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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>historic name</th>
<th>Smith, Frank and Mary, House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other names/site number</td>
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</table>
**Frank and Mary Smith House**  
**Name of Property**

**Wake County, NC**  
**County and State**

### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
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<td>□ object</td>
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**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1770-1941

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**
N/A

### 6. Function or Use

<table>
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<th>Historic Functions</th>
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<tr>
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<td>DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding</td>
<td>DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure</td>
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### 7. Description

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls WOOD: Weatherboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>METAL: Corrugated tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof ASPHALT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other CONCRETE</td>
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<td>METAL: Corrugated tin</td>
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**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property
- [ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Period of Significance
  Ca. 1880

Significant Dates
Ca. 1880

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State Agency
- [ ] Federal Agency
- [ ] Local Government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

<table>
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Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title</th>
<th>Heather Fearnbach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street &amp; Number</td>
<td>3334 Nottingham Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Winston-Salem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>336-768-8291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>April 6, 2003</td>
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</tbody>
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Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Frances S. Fish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street &amp; Number</td>
<td>2935 John Adams Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Willow Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>919-552-5770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>27592</td>
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.
7. Narrative Description

The Frank and Mary Smith House is located on the west side of the John Adams Road (SR 2747), eight-tenths of a mile southwest of Highway 42 in the Middle Creek Township of Wake County, on an approximately fifty-acre parcel that straddles the road. The house is situated on a hill overlooking a circa 1935 man-made pond and a tobacco barn across the road. The nominated property encompasses approximately sixteen acres on the west side of the road that include the house, a tobacco barn, and a smokehouse; the associated land on the east side of the road, largely occupied by the pond and another tobacco barn, are excluded. The current property owner moved the outbuildings on the parcel from his family farm in eastern Wake County. As the tobacco barn and smokehouse are types commonly found on Wake County farms and are located unobtrusively in the vicinity of the house, they in no way detract from the historic character of the property. Several large magnolia and oak trees anchor the grass-covered yard, which is surrounded by open fields. Middle Creek Township, established in southwestern Wake County in 1868, is characterized by sandy soil and rolling hills. Tobacco brought prosperity to the area by the 1890s, resulting in a proliferation of small farmsteads. Today the landscape is dotted with new residential subdivisions. The Frank and Mary Smith house remains somewhat isolated from the new construction due to the woodlands that line the perimeter of the open fields surrounding the house.

Frank and Mary Smith House
Circa 1880

The Smith House is a two-story, three-bay, single-pile, triple-A-roofed, center-hall plan dwelling with weatherboard sheathing, a continuous brick foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. Decorative, quatrefoil gable vents, deep gable returns and molded cornices distinguish the building. On the rear elevation, an original, tall, one-and-one-half-story shed and a gabled ell add three additional rooms that give the first floor a double-pile plan. The porch behind the southern shed room was enclosed to form a bathroom and a large closet. The western room of the rear one-story ell of the house has been remodeled to serve as a kitchen, with porches wrapping around the southern and western elevations. The porch on the northern elevation of the ell was enclosed to form a sunroom. A gable-roofed garage on the western side of the ell is connected to the house by the rear porch.
six-raised-panel front door. The front door is unusually robust in its heavy applied moldings, four distinctive raised panels, and two half-lunette upper panels. The original, four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash windows have been replaced with one-over-one aluminum sashes, but all of the original window surrounds and sills were preserved in the process.

Two interior chimneys at the rear of the main block serve the rooms in the front of the house. The northern chimney's stack was rebuilt after a tree fell on it in 1989, and the stack of the southern chimney was taken off below the roofline when the roof was replaced in 1999. The plain, red brick hearths and fireplace facing bricks were replaced with glazed bricks ordered from Pennsylvania by the current property owner. A new chimney was added at the rear of the kitchen ell during its 1976 remodeling.

The interior of the house retains original wide pine floors, eleven-foot ceilings, simple fluted door and window surrounds with mitered corners, and raised-four-panel doors. The original door hardware has been replaced. The parlors on either side of the wide center hall have a low wainscoting with recessed horizontal panels and elaborate mill-sawn Victorian post-and-lintel mantels with applied decoration. The low wainscoting continues throughout the hall and the eastern room of the ell, but the southern shed room has later bead-board wainscoting. The original plaster was replaced with sheetrock in the 1970s. A stair with a substantial turned newel post and balusters rises from the rear of the center hall and leads to the bedrooms on the second floor. The woodwork on the first floor was originally marbelized and grained, but the current property owners stripped the original decorative faux finishes during the restoration. They painted the woodwork off-white in all of the rooms except the southern parlor, in which the woodwork was varnished.

