

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 Mount Energy Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Intersection of State Road 1636 & N.C. Rte 56 Not for publication
city, town Mount Energy vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27522

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
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	<u>1</u> objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of Granville
County, N.C.

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. Price, Jr.
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer

6-14-88
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)

Social: meeting hall

Commerce/Trade: department store

Education: school

Domestic-single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Commerce/Trade: department store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Other: early twentieth century

commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

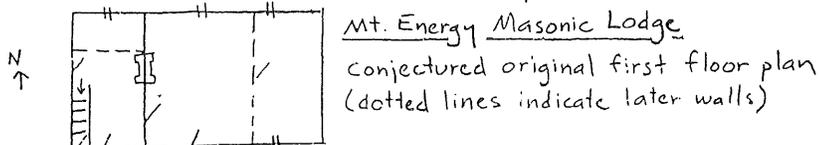
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

An intact piece of early rural Granville County, the Mt. Energy Historic District dominates the crossroads it has lent its name to as it has since the two decades preceeding the Civil War. Its main buildings, grouped in a rough U-shape, are a former antebellum store ["A" on accompanying sketch map] and Masonic lodge [B], both Greek Revival in style, and a more simply finished store [C] built in the late 1920s. To the rear of the lodge are three contributing frame sheds [D, E and F] built in the early twentieth century. To the rear of the 1920s store is the non-contributing grave and marker [G] of the man who built the store, and that of his wife, raised in the mid-1940s.

Two-stories tall, one-room deep and three-bays across, its heavy timber frame clad in beaded weatherboards and Greek Revival style decorative devices, the former Mt. Energy Masonic Lodge appears in proportion, form and fashion to be a traditional, mid-nineteenth I-house. Only upon close inspection of its exterior - particularly the placement of its single, off-center, interior chimney and the surviving crosssetted surround of a doorway at its west end - does its original non-residential use begin to surface. It is not clear which elevation was originally the front of the hip roofed structure, for apparently it could initially be entered from the door at the short west end or from one of two doors at the long south facade. The initial functions of the house are more readily apparent from its interior plan. A side or transverse hallway, an enclosed stair climbing its wall, occupies the west end of the building. A small, original room - probably used by the Masons as a changing room - takes up the rear of the upstairs hallway; the space below this room at the main floor is now a bathroom. The remainder of the building apparently was originally filled by two large rooms, the downstairs room holding a school, that above home to the meetings and activities of the Masons. Partition walls, probably added in the early 1900s when the Masons moved from the building and it was converted to a dwelling, now divide these rooms, creating two additional bedrooms. (See floor plan below)

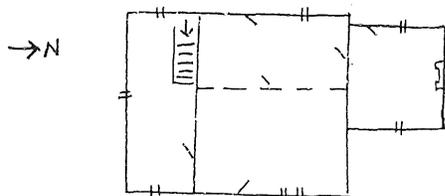


The building retains many Greek Revival style details both inside and outside, a feature unusual in a county where the few surviving, antebellum, non-residential structures are most often

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plainly finished. Topped by a low hipped roof, it has six-over-six windows at the front and rear enframed by crosssetted surrounds. Inside, it retains three of its four original post and lintel mantels; the mantel in the main room upstairs has been removed. Flat-angled molding continues to enframe most of its openings and three original five-panel doors - formed of two tall and two short, flat vertical panels separated by a horizontal one - are still in place. Changes to the building apparently mostly coincided with its early twentieth century conversion to a dwelling. These changes include the division of the large rooms in two and the addition of a one-story ell and a Colonial Revival style square columned porch. Recently, the downstairs rooms have been panelled and some of the ceilings dropped.

