

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith House

Fayetteville, Cumberland County, CD1379, Listed 5/13/2015

Nomination by Michelle Michael

Photographs by Michelle Michael, December 2013



Façade view



Rear view

**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 Smith, Dr. Ezekiel Ezra, House
other names/site number Smith, Dr. E. E., House

2. Location

street & number 135 South Blount Street not for publication N/A
city or town Fayetteville vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Cumberland code 05 zip code 28301

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.)

Signature of certifying official 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:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Smith, Dr. Ezekiel Ezra, House
Name of Property

Cumberland County, North Carolina
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
In the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC-Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt

walls Asbestos

other Concrete

Narrative Description

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

Smith, Dr. Ezekiel Ezra, House
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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.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1902-1909

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Smith, Dr. Ezekiel Ezra

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

Fayetteville State University

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .19 +/-

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 693165 3880245
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 See continuation sheet

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 Michelle Michael, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date July 25, 2014

street & number 211 West Pine Avenue telephone 910-257-3047

city or town Wake Forest state NC zip code 27587

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name City of Fayetteville

street & number 433 Hay Street telephone _____

city or town Fayetteville state NC zip code 28301

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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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Setting:

The Dr. Ezekiel Ezra (E. E.) Smith House, constructed circa 1902 is on the south side of Blount Street three blocks south of downtown Fayetteville in Cumberland County, North Carolina. Directly south of the house is an industrial area that includes the old Highland Lumber Yard and the Atlantic Coast Line railyard. There are a few small houses interspersed with vacant lots to the north and east. Historically, the area was an African American neighborhood and home to many educators and community leaders. It has been in a state of decline for many years. The area to the north and east of the house is currently being redeveloped by the City of Fayetteville for a downtown business park. The City has purchased Dr. E. E. Smith House and plans to rehabilitate the house as part of the overall plan for the redevelopment of the area.

Exterior:

The Dr. E. E. Smith House at 135 South Blount Street is rare example of a Queen Anne-style house in one of Fayetteville's historically African American neighborhoods. It is sited, facing north, on a corner lot on the southeast corner of Blount Street and Chase Street. The frame house has been covered with wide siding of asbestos or masonite but the original weatherboard is evident underneath the later siding. Boxed eaves and molded cornice are evident on all portions of the house including the rear ell. It is a two-story, gable-and-hip-roof frame house and is three bays wide, two bays deep with a one-story rear ell. The foundation is brick piers with concrete block infill. The asymmetrical façade includes a three-sided bay on the west side and two bays in the side gable portion. The three-sided bay is capped by a pedimented gable with fishscale shingles and a pair of one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Delicate decorative brackets are located at the overhanging corners of the gable. Brick steps lead to the nearly full-width, attached hip-roof, one-story porch. The porch is adorned by turned posts and balustrade, corner brackets, and a spindle-work frieze and wraps around the east corner of the façade. A metal awning shields the porch and hides the frieze. Original weatherboards are extant on two-thirds of the façade under the porch. All of the windows and doors have been boarded up for security but nearly all of them are visible from inside the house. The front door is a six-panel door surmounted by a two-light transom. The westernmost of the three windows on the first floor of the three-sided bay has been covered over both inside and out. The window east of the entrance has been replaced with a plate-glass window and the easternmost window is a nine-over-six double-hung wood sash. The easternmost bay under the porch also contains a window opening that has been replaced by a plate glass window.

The west side elevation facing Chase Street includes both the main house and the rear ell. The main house has a two-story, two-bay, elevation under a front-gable roof. The tall corbeled brick chimney pierces this section of the roof. The windows on this elevation are nine-over-six, double-hung sash that have been boarded up. A concrete block wall, one-block deep and about four feet tall extends approximately ten feet

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to the west from the rear corner of the house. Its use is not known. The west elevation of the rear ell is recessed behind the house. It is one-story with an attached shed-roof porch and central corbeled brick chimney. The porch has been enclosed with screen and subsequently boarded up. The southernmost bays of the porch have been sheathed in with asphalt shingles.

The south or rear elevation includes the main rear elevation of the house as well as the south rear elevation of the ell. A pedimented gable with weatherboard and a one-over-one window is in the gable of the westernmost bay. A single window opening is in the first and second floor under the gable. A taller second floor opening covered by a metal awning is to the east. It appears to have been a door to a fire escape or porch, neither is evident now. The south elevation of the rear ell consists of a window opening in the enclosed porch and a door opening in the center of rear ell. This elevation is also sheathed with a combination of wide siding and asphalt shingle.