The two second floor bedrooms have simple post-and-lintel mantels, high baseboards, and fluted door and window surrounds with mitered corners. The recessed areas on either side of the chimney stacks in each room have been enclosed to form closets. A bathroom was added in the hall where the stair railing turned toward the back of the house. The balusters removed from the railing were reused in the kitchen to form a decorative wall between two posts.
Integrity Statement

The Frank and Mary Smith House maintains a high degree of integrity due to the retention of its original, character-defining exterior architectural elements such as original weatherboards, quatrefoil gable vents, deep gable returns, molded cornices, chamfered and bracketed porch posts, window and door surrounds and unusual front door. The interior of the house also possesses a high degree of integrity, with original wide pine floors, eleven-foot ceilings, simple fluted door and window surrounds with mitered corners, raised-four-panel doors, low wainscoting with recessed horizontal panels and elaborate mill-sawn Victorian post-and-lintel mantels. The original stair configuration, including a substantial turned newel post and balusters, is intact. The property owners have made superficial changes such as repainting the interior, replacing the plaster with sheetrock, re-roofing the house, reconstructing the foundation, replacing the windows and adding a kitchen and bathrooms.

Noncontributing Resources

Tobacco Barn
Circa 1940
Noncontributing Building
The gable-roofed, log tobacco barn located southwest of the house was moved to the property from the current owners' family farm in Wake County. The open storage sheds on the north and south elevations are recent additions. The building sits on a concrete block foundation and is protected by corrugated tin sheathing and a standing-seam metal roof.

Smokehouse/Playhouse
Circa 1900
Noncontributing Building
The gable-roofed, log smokehouse, located west of the house and north of the tobacco barn, was also moved to the property from the current owners' family farm in Wake County. The building, which sits on a concrete block foundation
and is protected by corrugated tin sheathing and a standing-seam metal roof, now serves as a playhouse for the property owners' grandchildren.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The Frank and Mary Smith House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture as an intact example of the two-story, three-bay, single-pile, triple-A-roofed, frame, center-hall plan house that epitomizes the popularity of the I-house in late nineteenth-century Wake County. The Smith House is distinctive due to the rear wings, which create a double-pile plan on the first floor, and the stylish finishes used throughout the building. Frank and Mary Smith built the house around 1880 on land given to them by Mary's family and lived on the property until Frank's death in 1921. The context for this property is outlined in Context 2, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture, 1861-1885," in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1770-1941." The Smith House falls under Property Type 3B, "Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I, 1865-1918." The period of significance for the Frank and Mary Smith House is circa 1880, the construction date of the house.

Historical Background

Frank and Mary Smith built their house on a 186-acre tract of land on Cattail and Middle Branches and Stage Road given to Mary by her parents, William Alfred (1812-1897) and Amelia R. Myatt (1830-1910). The Myatts were some of the earliest settlers of Wake County. Mark and Mary Myatt, William Alfred's grandparents, moved to southwestern Wake County in the 1780s and eventually built a house adjacent to the Old Stage Road, approximately 1,000 feet south of the future site of the Frank and Mary Smith House. Part of the Mark Myatt House functioned as an inn during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The family later operated a sawmill and a gristmill, resulting in the area becoming known as Myatt’s Mill. A post office opened in Myatt’s Mill in the 1850s.\(^2\)

Mary, one of the youngest of William and Amelia Myatt’s children, was born around 1860 in Wake County. According to family history, Frank and Mary occupied their new home soon after their marriage on January 26, 1879. Although some sources indicate that Frank Smith had moved to the area from New York in the 1870s to operate Myatt’s Mill, he was actually born on June 3, 1849 in Harnett County.\(^3\) Frank’s brother Turner married Mary’s sister Amelia and built an almost identical house less than a mile from Frank and Mary.

The 1880 census indicates that Frank was working as a millwright and was counted in the same household as his father-in-law. William and Amelia Myatt retained lifetime privileges to the land they gave Mary. Perhaps for that reason, the 1880 census does not list Frank and Mary as a separate household. In 1880 William Myatt’s holdings included 75 improved acres, 130 acres of woodland and 63 unimproved acres valued at $5,000. The family and hired laborers raised crops of corn, cotton, cow peas and sweet potatoes as well as beef and milk cows and chickens. Almost two acres of the farm were dedicated to an orchard with apple and peach trees. Frank and Mary had one young daughter in 1880. In 1891 the Smiths owned 392 acres valued at $2,200.\(^4\) By 1900, Mary had given birth to thirteen children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Mary and Frank lived in their house until Frank’s death in November of 1921.\(^5\)

