

**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory  
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

May 28, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelby Reap  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*  
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace Bridge 18 over Cane Creek, B-4813,  
PA 15-01-0023, Sampson County, ER 15-1133

Thank you for your letter of May 19, 2015, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the J. M. Marshburn House (SP0145) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

[mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)

# National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the J.M. Marshburn House for Replacement of Bridge No. 18 Over Cane Creek on SR 1004

Sampson County, North Carolina

TIP No. B-4813  
WBS No. 38583.1.FD2



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.



**National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the J.M. Marshburn House for  
Replacement of Bridge No. 18 Over Cane Creek on SR 1004**

Sampson County, North Carolina

TIP No. B-4813  
WBS No. 38583.1.FD2

Report submitted to:  
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1598

Report prepared by:  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Beth Reed", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mary Beth Reed – Principal Investigator

Ellen Turco – Historian and Co-Author

May 14, 2015 • **Final Report**  
New South Associates Technical Report 2478



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 18 over Cane Creek on SR 1004 (Edmond Matthis Road) in Sampson County (B-4813). In March 2015, NCDOT requested New South Associates, Inc. assess the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the J.M. Marshburn House (SP145) and provide this report.

As a result of this study, New South recommends J.M. Marshburn House not eligible for the NRHP.

Survey Site Number	Resource Name	NHRP Eligibility Recommendations
SP 145	J. M. Mashburn House	Not Eligible



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## **I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 18 over Cane Creek on SR 1004 (Edmond Matthis Road) in Sampson County (B-4813). The bridge is located 0.75 mile southeast of U.S. 421 in Clinton, North Carolina (Figure 1). Pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.4(b), NCDOT identified one architectural resource, the J.M. Marshburn House (SP145), that might be affected by the undertaking. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) extends 700 feet from either end of Bridge No. 18 and 75 feet both east and west from the bridge's centerline.

In March 2015, NCDOT requested that New South Associates, Inc. intensively survey the J.M. Marshburn House and prepare a report assessing the property's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The J.M. Marshburn House was surveyed in 1979 during the Sampson County comprehensive architectural survey.

New South senior architectural historian Ellen Turco visited the J.M. Marshburn House on April 6, 2015. The property was visually inspected, and the exterior and setting was documented through written notes and digital photographs. An on-site interview was conducted with Christopher Mitchell, the current resident and property owner.

The historical development, architecture, and cultural significance of the J.M. Marshburn House was assessed and evaluated within its respective contexts according to the established NRHP criteria.

The results of this intensive-level investigation and NRHP evaluation are presented in the following chapters of this report. This report complies with the basic requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CFR 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations on the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800); and NCDOT's Historic Architectural Resources, Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines.



## II. NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF THE J. M. MARSHBURN HOUSE

Resource Name	J. M. Marshburn House
HPO Survey Site #	SP145
Location	707 Edwin Matthis Road, Clinton, Sampson County
PIN	17020445001
Date(s) of Construction	Circa 1865; circa 1910; circa 2002
Recommendation	Not Eligible for NRHP



### DESCRIPTION

### SETTING

The nineteenth-century J.M. Marshburn House faces north on a one-acre parcel on the south side of Edwin Matthis Road, approximately, 10 miles south of the county seat of Clinton and 0.1 mile west of Bridge No. 18 over Cane Creek. The legal parcel is rectangular in shape. The north property line abuts the right-of-way of Edwin Matthis Road. The remaining three sides of the parcel touch larger 77- and 257-acre parcels owned by descendants of J.M. Marshburn. The land around the house is planted in timber with a few cultivated fields to the south and southeast.

