

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 any 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

historic name **Williams Jr., Solomon and Kate, House**

other names/site number **The Anchorage**

2. Location

street & number **East Side NC 58 at junction with SR 1626**

not for publication **N/A**

city or town **Inez**

XX

vicinity

state **North Carolina**

code **NC**

county **Warren**

code **185**

Zip **27589**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Cross
Signature of certifying official

SHPD

7/29/03
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ removed from the National Register

___ entered in the National Register

___ other (explain): _____

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the

National Register

Signature of Keeper

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	3	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: hip-roof square plan house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone
roof : metal
walls: wood
other :

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
(see attached)

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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.)
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 - B removed from its original location.
 - C a birthplace or a 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 above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography *See Attached*

(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 # _____

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Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 3.6 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone : 17 Easting 760980 Northing 4018120

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

name/title: Nancy Van Dolsen date 4/25/2003
street & number: 1601 Highland Drive telephone 252.243.7861
city or town North Carolina state NC zip code 27893

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

name Margaret and Ted Echols
street & number RFD 3, Box 90 telephone 252.257.9373
city or town Inez state NC zip code 27589

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 listings. 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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

The Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House sits on a 3.6-acre parcel in the gently rolling agricultural lands of south central Warren County, North Carolina. The ca. 1880 frame house, located approximately 300 feet east of SR 58, sits among five domestic outbuildings: a frame kitchen, a smoke house, a barn, a privy, and a chicken coop. The kitchen and smoke house are contemporary with the house, while the other three date to ca. 1920-1940 but are compatible in scale and materials with the ca. 1880 buildings. A gravel drive starts at the public road directly in front of the house and then skirts the house to the north. Large deciduous trees shade the front lawn. The remains of an early-to-mid twentieth-century formal garden occupy the northeast corner of the parcel. A small family cemetery, north of the house and east of the kitchen, contains three marked graves dating to the second decade of the twentieth century. The grave markers honor members of the Cheek family, who owned the property from 1903 and whose descendants still own the property.

House, ca. 1880, 1940, contributing

The Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House stands on an ashlar stone foundation close to the rear of the 3.6-acre parcel. A one-story, frame building with a low-pitched hip roof and an almost square plan, the house consists of a ca. 1880 original portion with a one-story addition across the rear constructed in 2000-2001. The classically-influenced vernacular dwelling features a sawnwork porch across the façade, a double-leaf entry, and nine-over-nine sash windows. The building is clad in weatherboard, with wide cornerboards highlighted with applied molding to create pilasters crowned with capitals, and a plain skirt board. A set of paired nine-over-nine windows pierces the side elevations, lighting the rear rooms in the original block.

Two interior brick chimneys project from the sealed-seam metal hip roof. Sealed-seam metal also sheathes the hip roof of the façade porch. The porch stands on a pierced brick foundation and has a sawnwork flat balustrade, unusually tall and ornate brackets, and pierced spandrels linking the square porch posts to the cornice.

Entry into the house is through an eight-panel double-leaf door topped by a four-light transom. The wide central passage bisects the house, and has a set of louvered doors with an open area above the surround separating the front half of the passage from the rear (see attached floorplan). These doors allowed the front door to be open to promote ventilation throughout, at the same

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time creating a private space at the rear of the house. All of the interior walls and ceilings retain original plaster. The plank floors throughout are also original.

The interior woodwork is a combination of the original, simple, classically-influenced trim and mantels and federal-era elements from a neighboring plantation, Shady Grove that were installed in 1940. The window and door surrounds, marbled baseboard, and mantel in the southeast parlor all came from Shady Grove. The window and door surrounds have an ornate cornice with punch-and-gouge trim and reeded pilasters. The windows feature a paneled apron. The mantelpiece matches the surrounds, and also features three scalloped ovals. An original four-panel door to a closet flanks the mantel.

