

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cascade Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

Willow Oaks Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 0.7 mi. on a country lane entrance on

s. side N.C. 770, 0.6 mi. e. of junction with S.R. 1743 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eden

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Rockingham

157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Smith, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 4216

CITY, TOWN

Eden

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rockingham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wentworth

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In a pleasant rural setting amid an oak grove is Willow Oaks, a two-story Federal plantation house of frame covered with beaded weatherboard. It is five bays wide and three deep, having a basement and foundation of brick laid in Flemish bond. Beneath the gable roof is a molded box cornice, its soffit adorned with regulae. The house was constructed in two parts--first, a three-bay section was built and a few years later a two-bay section was added. The front (west) facade is unbroken, but the two-bay part breaks out four or five feet at the rear. A pair of large exterior end chimneys occur at each side of the house; they are of brick laid in Flemish bond.

Fenestration exhibits diminution from nine-over-nine sash to nine-over-six, and window surrounds consist of molded architraves and sills. The front facade has a one-story entrance porch supported on paired Doric columns. The center-bay second-floor window was originally a door--indicating an earlier two-tier or galleried porch. The front entrance contains a double door, three raised panels per leaf, flanked by a two-light sidelights and surmounted by a very graceful fanlight. The surround is molded. Window placement on the north end is very irregular and a one-story frame addition occurs on the south side. A one-story shed-roof porch, supported by bracketed posts, runs along the rear of the three-bay section and extends past it for one enclosed bay.

The house has a center-hall plan two rooms deep at each level; the older south section consisting of the center hall and the two rooms south of the hall, the addition consisting of the two rooms north of the hall. The original floor plan of the south section is unknown. Basement fabric indicates that the center hall is part of the original house, but its present finish corresponds to that of the north addition; thus it was probably remodeled when the addition was made. The two south rooms are separated by a narrow transverse hall, created by the addition of a partition wall in the west room. The original enclosed stair rises to the second floor in the northeast corner of the southeast room.

The north addition to the house and the center hall contain elaborate Adamesque finish with a wealth of classical ornament. Work of similar but slightly less elaborate character is found in nearby Caswell County at Dongola and the parlor at the Bedford Brown House--both built in the 1830s.

The center hall has a flat-paneled wainscoting with inset secondary panels outlined with thin molded strips. The molded chair rail is embellished with alternating gouged circular rosettes and vertical gouge design. Door surrounds consist of symmetrically molded architraves with Tudor rose-embellished corner blocks; the doors feature six flat panels with the thin molded strips. In the center hall, an open-string stair ascends to the second floor in two runs with a transverse landing. The stair spandrel is paneled with several rows of flat panels with interior molding strips and the stairs are accented with delicate scroll brackets. The round handrail is eased and ramped and supported on square balusters, ending in a simple turned newel. The hall wainscot follows the stair, and the chair rail is correspondingly eased and ramped.

The northwest room is the most elaborately finished. The wainscot is similar to the hall's, but the chair rail is embellished with alternating gouged oval sunbursts.

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and vertical grooves. The doorway leading onto the hall has a surround consisting of flanking, fluted Ionic pilasters which support a two-part entablature. The architrave is adorned with alternating gouged grooves and sunbursts. The frieze has an applied rosette between symmetrical foliate sprays. The flat-paneled end blocks have a foliate applique, and the cornice has cable molding and a narrow corbel-arched band on the shelf. The arched double door leading into the southwest room contains three panels per leaf, and a semi-elliptical arch springs from the Ionic pilasters. The arch is embellished with an ornamental molded keystone, and a band of alternating gouged grooves and sunbursts. The mantel and flanking windows are elaborately treated with the windows contained in arched nooks formed by a pair of semi-elliptical arches flanking the mantel in line with the chimney breast. The arches and their supporting pilasters are identical to the double-door surround. The Adamesque mantel has an astragal enriched architrave around a rectangular opening, flanked by engaged, fluted Ionic colonettes which support a three-part entablature with flat-paneled center and end blocks adorned with applied foliate motifs. The cornice shelf has dentils and an astragal band. The windows in this room have symmetrically molded architraves. A wide plaster cornice and elaborate fern and garland medallion embellish the ceiling.

The adjoining northeast room is only slightly less impressive, sharing similar wainscot and window architraves. The chair rail differs in that it is embellished with a cable molding above a band of vertical reeding. The door surrounds have symmetrically molded architraves with roundel corner blocks, and the arched double door has an ornamental keystone. The mantel is flanked by encased book cabinets, with glazed, geometric design doors. The cabinet surrounds consist of flanking, reeded pilasters with sunbursts on their capitals. These support a two-part entablature with a reeded architrave. The mantel is similar to that in the adjoining room, but has unfluted colonettes with acanthus leaf motif capitals, and the frieze is adorned with applied foliate sprays and gougework, and a classical urn motif. On the center tablet the cornice shelf is treated with heavy dentils and an astragal band. The ceiling is board-and-batten, and has a wide molded cornice.

