

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received

date entered

1. Name

historic Magnolia

and/or common

2. Location

street & number E. Side US 258, 0.5 miles N. of jct. w/ SR1118 not for publication

city, town Scotland Neck X vicinity of congressional district Second

state North Carolina code 037 county Halifax code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cutler

street & number Post Office Box 8

city, town Scotland Neck vicinity of state North Carolina 27874

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Halifax County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Halifax, state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Magnolia Plantation, located about one mile north of Scotland Neck, is still the seat of a large farming operation that encompasses many acres of the flat farming land of Halifax County. Farming activity has created a cleared, agricultural landscape that communicates more of the probable nineteenth century character of the land than the more common wooded farmland of the present timber-oriented use of so much of this section of the state. The plantation house, a boxy two-story frame dwelling, stands amid a vast open stretch of farming land sheltered by a handsome grove of trees and enhanced by carefully planned plantings in a formal nineteenth century arrangement. The vivid contrast between the actively used cleared land and the formally treated domestic area is characteristic of the more elegant plantations of the antebellum period.

The house at Magnolia faces west toward the main road, now U. S. 258, and on the east side of the road runs the present Seaboard Coastline Railroad. A description of the place in its prime occurs in Claiborne T. Smith's Smith of Scotland Neck: Planters on the Roanoke.

The grounds at "Magnolia" were laid out by Dr. Joseph B. Cheshire, a fine amateur botanist and landscape gardener. He planned the layout of the grounds with gravel walks in elaborate patterns and planted the rare evergreens and shrubs. In front of the house were three magnolia trees which gave the place its name. Distinctive among the unusual trees were the tall California cedars (*libro cedrus*) grown from seeds brought around Cape Horn. There were also fine examples of linden, ginkho and a Japanese temple cedar. A *Camelia Japonica* of the single red variety, was the first planted in the neighborhood. The tea plant, used as an ornamental shrub, proved useful during the Civil War. The rare trees were planted in matching pairs on either side of a main axis but few varieties survived on both sides. "Magnolia" in its hey-day was an imposing place. The house, on the summit of a slight rise in the neighboring country side, was approached by a semi-circular drive from the main road. Large groves of oak stretched north and south of the house. The ornamental plantings were enclosed by an elaborate wooden paling, sharp spikes set in a swag design. At some distance from the house the farm buildings and servants quarters were screened from the grove by a hedge of cedar and mimosa. To the rear of the main house the workhouse was to the right and the kitchen to the left. The smokehouse and dairy were to the rear in between. The workhouse had a brick basement where wine and vegetables were stored. The upstairs was used by the slaves for spinning and weaving. There was a large table in the room where the women sat at their work. Near the kitchen was a large garden with the southern section planted with fig trees and various berry bushes. There were flower beds in geometrical patterns and large plots for vegetables. Visitors to Magnolia in those days particularly remember the profusion of single blue hyacinths which appeared early in the spring. At the head of one of the main garden walks was a potting shed where James Smith used to sit, smoke his pipe and admire the garden. The necessary or outhouses were near the fig bushes, screened by a hedge of sweet betsy. To the north of the garden was a large grape arbor which covered the site of the original family burial ground. During the Civil War, two Union soldiers, stragglers, died at "Magnolia," and were buried here. For years afterwards, the negroes on the place would not eat grapes from this part of the arbor.

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In addition to the more common James grape and scuppernong, there was a vine called the flower grape which had a thick hull and made excellent wine. Beyond the grape arbor was the stable yard or lot, the animals being confined by a hedge of osage orange instead of a fence. From the lot an apple orchard stretched for many acres. In the center of the orchard was a large burial ground for slaves. A hundred yards north of the house a branch of Kehukee called "Mayo's" was dammed for a fish pond. There was an icehouse here where ice, cut from the pond during the winter, was stored for summer consumption.

While many of these elements are lost, much remains. The formal layout on the west side of the house tract plantings can still be perceived and the innovativeness of Cheshire's influence in the presence of a wide variety of types: myrtles, white fir, cedar, box or tea laurel, ginko, elm, holly, oaks, etc. The symmetrical and geometrical design of the garden paths and plantings was intended to complement the formal nature of the Greek Revival house. The display of ornamental and exotic plant material is representative of "gardenesque" style developed by the English landscape gardener and encyclopedist, John Claudius Loudon, and popularized in the United States by Andrew Jackson Downing. Mrs. Smith owned a copy of the 1844 edition of Downing's A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America: . . . With Remarks on Rural Architecture in which she penciled notes on trees and plants for Magnolia.

