



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

February 7, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick  
Human Environment Unit  
NC Department of Transportation

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, BR-0039, Replace Bridge 224 on SR 1510 over I-95,  
PA 17-12-0063, Nash County, ER 19-0080

Thank you for your December 19, 2018, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that Moore's Store (NS1556) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for Commerce and C for Architecture. However, we do not concur with the proposed boundary. Rather than the existing right-of-way along Watson Seed Farm Road and NC 48, we believe the edge of pavement to be a better boundary.

We also concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing for the reasons outlined in the report.

- Mann Tenant House (NS1557)
- McTyeire Cemetery (NS1558)
- Hilliard-Edwards Cemetery (NS1559)

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 919-814-6579 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)



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

**ER 19-0080**

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 2/5/19

Date: December 19, 2018

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report. Replace Bridge No. 224 on SR 1510<sup>H-</sup>  
(Watson Seed Farm Road) over I-95, Nash County, North Carolina.  
TIP No. BR-0039. WBS No. 67039.1.1. PA No. 17-12-0063.*

*2 letters  
2/6*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the BR-0039, Nash County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are included on the CD-ROM, and hard copies of the site forms are also provided.

The report considers four resources – Moore's Store (NS1556), the Mann Tenant House (NS1557), the McTyeire Cemetery (NS1558), and the Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery (NS1559). Moore's Store (NS1556) is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the remaining three resources as not eligible. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study; Bridge No. 224 is not National Register-eligible.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vepatrick@ncdot.gov](mailto:vepatrick@ncdot.gov) or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

  
V.E.P.

Attachments

**Historic Structures Survey Report  
Replace Bridge No. 224 on SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) Over I-95  
Nash County, North Carolina**

T.I.P No. BR-0039  
WBS# 67039.1.1  
PA No. 17-12-0063

Prepared for  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by  
Cardno, Inc.  
5400 Glenwood Avenue, Suite G-3  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

December 10, 2018 – Final Report

**Historic Structures Survey Report  
Replace Bridge No. 224 on SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) Over I-95  
Nash County, North Carolina**

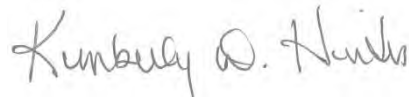
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Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT Historic Architecture Supervisor



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Kimberly D. Hinder, Cardno Principal Investigator

December 10, 2018 – Final Report

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 224 on SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) over I-95 in Nash County (T.I.P. No. BR-0039, WBS No. 67039.1.1, PA No. 17-12-0063). In May 2018, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an assessment of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of certain resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and provide this report.

As a result of this study, Cardno recommends that Moore's Store (NS1556) be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with the trading of merchandise and services in the rural agricultural community of Gold Rock and Criterion C for its architectural design as a largely unaltered early country store and gas station.

The Mann Tenant House (NS1557) does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP. While the building appears to be in its original location and retains the saddlebag design, its materials, setting, feeling, and association have been diminished through deterioration and abandonment, the loss of outbuildings, and nearby development.

Similarly, the McTyeire Cemetery does not appear NRHP eligible as it is not associated with significant persons or events and does not exhibit exceptional mortuary design or planning. With the loss of its associated historic church, the setting and association have been irrevocably damaged and the property does not retain sufficient integrity for listing.

Although indicated on plats and in county property records, no above ground evidence of the Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery remains. The limited historical information did not indicate who was interred in the burial ground. Lacking integrity, it does not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP, and there is no indication of research potential for the site. An archaeological survey was not part of this project.

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>NCHPO Survey Site Number</b>	<b>NRHP Eligibility Recommendation</b>	<b>NRHP Criteria</b>
Moore's Store	NS1556	Eligible	Criteria A and C
Mann Tenant House	NS1557	Not eligible	Not applicable
McTyeire Cemetery	NS1558	Not eligible	Not applicable
Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery	NS1559	Not eligible	Not applicable

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## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace bridge No. 224 on SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) over I-95 in Nash County (T.I.P. No. BR-0039, WBS No. 67039.1.1, PA No. 17-12-0063). This project is subject to review under the *Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted a preliminary investigation to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only four resources warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation, and they are the subject of this report (Figure 1). NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to a lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

In May 2018, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an intensive-level survey and assess the NRHP eligibility of three individual properties in the project APE (Figure 2 and Figure 3). Two of the buildings, Moore's Store and the Mann Tenant House, are on the same tax parcel.

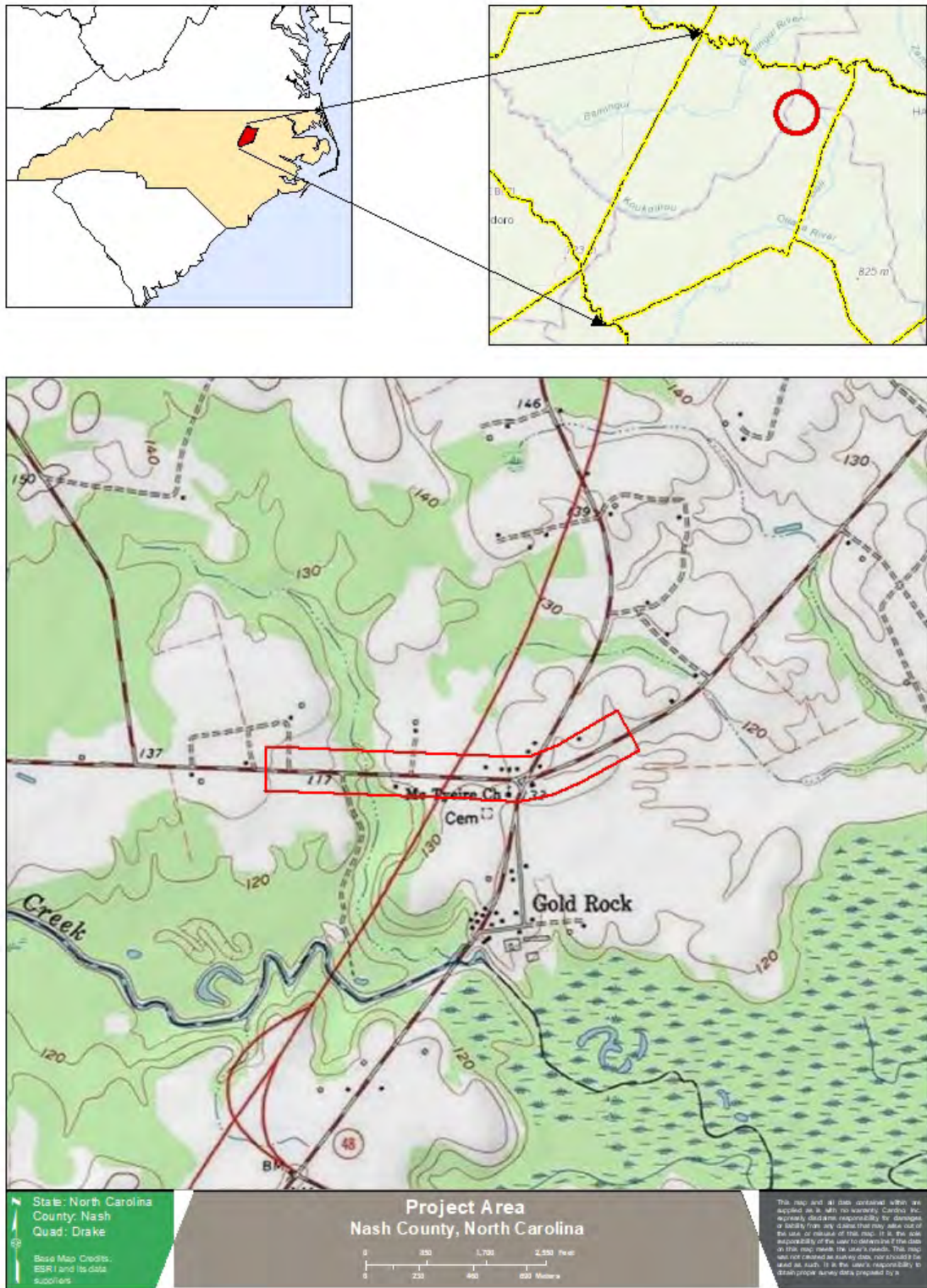
- Moore's Store, 10299 Watson Seed Farm Road (PIN: 385400178783)
- Mann Tenant House, Beasley Road (PIN: 385400178783)
- McTyeire Cemetery, NC 48 (PIN: 385400181057)
- Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery, Watson Seed Farm Road (PIN: 385400188243)

On May 16 and 17, 2018, Cardno senior architectural historian Kimberly Hinder visited the properties listed above assisted by Valerie Nobles (archaeologist). Each building was visually inspected, and the exterior, interior (when accessible), and setting were documented through written notes and digital photographs. Kimberly Hinder and Valerie Nobles also conducted a pedestrian survey of the McTyeire Cemetery (PIN: 385400181057) and Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery property (PIN: 385400188243). Site visits to other historic structures within Nash County and northeastern North Carolina provided an architectural context for the resources under evaluation.

Basic research was conducted prior to the site visit including Nash County GIS and tax records and a search of the historic structure records. Copies of prior survey forms for relevant resources were obtained from the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and the North Carolina State Archives. Additional information came from the Whitakers Public Library and the Kornegay Local History Room at the Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount. Attempts to contact property owners, Joseth Bocoock, Planner with the Rocky Mount Historic Preservation Commission, and the Rural Nash Historical Society were not successful. Informants interviewed included:

