

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **SEP 30 1982**  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Williams Place

and/or common The Williams Place

2. Location

SW of Glenn Springs on S.R. 113

street & number S.C. Secondary Road 113, 3/4 mile north of intersection with S.C. Secondary Road 235 NA not for publication

city, town Glenn Springs vic. vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Spartanburg code 083

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Jack Sher

street & number Route 4, Box 204

city, town Spartanburg NA vicinity of South Carolina 29302

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg County Courthouse

street & number Magnolia Street

city, town Spartanburg South Carolina 29301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia South Carolina 29211

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Williams Place, located on Cane Creek in the foothills of rural Spartanburg County, is a residential and agricultural complex of fourteen buildings and structures dating from ca. 1839-1850. The complex, which includes ten buildings of log construction, was built for Robert Rogers Williams's farm. The buildings and structures represent the various facets of rural farm life in the antebellum South Carolina Upcountry. The absence of later development or modernization, together with the heavily forested surroundings and the relative inaccessibility of the area, have provided for an extraordinary degree of historical integrity in the complex.

Additional Information: The fourteen buildings and structures at the Williams Place are: (1) Small House. A one-and-one-half-story, single-pen log building located on the crest of a hill on the northeastern part of the property. The building has a foundation of unmortared stone piers. The walls are of axe-squared logs connected with half-dovetail joints. Sawn planks cover the interstices on both exterior and interior. The hewn joists of the main floor and of the attic floor are notched into the log walls. A large, single-shouldered chimney of random rubble stone is on the southeast side of the house. Shed-roofed porches are on the northeast and southwest elevations. The house has single doors with wrought iron strap hinges which open onto the porches on the northeast and southwest elevations. There are single, unglazed windows with batten shutters on the first floor of the northwest and southeast elevations. The attic level has a single, unglazed window on the northeast, and two windows on the southeast, which are located in the gable ends above the uppermost log courses. These gable ends are weatherboarded. The gable roof is sheathed with sheet metal, which was installed in the late nineteenth century to replace the original wooden shingles.

The interior of the house is spartan with wide board flooring in its single rooms, plank chinking on the interior of the log walls, and exposed ceiling joists. The large stone fireplace on the southeast wall has two arched iron bars set into the masonry to support the fireplace arch. A steep dogleg stair without a bannister is in the southeast corner of the building. The attic is similarly spartan with exposed roof framing and unfinished walls. The pole rafters are notched into the uppermost logs of the walls and are joined by collar beams and by pegged mortise-and-tenon joints at the ridge. The roof projects to the south on bracketed extensions of the plates, sheltering the chimney. The building has no electricity, plumbing, or lighting. A small root cellar is located beneath the house on the north side. Except for the roofing and the replacement of some of the floor boards, the house is unaltered. It may have been used as either servants' quarters or as a residence for the grown children of Robert Williams, four of whom were still living on the farm as late as 1880.

(2) Large House. A two-story, log building located on the west side of the pond at the center of the complex. The house appears to have been built in stages with a large rectangular room on the south and a smaller square room on the north; these two parts are united at the second floor where the logs of the walls and the roof framing are continuous. The house has a foundation of unmortared stone piers. The walls are of axe-squared logs with half-dovetail joints and sawn weatherboard sheathing. The gable roof is covered in patterned metal shingles. Two exterior brick chimneys are located on the northeast and southwest ends of the house. These chimneys are single-shouldered with a brick bond described as staggered Flemish. This pattern has alternating stretcher and header bricks in each course as with regular Flemish bond, but the headers of each course are placed over the joints of the bricks in the course below. This creates a staggered vertical file of headers rather than one placed over the stretchers of the course below as with regular Flemish bond.

CONTINUED

## 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 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** ca. 1839–1850 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Williams Place, located on Cane Creek in the foothills of lower Spartanburg County, South Carolina, is a rural agricultural and residential complex developed between ca. 1839 and ca. 1850 by a farmer, Robert Rogers Williams, for himself and his family. The property includes ten log-wall buildings and four other buildings and structures associated with the farm. The complex is representative of the diverse aspects of a small, nineteenth-century farm in the South Carolina Upcountry. The Williams Place is also the most intact collection of log buildings that has been identified in the state.

