

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 Hood-Strickland House
other names/site number T. R. Hood House

2. Location

street & number 415 South 4th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Smithfield N/A vicinity
state NC code 037 county Johnston code 101 zip code 27577

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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 D. Fin, Jr. 7-23-90
Signature of certifying official 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:)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Weatherboard/ wood

roof Metal

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hood-Strickland House, surrounded by large trees, stands on the northeast corner of South 4th Street and Davis Street. The two-story frame Italianate style house was constructed between 1887 and 1889 by a local druggist, Thomas Ruffin Hood, and is one of the oldest remaining structures in the town of Smithfield, North Carolina. Today, the house occupies a lot approximately twenty-five percent the size of its original half city block. It stands facing west with a quiet dignity behind a low, ivy-covered brick wall, with dense shrubbery lining the pathway to the front.

The house itself is two-story and T-shaped, with three-bay main facade and one-story rear ell, and relatively small rear and side additions. The metal roof is standing seam with three clipped gables on the two-story portions, hipped on the ell, and pierced by four tall interior corbelled stacks. Built-in gutters produce a straight flare eave highlighted at the rake. The eaves around the main block of the house, as well as the other roof lines, are "supported" by decoratively sawn brackets. The body of the house is covered with plain weatherboards and pimped cornerboards. The attic is ventilated in the gables by double louvered panels that mimic the windows below in their segmental arched form.

The windows throughout the house are in simple beaded architraves, with 2-over-2 and segmental arched, and slat shutters (originally louvered). The three-sided window bays at the first story in the gable-front wing facing S. 4th Street and in gable-end wing facing Davis Street contain three 2-over-2 segmental arched sash windows with molded spandrel panels below the sash. Brackets decorate both the bay's molded cornice and the porchs cornices, providing visual

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continuity with the porch across the gable-end wing parallel to S. 4th Street. Wide wooden steps lead to the one-story porch ornamented with handsome chamfered posts with tall square-in-section bases and trefoil sawnwork spandrels above molded caps. The original match stick balusters were removed because of deterioration and were replaced in the 1970s with turned balusters from the Horne House in Clayton before it was razed. Opening onto the front porch is a double door next to a two-story entrance bay that projects slightly from the inside corner of the tee. The south side facade is the end of the "stem" of the tee, with a bay window identical to the west facade's. The north side facade is three bays wide with a one-story porch. According to the 1924 Smithfield town map, the original kitchen wing was still attached to the side of the house by a breeze-way. The kitchen was removed and the breeze-way was enclosed in the 1920s; it was glassed in as the current porch in the 1970s. The rear elevation features a two-story wing that is part of the "bar" of the tee, without a bay window, and the one-story ell. There were several alterations made to the two-story wing in the 1920s and 30s. During the 1920s a second story bathroom with a flat metal roof was built over the central hall and the back door was replaced by a window. Sometime in the 1930s, the rear porch was enclosed to house a small kitchen, and now used as the laundry room.

The interior of the Hood-Strickland House has a central-hall plan, although the hall was partitioned in the 1930s. Features common throughout the house are plaster walls; three and a half inch wide pineboard floors; four- and five-panel doors with transoms and a variety of very fine decorative box locks and porcelain knobs; and ceilings covered with beaded board. On the first floor the principal rooms--the parlor, the dining room and the stair hall--share ogee crown molding, plain baseboards and symmetrically molded architraves on the window and the doors.

A striking feature of the house is the open string stair with its heavily turned newel post, turned balusters, and scrolled step-end brackets. The top of the stairwell is delineated by a course of sawnwork with repeating trefoil motif and a turned balustrade.

The parlor, south of the central hall, has a built in window seat with vertical beaded board in the bay. The fireplace has a handsome cast iron coal grate with light blue tile. The mantel is of quarter sawn oak with a molded shelf supported by

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three simple brackets. Above the mantel is an oval beveled mirror with applied ornamentation consisting of a flaming torch flanked by foliate designs on either side of the mirror. Above the mirror is a series of delicately carved moldings. There is an overmantel that appears to be a section of stray wainscotting.

The dining room north of the central hall has spandrel panels under the windows. The fireplace has a cast iron coal grate with green ceramic tile. The mantel, like that of the parlor's, is of quarter sawn oak with a molded shelf supported by two carved columns. Intricate foliate designs have been carved and applied below the mantel shelf. Above the mantel is a very simple overmantel with paneling above.