The south rooms are much simpler than those across the hall. The narrow transverse hall and both rooms have flush sheathed wainscot with a heavy molded chair rail and high baseboard. The doors contain six raised panels; windows and doors have simple molded architraves. The southwest room has a small mantel with a molded architrave flanked by two pairs of attenuated, reeded colonettes which support a two-part entablature with flat-paneled end blocks and a frieze with vertical gouges. The southeast room has a three-part mantel: a plain architrave is flanked by flat board pilasters which support an entablature with a wide frieze and heavily molded cornice shelf with incised edges. The end blocks are gouged and the center flat panel has a gouged lozenge. A narrow, enclosed stair with winders rises from this room to that above, and is enclosed with diagonal sheathing. A small door closes off the stair.

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The second floor reveals as sharp a distinction between the interiors of the south and north sections as does the first floor. The doors consist of six raised panels, with molded door and window frames differing in each section. The architraves in the later part being more deeply and symmetrically molded. The doors in the older section are hung on HL hinges. The northwest room has a flat-paneled wainscot with a vertically gouged chair rail and the mantel is flanked by cupboards containing double door with two raised panels each. The three-part mantel has fluted Doric colonettes supporting an entablature which has paterae in the flat-paneled end blocks and a festoon in the center panel. The cornice is embellished with dentils. The adjacent northeast room has a similar wainscot with a slightly different gouged chair rail, and the two-part mantel is also flanked with cupboards in the same manner. The mantel has the same colonettes as its counterpart in the adjoining room, and has anthemions in its flat-paneled end blocks.

The south rooms are identical in treatment having a wide, simply molded chair rail and high baseboard, with transitional Georgian-Federal mantel. These have a wide molded architrave, atop which are two stubby flat board pilasters supporting a deeply molded shelf.

The hall stairs continue up another two short runs with a transverse landing to the attic which contains three rooms. The rooms have simply molded architraves, and the walls and ceilings are plastered and have flat board chair rails and baseboards.

Two outbuildings survive--a smokehouse and an office said to have served as plantation office and as doctor's office for Dr. John G. Brodnax.

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 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Willow Oaks is a Federal plantation house of considerable architectural distinction, with Adamesque interiors outstanding of their type in the state. The work is stylistically related to that found in two houses of the 1830s in neighboring Caswell County, but more elaborate, epitomizing the lavishness with which these classical elements were used at the end of the Federal era. The plantation was probably settled and part of the house built by William Brodnax from Virginia and the house completed by his son, Robert.

The plantation is located on a tract of approximately 800 acres, once part of a vast tract owned by William Byrd II, which Byrd is said to have called "Land of Eden." On October 25, 1755, William Byrd III and his wife sold 26,000 acres in Rockingham and Caswell counties to Francis and Simon Farley, merchants of Antigua, for 1,000 pounds. Following the Farleys' deaths, the lands were surveyed for division among heirs in 1804.

The property was divided into large lots called the "Sauratown tracts" after the Saura Indians who had inhabited the area. In 1809 John S. Farley and other heirs granted power of attorney to William Edward Brodnax and empowered him to sell their parts of the "Sauratown tracts." On August 13, 1811, Brodnax purchased lot number sixteen (16) comprising 2,664 acres of the Sauratown tracts from Brigadier General John S. Farley of Jamaica for \$8,436. Brodnax, justice of Brunswick County, Virginia, and sheriff in 1807, may have built part of the house on the plantation then called "Cascade." The name "Cascade" may have been taken from the name of a nearby creek, long associated with the property. His oldest son, Robert (born April 30, 1787), received his father's tract of 2,664 acres on October 1, 1820, and it is he who is said to have brought the plantation house to its present form. It is possible that Robert lived there before he was officially given the land, for his infant son William is buried there (died July 17, 1820). Robert is said to have been a school mate of Thomas Ruffin (later chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court) at a Warrenton school.

The lands now part of Willow Oaks Farm were left by Robert Brodnax to his daughter, Mary W., with two sons trustees. She married John G. Brodnax, a prominent Virginia physician who served as a medical officer in the Civil War. In 1889 the lands were divided among Mary's two children, with her daughter Nancy retaining the plantation house. In 1890 the property was sold to F. H. Burton and T. B. Fitzgerald; the latter, who lived on the place, was for many years president of Riverside Cotton Mills in Danville, Virginia. He spent considerable time and money in renovating the house. In 1916 the property was sold to Richard Ivy Smith of Danville, whose son now owns and operates the farm.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Byrd, William. A Journey to the Land of Eden and Other Papers. Vanguard Press, 1928.
 "Copies of Entries in the Brodnax Bible." William and Mary Quarterly XIV, July, 1905.
 Hamilton, J. G. De Roulhac, ed. The Papers of Thomas Ruffin, 4 volumes, State of
 North Carolina, 1920.
 MacMillan, Laura (comp). North Carolina Portrait Index. Chapel Hill, 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,2,0	1,4,0	4,0	4,2	5,6,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Research by Lindley Butler, consultant, and John Baxton Flowers, III, survey specialist; architectural description by Nick Pearson, consultant, and Ruth Little-Stores, survey specialist