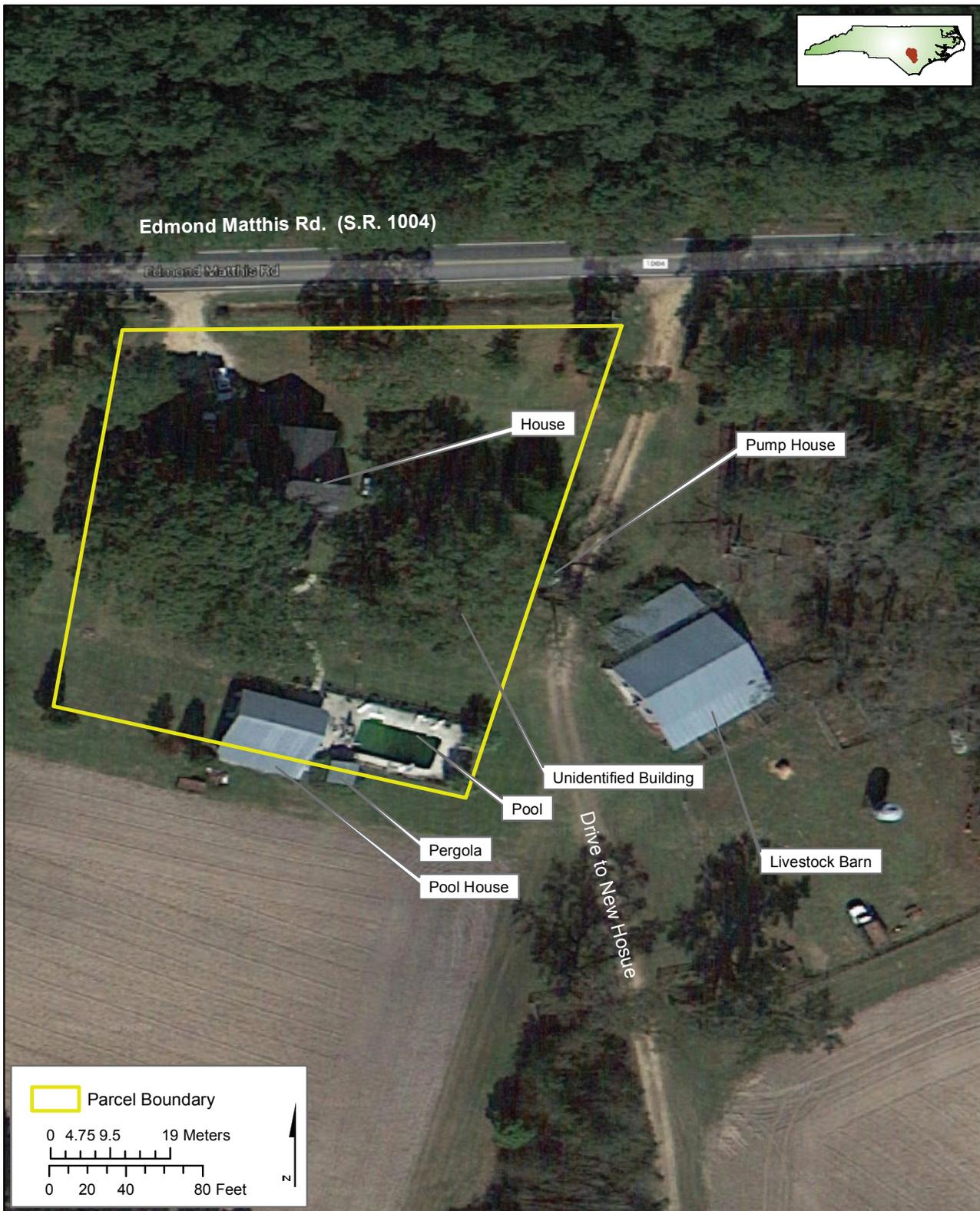
The J.M. Marshburn House parcel is level and cleared (Figure 2). The dwelling faces north and is situated approximately at the center of the parcel (Figure 3). On Edwin Matthis Road is an unpaved driveway that leads to an undefined parking area at the northwest corner of the house. Several large oak and pecan trees shade the house and smaller ornamental plantings on the lot include dogwood and cedar trees. No nineteenth-century outbuildings remain on the parcel; however, a circa 1940 livestock barn associated with the house is located west of the dwelling on a separate legal parcel (Figure 4). On the east side of the parcel are two small gabled, metal-roofed buildings

Figure 1. Project Location, APE and Location of J. M. Marshburn House



Source: ESRI Resource Data

Figure 2. Site Plan



Source: ESRI Resource Data



*Figure 3. Front (North) Side*



*Figure 4. Livestock Barn, Southwest Side*



*Figure 5. Pump House*



*Figure 6. CMU Building of Unknown Function*

constructed of concrete masonry units. One building is a pump house and the other's function was not determined (Figures 5 and 6). At the southeast corner of the lot is a rectangular in-ground swimming pool with a concrete deck, a frame gabled pool house, and frame pergola that were all built by the current owner around 2002 (Figure 7). The rear yard and pool are enclosed by a four-foot high wood picket fence. A concrete walkway runs from the house to the pool area.