Additional Information: John Williams (1776–1852) was a Spartanburg County farmer of modest means and modest production.<sup>1</sup> He had land in lower Spartanburg County on Cane Creek and Blackstock Road.<sup>2</sup> He cultivated wheat, oats, Indian corn, potatoes, and other produce; he kept swine, cattle, and mules.<sup>3</sup> Williams managed his farm for many years with the assistance of his son Robert and several slaves.<sup>4</sup>

Robert Williams (1808–1891),<sup>5</sup> one of four sons of John Williams, lived in his father's household until 1840.<sup>6</sup> In 1839, he bought sixty-nine acres of land on the north bank of Cane Creek and began establishing his own household.<sup>7</sup> He married Eliza \_\_\_\_\_ around 1840.<sup>8</sup> By 1850, Robert Williams was living with his wife and four children on a 430-acre farm valued at \$2,800.<sup>9</sup> The establishment of the Robert Williams farm on this land, with the growth of his family at this time and the structural evidence of the buildings, indicates that Robert Williams had the buildings at the Williams Place constructed between 1839 and 1850. Robert Williams owned three slaves in 1850.<sup>10</sup> His farm produced, in modest quantities, wheat, Indian corn, cotton, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and butter.<sup>11</sup> He had five mules, three milk cows, six other cows, and twenty-five hogs.<sup>12</sup>

Robert Williams's father, John Williams, was maintaining his own farm in 1850; John Williams died in 1852,<sup>13</sup> leaving to his son Robert two slaves and certain land on the Blackstock Road.

Robert Williams maintained his farm through the nineteenth century, with his sons Whitner and Lamar assisting him with the farming.<sup>14</sup> His wife Eliza kept house and gave birth to nine children.<sup>15</sup> The 1870 agricultural census described the Robert Williams farm as<sup>16</sup> 70 acres improved land, 300 acres unimproved woodlands, and 800 other unimproved acres. Livestock on the farm included two horses, two mules, four milk cows, five other cows, and ten hogs. The farm produced spring wheat, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, butter, and honey in modest amounts.

Robert Williams died in 1891. His will (which he had signed with an X) was proven on 19 May 1891.<sup>17</sup> Whitner Williams, the eldest son, fell heir to the homesite, with the widow, Eliza Williams, receiving a life tenancy in the family home. Whitner Williams maintained the farm into the twentieth century. His mother and two elder sisters lived on the farm with him.<sup>18</sup>

CONTINUED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 39

Quadrangle name Spartanburg, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

**UMT References**

A 

1	7
Zone	

4	2	0	2	5	0
Easting					

3	8	4	5	9	4	0
Northing						

B 

1	7
Zone	

4	2	0	1	2	5
Easting					

3	8	4	5	4	8	0
Northing						

C 

1	7
Zone	

4	1	9	5	0	0
Easting					

3	8	4	5	5	1	0
Northing						

D 

1	7
Zone	

4	1	9	5	7	5
Easting					

3	8	4	5	9	5	0
Northing						

E 

Zone	

Easting					

Northing						

F 

Zone	

Easting					

Northing						

G 

Zone	

Easting					

Northing						

H 

Zone	

Easting					

Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is shown bounded by the red line on the accompanying Spartanburg County Tax Map #6-66-00, drawn at a scale of 1" = 400'. This boundary includes all significant buildings and structures as well as the pond and immediate environment of the farm.

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

state NA code county NA code

state NA code county NA code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John E. Wells

organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History date July 12, 1982

street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

# 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee date 9/7/82

title State Historic Preservation Officer

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 for Bonnie Mae Dwyer date 11/10/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Patrick Ardus date 11/8/82  
 Chief of Registration

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The house has a shed-roofed, one-story porch on both the southeast and northwest elevations. The east porch has been partially obscured by the addition of a one-story wing. The northwest porch has been enclosed and transformed into three small paneled rooms. Fenestration in the house is sparse in accord with the demands of log-wall construction. The first floor has single, six-over-six, double-hung windows on each side of the southwest chimney, a single entrance with a modern door recessed beneath the southeast porch, and a single door on the northeast elevation to the left of the chimney. The second floor has a single, six-over-six window on each elevation with the northwest window now covered by weatherboards. The interior has a large rectangular room with modern paneling and an enclosed dog-leg stair in one corner to the south and a small square room with a floor one foot lower than the floor of the larger room to the north. The second floor has unfinished walls and exposed roof framing. The pole rafters have pegged mortise-and-tenon joints at the ridge line.

The one-story, frame addition on the northeast is weatherboarded and has a gable roof and a single brick chimney. In recent years, the house has been used as a hunting lodge, and electricity and plumbing have been installed.

(3) Kitchen. A one-story, gable-roofed, log building with unmortared stone pier foundations. The log walls are of axe-squared logs with V-notched corner joints. The roof is sheathed in sheet metal and extends over the northeast end of the building on plate extensions. A large stone and brick chimney is sheltered under this extension; the chimney is of coursed rubble stone in its lower aspect with stretcher bond brickwork above the shoulder. The kitchen building has a single door with a door jamb pegged to the log ends and wrought iron strap hinges on its northwest elevation. A single, six-over-six, double-hung window is on the southeast elevation. The log walls have boards nailed over the interstices on the interior and exterior. The floors are plank, and the roof framing is open with mortise-and-tenon jointed pole rafters. The fireplace is seven feet wide with a stone hearth and monolithic lintel. The kitchen is located just east of the main house between the house and the pond.