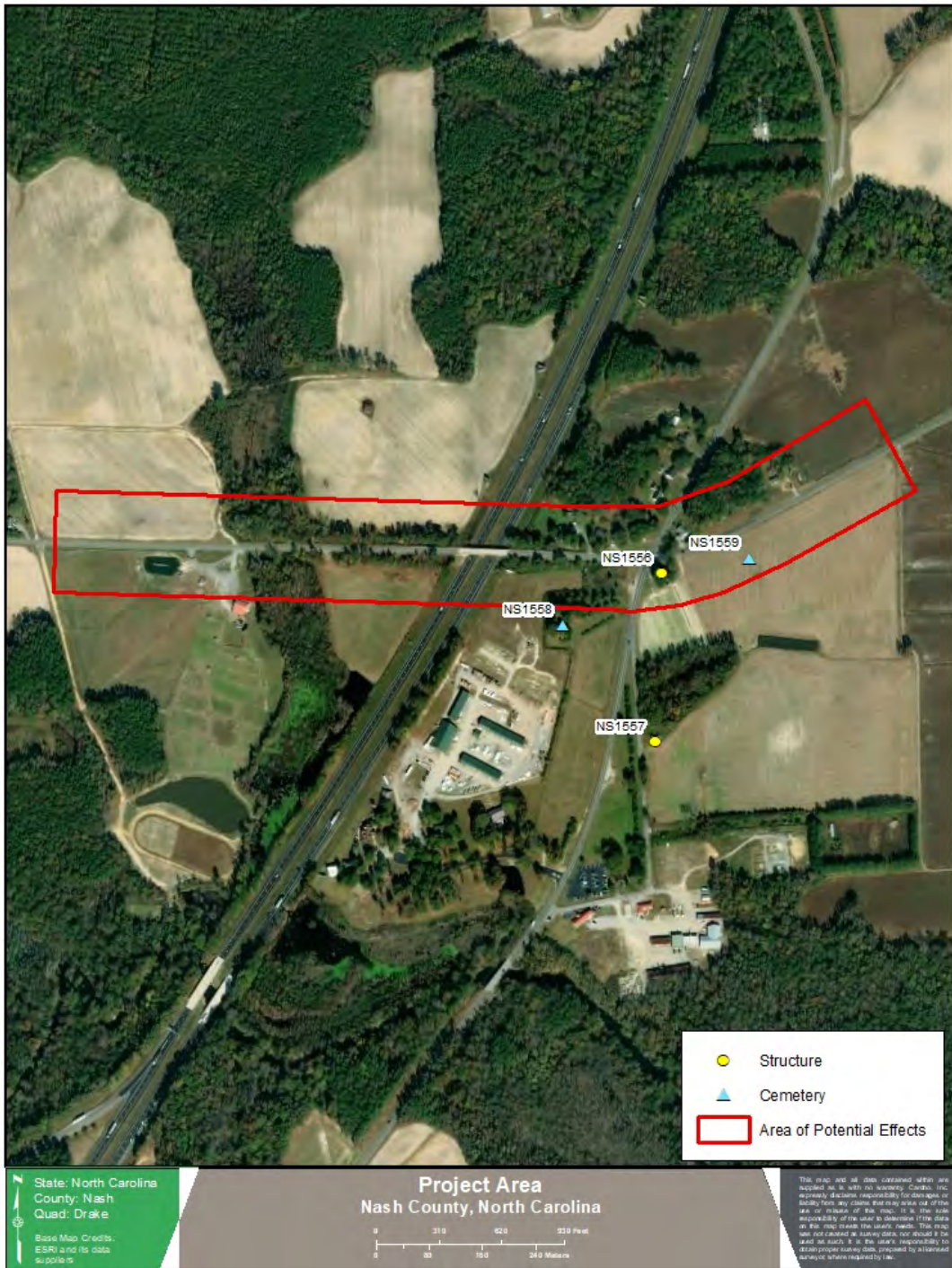
- > Traci Thompson, Local History/Genealogy Librarian, at the Kornegay Local History Room, Braswell Memorial Library, Rocky Mount;
- > Phillip Watson, local resident.





**Figure 1. Project location map, Nash County, North Carolina.**





**Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing APE and historic resources.**



**Figure 3. Aerial showing parcels and historic resources.**



## II. PROPERTY EVALUATION

### Moore's Store

Resource Name	Moore's Store (Figure 4)
HPO Survey Site Number	NS1556
Location	10299 Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510), Gold Rock
PIN	385400178783U
Date of Construction	ca. 1920
Recommendation	Eligible



**Figure 4. Moore's Store, front (northwest) elevation.**

### SETTING

Currently vacant, Moore's Store appears to have been constructed around 1920. Located on the southeast corner of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48 (Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4), this tax parcel incorporates Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Hilliard Farm plat, North Whitakers Township of Nash County. The Mann Tenant House (NS1557) is on the same parcel to the south,

but separated from the store by a stand of trees; it does not appear to be historically associated with the commercial building. To the east of the parcel are agricultural fields (Figure 5) and to the north across the highway are a few residences located along the edge of the highway with fields behind (Figure 6). The McTyeire Cemetery is found to the west of NC 48 (Figure 7). Fields and stands of trees are visible immediately south of the store (Figure 8). Further south and west are the Brave Quest Corporation log homes complex and the motels and businesses at the intersection of I-95 and NC 4. Thus, the surroundings are largely a mix of residential and agricultural with institutional across NC 48 and commercial further southwest. The area immediately surrounding the intersection of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48 remains generally rural in nature. Historically, NC 48 was known as Hilliard Street or the Gold Rock-Hickory Road, while Watson Seed Farm Road (SR1510) was the Whitakers-Hilliard Mill (Gold Rock) Road with the St. John's Road extending to the west from the intersection. The landscaping around the former store is modest with a few large trees in the yard and a couple of bushes adjacent to the residential portion of the building.



**Figure 5. Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510), looking east from Moore's Store.**





**Figure 6. Intersection of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48, looking northwest from Moore’s Store. Moore’s Store is on the right.**



**Figure 7. Intersection of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48, looking southwest from Moore’s Store.**



**Figure 8. Intersection of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48, looking south from Moore's Store.**

## **DESCRIPTION**

Moore's Store was built as a modest Craftsman style L-shaped building incorporating a residence in the rear eastern wing and a store with a gas canopy in the projecting western bay (Figure 9 and Figure 10). The intersecting hipped roof is clad with standing seam metal and has exposed rafter ends in the eaves. An interior brick chimney with chimney pots pierces the southeast slope of the roof in the residential section. Two additional brick chimneys, one with a chimney pot and one with the chimney pot and cap removed, are on the southwest slope of the roof (Figure 11). The commercial portion of the building has a deep overhanging canopy supported by brick piers and accessed by a sloped concrete slab. This allowed for drive-thru traffic to utilize the gas pumps which likely stood between the piers but are now removed. The wood frame building is surfaced with weatherboard and rests on a continuous brick foundation perforated with openings for ventilation.

Windows on the residential portion of the building and the side elevations of the store are six-over-six, wood, double-hung sash, placed independently (Figure 12). The storefront windows are 16-light wood, fixed, flanking a six-light, two-panel, wood door (Figure 13). Most of the openings have exterior storm windows and interior security bars or blinds with horizontal slats. The primary entrance to the residence has a Craftsman style door with four vertical lights above two panels. A shed-roofed porch supported by simple square wood posts extends across the residential portion of the front façade. A small, shed-roofed addition on the rear incorporates an open porch supported by square wood posts and a room which likely served as storage or a restroom (Figure 14). Accessed from the exterior, this room has a five-panel door, while the entrance into the store from



this porch has a four-light, three-panel door. Window air conditioning units have been installed in window openings on the southwest, southeast, and northeast elevations, but the original windows are still in place.

The Craftsman stylistic elements are subtle, the most obvious being the exposed rafter ends, the vertical elements of the front door to the residence, and the brick piers supporting the store canopy (McAlester 2013). The six-over-six wood, double-hung sash windows are more indicative of the Colonial Revival style, also popular at the time. Surveyors did not have access to the interior.

Behind the building is a brick pump house with a standing seam metal clad shed roof (Figure 15). In deteriorated shape, it has a wood door and a running bond brick pattern. Slightly southeast of the pump house is a small equipment shed in ruinous condition (Figure 16). It has a standing seam metal clad shed roof with a pent above the primary openings on the south side. The wood frame structure is missing most of its siding and portions of the roof are collapsing. The landscaping surrounding Moore's Store is composed of a few bushes in front of the residential portion of the house flanking the concrete steps, and mature trees to the east and south in the yard.



**Figure 9. Moore's Store, front (northwest) elevation, looking south.**



**Figure 10. Moore's Store, front (northwest) elevation, looking southeast.**



**Figure 11. Moore's Store, southwest elevation, looking northeast.**





**Figure 12. Moore's Store, detail of residential façade, looking southeast.**



**Figure 13. Moore's Store, detail of commercial façade, looking east.**





**Figure 14. Moore's Store, rear (southeast) elevation, looking north.**



**Figure 15. Pump House, looking northeast.**





**Figure 16. Shed, looking northeast.**

## **HISTORY**

According to the Nash County Tax Department, the store was built in 1910. However, deed and newspaper research has not corroborated this date or definitively revealed the original owner or operator. Based on its style and the history of the property, it appears to have been constructed ca. 1920.

Initially settled in the 1830s, Ing's Mill, as the Gold Rock community was first known, served as an important trade center for surrounding farmers and functioned as a crossroads for early stage routes. Located at a narrow crossing on Swift Creek, it was an ideal location for a water-powered grist mill which was established by Jacob Ing. In 1845, brothers Richard and Henry Whitaker relocated from Whitaker's Turnout (later renamed Whitakers) to the Ing's Mill area, eventually acquiring over 1,700 acres of land. In 1859, Richard Whitakers purchased Ing's mill and renamed it Whitaker's Mill. On his property, he operated a cotton gin, a store, a cotton buying business, a tannery, and a shoemaker's shop (Mattson and Poff 1987:4; *Nashville Graphic* 2/3/1955, 7/1/1975, and 3/11/1988).

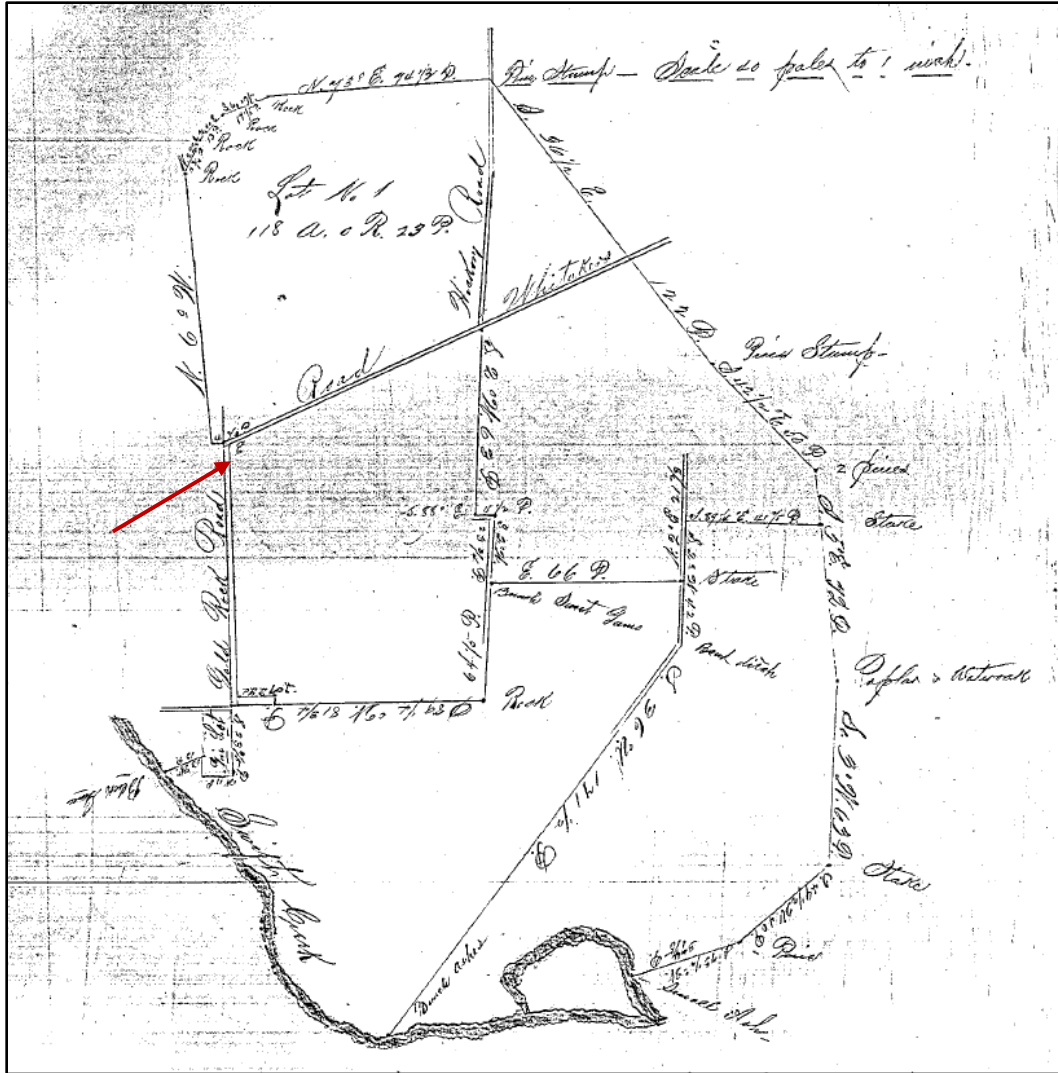
A town incorporated around the mill in 1875, and residents soon petitioned for the establishment of a post office. Due to the potential for confusion between nearby Whitaker's Turnout and Whitaker's Mill, the community adopted the name of Gold Rock. In 1880, the Whitakers donated land for the construction of a Methodist Church ¼ mile north of the settlement on the road to Hickory. After the original church building was destroyed in a storm, the congregation rebuilt in 1891-1892 and named themselves the McTyeire Methodist Church. During this period, the community had two stores, another cotton gin, and two saloons in addition to the businesses

