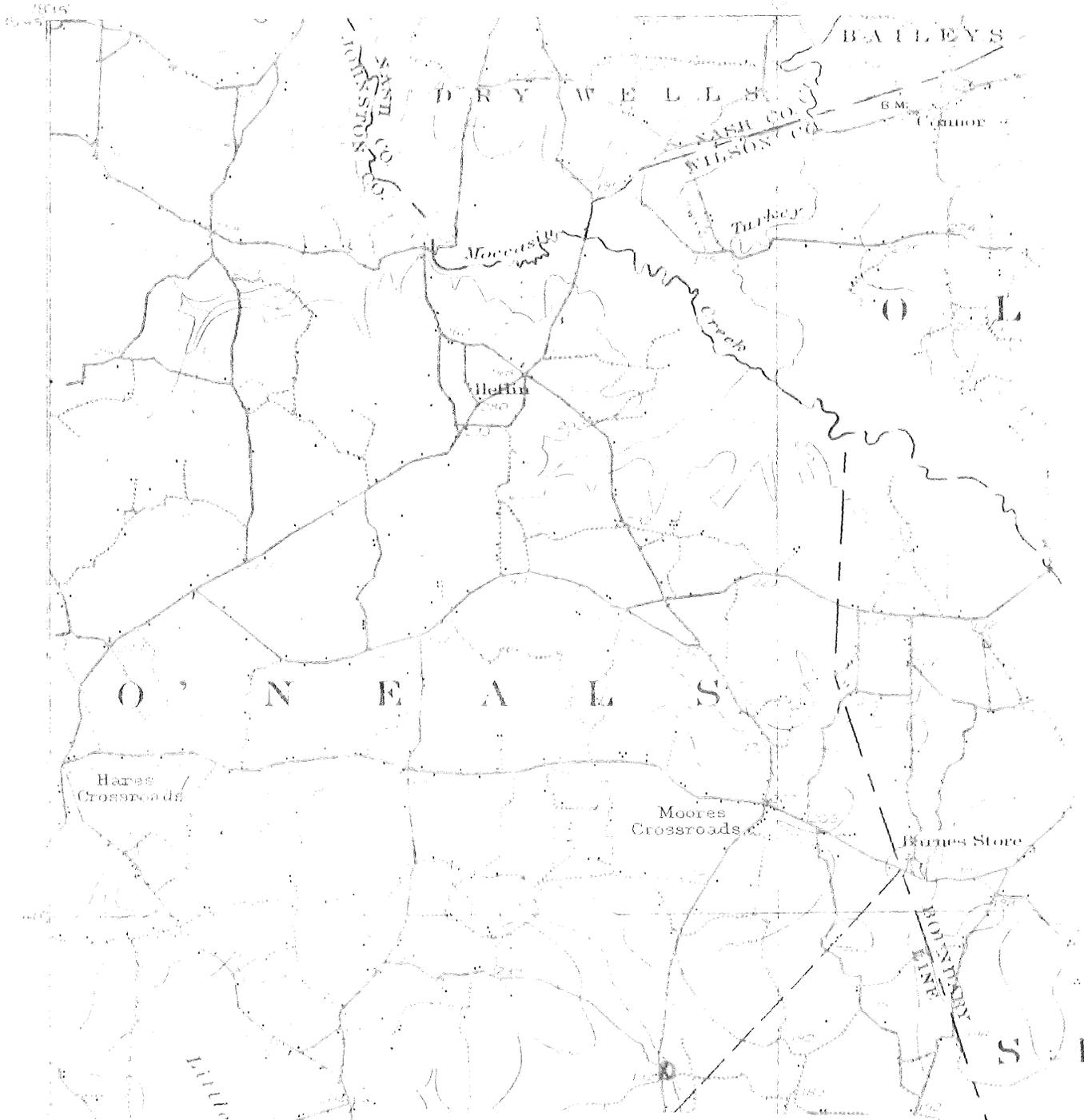
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Johnston County Records, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (sub-groups: Census, Deeds, Estates, Wills).

U. S. National Archives. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers from North Carolina, microfilm copies in Archives, N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND SURVEY

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Boyette Slave House  
E. Side SR 2110, Opposite Jct. w/SR 2157  
Kenly Vicinity, Johnston County  
North Carolina  
Kenly Quadrangle 1:62500  
Latitude: 35° 39' 06"  
Longitude: 78° 10' 47"

*Staniel Chapel*  
*Middleton*  
*1:24000*

