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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name Lone Pine
   other names/site number ED 453

2. Location
   street & number SR 1207, S of US 64
   city, town Tarboro
   state North Carolina code NC county Edgecombe code 065
   zip code 27886

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   [ ] private
   [ ] public-local
   [ ] public-State
   [x] public-Federal
   Category of Property
   [x] building(s)
   [ ] district
   [ ] site
   [ ] structure
   [ ] object
   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing 9
   Noncontributing buildings 5
   site 1
   structures 5
   objects 3
   Total 9
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official
   State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date 9-21-97
   In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of commenting or other official
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date

5. 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
Situated five miles west of the Town of Tarboro on SR 1207, Lone Pine Farm consists of 180.63 acres, most of which are cultivated fields. The property is bordered by SR 1207 on the east, a CSX Transportation railroad right-of-way on the south, and Raccoon Branch on the west. On the property near Raccoon Branch are some marl beds, once used to fertilize the cultivated fields. The main house, simply known as Lone Pine, is a substantial and intact example of the mid-19th century Greek Revival house. It is surrounded by 15 acres of land comprised of yard, horse pastures, and gardens, including remains of a simple formal garden directly behind the house. In fashion typical of rural farmsteads in Edgecombe County, the house stands amid a sizable grove of mature oaks which create a handsome visual backdrop.

Stately and impressive in form and size, the house, Lone Pine, is simple and straightforward in detailing which diminishes towards the rear of the structure. Clad in weatherboard siding, the house is a rectangular two-story, frame structure with a hipped tin roof pierced by two interior chimneys. Pairs of simple, sawn brackets support a plain box cornice, showing a bit of Italianate influence. Four pairs grace the front, east facade, dwindling to two pairs on the side facades, and leaving the rear cornice plain and unadorned. The front facade is five bays wide with the outer bays paired; all windows consist of double-hung 4/4 sash. Beneath a hipped tetrastyle portico with large chamfered posts, a heavy-proportioned six-panel front door with sidelights and a three-light transom leads inside. Upper windows on the side and rear elevations are 6/6 sash, while the lower side windows are 9/9.

Four main rooms are symmetrically arranged around a central hall. There, a straight-run stair with tapered, spindle balusters and a large turned newel post rises to four upstairs rooms. Doors throughout are four-panel, while mantels are all simple post-and-lintel designs. Door surrounds in the hall consist of simple moldings, while their counterparts within the rear rooms are plainer yet, made of post-and-lintel configurations of square-cut boards with no applied molding. The rear door, aligned with the front door, has four panels but is supplied with slightly simpler trim. The dining room is furnished with twin glass-front china cabinets flanking the fireplace; the cabinetry echoes the substantial but unadorned quality of the other woodwork.
The dwelling exhibits good-quality workmanship and integrity, showing no evidence that it has in fact been dismantled and reconstructed. The original structure has been well preserved, though some alterations were made over the years to increase space and add conveniences. The most significant alteration was the addition (ca.1892) of the rear attached kitchen, once an outbuilding. A screened side porch was attached to the south wall in the 1940s, and the original rear porch was partially sacrificed to accommodate a bathroom. The rear of the upstairs hall has also been enclosed to house a bathroom.

The property includes seven other contributing buildings. In the southeast corner of the tract, a deteriorating board-and-batten tenant house (#9; ca.1880s) stands, reflecting a traditional two-room house form found in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is a four-bay, gable-roofed house with a center chimney and simple attached porch. Weatherboarded shed rooms have been added to the rear. A similar but abandoned dwelling remains near the southwest corner of the tract, although it is entirely weatherboarded with a rear ell and rear shed rooms (#6, ca.1880s). This dwelling is surrounded by pecan trees planted by William S. Battle in the 1890s.

Due west of the main house are two more tenant houses sharing the same vernacular characteristics as those described above. One (#5) is weatherboarded with a central chimney and originally stood directly behind the main structure, but was moved to its present site in the 1940s. (Though typical of a tenant house in the late nineteenth century, the owners hold that this building and tenant house #2 were on the property before the main house was moved to its present site.) The other house (#4; ca.1880s) is clad in board and batten siding with two end chimneys. Its porch has disappeared. Near these houses stand a non-contributing modern building (#11; ca.1984) and a mobile home (#12; ca.1972).

Directly behind the main house is a typical 20th-century barn (#3; Non-contributing, ca.1948) with shed addition, built from the remains of the farm's main pack house. To the northwest stands a plainly-finished tenant house (#2). This 19th c. two-bay, board-and-batten dwelling has served as the cook's house and later as a hog workroom. A small log dairy house (#10) to the north of the dwelling, while exhibiting typical vernacular features, dates only from the 1930s and is non-contributing.

