

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Elias Brendle Monteith House and Outbuildings

Dillsboro, Jackson County, JK0376, Listed 8/13/2008

Nomination by Sybil Argintar

Photographs by Sybil Argintar, January 2007



Overall front view



Rear of house and wash house/cannery

**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 Monteith, Elias Brendle, House and Outbuildings

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 111 Hometown Place Road not for publication N/A

city or town Dillsboro vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28725

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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Monteith, Elias Brendle, House and Outbuildings
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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>9</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>6</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
-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling
Domestic secondary structure
Agriculture/subsistence storage
Agriculture/subsistence horticultural facility
Agriculture/subsistence animal facility
Agriculture/subsistence agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: vacant/not in use Sub: _____
Domestic single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood
roof tin
walls wood
other asphalt

Narrative Description

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

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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.)

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.

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1908

Significant Dates

ca. 1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Areas of Significance

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 16.27 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 296270 3916620
2 17 296240 3916430

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 296070 3916430
4 17 295760 3916410
 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 Sybil H. Argintar

organization Southeastern Preservation Services date April 1, 2008

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 230-3773

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. 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 Town of Dillsboro c/o Jean Hartbarger, mayor

street & number P.O. Box 1088 telephone (828) 586-5244

city or town Dillsboro state NC zip code 28725

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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Monteith, Elias Brendle, House and Outbuildings
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Summary

The Elias Brendle Monteith House and outbuildings is located within the town limits of Dillsboro, North Carolina, in Jackson County, roughly sixty miles west of Asheville, North Carolina. Bounded by Scotts Creek on the north and west, Highway 23 to the south, and newer commercial properties to the east, the undeveloped fertile flatland and rolling hills of the property retains its original outbuildings, except the garage, and all of the original acreage associated with the house. Additional adjacent land to the east known as Monteith Cove was purchased in 1921 by Elias Brendle Monteith, but is not part of this nomination. When Highway 23, located to the east of the property, was completed in 1939 this divided the later landholding from the original portion of Monteith's property containing the house and outbuildings. The railroad roughly bisects the property in a northeast-southwest direction, and State Road 1381 (formerly Highway 10) parallels the railroad through a portion of the property. Part of the family's operations not related to the farm, but located within the original acreage associated with the house, included a gas station to the northeast that was later turned into a residence with associated outbuildings in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and is still occupied by renters.

Inventory List

1. Elias Brendle Monteith House. Contributing. ca. 1908

The Elias Brendle Monteith House sits roughly in the center of the property, facing southeast towards the railroad tracks, and is surrounded by several outbuildings which were used primarily for the self-sufficient lifestyle of the family that took place there from the time the house was built ca. 1908, until the youngest daughter in the family, Edith Irene Monteith, died in 2001.¹ Most of these outbuildings, including the greenhouse, two outhouses, three storage sheds, a spring house, and a wash house and cannery, are clustered around the immediate vicinity of the house, with one building, possibly a slaughterhouse, located further away, to the northeast near the creek. The barn is located to the southeast across the railroad tracks. Up the hill to the northeast of the main house is a smaller house (the former gas station) and three additional outbuildings, which were added at a later time to the Monteith family holdings and used as rental property.

The land comprising the Monteith Farmstead consists today of a series of gently rolling fields, with some newer gravel driveways and informal parking areas located to the south of the barn which were added by the Town of Dillsboro in recent months for access to the property. The land in documentary photos included more forested areas. The original Highway 10, now SR 1381, which, when it was built prior to the 1940s, ran through the center of the property, is paved partway into the property, with the original grass-covered roadbed visible as it continues up the hill to the northeast. When Highway 23 was built in

¹The first documented time that the family was known to be living on the property was 1910, from census records of the same date. However, ca. 1908 is used as the construction date since the land was purchased in 1907 and local residents who knew Edna and Edith Monteith state that Edna maintained she was born in the house in 1908.

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1939, Highway 10 became obsolete, and the construction of Highway 23 slightly altered the land visible to the east of the nominated property as embankments were created for the roadbed.