The southwest parlor also contains window and door surrounds from Shady Grove, but retains its original classically-inspired mantelpiece with a simple lintel and pilasters. A four-panel door opens into a closet next to the chimneystack. The dining room is located behind the southwest parlor and has two lighted cupboards flanking the mantel. This is the most ornate of the three ca. 1880 mantels in the house, having half-round columns flanking the opening and a reeded lintel. The cupboards flanking the fireplace are plain but may have been taken from Shady Grove or another pre-1860 building since they are constructed with hand-planed boards and wrought nails. The northeast room, most likely always used as a bedroom, retains all of its ca. 1880 fabric, including a stocky classical mantel with simple pilasters, four-panel doors, and plain window and door surrounds. The woodwork in the central passage dates to ca. 1880.

In 2000 and 2001 a one-story frame addition standing on a cast concrete block foundation (made to mimic the original stone foundation) was constructed at the rear of the house; this replaced a shed-roof, frame addition built in 1940 that contained a kitchen and bath. The new addition, designed by architect Gerald P. Traub, is sheathed in siding identical to the original building and its roofline continues that of the original house. The addition contains a small bath, a master bath, and kitchen. The shed-roof porch across the rear of the addition is enclosed at the east end for a utility room. Like the 1940 addition, the new addition is slightly narrower than the original building.

The Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House retains integrity. Although two of the rooms feature woodwork from Shady Grove, the majority of the interior doors, trim, and mantels date to the original construction of the building, and the overall impression is that of a ca. 1880 dwelling. The early twenty-first century addition is compatible with the original building, smaller in scale, and its location across the rear of the building minimizes its impact.

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Kitchen, ca. 1880, contributing

The one-story frame kitchen was moved to its present location ca. 1940 when an addition was built across the rear of the house; it once stood approximately ten feet from the rear of the main house and was linked to the dwelling with a one-story porch. The two-bay building is capped with a sealed-seam metal hipped roof pierced by a stove chimney and stands on brick piers. The exterior is clad with weatherboarding and has simple corner boards. The one-story shed roof porch runs the length of the façade. A door is located on the northwest elevation.

Smoke House, ca. 1880, contributing

The hip-roof frame smoke house features a board door on the center of its façade. The weatherboarded building stands on a stone foundation and is capped with a sealed-seam metal roof. The corner boards match those on the kitchen.

Barn, ca. 1920-1940, non-contributing

The frame gable-roof barn stands east of the house and includes a shed-roof wing open on the north and south elevations. The entire building is clad in metal. A large door is located on the façade and north elevations; fixed six-light sashes on the south and west elevations provide light to the interior. The interior of the main block is open with a partial loft for storage.

Chicken Coop, ca. 1920-1940, non-contributing

Standing at the northeast corner of the lot, the one-story, shed-roof chicken coop is in poor condition and is clad in flush horizontal boards. A board door is located on the south elevation.

Privy, ca. 1920-1940, non-contributing

A frame, shed-roof privy with a door on its south elevation stands northeast of the house between the smoke house and the kitchen. The building is clad in flush horizontal boards and is in poor condition.

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Summary

The Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House, ca. 1880, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture as a representative of the classically-influenced vernacular dwellings and domestic outbuildings constructed by middling farmers in eastern North Carolina during the late nineteenth century. The hip roof, one-story, two-room deep form and its restrained sawnwork detail place the house firmly in the vernacular patterns of building in rural eastern North Carolina. The late Greek Revival details of the corner pilasters and the three original mantels show continuity with architectural styles of the mid-nineteenth century, demonstrating that these styles remained popular in rural areas until the early twentieth century. Federal-era woodwork from a nearby plantation, Shady Grove, was installed in two rooms in ca. 1940, a not uncommon practice during the early-to-mid twentieth century as more people began to appreciate our nation's early architecture. The majority of the interior doors, trim, and mantels, however, date to the original construction of the building, and the overall impression is that of a ca. 1880 dwelling. The ca. 1880 kitchen and smoke house feature architectural details similar to those on the house and retain excellent integrity.