*J.M. Marshburn House; Circa 1865; 2002*

The J.M. Marshburn House is a frame one-and-half story, three-bay, double-pile Greek Revival-style house with a large front gabled porch (Figure 8). This house, with its side gable and intersecting gabled porch, is a localized form of the Greek Revival style found mainly in the southeastern area of North Carolina. The house consists of three sections: the 1860 main block, the 1910 one-story gabled rear ell, and a 2002 rear addition that wraps around east and south walls of the ell (Figures 9-12).

All three sections of the house are sheathed in vinyl siding, which covers the plain wood weatherboards visible on the main block and ell in the 1978 survey file. The vinyl obscures the original window trim, corner pilasters, and wide, plain frieze board that ran along the front and rear elevations. The windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement sashes, with the exception of a band of original 1910 three-over-six windows on the west side of the ell. The roof is covered with composition shingles and the two original projecting central chimneys have been removed. The historic brick piers of the foundation have been infilled with composite masonry units that have been parged with concrete.

The remaining decorative detail is minimal. The gable ends of the main block and porch have matching boxed returns (Figure 13). Four square posts with flared caps support a plain architrave (Figure 14). Identical pilasters are situated at each end of the porch on the north wall of the house. The porch retains its arched ornamental matchstick frieze, although it is deteriorated in places (Figure 15). The original porch balustrade consists of a molded handrail and square pickets fit into a square bottom rail. The centrally placed five-panel entry door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom, each made up of equally sized rectangular panes (Figure 16). The porch floor and stairs have been recently rebuilt with treated wood decking.

The interior was not accessed during the survey.

## **HISTORY**

J. Madison "Matt" Marshburn (1844-1924) built this Greek Revival-style house shortly after the Civil War. Marshburn married Mary J.F. "Fleetie" Matthis (1849-1940) in 1869 (U.S. Census Bureau 1900). The U.S. Census of 1880 listed the couple residing in Taylors Bridge



*Figure 7. Pool Looking West. Pool House in Background; Pergola Right of Frame.*



*Figure 8. North (Front) Side*



*Figure 9. West Side*



*Figure 10. South and West Sides*



Figure 11. South Side (Rear)



Figure 12. East Side



*Figure 13. East Gable End Return*



*Figure 14. Porch Detail Showing Square Post and Matchstick Frieze*



*Figure 15. East End of Porch Showing Matchstick Frieze*



*Figure 16. Entry Door Under Front Porch*

Township, he as a “farmer” and she “keeping house,” with their three children: Thankful (age 10), Ida (age 8) and Maram (age 5). Around 1881, another daughter, Mattie, was born (U.S. Census Bureau 1900). Mattie Marshburn married Raymond Chestnut Peterson around 1909 and the couple resided in the house built by Mattie’s parents (Butchko 1979). By 1930, Mattie’s mother, Mary, was alive and living with the couple and their teenage children, Bernice, John T., and Mary (U.S. Census Bureau 1930). John T. Peterson inherited the family home, which included the house and an undetermined number of acres. Upon his death in 1993, his daughter and son, Jonsie Peterson Houseman and James M. Peterson, inherited five tracts containing over 600 acres. In 1994, Jonsie Houseman and John T. Peterson transferred the land to a family-owned holding company, The Taylor’s Bridge, LLC. Much of the area around the J.M. Marshburn House remains under Peterson’s ownership, either privately or through the holding company (Sampson County Register of Deeds 1994:554). Sometime prior to 1987, the family, most likely John T. Peterson, sold a 1.15-acre lot fronting Edmond Matthis Road containing the J.M. Marshburn House to Mitchell and Lynetta Carter. The Carters lost the property to foreclosure and the property was subsequently purchased by Christopher and Brenda Mitchell in 2002 (Christopher Mitchell, personal communication 2015).