This two-and-one-half-story, front-gable-roof Craftsman-style house with exposed rafter ends and knee braces was completed ca. 1908 and is a double-pile form with a center hall plan. The house is covered in painted, beveled weatherboard. Windows are single, paired, and triple four-vertical-lights-over-one. The three first-floor exterior doors, on the façade, and the east and west elevations, are four-vertical-lights-over-panel. Only the exterior door on the second story porch of the facade has sidelights. The roof retains its original scallop-pattern tin shingle covering, and there is one interior brick chimney, with a concrete block stack added in the present kitchen in the 1920s. There is an eight-foot-deep porch on four sides, with battered posts set on square wood piers, which, while not documented fully, may have been added later.² The foundation of the first floor porch is concrete, with cedar posts supporting the main portion of the house.

The front, or southern elevation, has a central second-story porch, approximately thirteen feet by seven feet, with a hip roof, battered posts and a solid balustrade. The door opening onto this porch is four-vertical-lights-over-panel with sidelights. On the first floor of the facade, double and triple windows are located on either side of the door, with single windows flanking the door on the second story porch. There is a double window centered above the porch. On the west elevation, double windows flank the door on the first floor, and there are two double windows on the second floor. The rear, or north elevation, has two single and one double window on the first floor, three single windows on the second, and a double window at the attic level. The east elevation has one double window and two single windows flanking the door on the first floor, and a center double window flanked by single windows on the second floor.

The Monteith House is almost square in its footprint, approximately thirty-six feet wide and thirty-three feet deep. The inside of the house is simple in plan, with rooms opening off of a central hall (see Exhibit A, architectural drawings). All walls and ceilings throughout the house are beaded board, with the boards running in a horizontal pattern on the walls. Floors throughout the house are the original wood tongue-and-groove, with many of the rooms retaining their original oil cloth coverings in the center of the floor. Doors throughout the house are five-panel, and there are closets located in several of the rooms.

On the first floor, there are four rooms, with the two rooms on the west side of the house sharing the chimney. There is a simple wood mantel with a narrow shelf in the southernmost room on this side of the house, and a modern brick surround in the northernmost room which replaces the original mantel. There is a bath at the end of the hallway, likely added in the 1920s.³ The kitchen, located at the northeast corner

² According to an interview of Hazel and Cecil Barker by Sam Hale dated January 17, 2006, the porch was added in the 1920s.

³ It appears most new work on the house happened in the early to mid-1920s. This appears to be when the porch was added and some modern conveniences were put in the house. Elias Brendle Monteith also was deeded an

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of the house, appears to date from the 1920s, based on the fixture styles and cabinetry. There is a vertical beaded board wainscot in the first floor hallway and the two front rooms. The open string stair railing, running in a north-south direction, is a simple design with a beveled newel post and a rounded hand rail.

The second floor has two bedrooms to the west and three to the east, with a bath at the end of the hall added in the 1920s. Like on the first floor, there is a vertical beaded board wainscot in the hallway and in the bath, but not in any of the remaining rooms. At the south end of the second floor hall is a door opening onto the second story porch.

Stairs with an enclosed balustrade lead from the second floor to the attic space. The attic space is divided into two main rooms on either end of the central hallway, with two hall closets and an additional closet in the southernmost bedroom. Walls and ceilings have the same horizontal beaded board finish as elsewhere in the house.

2. Wash House and Cannery. Contributing. ca. 1908 and ca. 1940.

This building, facing southwest, and located northeast of the main house, was originally used as a wash house and cannery. It appears to have originally been just one story, with the second story added later. The front-gable-roof building with a standing seam metal roof and exposed rafter ends and beams is stone on the first floor, with a stone foundation, and weatherboard above, with single six-over-six windows flanking the three-vertical-lights-over-panel door on the facade. Additional single six-over-six windows are located on the first floor, with one additional window on the southwest and northeast elevations of the second story. There is a single brick chimney at the rear. Inside, the building has washing troughs still located in the floor, original wood floors, exposed stone walls on the lower level, and exposed ceiling structure. The open-stringer stairs to the second floor are located in the northern corner of the building. The walls on the second floor are flush board, with exposed ceiling structure. While not fully documented, the additional space on the second floor was used for storage and additional canning operations.