The antebellum store to the south of the lodge - probably built a little earlier than the lodge, in the 1840s - is less traditionally residential in character, though in scale and proportion it is similar to many mid-nineteenth century dwellings. Heavy timber framed and covered by beaded weatherboards, the one-and-a-half-story rectangular block has always had a flush gable end as its front facade, a very unusual feature in a county where gable fronts are found commonly only at churches. Largely plainly finished outside, it retains at its front block and side wing some raised rectilinear surrounds and boxed cornices that terminate in decorative patternboards. Its east facing front porch is not original - though a different porch must once have stood in its stead - nor are the turn of the century turned posts of its rear porch. The articulation of its front bays has also been altered and its wing chimney removed. Inside it once had two main rooms - a narrow side room and the large store room - and the wing room. The large store room has been divided in two, probably when the house was converted into a residence in the late 1920s, and the original interior finish of the main block has been covered or removed. The wing room retains an altered five-panel door very similar to those of the lodge (and was perhaps removed from it) and a simple post and lintel mantel. The loft above the main block has never been finished, further evidence that the building was not originally a dwelling. (See floor plan below)



Mt. Energy Store
present first floor plan
(dotted line indicates later wall)

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Completing the U-shape of the district, at the eastern end of the grounds that divide the buildings, is the store built in the late 1920s by Lonnie R. Hayes to replace the antebellum store building. A functional, one-story, gable front, frame building, the store has been added onto twice. It was extended to the rear by Hayes and to the side by Oscar Yeargin after his 1944 acquisition of the property. Hayes, and his wife Morada, are buried behind the store in a plot marked by a single marble gravestone.

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)

Social History
Commerce
Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

1840s-1937

Significant Dates

1840s
1851

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
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former store and Masonic lodge of the Mount Energy Historic District are the only antebellum non-residential buildings in Granville County surviving as the core of a rural community. Few non-residential buildings other than outbuildings remain in the county from prior to the Civil War and the survival at a crossroads of two that served such a diverse group of functions - lodge and school, store and post office, - is historically significant, suggesting the breadth of life in small local communities before the ascendance of Oxford. (See Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865 - and Associated Property Type 5.A. - Plantation Era Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings) The store is one of only two identified pre-Civil War stores surviving in the county; the lodge is one of only four nineteenth century lodges known to stand, the only one built prior to the Civil War. The two are further significant architecturally, both handsomely fashioned and finished Greek Revival buildings, unusual in a county where most surviving nineteenth century commercial, industrial and institutional buildings are plainly articulated. (See Associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) With the additional presence of three early twentieth century outbuildings and a second, active store built in the 1920s, the district also represents small town and rural life in the county during the late nineteenth and into the twentieth century. (See Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and Associated Property Types 5.B. - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings in Bright Leaf Era Rural Granville County - and 6 - Outbuildings) Its significance is not extended past 1937, for it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past 50 years. See Addendum Sheet F 30B,C, "Fraternal Lodges," for Mt. Energy's significance within the type.

The property that comprises the district was almost certainly included within the three tracts of land John D. Bullock acquired in the Mt. Energy area in 1835 and 1836.¹ At the taking of the 1850 federal census, Bullock was 50 years old, living in Cedar Creek District - the district at that time of Mt. Energy - with his 41 year old wife, Sophia, their seven daughters and three sons, and ten slaves. Although physical evidence indicates with certainty that the store and lodge were built before the Civil War, the earliest written record of the store dates from 1872. In that year, R. H. D. Bullock deeded his interest in 600 acres of land along Robertson and Cedar Creeks to his parents, John D. and Sophia Bullock, for "love and affection" - an interest his parents must have given him earlier. The

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acreage included "that portion of the land on which is the store at Mt. Energy known as the home tract on which the said John D. and Sophia Bullock reside." [Deed Book 26, Page 415]

In an unrecorded transaction, the property passed to the Bullock's son, John T. Bullock (1839-1900), who left it to his wife, Columbia (1851-1925), and upon her death to his nephew, Lonnie R. Hayes [Will Book 24, Page 484, probated 1900]. Hayes (1876-1944), who is buried with his wife, Morada Hughes (1877-1941), under a lone marker to the east of the lodge, in turn willed the property [Will Book 29, Page 475], including the store and lodge buildings, to his nephew, Oscar Yeargin (1909-1972). Yeargin's daughter is the present owner of all of the property in the district. Her name is Yvonne Yeargin Bourner.

