

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Michael Braun House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Stone House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
on SR 2308, .5 miles from junction of SR 2308 and US 52 *Rockwell Quad*

CITY OR TOWN:
Granite Quarry (Eighth Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rowan	CODE 159
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rowan Museum, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 South Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Main Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Rowan
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Michael Braun House is a two-story stone dwelling with a high water table, interior end chimneys, and a one-story frame kitchen wing on its east side. The stone on the front (south) facade is coursed, while on the other three sides it is uncoursed. The front is four bays wide with the main entrance in the second bay from the left. It features a five-light transom above a wide raised-paneled door. All openings at the first level are surmounted by segmental arches. The first floor windows contain nine-over-nine sash, while those on the second have six-over-nine. Above and to the right of the main entrance is a stone slab inscribed with the names of Michael Braun and his wife and a curious line of lettering "10-Pe-Me-Be-Mi-Ch-Da-1766." This appears to be an abbreviation for the German words "PEnsum MEines BEndigem Mit CHristim Dank" meaning "My undertaking completed with thanks to Christ." The numbers "10" and "1766" refer to the date of completion, October 1766.

The west gable end has no windows but does contain a small square opening on either side of the chimney near the top of the gable. A small pent roof covered with wooden shakes appears at the base of the second story and carries around the rear of the house. The rear facade is three bays wide with windows containing nine-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-nine on the second. The central entrance is similar to that of the front but lacks an arch. The east side, like that of the west, is without fenestration except for two small openings in the gable.

The reconstructed frame kitchen, which rests on a stone basement, is two bays wide with a board-and-batten door in the left bay. The right bay contains a large window with nine-over-nine sash. There are two windows on the east gable end and one on the rear, all with six-over-nine sash.

The interior plan of the Michael Braun House presents four rooms, unequal in size, in an unusual arrangement. The main entrance leads into the main (southwest) parlor, which features plaster walls above a raised-panel wainscot, splayed window reveals, and a corner fireplace in the northwest corner. The mantel, reaching to the ceiling, consists of a vertical row of raised panels to the left of the arched opening and ranges of vertical and horizontal panels above the fireplace. To the rear of the main parlor is a smaller room on the northwest and a hall on the northeast leading to the rear entrance. The northwest room, which is quite plain, is finished with plaster walls above and below a molded chair rail and has a corner fireplace framed by a simple molded architrave with a high shelf. The hall is entered from the southwest parlor through a raised-paneled double door. An enclosed spiral stair leads from the east side of the hall and rises through the adjacent room to the second floor.

To the east of the main parlor is the large southeast room, thought to have been a dining area. This room is unheated except for a firebox that draws heat from the kitchen fireplace on the other side of the adjacent east wall. There is a much smaller room with plaster walls and a molded chair rail located to the north of the dining area.

The southeast portion of the second floor is partitioned off to form a small bedroom with plaster walls above and below a beaded chair rail. There is a small fireplace with no mantel on the east wall. The remainder of this

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description

floor, apparently never finished, has rough stone walls with a fireplace on the west wall.

The frame kitchen, entered from the dining room, features an enormous fireplace on the west wall with an opening measuring eight feet in width. An enclosed stair ascends from the right side of the chimney to an unfinished attic.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1766

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Michael Braun (Brown), born in Dormstadt, Germany, bought a 274-acre tract in Rowan County from his friend, John Dunn, on July 18, 1760. By October, 1766, he had built a large stone house on the upper east boundary of this tract. Braun was a merchant, wheelwright, and farmer; and during the last years of the eighteenth century he operated an English-German print shop in Salisbury. Besides his plantation home in the country, which subsequently consisted of 2,091 acres, Braun owned considerable real estate in Salisbury.

Michael Braun died in 1808, and his family continued to occupy the house until 1904. By the 1920s the house had fallen into such a state of disrepair that the Brown-Fisher Association was formed to keep the house as a memorial to Michael Braun and his descendants. In 1949 R. M., T. J., J. A., and Dodd Brown bought the house and two acres surrounding it from the Brown-Fisher Association, and effected a considerable amount of repair work on the house. The Rowan Museum, Incorporated, bought the house and two acres from the Brown family, represented by Howard W. Brown, in 1959. Since then, 21.3 acres have been added to protect the property, and the house is a museum administered by the Rowan Museum, Incorporated. The site includes the old Brown family burying ground across the street from the house.