Most of the original outbuildings are lost as well. However, to the northeast of the house a cluster of functional structures of various ages survives. The oldest is a small but handsomely crafted plank structure in poor condition but of considerable significance. A central chimney suggest the saddlebag plan, and two pens flank it under an uninterrupted gable roof. Careful, well-preserved dovetail joints form the corners, and the planks are tightly fitted together. The gables are weatherboarded. This structure is described in Smith of Scotland Neck as being made of cypress and as being the cabin of Mrs. Adelaide Smith's cook, "Aunt Minerva."

The main house, a characteristic Greek Revival plantation house in many respects, is a substantial, two-story, hip roofed, weatherboarded frame structure, five bays wide and four irregular bays deep. Interior end chimneys pierce the roof. A one-story porch stretches across the broad five-bay facade and extends around the sides of the house. A projection accents the front entrance. Heavy paneled pillars square in section support the broad, decoratively paneled frieze of the porch roof, and similar paneled pilasters define the corners of the house and carry a broad, robustly molded cornice at the main roofline. Large windows fill the bays and contain six-over-six sash. Molded frames with cornerblocks and little entablatures surround the windows. Louvered blinds flank the windows. The main, central entrance features the

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characteristic transom and sidelights of the Greek Revival era, with a robustly molded woodwork surround. Heavy flanking pilasters feature an elongated Greek key design typical of Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter (1830). The central second-level window is a triple one. The sides of the house have irregular fenestration, and the window under the porch on the south side has a jib window to create an entrance.

To the rear of the house are several one-story extensions, similar in finish to the main block. They appear to be mainly of nineteenth century vintage and have been variously constructed with hip and gable roofs, narrow or wide corner pilasters, and other details. There is also a two-story extension near the center of the rear facade of the main block. Kitchens and other functional activities occurred and occur in these additions. Smith's description of the house's development recalls:

The house was first built as a unit of two stories with a central hall on each floor and two rooms on each side. Later a one story wing was added on the right side for the nursery and on the left for the dining room. A porch at the rear of the center hall partially joined the two wings. . . . Other unusual features were sliding doors between the two parlors, closets on either side of the chimney pieces in the upstairs bedrooms and built-in walnut china cupboards on either side of the dining room fireplace. The house as originally built was surrounded by a one story porch on three sides, supported by square columns and a railing on top of the roof. . . . Adelaide Smith was not fond of old furniture and there was little in the house from older generations of the Smith and Evans family.

The interior of the house, which predictably follows a central hall plan two rooms deep, is spacious, simply finished, and well-preserved. The glory of the house is the "wishbone" stair that dominates the long 12-by-36-foot central hall. A pair of opposing flights rising front to back from the front hall and back to front from the back hall meet in a graceful curve at a joining upper flight. Thin balusters carry a rounded handrail that spirals over a spiral curtail in the front flight. A curious asymmetrical vault is created in the central hall, outlined by a lancet arched molding. A vaulted recess flanked by small stair closets gives access to the rear north room.

The finish throughout the house is of consistently simple, bold Greek Revival character with wide, heavily molded baseboards, symmetrically molded door and window frames with paneled cornerblocks, and plain plastered walls. Most mantels are simple pilaster-and-frieze Greek Revival compositions. However, several are of bold Grecian key design of Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter Plate #50, with projecting central tablet and Greek key end blocks. Sliding doors link the two north rooms on the first floor to create a large double room.

