

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 Hart, Maurice, House  
other names/site number Rock-a-way

### 2. Location

street & number State Road 1430 N/A not for publication  
city, town Stovall x vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27582

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" 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>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> 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  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. Phipps  
Signature of certifying official 1-29-88  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer  
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)

Domestic-single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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Intertwining fanciful surrounds are but part of the finely designed and crafted interior of the Maurice Hart House, which displays some of the most unusual Greek Revival style features of any plantation era, Granville County property. Standing at the edge of Stovall (the antebellum Sassafras Fork), one of the county's oldest towns, the heavy timber frame dwelling is in excellent condition and retains a significant proportion of its exterior and interior details intact.

Three bays wide and one room deep, the house is grandly raised on a finished brick basement, topped by the low hipped roof so common to the Greek Revival style in the county and bracketed by exterior end, brick chimneys. The west end chimney, which is said to have been dated 1840, was replaced following the depredations of Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Capped posts, applied to the corners of the house, terminate just beneath the dentils that ring its frieze. While simple rectilinear surrounds enframe its basement windows, elaborate symmetrical moldings, complete with entablature-topped lintels, serve its nine-over-nine and upper six-over-six windows. Original shutters protect the windows of the symmetrical front facade. A late nineteenth century front porch, finished with turned posts and balusters, also adorn this facade, standing in place of the original. The other significant changes to the exterior were made by the present owners who, in addition to restoring much of the once deteriorated structure, added a small two-story kitchen and bathroom addition to the rear in the early 1960s and a carport to the east side elevation a few years later.

The hand of an exuberant craftsman can be seen throughout the interior, which has been little altered other than the modernization of its basement, which probably originally housed a kitchen. The stairway that rises from the center hallway is paneled beneath and has delicate scalloped stair ends, turned newels and urn-topped balusters, and a wide, molded handrail. Further adorning the hall are tall, molded baseboards and symmetrical cornerblock surrounds. Although similar seven-panel doors - composed of a thin horizontal panel sandwiched between three long and three short vertical panels - serve all of the rooms, the surrounds vary from opening to opening. The unique surround of the east upstairs bedroom is accented by applied blocks within blocks not only at its upper corners, but at the centers of its recessed posts and lintels as well. The surround at the interior parlor door is the most unusual in the house and

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one of the most unusual found at any surviving Greek Revival style dwelling in the county. Rising from the tulip-shaped tops of two tall plinths, it has a series of thin applied boards that wind their way up the posts and across the crosssetted lintel. The dwelling's four surviving intact mantels - the two basement hearths have been altered - are handsomely and, in the case of the parlor, unusually finished. The post and lintel mantels of the three bedrooms have applied tapered posts which are set upon large plinths and topped by cushion-shaped capitals. Similarly shaped moldings also separate the lintels from their shelves. The parlor mantel, unlike its companions, has not one, but two tapered columns applied to its posts, each rising from a molded base and terminating at a molded capital.

A single non-contributing outbuilding stands at the edge of the lawn to the house's rear. A frame former kitchen, it was moved to the property from another site. Significantly altered, it is now used as a shed.

**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

1840s-1865

Significant Dates

1840s

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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maurice Hart House is significant as one of Granville County's most intact and finely finished, plantation era, Greek Revival style dwellings. Its exterior, raised high on a full basement, retains its original entablature-topped surrounds and a string of dentils beneath its popularly fashioned, antebellum low hipped roof. Inside, the intact finish is handsomely and fancifully worked, from the pilasters applied to its mantels to the intricate surrounds of its parlor and upstairs east bedroom. (See associated Property Type 1 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Raised at the edge of the pre-Civil War town of Sassafras Fork, the stylishly finished dwelling is one of the few intact structures surviving from the plantation era raised at a small town other than Oxford and is significant as a representative of those small, now much altered communities. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865) The property's period of significance does not extend beyond 1865, the end of the plantation era, because the house was built as a small town dwelling and no buildings or structures remain on its limited grounds that relate to the raising of bright leaf tobacco.

J. E. Spicer's local history of Stovall suggests that the house was built by Maurice Hart in 1840, a date said to have been marked on a destroyed chimney. The date may be accurate, for the use of pilasters at the mantels is quite similar to that of Hill Airy, a nearby National Register property erected around 1841. The presence of long nine-over-nine windows and entablature-topped surrounds also suggest a construction date near the beginning of the Greek Revival period in the county. Hart was living in the Abrams Plains District, where the house is located, in 1850, a 38 year old farmer with a wife, Parthenia, and three children at home. An active buyer and seller of land in the Sassafras Fork area during the antebellum period, it cannot be determined which of the inexactly detailed deeds that bear his name relate to the property upon which he built his house.