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\(^5\) Myatt, pp. 87-88.
The Smith family sold the house and some of the acreage to Snow Blalock, who in turn sold the property to John Floyd Adams. By the middle of the century, the house stood empty and vandalized. The current property owners, Fred and Frances Fish, bought the house and fifty acres from Adams in 1958. They lived in a small apartment in the rear ell of the Smith House until 1963, when they moved to a brick ranch house located southwest of the Smith House on acreage not included in the nomination boundaries. They began the restoration of the Smith House in 1973.\(^6\)

**Architecture Context**

The Frank and Mary Smith House is an intact example of the two-story, three-bay, single-pile, triple-A-roofed, frame, center-hall plan house that epitomizes the popularity of the I-house in late nineteenth-century Wake County. The Smith House is distinctive due to the rear wings, which create a double-pile plan on the first floor, and to the stylish finishes used throughout the building. The context for this property is outlined in Context 2, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture, 1861-1885," in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1770-1941." The Smith House falls under Property Type 3B, "Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I, 1865-1918."

The architecture of Wake County is characterized by the retention of traditional forms and plans through the early twentieth century. As mass-produced, mill-sawn and turned porch elements, mantels, gable vents, brackets, and trim became readily available, they were incorporated into the ubiquitous one or two-story, single-pile, frame, center-hall plan houses built by county residents and commonly known today as I-houses. High style Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne houses appeared in urban contexts, but rarely out in the county.\(^7\)

The addition of a central gable to the façade of otherwise traditional houses became prevalent in the late nineteenth century, perhaps inspired by the Gothic

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\(^6\) Wake County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina.

\(^7\) Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* (Wake County Government, 1994), 104.
Revival style. Thelbert Pearce coined the term "triple-A" to describe these houses during his architectural survey of Franklin County in the mid-1970s. Kelly Lally concluded after her Wake County survey that one- and-two story triple-A-roofed dwellings were the most commonly built houses in rural and urban Wake County at the turn of the twentieth century. A varying degree of architectural ornament was incorporated into these homes. 8

One of the oldest surviving I-houses in Wake County, the Frank and Mary Smith House is notable as a very stylishly finished example of the two-story, three-bay, single-pile, triple-A-roofed, frame, center-hall plan house that once dominated the Wake County landscape. It is also one of a small number of this house type in the county distinguished by rear wings which lend the house a certain grandeur by accommodating a full double-pile plan on the first floor with unusually tall ceilings and a long staircase in a single run from rear to front in a wide center hall.

The Smith House retains most of its original, character-defining exterior and interior architectural elements. The exterior of the house features original weatherboards, quatrefoil gable vents, deep gable returns, molded cornices, chamfered and bracketed porch posts and window and door surrounds. The front door is unusually robust in its heavy applied moldings, four distinctive raised panels, and two half-lunette upper panels. The interior of the house retains original wide pine floors, eleven-foot ceilings, simple fluted door and window surrounds with mitered corners, and raised-four-panel doors. Low wainscoting with recessed horizontal panels and elaborate mill-sawn Victorian post-and-lintel mantels with applied decoration remain in the parlors, hall and dining room. The original stair configuration, including a substantial turned newel post and balusters, is intact.

The John Seagroves House in the Apex vicinity and the W.E. Mattox House east of Wendell are good examples of one-story, triple-A-roofed houses with simple Victorian porch elements and trim. The Cannady-Brogden House (NR 2001) and the Bill O'Briant House in Sandy Plain, the Jesse Penny House (NR 2002) in the Raleigh vicinity, the William Turner House in Willow Springs, the Price-Ingram House in the Knightdale vicinity, and the Turner and Amelia Smith House in the

8 Ibid., 105.
Willow Springs vicinity are intact examples of fairly stylish, two-story, triple-A-roofed I-houses. The Joseph Blake House and the Rufus Jordan Buffaloe House are good examples of more plainly finished, two-story, triple-A-roofed I-houses of the period.

The circa 1904 Cannady-Brodgen House is the focal point of a large farm complex in the Sandy Plain area of northwestern Wake County. According to local tradition, Edgar Gooch and Sirathner A. Cannaday built the house onto the front of an older Cannady family dwelling. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A roofed house retains original turned porch posts and balusters, as well as sawnwork trim and gable ornament. The older portion of the house serves as a rear kitchen and dining room ell. The Cannady-Brodgen House is similar to the Frank and Mary Smith House in its use of fine exterior finishes.

The Bill O'Briant Farm is located near the Cannady-Brodgen Farm in Sandy Plain, and the houses on these farms, both attributed to local carpenter Edgar Gooch, are almost identical. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A roofed O'Briant House also retains original turned porch posts and balusters, as well as sawnwork trim and gable ornament, and incorporates a slightly older dwelling into the larger house as a rear ell. The house differs from the Cannady-Brodgen House in that it has exterior end chimneys with corbelled caps.