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The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of this property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1840s

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Magnolia Plantation is one of several antebellum plantation complexes that once stood north of Scotland Neck, reflecting the prosperity and close family ties of Halifax County's antebellum plantation culture. Few now survive. As part of a working farm complex, the Greek Revival style frame house at Magnolia has been carefully renovated. It stands amid a formally laid out garden of firs, hollies, crepe myrtles, ginko and other trees and flowering plants; the garden is a rare survivor of the strong interest in horticulture and landscape design by Episcopal rector Joseph Blount Cheshire and his influence upon the planter families of his parishes. The house was built in the 1840s for James N. and Adelaide Smith, and Mrs. Smith worked closely with Cheshire in developing the planting scheme. The house retains its bold, simple Greek Revival character influenced by Asher Benjamin's Practical House Carpenter. The dramatic "wishbone" stair is among the most impressive and unusual stairs in North Carolina's early domestic architecture. Owned by the locally prominent planter family, the Smiths, for over a century and a half, the plantation is still in agricultural use and maintains its agrarian character in new ownership.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the development, prominence, and decline of the antebellum plantation economy and culture of North Carolina's Roanoke Valley and particularly with the Smith family who dominated this section of Halifax County.
- B. Associated with members of the locally prominent Smith family, with James N. Smith and Adelaide Smith; and with landscape designer and rector Joseph Blount Cheshire.
- C. Embodies distinctive characteristics of Greek Revival domestic architecture as promulgated by the publications of Asher Benjamin and adapted by local builders; and boasts a unique and unaltered wishbone stair; and embodies distinctive characteristics of antebellum landscape design.
- D. Is likely to yield information about antebellum plantation life.

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The history of Magnolia must begin a generation before the builder of the present house, James Norfleet Smith, appeared on the scene. He was part of a family long prominent among the affluent planters of the Roanoke River valley.

James's father, William Ruffin Smith, Sr., purchased the nucleus for the Magnolia plantation from his brother Drew in 1802.¹ The fifty-acre tract was described as being in the Piney Woods "20 miles below the town [Halifax] and four from Edwards' Ferry [on the Roanoke River] on the road from said Ferry to Tarborough."² There he lived with his bride, Sarah Walton Norfleet, in a frame house facing the old Tarborough Road. Born into a successful planter family, William Ruffin Smith employed his talent to expand his landholdings. By consolidating the lands of relatives and neighbors, he eventually owned plantations fronting the Roanoke River from Edwards' to Norfleet's ferries and extending westward to the town of Scotland Neck, about 12,000 acres in all of which the home tract (later Magnolia) contained 800 acres.³

Until 1821 Smith's plantations produced primarily pork and corn. Cotton first appeared in 1821 and eventually rose to prominence. From extensive peach and apple orchards came about fifteen barrels of brandy a year, some for export but a good quantity for social consumption. Smith's major market was Norfolk, but his business accounts listed considerable trade through the ports at Charleston and New York. Some income was derived from a fishery operated on a large sandbar in the Roanoke River which provided herring and other fish, a staple in the slave diet. James Norfleet Smith inherited the business he operated until well after the Civil War.⁴

William Ruffin Smith became one of the wealthiest residents of Halifax County with 12,000 acres of land, 266 slaves, and cash assets in the vicinity of \$100,000.⁵ He never sought political office beyond service as a justice of the Halifax County Court, but he often served as executor and administrator of numerous wills and estates and as guardian for minor orphans. He was an original trustee of Vine Hill Academy and its treasurer; a founding member of Trinity Parish (Episcopal); and an owner and breeder of racing stock. Two of his horses, Collector and Sir Harry, were listed in the American Turf Register (1833).

In 1834, William Ruffin Smith moved his family to the Lowrie House north of Scotland Neck. This house eventually became known as the Sally-Billy House, and from there Smith directed the operation of his vast estates.⁶ After a long illness, he died on June 22, 1845. He and the children who died before 1855 were buried in the family cemetery in the grape arbor at Magnolia. In 1855 when Trinity Church was completed with a large cemetery adjacent, members of the Smith family were reinterred near the entrance. At his death, Smith's estate, worth nearly a quarter million dollars, was divided among his five surviving children. James Norfleet, the youngest, was given lands that included the old river plantation, Light Neck, and Magnolia. Also

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bequeathed to James were the slaves then working his plantations, including "Hog Finder Peter"; all cider casks and stills; farming utensils; his father's stock of mules, horses, hogs, and sheep; and \$5,000 cash.

James Norfleet, born June 14, 1817, had grown up in the luxury of the planter class in the Roanoke Valley. Educated at Vine Hill Academy and at the Episcopal School for Boys in Raleigh, he was well read and later established at Magnolia a library where the classics and books on chemistry were well represented. On October 20, 1842, he married Adelaide Evans, settled near Scotland Neck in his father's old home, and began to build Magnolia. The name of the architect or builder is not known, but, according to family tradition, construction took five years. Meanwhile James and Adelaide lived in the older house to the rear of Magnolia and there at least two of their five children (all sons) were born. For many years after completion of the Greek Revival structure, a two-room section of the old homestead (believed to have been a wing) served as a kitchen for the James N. Smith family.

