



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

August 20, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT Division of Highways

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

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge 20 over South Branch of Little White Oak Creek, PA 15-04-0005,  
Polk County, ER 15-1689

Thank you for your memorandum of July 22, 2015, transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and **concur that the Jones-Waldrop House (PL0194) is eligible** for listing in the National Register under Criterion C and that the boundaries appear appropriate.

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)

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**FINAL EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY REPORT  
JONES-WALDROP HOUSE**

**REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 29 OVER SOUTH BRANCH  
OF LITTLE WHITE OAK CREEK ON NC 9  
POLK COUNTY**

**WBS No. 41665.3D**

**Prepared by:**

**Frances Alexander, Project Manager  
Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.  
2228 Winter Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205**

**Prepared for:**

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Human Environment Section  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**16 July 2015**

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**MATTSON, ALEXANDER AND ASSOCIATES, INC.**

*Frances Alexander*

16 July 2015

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**Frances P. Alexander, M.A.**

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**Date**

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**Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.**

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**Date**

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**North Carolina Department of Transportation**

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**Date**

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## Introduction

This eligibility report was prepared as part of the environmental studies undertaken by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and is on file at NCDOT, Raleigh, North Carolina. The project is entitled, *Replace Bridge No. 29 over South Branch of Little White Oak Creek on NC 9*, and the WBS Number is 41665.3D. The project is state funded and requires federal permits. The location of the project is shown on both **Figures 1** and **2**.

This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007). NCDOT architectural historians established an area of potential effects (APE) that extends approximately 300 feet from each end of existing Bridge No. 29 and seventy-five feet from the centerline of NC 9. The APE is depicted in **Figure 2**. The architectural historians also conducted a preliminary investigation during which one resource, the Thomas Joseph Waldrop House (PL0194) (renamed the Jones-Waldrop House during this investigation), was identified as needing additional study to determine its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This report provides that evaluation of eligibility. However, Bridge No. 29 is not part of this evaluation. Built in 1967, the bridge is less than fifty years of age and is considered ineligible for the National Register.

This documentation complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800), the National Register criteria set forth in 36 CFR 61, and the NCDOT Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) a reasonable opportunity to comment.