(4) Smokehouse. A one-story, gable-roofed, log building with monolithic pier foundations, unchinked axe-squared log walls, and V-notched corner joints. A single door with wrought iron strap hinges is on the southwest elevation. The gable roof is sheathed in metal sheeting. Bracketed plate extensions carry the roof about four feet beyond the walls on the northeast and southwest elevations. The pole rafters are butt-jointed. A five-foot square, brick and stone hearth is located in the center of the floor. The smokehouse is adjacent to the kitchen on the west bank of the pond.

(5) Smithy. A one-story, log building on the west shore of the pond, to the north of the center of the complex. The building is collapsing, apparently due to the failure of some of the unmortared stone pier foundations. The log walls and the roof still appear sound. The logs are axe-squared with half-dovetail joints and no chinking. A large, seven-foot square, brick oven/forge is in the northwest corner of the building. The interior is ruinous and overgrown with considerable wooden and iron junk scattered about.

(6) Well. A cylindrical shaft sunk into the earth, lined with stone rubble. A brick and concrete cover with a hinged wooden lid was built on top of the well in the mid-twentieth century.

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(7) Crib. A two-level, gable-roofed, log structure. The logs are axe-squared with half-dovetail joints and tight board chinking on the interior. A small, broad door on the northeast side has a wooden latch. A wooden ladder on the same elevation leads to a hatch, allowing access to the upper level of the structure. The roof, which is sheathed in sheet metal, extends over the north elevation, sheltering the entrances. The joists and rafters are sawn and butt-jointed. Beneath the structure is a large root cellar, which is accessible from the south. The crib is set into the side of a hill and is located south of the large house.

(8) Privy. A small, frame, single-seat outhouse clad in corrugated metal, which is located behind the crib.

(9) Ruined house. Ruins of a small, log-wall, single-pen dwelling with a stone chimney. The lower part of the chimney, the foundation piers, and the log sills remain. The ruins are heavily overgrown. The small size of the building and its location near the crib, kitchen, and main house suggest that it was a servants' quarters.

(10) Crib. A small, one-story, square, log building with a gable roof. The logs are axe-squared with V-notch joints. A single door on the north end of the building has wrought iron strap hinges. The gable ends are weatherboarded. The building was apparently used for seed and grain storage. It is located west of the center of the complex.

(11) Log Barn. A one-story, log barn with a wooden shingled gable roof. The logs are axe-squared with half-dovetail joints. The northeast elevation has four openings: a large doorway on the left, two small livestock portals in the center, and a loft opening above. Shed additions on the right and left sides of the barn are collapsing. The building was used to shelter the livestock and to store produce. It is located at the west end of the property.

(12) Frame Barn. A large, frame building with a gable roof. The building has three portals on its southeast elevation and a loft opening in the center of the gable end. The building was used to shelter livestock and to store produce. It appears to have been built later than the majority of the buildings on the property, perhaps in the late nineteenth century. It is located at the far west end of the complex.

(13) Barn/Stable. A small, gable-roofed, log building constructed of axe-squared logs, some of which are eighteen inches in diameter. The roof is covered with sheet metal. There is a door on the southwest side and a livestock portal on the northeast. The interior has a central partition with two stalls on the north side. The building is located at the western end of the complex.

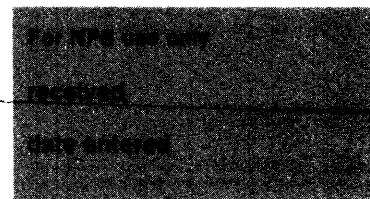
(14) Dam. An earthen barrier wall, southeast of the large house, which has created a small pond by the obstruction of a small stream.

The surroundings of the Williams Place are heavily forested foothills with very little modern development nearby.

EXPL 12/1/79

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Whitner Williams died intestate in 1919. His brothers and sisters divided his estate. The appraisal of the estate listed the implements of the farm, including plows, scything cradles, axle grease, a saw, a grindstone, a wagon, two old mill wheels, and a shotgun; livestock, including swine and four mules; and produce, including corn, cotton, and wheat. The farm was apparently abandoned after the death of Whitner Williams. The property, described in various deeds as "the old Robert Williams Home Place," remained in the possession of the Williams family for many years.<sup>20</sup> The current owner, Jack Sher, purchased the property in 1974. The Williams Place has been vacant for many years, except for the occasional use of the large house as a hunting lodge. 19

Agriculture: The various outbuildings associated with the houses of the Williams Place represent the diverse aspects of rural farm life and management in the nineteenth century. Those buildings and structures associated with food storage and preparation are located in a close group around the main house; these include the kitchen, the smokehouse, one crib, the main root cellar, and the well. The kitchen has a massive stone chimney with seven-foot wide fireplace which has a monolithic lintel. The kitchen is the only building on the property other than the large house to have window glazing. The smokehouse retains its brick and stone hearth in the middle of its floor. The crib is tightly boarded on the interior surface of its log walls to facilitate safe storage of grains and to deter marauding rodents. The root cellar is an excavation in the side of a hill beneath the crib, where constant cool temperatures could provide for long-term storage of foodstuffs. The ruinous house next to the crib was probably built for household servants.