Adelaide Evans Smith possessed an artistic nature and, as long as the family fortune allowed, was constantly making changes in the interior and exterior decor. A house painter from Philadelphia named Price maintained many years employment at Magnolia and other nearby houses. Many of the furnishings were secured on buying trips to Philadelphia. Adelaide shared her husband's interests in trees and flowers and purchased a copy of Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture, published in 1844 by A. J. Downing, a pioneer in American landscape architecture. Her book, still in the family's possession, contains pencilled notes about trees and other horticultural matters at Magnolia.

The grounds were laid out by Dr. Joseph B. Cheshire, a fine amateur botanist and landscape gardener who encouraged landscape design in the region. He planned the layout with gravel walks in elaborate patterns and planted rare evergreens and shrubs.

The Smith's were devout Episcopalians, and James served as a vestryman of Trinity Parish for thirty years and at various times as junior warden and superintendent of the Sunday school. Together with his brothers William and Richard, he was a major contributor to the construction of Old Trinity Church in 1855.⁸ Reverend Joseph B. Cheshire, rector of Trinity Parish headquartered at Calvary Church in Tarboro, stayed in the left front bedroom at Magnolia when he preached in Scotland Neck. His son, Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire, Jr., continued the tradition because of a special fondness for the Smith family and the home where he had stayed so often as a child. Bishop Cheshire frequently joined James Smith for the autumn turkey hunts on the large estate.

On the eve of the Civil War, James Norfleet Smith owned 1,650 improved acres with another 1,550 acres of timberland and pasture. Cotton was the leading cash

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crop, but corn and pork were not far behind. Total cash value was estimated in excess of \$50,000.⁹ That did not include his thirty-eight slave houses and 165 slaves.¹⁰ The war of course ended the plantation economy's prosperity and severely affected the Smiths and others of their class. Smith had invested most of his fortune in land and slaves, and with defeat came economic collapse. A few former slaves remained as servants at Magnolia, and while James lived moderately well, he did not live elegantly.¹¹ By 1894 Magnolia had been reduced in value to less than \$14,000 which included the house and 800 acres.¹² Having been born to affluence and accustomed to many servants, Smith could never quite adjust to the loss of his fortune and the new social order following the war. In old age his hair turned white, he walked with a cane, and he eventually became deaf. His deafness caused his death on December 18, 1893, when he stepped in front of an oncoming train while inspecting some repair work to the roadbed of the railroad put in across his land in 1880.¹³ The obituary of Smith in the local paper said,

In the palmy days before the war Mr. Smith lived a quiet and peaceful life, devoting his time to the cultivation of the rich and fertile lands upon the river while ever and anon he could be seen with gun or rod taking a pleasant time with his friends or perhaps with one or more of his sons. Kind and generous hearted by nature, he was a fond and devoted husband and father, as well as thoughtful friend to all with whom he came in contact so that it may truly be said of him that he did not have an enemy.¹⁴

Adelaide Evans Smith lived to see all five of her sons and her husband die suddenly. She was left alone; so in late 1893 she invited her daughter-in-law, Virginia Cocke Smith (widow of William Edward Smith), and her ten children to come and live at Magnolia. During the last years of the elder Mrs. Smith's life, an arrangement was worked out giving the eldest grandchild, William Edward Smith, Jr., control of the estate of behalf of the ten heirs.¹⁵

At the time Edward (Capt. Ed) Smith assumed responsibility, the James N. Smith estate consisted of Magnolia, the Paull Place (adjoining Magnolia), Light Neck, and the river plantation. In exchange for paying off a mortgage, plus an additional \$25 a month living allowance, Ed's grandmother gave him the river plantation. For the right to farm and control the other properties, Ed Smith agreed to pay an annual rent to forty bales of cotton a year to his mother (Virginia Cocke Smith) and his nine brothers and sisters. Although the estate was never settled nor actual ownership determined, this rental agreement was honored by subsequent heirs until the properties were sold eighty years later.