The east elevation, like the west, includes the side of the main block and the rear ell. The east wall of the rear ell is almost flush with the wall plane of the main block and it is two bays wide. The south bay is boarded up and currently does not have a door or window. It appears to have been a window but only when the paneling is removed from the interior of that room will there be enough fabric to determine if it was a window or door. The other opening is a window containing a nine-over-six wood sash. Approximately three feet of the bottom of the rear ell wall on this elevation, including the foundation, has also been boarded over with either plywood, wood particle board, or the like to prevent entry. Two stories and two bays make up the main block of this elevation. The south bay has windows in both the first and second story. A one-story, three-sided projecting, pedimented gable bay window makes up the northern bay. The gabled bay is adorned with decorative brackets, fish scale shingles, and a window. A second enclosed gable is evident at the attic level containing a pair of one-over-one windows and fish scale shingles.

Interior:

The interior of the Dr. E. E. Smith house maintains its original center hall, double-pile floorplan and several original details including stair, newel post, stringer and balustrade, wood floors, and decorative window and door surrounds, and classical style fireplace mantels. The original plaster walls were covered with paneling probably during the 1970s. The paneling, though dissimilar to the original plaster wall finish, has not destroyed the historic interior fabric of the Queen Anne style house. Beadboard ceilings are evident and seem to be original; some ceilings have been sheet rocked and textured while others have been covered with dropped acoustical tile. There are two main types of window and door surrounds; molded with bulls-eye corner blocks, and plain boards. A few original five-panel wood doors are also extant. The nine-inch baseboards are flat with a molded cap. A rear ell is accessed from the rear east side room. The ell is two rooms deep with a full width side porch that has been enclosed to add a bathroom.

The single-flight stair is located on the east wall of the center hall. It boasts a turned newel post, paneled

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stringer, a drop pendant beneath the upper newel post, simple turned balusters with molded handrail, and eighteen steps. The centerpiece of the first floor northwest room or parlor is the decorative wooden mantel with mirrored overmantel and tile surround. The bay window has been altered by enclosing one of the windows. A simpler post and lintel mantel composed of pilasters and wide frieze is found in the rear room on the west side. The east side rooms do not have fireplaces. A bathroom was added at the south end of the hall and is in poor condition due to excessive water damage.

The rear ell is accessed by the southeast room on the first floor. It is two rooms deep with a full-width porch. The rear ell appears to be contemporary with the construction of the main house. The brick chimney and boxed cornice indicate they were constructed nearly the same time. The ell is shown on the 1914 Sanborn map, the first to show this area in Fayetteville. The first or north room has a window on the east wall, a door leading to the porch on the west wall, a half-glazed door on the north wall with a cushion molded surround, and a door to the rear room with plain surround. The rear room has a simple mantel on the north wall. There are beadboard ceilings above the dropped acoustical tile ceiling. Both of these rooms are also paneled. The porch has exposed weatherboard siding on the screened portion. A room and bathroom have been partitioned on the south end of the porch and paneled. The room separates the porch from the bathroom.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor. The west rooms have matching mantels. These are Victorian in influence with turned pilasters supporting the mantelshelf and a carved frieze with a central bulls-eye motif. The northwest room on the second floor has a bay window with three, six-over-nine, wood sash windows with molded surrounds and bulls-eye cornerblocks. A simple, four-panel door with molded surround and bulls-eye cornerblocks shares the south wall with the fireplace. The southwest room has a six-over-nine wood sash window with plain surrounds on both the south and west walls. The doors in this room are Victorian five-panel doors with plain surrounds. A second bathroom is located in the front portion or north end of the hall and is in poor condition. A window is located on the north (front) wall and contains a one-over-two wood sash with molded surround. The rear east room has six-over-nine double-hung windows with plain surrounds. A replacement wood door with three-horizontal light window opens to the hall. All of the rooms have wood floors framed by six-inch baseboards with molded caps. The ceilings have been sheathed and coated with texture paint.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary:

The Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith House meets the National Register of Historic Places Criterion B for its association with Dr. E. E. Smith, a significant African American educator in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The period of significance for the house is 1902 to 1909, encompassing the time period in which Dr. E. E. Smith had the house built and resided there. During the period of significance Dr. Smith laid the foundation for the future development of State Colored Normal School. Money was raised, land was acquired, and buildings were constructed which resulted in the expansion of the Normal School from one building to a campus that would become Fayetteville State University. The house maintains sufficient integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance under Criterion B.