The circa 1900 Jesse Penny House in the Raleigh vicinity is another good example of a two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A roofed house with original turned porch posts and balusters. A delicate spindle frieze further decorates the porch. The rear ell of the house was the first dwelling on the property, constructed around 1890. Like the Frank and Mary Smith House, the Jesse Penny House illustrates the wide array of mass-produced ornamentation available to Wake County builders at the turn of the twentieth century.

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9 Ibid., 300.
10 Ibid., 301.
11 Ibid., 396.
The William and Amelia Turner House, built in the Willow Springs vicinity in the late nineteenth century, is a well-preserved, two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A roofed house with original turned porch posts and balusters and sawnwork brackets. The Turner House differs from most other Wake County I-houses from the same period in that it incorporates Greek Revival details such as window and door surrounds with cornerblocks and an entrance framed by sidelights and a transom with Victorian adornments.\textsuperscript{12}

The Price-Ingram House, built on a farm in the Knightdale vicinity in the late nineteenth century, is a two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A roofed house with more elaborate woodwork than other Wake County examples of this form. A paneled double-leaf front door is protected by decorative double screen doors, and the center hall is divided by a movable louvered screen with two doors and a spindle frieze. Brick piers topped with square posts and richly detailed sawnwork brackets with drop pendants support the hip-roofed front porch.\textsuperscript{13} Like the Frank and Mary Smith House, the Price-Ingram House features a tall rear shed and one-story ell that accommodate a center-hall, double-pile plan on the first floor.

The Turner and Amelia Smith House was built near the Frank and Mary Smith House in the Willow Springs vicinity. William and Amelia Myatt gave their daughter Amelia 211 acres of land in 1886 and Turner and Amelia built a house much like that of their respective siblings Frank and Mary. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile house has the tall rear shed and ell permitting the expanded first-floor plan and a wrap-around porch supported by chamfered and bracketed posts. Circular gable vents, deep gable returns, a molded and bracketed cornice, four-over-four windows and a front entrance surrounded by sidelights and a transom further embellish the house, which has been empty and neglected for more than a decade.\textsuperscript{14}

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid., 402.

\textsuperscript{13} Ibid., 283.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid., 381-382.
The Joseph Blake House is a good example of a simply finished three-bay, triple-A-roofed I-house constructed around 1900. The only decorative elements incorporated into the building are the hip-roofed front porch supported by Tuscan columns, the quatrefoil attic vent in the gables, and the paneled double-leaf front door that was salvaged, along with the porch columns, from an earlier house.\textsuperscript{15}

The Charles Y. Williams House, another triple-A-roofed I-house built around 1900, is even plainer, its decorative elements restricted to slender turned posts at a wraparound porch and simple diamond-shaped gable vents.\textsuperscript{16} These more modest I-houses appeared on the landscape of late nineteenth-century Wake County with greater frequency than more architecturally inspired dwellings such as the Frank and Mary Smith House.

These two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame, triple-A-roofed houses are particularly good examples of a house type that was once dominant in Wake County and is now rapidly disappearing from the landscape. Many of the I-houses included in Kelly Lally's architectural survey completed in the early 1990s have vanished in the path of development, making the survivors increasingly significant representatives of an important period of growth and prosperity for Wake County farmers.

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid., 232-233.

\textsuperscript{16} Ibid., 282.
9. Bibliography


United States Census. Microfilm of manuscript census records (population, agriculture and manufacturing schedules), Wake County, North Carolina, 1880-1920.


Wake County Miscellaneous Records. State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
10. Geographical Data

UTM points – continued

5. zone 17 709600 3939180

Verbal Boundary Description
The nominated property consists of approximately sixteen acres of Wake County
PIN #0696345317 as indicated by the heavy solid line on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification
The nominated tract encompasses the original site of the Frank and Mary Smith
House and approximately sixteen contiguous acres of the land given to Mary by
her parents, William and Amelia Myatt, in 1880. This tract provides a historically
appropriate setting for the house. The remaining thirty-four acres of the tax parcel
still associated with the house are excluded because they are largely characterized
by a modern ranch house and pond and a relocated tobacco barn.

Photograph Catalog

All photographs by Heather Feambach, 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem,
N.C., on March 9, 2002. Negatives located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Frank and Mary Smith House, Front (east) elevation
2. Side (north) elevation
3. Interior, Parlor mantel
4. Interior, Front door
5. Interior, Balustrade
6. Tobacco Barn with shed additions