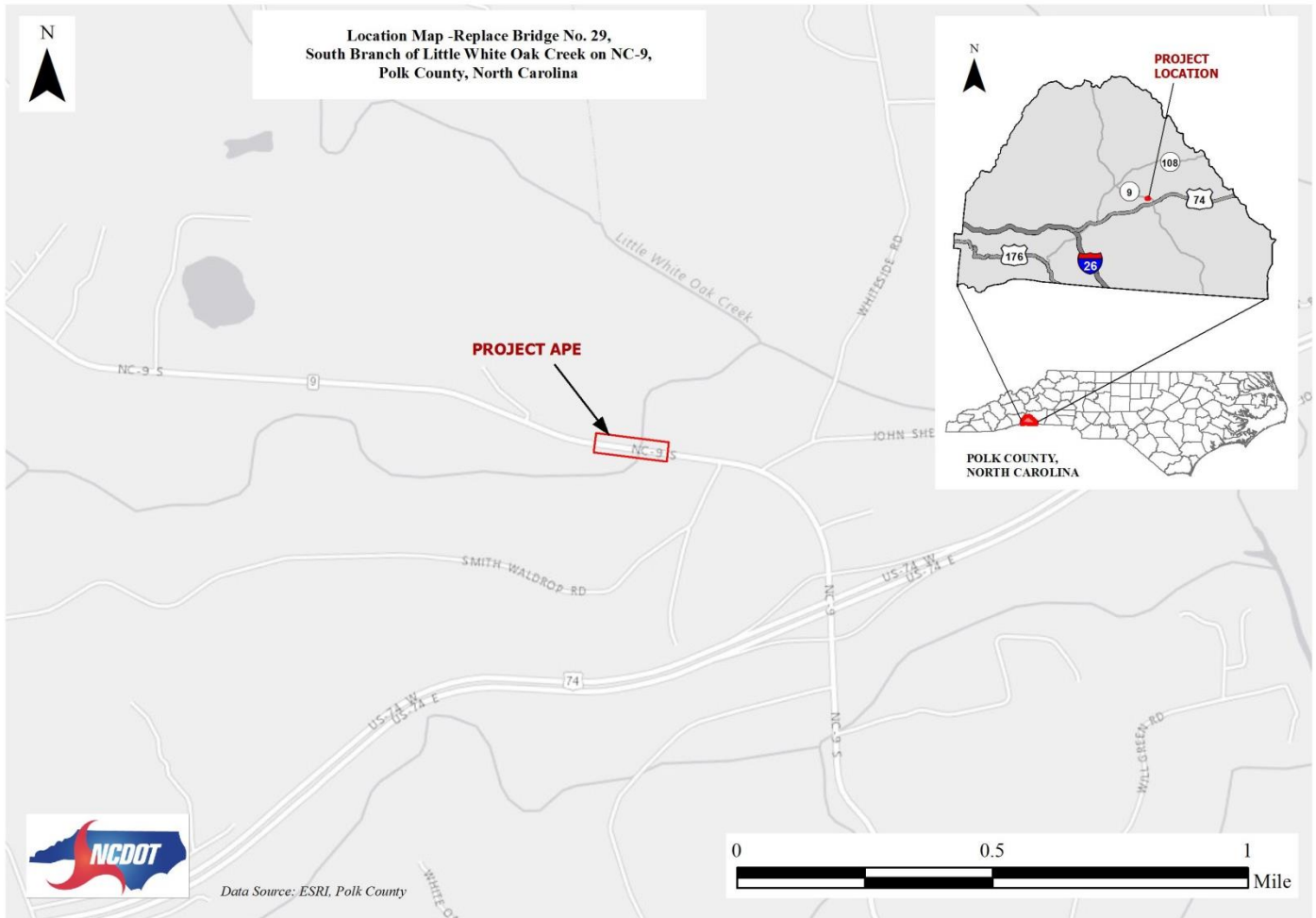
This eligibility evaluation consisted of research into the history and architecture of the Jones-Waldrop House and a field survey of the property. For the research phase, both primary and secondary sources were examined, including deeds, maps, and the HPO survey files for Polk County. Of particular help were the 1985 survey and study undertaken by Ted Alexander and the publication, *The Historic Architecture of Rutherford County*, prepared by Kimberly I. Merkel in 1983.

Field work took place on 12 June 2015. The house as well as the outbuildings on the property were examined and documented with photographs to assess the level of current integrity. The house is now vacant, and the owner died recently so the interior was not available for inspection. Site plans and a National Register boundary map are included with this evaluation of eligibility. As noted below in **Table 1**, the Jones-Waldrop House is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

**Table 1**

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Survey Site Number</b>	<b>Eligibility Recommendation</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Jones-Waldrop House	PL0194	Eligible	Criterion C

**Figure 1**  
**Jones-Waldrop House**  
**General Location Map**



**Figure 2**  
**Jones-Waldrop House**  
**Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map/Overall Site Plan**



## Property Evaluation of Eligibility

**Jones-Waldrop House (Thomas Joseph Waldrop House) (PL0194) (PIN P94-1)**  
John Shehan Road  
Mill Spring Vicinity, Polk County



Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible  
Dates of Construction: early nineteenth century, circa 1890

### Physical Description (Figures 3-4)

The Jones-Waldrop House is located in rural Polk County in the foothills of western North Carolina. The house faces south towards NC 9, a two-lane roadway at its intersection with John Shehan Road. Although now vacant and partially overgrown, the house is in fair condition. The Jones-Waldrop tract contains nearly 313 acres which is currently a mix of pasture and overgrown fields. The tree-shaded farmyard includes farm animals and a collection of small, temporary poultry sheds.

**Figure 3**

### Jones-Waldrop House Detailed Site Plan of House and Farmyard



Source: Polk County Tax Map

Scale: 1" = 200'

The principal investigators had limited access to the property and were not able to inspect the interior of the house. The longtime owners of the property, Jackson and Jacquelyn Walker, are now deceased. Jacquelyn Walker, who had resided nearby in recent years, died May 29, 2015. However, the architectural integrity of the house does not appear to have changed significantly since the 1985 HPO survey of the property. During the 1985 survey, owner Jackson Walker provided information on the construction and evolution of the house that was supported by the physical evidence (HPO File).