About 1914 Magnolia was completely renovated and plumbing and electricity installed. The railing on top of the house was removed. During the remodeling,

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the furniture, books, and papers were put out into the yard and a great many things were lost. Ed Smith was still in control of the estate, and since he and his family moved into Magnolia shortly after the renovations, he probably directed the alterations. Ed and his wife, "Miss Jule" kept open house for the whole family, giving room and board to any member in need.¹⁶ They occupied Magnolia until the late 1930s when he returned to the river farm. A brother and a sister, James Norfleet Smith and Ade|aide (Adele) Evans Smith Brown, then became the principal residents of Magnolia.¹⁷

James Norfleet Smith (grandson of the builder) married Elizabeth Hyman of Scotland Neck in 1911, and they set up house at Magnolia with other members of the family. Elizabeth's death in childbirth two years later shattered James's motivation and incentive. He continued to live at Magnolia with his sister Adele until his death in 1962 at age eighty-three.

Adele was born August 31, 1884, the sixth child of William Edward and Virginia Cocke Smith. Somewhat ahead of her time, she was trained as a nurse at St. Timothy's Hospital in Philadelphia and later at Philadelphia General. For many years she was instrument nurse for Dr. Howard Kelley, one of "the big four" at Johns Hopkins. She married Albert Brown and lived for many years in Texas. They had no children, and after Captain Ed left Magnolia, Adele returned to live with her brother James and to act as a foster parent for her brother Ed's grandchildren, Edward IV and Frances. As a very old lady, Adele again donned her nurse's uniform and became instrument nurse for the first operation performed at the Community Hospital in Scotland Neck. She died at Magnolia in the ninth decade of her life.

After Adele's death, the back portion of Magnolia was rented as an apartment for a time¹⁸ and then for a few years the house stood abandoned. During this time, it was cared for by Charlie Smith, Jr., great grandson of the builder, who had through his father assumed the agreement begun in 1893 by his grandfather, William Edward Smith.¹⁹

Charles Smith, Jr., attended State College (North Carolina State University) in Raleigh for several sessions before returning to Scotland Neck to help his father run the farming operations as per the family agreement. He was immensely successful and eventually acquired in his own right 3,000 acres of land formerly belonging to members of the family. He once hoped to reconsolidate the vast estate of his ancestor William Ruffin Smith, Sr., but as large scale farming became more difficult, he decided to sell. By arrangement with the remaining heirs of the James Norfleet Smith estate (by 1972 there were thirty named heirs), Charlie Smith sold Magnolia and the rest of the estate (then 1,000 acres) along with his own 3,000 acres,²⁰ to the owners of Deodora Enterprises, Inc., of New York. The plantation was subsequently renamed Deodora. A renovated Magnolia now serves as the home of the manager Harold Cutler and his wife Carolyn who are very interested in preserving the house and its history.

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Bibliography Note

Most of the information in this report was taken from Clairborne Thweatt Smith, Jr., Smith of Scotland Neck: Planters on the Roanoke (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1976) and used with permission of the author. Dr. Smith is a direct descendant of James Norfleet Smith, builder of Magnolia, and as he says, "This book is the result of a life long interest in Scotland Neck and its people. . . ." It began and continued with oral tradition, which is as it should be since much of the intimate descriptions of family members could be found no place else. But Dr. Smith's concern for accuracy led him into the documentary records, including deeds, wills, estates papers, account books, extensive family papers, and contemporary newspapers. Where he was unable to provide documentary support, he clearly labels the claims as tradition. Dr. Smith frequently called upon professional researchers in his quest for family history.

Dr. Smith is a most competent and thorough researcher and author. For someone to retrace the path he has trod in preparing a National Register nomination would be an insult to his talents and a waste of time. The story of Magnolia cannot be told any better; consequently, with the exception of a few editorial notes, the report is the work of Dr. Claiborne T. Smith, Jr. In places, the text was paraphrased for brevity in order to comply with National Register requirements, but care was taken to avoid omissions that would alter the story as originally written.

The reader will note a minimum of footnotes in this report. Except where stated otherwise, factual information was taken from Dr. Smith's book. To avoid excessive repetition of documentation, all references to Smith of Scotland Neck as a source have been omitted.

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¹Halifax County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, Deed Book 19, p. 18, hereinafter cited as Halifax County Deed Book.