Historical Background:

Before the Civil War there were no educational opportunities for African American children. An act passed by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina in the 1830-31 Session prohibited anyone (white or black) from teaching slaves to read or write (General Assembly). Despite the law, many slaves and their children continued to learn in secret (Renfer and Sandifer). One of the goals of the newly freed African Americans after the Civil War was to provide education for their children. Assistance was provided by missionary groups from the North and the Freedman's Bureau, a government agency that assisted freed people. "The bureau built schoolhouses for African Americans and helped pay for teachers and supplies" (Renfer and Sandifer). In Fayetteville, North Carolina, seven African American men pooled their resources and purchased two lots on Gillespie Street to establish a school in 1867. With assistance from the Freedmen's Bureau, a school building was erected on these lots and named the "Howard School" for the head of the Freedmen's Bureau, General O. O. Howard (Brown, p. 84).

One major obstacle standing in the way of black education was the lack of trained teachers. Raleigh Institute (1865) in Raleigh and Biddle Memorial Institute (1867) in Charlotte were instrumental in training African American educators but the need far outweighed number of teachers (Brown, p. 31). Summer institutes also known as normals were held for a few weeks in the summer and provided educational opportunities for teachers. These were the predecessor of the Normal Schools (Ibid, p. 32). In 1877, the North Carolina Legislature passed an act to provide normal schools for black and white students. Fayetteville was selected as the site for the first African American State Normal School in 1877. Other Normal Schools in North Carolina followed including: Plymouth Normal (1881), Franklinton Normal (1881), Goldsboro Normal (1886), Slater Normal at Winston (1895), Salisbury State Normal (1896), Elizabeth City State (1897) (Ibid). Fayetteville, Winston-Salem, and Elizabeth City are still in existence as state-supported universities.

The first leader of the Fayetteville State Colored Normal School who had also led the Howard School was

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Principal Robert Harris (1867-1880). Harris was followed by writer, Charles W. Chestnut who served from 1880-1883. The leadership at Fayetteville was strong from the beginning, but one man dedicated the better part of his life to the institution. Dr. E. E. Smith became the principal in 1883 and except for two leaves of absence served until 1933.

Ezekiel Ezra Smith was born in Faison, Duplin County, North Carolina on May 23, 1852 to free blacks, Alexander and Catherine Wallace Smith. He moved with his family to Wilmington, North Carolina, after the Civil War where he attended a Freedmen's Bureau school at night and worked in naval stores during the day (Powell, p. 376). Smith moved to Wayne County in 1869 and attended high school equivalent classes while also teaching (Ibid). There he worked and saved enough money to attend Shaw University in Raleigh around 1873 or 1874. While at Shaw he met and married classmate, Willie A. Burnett, in 1875. Smith graduated from Shaw in 1878 with an A. B. degree and moved to Goldsboro that fall (Powell, p. 376). In 1880, Smith joined the North Carolina State Guard (colored) and was assigned to the Fourth Battalion Infantry where he rose to the rank of Major (Goldsboro Messenger, January 19, 1880). Professor Smith taught English Language, Geography, and Calisthenics at the Goldsboro Colored Graded School (The Goldsboro Star, June 10, 1882). He also organized the first newspaper for blacks in North Carolina, the Goldsboro Banner Enterprise (Hamlin, p. 65). The Goldsboro Star reported on June 11, 1881, "Major E. E. Smith, editor of the Goldsboro *Enterprise*, was again honored at the commencement of Shaw University, with another degree of scholarship conferred upon him by the Board of Trustees and Faculty of the University. The Major is now Master of Arts."