The property retains two frame tobacco barns (#7, #8; ca.1930), which represent standard vernacular agricultural structures and thus contribute to the property. Most of the land, except for the 15 acres near the main house, consists of cultivated fields, still providing an agricultural livelihood as it has for over a century. The 180.63 acres are classified as a 'site' since they retain an appearance close to their appearance during the period of significance: 1860-1932.

Due south of the main house is a non-contributing log dwelling (#13) built in approximately 1938.
Lone Pine Plantation Resources Count: (keyed to sketch map)

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Lone Pine</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Tenant House</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Barn</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Tenant House</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Tenant House</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Tobacco Barn</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Tobacco Barn</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Tenant House</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Dairy</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Modern Bldg.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Mobile Home</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Log House</td>
<td>NC</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Site</td>
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Lone Pine Farm is a significant reflection of agricultural, socio-economic, and architectural trends in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, during the period 1860-1932. From 1860, when Joseph Wimberly purchased the farm's initial 86 acres and located a previously constructed house there, until the early twentieth century, its owners and their tenants focused their labor on cotton, a mainstay of the economy in a county known throughout the South for its excellence in scientific agricultural techniques and cotton production. Two of Lone Pine's owners during this period distinguished themselves as advocates of modern farming methods. As tobacco's importance as a staple crop grew in Eastern North Carolina and Edgecombe County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Lone Pine also began producing this crop. Tobacco gradually replaced cotton as the principal money crop at Lone Pine, as in Edgecombe County, bringing the farm's owners a measure of prosperity until the Great Depression of the 1930s drastically lowered commodity prices and threatened their ownership of the property. The dwelling, an unusually well-preserved, two-story, double-pile house with a hip roof and central hall, built before 1860, exemplifies vernacular adaptations of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles prevalent in Edgecombe County during much of the two decades before the Civil War. Other structures at Lone Pine, including tenant houses, tobacco barns, and a twentieth-century frame barn, are tangible evidence of the transitions through which the farm evolved.
The dwelling at Lone Pine Farm has been located on its present site since about 1860. On June 30 of that year Joseph W. Wimberly purchased from his uncle, Dr. Joseph J. W. Powell, eighty-six acres of land on the south side of the Tar River, about four miles west of Tarboro, Edgecombe County's seat of government. The land adjoined Powell's Coolmore Plantation (NR), one of the most prosperous in Edgecombe County. The thirty-one-year-old Wimberly, who had just been married, owned no other real estate at the time of his acquisition of Powell's property. Family tradition holds that Wimberly dismantled a house located on property at Bell's Bridge, formerly owned by Francis H. Knight, a successful farmer, but at that time in the possession of Powell. Wimberly is said to have reconstructed the house on his newly acquired property, located about two miles southwest of the structure's original site.

Wimberly's home was typical of many of those constructed during the 1840s and 1850s by Edgecombe County's prosperous farmers. A few houses featured popular Greek Revival motifs found in pattern books, as evidenced by Elias Carr's Bracebridge Hall (NR) and Cotton Valley, both of which reflect the designs of Asher Benjamin. Much more common, however, were vernacular adaptations of these designs, popularized by local builders. These structures, like Wimberly's house, had plain, box-like forms. Shallow hip roofs supplanted the gable roof as the preferred style, causing houses to take on a horizontal appearance. Inside, the traditional hall-and-parlor plan gave way to the central hall; two-story houses featured staircases rising from the central hall. Heavy, plain woodwork and post-and-lintel mantels appeared in houses throughout the county. During the 1850s, as the Italianate style found favor, roofs with wide overhangs supported by brackets appeared in some rural dwellings. Although Powell's Coolmore, designed by Baltimore architect E. G. Lind, was the finest example, less elaborate houses, like that built by John A. Vines, were more common. Wimberly's house epitomized these trends.

Prosperity unparalleled in Edgecombe County's history had provided farmers the means to construct these stylish, if plain, dwellings. During the 1840s and 1850s, Edgecombe County acquired a reputation as one of the most progressive and productive agricultural counties in the South. Such early proponents of scientific farming as James S. Battle and Exum Lewis had begun to improve their soil by conscientiously applying marl and compost. Found in swampy areas or along the banks of waterways, marl contained lime. When used in conjunction with ditch bank soil, ashes, cotton seed, manure, or other forms of compost, the marl dramatically improved the productivity of the soil. Edmund Ruffin, the noted Virginia advocate of scientific farming, described the trend in a report published in 1861. Edgecombe County's principal crops, cotton and corn, benefitted from these techniques. In 1859 Edgecombe County produced about 13% of North Carolina's entire cotton crop, far outstripping...
its nearest rival, neighboring Halifax County. Those who profited from this trend included Robert Norfleet and John S. Dancy, whose Panola Plantation, located on the Tar River just east of Tarboro, was reputed to be one of the best-managed cotton plantations in the south.\(^6\)