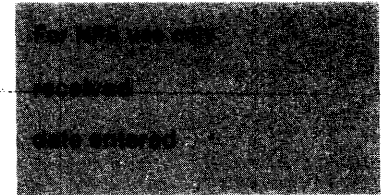
A second group of outbuildings, three barns and a crib, are located some distance from the main house and its outbuildings. These buildings provided shelter for the livestock of the farm, as well as their feed. A plank fence enclosing a yard in front of one barn appears to have been designed to control the swine. Another barn has two stalls for mules or horses.

An isolated outbuilding contained the blacksmith's forge. The farm equipment and tools were likely maintained in this shop. It is possible that some of the wrought iron hardware of the farm, including hasps, pintles, and strap-hinges, was shaped here.

Architecture: The buildings and structures of the Williams Place embody the distinctive characteristics of log-wall construction as practiced in South Carolina in the nineteenth century. The buildings indicate the relative simplicity of this mode of construction. The logs were shaped using only a felling axe and a broad axe. The corner joints, which are critical for the stability of the buildings since the individual logs usually have no other lateral or vertical support, are of high quality workmanship with both V-notch and half-dovetail notches in evidence; yet the joints are simple, having been shaped with only an axe and a crosscut saw. The walls have few doors and windows, since they weaken the corner-to-corner stability of log-wall construction. Where doors and windows are used, they have massive vertical jambs designed to provide lateral and vertical support for the logs which are interrupted by the openings. Wooden pegs secure the ends of the logs to the jambs. The interstices of the log walls are covered, in many of the buildings on the Williams Place, by simple nailed planks. Plaster or mud chinking is not in evidence.

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Other noteworthy construction features of the Williams Place buildings are the unmortared, free-stone foundation piers; the uncoursed-rubble stone chimneys of the two small houses and the kitchen; the brick chimney of the large house with its staggered Flemish bond brickwork; and the wooden shingle roofing which is intact on one of the barns.

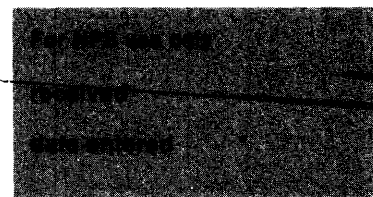
The Williams Place has not been occupied for many years. The preservation of the complex is due to the isolation of the site, the absence of modern improvements, and the good sheet-metal roofing that was installed on most of the buildings in the late nineteenth century. The exceptional integrity of the complex, both in terms of individual buildings and in terms of the whole, is rare in South Carolina. No identified properties in South Carolina are more representative of log-wall construction than the Williams Place.

Archeology-Historic: Although there has been no formal archeological study of the farm, certain archeological resources, including cellars, a well, and structural remains, have been identified; and it is possible that other resources, including trash pits, may be present. Historical information concerning use patterns, social and economic standing, and mobility may be evident from a full archeological record. The likelihood of archeological remains on the Williams Place and the potential for fruitful archeological investigation should be considered in any development of the property.



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Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.  
Spartanburg County Probate Records. File No. 1088 and File No. 3979.

Population Schedules of the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1900: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg County]. n.p.: Bureau of the Census, n.d.

Population Schedules of the Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg District]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Publications, 1944.

Population Schedules of the Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg District]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Publications, 1958.

Population Schedules of the Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg County]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Microfilm Publications, 1965.

Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg District]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Microfilm Publications, 1964.

Population Schedules of the Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg District]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Microfilm Publications, 1967.

Population Schedules of the Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg County]. n.p.: Bureau of the Census, n.d.

Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States, 1810: South  
Carolina [Spartanburg District]. Washington, D.C.: National Archives  
Microfilm Publications, 1958.

Spartanburg, South Carolina. Spartanburg County Courthouse. Register of Mesne Con-  
veyance. Deed Books K, M, X, 6-H, 15-F, 16-B, 41-U, 41-C, 41-L, 17-Q, 39-Z, 38-U;  
Probate Records. File No. 6543, File No. 9102, and File No. 11902; Plat Book 29.

United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics and Mortality  
Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880. Columbia, South Carolina: South  
Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1971.