3. Storage Shed/Spring House. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located northwest of the main house and the largest of the farm outbuildings, this tall one-story, shed-roof structure with a corrugated metal roof and vertical flush board siding appears to have been used primarily for storage. There are several vertical board hinged openings on the southeast side, with one larger door at the southernmost corner. The foundation of the building is partially wood set on the ground and partially concrete block. The interior, with exposed ceiling structure and flush board walls, is divided in two, with the southeastern portion divided into several small partitioned areas, one of which still contains coal. The northwest half of the building is one large room with shelves and evidence of some storage for canning supplies. On the south side is a smaller one-story shed-roof stone wing with a six-

additional forty-two acres to the east in 1921, indicating the family must have been doing well economically in this time period.

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light casement window which may have been used as a spring house or for some sort of cold storage. At the northeast corner of the building is a shed-roof addition with two open storage areas.

4. Storage Shed. Non-contributing. ca. 1940.

Located to the northwest of the storage shed/spring house, this small one-story storage shed with German siding, a shed roof, four-light casement windows, and a concrete block foundation appears more recent than most of the other outbuildings. There is a flush board door on the southeast side, with cross bracing.

5. Outhouse. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located northwest of and close to the main house, this one-story shed-roof outhouse with a corrugated metal roof has horizontal flush board siding and a flush board door on the south side. The foundation is concrete block.

6. Slaughterhouse. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located the furthest from the main house, and away from the generally clustered group of outbuildings, this tall one-story, gable-roof building in poor condition is located by the creek to the north of the main house. There is a shed-roof extension of the roofline on the south side of the building. While not documented it was reputedly used as a slaughterhouse. The roof is covered with tin and the walls are vertical flush boards. The foundation is not visible, but due to the deteriorated condition of the building, likely is wood set within the damp conditions of the creek.

7. Outhouse. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located to the northwest of the main house, this one-story, shed-roof outhouse with a standing-seam metal roof covering has German siding, a vertical flush board door on the east side, and a foundation of concrete block along with wood resting on the ground.

8. Storage Shed. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located directly west of the main house, this one-story shed-roof frame building with a corrugated metal roof has vertical flush board siding, with entrances on the east and south sides. The foundation is a combination of stone piers and wood set directly on the ground. It appears to have been used for storage.

9. Greenhouse. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located southwest of the main house, this front-gable-roof one-story stone building with a corrugated metal roof covering and exposed rafter ends, is set into the hillside to the south of the house. Windows flank the entry door on the south side, helping to create a greenhouse environment. There is also an upper level storage area which is accessed from ground level at the upper part at the rear. The gable ends of the building are weatherboard. It was used primarily to grow flowers, with the earth berms keeping the temperature at a moderate level year-round. Throughout their adult years until their deaths, the two sisters, Edith and Edna, kept bees, and some of the equipment for this was stored in this building.

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10. Barn. Contributing. ca. 1908.

Located across the railroad tracks and up the hillside to the southeast of the main house, this two-story, front-gable-roof banked barn which faces southwest, has a flat metal panel roof covering, vertical flush board walls, horse stalls on the lower level and open storage on the upper, which is accessible from the rear of the building. The upper story cantilevers out over the first on the south side, creating a covered fenced area for the stalls on the lower level. The foundation of the building is stone. The hillside to the northeast of the barn has been recently graded to stabilize it from erosion.