operated by the Whitakers. One of the stores owned by Mr. Edwards employed R.R. Gay, who is credited with naming the community Gold Rock. R.M. Moore acquired Edward's store and operated a cotton gin as well, while his wife served as postmistress 1903 until it was discontinued in 1911. In 1905, John B. and Hattie Carr purchased one of the stores and eventually acquired two others, stocking dry goods and notions in one store, groceries in another, and hardware in the third. They eventually consolidated into one store, sold the second, and used the third as storage (Mattson and Poff 1987:4; *Nashville Graphic* 2/3/1955, 7/1/1975, and 3/11/1988; Ancestry.com 2010a).

In the 1910s, Henry Walker built a sawmill across from McTyeire Church. When this structure burned, he rebuilt closer to Swift Creek and also erected a cotton gin. His brother, L.F. "Buck" Walker opened a general store adjacent to the sawmill which operated from the 1920s to the 1950s. In 1948, Walker's sawmill again burned and was rebuilt, when fire struck again in 1965. In 1971, the Beasley Lumber Products acquired the Walker Lumber Company. Another major business concern in the community during the late twentieth century was the Watson Seed Farm established by George and Van Watson in 1945. In 1982, American Lincoln Homes (renamed AmerLink; now owned by Brave Quest Corporation) purchased the sawmill property and the former Carr home to use as part of their log home manufacturing headquarters (Mattson and Poff 1987:4; *Nashville Graphic* 2/3/1955, 7/1/1975, and 3/11/1988; Ancestry.com 2010a).

The property on which Moore's Store is located was owned by Alexander Hilliard who purchased it as part of a larger 314 acre parcel from his father, William H. Hilliard, in 1867 (Nash County, North Carolina, Register of Deeds, Deed Book 23, Page 217). Upon Alexander's death, the land was divided between his children with Jerry Hilliard receiving Lot 1, Dewilda Hilliard Edwards getting Lot 2, Jesse Hilliard accepting Lot 3, and Alex Hilliard taking Lot 4 in 1898 (Deed Book 94, Page 165; Figure 17). The store would be built in Lot 1, which was inherited by Jerry Hilliard.





**Figure 17. Division of Alexander Hilliard's property with arrow indicating future location of Moore Store, 1898 (Deed Book 94, Page 168).**

In 1900, Jerry Hilliard unexpectedly died of pneumonia at 27 years of age and his property passed to his siblings (*Nashville Graphic* 2/1/1900). In 1905, the brothers conveyed their interest in Lot 1 to their sister, DeWilda Hilliard Edwards, who had married John H. Edwards in 1897 (Deed Book 152, Page 276; Ancestry.com 2015a). In February 1904, the couple had mortgaged Lot 2, which was her inheritance from her father, as well as three horses and five cows, in exchange for \$1,000 to the Bank of Whitaker (Deed Book 129, Page 398). After John Edwards died in September 1905, DeWilda defaulted on the loan, and, in 1908, Lot 2 was sold at auction to M.C. Braswell (*North Carolina Christian Advocate* 10/11/1905; Deed Book 168, Page 331). Her brothers then transferred their interest in Lot 1 in December 1905 “so that she may be able to support and maintain herself and her children” (Deed Book 152, Page 276). However, the document was not signed by Jesse Hilliard so a subsequent deed in 1916 clarified her ownership (Deed Book 226, Page 264).

In 1916, DeWilda Hillard Edwards entered into a development agreement with the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company to subdivide and sell the 118 acre parcel she received from her brothers (Deed Book 215, Page 318). Civil engineer John J. Wells surveyed Hilliard Farm and the plat was filed in February 1916 (Plat Book 1, Page 45). This is the first indication of the grave yard, which was exempt from the sale and shown on the plat. The plat depicts the McTyeire Church and a house on the north side of present-day Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510), but does not show the store which would be built in Lot 6 (Figure 18).

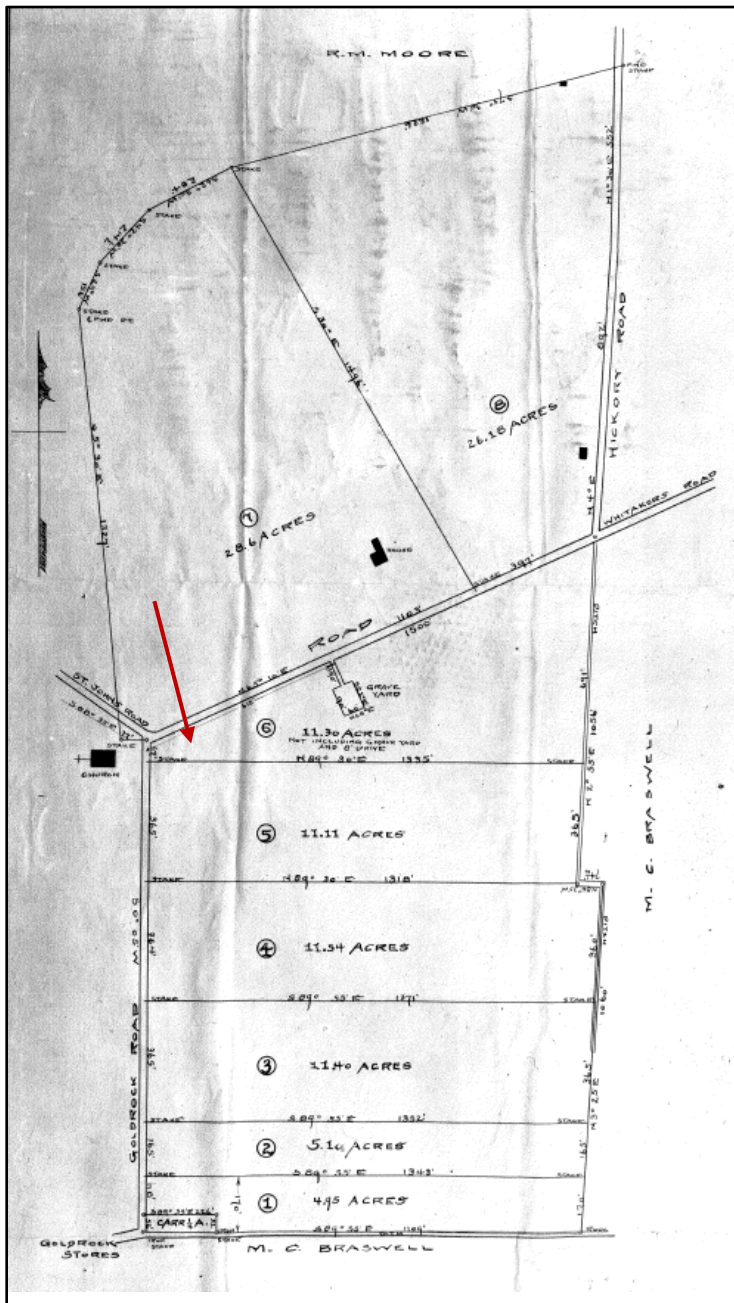


Figure 18. Plat of Hilliard Farm, 1916, with arrow indicating the future site of Moore's Store (Plat Book 1, Page 45).

With the plat in its final stages, the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Co. started selling the lots. On January 31, 1916, Richard McLean “Mack” Moore, who owned and lived on land to the north of the new plat, purchased Lots 4, 5, and 6 from which the graveyard and an eight ft. drive to access it were exempt (Deed Book 226, Page 269). A native of Nash County descending from early Gold Rock settler Moses Moore, R.M. Moore served two terms as state legislator. In 1907, newspaper reports reveal he owned a store in Gold Rock when there was a shooting using his shotgun that he kept in the store (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 2/18/1955; *News and Observer* 5/17/1907). After his purchase of the Hilliard Farm lots, it remains unclear exactly when the store was constructed and by whom. Based on the design and materials used in its construction, it may have been built soon after R.M. Moore’s purchase. However, when the Hilliard Farm plat was filed in 1916, the Gold Rock Road ended at present-day Watson Seed Farm Road which was alternately referred to as Whitakers Road or Whitakers-Gold Rock Road with St. Johns Road branching to the northwest. East of the intersection, a road extending north to Hickory bordered the Hilliard Farm plat. A 1919 Map of Nash County shows the road alignment at the time as well as the McTeer [sic] Church, but does not show the store (Figure 19). The direct road between Gold Rock and Hickory, part of a larger road project opening a straight route from Rocky Mount to Virginia, was approved for construction in 1926. The store may have been erected to serve the increased traffic resulting from that artery (*Rocky Mount Evening Telegram* 7/13/1926, 8/3/1926).



**Figure 19.** Map of Nash County, North Carolina, 1919, with arrow indicating future site of Moore’s Store (Wells & Brinkley 1919).