The warming room is next to the dining room. This room has been remodeled and the original simple mantel was replaced in the 1970s by one found on Blount Street in Raleigh. The replacement mantel has pilasters with an inset panel containing lapped boards. The panel is topped by a scrolled shelf support, decorated with simple gouge work in a foliate pattern to either side of an applied shield, also carved. Below this shelf is a course of one and a half inch long fish scale dentils. The room has molded two part architraves more simple than the other rooms. It also contains a small compartment below the floor boards for cold storage that was originally cooled by a spring.

The second floor houses three bedrooms and two baths. In the front bedrooms there are two simple mantels with flat pilasters, plain frieze boards and shelves. The back bedroom is very simple with no mantel.

Alterations have occurred over the years to meet the needs of the owners. Originally the central hall flowed the full depth of the house, but in the 1920s it was closed off from the front stair to install a bathroom. The 1930s saw the house divided into three apartments and beginning in the 1970s the house was restored with some modifications. Alterations made to the first floor include the conversion of two back bedrooms to contemporary kitchen and family room and the replacement of the small back stair to the warming room. On the second floor the original bath, off the northwest bedroom, has been altered with the installation of a shower and the removal of its original tub to the first floor bathroom.

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CARRIAGE HOUSE

Immediately behind the house, at the northeast corner of the lot, is a small frame, one-story building with a metal gable roof that was the original carriage house. It is not considered a contributing building, since major alterations were made in 1942.

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Note: The photographs included with this nomination were taken in 1989, with the exception of the view of the rear of the house, unchanged from its appearance in the 1977 photo. The increase in tree foliage since 1977 made it impossible to take an acceptable photo, even in winter.

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

Period of Significance
1887-1889

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Byrd, C.S.

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

SUMMARY

The Hood-Strickland House is one of two Italianate Bracketed houses to survive the 1889 fire that devastated much of Smithfield. Among the oldest structures in the town, the house is considered one of the finest architectural landmarks in Smithfield. The Hood-Strickland House expresses the nationally popular Italianate style with its richly bracketed cornices, three-sided bays, tall corbelled chimneys, segmental arched windows and decorative porch characterizing a tee shaped form with projecting corner entrance bay. One of the most distinctive features--the tall clipped gable roof--is more typical of Victorian modes and identifies the house as a relatively late manifestation of the Italianate style. The house's rich details incorporated the most modern conveniences of the time, including one of Smithfield's first indoor bathtubs and waterclosets.

The Hood-Strickland House is named after Thomas Ruffin Hood (1857-1940) and Eva Y. Strickland (1891-1969), whose two families built and resided in the house over the greatest period of time. The Hood-Strickland House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a rare example of the Italianate Bracketed residential architecture of the late nineteenth century in the town of Smithfield. It remains one of the most distinctive structures from the town's most prosperous years beginning with the appearance of the Midland Railroad in 1882. The house is well cared for, relatively intact, and is one of the first houses to shed rural, vernacular traditions for a more urban style.

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Hood-Strickland House

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Ornate and vertical Italianate houses were popularized in the patternbooks of the 1860s and 1870s---including Bicknell's Village Builder and Cottage and Construction Architecture (Bisher: p.281). The first appearance of the Italianate in North Carolina was primarily in the eastern section of the state, introduced in 1841. Its popularity waned somewhat in the 1850s and 1860s, but there was a resurgence of the style after the war (Southern and Rothman: Conversation 1/26/90).

The Hood-Strickland House represents a style and an attitude that was prevalent during the late nineteenth century in both cities and small towns. The mid-Victorian demonstrated a preoccupation with appearances; their architecture maintained an emphasis on honesty and truthfulness of design. They believed it was important to recognize and physically express differences in social status because of the increasing number of outsiders moving into their neighborhoods (Gowans: p.232). Architecture answered the needs created by changing times and attitudes. Their houses blended romantic notions about the past with a desire for modern conveniences and incorporated the latest in heating ventilation and sanitation technology (Clark: p.40). The Hood-Strickland House reflects these attitudes and remains today one of Smithfield's most beautiful dwellings.

The spacious two-story house utilized a variety of detailed decorative elements and included a proliferation of mass produced building materials such as sawwork brackets and intricate hardware on the doors. The late nineteenth century house is among Smithfield's most notable homes for two primary reasons. It had one of the town's earliest, if not the first, bathrooms, which used rainwater in a tank on the roof (Hooks: Interview). More importantly, it heralded the changing character of architecture in Smithfield during the 1880s from simple vernacular designs to the "high styles" indicative of the area's greater prosperity and urbanization (Shoemaker: p.9).