Hart is thought by Spicer to have sold the dwelling in the 1850s to Dr. Adam C. Harris. Again, no deed has been uncovered which definitively records the transaction, but federal census records show that Harris moved from Henderson, in present day Vance County, to the Abrams Plains District between 1850 and 1860. An 1857 deed [Deed Book 19, Page 636] from George L. Bullock to A. C. Harris for 138 acres is the most likely record of Harris' acquisition of the property; Hart had sold this tract

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in 1855 [Deed book 19, Page 28]. In 1860, according to the federal census, Harris was 37 years old, a physician with \$6,000 in real estate and the same sum in personal property who shared the large house with his wife, Martha Ann, and their four youngest children. Martha sold the property in 1905 to the Gregory family [Deed Book 58, Page 248], in which it remained until the 1950s. In 1961 it was purchased by its present owners, Clinton and Ruth Hicks [Deed Book 153, Page 612], who retained and restored much of its deteriorated finish and added its carport and rear ell.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Spicer, J. E., "Some Historical Facts about Stovall, N.C. and Vicinity", copy of typed manuscript at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

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

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 2 acres

UTM References

A 

1	7
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7	1	7	2	0	0
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4	0	3	6	3	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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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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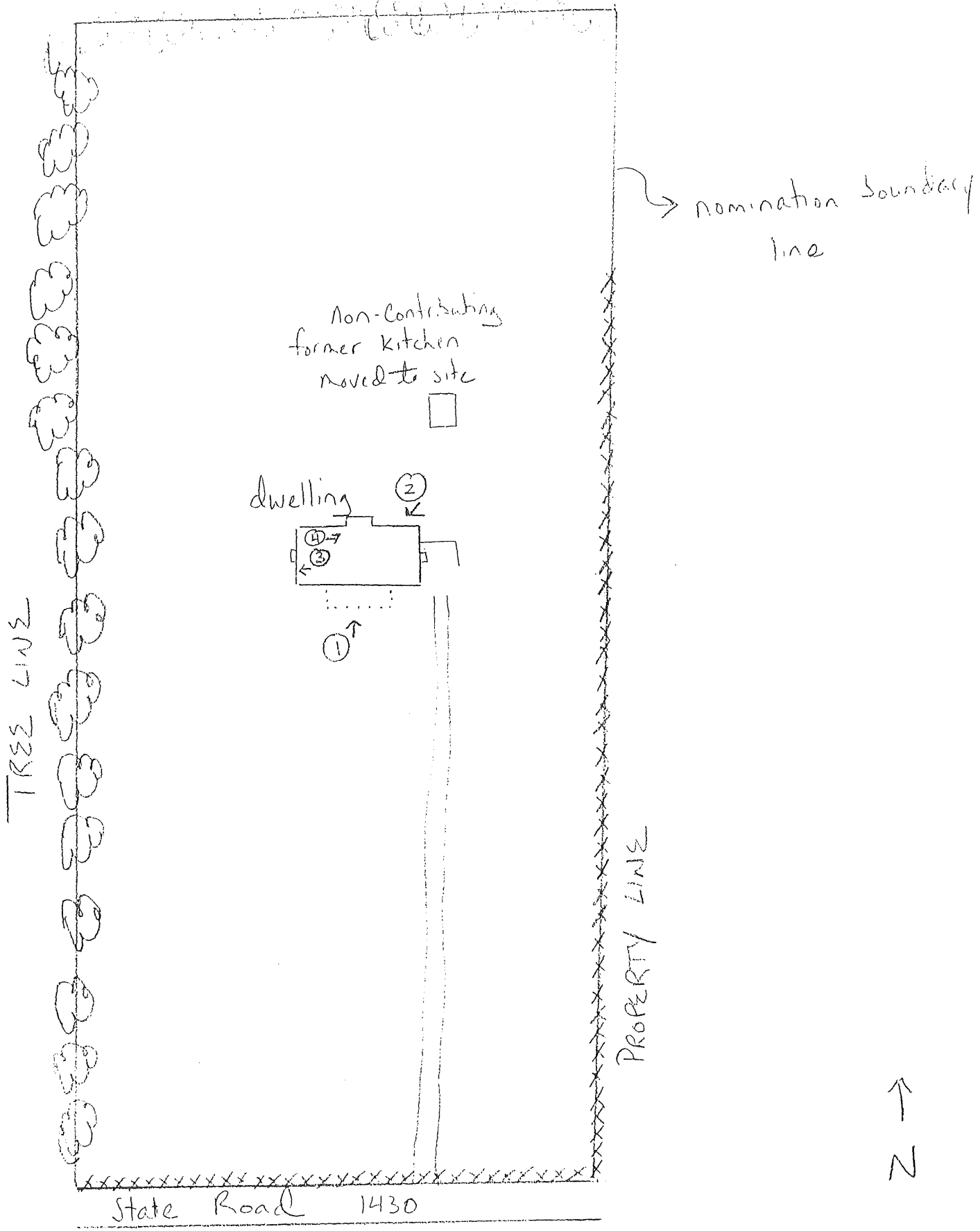
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring approximately 430 x 195 feet, the northwest corner of which is approximately 178 feet directly northwest of the northwest corner of the foundation of the main block of the house, and the southeast corner of which is approximately 259 feet directly southeast of the southeast corner of the foundation of the main block of the house. The border of the parcel approximately follows the tree line on the northern border and western border; approximately follows the property line, along the northern side of State Road 1430, on the southern border; and continues in a straight line north to the tree line, following the property line until it turns west, on the eastern border.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 2 acres that include the dwelling and surrounding lot 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 it is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the dwelling or because it is now overgrown woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In the latter case 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 property.

The northern boundary includes the dwelling to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The western boundary includes the dwelling to its east and excludes woodland to its west. The southern boundary includes the dwelling to its north and excludes property that falls outside the owner's property line to its south. The eastern boundary includes the dwelling to its west and excludes property not owned by the owner, as well as property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house, to its east.



MAURICE HART HOUSE  
 Granville County, North Carolina

Approx. scale 1" = 50"  
 Approx. 2 acres

drawn by Patricia Esperon, July, 1987