The next deed found for the property dated to 1935, but was not officially filed until 1945. At some point prior to 1935, a ¼ acre parcel on which the store is located was sold to M.C. Braswell, who owned the land to the east of the Hilliard Farm plat. Among multiple business interests, M.C. Braswell operated the general store that his father, Thomas P. Braswell, had founded in 1873 in Battleboro. The Gold Rock store may have started as a branch of the M.C. Braswell Company (previously T.P. Braswell & Son). In addition to their mercantile, the family operated a cotton gin, and cottonseed oil mill in Battleboro, was involved in The Planters Bank, served as legislators, and held extensive farm lands as well. In 1906, the Braswell farms in Nash and Edgecombe counties consisted of 750 acres of tobacco, 350 acres of cotton, and 75 acres of peanuts with the center of their operations near Battleboro. Thomas P. Braswell died in 1907, followed by M.C. Braswell in 1922, but the family continued to operate the general store in Battleboro (Mattson and Poff 1987:10, 260; *Rocky Mount Telegram* 4/16/1953; Ancestry.com 2015b; Find-a-Grave.com, n.d.:Pineview Cemetery and Battleboro Cemetery). The Gold Rock store may have been built by R.M. Moore or M.C. Braswell, both of whom owned the land between 1916 and 1935.

On February 1, 1935, the heirs of M.C. Braswell, consisting of his daughters Mattie Mae B. Gorham, her husband R.D., Elizabeth B. Pearsall and her husband Thomas J., and Vivian B. Braswell, sold the ¼ acre lot at the southeast corner of present-day SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) and NC 48 to R.M. Moore (Deed Book 501, Page 144). This deed was recorded when R.M. Moore and his wife, Pattie Braswell Moore (daughter of Edward J. Braswell), sought to convey the parcel to their son Mark B. Moore. On October 16, 1945, the couple transferred the ¼ acre parcel on which the store was located as well as lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 (with the exception of the cemetery) in the Hilliard Farm plat to their son, Mark B. Moore (Deed Book 501, Page 149). According to one local history, Mark B. Moore had moved into the living quarters of the store and operated it with his wife, Rosa Meyer Moore, in 1934 (Nash County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc. 2011:5). When Gold Rock built a new community center using WPA funds in 1939, it was constructed “across the street from Moore’s service station and near the McTyre [sic] church” (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 8/15/1939). The 1940 federal census lists Mark Moore as merchant of his own store who lived in the same place with his wife, Rosa, in 1935. His parents, R.M. and Pattie Moore, lived adjacent (Ancestry.com 2012).

At the time that R.M. Moore died in 1955, the community had a population of approximately 55 individuals with “four country store and service station combinations” (*Nashville Graphic* 2/3/1955). The stores were operated by Hattie Carr Archbell, Mrs. H.J. Hartman, Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Avent, and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moore. Moore’s Store appears to have been operated on a day-to-day basis by his wife, Rosa (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 4/27/1952 and 2/18/1955). Advertising Edgemont Meats, the store was known as the Mark Moore Grocery (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 12/8/1955). When three teenagers broke into the store in 1958, they stole nine cartons of cigarettes, chewing gum, motor oil, canned goods, and seven shirts. In the newspaper article reporting the theft, the newspaper referred to the store as Mark Moore’s service station (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 2/13/1958). In February 1961, Mark B. Moore died leaving the store to his wife, Rosa (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 2/16/1961). In March 1961, the store was still referred to as M.B. Moore’s Store when a vote was taken concerning cattle assessments (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 3/24/1961). In 1968, the store was still in operation. Representative L.H. Fountain made a campaign stop at Moore’s Store while seeking reelection where he visited with Rosa Moore and her sister-in-law (Figure 20; *Rocky Mount Telegram* 4/19/1968). However, the arrival of Interstate



95 in the late 1960s, brought an interchange and development south of Gold Rock resulting in the closure of most of the long-time community businesses, including Moore's Store (*Rocky Mount Telegram*, 11/20/1966).



**Figure 20. Representative L.H. Fountain with Rosa Moore and Mrs. Gaston B. Moore at a campaign stop at Moore's Store in 1968 (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 4/19/1968).**

Following the death of Rosa Moore, the property passed to her son, Mark B. Moore, Jr., and her daughter, Rosa M. Leonard. In 2004, Rosa M. Leonard and her husband, Howard, conveyed their half interest in lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 to Mark B. Moore, Jr. (Deed Book 2031, Pages 657-662).

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

### ***Country Stores as Historic Properties***

The heyday of rural general store operation lasted from the late nineteenth century through the 1920s. With the rural population from the Reconstruction through the mid-twentieth century consisting largely of small farm owners and workers, stores carried diverse inventories and were often situated at crossroads. Owners usually resided in the commercial building or nearby in order to protect their merchandise. Stores served as social centers of their communities, hosting a variety of events from elections to health visits to pet inoculations. The post offices were frequently operated from the general store. Although demand for farm products increased during World War I, an increasing number of rural residents moved to urban areas seeking better opportunities. In Nash County, the 1905 *North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory* published by the *Raleigh News and Observer* listed 46 general merchandise stores in unincorporated areas of which only one, owned by P.E. Edwards, was in Gold Rock. By 1915, that number had dropped to 23 with one still in Gold Rock (*News and Observer* 1905 and 1915). Improved roads prompted residents to shop in larger stores in urban areas. With the spread of electricity and refrigeration to rural areas, frequent trips to the general store were no longer necessary. As automobiles replaced wagons, stores diversified by adding gas pumps and adjusting their goods and services. The Great Depression further challenged rural store owners as farming families expanded their own crops

and livestock to sustain their families, buying only the necessities. The onset of World War II drew an increasing number of workers to the cities for manufacturing positions in support of the war and where they remained after the war. Interstates in the post-war era drew travelers off of the rural roads and prompted the proliferation of modern convenience stores and gas stations at their exits. Few rural stores continue to function in their original capacity with most now serving other functions or vacant (Fearnbach 2012:6-10).

In 2012, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. prepared the *Historic Store Context for Burke, Caldwell, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford Counties* (Fearnbach 2012). As part of this study, 51 rural general stores were surveyed and used to create an architectural context. After analyzing stores constructed from the late nineteenth century through the 1940s, the stores were found to be mostly executed in frame or brick and of modest size. Most wood frame stores are surfaced with weatherboard and feature a rectangular footprint with a full-width front canopy. Other character defining features include large window openings, paneled doors, and facades with flat or stepped parapets. Two-story examples housed residential units or meeting space on the second floor. According to the study, “one-story frame commercial buildings were much more common in rural areas historically, but few remain” (Fearnbach 2012:72).

### ***Gas Stations as Historic Properties***

In evaluating gas stations as a property type, *The Preservation and Reuse of Historic Gas Stations* by Chad Randl, *The Gas Station in America* by Jon A. Jakle and Keith A. Sculle, and *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* were helpful in categorizing the various styles and forms of gas stations (Jakle and Sculle 1994; Jones 2003). Although first developed in the late nineteenth century, most families did not own automobiles until the decades after Henry Ford introduced the Model T in 1908. Early roads were rough dirt or, if improved, covered with gravel or rock. Opportunities to fill the car with gasoline remained limited to larger towns where local wholesale distributors generally associated with the dry goods store or livery stable provided gasoline in crude containers. By the 1910s, stationary gasoline pumps set along urban and rural roads generally adjacent to grocery, hardware or other businesses provided curbside self-service. Evolving fire safety codes forced most of the urban curbside stations to close after 1920. Around 1913, Gulf Refining Company opened their first full-service filling station in Pittsburgh with a canopy covering several pumps. With few covered automobiles available prior to 1915, little travel occurred during inclement weather eliminating the need for canopies. The earliest forms of filling stations built specifically to dispense gasoline adopted the appearance of a rectangular or square shaped house with an attached canopy. By the late 1910s, oil and refining companies such as Texaco, Humble, Magnolia, and Gulf, started expanding nationwide with corporate designed stations exhibiting popular architectural styles (Jakle and Sculle 1994:133-144; Jones 2003:23-29).

Hundreds of stations were built throughout the nation during the 1920s. Station owners increasingly selected large corner lots to construct their buildings, thus providing access from two primary arterial streets. Services also expanded to include repairs, oil changes, and car washes prompting the construction of attached service bays. The decade also witnessed a rise in sole proprietorships and woman-owned businesses, built independently, but affiliated with a corporation and displaying their signage and logos. Gasoline pumps advertised companies and



were lit at night. Lighting the entire station grew important to allow fueling at night (Jakle and Sculle 1994:133-144; Jones 2003:33-43). From the 1930s through the 1950s, gas station owners adopted more streamlined Moderne and International style designs which evolved into futuristic and boxy standardized forms in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1947, the first self-service station opened in Los Angeles starting a trend away from the “service” of the traditional business. Independent owners became increasingly rare by the 1960s and 1970s as corporations grew and the interstate system spread bypassing towns (Jakle and Sculle 1994:144-157; Jones 2003:44-95).

### ***Moore’s Store and Nash County***

Moore’s Store is uncommon for historic country stores as well as historic gas stations with its one-story, L-shaped form incorporating residential, commercial, and automotive uses. Typically, buildings exhibiting all of these were two-story structures with residential on the second floor. Moore’s Store is characteristic of country stores in that it is a wood frame structure of modest size with large window openings. Commonly found in gas stations constructed between 1910 and 1930, Moore’s Store displays the “House with Canopy” gas station form which generally utilized Colonial Revival or Bungalow/Craftsman style detailing. Moore’s Store demonstrates the Bungalow/Craftsman style in the use of its wood frame construction, residential appearance, hipped roof, boxed brick columns, and exposed rafter ends. Moore’s Store does not demonstrate the standardized forms or corporate colors and logos adopted by many oil and gasoline companies by the mid-1920s further indicating its early construction date. It also does not incorporate service or maintenance bays which grew increasingly common during the 1920s (Jakle and Sculle 1994:134; Jones 2003:12-33).

The North Carolina state survey inventory maintained by the HPO includes no extant gas stations without service bays and approximately five recorded rural stores in Nash County. Of these, the L.W. Bobbitt General Supply Store (NS395) in Castalia, Taylor’s Store (NS448) at Taylor’s Crossroads, and Griffin’s General Merchandise Store (NS625) at Dortches were analyzed for comparison. The L.W. Bobbitt General Supply Store is a one-story, wood frame store built ca. 1917 (Figure 21). In addition to dry goods, Bobbitt initially sold horses and mules before converting to market farm machinery in the 1940s. The business moved into the abandoned school across the street in the mid-1960s. Typical of small general stores, it has a rectangular footprint with a front-facing gable roof, weatherboard siding, and a pier foundation. The large display windows have been boarded over, but the painted signage advertising the business remains. Although the structure retains good integrity, it is vacant (Mattson and Poff 1987:150).



**Figure 21. L.W. Bobbitt General Supply Store, built ca. 1917, front (west) and side (south) elevations.**

Taylor's Store was part of Taylor's Crossroads, a commercial and agricultural complex incorporating two general stores, a cotton gin, and a feed mill operated by John N. Taylor and his son, Tom. The one-story, wood frame store, which remains in operation, dates from the 1940s (Figure 22). The rectangular building has a hip roof which extends into a large canopy that originally incorporated gas pumps. Decorative elements such as the exposed rafter ends, battered wood posts set on brick piers, and brick chimney remain, but the integrity has been compromised by the replacement of some windows with jalousies and the application of brick siding which extends into a wall along the front façade (Mattson and Poff 1987:198).