The oldest sections of the Jones-Waldrop House were built in the early nineteenth century. They are the kitchen wing, which is log constructed, and a major portion of the frame main block, specifically the original one and one-half-story, single-pile, four-bay form. Around 1890, the house was expanded and remodeled to its current two full stories and capped by a side-gable roof with twin front gables (HPO File).



Jones-Waldrop House, Overall View, Looking North.





Jones-Waldrop House, House, Poultry Shelters, and Livestock Shelter, Looking North.

#### Log Kitchen Wing (early nineteenth century)

The log kitchen wing at the rear of the house is a one-story, one-room building with a side-gable roof and a fieldstone chimney on the gable end. The kitchen has modern, standing-seam, metal roofing which also caps the main block of the house. The earlier roof was comprised of patterned metal shingles that were probably installed circa 1890. The kitchen wing may have been the original dwelling, but was soon converted to the kitchen with the construction of the larger, frame house. The chimney, which has a thick, stone stack, remains in good condition and appears to have been periodically mortared and repaired. Reflecting a common practice with log houses and attached kitchen wings in the region, the kitchen was probably weatherboarded at the date of construction or soon thereafter. Early-nineteenth-century, nine-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows survive on both side (east and west) elevations, including in the frame bay on the east side that connects the kitchen to the main block of the house (HPO File).

The kitchen has an engaged porch on the side (west) elevation that has heavy, turned posts matching those on the front and rear porches of the main block. Although they do not appear modern, these turned porch posts were all installed after the 1985 survey. In 1985, the kitchen porch did not have posts while the house's rear porch had replacement square piers. The front porch of the house was supported by chamfered posts in 1985.

The kitchen porch terminates in a circa 1890, weatherboarded end bay on the rear (north) side. This end bay has mid-twentieth-century, awning-style windows which are also found on the rear elevation and the north bay of the kitchen's east elevation. The 1985 survey photographs show a 1920s, horizontal-panel door on the rear elevation, but this door has since been replaced by a wood-paneled door with a glazed upper section. The door is sheltered by a simple, shed-roofed canopy with wood posts. A brick chimney flue shown in the 1985 file is also now gone, evidently removed when the modern roof was installed. The survey file also contained a photograph of the

kitchen interior which revealed an original mantel with slender pilasters, frieze board, and mantel shelf. Otherwise, the kitchen interior has been modernized with mid-twentieth-century cabinets, sink, and linoleum tile flooring (HPO File).



Jones-Waldrop House, Rear Kitchen Wing, Looking Southeast.



Jones-Waldrop House, Rear Kitchen Wing, Side (West) Elevation, Looking East.



Jones-Waldrop House, Rear Kitchen Wing, Rear (North) and Side (East) Elevations, Looking South.



Jones-Waldrop House, Kitchen Chimney, Looking South.

#### Main House (early nineteenth century)

According to the 1985 survey file, the original frame section of the house was a one and one-half story dwelling constructed in the early nineteenth century. Its single-pile, side-gable form and weatherboarded exterior survive intact as do other key elements of construction and design. The house retains its original asymmetrical, four-bay façade with three nine-over-nine light, double-hung, wood-sash windows flanking the center front entrance. The mid-twentieth-century door has a glazed upper section atop a wood-paneled lower section and matches the doors in the kitchen wing (HPO File).

As revealed in the 1985 survey photograph, the interior has a hall-and-parlor plan; wide, flushboard walls and ceilings on the first floor; several six-panel doors; molded chair rails; and an enclosed staircase in the corner of the hall. The two first-floor mantels are original and express the Federal style. The parlor mantel is the more ornate with a molded, three-part entablature that has a center plate, corner blocks, and fluted pilasters. A Greek Revival-inspired door with two vertical panels near the corner stair connects the hall to the parlor. This door may have been added after the initial construction, or it may indicate a later date of construction for the house, perhaps circa 1830, when transitional Federal/Greek Revival dwellings began appearing in the region (HPO File; Bishir et al. 1999: 187).