Built originally as a store, the former store building also served as the Mt. Energy post office - John T. Bullock the first postmaster - between 1877 and 1900. The store was replaced by the present store to its east and converted to a residence in the 1920s by Lonnie R. Hayes, probably shortly after he inherited the property in 1925. Since the 1920s, the antebellum store has served as a residence.

Mount Energy Lodge #140 was chartered by the Masons on December 4, 1851, and its Greek Revival style lodge building was probably raised shortly thereafter. Built on land leased from John T. and later John D. Bullock, the building was converted to a residence after the lodge surrendered its charter in 1904. Like the store, the building served more than one function during the nineteenth century. While its upstairs housed the Masons, its downstairs was used as a school in the late nineteenth century. Since the early twentieth century the building has been a single family dwelling. To its rear are three small, contributing, frame sheds that also date from the early twentieth century.

The final building included within the district is the one-story, gable front, frame store that Lonnie R. Hayes built in the late 1920s at the northwest corner of the Mt. Energy crossroads. Originally a tiny structure, the store was added onto twice, extended to the rear by Hayes and, after World War II, to the side by Oscar Yeargin.

The significance of the district is not solely historical,

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for the old store and lodge are significant examples of non-residential, antebellum architecture. Domestic in scale and sided with beaded weatherboards, the store could be mistaken from the outside for an antebellum dwelling, but for its unusual gable front orientation. Inside, however, it originally had, at its north end, one main large room that was later divided and a narrower adjacent room at its south end. Both rooms originally ran the depth of the house. The large room tells of the building's non-domestic origins, as does its large open attic, which would have been finished if the building was erected as a residence. The original wing room, built with a flush gable as is the main block of the house, retains some original Greek Revival style features, including a simple post and lintel mantel and an altered five-panel door that matches the doors of the lodge (from which it may possibly have come). In sum, the building is, along with the lodge, one of the most handsomely finished, non-residential buildings surviving in the county from before the Civil War.

Two stories tall, one-room deep and three bays across, the lodge building is in form similar to many traditional mid-nineteenth century residences in the county. Its off-center interior chimney, original internal organization and west side entry, now hidden by its ell, mark it as a non-residential structure, however. The original internal organization - until converted to a dwelling the building apparently had a single large room and small hallway downstairs and above - coupled with the doorway that originally led from the west side of the building into the hall, would have lent itself to the building's use as a school and a lodge hall. (The west side room likely had a function beyond that of a hall, for both downstairs and above it is surprisingly served by fireplaces.)

The form of the building and its plan are quite similar to those of the National Register nominated Adoniram Masonic Lodge, which was built in northern Granville County in 1917. It too originally held a school downstairs and a lodge above, its stairway was at the side, and its upstairs was almost identically planned, with a large meeting room and a small side hallway backed by a small changing room. If the doorway at the short west end of the Mt. Energy Lodge marks the original front elevation of the building, which is not certain because of the building's other two south facing doorways, then it would have been different from Adoniram in its orientation. Unlike the

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simply finished and later Adoniram Lodge, the Mt. Energy Lodge has a handsome Greek Revival style finish, most of which is intact. Its exterior windows are framed by crossettes and its heavy timber frame is sheathed in beaded weatherboards. Inside it retains flat-angled surrounds and post and lintel mantels, as well as its original five-panel doors. The major change to the interior was the addition of partition walls in the main upstairs and downstairs rooms, creating two additional bedrooms.

¹In 1835 Bullock purchased a 476 acre tract of land, the location of which cannot be identified, from Samuel W. Smith for \$865.00 [Deed Book 6, Page 427]. In 1836 he purchased a 51 1/2 acre tract of land near Beaverdam and Robertson Creeks for \$77.00 [Deed Book 8, Page 288]. Also in 1836 he purchased a 576 acre tract of land near Beaverdam Creek from John Y. Smith for \$720.00 [Deed Book 8, Page 430]. Mt. Energy is located between the main runs of Beaverdam and Robertson Creeks.

Bullock purchased a number of other tracts of land in the 1840s and 1850s. They were all small parcels, however.