In 1883, at the age of thirty-one he became the third principal of the State Colored Normal School in Fayetteville. This school was founded as the Howard School due to the efforts of Fayetteville's African American citizens who in the fall of 1867 appointed a board of trustees to establish a school for their children (Oates, p. 476). The board purchased two lots on Gillespie Street for the school. General O. O. Howard of the Freedman's Bureau agreed to build the school on that site, the school was named after him. (Ibid). A legislative act passed in 1877 for the training of African American teachers empowered the state board of education to create a normal school for African Americans (Oates, p. 477). Fayetteville was chosen as the location of the school and the Howard School was renamed the State Colored Normal School (Oates, p. 477). With the passage of the 1877 act, the Howard School became not just the first public normal school for African Americans in North Carolina but also the first state-sponsored institution for the education of African American teachers in the South (Fayetteville State University website). The State Colored Normal School was subsequently renamed the Fayetteville State Teachers College in 1939, Fayetteville State College in 1963, and Fayetteville State University in 1969. Smith served the school for the better part of fifty years first as Principal of the State Colored Normal School from 1883 to 1888 and 1899 to 1927, and thereafter as President of the State Colored Normal School from 1927 to 1933.

During Smith's first year as Principal in 1883-1884, there were one hundred and thirty students enrolled, seventy-eight males and fifty-two females (1883-1884 Catalogue). There were two departments: the Preparatory Department consisting of three years of study to include Reading, Writing,

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Arithmetic, Geography; and the Normal Department consisting of three years, three terms each (Junior class, Middle class, and Senior class). Each year consisted of three terms, fall, winter, and spring, approximately twelve weeks in length per term. Certificates of recommendations as teachers for Public Schools were awarded to students who satisfactorily complete the course of study for the third year. "The school is taught in a large and commodious building, well adapted to the purpose, and furnished free of rent by the colored people of Fayetteville" (Ibid). The expenses for the students included room and board which was found with local families. There was no charge for tuition.

Smith stepped down from his duties at the school twice during his tenure. Both times were to serve his country. Smith was named Minister in Resident and Consul General of the United States to Liberia by President Grover Cleveland in 1888. The appointment was widely reported as evidenced by an article in the Bismarck Daily Tribune (North Dakota) dated May 11, 1888. The article included a brief biography and a sketch of Smith. An article in the Fitchburg Sentinel (Massachusetts) on April 21, 1888, states, "In choosing Mr. Smith for the office, the President honors an exemplary man who has acquired respectable scholarship and a good position, not to say distinction, with social odds greatly against him." He left Fayetteville and the Normal School to serve his country. He and his wife returned in 1890 due to health issues affecting his wife. Although Smith, a democrat, had only requested a sixty-day leave of absence his term ended shortly thereafter as the political climate changed with the election of Republican Benjamin Harrison as President. Smith stayed in North Carolina and received an honorary Ph. D. from Shaw in 1892 (Miller Interview). He returned to Goldsboro and taught and later became the principal of the Catholic Hill School in Asheville in 1894 and 1895 (The Semi-Weekly Citizen, May 17, 1894).

In 1898, Smith was again called to serve his country and enlisted to fight in the Spanish American War. He was assigned to the Third North Carolina Volunteer Infantry. He was injured during training after a fall from his horse and did not see active duty. The war ended in 1899 and he returned to North Carolina. Smith and his family are listed in the 1900 Federal Census as living in Goldsboro. However, an article published on July 7, 1900, provided notification that the summer school for colored teachers was open at Fayetteville. Dr. E. E. Smith, Ph. D., is listed as the president of the institute (Fayetteville Observer). The paper describes Smith as "a zealous and wide-awake instructor". The article continues, "He has put his whole soul in the school work and his energy has swung himself to the top of his profession." It is likely that Smith and/or his family was still splitting their time between Fayetteville and Goldsboro. Smith was also a devout Baptist having been ordained as a minister in 1878. After his return to Fayetteville he served as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fayetteville from 1900 to 1906. The reason for his resignation as pastor was to devote his full attention to the needs of the school (Fayetteville Weekly Observer, February 8, 1906). Smith's obituary states that he also served as president of the State Convention of Colored Baptists although it is not known when or for how long. He spent the rest of his life devoted to the State Colored Normal School.