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original owner of the Hood-Strickland House was Thomas Ruffin Hood, who was born near Rand's Mill in Wake County, North Carolina on September 29, 1857 (The Smithfield Herald: January 19, 1940 and Thomas Ruffin Hood, His Book) Hood's father, John Cogdell Hood, moved the family to Smithfield in 1871 to open one of Johnston County's first drugstores. T.R. Hood received his early education in the Smithfield Academy from 1871 to 1876. In 1873, at age sixteen, the young Hood began an apprenticeship after school with his father's partner Dr. Kirkman. By 1877, Hood obtained his goal as a prescriptionist, joining his father and Dr. Kirkman. On January 1, 1879, T.R. Hood purchased Dr. Kirkman's interest in the drug store. He and his brother, B.R. Hood, continued the family business in 1879 when they became partners and bought out the competing firm, Sasser, Woodall and Company. T.R. Hood believed that success was attainable through new ideas and techniques. He helped establish the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association, setting unified standards among pharmacists in the state (The Smithfield Herald: May 30, 1924). He effectively reached many in the local community through weekly advertisements in The Smithfield Herald (The Smithfield Herald: April 24, 1923). Always changing and adapting to the public's wants and needs, the Hood brothers' business, T.R. Hood and Co., prospered in the 1880s.

From 1882 to 1887 Smithfield's economy was at its height, largely as a result of tobacco trade and the coming of the Midland Railroad in 1882 (Smithfield's 200 Years 1777-1977: p.24) These years brought considerable new development which included an increase in construction of new residences in the community. Between 1880 and 1885, Smithfield's population more than doubled from 435 to 900 people (Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: p.444 and Shoemaker: p.3). To meet growing demands for services in the town, businesses grew and flourished, including the Hoods' drug store (Smithfield's 200 Years 1777-1977: p.24).

T.R. Hood married Lucy A. Woodall in 1881, and their family grew to include five children, Eva, Eula, Lucy, Hal and Will, reason enough to build their new nine room house (Thomas Ruffin Hood, His Book). The Hoods obtained the corner of South 4th Street and Davis from Lucy Woodall Hood's father, Seth Woodall, who owned all the land in this section of Smithfield known as Brooklyn (Golden Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. T.R. Hood).

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On October 1, 1887 The Smithfield Herald reported the brief statement, "Carpenters commenced work on the new residence of Mr. T.R. Hood over in Brooklyn Monday." The house took the builder, C.S. Byrd two years to complete and in 1889 The Smithfield Herald reported the house was being painted (Roberts: Interview, Nièce Of Mrs. Strickland found a piece of cornice inscribed "Built by C.S. Byrd, 1889" during renovations).

This formidable house mirrored Thomas Hood's standing in the community. He was an active and significant participant in the town's life: he was president of the First National Bank; he served as superintendent of Centenary Methodist Sunday School for thirty-two years; he served on the town's school board; he was city treasurer; and he was a Mason and belonged to the Kiwanis Club (The Smithfield Herald: January 19, 1940 and The Smithfield Herald: May 30, 1924). As a result of his full schedule of civic and personal activities, and with no children at home, he decided to sell the house.

In 1920 Thomas Hood sold the house to Dr. N.T. Hollands, a local dentist. (General Index to Real Estate Conveyance—Johnston County, NC—Grantors: p.193) Dr. Hollands lived in the house with his family for nine years. During this period Dr. Hollands became over-extended with his finances and land acquisitions. In the crash of 1929, he lost the house and other properties owned in Smithfield (Hooks: Interview).

During the years that Mr. and Mrs. Walter Strickland resided on the northwest corner of South 4th Street, they had always admired their neighbor's Italianate house. In 1929 the house was put up for public auction and Mrs. Strickland purchased it for \$1,900. The couple divided the house into three apartments and it remained in this capacity even after the death of Mr. Strickland in 1945. In 1959 Eva Strickland had her niece, Rebecca Johnson Roberts and her family move in with her. Mrs. Strickland remained in the house until her death in 1969. By terms of the will, Mrs. Roberts inherited the house. For the next seventeen years the Roberts began to renovate the house until Laeron Roberts was transferred to another part of the state. In 1986, the Roberts sold the house to the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clayton Narron (Roberts: Interview).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 apx. .25

UTM References

A 17 740570 8932190
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is indicated by the yellow line on the enclosed Smithfield Township map number 30.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Webbere and Dean Ruedrick / Consultants
organization Architectural Research Group date May 30, 1990
street & number 5501 Kellwood Court telephone 919-881-0062
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27609

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Gowans, Alan. Images of American Living: Four Centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1964.