11. House. Non-contributing. ca. 1920; ca. 1942.

Located up the hill to the northeast of the main house, at the end of the roadbed of former Highway 10, this simple, T-plan, one-story, front-gable-roof bungalow has exposed rafter ends, an engaged front porch with tapered wood posts, and a standing seam metal roof covering. A handicap ramp was added to the north side, in front of the porch. The house is covered in weatherboard. Windows are double four-vertical-lights-over-one, with windows on the west side being single eight-over-one double hung. The foundation of the house is a combination of brick and stone piers. There is an historic shed-roof addition with German siding and a concrete block pier foundation on the east side and a modern addition at the southeast corner with plywood walls and a concrete block foundation. Originally, it was built as a residence and a gas station, and corresponds to when Highway 10 was in operation from the early 1920s through 1942. When the bridge and the current highway were finished in 1939, traffic no longer went this way and the gas station was converted to the residence as it is now. The inside of the house still has remnants of oil on the floors from when it was in use as a gas station. Beginning in 1942, the house was rented by the Monteiths, and has remained in almost continual rental use by the same family, the Shulers.

12. Outhouse. Non-contributing. ca. 1940.

Located to the southeast of the rental house is this one-story shed-roof outhouse with weatherboard siding and a flush board door. The building foundation is wood set on the ground.

13. Storage Shed. Non-contributing. Modern.

Located southeast of the rental house, this one-story, side-gable-roof storage building has a standing seam metal roof covering, fish scale shingle in the gable ends, weatherboard siding, and cross-bracing on the double-leaf doors on the north side. The foundation is wood set on the ground.

14. Storage Shed. Non-contributing. ca. 1940.

Located west of the rental house, this one-story, shed-roof storage building has a standing seam metal roof covering, vertical flush board siding, and two vertical flush board doors on the north side. The foundation is wood set on the ground.

15. Bridge Abutments. Non-contributing. ca. 1920.

There are two remaining concrete bridge abutments located just to the west of the rental house where Highway 10 crossed the railroad and continued onto the Monteith property. These are approximately ten feet in height and are set into the hillsides on either side of the former road bed.

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Summary

The Elias Brendle Monteith House and Outbuildings, located in Dillsboro, North Carolina, a town of approximately 205 people, are architecturally significant locally for the ca. 1908 Craftsman-style residence with an unusual double-pile, center hall plan form with a wraparound porch on all four sides, and the numerous ca. 1908 domestic support outbuildings. The property is roughly bisected by the railroad track and old road bed, the former Highway 10, which, at the time it was built, was the main route between Sylva and Dillsboro. The Monteith House and Outbuildings meets Criterion C for its architecture, illustrating highly fashionable Craftsman residential design and the range of subsidiary buildings necessary for daily life at the turn of the twentieth century in Jackson County.

Historic Background

Jackson County, located in the southern Appalachians of western North Carolina, was formed in 1851, from parts of Haywood and Macon Counties. At the time, western North Carolina was relatively isolated from the rest of the state due to the difficult terrain, rough roads, and the fact that the railroad was still approximately another thirty years from arriving in the mountains.

Dillsboro was founded by William Allen Dills, a Confederate veteran. In 1871 he bought a farm beside the Tuckasegee River, and when the railroad finally arrived in 1883, it crossed his land. He called the crossing New Webster and built a boarding house there. Soon thereafter, in 1884, he built the Mount Beulah Hotel, now the Jarrett House, in the center of Dillsboro.⁴ The railroad was completed to Murphy, to the west of Dillsboro, in 1885.⁵ The first rail line was called the Richmond & Danville Railway Company, which was in existence until 1894. Southern Railway bought the line in 1894 and it remained as part of this system. The arrival of the railroad in Dillsboro, as in other parts of western North Carolina, spurred travel, tourism, and development of the community. Farmers could take their goods to market, businesses such as general stores, could order goods, and hotels began to spring up to accommodate the many summer visitors arriving by rail. Some of the early businesses in Dillsboro which benefited from the new mode of rail transportation included stores such as the Harris Clay Company Office (ca. 1900) built along the railroad and additional boarding houses where local residents took in guests.⁶

The Town of Dillsboro was incorporated the same year the train arrived, in 1884. It was named for William Allen Dills, who was postmaster in the settlement, and who subdivided some of his farm for the town lots.⁷ When the railroad reached Murphy, there were two passenger and two freight trains which passed daily through Dillsboro from Asheville.⁸ The town continued to grow in the last decade of the

⁴Bishir, Catherine W., Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999, p. 355.