**Figure 22. Taylor's Store, dating from the 1940s, front (east) and side (north) elevations.**

Built in 1918 by local farmer John Griffin, Griffin's General Merchandise Store represents a combination of wood frame and brick construction (Figure 23). It was part of a larger complex that included a cotton gin. The building retains its large storefront windows, recessed entry, and a sweeping canopy which extends across most of the front façade. The building retains good integrity and now functions as an antique shop (Mattson and Poff 1987:229).



**Figure 23. Griffin's General Merchandise Store, constructed in 1918, front (east) elevation.**

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### ***Integrity***

Moore's Store retains sufficient historical integrity to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Moore's Store retains a high level of integrity of location as the commercial building stands on its original site. The store also retains sufficient integrity of design to convey its dual role in history as a mercantile, gas station, and as a residence. The original massing, fenestration, surface materials, ornamentation, and its original relationship with the roads are still quite evident.

The historic setting of Moore's Store remains little altered from its original rural agricultural landscape. Although the McTyeire Church located across NC 48 from the store is demolished, the associated cemetery continues to serve the community on the same site. The majority of the surroundings endure as agricultural fields and single-family residences.

The property retains good integrity of design and materials, including essentially unaltered massing, windows, doors, and exterior finishes. The removal of the gas pumps and signage is common for this property type. Their loss does not significantly detract from the building's appearance which remains indicative of the form. A high level of workmanship is still evident in the various elements of the building.

Moore's Store retains the feeling of a rural store and gas station incorporating living space for the owner or operator. Although it now serves as storage, the building continues to be associated with the agricultural settlement in the Gold Rock area.

### ***Evaluation Criteria***

Moore's Store is recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its association with the trading of merchandise and services in the rural agricultural community of Gold Rock. It is one of the few commercial components of the farming society which survived the arrival of the interstate. Located at a major intersection along the roads connecting the communities of Gold Rock, Hickory, and Whitaker, Moore's Store was built to provide the goods necessary for the continued success of the surrounding agricultural industries.

The property is not recommended as eligible for listing under Criterion B as it is not directly associated with any particular person who played a significant role in local, state, or national history. If further research does reveal a concrete association with Richard McLean "Mack" Moore or M.C. Braswell, then eligibility should be reevaluated under this criterion.

Moore's Store retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for listing under Criterion C for its largely unaltered country store and gas station design. It is unusual as a one-story, L-shaped rural mercantile incorporating both residential and commercial space. The hip roof which extends to create a deep canopy over the store entrance indicates its use as a gas station as well. Although

no longer in use, it continues to represent the initial use and intent of the building to provide goods and gasoline while housing the owner or operator. The overall design and intact integrity of this country store is rare.

Moore's Store is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D as it is unlikely to yield new information about historic architectural design or construction.

## **NRHP BOUNDARIES**

Although now part of a larger parcel, the store appears to have been separated into a ¼ acre parcel at the time of construction until the 1935 deed conveying the property from the heirs of M.C. Braswell to R.M. Moore reunited the store with lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Hilliard Farm plat (filed in 1945; Deed Book 501, Page 144). Boundaries proposed for this NRHP-eligible historic property are drawn to include the store at 10299 Watson Seed Farm Road and the surrounding ¼ acre of tax parcel PIN 385400178783U (Figure 24). The proposed boundary conforms to the existing right-of-way lines along Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48, and does not intrude into the right-of-way. The boundary includes the contributing pump house and the contributing equipment shed. The remaining property on the parcel does not appear to have functioned in conjunction with the store as much of the land continues to be used for crops.





**Figure 24. Moore's Store, proposed NRHP boundaries.**



## Mann Tenant House

Resource Name	Mann Tenant House (Figure 25)
HPO Survey Site Number	NS1557
Location	Beasley Road, Gold Rock
PIN	385400178783U
Date of Construction	ca. 1916
Recommendation	Not eligible for NRHP



**Figure 25. Mann Tenant House, front (west) and south elevations, looking northeast**

### SETTING

Situated on the southern half of the same property as Moore’s Store (NS1556), the parcel in which the Mann Tenant House is located stretches along Beasley Road north to the intersection of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). According to the Nash County online property records, this tract incorporates 43.75 acres including Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Hilliard Farm plat, North Whitakers Township of Nash County. Property records list a construction date of 1910, but historical research indicates the residence was built post-1916 and does not appear to be historically associated with the commercial building, Moore’s Store, on the same parcel. Immediately north is a wooded lot and crop lands separating the house and store, and to the east are additional agricultural fields (Figure 26). Looking south, are more fields with some commercial buildings at the south end of the road (Figure 27). Beasley Road and a plot of trees and grass separate the house from NC 48 with the Brave Quest Corporation log homes complex further west of the highway (Figure 28). The area immediately surrounding the house remains generally rural in nature. Bushes and vines obscure most of the rear elevation with additional vines

making inroads on other elevations. No other plants, bushes, or trees are evident around the abandoned building. There are not any sidewalks, driveway, or fencing. The surrounding grass is overgrown meadow with wildflowers.



**Figure 26.** Beasley Road from in front of the Mann Tenant House, looking north.



**Figure 27.** Beasley Road from in front of the Mann Tenant House, looking south.





**Figure 28. Beasley Road from in front of the Mann Tenant House, looking west.**

Historically, this now abandoned house was part of a functioning farm located on the main road between Gold Rock and Hickory. This road which became NC 48 was rerouted to curve to the west with the original route renamed Beasley Road prior to 1954. Aerial photographs show that outbuildings populated the rear yard to the east of this house by 1954 and remained on-site in 1962 and 1969 (Figure 29 and Figure 30). Outbuildings which were apparent on the 1954 aerial were removed between 1979 and 1991. Although the overall rural agricultural setting remains intact, the immediate surroundings of this residence have been altered by the loss of all of the associated outbuildings (NETR 1954; NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1957, 1962, 1969, 1979, 1991).



**Figure 29. Aerial photograph dated February 28, 1962, showing Mann Tenant House (NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1962).**



**Figure 30. Aerial photograph dated March 4, 1969, showing the Mann Tenant House and outbuildings (NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1969).**

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Mann Tenant House is a one-story, three-bay, saddlebag type house with a rear ell on the north (Figure 31). Sheathed in weatherboard siding, the wood frame building rests on a brick pier foundation. A brick chimney with a corbeled chimney cap is centrally located on the ridge of the gable roof which is clad with standing seam metal sheets. A smaller interior brick chimney is situated on the north slope of the roof in the ell wing. Many of the windows are obscured or broken, but an intact window on the north elevation exhibits a wood, four-over-six, double-hung sash design (Figure 32). The primary entrance has a deteriorated five-panel door set under a shingle clad gable roofed stoop supported by knee braces. A rear porch with a hipped roof set in the east and south elevations of the “L” has been enclosed with weatherboard. Further details of the enclosed porch were not visible due to heavy vegetation (Figure 33). Decorative elements on the house include a boxed cornice and exposed rafter ends in the eaves of the stoop. The interior has endured alterations and vandalism but the novelty board siding, window and door trim, and some corner bead molding remains intact. The vestibule at the entrance indicative of the saddlebag with a central entrance and two units remains evident (Figure 34).





**Figure 31. Mann Tenant House, front (west) façade, looking east.**



**Figure 32. Mann Tenant House, north elevation, looking southeast.**



**Figure 33. Mann Tenant House, south elevation, looking northwest.**

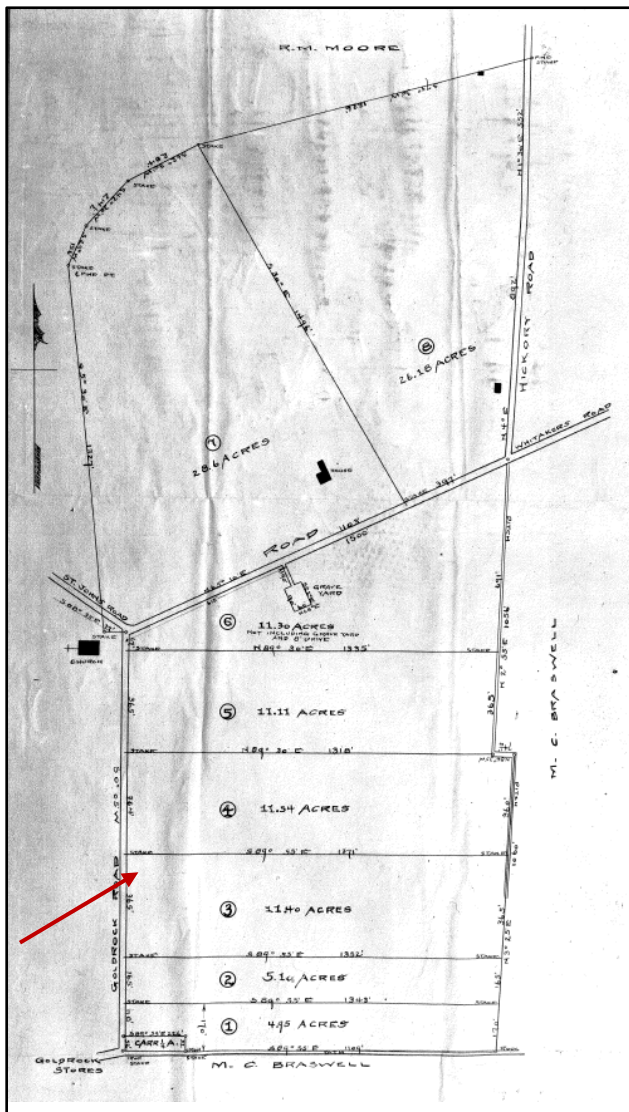


**Figure 34. Mann Tenant House, interior view from window, looking northwest to vestibule.**



## HISTORY

The Mann Tenant House appears to have been built at the northwest corner of Lot 3 soon after the Hilliard Farm plat was filed in February 1916. Although now on the same parcel as Moore's Store, the house was constructed on a separate parcel under different ownership at the time. As discussed above concerning the history of the store, this property was inherited by Jerry Hilliard in 1898 following the death of his father. When Jerry Hilliard unexpectedly died in 1900, the property passed to his siblings who then conveyed it to their sister DeWilda Hilliard Edwards after her husband died. In 1916, she entered into a development agreement with the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company to survey, subdivide, and sell the property. Even though other houses and the McTyeire Church were depicted on the plat, this house was not drawn on the property, likely indicating a post-1916 construction date (Figure 35; Plat Book 1, Page 45; Deed Book 94, Page 165; Deed Book 152, Page 276; Deed Book 215, Page 318).