²The directions were given in an advertisement concerning stud services of his race horse, Collector. The North Carolina Journal (Halifax), February 23, 1807.

³For deeds to Smith, see Halifax County Deed Books, grantee index, 1758-1905, microfilm in State Archives, Raleigh.

⁴Dr. Smith states that the data for production and marketing came from one of W. R. Smith's account books covering the years 1816-1829.

⁵Halifax County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, Will of William Ruffin Smith, Will Book 4, p. 244, hereinafter cited as Halifax County Will Book.

⁶For more on the Sally-Billy House, see Jerry L. Cross and others, "The Roanoke Valley: A Report for the History Halifax State Historic Site" (1974), Part II, Section E.

⁷Halifax County Will Book 4, p. 244.

⁸For a history of Trinity Church, see Stuart H. and Claiborne T. Smith, The History of Trinity Parish, Scotland Neck [and] Edgecombe Parish, Halifax County (Scotland Neck, 1955).

⁹Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: North Carolina, Halifax County, Agricultural Schedule, 21 (Eastern District). Census records hereinafter cited by number, year, and schedule.

¹⁰Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule.

¹¹During the latter part of the nineteenth century, there were three principal servants at Magnolia: Aunt Minerva (cook), Aunt Harriet (cleaning and also Minerva's daughter), and a major domo by name of Peter Letsinger.

¹²Halifax County Records, Estates Papers, State Archives, Raleigh, Estate of James N. Smith.

¹³When the railroad was built from Scotland Neck to Halifax in 1880, local land-owners considered it an advantage to keep the track near their houses in repair. James N. Smith had recently ordered such work and was there inspecting it when he was killed.

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¹⁴Smith of Scotland Neck, pg. 153.

¹⁵Halifax County Court Records, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, Special Proceedings, vol. 17, p. 344.

¹⁶"Miss Jule" was Juliett Riddick Hatton. She died in 1948 at the river plantation.

¹⁷Researcher's interview with Julia Smith Brodie of Scotland Neck, September 13, 1979. Mrs. Brodie is the daughter of Stuart Hall Smith who was considered to be the historian of the family. For many years Mrs. Brodie had custody of a large number of the family papers. Hereinafter cited as Brodie interview.

¹⁸Brodie interview.

¹⁹After Ed's departure from Magnolia, Charles Smith, Sr., continued in charge of the James N. Smith Estate. He died at the age of 87 in 1974, but a few years earlier had passed the responsibility to his son, Charles Smith, Jr.

²⁰For the complete transfer of title, see Halifax County Deed Book 847, p. 42; and Deed Book 852, pp. 1, 4, 14, 18.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Halifax County Records. Halifax County Courthouse. Halifax, North Carolina. Deeds, Estates Papers, Superior Court Records, and Wills.

Maps: Price-Strother, 1808 (North Carolina). MacRae-Brazier, 1833 (North Carolina). Hughes Map of Halifax County, 1915.

The North Carolina Journal. Halifax. February 23, 1807.

Smith, Jr., Claiborne Thweatt. Smith of Scotland Neck: Planters on the Roanoke. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1976.

Smith, Stuart H. and Claiborne T. Smith. The History of Trinity Parish, Scotland Neck /and/ Edgecombe Parish, Halifax County. Scotland Neck, 1955.

United States Census Records. 1860. Agricultural and Slave Schedules.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cross, Jerry L. and others. "The Roanoke Valley: A Report for the Historic Halifax State Historic Site," 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 130 acres

Quadrangle name Scotland Neck

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	18	2	8	14	0	10	10	4	10	0	14	5	10	10
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	18	2	8	13	7	13	10	4	10	0	13	9	12	10
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	8	2	8	3	0	6	0	4	0	0	4	0	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	8	2	8	3	1	00		4	0	0	4	6	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for Magnolia is shown as the red line drawn on the attached map of the James N. Smith Estate and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Halifax County in Special Proceedings Book 17, Page 346. This includes the house, garden, and open farmlands associated with the heart of this vast plantation.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural description by Catherine W. Bishir and Keith N. Morgan
Historical statement by C. T. Smith/Jerry L. Cross, Researcher--Research Branch
Survey and Planning Branch
organization Archaeology and Historic Preservation date November, 1979
N.C. Division of Archives and History
street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545
city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