The Michael Braun House, believed to be the oldest house in Rowan county, is probably one of the oldest in piedmont North Carolina. Thomas T. Waterman describes the house, notable for its superb construction, as "the noblest of the North Carolina stone houses." The Michael Braun House, "a veritable castle when it was built in the wilderness," is also a significant reminder of the important German influence upon North Carolina's history and culture.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rowan County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Francis Benjamin. Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 37' 20"	80° 26' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: May 13, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date May 13, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

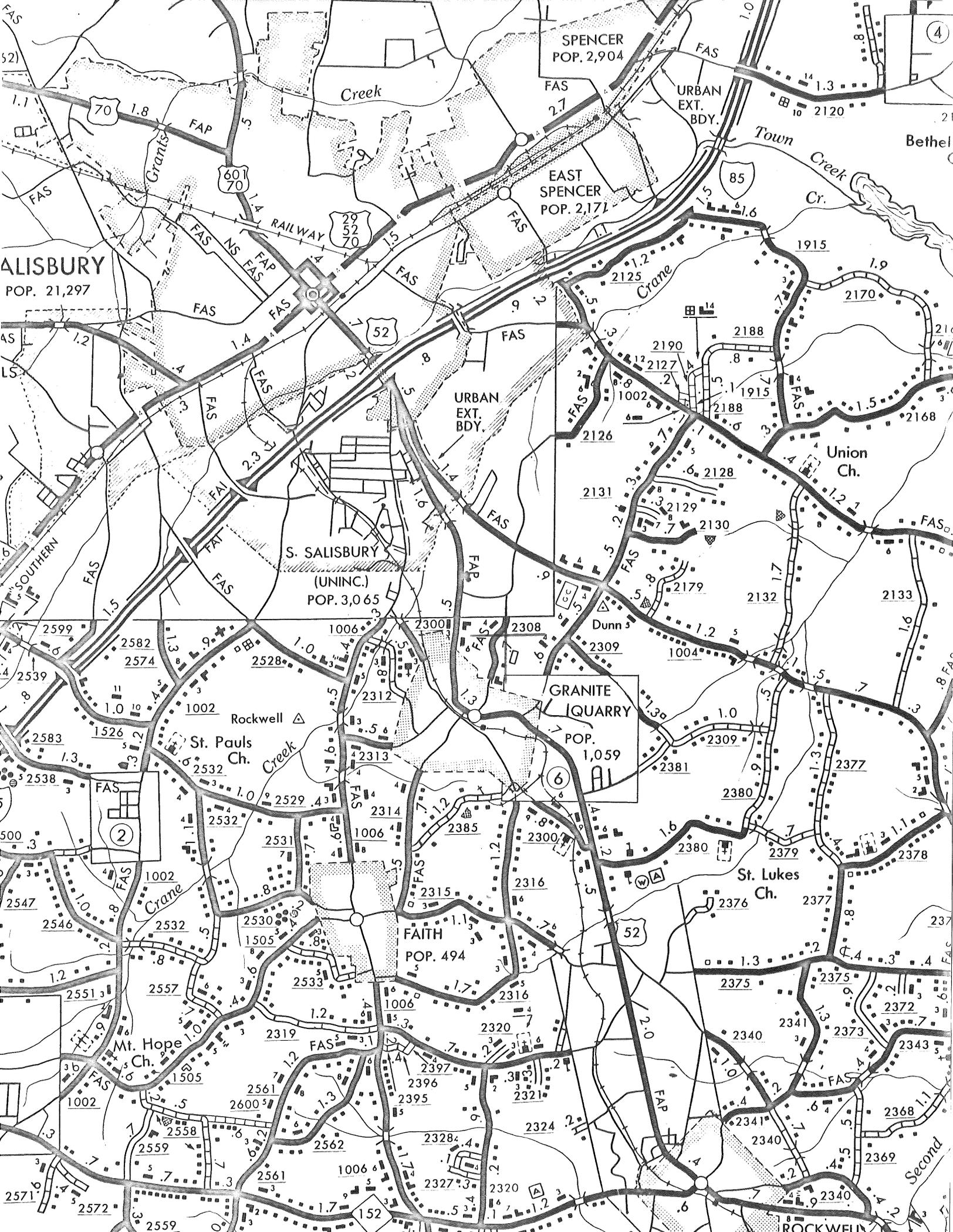
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



SALISBURY
POP. 21,297

SPENCER
POP. 2,904

EAST SPENCER
POP. 2,171

S. SALISBURY
(UNINC.)
POP. 3,065

GRANITE QUARRY
POP. 1,059

FAITH
POP. 494

Union Ch.

St. Luke's Ch.

Mt. Hope Ch.

St. Paul's Ch.

Rockwell

Dunn

Second

ROCKWEIL

Creek

Town Creek Cr.

Crane

Crane

Creek

SOUTHERN

RAILWAY

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URBAN EXT. BDY.

URBAN EXT. BDY.

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