#### Main House (circa 1890 expansion)

The house was expanded to its two full stories around 1890 after a change of ownership. The present multiple-gable roof dates from this period and features a pair of steeply pitched gables centered over the façade. These front gables are embellished with patterned, wood shingles and have pointed-arch vents. The roof has a simple frieze board. The two-over-two light, double-hung, wood-sash windows found on the second story were also added during this remodeling and expansion. Some have now been modified with replacement sash although the simple surrounds remain intact. Some of the weatherboarding on the gables has also been replaced in recent decades. The hip-roofed front porch appears to have been built during the circa 1890 expansion. As noted above, the turned porch posts were added after 1985. The large, brick, exterior end chimneys, laid in common bond, were constructed or extensively rebuilt during the circa 1890 expansion. They have single shoulders, especially tall stacks, and randomly glazed headers and stretchers. Finally, a frame, gable-roofed bathroom appendage extends from the east gable end and appears to have been added in the mid-twentieth century (HPO File; Polk County Deed Book 8: 451).

Inside, the second story has narrow wood paneling on the walls and ceilings and vertical, tongue-and-groove wainscot that distinguishes it from the earlier first story of the house. Both mantels in the upper-story bedrooms were probably installed circa 1890. With its decorative, curvilinear sawnwork in the frieze, the mantel in the east room clearly reflects picturesque designs of the late nineteenth century.



Jones-Waldrop House, Façade and Side (West) Elevation, Looking East.



Jones-Waldrop House, Side (West) Elevation and Kitchen Wing, Looking East.



Jones-Waldrop House, Side (East) Elevation, Looking West.



Jones-Waldrop House, Front Porch, Looking East.

### Farm Property

The Jones-Waldrop House stands on a rural, 312.79-acre tract. Although a portion of the land remains pasture, the property has become increasingly overgrown and has lost a number of outbuildings. No agricultural outbuildings associated with farm operations during the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries remain. A ruinous, log smokehouse with a front-gable roof is located just east of the house. The 1985 survey file records a “dilapidated barn” and a small dairy barn that are both now gone. A prefabricated silo that served the dairy barn still stands. A mid-twentieth-century, board-and-batten, front-gable equipment shed remains north of the house as does an adjacent, frame outbuilding (labeled “crib” in the survey file), and a mid-century, frame, livestock shelter. Also dating to the mid-twentieth-century is a concrete-block, shed-roofed pump house located west of the house at the edge of the farmyard.

Of note is a small graveyard (inaccessible) associated with the George Washington Jones family who owned the farm originally. The graveyard is located just north of the surviving equipment shed and includes unmarked headstones as well as a marble obelisk that commemorates the Jones family. The memorial was probably erected after the Civil War, about the time of Elizabeth Mills Jones’s death (HPO File).



Jones-Waldrop House, Ruinous Log Smokehouse, Looking East.



Jones-Waldrop House, Livestock Shelter (Poultry Pens in Front), Looking Northeast.



Jones-Waldrop House, Equipment Shed (Center), Silo (Left), and Corncrib (Right), Looking North.





Jones-Waldrop House, Concrete-Block Pump House, Looking East.



Jones-Waldrop House, Pasture West of Farmyard, Looking West.

## Historical Background

The original owner of the property was George Washington Jones (1773-1843), who was born in Orange County, Virginia, and raised in Wilkes County, North Carolina. He began his career as a clerk with Patton and Erwin, a mercantile business in Wilkesboro, the county seat, but later transferred with them when the business moved to Buncombe Court House (later renamed Asheville). In 1806, Jones became a partner in the firm's store at Laurens Court House, South Carolina, and the same year, he married Elizabeth Mills (1780-1865), a member of a large and influential family whose members were among the earliest white settlers in the region (Bishir et al. 1999: 191; HPO File; Jones Family Research, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com); Alexander 1985: 2; Patton 1950: 25-28, 33-35).

George Washington and Elizabeth Mills Jones moved with their family to present-day Polk County (part of Rutherford County until 1855) in the North Carolina foothills in 1814. The family probably settled on land acquired from Elizabeth's family, several of whom owned plantations in the area. Jones divided his time between his farm and business activities in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Jones farm is located along White Oak Creek which, in the early nineteenth century, was in the Polk District of Rutherford County, a fertile area populated by the Mills family. The house's current rear log kitchen wing may have served as the original Jones dwelling, but was soon adapted for use as the kitchen when the larger, frame house was constructed (HPO File; Jones Family Research, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)).