The Williams Place  
Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States, 1810: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1958), microcopy M-252, roll 61 [Spartanburg District, p. 201]; Population Schedules of the Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Publications, 1958), microcopy M-33, roll 120 [Spartanburg District, p. 255]; Population Schedules of the Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Publications, 1944), microcopy M-19, roll 171 [Spartanburg District, p. 254]; Population Schedules of the Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1967), microcopy M-704, roll 515 [Spartanburg District, p. 107]; Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1964), microcopy M-432, roll 858 [Spartanburg District, p. 387]; United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880 (Columbia, S.C.: Department of Archives and History, 1971), microcopy no. SCARM2, roll 2 (Agriculture, 1850), p. 533; and infra.

<sup>2</sup>Spartanburg County Deed Book K, p. 294, and Deed Book M, p. 408, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S.C.; Will of John Williams and Appraisal of the Estate of John Williams, Spartanburg County Probate Records, File No. 1088, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

<sup>3</sup>Agriculture Census, 1850; Appraisal of the Estate of John Williams.

<sup>4</sup>Fifth Census; Sixth Census; Will of John Williams; Seventh Census [Spartanburg District Slave Schedules], microcopy M-432, Roll 867, p. 575.

<sup>5</sup>Seventh Census, p. 387; Will of Robert Rogers Williams, Spartanburg County Probate Records, File No. 3979, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

<sup>6</sup>Sixth Census.

<sup>7</sup>Deed Book X, p. 108, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg, S.C.

<sup>8</sup>Seventh Census and infra.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.; Agriculture Census, 1850, p. 645.

<sup>10</sup>Seventh Census [Spartanburg District Slave Schedules], p. 575.

<sup>11</sup>Agriculture Census, 1850, p. 645.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Will of John Williams.

<sup>14</sup>Population Schedules of the Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1965), microcopy M-593, roll 1508 [Spartanburg County, p. 468].

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.; Population Schedules of the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1900: South Carolina (n.p.: microfilmed by the Bureau of the Census, n.d.), microcopy T-623, roll 1541 [Spartanburg County, p. 280] .

<sup>16</sup>Agriculture Census, 1870, roll 6, p. 429.

<sup>17</sup>Will of Robert Rogers Williams.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.; Eleventh Census.

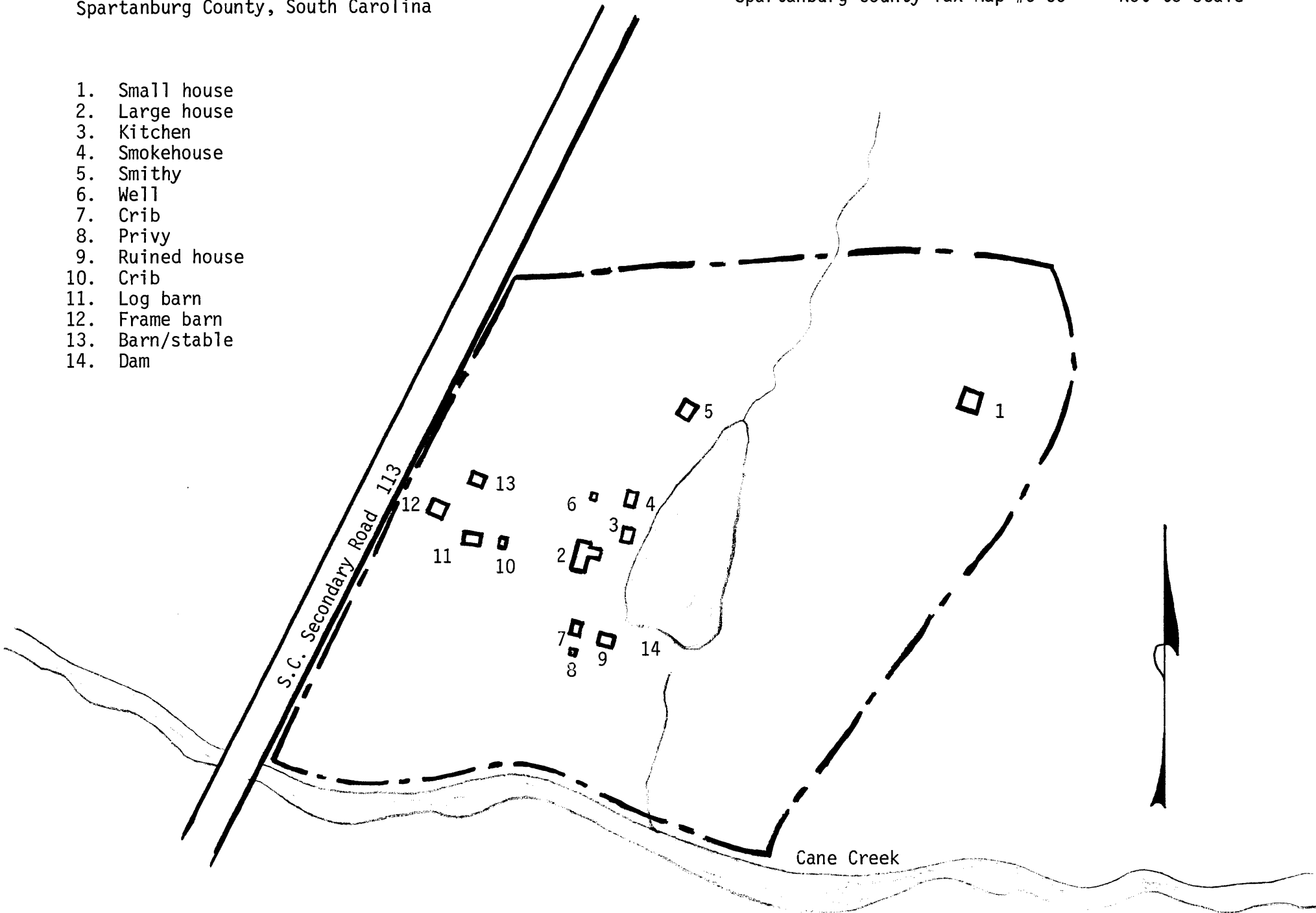
<sup>19</sup>Appraisal of the Estate of Whitner Williams decd., Spartanburg County Probate Records, File No. 6543, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S.C.

