The Historic Smithwick-Green-Clark House is one of a few surviving early nineteenth century farmhouses in Martin County. Constructed circa 1800 for John Smithwick, it retains much of its original transitional Georgian-Federal character although it has undergone two periods of change.

The first changes occurred in the mid-nineteenth century when the original detached kitchen was moved and a new kitchen ell constructed on the south side of the house. However, it was the changes made during the second remodeling—Colonial Revival phase—made circa 1914 by owner John Mack Green, which changed the structure most. A generous wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns replaced the original front porch, doors with sophisticated elliptical panes and single pane transom replaced the original doors, large one-over-one sash windows were installed on the façade, and a third (final) kitchen ell was constructed on the rear of the house.

Replaced, but not all removed, many of these original elements, such as the nine-over-nine sash windows, can be found in the 1914 addition. Fortunately the earliest portion of the house retains much of its original Georgian-Federal woodwork including eight-raised-panel doors, an original thumb latch and H-and-L hinges, four original mantels, flat-panel wainscot accented with ovolo-molded chair rails and two-part beaded baseboards, an enclosed winder stairway and most of the door surrounds and flooring. In addition to the large wrap-around porch, there is also a smaller screened-in porch. The property includes two early 20th century outbuildings.

In addition to an old well on the site, there is now public water to the property going to the shed behind the house. Several of the older six-over-six and nine-over-nine windows on the back of the house have been repaired. Some removal of outdated cabinetry and appliances has occurred in the kitchen, and painting was begun to the older section of the house. The house still requires a complete rehabilitation, including updated electrical, plumbing and HVAC.

For more information or to make an appointment to see the Smithwick-Green-Clark House, please contact:

Maggie Gregg, Regional Director • 252-482-7455 • mgregg@presnc.org

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Financial Incentives: The Smithwick-Green-Clark House is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places Study List and may be eligible for listing. If listed, it would be eligible for historic preservation tax credits. In North Carolina both state and federal income tax credits are available for the certified rehabilitation of historic structures. For the rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures, a 20% federal income tax credit and a tier based state income tax credit are available. For the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes, certified historic structures (non-income producing properties) a 15% state tax credit is available for rehabilitation expenses up to $150,000. For more information on Historic Preservation Tax Credits, please contact the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office at 919-807-6570 or at www.hpo.ncdcr.gov.

Area Information: Williamston is the county seat of Martin County, which is bordered on the North by the mighty Roanoke River. Blessed with great natural beauty, the county is home to the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge and the Morningstar Nature Refuge. Established in 1774, the area developed friendly towns with historic buildings and tree shaded neighborhoods. The county features many attractions such as Fort Branch, a preserved earthworks Civil War site and St. James Museum, a restored primitive Baptist church. The Senator Bob Martin Agriculture Center, a state-of-the-art show facility, caters to horse shows. Highways 17, 13, and 64 run through the county and Williamston is only 100 miles East of Raleigh the state capital, and 20 miles Northeast of Greenville, home to East Carolina University. For more information about Williamston, visit www.townofwilliamston.com. For more information about Martin County, visit Martin County Travel & Tourism at www.martincountync.com.

Preservation North Carolina is a statewide, private, non-profit membership organization that protects and promotes the architectural heritage of North Carolina. Through its Endangered Properties Program it acquires and sells endangered historic buildings. Preservation North Carolina sells all properties with protective covenants and a rehabilitation agreement to ensure that the historic buildings will be renovated and that they will be protected from demolition and unsympathetic changes in the years to come. For samples of these legal documents visit www.presnc.org/get-help/easements-covenants/.

For general information or to join Preservation NC:

PNC • P.O. Box 21644 • Raleigh, NC 27611-7644 • 919-832-3652 • info@presnc.org • www.PreservationNC.org

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