⁵ Jackson County survey files. Archives & History Office, Asheville, North Carolina.

⁶ A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina, p. 355.

⁷ Gray, Minnie Dills. A History of Dillsboro, North Carolina, p. 16.

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 17.

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nineteenth century, on into the early years of the twentieth century. In the late 1880s, Dillsboro was an important town on the Murphy branch line of the railroad, shipping industrial products, passengers, mail, and freight from both Jackson and Macon Counties.⁹ By the 1920s, roads began to be developed in the county as the popularity of the automobile increased, including Highway 10 (now SR 1381) which paralleled the railroad tracks through the Monteith farmstead. At the time it was the main road between Dillsboro and Sylva, but closed once Highway 19/23 was constructed in the 1940s.

The rich fertile farmland of the Tuckasegee River in the northern part of the county drew many of the area's early settlers.¹⁰ William Monteith (1816 – 1894) was born in Burke County, North Carolina on September 15, 1816, and moved with his family soon after to Jackson County (then a part of Haywood and Macon Counties). He married Mary “Polly” Parris (1819 – 1895) on September 26, 1837. They had eight children, one of whom was John Alfred Monteith (1841 – 1921), father of Elias Brendle Monteith.¹¹

Elias Brendle Monteith (1876 – 1954) was one of four sons born to John Alfred Monteith and Sarah Brendle Monteith (1842 - 1915). Their other sons were William David Monteith (1872 – 1909); Samuel Henry Plott Monteith (1874 - ?); and Duff Arenus Monteith (1885 – 1964). On May 12, 1907 Elias Brendle Monteith married Mary Magdalene Carson, daughter of William Thomas Carson (1854 – 1934) and Harriett E. Oxner Carson (1854 – 1925).¹² Mary Magdalene (Maggie) was living in Dillsboro when they met, working as caretaker for Elias' mother, Sarah Brendle Monteith.¹³ Soon after their wedding Elias bought approximately fourteen acres from C. J. Harris for \$800, on December 4, 1907, on which he soon thereafter built his house.¹⁴ Stipulations in the deed note that C. J. Harris, owner of Harris Clay Company, had the right to flood and backwater the land as needed for his factory operations, and could also build a new dam across Scotts Creek if needed. The property also included the right-of-way for Southern Railway Company, with the tracks bisecting the property.¹⁵ Elias Brendle and Maggie Monteith had two daughters, Edna Coreene (1908 – 1988) and Edith Irene (1915 – 2001).

From 1907 through the 1950s Elias Brendle Monteith developed his land into a home farming operation, but, at the same time, was also involved in other businesses. Along with his brother Sam, Elias ran a mercantile business in Dillsboro from ca. 1900- 1915, which sold everything from shoes to jewelry, to car

⁹ “The Historical and Architectural Resources of Jackson County, North Carolina”. Essay with the Jackson County survey, located in the Archives & History files, Western Office, Asheville, North Carolina.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Barker, Cecil and Hazel, cousins of Edna and Edith Monteith, and nephew of Elias Brendle Monteith. Interview by Sam Hale, local historian, 17 January 2006. Also Monteith family records in possession of Sam Hale.

¹² Family records in possession of Sam Hale, local historian.

¹³ Interview by Sam Hale, 17 January 2006.

¹⁴ This early deed notes fourteen acres, but later deeds, which were likely more accurate, note the approximately 16 acres associated with the house today.

¹⁵ Jackson County Deed Book 45, p. 525.