When Smith returned to the school in 1899, classes were still being held in the original Howard School building, a two-story frame structure on Gillespie Street. The school remained at this building but by the

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turn of the century it was no longer adequate for the number of classes required. The course of study for the Normal School was revised to a three year course of study in 1899 by the State Board of Examiners and discontinued the preparatory classes (Miller, p. 4). Smith stated in the prologue of the 1899 Catalogue, "A Normal School is neither a college, a law, nor a theological school, but a school for the thorough instruction and systematic training of students who wish to become teachers." According to a 1900 report about the maintenance and value of the Normal School Plant at Fayetteville, the state owned no property in Fayetteville or Cumberland County. There were 240 students at the Normal School and five teachers. Only \$3,000 had been provided by the State for maintenance. (NC Dept. of Public Instruction, normal school report, 1900) In 1902, Dwight Ashley offered part of the Ashley-Bailey Company property to the school (Miller, p. 9). Ashley, a white resident of Paterson, New Jersey, was the owner of the Ashley-Bailey Silk Manufacturing Company. The Silk Mill, as it is known locally, employed an entirely black workforce (Silva abstract). The property was one mile southwest of town and included an eight-room building and a church. Classes began at the Ashley-Bailey property that fall and remained there for four years (Miller, p. 9).

Smith's duties were not confined to administrator, he also taught English Literature and Pedagogy. The Catalogue from 1902-1903 illustrates that the course of study had changed since 1884. The school's curriculum included four years as required by the State Board of Examiners. Each year consisted of two terms, fall and spring. The first and second year consisted of classes in arithmetic, grammar, composition, history, geography, government, spelling, writing, drawing, and vocal music. The third year added algebra, North Carolina history, methods of teaching, history of education, physiology, and physical geography. The fourth year focused on history, algebra, English literature, methods of teaching, history of education, physical geography, frequent reviews of the common school branches and sewing for females. There is a note in the catalogue that in the next session, females will take sewing and cooking and males will be taught carpentry, masonry, and farming. There were one hundred and twenty-five students enrolled, forty-six males, and seventy-nine females. The average age student age was seventeen (1902-1903 Catalogue).

In 1905, State Superintendent of Education Charles L. Coon made an appeal in the state report for blacks to support a building fund to provide permanent facilities for the normal schools. The legislature provided some funds to construct a building at Fayetteville but Smith had not yet acquired a site. In 1906, the school moved again to a building rented from the Society of Knights on Worth Street (Miller, p. 12). The first years of the twentieth century were a time of great transition for the school as the growth of the school necessitated plans for a permanent campus. It is also at this time that Dr. Smith purchased a city lot for his own home at 135 Blount Street.

Two lots on Blount Street were purchased by Dr. Smith and his wife on May 8, 1902 for one hundred dollars from Nancy Brewington (Book /Page 440. The land on Blount Street was located between two important sites associated with the school, west of the original Howard School site on Gillespie Street and just east of Worth Street. Smith chose the lot at the corner of Blount Street and Blount's Alley to build his

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house. The Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style house may have been erected shortly after Smith purchased the property which is the appropriate time frame for the Queen Anne-Colonial Revival style in Fayetteville. The 1906-1907 and 1909-1910 Hill's City Directories for Fayetteville lists 135 Blount Street as the home of Ezekiel E. Smith, Principal of the State Normal Colored School. The 1910 census, however, lists Smith living in Glenville, a settlement north of the city limits. Glenville Lake is just south of what became the permanent location of the Normal School on Murchison Road so it is likely that Dr. Smith was living at the School in late 1909 or 1910. The house on Blount Street remained under Dr. Smith's ownership as a rental until his death in 1933 at which time it was willed to his son.

During the years Smith lived on Blount Street he laid the foundation for a permanent campus of the State Normal Colored School, a foundation that enabled the growth to what is today, Fayetteville State University. Between 1902 and 1909, Smith worked diligently to locate and secure land for a permanent site for the school. T. W. Thurston, the black supervisor of the Silk Mill, assisted Smith and contributions were received from blacks and whites to purchase the twenty-six acre tract known as the Woodward Place. The purchase was made with \$525 from donations, \$500 from the annual apportionment, and Smith and Thurston contributed the remaining \$1,500 needed to buy the property in 1906 (Catalogue 1905-1906).

A Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce report printed in the January 10, 1907, Fayetteville Weekly Observer stated:

Mr. H. L. Cook offered the following resolution; which was adopted. Whereas, the Chamber of Commerce of Fayetteville, NC have known Professor E. E. Smith, Principal of the Colored Normal School for a number of years and feel assured that he as principal of said school has done a good work in training teachers for the colored public schools of this section, a number of the pupils of this school having been employed in other industries such as farming, domestic service, and mechanical enterprises, nearly every colored boy and girl that have received training in this school a reasonable length of time having done well and made useful, quiet, law abiding citizens. Therefore as members of the chamber of commerce and as citizens we respectfully request the legislature to continue the appropriation, and increase the same to such an amount as the local board of directors may deem necessary for the better work and equipment of the school.