²John D. and Sophia Bullock's small, mid-nineteenth century house, unfortunately reduced to a deteriorating shell, still stands to the west of the district, as does a family cemetery that includes the graves of Sophia Bullock, her son John T. Bullock, and his wife, Columbia.

³L. C. Johnson and P. H. Perkinson, North Carolina Post Office Catalog (1983/84), p. 105.

⁴Telephone conversation with Grand Masonic Lodge, Raleigh, N.C., September 26, 1986.

⁵Hayes inherited the district property after Columbia Bullock's death in 1925 and, according to longtime area resident Thurston Mangum, in an interview on October 6, 1987, the store was standing, built by Hayes, by the late 1920s.

⁶Interview with Thurston Mangum, October 6, 1987.

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Section number 9 Page 1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

Hays, Francis B. Unpublished collection of 135 scrapbooks on Granville County history located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Grace Adcock, September 26, 1986.

Interview with Mrs. Frank Bournier, daughter of Oscar Yeargin, (Yvonne Y.)
September 26, 1986.

Interview with Thurston Mangum, longtime area resident,
October 6, 1987.

Interview with Kathryn Royster, local historian, September 26, 1986.

Johnson, L. C. and P. H. Perkinson, North Carolina Post Office Catalog, 1983/84.

Telephone conversation with Grand Masonic Lodge, Raleigh, N.C.,
September 26, 1986.

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