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parts.¹⁶ According to census records from 1910, Elias B. Monteith was head of household at age thirty-two, and was working as “postmaster assistant”, or clerk.¹⁷ He owned his home, and there was a mortgage on the property, although it is not clear whether or not he was living in the farm house at that time. It may have still been partially under construction. Wife Maggie was thirty-three, and daughter Edna was two. According to Cecil Barker, nephew of Elias, Elias also sold butter churns door to door in the late 1910s.¹⁸ After the mercantile store with Sam Monteith failed, Elias was part of a second mercantile business, Monteith and Davis.¹⁹ By 1920, E. B. Monteith was listed as a farmer in general farming, with wife Maggie and daughters Edna (age 11) and Edith (age 4). Beginning in 1926, he worked as a clerk in the post office in town, and, also in the 1920s, operated a Shell Motor Oil filling station on his property once Highway 10 was completed.²⁰ In 1930, according to census records, Elias Brendle Monteith was no longer listed as a farmer but as postmaster for the Town of Dillsboro, with daughter Edna listed as assistant postmaster.²¹ He continued in this position, which he began in 1928, until his death in 1954.²² It does not appear from any census records that he did any major crop production for sale, but did produce enough food for his own family.

The Monteith farmstead remained in the family from the time Elias bought the land in 1907, until the younger of the two daughters died in 2001. Elias Brendle Monteith died intestate on July 10, 1954. He was survived at the time by his wife Maggie Carson Monteith and his two daughters, Edna and Edith, and the property went to them. Maggie Monteith died intestate on February 23, 1958, at which time the land went to both daughters. Edna and Edith Monteith, after their parents’ deaths, continued to live in the family home and produce food for themselves. Edith was married for a short time to Clyde Thomas Frizzell, from 1961 – 1966, but moved back to the family home after her brief marriage and divorce and lived out her days with her sister Edna, who never married.²³ The two sisters continued the same simple lifestyle, growing much of their own food, planting flower gardens, making quilts, crafts, and canned goods for sale, and maintaining the family property. Sometimes others in the community would grow gardens on the Monteith property and give half of what they grew to the sisters, a practice known as “raise it on half”. Other than this, the two sisters kept life on the farm much as it had been when their parents were alive.²⁴ In addition to maintaining the property, Edna served as a postal clerk in Dillsboro until she retired in 1973, with a total of almost thirty years with the postal service.²⁵ Edna graduated in

¹⁶ Interview by Sam Hale, 17 January 2006.

¹⁷ Jackson County Census Records, 1910. Also, notes from Samuel Hale, that Elias Brendle began work as the postal clerk in 1909.

¹⁸ Interview by Sam Hale, 17 January 2006.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Buncombe County Census Records 1910 – 1930.

²² Interview by Sam Hale, 17 January 2006.

²³ Jackson County Superior Court Judgment February 18, 1966.

²⁴ Interview by Sam Hale, 17 January 2006.

²⁵ Family records in possession of Sam Hale, local historian. Letters from Edna Monteith.

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1928 from the Sylva Collegiate Institute, a Baptist boarding and college preparatory school. Edith attended Sylva Central High School for a year, in 1928, but never graduated. Both were located in the neighboring town of Sylva.²⁶ Edna Corinne Monteith died testate on June 25, 1988, leaving all her property to her sister Edith. When Edith Irene Monteith died on July 14, 2001, she left the property to Jean Phillips and Clifford E. Faull, M.D., both of whom had been caretakers for the sisters in their later years.²⁷ On April 14, 2004, Dr. Faull and Jean Phillips deeded the property, with all of its acreage, to the Town of Dillsboro, contingent upon the rights-of-way for SR 1381 and the railroad, utility easements, and riparian rights of Scotts Creek.²⁸

In addition to the property being nominated, Elias Brendle Monteith owned an additional forty-two acres of adjacent land to the east, known as Monteith Cove. It was deeded to him from his brothers, and was a portion of their father, John Alfred Monteith's, land. J. A. Monteith had died intestate on January 15, 1921 and the land was divided equally among the siblings. This conveyance of land excepted the old road across the land, which was to be left accessible to the public, as well as the mineral interests of the land, and a timber deed from February 20, 1920.²⁹

Architectural Context

Local residents believe the Elias Brendle Monteith house was built by local builders Johnny Monteith and George Barnes. No additional information is available about these builders at the present time. There are several similar houses still existing in Jackson County, but none compare to the Monteith House in terms of the intact amount of acreage or the existence of so many of the original domestic outbuildings necessary for survival at the turn of the twentieth century. The Monteith House is the only such collection remaining in the town of Dillsboro.