**Figure 35. Plat of Hilliard Farm, 1916, with arrow indicating the future site of the Mann Tenant House (Plat Book 1, Page 45).**

On January 31, 1916, the Rocky Mount Insurance & Realty Company sold Lot 3 to W.R. Mann (Deed Book 226, Page 316). Based on the two-family saddlebag form used for the house, William R. Mann and his wife, Sarah “Chessie” B. Mann probably built it as part of a tenant farm soon after their acquisition. A 1919 Map of Nash County shows a building at the approximate location of the Mann Tenant House (Figure 36). The couple owned Elm Lane, a nearby farm along Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) west of Gold Rock and the subject parcel. Elm Lane was largely developed by his father, Benjamin D. Mann, starting in the 1850s, and his mother, Caroline, after his father’s death in 1863. W.R. and Chessie Mann assumed ownership and occupied the Elm Lane property from the late nineteenth century until around 1910. The overseer lived in the residence thereafter (Mattson and Poff 1987:9, 239; Find-a-Grave.com n.d.:Benjamin D. Mann Cemetery). In 1910 and 1920, federal census records indicate that W.R. and Chessie lived in Whitakers, where he was president of a coffin factory (Ancestry.com 2006, 2010b). Their home in Whitakers was a large Queen Anne style structure built along Railroad Street around 1910 (Mattson and Poff 1987:249).



**Figure 36. Map of Nash County, North Carolina, 1919, with arrow indicating the Mann Tenant House (Wells & Brinkley 1919).**

With the Mann family living in Whitakers when this structure was built, it likely served as a residence for a tenant farm. After the Civil War, North Carolina plantation owners started breaking their expansive land holdings into smaller farms, a trend that continued through the remainder of the 1800s and into the 1900s. Due to the extensive cotton fields, Nash County had a high farm tenancy rate after the Civil War which continued to grow with the importance of the tobacco crop. Cotton remained the state’s number one cash crop until replaced by tobacco in 1920. In addition to these two crops, sweet potatoes, orchard crops, corn and other grains, and naval stores were

harvested in Nash County. In 1900, tenant farmers operated 54.5 percent of the county's farms. By 1925, that number grew to 60 percent and totaled 70 percent by the end of World War II (Mattson and Poff 1987:10, 51-52).

On October 16, 1919, the Manns conveyed Lot 3 of the Hilliard Farm plat to Frank Harper (Deed Book 256, Page 82). Harper and his wife, Adelia, lived on and owned a farm near Lower Fishing Creek along Leggitt and Whitakers Road in Edgecombe County according to the 1910 and 1920 federal censuses (Ancestry.com 2006, 2010b). Following the death of Frank Harper in 1923, his Gold Rock property, referred to as Whitaker's Mill Farm, was sold at auction to satisfy court proceedings between the administrator and heirs of the estate. The successful bidder, Van S. Watson, acquired Lot 3 of Hilliard Farm from Commissioner R.T. Fountain in 1925. In addition, Watson received the former Whitaker Mill property as part of the sale (Ancestry.com 2007; Deed Book 291, Pg 197). In 1928, the City Directory of Rocky Mount listed him as a cotton buyer, but he served as Mayor of the town from 1929 to 1931, as a member of the board of aldermen, and as state representative and senator prior to his death in 1943 (Ancestry.com 2011; *Rocky Mount Telegram* 4/10/1943). It does not appear that he lived on the property in Gold Rock during his brief two-year period of ownership. In 1927, Van S. and Ruth B. Watson sold Lot 3 to R.M. Moore (Deed Book 326, Pg 63). In 1945, R.M. and Pattie Moore transferred lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 (with the exception of the cemetery) in the Hilliard Farm plat to their son, Mark B. Moore, whose son still owns it (Deed Book 501, Page 149).

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

This house exhibits a saddlebag design with the subtype exhibiting a single, central entrance into a vestibule beside the chimney. Another, more common, subtype displays two front entrances into the separate units. This form derives its name from the central chimney which is flanked by two rooms appearing to hang suspended from either side of the chimney. Sometimes this form originated from an addition to the chimney end of a single-pen (one-room) house, while at other times, it was constructed as a duplex resulting in a symmetrical façade. Although this house form was used as early as the 1830s, it remained popular for modest rural housing and mill village construction into the 1930s. Often, examples may have originally served as tenant housing for two families, before a more recent conversion to a single-family residence (Holl 1982:12; Jewett Center for Historic Preservation n.d.:4).

In Nash County, this form seems to be most commonly used for residences associated with a mill complex or tenant farms constructed in the early twentieth century. Rocky Mount Mills built numerous houses with saddlebag plans as worker housing during the early twentieth century. The two-room houses were frequently built with rear kitchen wings as complete units rather than in different stages as the early examples of this form were built. This provided for a duplex plan which accommodated the mill's policy stating that each house had to be occupied by at least two employees. This form of house was also utilized for laborers who worked in other mills and processing plants, as well as in the countryside for both white and black farm tenants. Most examples lacked a defined style with limited architectural detailing (Mattson and Poff 1987:25).



The recorded examples found in Nash County were all located in the Rocky Mount Mill Village Historic District (NS0704). Cardno did not have access to the one other rural residence, the Kearney Morgan House (NS0201), identified as exhibiting the saddlebag form in *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina* (Mattson and Poff 1987:77). All three of the examples from the Rocky Mount Mill Village Historic District are maintained and have good integrity. The saddlebag type house at 23 Carr Street remains a good example of the subtype with a centrally located entrance and brick chimney (Figure 37). The building has a side gable roof, a wood frame clad with drop siding, and a continuous brick foundation. A hipped roof porch extends across most of the front façade. An addition to the rear has created an irregular plan, but the original design remains recognizable.



**Figure 37. 23 Carr Street, Rocky Mount Mill Village Historic District (NS0704), looking west.**

Of the three examples, the residence at 28 River Drive retains the most intact form with a historic wing attached to the rear of the saddlebag portion of the structure (Figure 38). The wood frame building has drop siding, a side gable roof, and a porch which extends across most of the front

façade. The central entrance and centrally located brick chimney define the saddlebag form. This building appears to retain the most integrity of the three.



**Figure 38. 28 River Drive, Rocky Mount Mill Village Historic District (NS0704), looking south.**

The residence at 43 W. Elm Street occupies the corner of Elm and Carr Street (Figure 39). The original portion of the structure is a one-story saddlebag with a centrally located entrance and brick chimney. Additions to the rear have created an irregularly-shaped structure. The wood frame building has four-over-four double-hung sash windows, a continuous brick foundation, and a gable

roof. A porch extends across most of the front façade. In spite of additions to the rear, the original form is identifiable.



**Figure 39. 43 W. Elm Street, Rocky Mount Mill Village Historic District (NS0704), looking northwest.**

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### ***Integrity***

The Mann Tenant House does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP. The structure appears to be in its original location and retains most of the design and materials indicative of a traditional early twentieth-century saddlebag plan tenant house. However, its immediate setting, feeling, and association have been diminished through abandonment and the loss of outbuildings and associated agricultural fields. The landscape has been altered by the removal of original outbuildings and surrounding plantings of the farm yard as well as the realignment of NC 48. While recognizable as a typical rural tenant house of the 1910s, it does not have sufficient integrity to convey the sense of a farmhouse or the resource's likely historic appearance during the early to mid-twentieth century.

### ***Evaluation Criteria***

The Mann Tenant House is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of Nash County's rural history. While it is associated



with early-twentieth-century agriculture, the house and the farm once surrounding it did not play a significant role within that context.

Likely built soon after his purchase in 1916, W.R. Mann probably had this structure built as a tenant farm. At the time of construction, he lived in Whitakers and was an important businessman in the community. He owned the nearby Elm Lane farming complex, but did not live on the estate at the time of this purchase. There is no indication that Mann ever occupied this tenant house, or that the subsequent owners, Frank Harper or Van S. Watson, lived in the building or were directly associated with it in relation to their possible significance. Therefore, the Mann Tenant House is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with individuals significant in history.

Although the Mann Tenant House remains indicative of its original design as a traditional saddlebag tenant farmhouse in Nash County, it does not possess high artistic merit. The house was once part of a tenant farm, but the outbuildings have been lost, and the landscape has been altered. Furthermore, abandonment and vandalism have impacted the architectural integrity of the building. Other, more intact, examples of this form exist in the county. Therefore, it is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for its physical design and construction.

As an altered example of a common style and type of construction, the Mann Tenant House is not recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important in the history of the state.

### **McTyeire Cemetery**

Resource Name	McTyeire Cemetery (Figure 40)
HPO Survey Site Number	NS1558
Location	Southwest corner of NC 48 and Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510), Gold Rock
PIN	385400181057
Date of Construction	ca. 1892
Recommendation	Not eligible for NRHP



**Figure 40. McTyeire Cemetery, looking west.**

## **SETTING**

The McTyeire Cemetery is located on the southwest corner of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) and NC 48 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). Originally associated with the McTyeire Methodist Church, the cemetery dates to ca. 1892. It is accessed by an informal driveway extending from NC 48 and lined with trees (Figure 41). Moore's Store and agricultural fields are across NC 48 (Figure 42), while residences line the north side of Watson Seed Farm Road (Figure 43). The cemetery is visually separated from the Brave Quest Corporation log homes complex to the south and west by a non-historic berm and landscaped screening buffer which was required as a condition of approval for expansion of the complex in 1998, 2001, and 2016. The berm is 7 ft. high, 4 ft. wide at the top, and 22 ft. wide at the bottom (Nash County Board of Commissioners 2016:19, 31).

Historically, the McTyeire Cemetery was associated with the McTyeire Methodist Church (NS482), which was demolished in 1993 (Nash County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc. 2011:15). Historic aerial photographs show the original relationship of the church to the cemetery (Figure 44; NETR 1954, 1958, 1994; NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1957, 1962, 1969, 1979, 1991).





**Figure 41** Driveway to McTyeire Cemetery, looking west.



**Figure 42.** Looking northeast from driveway entrance to the intersection of SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) and NC 48.





**Figure 43.** Facing northwest from the intersection of SR 1510 (Watson Seed Farm Road) and NC 48. McTyeire Cemetery at extreme left.



**Figure 44.** Aerial photograph dated March 4, 1969, showing the McTyeire Church and Cemetery (NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1969).

## DESCRIPTION

Incorporating 1.68 acres, the McTyeire Cemetery includes approximately 85 graves. It is generally well maintained with the markers in good condition. According to the survey of the church building conducted in 1985, the cemetery was enclosed by a decorative wrought iron fence manufactured by the Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio (NS482). The 2018 field survey revealed that some of the individual family plots are enclosed by a wrought iron fence, but the manufacturer was not found on any of the remaining sections. Large portions of the enclosure as well as gates are missing, with most of the intact panels experiencing rust (Figure 45). Some fallen sections are stacked against a tree at the west end of the cemetery. There is not an overall enclosure limiting access to the cemetery.

