

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 Edgewood

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number State Road 1437

N/A not for publication

city, town Grassy Creek

x vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Granville

code 077

zip code 27507

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County, North Carolina

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 X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: William S. Fair, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 1-29-88

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

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

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The former plantation seat Edgewood is nestled amidst cultivated fields and numerous log and frame outbuildings, as it was during the plantation and bright leaf tobacco eras in which it held sway. Handsomely finished, intact and in good condition, the Greek Revival style dwelling is one of only a few double-pile, two-story houses still standing in Granville County. The brackets of its low hipped roof also further set Edgewood off as a stylish dwelling, for only a few other mid-century dwellings and churches still stand in the county that display Italianate style devices; it was not until the last quarter of the nineteenth century that the Italianate was to gain popularity in the county.

A large, mortised and tenoned box raised on a foundation of handmade bricks and sheathed in weatherboards, the dwelling is neatly finished both inside and out. Crossetted surrounds, a common motif of the county's Greek Revival style properties, enframe the six-over-six windows and sidelights, transom and double-leaf door of its symmetrical, three-bay, front facade. They enframe the openings of its other three facades as well. A low hipped roof, another common local feature of the style, tops the house, pierced by two interior brick chimneys. The brackets that underpin the eaves of this roof are far from common, however, rare local examples of the Italianate style during the plantation era. Brackets, along with spindles and turned posts and balusters, also adorn the late nineteenth century Victorian porch that shades the front entry. Along with a tiny early twentieth century addition at the rear, it is the only significant alteration to the dwelling's exterior.

The center-hall plan interior, which is intact and has not been notably altered, also has features both common to the Greek Revival style in the county and those with an unusual flair. Common features include simply articulated mantels with narrow pilasters, and fluted cornerblock surrounds enframing six-panel, Greek Revival style doors. More unusual decorative elements are found at the slightly peaked lintels of the mantels, a modest nod to the Italianate; at the stairs, which have scalloped ends shaped like elongated pendants; and at the wall between the front hall and the back stair hall, which is pierced by floor to ceiling, six-panel doors.

The property retains an unusually large number of bright leaf and plantation era outbuildings. Among the dozen

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outbuildings that stand to the south and east of the house ("A" on attached sketch map) are two contemporary mortise and tenon buildings, one once used as a meat house (I), the other referred to locally as the "washhouse" (B). Surviving from the former plantation's tenure as a bright leaf era tobacco farm are four early twentieth century log outbuildings - two stables (K and M), a brooder house (E) and a rare surviving ice house (G) - and a late nineteenth or early twentieth century, small, log, gable end tenant house (D). Five early twentieth century, bright leaf outbuildings built of frame also survive - two chicken houses (F and J), two corn cribs (C and H) and a hay barn (L).

**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

Agriculture

Period of Significance  
circa 1858 to 1937

Significant Dates  
circa 1858

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

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Section number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Still edged by log and frame outbuildings and cultivated fields, Edgewood is representative of both the substantial plantations that marked Granville County's landscape during the plantation era and the bright leaf era farms that supplanted them after the Civil War. (See associated Historic Contexts 1 and 2 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865, and Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) The dwelling is a fine local example of the Greek Revival style, retaining an intact interior that includes post and lintel mantels adorned with pilasters, fluted cornerblock surrounds, Greek six-panel doors and floor to ceiling doors that divide its front hall from its rare rear stair hall. (See associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) It is set off from the vast majority of its contemporaries by its rare surviving double-pile form and by its Italianate style roof brackets. The double-pile form most notably survives elsewhere in the county at nearby Rose Hill, a house also once owned by a former owner of Edgewood, David T. Winston. The mid-nineteenth century use of Italianate adornment is perhaps best represented at the collapsing house of a plantation owner known as "Tar River" Jimmy Crews in the central part of the county, which is profusely adorned with brackets at porch and roof; brackets also still adorn the mid-century, mid-county Salem Methodist and Knott's Grove Baptist churches.

Samuel V. and Martha (Venable) Morton (1833-1877) raised their dwelling, following their 1858 marriage, on 427 acres of land given them by Martha's father, Abram Venable [Deed Book 20, Page 174]. Sadly, Samuel died two years after the marriage, leaving his young bride alone if not penniless; the 1860 federal census shows Martha with real estate valued at \$6,000 and a personal estate, including 12 slaves, of \$16,000. Sold by the family in 1901 [Deed Book 55, Page 167], the house and farm were acquired in 1917 by David T. Winston [Deed Book 73, Page 180], in whose family it remains. Bright leaf tobacco was raised at the farm during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a practice continued in traditional fashion into the 1950s by Charlie Winston, who purchased Edgewood from his father in 1928 [Deed Book 88, Page 213] and continues to live there. Although Edgewood has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years, its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937 because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Interview with Charlie Winston, March, 1987.

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

Unpublished memoirs of Isabella V. Morton. Copy in possession of Elizabeth Taylor, 414 College Street, Oxford, N.C.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property approximately 8 acres

UTM References

A 1,7 71,1 8,3,0 4,0 4,2 7,0,0  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 1,7 71,1 6,3,0 4,0 4,2 7,0,0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1,7 71,1 7,2,0 4,0 4,2 5,1,0

D 1,7 71,1 8,5,0 4,0 4,2 6,0,0

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 County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/18/87  
 street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491  
 city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 711830 4042700 on the USGS polygon, where the tree line turns west, continuing in a straight line west approximately 600 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point B: 17 711630 4042700 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the east side of State Road 1437. Continuing along the east side of State Road 1437 approximately 650 feet to point C: 17 711720 4042510 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the east side of State Road 1437. Continuing in a straight line northwest approximately 575 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point D: 17 711850 4042600 on the polygon, where the tree line turns north. Continuing in a straight line north approximately 450 feet, along the edge of the woods, to the point of origin.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 8 acres that include the dwelling, outbuildings, and fields that are historically associated with the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining acreage has been excluded because of intruding structures or because it is now woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In both cases the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic integrity or historic significance of the property as a plantation era or bright leaf era farm.