<sup>20</sup>Spartanburg County Deed Book 6-H, p. 38; Deed Book 15-F, pp. 319, 322, 325, 328; Deed Book 16-B, p. 14; Plat Book 29, p. 242; Deed Book 41-U, p. 765; Deed Book 41-C, p. 154; Deed Book 41-L, p. 301; Deed Book 17-Q, p. 317; Deed Book 39-Z, p. 487; Deed Book 38-U, p. 403, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg County Courthouse; Will of Mildred Williams and Appraisal of the Estate of Mildred Williams, decd, Spartanburg County Probate Records, File No. 9102; Will of James Manning Williams, Sr., Spartanburg County Probate Records, File No. 11902, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S.C.

THE WILLIAMS PLACE  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina

Sketch map prepared from  
Spartanburg County Tax Map #6-66 Not to scale

1. Small house
2. Large house
3. Kitchen
4. Smokehouse
5. Smithy
6. Well
7. Crib
8. Privy
9. Ruined house
10. Crib
11. Log barn
12. Frame barn
13. Barn/stable
14. Dam



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADDENDUM  
WILLIAMS PLACE  
SPARTANBURG COUNTY

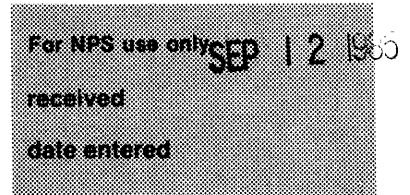
Attached is the archaeological addendum for the Williams Place, a significant historic farm complex in Spartanburg County. The addendum was prepared by Ben Resnick with a Survey and Planning grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

When the Williams Place was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it was recognized by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Review Board that the complex represented a unique opportunity to obtain valuable information on nineteenth century rural life. At that time, however, archaeological expertise was not available.

Mr. Resnick utilized historical resources as well as archaeological testing to compile the information contained in the addendum.

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Historic Archaeology

The Williams Place, located on Cane Creek in Spartanburg County, South Carolina was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 1982, based upon the agricultural and architectural significance of the site. The following addendum to the National Register of Historic Places nomination evaluates the archaeological potential at the Williams Place and establishes the significance of the property in the area of historical archaeology.

Initial archaeological investigations at the Williams Place represented a discovery phase of fieldwork.<sup>1</sup> The primary goal of these investigations was to: 1) evaluate the integrity of the archaeological record, 2) determine a more refined site chronology than available through historical records and 3) integrate the archaeological and historical and architectural records of the site. Furthermore, efforts were made to define the socioeconomic position of the site in respect to the surrounding cultural system. These questions form the basis for more intensive excavations.

This introductory stage of archaeological fieldwork included the excavation of six 2.5 X 2.5 ft. test units placed in association with various structures at the site (See Figure 1): Units 1 and 4 (detached kitchen), Units 2 and 3 (ruined house), Unit 5 (smokehouse) and Unit 6 (smithy). These units were selected due to their ability to reflect various activities at the Williams Place. Moreover, a site map was constructed detailing the spatial distribution of standing structures.