Typical of Polk County and the foothills region, the Jones farm along White Oak Creek was a middle-sized holding that produced corn in quantity as well as other grains and some livestock for both sale and use on the farm. The 1850 census records the Jones household consisting of widow, Elizabeth (following George's death in 1843) and son, George Washington Jones, Jr. (1811-1855), who was then thirty-eight years old and was apparently unmarried. Together, mother and son possessed \$3,700 in real estate. The Jones farm in 1850 contained 265 acres with 150 acres under cultivation. The 1860 census shows the farm encompassed 272 acres, and Elizabeth Jones (then seventy years old) resided in Columbus, the administrative seat of Polk County. Thus, on the eve of the Civil War, she was a fairly prosperous woman, possessing \$7,000 in real estate perhaps from both the Jones and Mills sides of the family as well as having personal property (U.S. Census, Rutherford County, Agricultural Schedule 1850; U.S. Census, Polk County, Population Schedule 1860; Jones Family Research, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)).

George Washington and Elizabeth Jones as well as their son, G. W. Jones, Jr., are known to be buried in the small family cemetery on the farm. A twelve-foot-high, stone obelisk commemorates the Jones family, and was probably erected around the time of Elizabeth Jones's death in 1865 (Jones Family Research [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)).

The Jones farm changed hands after the Civil War. The property was inherited by the Joneses' daughter, Mary Harriett, who married Butler Thompson. In 1881, Mary H. Thompson, a widow, sold the land to local farmer Anderson Womack, and in 1889, Womack's estate sold the Jones farm, consisting of 363 acres, to Joseph Thomas (J.T.) Waldrop (misidentified as "Thomas Joseph Waldrop" in the 1985 survey file). The 1889 deed describes the property as the "Jones Place", which Waldrop purchased for \$3,000. Waldrop was most likely responsible for the expansion and remodeling of the house to its current design—adding the full upper story and embellishing the exterior with the picturesque twin front gables (Polk County Deed Books 6: 426; 8: 451).

J.T. Waldrop (1860-1943) was a descendant of Luke Waldrop (1748-1829) whose family had migrated to this area from western Virginia, via Laurens, South Carolina, after the Revolutionary War. By the mid-nineteenth century, numerous Waldrops owned land along the bottomlands of the Green River and its tributaries near the Jones farm (U.S. Census, Rutherford County, Agricultural Census 1850; Waldrop Family Research [www.wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com)).

The 1880 census listed J.T. Waldrop, then twenty years of age, as the farm's head of household. The Waldrop household in that year also comprised the matriarch Eleanor (who was then eighty-five years old), his mother Elizabeth, J.T.'s wife Mollie (1863-1946) whom he had married in 1879, and one brother Theron. By 1880, the Waldrop farm was gradually recovering from the Civil War and its aftermath. Of its 300 acres recorded in the census, 225 acres were under cultivation and twenty-five acres were woodland (U.S. Census, Polk County, Population and Agricultural Schedules 1880).

At the time of the purchase of the Jones tract in 1889, J.T. and Mollie Waldrop had five children and later had a total of seven. Their large family may have prompted the addition to the house because the Waldrops soon expanded and updated the one and one-half story Jones dwelling. The 1900 census shows the Waldrop household consisting of J.T. and Mollie, their daughters Nellie, Laura, and Dallie, and their sons Albert, Charles, Edgar, and Kenie (U.S. Census, Polk County, Population Schedule 1900; HPO File).

J.T. Waldrop was a successful landowner and community leader. The deed records for Polk County show him engaged in numerous land transactions through the early decades of the twentieth century, purchasing lands for agricultural and industrial uses as well as town lots in Columbus, the county seat. The Waldrop family genealogy describes Waldrop as a successful farmer in the Mill Spring community, a Polk County commissioner, church deacon, and stockholder in several local banks (Waldrop Family Research [www.wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com); U.S. Census, Polk County, Population Schedule 1900; Polk County Deed Books 7: 317; 320: 448; 11: 241; 36: 145).