Historical Background

The first families of European descent to move into the area now known as Warren County arrived during the 1730s; by 1779 the population had grown large enough to create a new county. Warren County prospered, and by 1790, it was the twelfth most populous county out of fifty-four with approximately sixty-percent of its households containing at least one slave. Throughout the antebellum era, Warren County had a high number of enslaved people, and by 1850, the slave population was almost double that of the white population. With a large enslaved workforce, good soil, a good market town (Petersburg, Virginia) within a reasonable travel distance, and by 1840 a railroad, Warren County prospered during the antebellum period. The farmers grew corn, wheat, and oats, but the biggest cash crop was tobacco. In 1860 Warren County led North Carolina in tobacco production.¹

During the antebellum period, the Williams family owned tens of thousands of acres of land in the area of southern Warren County known as the Fork region, near the settlement of Inez. William Williams (1760-1838) and his wife Elizabeth Kearney (1790-1863) were the parents of

¹ Kenneth McFarland, *The Architecture of Warren County, North Carolina: 1770s to 1860s*, (Warrenton, NC: Warren County Historical Association, 2001) 1-8.

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Solomon Williams (1813-1871), the father of the man who had the subject house constructed.² Solomon Williams married Mariah Alston Kearney in 1835, and sometime shortly after their marriage, the couple constructed Fairmont on their plantation of 4,000 acres in the Fork.³

Solomon and Mariah Williams had eleven children, of which Solomon Williams Jr. (1856-1896) was the youngest son of six. At his death in 1871, Solomon Williams Sr. gave his "beloved wife Mariah A. Williams all of my property of every description whatever."⁴ Solomon Williams Jr. married Kate White (1857-1933) in 1882. Family history states that Solomon and Williams Jr. constructed their house in Inez on a portion of the land owned by his mother, shortly after their marriage. Solomon and Kate Williams, Jr. had a family of seven children.⁵

In 1886, Maria A. Williams gave a gift of 210 acres "known as the Hickory Grove Tract" to Kate Williams and in July 1892 gave "Kate Williams, wife of Solomon Williams" a parcel of 353 acres which is the location of the subject structure; that same year "Mrs. Mariah A. Williams" divided the rest of her land among her surviving children, giving her daughter Sallie F. Perry a tract of 355 acres that included Fairmont Plantation.⁶

Solomon Williams Jr. died in 1896, leaving his property to his wife Kate. According to family history, Kate Williams and the children moved to Warrenton after the death of Solomon Jr. In 1903, Kate Williams sold 308 acres and the house to Thomas H. Cheek and his wife Nancy Marrow Harris Cheek for \$2,156. The Cheeks lived in the house with Nancy's two children from her first marriage (John Thomas Harris and Willis Harris), his daughter by his first marriage (Pearl) and their three children, William, Macon, and Estelle.⁷

John Thomas Harris acquired the property in 1920, and in that year lived on the farm with his brother Willis, who was listed in the federal census as his brother's partner in operating the farm.⁸

² Williams Family Genealogy Records, Photocopies in the possession of Margaret and Ted Echols, Inez, North Carolina.

³ McFarland, 178.

⁴ Warren County Will Book 51:49.

⁵ Hunter, Richard. Study List Application for the Solomon Williams, Jr. House, Warren County, North Carolina. 1999.

⁶ Warren County Deed Books 53:547; 57:609; 56:659.

⁷ United States Census Records, Population Schedule, Fork Township, Warren County, N. C., 1900, 1910.

⁸ United States Census Records, Population Schedule, Fork Township, Warren County, N. C., 1920.

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John T. Harris gradually acquired more land to accompany his small farm. According to family history, he purchased architectural details from Shady Grove, another Williams family house, which he placed into two of the rooms of the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House. He and his wife, Kate, also removed a small addition on the back of the house, moved the detached kitchen to its present location, and in ca. 1940 added a small kitchen to the northeast room and enclosed part of a back porch for a bathroom. During his ownership, the small barn, privy, and chicken house were constructed.

John T. Harris died in 1962, and bequeathed \$10,000 and all of his real property to his wife Kate, and the remainder of his estate to his daughter Nancy Rose Harris. Nancy R. Harris Echols and Thomas Edward Echols divided out a tract of approximately 3.6 acres containing the house and deeded it to Thomas Edward Echols Jr. and his wife Margaret Hill Echols, in 1999. In 2000 and 2001 Thomas E. and Margaret Echols removed the 1940 additions to the rear of the house in order to building a modern kitchen, bath, and utility room.