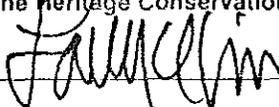
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 10, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

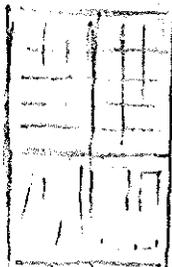
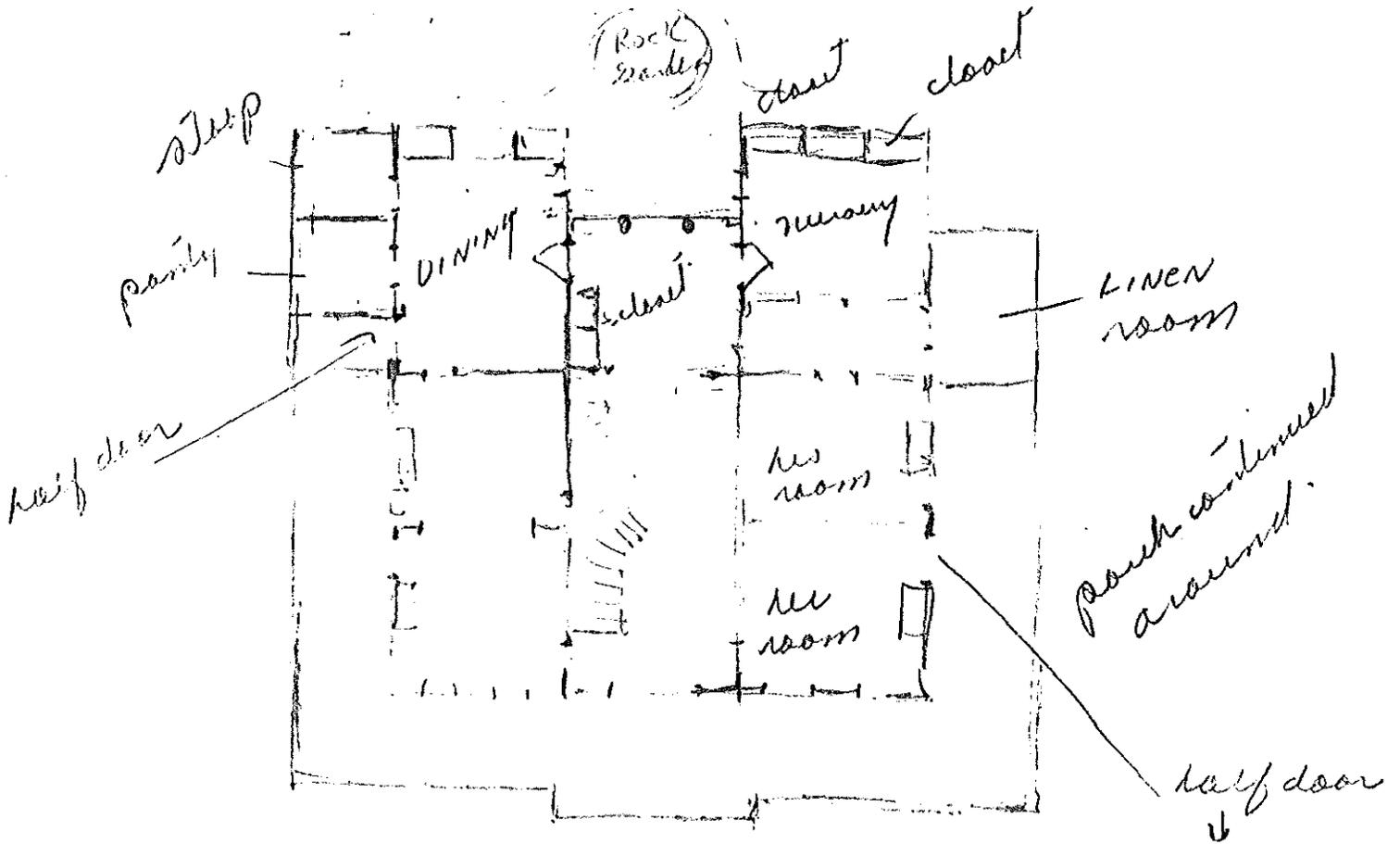
Chief of Registration