These planters also enjoyed improved access to markets for their crops. Beginning about 1840, the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, which skirted the western edge of Edgecombe County and passed through Rocky Mount, supplemented the steamboat service on the Tar River. An extension of the railroad, completed in 1860, linked Tarboro with Rocky Mount, the site of a cotton factory established in 1818 by the Battle family. The railroad also made it easier for planters to ship cotton to Petersburg.\(^7\)

Although Joseph Wimberly's farm in 1860 was considerably smaller than the average Edgecombe County farm of 390 acres, its location made it an attractive piece of property. Wimberly's uncle, Joseph J. W. Powell, had inherited marl beds in the vicinity during the 1850s. The land also lay near the extension of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.\(^8\)

The Civil War disrupted the steady improvements of the antebellum period and caused economic difficulties, but agriculture remained the mainstay of Edgecombe County's economy. Overproduction and falling prices after the war hurt farmers, and financial difficulties continued to plague them throughout the century. Farmers in Edgecombe County continued to depend on cotton as a cash crop. Instead of slaves, however, they increasingly depended on tenants for labor, usually on farms much smaller in size than earlier. Both of these factors retarded economic development.\(^9\)

Although farsighted farmers called for diversification and a shift from dependence on cotton as a staple crop, it was not until the late nineteenth century that significant changes occurred. Between 1880 and 1900, farmers in Edgecombe County embraced tobacco as a lucrative investment. The trend continued well into the twentieth century, with tobacco emerging as the principal money crop by the 1920s. Some farmers also raised corn, peanuts, and truck crops.\(^10\)

Wimberly's property reflected many of these circumstances during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Wimberly declared bankruptcy in 1868, and John S. Dancy purchased the farm at a public sale the same year.\(^11\) One of the most progressive farmers in the county, Dancy and another agriculturist, James R. Thigpen, founded The Reconstructed Farmer in 1869 as a monthly journal devoted to improving agricultural conditions in the South.\(^12\) The property passed from Dancy to Benjamin T. Hart in 1870, who in turn sold it to William Warren. In 1873 Warren purchased an additional 100 acres adjoining the property of Joseph J. W. Powell's heirs and bounded
by the Tarboro branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. This land contained marl beds suitable for use in fertilizing crops. By this time, the size of the farm, 186 acres, was typical of the average farm in Edgecombe County. Likewise, its owners continued to grow cotton as a cash crop.

After litigation between a subsequent owner and H. L. Staton, the property became more stable. Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Battle purchased the farm in 1892 and received title to it two years later. Mrs. Battle and her husband, William Smith Battle, son of prominent planter James Smith Battle, moved there after declaring bankruptcy. William S. Battle’s financial reverses after the Civil War had resulted in the loss of extensive farmland, known as among the most productive in Edgecombe County, as well as his cotton factory at Rocky Mount. The Battles named their new home Lone Pine.

Utilizing tenant labor, Battle and his heirs maintained Lone Pine as a working farm. Like most farmers in the area, they supplemented production of cotton with crops of tobacco, but increasingly during the twentieth century placed emphasis on the latter crop. They also grew corn, and ground some of it themselves for use as corn meal. The tenant houses and tobacco barns that remain on the farm bear witness to these trends, just as they do on farms throughout Edgecombe County.

The relative prosperity that tobacco brought to Edgecombe County's farmers abruptly ended with the advent of the Great Depression in the early 1930s. Farmers throughout the county lost their property. The Virginia-Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank foreclosed on loans to the Battle family at Lone Pine in 1932, and the farm was sold at public auction. Elizabeth Dancy and Margaret Maud Battle, granddaughters of William S. Battle, purchased the farm's 190 acres. Four years later they divided the farm with two other siblings, Helen Battle Broe and Allard Anthony Battle.

Lone Pine Farm remains in the possession of William S. Battle's descendants and is still under cultivation. In a day when agriculture is becoming an increasingly less important factor in the local economy and many rural dwellings have been abandoned, Lone Pine Farm and the dwelling on it are tangible, well-preserved reminders of Edgecombe County's rich agricultural tradition.
1. Joseph J. W. Powell to Joseph W. Wimberly, June 30, 1860, Edgecombe County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Book 28, p. 558, hereinafter cited as Edgecombe County Deeds; Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, [148], microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Janie F. Allsbrook Local History Collection, Edgecombe County Memorial Library, Tarboro, N. C., hereinafter cited as Eighth Census, 1860; author's interview with Mrs. Margaret Battle Lewis, Lone Pine Farm, April 10, 1987 (notes on interview in possession of the author), hereinafter cited as Lewis interview. Hereinafter, the library cited above will be designated ECML.