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

The circa 1865 M.T. Marshburn House is patterned on a form seen regionally in southeastern North Carolina. It has been called by historians the “front-gable form” although the term “front-gable” actually refers to the dominant, almost full width porches which were appended to a basic one-and-half story, three bay, double pile block. Historian Tom Butchko wrote that the characteristic porch was a vernacular adaptation of the temple-form porches of high style Greek Revival architecture (Butchko n.d.:25). In Sampson County, where more than twenty examples of the gable-front porch form were included in the comprehensive architectural survey publication, this form was popular amongst the upper middle-class from the 1840s through the 1900s. It was seen as a practical canvas on which to project current tastes in architecture. In the 1850s 1860s, and 1870s, Greek Revival-influenced trim, such as corner pilasters, pedimented porches, dentilated and bracketed cornices, peaked window hoods, and sidelight-and-transom entries. Lattice or matchstick porch friezes, such as the one that survives on the J.M. Marshburn House, cleverly imparted a sense of ornate detail through the assembly of simple geometrical parts. In later decades, fanciful Victorian sawn work and turned trim was employed.

One excellent and intact example of the gable front porch form is the circa 1870 Livingston Oates farm (SP44) northeast of Clinton. This 1986 NRHP nomination form calls the house the largest and finest example of its type in Sampson County (Butchko and Sumner 1979:7.0). The dwelling possesses the form’s characteristic massing and its porch has boxed gable returns, turned balusters, and a lattice frieze. Also notable for their quality and integrity is the circa 1850 Francis Pugh

House east of Clinton (SP51; NRHP-listed 1986) and the circa 1965 Marcheston Killet Farm south of Clinton (SP30; NRHP-listed 1986). The low-pitched porch roof and the Doric capitals of the Pugh house reflect its status as earliest example of the front-gable porch form in Sampson County (Butchko and Sumner 1985:8.0). The Killet House “illustrates the form’s highest degree of Victorian embellishment” with a fully pedimented porch with an ornate bracketed frieze, entry surround, and window hoods (Butchko and Sumner 1979:8.26). Unfortunately, two NRHP-listed front-gable porch dwellings have been lost: the Owen family Home (SP180) and the Pigford House (SP25).

## **INTEGRITY**

While the J.M. Marshburn House retains its original gable-front porch form, its workmanship and materials are less intact. The house has undergone a number of changes since 2002, the most significant of which is the covering of the original weatherboard siding with vinyl. The vinyl also obscures details such as the eave boxing, corner pilasters and window trim. The original windows have been removed and replaced with one-over-one vinyl sashes and the chimneys have been deconstructed. Overall, these changes have a negative effect on the property’s design, materials, and workmanship. Alterations such as the infilling of the pier foundation and construction of the rear addition are less significant detractions.

The house remains on its original site; however, no significant agricultural or domestic outbuildings were identified, and the property as a whole does not convey a strong sense of setting, feeling or association with an agricultural past. The swimming pool and associated structures are more appropriate for a suburban setting.

## **EVALUATION**

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The J.M. Marshburn House was not found to be associated with any such events or historical trends. The house was the seat of a family-owned farm in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Not much is known about the scope of farming undertaken, and there are no significant agricultural outbuilding or landscape features that illustrate farming practices in Sampson County. *Therefore, the J.M. Marshburn House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.*

Research conducted for this project did not identify members of the Marshburn family as significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. *Therefore, the J.M. Marshburn House is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.*

Properties may be eligible under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a

type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The J.M. Marshburn House is a three-bay, double-pile Greek Revival-style house with a projecting front gabled porch. Upper middle-class families of southeastern North Carolina employed this form in the mid-nineteenth century, but it persisted in Sampson County through the 1910s. A number of them survive in the county, in various architectural styles and in various levels of condition. At least three have been listed on the NRHP. The J.M. Marshburn House is not a particularly well-preserved example of its type due to a number of alterations, the most adverse being the vinyl siding and replacement windows. It does not compare well with the NRHP-listed properties. *Therefore, J.M. Marshburn House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.*

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews and documentary sources. *Therefore, the J.M. Marshburn is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.*

## REFERENCES CITED

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