

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Pitt	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Grimesland Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route #2 (SR 1569)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Grimesland

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Pitt      CODE: 147

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vernon White

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 41

CITY OR TOWN: Winterville      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Pitt County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Third and Evans Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grimesland Plantation is a two-story structure built of beaded weatherboards with a gable roof and American bond exterior end chimneys. During the Greek Revival period a single-story wing with a hip roof was added on each end, a two-story addition was constructed across the north (rear) side, and a one story verandah was added to the front of the house.

The south facade of the main block is five bays wide. The central entrance contains a nine-panel door framed by a pair of engaged fluted columns supporting a diminutive entablature which features a pierced fret design and breaks out over each column. The wall under the entablature is of flush siding. The windows have nine-over-nine sash on the first story and nine-over-six on the second. Each wing contains a bay window with unusual applied wooden ornament.

The interior of the house is center-passage in plan with a parlor on either side of the main hall. A well-designed stair with fine ornamental brackets and a simple balustrade rises in three runs from the left side of the hall. The main door with its fanlight is framed by a molded architrave. It is flanked by reeded pilasters which support an entablature decorated with a Wall of Troy motif. On the door is an unusual iron box lock with two knobs.

The hall and parlors have plaster walls above and below a molded chair rail. There are simple Federal mantels in the main block and marble ones with arched fireplace openings in the wings.

The plantation grounds contain several fine outbuildings including slave quarters, still occupied by farm laborers, and a smokehouse built of uncoursed fieldstone with a low pyramidal roof.

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## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1786 William Grimes bought several tracts along the Tar River in Pitt County and combined them into a plantation. He built a home for his family on this property in the last decade of the eighteenth century. Grimes was a prominent local politician and served several terms in the General Assembly. He died at the age of thirty-one and his son, Bryan Grimes, acquired the plantation soon afterward. In June, 1848, Grimes gave Grimesland to his son, also named Bryan Grimes. In 1861 the younger Bryan Grimes, a strong secessionist, and owner of fifty-seven slaves, was elected a delegate to the Secession Convention and was a driving force in North Carolina's withdrawal from the Union. He joined the Confederate Army as a major and as commander of the Fourth North Carolina Regiment. His military career was marked by aggressive bravery. At the war's end he had advanced to the rank of major general and his regiment fired the last volleys prior to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. On August 14, 1860, he was murdered by political enemies. General Grimes's widow, Charlotte E. Grimes, held the plantation house in dower until her death in the 1920s.

Among the other distinguished members of the Grimes family was J. Bryan Grimes, son of General Grimes. He served as Secretary of State of North Carolina and was noted for his progressive reorganization of that office.

Grimesland Plantation is now owned by State Senator Vernon White of Winterville, North Carolina, and remains as a fine example of an antebellum plantation in North Carolina. In addition to the plantation house, there is a barnyard with several well preserved outbuildings including a row of frame slave quarters and a stone smokehouse.

In its setting on the banks of the Tar River, among large open fields, Grimesland is perhaps more evocative of the antebellum era than many of the better preserved plantations of greater architectural merit in North Carolina.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashe, Samuel A. (ed.), Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1905-1907.

King, Henry T., Sketches of Pitt County, A Brief History of the County, 1704-1910. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1911.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35°	33'	20"	77°	10'	02"	0		
NE	35°	33'	20"	77°	10'	01"	0		
SE	35°	33'	24"	77°	10'	01"			
SW	35°	33'	24"	77°	10'	02"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 15 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John B. Wells, Survey Specialist  
Greer Suttlemyre, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: December 1, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. H.G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date December 1, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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