The Elias Brendle Monteith house appears to be the only example of a dwelling in the town of Dillsboro which has Craftsman-influenced architectural detailing. The center-hall, four-sided wraparound porch, with its battered posts, and second story porch are all notable features which appear to be unique to this house alone. The closest comparison, in terms of its similar form, is the Douglas H. Stephens House (JK 19, 1913, Moses Creek), which is a side-gable house with a porch on three sides of the building.³⁰ The Craftsman style, nationally popular from 1905 to 1930, typically features building which are one to one-and-one-half-stories, with either front or side-gable roofs, with porches often including details such as battered posts on piers, solid balustrades, vertical-light-over-one or diamond-pane-over-one windows, and an irregular floor plan. They make use of natural materials such as brick and stone.³¹ Features of this

²⁶ Notes on family history in possession of Samuel Hale, local historian.

²⁷ Jackson County Deed Book 1457, p. 779 and Jackson County Estate Files 88-E-85 and 01-E-143.

²⁸ Jackson County Deed Book 1457, p. 779.

²⁹ Jackson County Deed Book 85, p. 390.

³⁰ Family records in possession of Sam Hale, local historian. Letters from Edna Monteith.

³¹ McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 453.

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style which are evident in the Monteith House include the exposed rafters, knee braces under the deep eaves, four-sided porch with its battered posts, side-gable roof, and its four-vertical-light-over-one windows.

While there were many rural houses built in Jackson County at the turn of the twentieth century, the Monteith House appears to be the most intact in terms of retaining its original acreage and domestic support outbuildings. Within the county there are a few examples of houses which retain some of their original domestic or farm-related outbuildings. However, none of these collections are as large or as intact as those associated with the Monteith House. Some houses in the county from the turn of the century that retain a few of their original outbuildings were built as an I-house or with a T-plan form such as the Davis Zachary House (JK42, ca. 1911, East LaPorte), which retains a horse barn; the John Wyke House (JK 364, ca. 1880, East LaPorte vicinity), which has a large, steeply pitched gable-roof barn along with a one-story fieldstone building banked into a slope behind the house; the Minnie Stephens House (JK 21, ca. 1800, Caney Fork), with its cantilevered double pen barn; the William Ernest Bird House (JK 229, ca. 1900, Whittier vicinity), which retains a storage shed and a barn; the William Alexander Stillwell House (JK 146, ca. 1892, Little Savannah), which has a double crib barn with vertical siding; the John Pannel House, (JK 161, 1912, Beta), which also has a double crib barn and three small wood storage sheds; the Joseph Cowan House (JK 150, ca. 1870, Webster), with its gambrel-roof barn, side-gable, one-story cottage, gable-roof shed, and well house; the C. B. Cogdill House (JK 187, ca. 1890, Willits vicinity), which has several remaining shed-roof outbuildings remaining on the property; and the Osborne Buchanan House (JK 147, ca. 1870, Webster vicinity), which retains a double-crib, gambrel-roof barn, and several small storage sheds.³²

³²Jackson County survey files, on file at the western office, Archives & History, Asheville, North Carolina.

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UTMs

5 Zone 17 Northing 3916580 Easting 295760

Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is shown on the accompanying survey/sketch map, showing the 16.27 acres currently and historically associated with the property. This map is at a scale of 1" = 120'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nomination includes all of the acreage historically associated with the Elias Brendle Monteith House and outbuildings.

Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs, except where noted.

Name of property:	Elias Brendle Monteith House and Outbuildings Dillsboro Jackson County North Carolina
Photographer:	Sybil H. Argintar
Date of photos:	January 2007

1. setting, view north
2. main house, view north
3. main house, view west
4. main house, view southeast
5. staircase, view northwest
6. first floor room, view west
7. first floor room, view east
8. second floor hall, view southeast
9. upper porch, view south
10. wash house/cannery, view northeast
11. shed/spring house, view north
12. greenhouse, view north
13. barn, view northeast
14. house (former gas station) and bridge abutment, view east
March 2008