

Smithson House
Pasquotank County
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-168

HABS
NC
70-ELICI,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

HABS
N.C.
70-ELIC.
2-

Smithson House
Pasquotank County
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-168

GENERAL STATEMENT: The two-story Greek Revival house appears to have been built by inexperienced artisans as indicated by the crude workmanship in the details. The structure appears to be in fair condition structurally.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR

Orientation: The house faces northeast

Foundation: The house is supported on brick piers approximately 18" sq. The brick is laid in common bond, 3 courses squal 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The bottom of the sill is about 3'-0" above grade. Wood lattice skirting is set in between the piers.

Wall Construction: Wood frame with lap siding, 6" to the weather. 6" corner boards. Main house is two stories with a one-story stem addition at the rear.

Porches: A two-story porch extends across the front of the house. The porch roof is supported by four square wood columns. A balustrade appears to have been added between the column at a later date. Porches extend along both sides of the stem addition.

Exterior Openings - Doors: All exterior doors are modern. The front door has a transom and side lights.

Windows: All windows are double hung, none of the sash are original. There is no evidence of shutters or blinds.

Roof: The main part of the house has a wood shingled roof with pediments. The addition with its porches also has a gable shingled roof. The front porch has a flat tin roof.

Smithson House
Pasquotank County
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-168

Cornices: The main part of the house and the front porch has a box cornice. The addition has open eaves with gutters.

Chimneys: The main part of the house has two interior end chimneys, the addition has a small chimney at the end which appears to have been rebuilt several times.

INTERIOR

Stairway: One from entry hall to second floor. Plain step ends and square balusters.

Floors: 6" wide pine boards.

Walls & Ceiling: Plaster - Living room has moulded plaster cornice and medallion.

Doorways & Doors: None of the interior doors are original. All of the first floor doorways have projecting ears. Did not inspect the second floor.

Hardware: None of the original hardware remains.

HISTORY

Date of Erection: 1854

Architect, Builder, etc: Not Known

Alterations & Addition: The one story stem addition with porches on both sides was added about 1890.

Original & Subsequent Owners: The house was built for Meles Whiturst. The property was sold many times before being purchased by the Smithson Family. The date of purchase is not known.

p3

Smithson House
Pasquotank County
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

HABS No. NC-168

Present Owner: L. K. Smithson who occupies the structure.

The historical data was obtained from Mrs. L.K. Smithson
in an interview, May 10, 1958.

Prepared by *Russell Jones* Date *12/4/58*
HABS Architect

Approved by *Orin Sutton* Date *12/1/58*
Chief Architect