1 railing 2



pattern of fence around house

pattern of railing on roof before 1914



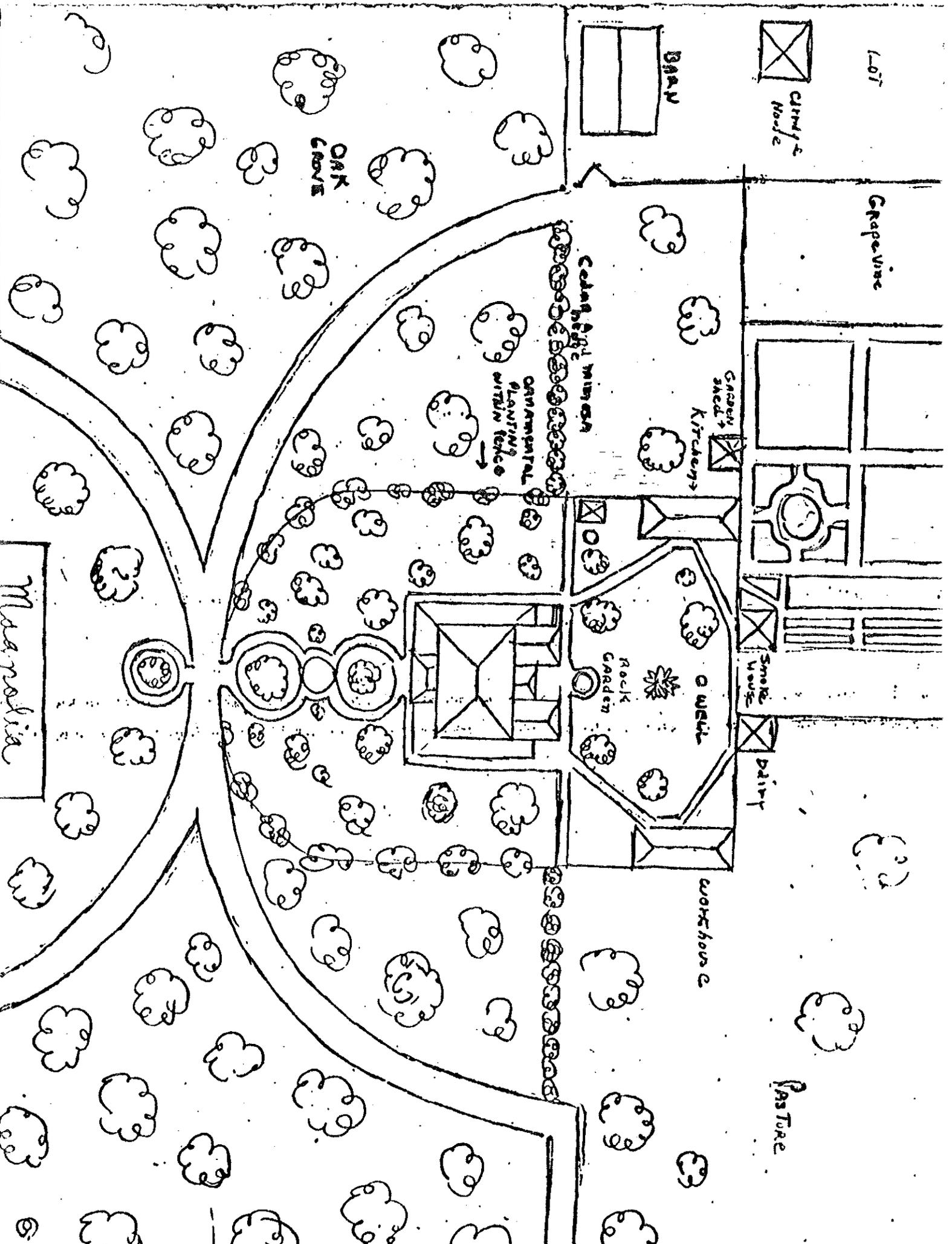
- walnut cabinets
on either side
of dining room

climber looking - additions to
house it looks level because of



lower panel
arrangings open

C7 Smith
1979



LOT

Cattle House

BARN

Grape Vine

OAK GROVE

Central Blowing within fence

Garden shed
Kitchen

Smoke House

Dairy

Workhouse

Pasture

Marrakia

Rock Garden

Well