We hereby request the Secretary of this chamber of commerce to communicate this action to the State Board of Education and to the Committee on Appropriations of the General Assembly.

Once purchased, Smith thought that the twenty-six-acre Woodward Place purchase would not be enough land for the long-term growth and success of the school. Shortly thereafter a forty-acre tract known as the Bruner tract became available for sale at \$3,500. Smith sold the Woodward tract for \$2,500, making a

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\$1,000 profit on his initial investment. The Bruner property was ideally located approximately two-and-one-half miles northwest from downtown Fayetteville on Murchison Road with a six-room house, orchards, and cleared land. Fayetteville citizens again showed their support with \$266.50 in contributions from white citizens and \$823.59 from blacks. Although a substantial amount, Smith still needed to make up the short fall. He, with F. D. Williston, Ph. D., druggist; E. N. Williams, butcher; and Thomas McNeil, funeral director; all African American used their own real estate as collateral to borrow the remaining \$1000 to purchase the land on Murchison Road in August of 1907 (Ibid, p.15).

Work began on building the campus as soon as the deed transferred the property. Construction began on a multi-purpose building named for former governor Charles B. Aycock. The Aycock Building was completed in time for the opening of the 1908-1909 school year on the permanent campus of the State Colored Normal School (Cumberland County Register of Deeds M6, 141, p. 299). In "A Brief Statement Indicating Maintenance and Value of the Normal School Plant at Fayetteville, North Carolina" from 1910, it reported, "In 1908 the school was moved from its rented quarters in Fayetteville to its present home, the same being located less than a mile northwest of the city. The land having been bought and donated to the State by the Principal, upon which, soon afterwards, two brick buildings were erected by the State."

Dr. Smith lived on the campus of the school for the remainder of his life. He and his family shared a cottage with twelve students until the Principal's House was complete in 1923. Dr. Smith lived in the Principal's House, which became known as the President's House in 1927, until his death in 1933. The cottage is no longer standing and the Principal's House currently serves as the Alumni House at Fayetteville State University. The originally frame house has been sheathed with brick veneer on the first story and vinyl siding on the second story. This combined with the replacement of the windows and changes to the porches, has compromised its integrity.

Dr. Ezekiel Ezra (E. E.) Smith was the guiding force behind the growth and development of the State Colored Normal School in Fayetteville. In addition to raising the funds to build the campus Dr. Smith also developed the programs, reputation, and success of the school and the foundation for the later University. He was a savvy businessman accumulating approximately twenty-five houses and lots, one storehouse, sixteen vacant lots, and 240 acres in Cumberland County between 1900 and his death in 1933. Most of the property was near the Normal School and was acquired by him to secure the land for the future of the school. Dr. Smith is considered by Fayetteville citizens as one of the most significant and accomplished African American citizens in Fayetteville's history. A. B. Caldwell wrote of Smith in History of the American Negro in 1921, "Dr. Smith was one of the most useful citizens, brilliant teachers, successful diplomats, loyal and gallant soldiers, popular, liberal, and broad-minded Christian gentlemen, successful pastors, and business men that North Carolina has ever produced."

In recent years, the city of Fayetteville has purchased most of the land surrounding and including the Dr. Smith House for a proposed community redevelopment project. The project will establish a business park

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in the area. While conducting the title and deed research for the purchase of 135 Blount Street, the city discovered its previous ownership by Dr. E. E. Smith. City officials decided to seek National Register nomination, integrate the house into the development project, and preserve the building as tangible evidence of Dr. Smith's life and legacy. The Fayetteville City Council approved funding to hire an architect for the development of a rehabilitation plan and request for proposal. Additional funding will be sought to complete the rehabilitation work which will include removal of later exterior siding, interior paneling, and dropped ceilings.

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Section 10:

Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary that encompasses the Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith House for the purpose of this nomination includes approximately .19 +/- acres identified by a black line outlining tax parcel PIN number 0437-51-2885 on the attached map at a one inch equals 1,200 inches (100 feet) scale.