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 approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

A 17 712150 4002160
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 712230 400210

B 17 712240 4002160
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 712130 4001160

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-Oxford Historic Survey date 11/13/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Hist. Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

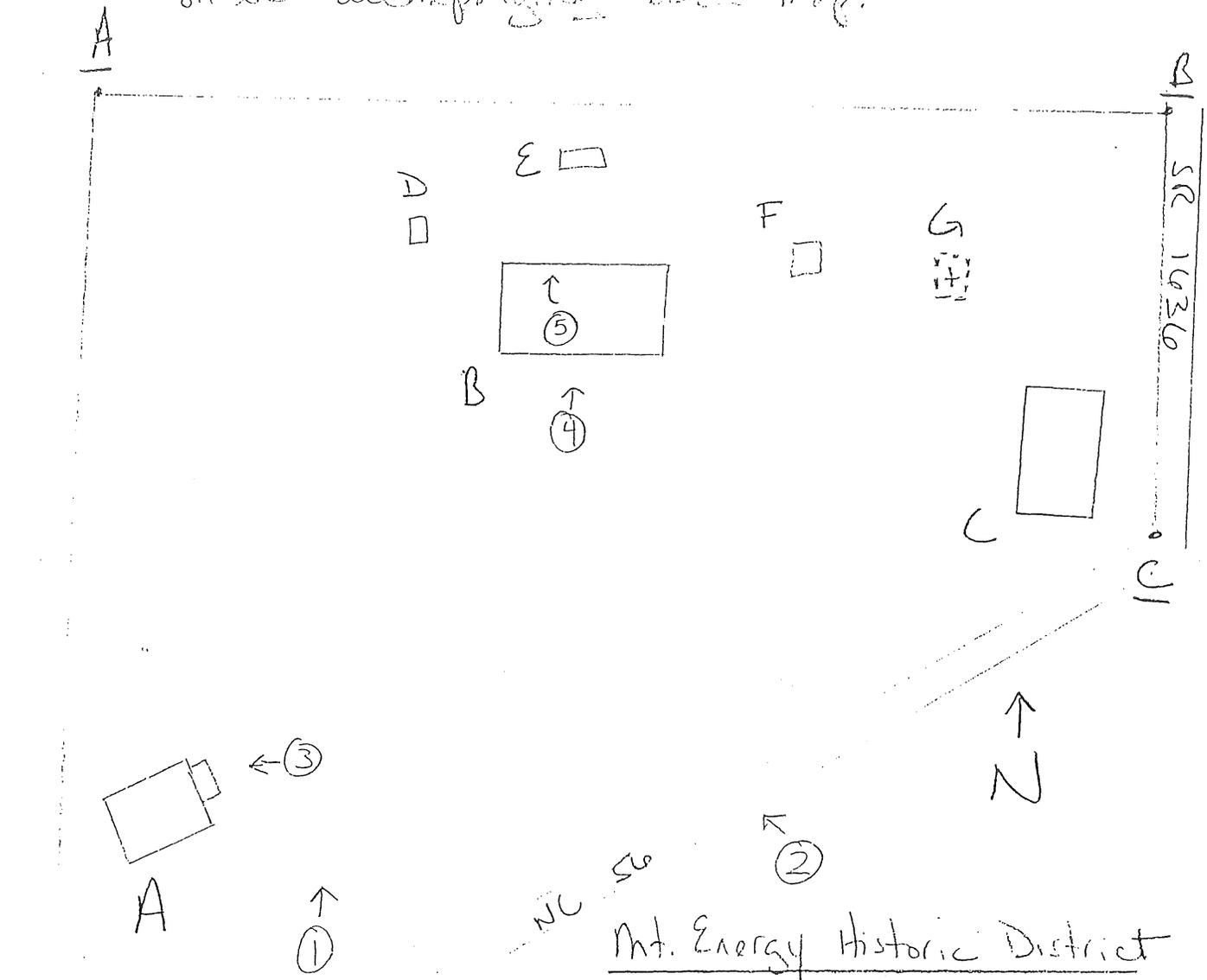
Beginning at point A: 17 712150 4000260 on the USGS polygon continuing in a straight line approximately 310 feet due east, paralleling the back of the lodge by approximately 50 feet, to point B: 17 712240 4000260 on the polygon, on the west side of State Road 1636. Continuing south along the west side of State Road 1636 approximately 125 feet to point C: 17 712230 4000220 on the polygon, where the west side of State Road 1636 meets the north side of North Carolina Route 56. Continuing southwest along the north side of North Carolina Route 56 approximately 375 feet to point D: 17 712130 4000160 on the polygon. Continuing north in a straight line approximately 325 feet, paralleling the back of the westernmost corner of the former store by approximately 10 feet, to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 1.5 acres that have been historically associated with the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining property has been excluded because of non-contributing structures.