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

DATE

18 July 1975

TELEPHONE

919/829-7862

STATE

North Carolina

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Russ Mac Duzel

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 18 July 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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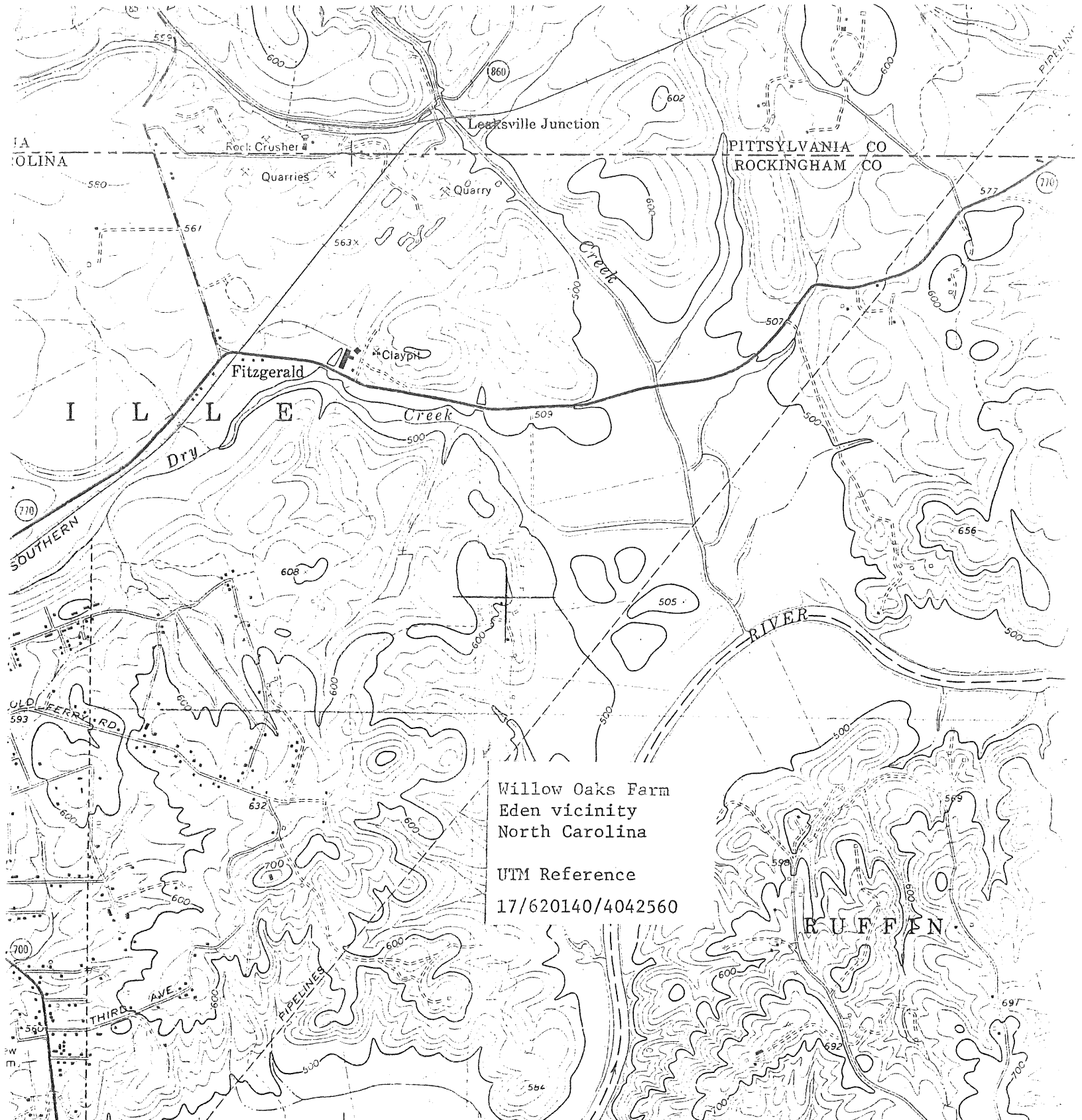
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Rockingham County Records, Rockingham County Courthouse, Wentworth, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rockingham County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

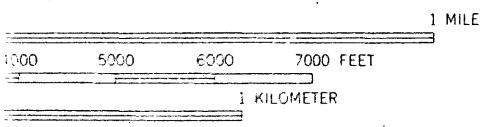


Willow Oaks Farm
Eden vicinity
North Carolina

UTM Reference
17/620140/4042560

618 HAPPY HOME 5 MI.
14 MI. TO U.S. 29 619 40' 620 621

1 810 000 FEET (N. C.) 622000m.E



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved ———
- U.S. Route (Shield symbol)
- State Route (Circle symbol)

10 FEET
LEVEL



DRAPER, VA.
SW. 4 DRAPER 15' 30" E
N 630—W795