Archaeological test units were excavated by natural stratigraphy; however, in the absence of natural strata, units were excavated by arbitrary levels. Vertical control was established with the use of a line level and measurements were consistently taken from the southwest corner of each unit, in tenths of ft. (engineers scale). Whenever possible, these units were located in relation to the permanent datum of the site with the use of a transit and stadia rod. Otherwise, they were located in relation to standing structures, previously sighted with the transit. Soil descriptions include notations of color (Munsell Soil Color Charts) and texture in an attempt to standardize field observations. Moreover, soil profiles were drawn (Units 2 and 4) and soil samples were taken (Units 2, 4 and 5) for purposes of floating organic matter. The stratigraphy of these units are representative of the overall strata at the site. All materials were sifted through 1/4" mesh.

Excavations at the Williams Place contained .25 ft of a humus/topsoil layer overlying a dark yellowish brown sandy soil approximately .30 ft. in thickness. This latter stratum grades (texturally) into a strong brown clayey matrix. Cultural materials were predominantly associated with these two uppermost strata (e.g. historic ceramics, glass, nails) with artifact densities substantially decreasing in the clay subsoil. Ceramics recovered from excavated units consistently demonstrate a stratified depositional sequence. This evidence indicates

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the presence of an intact archaeological record at the Williams Place that can be more intensively examined in the future.

The integrity of the archaeological record permits a better understanding of the chronology at the site. Ceramics are an important data class at the Williams Place due to their broad distribution and utility for establishing an historical chronology. Of the twelve types of ceramics recovered from archaeological context, seven have median dates of manufacture of 1830 or before demonstrating an early nineteenth century occupation at the site. The presence of several sherds of creamware may indicate an eighteenth century occupation. In addition, two brass buttons dating ca. 1800-1865 have been recovered. Furthermore, one of the six excavated units (Unit 1-detached kitchen) reveals a mean ceramic date of 1817, a substantially earlier date than the temporal range of 1839-1850 provided in the original nomination. Overall, the median dates for the site (based on the ceramic analysis) range from 1791-1860 with a mean ceramic date of 1822, seventeen years prior to that noted in the original nomination (See Table 1).<sup>2</sup>

According to Miller, transfer printed wares were one of the most expensive ceramics in the nineteenth century and therefore reflect high socioeconomic status. He lists three additional levels of decorated ceramics reflecting differential status from painted wares (Third Level) to minimally decorated wares (Second Level, e.g. mocha, shell edge, sponge decorated) to undecorated wares (First or lowest level).<sup>3</sup> At the Williams Place, nine out of the twelve wares present contain decorations of some kind (including a high percentage of hand painted wares, 32%) indicating a somewhat affluent occupation. Given the lack of understanding concerning the socioeconomic position of small farmers in the rural South, these data are significant to our knowledge of the socioeconomic variability in the southern United States.

The spatial patterning of mean ceramic dates in relation to standing structures affords the opportunity to analyze the use of buildings in respect to time. For example, the detached kitchen yields mean ceramic dates of 1817 (Unit 1) and 1820 (Unit 4) as opposed to 1840 for the ruined house (Unit 3). This information is especially important when dealing with log construction, a building tradition not easily dated to its earliest period of use.

The archaeological record at the Williams Place possesses: 1) stratigraphic integrity, 2) information that enables a better understanding of the chronology at the site and 3) knowledge that illuminates the socioeconomic character of an historic farmstead.<sup>4</sup> For these reasons, the archaeological component at the site is significant. Future archaeological investigations can provide information concerning the location of other structures at the site and the lifeways of the farmstead including such things as dietary behavior. Generally, the archaeological record has the ability to monitor diachronic change in the above.

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FOOTNOTES

1

Kenneth E. Lewis, "Camden: A Frontier Town," Occasional Papers of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, The University of South Carolina, Anthropological Studies 2, 1976.

2

Stanley South, Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology (New York: Academic Press), 1977, pp. 201-274.

3

George L. Miller, "Classification and Economic Scaling of 19th Century Ceramics" Historical Archaeology 14(1980):1-40.

4

Benjamin Resnick, "The Archaeology, Architecture and History of the Williams Place: A Scotch-Irish Farmstead in the South Carolina Piedmont" (Masters Thesis, University of South Carolina, Columbia, 1984).