Architecture Context

Warren County's immense agricultural wealth prior to the Civil War led to the construction of large, well-ornamented, and finely crafted dwellings and agricultural buildings. Constructed with both free and enslaved labor, these buildings date from the 1770s through the late 1850s. The Williams family built some of the most remarkable dwellings in the county during the antebellum period, including Mount Petros (the Dr. Solomon and Caroline Matilda Alston Williams House, ca. 1825, destroyed), Buxton Place (the John Buxton Williams House, ca. 1845, NR 1993), Shady Grove (the John A. Williams House, ca. 1820), Fairmount (the Solomon Williams House, ca. 1840), and Montmorenci (the General William Williams House, ca. 1820, destroyed).

By the 1840s, the rural elite of Warren County had established a common form for their plantation houses: a two-story, central-passage, three-bay, double-pile building with a hip roof, Greek Revival detailing that included corner pilasters, and Italianate elements such as bracketed cornices and full-width façade porches with sawn work details. These houses feature double-leaf front doors and within, louvered shutters that divide the front half of the central passage from the rear. Two interior chimneys with back-to-back fireplaces heated the four rooms. In the Inez area, Buxton Place, built ca. 1845, and Cherry Hill, built for the Alston family just prior to the Civil War, exemplify this house type.

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Known locally as the "Anchorage," the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House stands on land long associated with the Williams family, who owned thousands of acres in southern Warren County during the nineteenth century. Built by the generation that came of age after the Civil War and after Warren County's peak of economic prosperity, the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House is more modest in scale and detail than its earlier counterparts. Although constructed ca. 1880, the house retains many of the features prominent in Warren County's antebellum houses including classical details, a full-width porch with sawn work details, double-leaf front doors, a central passage four-room plan with two interior chimneys with back-to-back fireplaces, and louvered shutters that divide the front half of the central passage from the rear. The house differs in its smaller dimensions and one-story height.

Similar one-story vernacular houses with a square footprint and classical details were built throughout the region extending from the northeastern Piedmont southeast into the inner coastal plain. The ca. 1895 Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House (NR 2002) in Wilson County resembles the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House in its one-story square plan form with classical details, but differs in its front-facing west wing. The ca. 1870 Sallie Graves House in Stantonsburg, Wilson County, like the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House, is one-story with a hipped roof and twin interior chimneys. In Nash County, the ca. 1874 Billy Lew Arrington House also has a one-story, square-plan form, sawnwork porch, and double-entry door.⁹ These three examples, like the Solomon and Kate Williams Jr. House, differ from most of the classically-influenced square plan houses in that they are more generously proportioned and feature more elaborate architectural details. More modest houses with hip roofs and square plans continued to be built into the early twentieth century, and by the early 1920s, were adorned with bungalow-inspired rather than classically-influenced details.

⁹ Beth Keane, National Register Nomination for the Alfred and Mary Jane Thompson House and Williams Barn, Wilson County, North Carolina, 2002, Section 8, pp. 9, 10.

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Bibliography

Bishir, Catherine. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

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Warren County Deed Books, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina.

Warren County Will Books, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina.

Wellman, Manley Wade. *The County of Warren, North Carolina 1586-1917*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1959.

Williams Family Genealogy Records, Photocopies in the possession of Margaret and Ted Echols, Inez, North Carolina.

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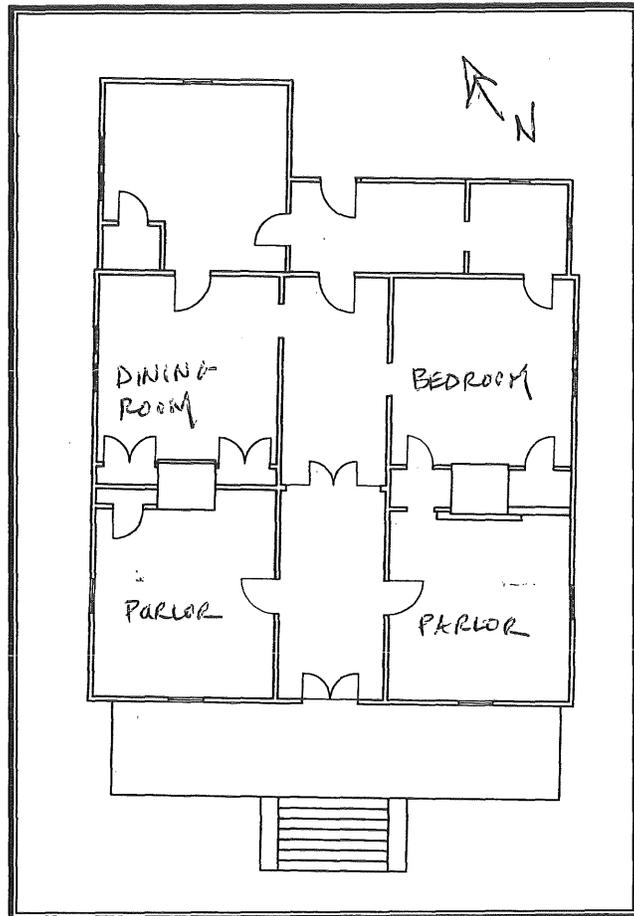
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Verbal Boundary Description