The Waldrop family appears to have owned this house until the early 1940s. The property was subsequently acquired by Ray and Sallie Walker. Members of the Walker family had been farming present-day Polk County since at least the early nineteenth century and possessed several nearby farms. Ray and Sallie's son, Jackson Walker (1935-2002), ran the farm from about 1955 to the latter twentieth century. By about 2000, Jackson and his wife Jacquelyn were no longer residing on the property, and Jackson died in 2002. Jacquelyn died recently on May 29, 2015. The house is now empty, and the associated farmland of 313 acres is leased for pastureland and a small poultry operation. The property is partially overgrown (Polk County Deed Books 77: 213; 159: 553; HPO File).

### **National Register Criteria Evaluation**

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Jones-Waldrop House is recommended **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.

## Integrity

The Jones-Waldrop House retains the seven aspects of integrity needed for National Register eligibility. The house remains on its original site on Little White Oak Creek surrounded by farmland, and thus the property retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The house also has its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Initially constructed in the early nineteenth century and expanded to its present design circa 1890, the house retains key structural and design elements that represent each phase of construction.

### Criterion A

The Jones-Waldrop House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). To be eligible under Criterion A, the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American prehistory or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well (National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: 12*).

The Jones-Waldrop House does not illustrate significant patterns of events within a local, state, or national historic context. Specifically, the property no longer has the integrity to illustrate agricultural patterns and practices in Polk County during the historic period. Although the current 313-acre property closely approximates the size of the historic Jones-Waldrop tract, the assorted barns, cribs, granaries, and pens that characterized diversified agriculture in the region through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are all now gone. The only extant outbuilding that predates the mid-twentieth century is a log smokehouse that is ruinous. Some fields remain cultivated, but many are now overgrown or used only for pasture.

### Criterion B

The Jones-Waldrop House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e. individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group (National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: 14*).

The house is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context.

### Criterion C

The Jones-Waldrop Family House is **eligible** under Criterion C for architecture. For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3)

possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15: 17*).

The house displays a blend of early-to-late-nineteenth-century architectural elements that illustrate the construction and expansion of a Polk County farmhouse through the century. Significant features of each phase of construction survive to represent common architectural practices and themes in Polk County and the region. The house appears to have begun as a one-story, one-room, log dwelling erected in the early nineteenth century. Now a rear kitchen wing, this log building retains its side-gable form, nine-over-six light windows, and fieldstone chimney on the gable end.

The log kitchen reflects the popularity of log construction throughout the foothills of North Carolina from early settlement period through the first half of the nineteenth century. Architectural surveys of Polk County (1985) and adjacent Rutherford County (1983) reveal strong log building traditions in this region. As with the Jones-Waldrop House, settlers often expanded and adapted their original dwellings over time as farms prospered and families grew. The log houses and outbuildings in the two counties follow traditional forms, plans, and notching techniques. Most of the houses are single-pen, rectangular dwellings with sleeping lofts, rear sheds, and end chimneys made of fieldstone. By the early nineteenth century, half-dovetailed notching appears to have been the popular choice for log house construction, and such log dwellings occasionally rose to two full stories and displayed classical treatments in mantels and moldings (Merkel 1983: 5-6, 29, 44; Alexander 1985: 3; Bishir et al 1999: 187, 22-24; Jordan 1985: 23-30).

The main body of the house retains well-preserved elements of design and construction that reflect its erection in the early decades of the nineteenth century. The hall-and-parlor plan, enclosed corner staircase, flushboard walls and ceilings, nine-over-nine light windows, and Federal-style mantels and doors clearly express the architectural patterns of present-day Polk County during this period. Polk and Rutherford counties contain a small collection of impressive, National Register plantation seats from the early nineteenth century, such as the brick-constructed Fox Haven (RF0001) (circa 1823), Mills-Screven Plantation (PL0007) (circa 1820, 1840, circa 1900), Seven Hearths (PL0005) (early nineteenth century), and Blackberry Hill (PL0001) (early nineteenth century, moved 1930), but most farmhouses of the period were characterized by conservative forms and plans and restrained displays of the Federal style (Bishir et al 1999: 180, 191; Alexander 1985: 2; Merkel 1983: 6-8).

In her 1983 study of Rutherford County's historic architecture, Kimberly Merkel observed,

...the mark of the Federal style was seen primarily in the character of the interior finish, and in most farmhouses this meant simply the form of the doors and, most importantly, the mantels. Flat panel doors and wainscoting and three-part mantels with center plates, sometimes articulated with delicate reeding or molding, are usually the extent of the Federal style (Merkel 1983: 7).