Thomas Ruffin Hood, His Book. Smithfield: Educational Press Publishers, 1922.

Hooks, Dorothy: Granddaughter to Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Hood. Interview conducted by Sandra Webbere, December 14, 1989.

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Shoemaker, Mary McCahon. An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Smithfield, NC 1977. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1977.

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The Smithfield Herald: October 1, 1887, January 28, 1888, June 29, 1889, April 24, 1923, May 30, 1924, January 19, 1904.

Southern, Michael T. and Margaret Rothman: Conversation, January 28, 1990.

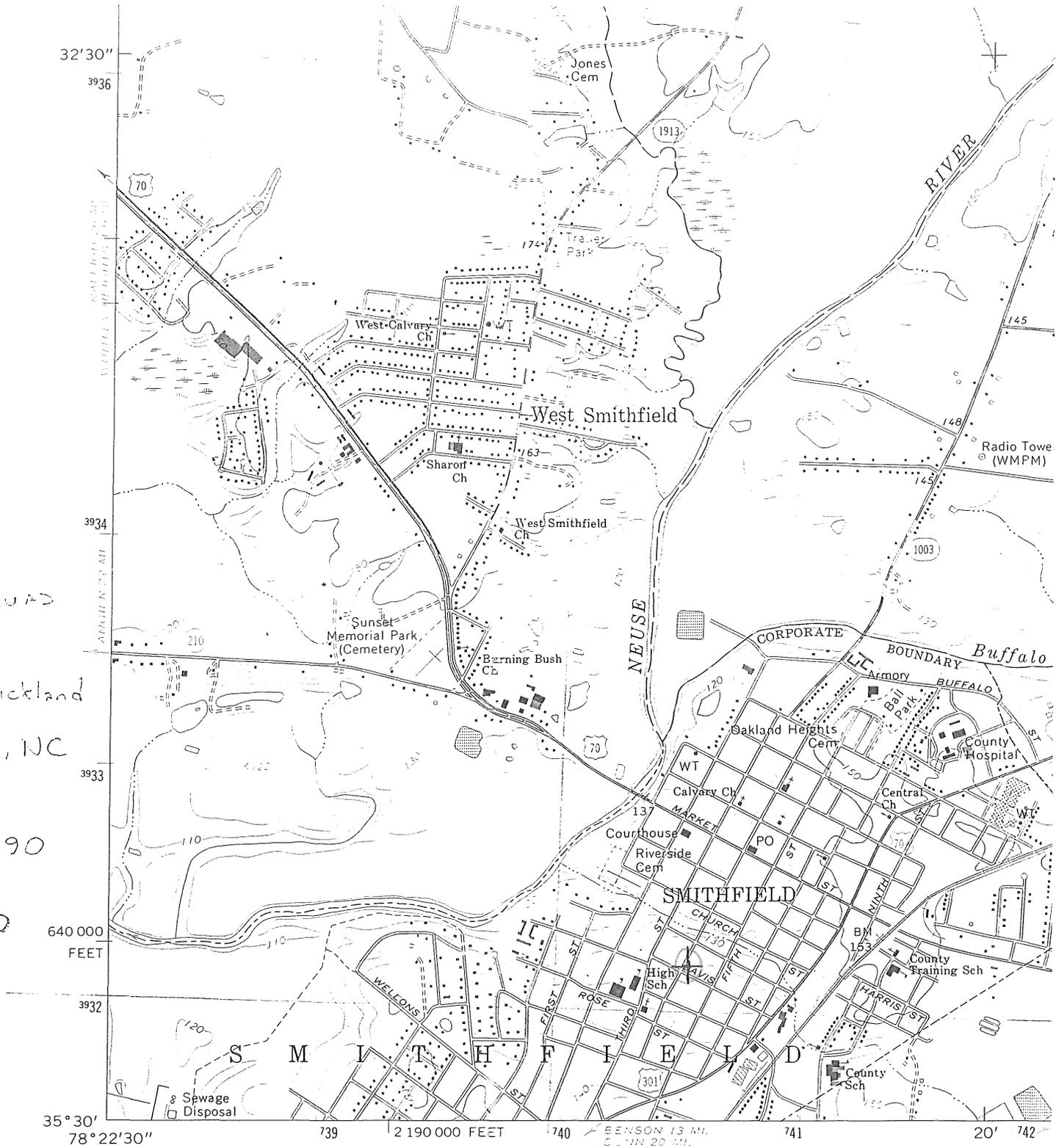
Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Johnston County, North Carolina, Smithfield. Population Schedule, Part I.