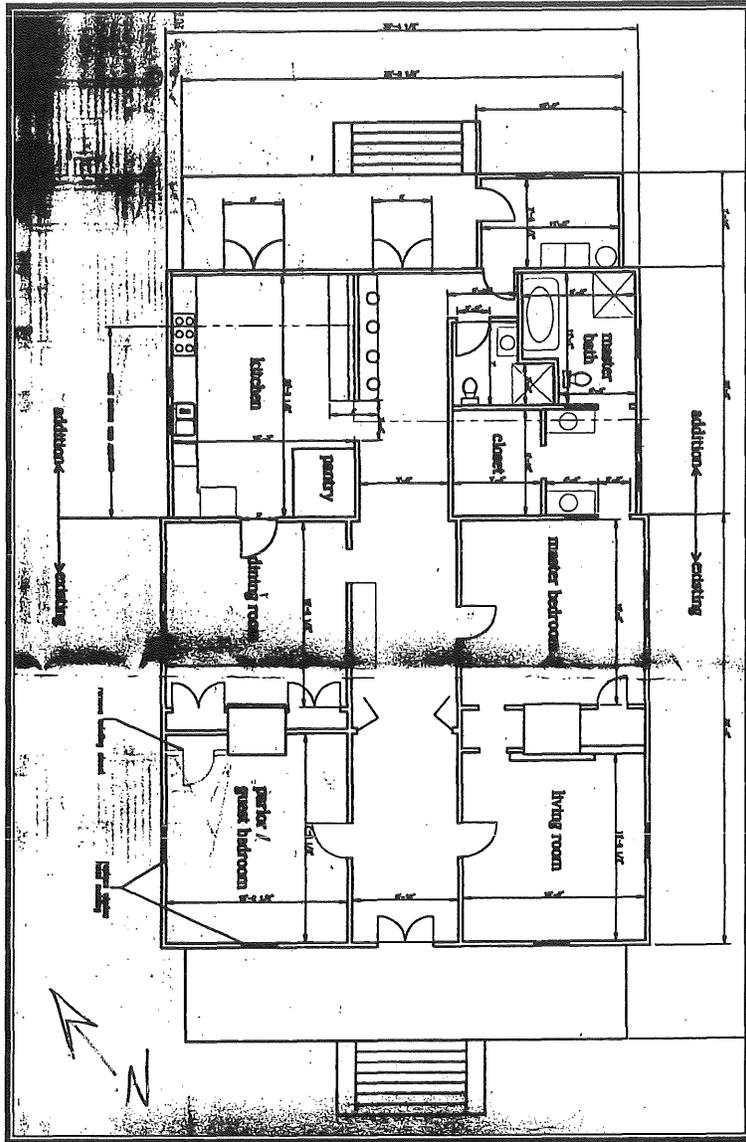
The Solomon and Kate Williams, Jr. House boundaries correspond with the current tax parcel, Map G11, parcel 17B for Fork Township, Inez Fire District, Warren County.