2. Eighth Census, 1860, 87.

3. Lewis interview; Eighth Census, 1860, 169. According to Margaret Battle Lewis, her grandfather, William S. Battle--a lifelong resident of Edgecombe County who moved to Lone Pine in 1892--showed another of his granddaughters the former site of the house at Bell's Bridge. Deed references add credence to the oral tradition. See Francis H. Knight to William J. Staton, September 3, 1859, Book 28, p. 237, Edgecombe County Deeds; William J. Staton to Joseph J. W. Powell, October 5, 1859, Book 28, p. 238, Edgecombe County Deeds.


8. Will of Richard Harrison, Edgecombe County Wills, Book G, 125, microfilm copy, ECML.


10. Watson, Edgecombe County, 91-92.


12. Watson, Edgecombe County, 91.


17. Lewis interview; Taves, "Rural Architectural Heritage," 24-36; John D. Battle to Nellie and Frances Battle, October 27, 1896, Kemp Plummer Battle to William S. Battle, November 5, 1910, Allard Anthony Battle to Margaret Battle, June 7, 1918, J.A.P. and A.L.P. to Mrs. Octave Battle, January 6, 1931, all in the possession of Mrs. Margaret Battle Lewis, Lone Pine Farm; Daily Southerner (Tarboro), March 26, 1929.
Battle Family Papers. In possession of Margaret Battle Lewis, Lone Pine Farm, Edgecombe County, N. C.

Daily Southerner (Tarboro).

Edgecombe County Deeds. Office of the Register of Deeds, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, N. C.

Edgecombe County Wills, Janie Allsbrook Local History Collection, Edgecombe County Memorial Library, Tarboro, N. C.


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
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:
☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:
☐ State Historic Preservation Office, Survey & Planning Branch, Raleigh, N.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 180.63

UTM References

A: Zone Easting Northing
1 216 15 8 16 10
3 1 1 7 1 1 0 1 0

B: Zone Easting Northing
1 2 1 6 1 4 4 1 3 0
3 1 9 1 7 2 1 8 0 1

C: Zone Easting Northing
1 2 1 6 1 4 6 0 1 0
3 1 9 1 7 6 0 1 0

D: Zone Easting Northing
1 2 1 6 1 5 0 1 0 1
3 1 9 1 7 6 0 1 0

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is shown as Parcel No. 8 and 53 on the accompanying Edgecombe County Tax Map No. 140, Scale 1" = 400'

Boundary Justification

The boundaries chosen for the Lone Pine nomination are based on the 1873 acreage at the present site. This tract remains a single tract today, and includes the tenant houses, tobacco barns, fields, and woodland which approximate their appearance during the period of significance. The 180.63 acres are a necessary component of the nomination in order to portray the farm as it functioned up to 1932.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren Brook-Taves/preservation consultant & Maurice C. York/Historical consultant
organization N/A
date May 19, 1987
street & number 414 E. Church Street
telephone 919-823-3053
city or town Tarboro
state North Carolina
zip code 27886
Lewis, Margaret Battle. Interview, April 10, 1987, Lone Pine Farm, Edgecombe County, N. C.


United States Census. Microfilm of manuscript records, 1860-1880, Janie F. Allsbrook Local History Collection, Edgecombe County Memorial Library, Tarboro, N. C.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the Northwest intersection of Teat's Road and the Atlantic Coast Line right-of-way; running thence along the road the following courses and distances, viz: North 21 1/2 deg. West 1,000 feet; North 31 deg. West 1,000 feet; North 19 deg. West 1,000 feet; North 21 deg. West 700 feet; North 29 deg. West 281 feet to a point on the road at a point; thence along a hedgerow South 66 deg. 35' West 1,016 feet; thence South 2 deg. 25' West 2,508 feet; thence South 77 deg. West 1,285 feet to a branch; then with the branch the following courses and distances; South 21 deg. West 238 feet; South 50 deg. West 186 feet; South 23 deg. West 352 feet; South 54 deg. West 227 feet; South 25 deg. West 240 feet to the right-of-way of the A.C.L.R.R. Co., thence therewith South 80 deg. 30' East 4,590 feet to the beginning.
LONE PINE

Tarboro Quad
N.C.
1:24,000 Zone 18

A 265860/3977100
B 264480/3977260
C 264600/3977600
D 265080/3977600
E 265030/3978360
F 265140/3978240
G 265140/3978330
H 265190/3978360

Radio Tower (WCPS)
County Home Cem