SELMA QUAD
 ZONE 17

Hood-Strickland
 House
 Smithfield, NC

Northing
 3932190

Easting
 740570



(FOUR OAKS 1:62,500
 5354 IV)

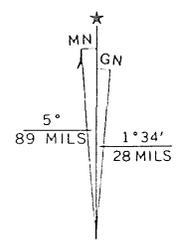
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1962. Field checked 1964

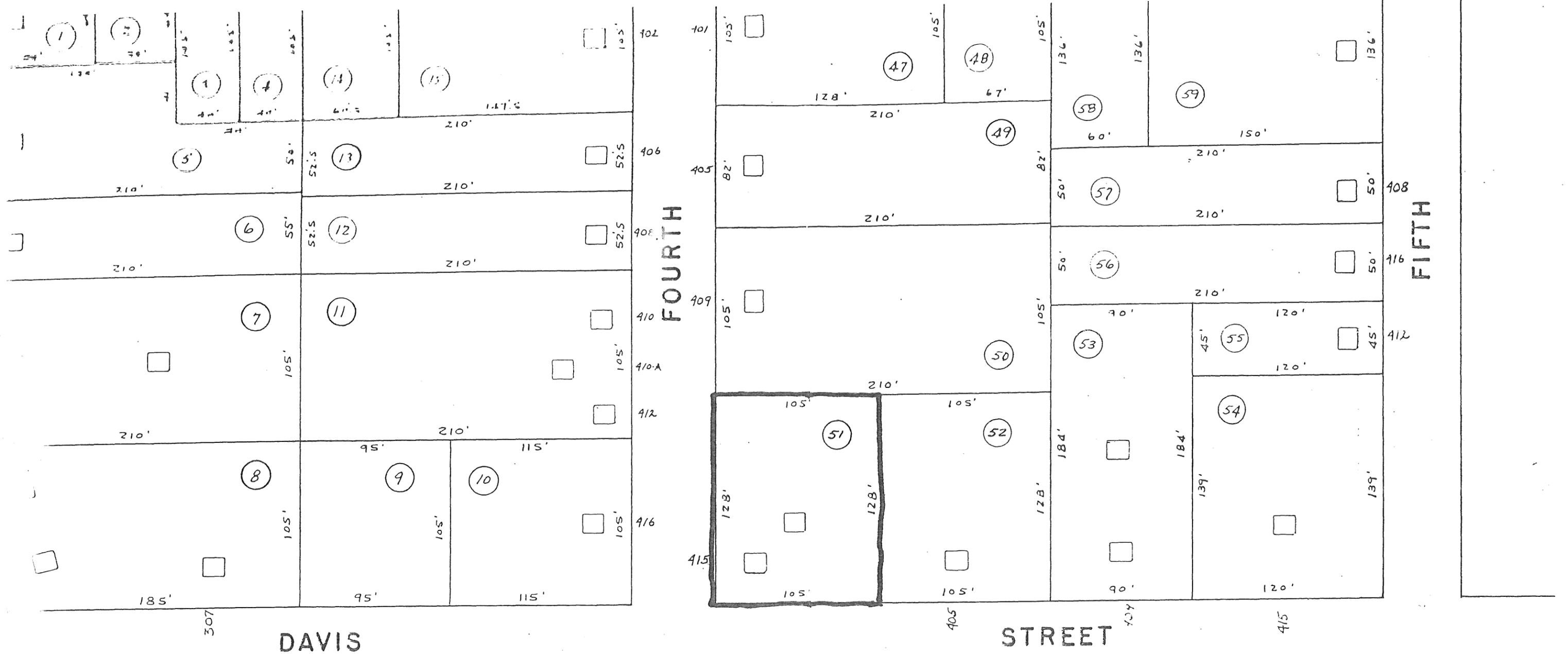
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
 photographs taken 1973. This information not
 field checked



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



35

Hood-Strickland House
415 S. Fourth St.

CITY OF SMITHFIELD
SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP
MAP 30
JOHNSTON CO. N. C.
1969

N/E CORNER OF FOURTH AND DAVIS