Boundary Justification

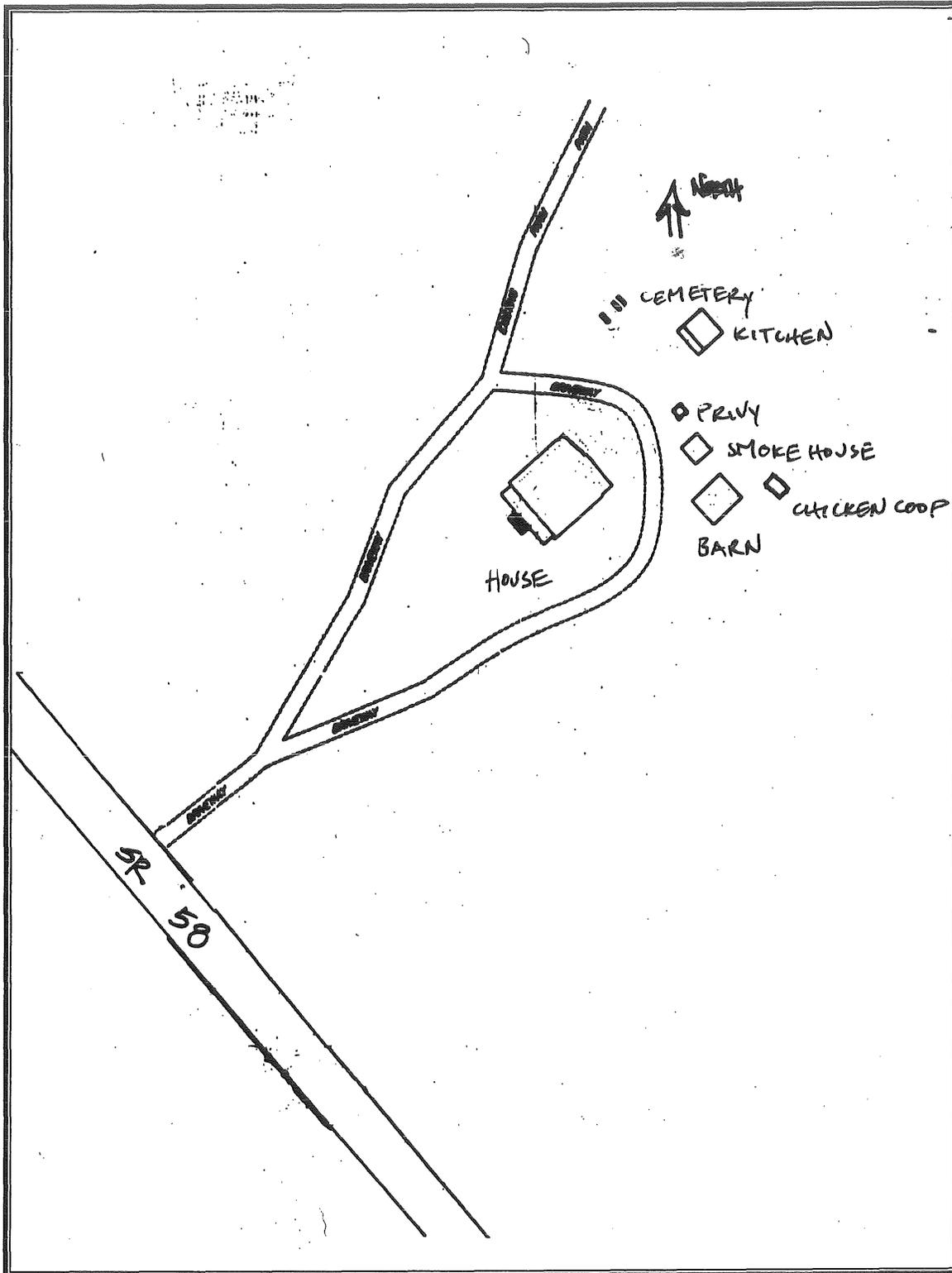
The boundary comprises a 3.6-acre parcel that provides an appropriate setting for the historic house and its associated domestic outbuildings and an early twentieth century cemetery that is the burial grounds for the owners of the house. This parcel is all of the land that has remained in continuous association with the house since its construction.