Boundary Justification: The boundary described above is the land historically associated with the Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith House located at 135 South Blount Street in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

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Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs for the
Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith House

135 South Blount Street, Cumberland County, NC

Photographer: Michelle A. Michael

Date: December 2013

Location of Negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC

1. View of façade (north)
2. Oblique view northwest corner
3. Oblique view southeast corner
4. View of east elevation
5. View of east elevation gable detail
6. Oblique view northeast corner
7. Front porch detail
8. Interior view center stair
9. Interior view first floor parlor fireplace mantel (NW room)
10. Interior view first floor SW room fireplace mantel
11. Interior view second floor northwest room windows
12. Interior view of ell room

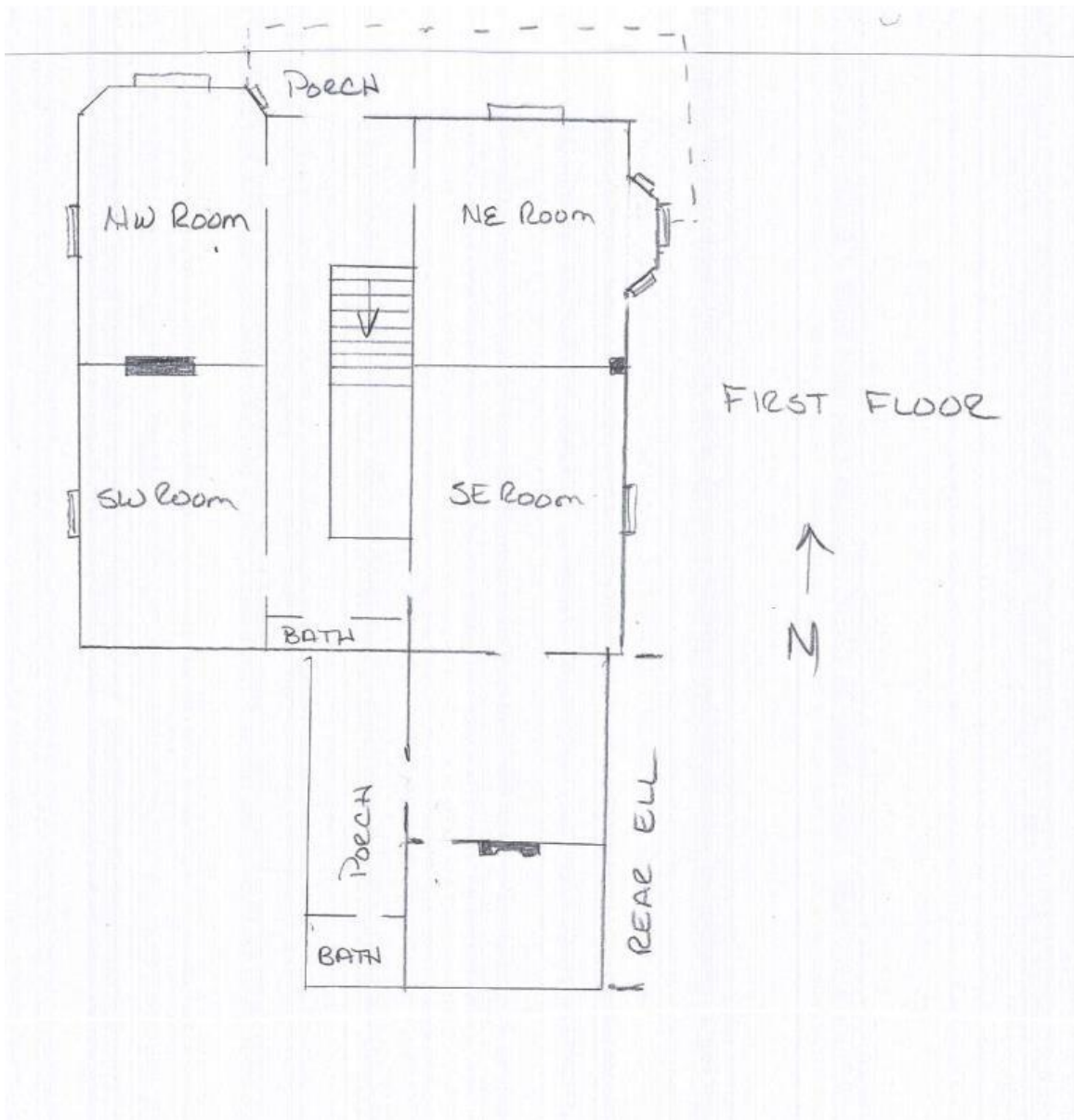
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Floor plans – Not to Scale.



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Floor plans – Not to Scale.