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the lodge to its south and excludes houses built within the last 50 years to its north. The eastern boundary from UTM points B to C includes the store to its west and excludes houses built within the last fifty years to its east. The southern boundary from UTM points C to D includes the store to its north and excludes a recently built modern gas station to its south. The western boundary from UTM points D to A includes the former store to its west and excludes a dilapidated house to its west.

Underlined capital letters represent with references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying title map.



Mt. Energy Historic District
Granville County, N.C.

Approximate scale 1" = 50'

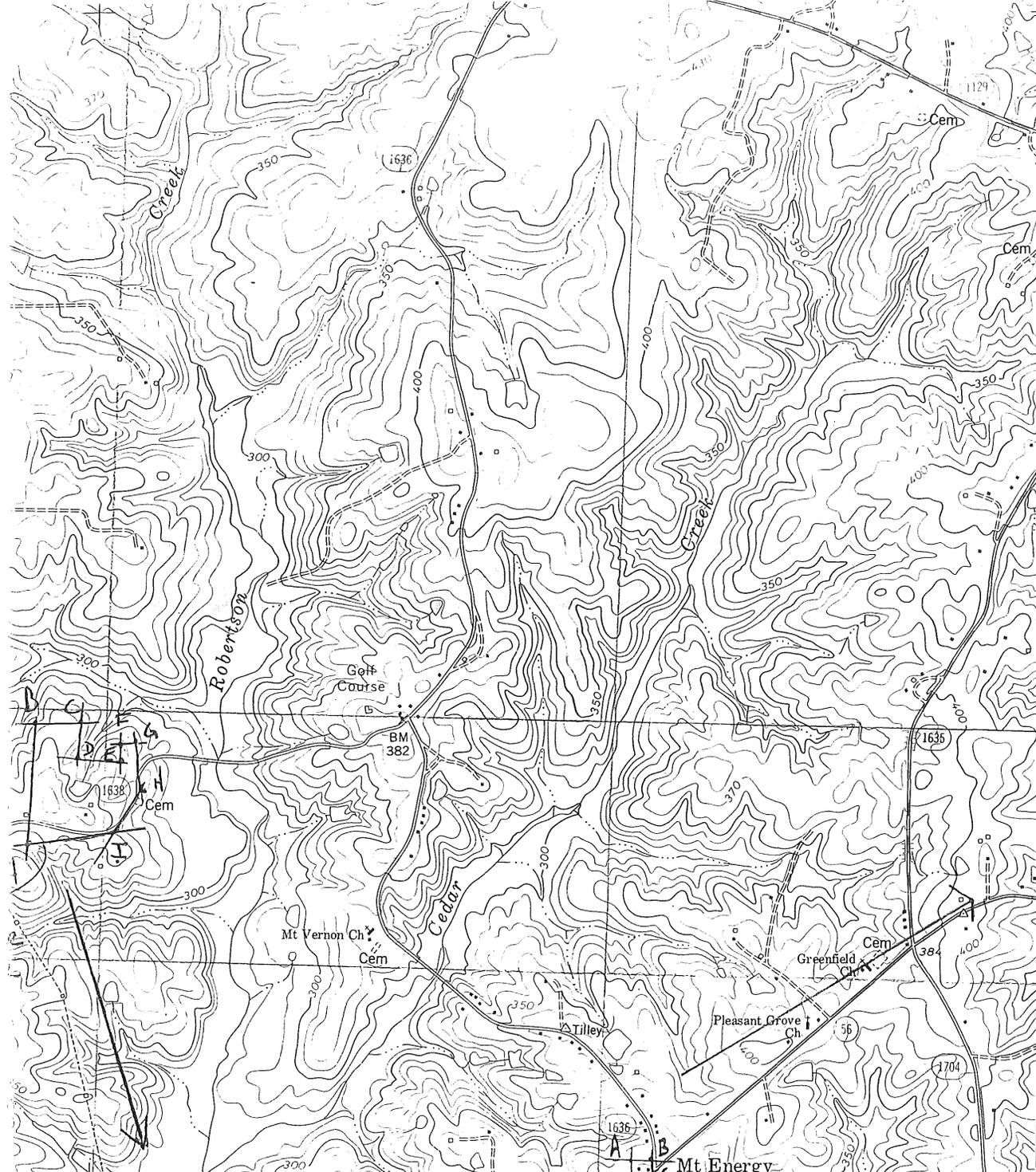
Approximately 1.5 acres

Contributing Buildings:

- A - mid-19th Century frame store
- B - mid-19th Century frame Lodge
- C - late 1920s frame store
- D - early 20th Century frame shed
- E - early 20th Century frame shed
- F - early 20th Century frame shed

Non-Contributing Object

- G - mid-1940s grave marker



10'

4004

4003

4002

WILTON 2.9 MI.

Mount Energy Historic District
 Granville County, N.C.
 Quad. Stem, N.C.
 Scale 1:24,000

A: 17 712130 4000260
 4001000N

B: 17 712190 4000260

C: 17 712200 4000220

D: 17 712130 4000160

Cpt D located on
 Quad: Creedmoor, N.C.
 36°07'30"

78°37'30"

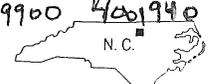
40' Obediah Wilton Farm 711

712 Mt Energy 7130000E

1 MILE

Granville County, N.C.
 Quad Stem, N.C.
 Scale 1:24,000

A: 17 709710 4001440
 B: 17 709730 4001930
 C: 17 709900 4001940



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

D: 17 709900 4001800
 E: 17 710050 4001790
 F: 17 710050 4001860
 G: 17 710110 4001870
 H: 17 710140 4001680
 I: 17 710030 4001510

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface _____ Light-duty road, hard or improved surface _____

Secondary highway, hard surface _____ Unimproved road _____

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

STEM, N. C.

NW/4 CREEDMOOR 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3607.5—W7837.5/7.5

1974

AMS 5256 II NW—SERIES V842

(GRASSOM)
 5256 II SE