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Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

8-22-85  
(date)

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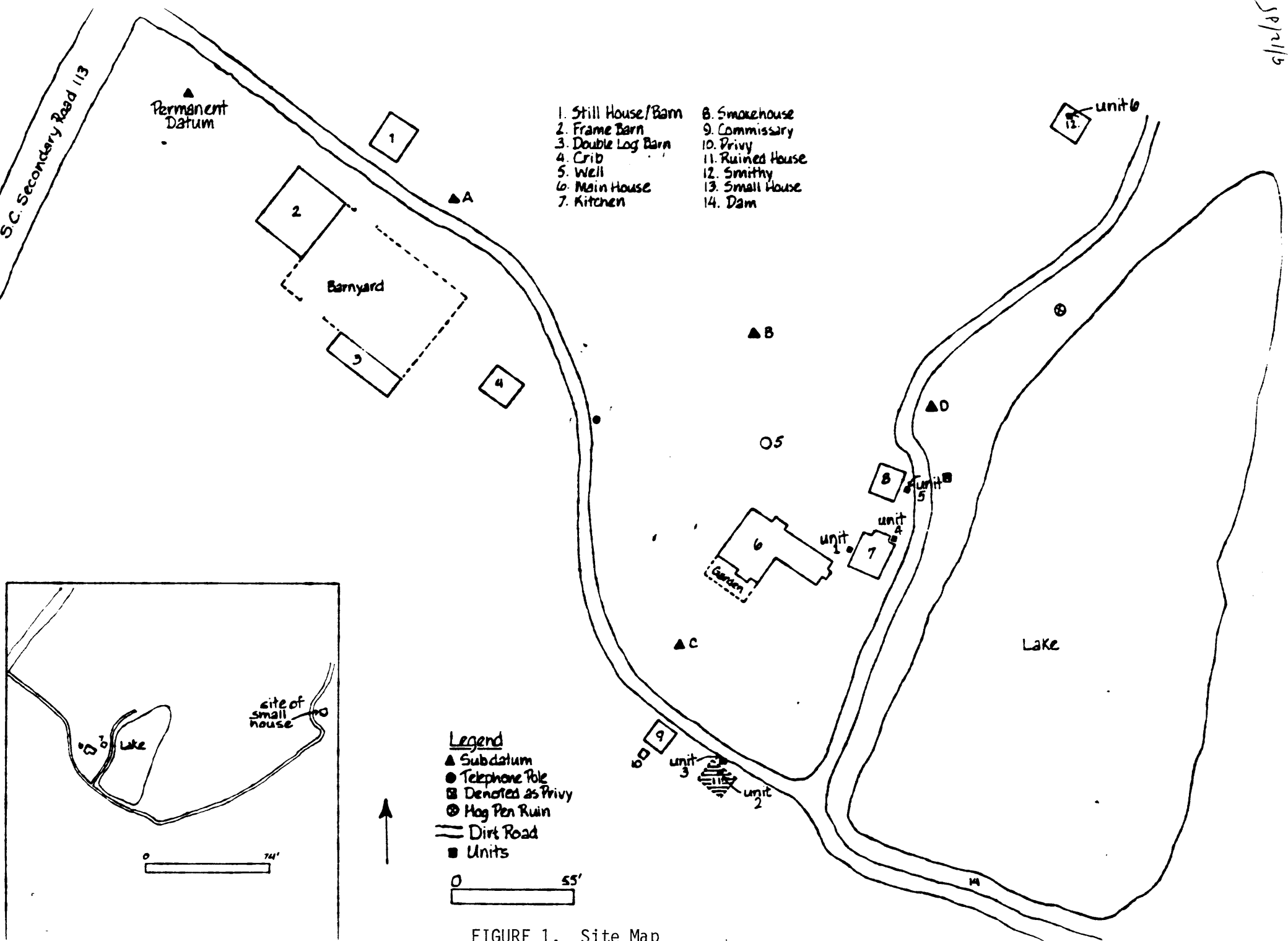
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TABLE 1. MEAN CERAMIC DATES

<u>Ceramic Type Description</u>	<u>Type Median Date</u>	<u>Sherd Count</u>	<u>Product</u>
Spongeware	1840	2	3680
Mocha	1843	2	3686
Underglaze polychrome whiteware	1860	2	3720
Ironstone whiteware	1860	9	16740
Annular whiteware	1860	1	1860
Underglaze polychrome pearlware	1830	2	3660
Blue edged pearlware	1805	2	3610
Underglaze blue hand painted pearlware	1800	10	18000
Undecorated pearlware	1805	8	14440
Annular pearlware	1805	1	1805
Finger painted pearlware	1805	1	1805
Creamware	1791	4	7164
Totals		44	80170

$$80170/44 = 1822.045 = 1822.1$$

5/2/15



- 1. Still House/Barn
- 2. Frame Barn
- 3. Double Log Barn
- 4. Crib
- 5. Well
- 6. Main House
- 7. Kitchen
- 8. Smokehouse
- 9. Commissary
- 10. Privy
- 11. Ruined House
- 12. Smithy
- 13. Small House
- 14. Dam

- Legend**
- ▲ Subdatum
  - Telephone Pole
  - ⊠ Denoted as Privy
  - ⊗ Hog Pen Ruin
  - Dirt Road
  - Units
- 0 55'

FIGURE 1. Site Map