While few such early-nineteenth-century farmhouses survive with original Federal-style elements, an illustrative example is the Hicks House (RF0653) (surveyed property, not designated) near Rutherfordton. Now vacant and deteriorated, the frame Hicks House retains its narrow, two-story, side-gable form and hall-and-parlor plan. The interior has flushboard walls and ceilings, six-panel

doors, and mantels with paneled friezes. The parlor mantel features a set of tall panels above the mantel shelf (HPO File).

Finally, the circa 1890 remodeling of the Jones-Waldrop House with a pair of front gables punctuating the side-gable roof reflects the growing local popularity of picturesque architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Following the arrival of the railroad from South Carolina in the 1870s, this area drew visitors escaping oppressive Low Country summers who brought new fashion trends with them. The expansion of rail lines encouraged the exchange of ideas and delivered mass-produced building materials. Italianate and Gothic Revival motifs appeared on some fashionable houses in the 1870s and 1880s, and by the early twentieth century, Queen Anne-inspired dwellings, marked by consciously irregular forms and embellished with sawnwork, gained steady acceptance, especially in the towns. For example, in the county seat of Columbus in Polk County, the J. G. Hughes House (1896) (PL0009) epitomizes the Queen Anne style in its fancy sawnwork, the picturesque, T-shaped form with cutaway bays, and a wraparound porch supported by bracketed, chamfered posts (Alexander 1985: 4-7; Merkel 1983: 9-12; Bishir et al. 1999: 186-187).

In common with rural North Carolina as a whole, most Polk County residents adopted new architectural trends conservatively. Joseph Thomas Waldrop added the steep, front gables to a traditional I-house with a hall-and-parlor plan. The original interior features of the dwelling remained virtually unchanged. The use of multiple, steeply pitched gables was rooted in the Gothic style and was promoted through pattern books, especially Andrew Jackson Downing's enormously successful *Cottage Residences*. Downing's pattern book went through thirteen printings between 1842 and 1887 with each reprinting featuring plates of cottages sporting pointed front gables. In towns and rural areas across the state, large and small variations of such designs were built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A small collection of substantially intact examples have been recorded in the general vicinity of the Jones-Waldrop House near the Broad River in Rutherford County. The one and one-half story W. C. Dalton House (RF0022) (surveyed property, not designated) (1892) displays twin roof gables centered on the façade and a hall-and-parlor plan. Located nearby, the two-story, single-pile Flora Clark House (RF0081) (surveyed property, not designated) (circa 1900) has three sharp gables across the façade, each containing a two-over-two light window. The William G. Miller House (RF0192) (surveyed property, not designated) (1880s) near the Second Broad River vividly shows the influence of Downing's work in its multiple pointed gables, projecting center gable, and decorative bargeboards (Merkel 1983: 35, 70; Bishir et al. 1999: 187).

#### **Criterion D**

The Jones-Waldrop House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory; and 2) the information must be considered important (National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*: 21).

The property is not eligible under Criterion D because it is not likely to yield any exceptionally new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology.

## National Register Boundary Description and Justification

The National Register boundary for the Jones-Waldrop House has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties*.

The proposed boundary measures approximately twenty-two acres of the 312.79-acre tax parcel and encompasses the house and family cemetery as well as the farm lane, the tree-shaded farmyard, and the surrounding fields that define the setting.. The proposed boundary extends to Little White Oak Creek which forms the northern border, and the southern and eastern borders follow the rights-of-way along NC 9, John Shehan Road, and Whiteside Road. On the west side, the proposed border follows a fence line that separates a pasture from the farmyard and cemetery. The house and cemetery are the only two contributing resources, and the ruinous smokehouse, silo, equipment shed, crib, livestock shelter, and pump house are all noncontributing. The proposed National Register boundary is shown in **Figure 5**.

**Figure 4**

**Jones-Waldrop House  
Overall Site Plan-Bird's Eye View**



Source: NCDOT and Microsoft Bing

Scale: 1"= 300'



**Figure 5**  
**Jones-Waldrop House**  
**Proposed National Register Boundary**



Source: Polk County, NC One Map NCGIA

Scale: 1" = 750'

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