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling and fields to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The western boundary from UTM points B to C includes the dwelling and outbuildings to its east and excludes several modern tobacco barns, built within the last fifty years, to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points C to D includes the outbuildings and fields to its north and excludes woodland to its south. The eastern boundary from UTM points D to A includes the fields to its west and excludes woodland to its east.



Contributing Buildings:

- A- "Edgewood"
- B- Mid nineteenth century, mortise and tenon "washhouse"
- D- Late 19th/early 20th century, log tenant house
- G- Early 20th century, log ice house
- I- Mid nineteenth century, mortise and tenon meat house
- K- Early 20th century, log stable
- L- Early 20th century, frame hay barn
- M- Early 20th century, log stable

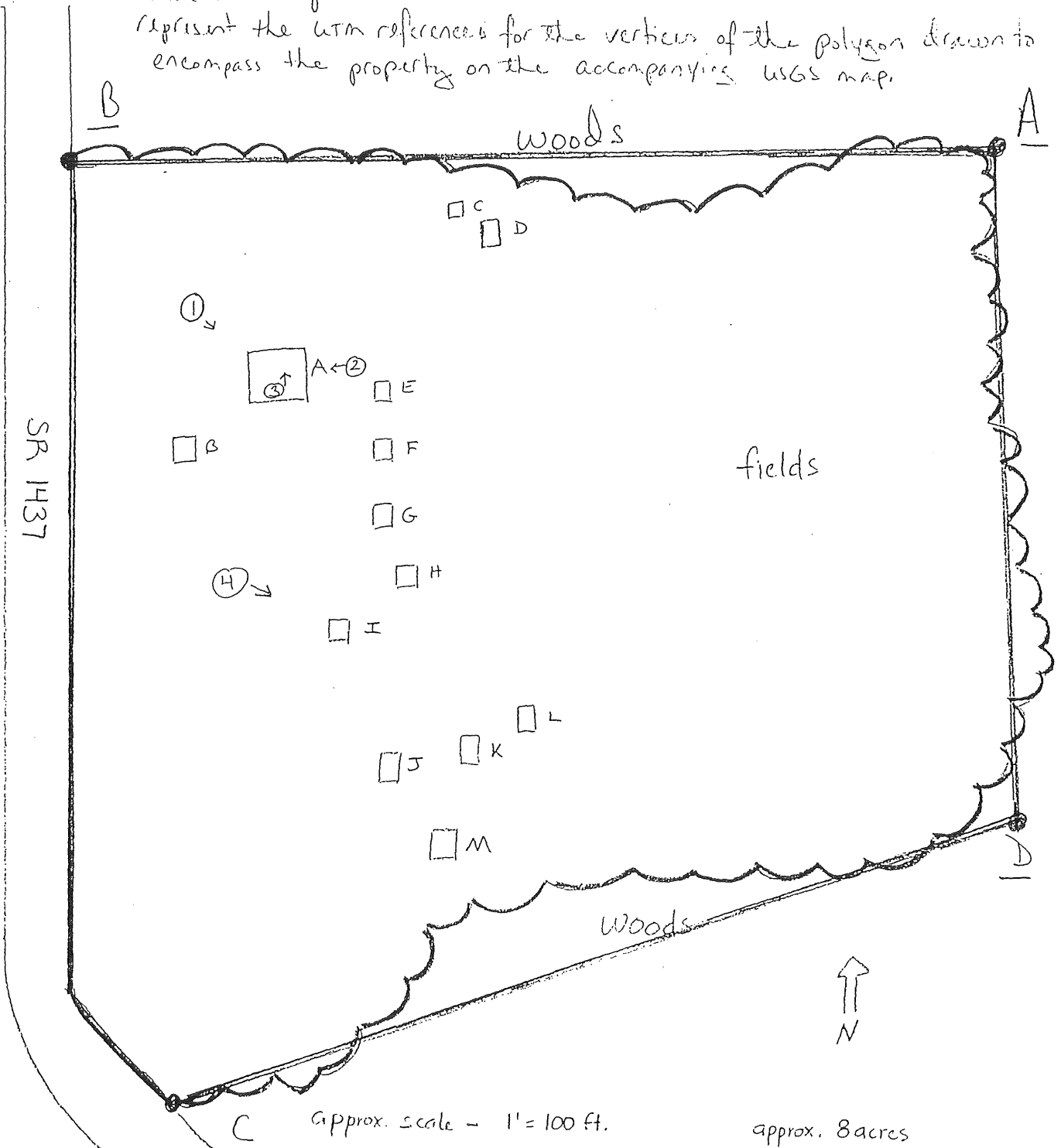
Contributing Structures:

- C- Early 20th century, frame corn crib
- E- Early 20th century, log brooder house
- F- Early 20th century, frame chicken house
- H- Early 20th century, frame corncrib
- J- Early 20th century, frame chicken house

Contributing Site:

Cultivated fields

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



**EDGEWOOD**

Granville County, NC