Although some replacement markers are evident, most of the gravestones are legible original headstones. One appears to be hand inscribed. A few monuments memorialize members of the families who died in the mid-nineteenth century but are not buried in this cemetery. Most markers are marble, with more recent constructed of granite. The oldest tombstone appears to belong to Elizabeth Frances “Lizzie” Battle Whitaker, who died in 1895 (Figure 46). The most recent interment is for Jennifer Ann McLamb Whitaker in 2015. There are 82 marked graves of which three do not display a death date. Of those that do, 68% are historic (buried 1890 to 1969), while 32% represent interment between 1970 and 2015. A few of the original stones are now illegible and have been supplemented by modern markers indicating the deceased (Figure 47). As per the Christian tradition, all of the graves are oriented to face east, some with extant footstones. There were no evident grave depressions. Most tombstones are upright monuments, although a few ledger type concrete markers exist. Overall, iconography is limited considering the age of the cemetery, but some older gravestones include images of doves, ivy, flowers, and hands.



**Figure 45.** Decorative wrought iron fence, McTyeire Cemetery, looking northwest at Ricks family plot.





**Figure 46. Oldest original legible marker, Elizabeth Frances “Lizzie” Battle Whitaker, death October 11, 1895, looking northwest.**



**Figure 47. Illegible marker of brothers Peter and John Arrington, died 1911 and 1862, respectively, supplemented by modern marker, looking west. John Arrington died during the Civil War in Ohio and is buried there (Find-a-Grave.com n.d.:McTyeire Cemetery).**

Two small family plots are located in front of most of the graves to the right of the entrance drive (Figure 48). The first plot has a wrought iron fence enclosing the graves of W.T. Bryan and his wife, Helen Catherine Powell. Adjacent to a large tree, these rounded die in socket upright markers have been partially uprooted. A confederate veteran, William Bryan died in 1900 and his marker exhibits the iconography of two clasped hands signifying a heavenly welcome or earthly farewell. The second family section consists of a group of three markers with footstones commemorating the Morris family. Not surrounded by an enclosure, two have a squared die on base marble upright marker design with ivy denoting immortality or fidelity and ostensorium indicating clergy. All three show evidence of separation and reattachment to their bases with the pointed marker for Catherine Morris broken in two. It has a dove sweeping down representing the Holy Ghost and peace.





**Figure 48. Family plots of the Morris and Bryan families, looking northeast.**

Set amongst trees west of these two small family plots are four larger family sections dedicated to the Moore, Whitaker, Battle, and Ricks families (Figure 49). At the south end of the cemetery is the plot for the Moore family enclosed by a deteriorated and partially missing wrought iron fence (Figure 50). Most of the markers in this section are granite raised top markers. A large marble mausoleum and an Art Deco inspired marble, modified squared, die in socket upright marker proclaims the Moore ownership. Several more recent burials are to the west of the Moore plot situated outside of the fence line (if the fence were still intact). Most are granite or marble die in socket rounded upright markers. One of the more simple, yet elegant, designs in this area is for John and Mary Archbell, who died in 1948 and 1962, respectively, which has a daffodil denoting the triumph of divine love and sacrifice (Figure 51).





**Figure 49.** Four family plots at the west end of the McTyeire Cemetery, looking west.



**Figure 50.** Moore family plot, looking southwest.





**Figure 51. Marker for John and Mary Braswell Archbell, looking northwest.**

The central portion of the cemetery is dedicated to the Whitaker family, who donated land for the McTyeire Church. The cemetery may have started as their family plot. Partially enclosed by a deteriorating wrought iron fence, most of the graves are indicated by simple granite plaque and marble squared, rounded, or pointed die in socket upright markers with a few more recent interments dating from the 1980s to 2015. Some of the older graves have a rusticated rock finish on the base and sides of the tombstones. The more decorative historic markers include a marble obelisk for James Allen Whitaker, the urn topped pedestal tomb of Lizzie Whitaker, and a marble pointed die in socket headstone for Dr. Henry Whitaker. Dr. Whitaker, who passed away in 1916, was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, (MWA) whose marker has a shield with an ax and wedge representing industry, power, and progress for the organization (Figure 52). Also featuring laurel branches denoting victory, eternity, and immortality, the epitaph on his marker states “Given by his friends for he made the poor man’s heart glad.” A Celtic cross with the name Whitaker at the base and a large undecorated Latin cross with the name Booth are two of the larger monuments in this section (Figure 53).



**Figure 52. Dr. Henry Whitaker marker, looking west.**





**Figure 53. Whitaker family plot with Celtic and Latin crosses.**

The Battle family graves are situated to the north of the Whitaker plot but lack an enclosure. A centrally located Art Deco inspired squared headstone with wings marks the family plot (Figure 54). This marker has a stepped design with inset vertical panels of grape vines in the central portion and horizontal bands of vertical lines in the wing extensions. The individual markers are flat lawn-type markers with the earliest dating from 1943.





**Figure 54. Battle family plot, looking southwest.**

At the northern end of the cemetery is the Ricks family plot partially enclosed by a deteriorating wrought iron fence (Figure 55). Several small marble obelisks, urn-topped pedestal tombs, and bedstead designs are exhibited in this area.



**Figure 55. Ricks family plot, looking west.**

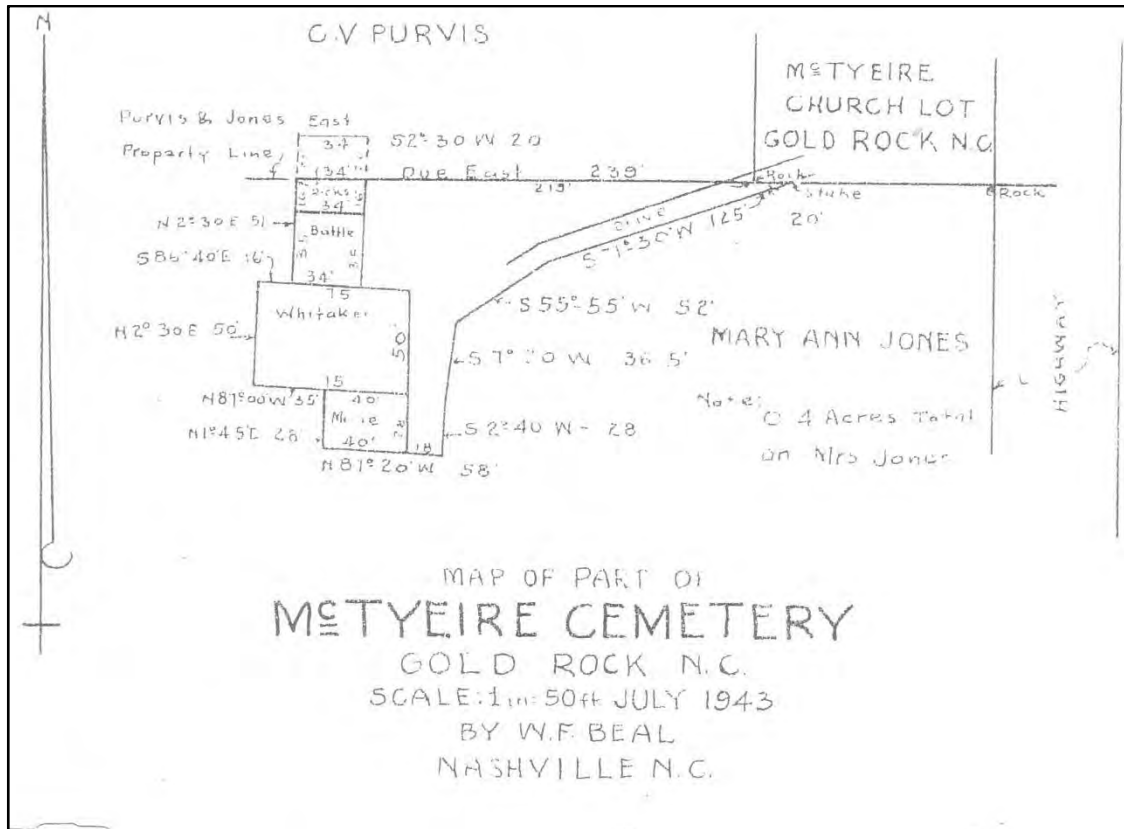
## HISTORY

According to *Nash County Historical Notes: A Bicentennial Tribute*, the earliest recorded church services in the area were held at the Union Hill school starting around 1870 with visiting ministers from a variety of denominations (Ricks 1976:173). In a 1952 article on the history of the McTyeire Methodist Church, which was originally known as Whitaker's Mill Methodist Episcopal Church, author Ruth Mincher noted that the register of the congregation indicated that the group organized in 1879 (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 7/20/1952). Although not officially filed until 1883, Richard M. Whitaker, his wife, Mary, and his brother, Henry Whitaker donated land for the construction of a Methodist Church in Whitaker's Mill (later Gold Rock) in 1880. The ½ acre lot was bounded on the south and west by Whitaker's property, on the north by a "new road," and on the east by Alex Hilliard's property line (Deed Book 54, Page 170). The church trustees were A.H. Ricks, J.L. Horne, J.B. Philips, Z.H. Green, and Dr. David W. Bullock.

After the original church building was destroyed in a storm around 1891, the congregation rebuilt and renamed themselves the McTyeire Methodist Church in honor of Bishop Holland N. McTyeire of Nashville, Tennessee. He was the author of *History of Methodism* and a trustee of Vanderbilt University (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 7/20/1952, 2/3/1955). In 1891, the *Wilson Advance* reported news from the *Rocky Mount Phoenix* that, "Under the able management of Mrs. Matilda Mann and Mr. W.R. Mann assisted by Mr. Boddie Hilliard (the last two giving two hundred and fifty dollars each) the Methodist Church at Gold Rock has been rebuilt and is now a very handsome building" (*Wilson Advance* 7/23/1891). The following year, the *Wilson Advance* noted in a column on events around Nashville that "Several of our citizens attended the laying of the corner stone of the Methodist Church at Gold Rock on Tuesday" (*Wilson Advance* 9/29/1892). At that time, the congregation counted 43 members in addition to Reverend George Simmons and Elder George Oglesby (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 7/20/1952). Possibly to accommodate the new structure, Richard M. and Mary Whitaker donated an additional 300 square yards in 1892 to the congregation (Deed Book 83, Page 525). In 1894, the trustees of the church entered into an agreement with the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church South which would provide fifty dollars "to procure and possess a House of Worship adapted to their wants" in exchange for the amount to be repaid with interest if the "house of worship be alienated" (Deed Book 86, Page 592).

With the earliest legible interments associated with the Whitaker family and dating to 1895, the cemetery may have initially been a family cemetery but soon gained an association with the church. Both continued to be used during the early twentieth century by the surrounding Gold Rock community. When the Historical Records Survey of North Carolina conducted a cemetery survey utilizing Work Projects Administration (WPA) funds, the McTyeire Cemetery does not appear to have been included (WPA 1937). In 1943, the first deed specifically addressing the cemetery was filed. A group of property owners including several banks transferred land to the trustees of the church. As part of the deed, a plat of the McTyeire Cemetery was recorded which depicts the various family plots and the driveway to the cemetery (Figure 56; Deed Book 491, Pages 25-26).





