



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

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Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

December 8, 2000

Ms. E. Renee Ingram
African American Heritage Preservation Foundation
420 Seventh Street N.W., Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Ingram:

At their meeting on December 1, the members of the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Advisory Committee, acting on your proposal, approved a marker for Owen L. W. Smith. The inscription as approved reads:

OWEN L. W. SMITH
1851-1926

U.S. minister to Liberia,
1898-1902; born into
slavery. Pastor, St. John
A.M.E. Zion Church in
Wilson. Lived 1/10 mi. N.

We are proposing to erect the sign at the junction of Nash Street and Pender Street in Wilson. Depending on the availability of funds, we plan to order the marker in about two months. Casting and shipment may require as long as four months so placement likely will not take place until late spring or early summer. The location is subject to review by the Department of Transportation and the city. If you have any questions about the inscription, the location, or when the sign will be erected, please let me know (Ph. 919-733-9375). We particularly wish to verify that the directional line—"lived 1/10 mi. N."—is correct for this location.

Congratulations on the marker.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hill".

Michael Hill, Acting Supervisor
Research Branch