First floor plan, ca. 1940
Solomon and Kate Williams, Jr. House
Inez vicinity, Warren County, North Carolina
(drawing by Gerald P. Traub, AIA)

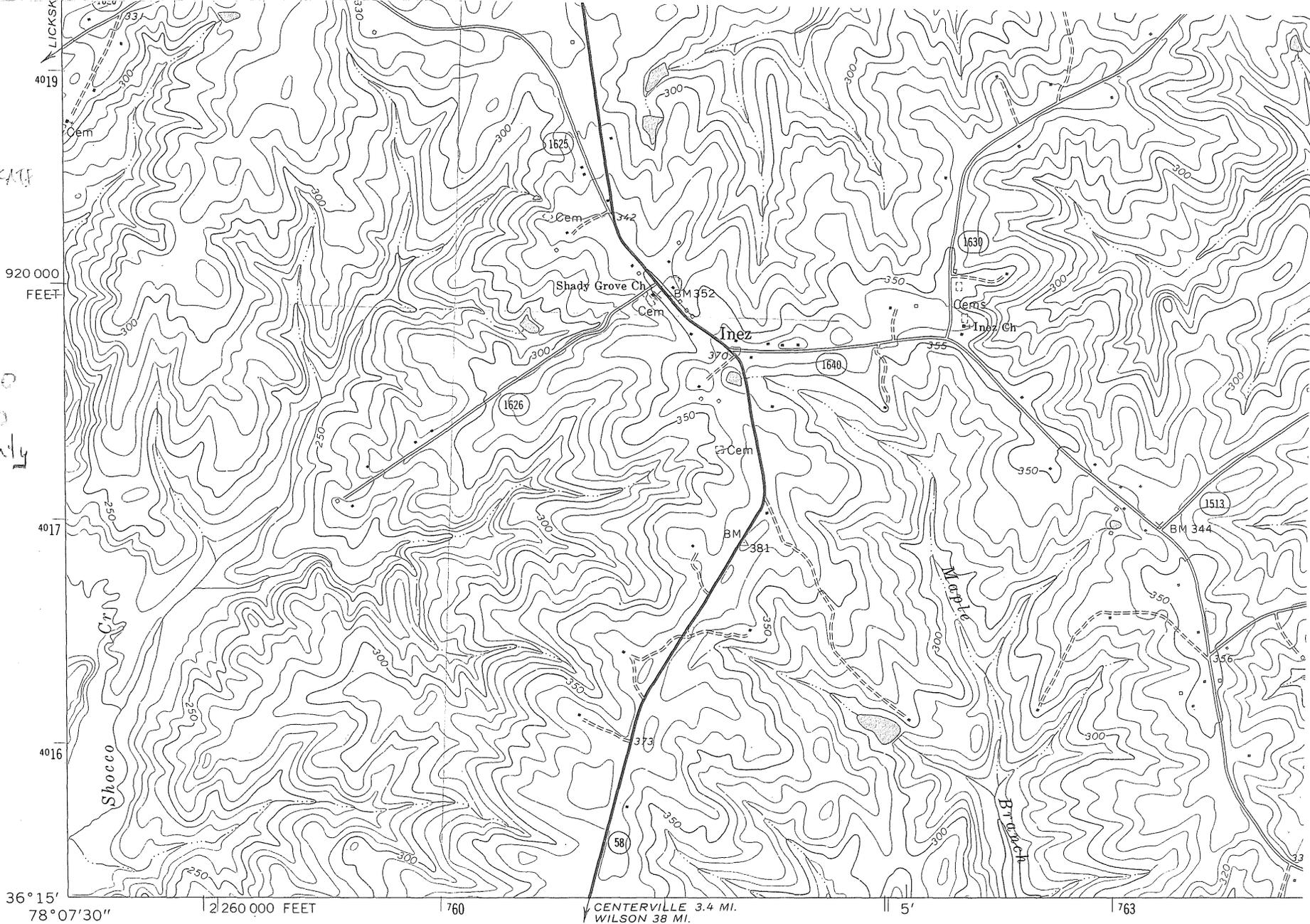


Existing plan
Solomon and Kate Williams, Jr. House
Inez vicinity, Warren County, North Carolina
(drawing by Gerald P. Traub, AIA)



Site Plan
Solomon and Kate Williams, Jr. House
Inez vicinity, Warren County, North Carolina

SOLOMON ANDSKATF
 WILLIAMS, JR.
 1942, P.C.
 E: 760980
 N: 4018120
 Warren County
 Inez Quad



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1970. Field checked 1971
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17,
 shown in blue