**Figure 56. Map of Part of McTyeire Cemetery with the Ricks, Battle, Whitaker, and Moore family plots labeled at left (Plat Book 491, Page 26).**

In 1945, Mattie Mae B. Gorham, her husband R.D., Elizabeth B. Pearsall and her husband Thomas J., and Vivian B. Braswell, as the heirs of M.C. Braswell, conveyed to the trustees of the McTyeire Methodist Church a parcel of land adjacent to the church at “the southwest intersection of the Gold Rock-Hickory Road and the Whitakers-Hilliard Mill Road” (Deed Book 501, Page 145). In 1947, C.V. and Hattie Lillian Purvis, who had purchased the Whitaker property in 1934, sold a parcel “to be used exclusively as a cemetery or burying ground for the interment of bodies of deceased members of said Church, and for the interment of the bodies of such other persons as the Trustees of said Church shall, from time to time in their discretion, permit to be buried therein” (Deed Book 524, Page 236). However, the adjacent land was already in use as a cemetery as one of the borders of the parcel transferred was “the western line of the Ricks burial lot” and the 1943 plat of the cemetery shows. At the Homecoming Day celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building in 1952, the membership totaled approximately 48 individuals (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 7/20/1952).

In the late 1980s, J. Allan Whitaker, a descendant of Richard Whitaker who originally donated the land for the church, acquired the McTyeire Church property after the congregation disbanded in 1980 (Deed Book 1073, Page 391; *Nashville Graphic* 3/11/1988). When recorded as a historic resource in 1985, McTyeire Church was described as “one of the county’s finest rural churches” (NS482). The McTyeire Methodist Church was demolished in 1993 (Nash County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc. 2011:15). In 2007, J. Allen and Pamela Whitaker, III,

George and Beezie Whitaker, and Charles and Sybel Booth donated the cemetery to the Trustees of the McTyeire Cemetery (Deed Book 2319, Page 641).

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

Historically, Americans generally buried their dead in small family plots at home, in churchyards, or municipal burying grounds. The churchyard was typically a few acres surrounding the church with the cemetery set apart and often to the rear of the church building. Most were initially unfenced, with enclosures gaining popularity during the nineteenth century to protect from vandalism and to increase the separation of the living from the dead. The location of one's grave in the cemetery, as well as the size and design, usually indicated social status in the community. Burial in the church cemetery was generally limited to those who held membership in the church. In the 1830s, the first formally landscaped garden cemeteries with picturesque vistas and winding roads were developed in the northeast, but few existed in rural areas in the south (Keister 2004:13-25; Eggener 2010:9-10, 38-39). In the late 1800s in Nash County, the deceased were customarily interred in family plots on the traditional family homestead or in church cemeteries. The McTyeire Cemetery is a typical example of this type of cemetery. It was situated separate and behind the church with the family plots largely delineated by fencing. The most prominent graves were in the center of each of the family sections. More utilitarian in nature, the cemetery did not have any independently placed mortuary art or statuary.

North Carolina does not have state survey inventory for cemeteries available online. However, survey forms for three church cemeteries were obtained from the North Carolina State Archives and visited for comparison. These include the York Chapel Cemetery, the Fishing Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, and the St. John Baptist Church Cemetery.

York Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery is associated with a congregation which was founded in 1885. Although the original congregation no longer occupies the adjacent wood frame building, it remains in use as a church and both the building and the cemetery are maintained (Figure 57 and Figure 58). When recorded as part of the WPA survey of Nash County cemeteries, the entry listed only 16 graves of which the Reverend John W. York, who died on June 19, 1887, was the oldest (WPA 1937). The most recent was 1911. When recorded in 1978 by the Nash County Historical Association, the cemetery included 26 legible markers of which the latest was 1950 (Battle 1978). In 2018, this cemetery contained mostly original markers constructed of marble. Largely simple squared headstones, a few more ornate tombstones were evident demonstrating the vaulted roof pedestal tombstone type and rounded die in socket markers with floral iconography. There were also some hand inscribed markers. This property, as a whole, exhibited a high degree of historical integrity.



**Figure 57. Former York Chapel United Methodist Church and Cemetery (now the Christ Christian Center Holy Church).**



**Figure 58. York Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery.**



The Fishing Creek Baptist Church Cemetery is associated with a congregation established in 1881, even though the existing brick building dates to 1949 (Figure 59 and Figure 60). Not included in the WPA Nash County cemetery survey, this cemetery contains groupings of family plots with some separated by historic wrought iron fencing but most with modern chain link fencing. When surveyed in 1978, the earliest known burial dated to 1913, while the most recent was from 1973 (Battle 1978). It contained approximately 49 graves with majority from the years between 1930 and 1960. When visited in 2018, this cemetery continues to be well maintained, but has more recent burials and/or replacement markers. Most of the markers are granite raised top or squared or rounded die in socket. Although there was little evidence of iconography or unique markers, it appears to be an intact landscape when combined with the historic church.



**Figure 59. Fishing Creek Baptist Church and Cemetery.**



**Figure 60. Fishing Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.**

The larger St. John Baptist Church Cemetery in Red Oak is associated with an African American church congregation which still occupies their building (Figure 61). It was not included in the WPA Nash County cemetery survey, but the 1994 survey by the Nash County Historical Association noted that it incorporated approximately 265 graves of which approximately 169 were legible (Battle 1994). The earliest marker dated to 1900, while the latest was from 1994. Some had bits of glass as part of the grave funerary materials. When visited in 2018, this cemetery remains well maintained along with its associated church building. The burial ground continues to be used with a mixture of granite and concrete markers representing ledger, plaque, and upright rounded and squared die in socket forms. Overall, this church and cemetery display an intact landscape.





**Figure 61. St. John Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery.**

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### ***Integrity***

The McTyeire Cemetery does not retain sufficient historical integrity to be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The McTyeire Cemetery retains integrity of location as it remains on its original site and has not been relocated. The cemetery also retains integrity of design as it continues to exhibit its original layout with graves separated into family plots. Although the overall rural agricultural setting remains intact, the immediate surroundings of this cemetery have been altered by the loss of the church building and the construction of the berm around the south and west sides of the cemetery. Historic aerials indicate that the cemetery was bordered by open fields with only a few trees within the boundary of the cemetery (Figure 62; NETR 1954, 1958, 1994; NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1957, 1962, 1969). During the 2018 site visit, the driveway was lined with trees with the cemetery largely set under tree canopy with mature bushes dotting the landscape (Figure 63). The property retains a moderate degree of integrity of materials, with a number of replacement markers and 32 percent of the graves installed after 1970. Although a few markers display a high level of workmanship, the majority are modest gravestones with little or no iconography exhibiting a common design. Although the cemetery retains the feeling of a rural cemetery, its identity and feeling as a church cemetery was lost with the demolition of the church building.





**Figure 62.** Aerial photograph dated February 28, 1962, showing the McTyeire Church and Cemetery (NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1962).



**Figure 63.** Aerial photograph dated May 3, 2018, showing the McTyeire Cemetery (Google Earth).

### ***Evaluation Criteria***

The McTyeire Cemetery is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP. Cemeteries are not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP under A, B, or C unless they meet the requirements specified in Criteria Consideration D (NRHP 1997; Potter and Boland 1992). A cemetery does not need to meet Criteria Consideration D if it is nominated with an associated church and the church is the main resource nominated, if it is part of a district, or if it is nominated under Criterion D for information potential. The McTyeire Methodist Church was demolished in 1993, and the limited number of intact historic resources in the area prohibits the formation of a district. There is no indication that this cemetery would have significance for research purposes.

A cemetery may be eligible under Criterion B if it contains the graves of persons of transcendent importance. To qualify, the persons “must have been of great eminence in their fields of endeavor or had a great impact upon the history of their community, State, or nation” (NRHP 1997). However, the NRHP gives preference to properties associated with a significant person’s life or productive work rather than their final resting place. According to guidance provided by the NRHP regarding evaluation of graves, the “grave of an individual who was one of several people active in some aspect of the history or a community, a state, or the Nation would not be eligible” (NRHP 1997:32). None of the individuals buried in the McTyeire Cemetery appear to meet this level of significance. A cemetery may also be eligible under Criterion B for association with an important person other than those buried within it. However, historic research did not indicate any other significant individuals directly associated with the property.

If the grave is associated with an important event or its relative great age in a particular geographic or cultural context, it might be eligible under Criterion A. Although of historical interest, the McTyeire Cemetery has limited associations with historically significant events. Established in the 1890s, this cemetery is not considered of considerable age in the surrounding context of Nash County or North Carolina. The loss of the historic church adversely impacted its association with the development of Gold Rock. The cemetery is not directly tied to an ethnic or cultural group and the information that the cemetery can impart is available in documentary resources.

Cemeteries exhibiting aesthetic or technological achievement in planning, architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, mortuary art, or sculpture may be eligible under Criterion C. Graves with distinctive markers displaying artistic qualities or high levels of craftsmanship can also be eligible under Criterion C. The cemetery must clearly express its design values and be able to convey its historic appearance. The McTyeire Cemetery did not have an overall design when established, but evolved as a collection of family plots for those associated with the McTyeire Methodist Church. As such, it does not demonstrate significant planning, architecture, engineering, or design. Furthermore, the cemetery does not convey its historic appearance due to the loss of the historic church building, the interment of newer graves, and the installation of landscaping, trees, and a berm along the south and west boundaries. While a few of the markers in the McTyeire Cemetery exhibit iconography, the majority display simple designs and forms typical of the period in which they were installed without exceptional artistic craftsmanship.

This small church cemetery, which has lost its historic church, did not play a role in important events, either locally or on a regional level. It is not associated with the lives of historically

significant persons. The cemetery does not display artistic merit in its planning, design, or workmanship. Finally, it does not appear significant for its ability to yield important information.

### Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery

Resource Name	Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery (Figure 64)
HPO Survey Site Number	NS1559
Location	Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510), Gold Rock
PIN	385400188243
Date of Construction	ca. 1905
Recommendation	Not eligible for NRHP



**Figure 64. Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery, looking south**

### SETTING

The Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery (NS1559) is situated east of Moore’s Store on Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510). According to the Nash County online property records, this parcel incorporates 0.12 acres and is largely surrounded by the 43.75 acre tract including Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Hilliard Farm plat, North Whitakers Township of Nash County. Property records list only “cemetery” as the owner with no mailing address and no deed history. It is located in the middle of an agricultural field south of Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) with additional fields to the east and a few scattered residences on the north side of the road (Figure 65 and Figure 66). Moore’s Store and the intersection with NC 48 are to the west (Figure 67).





**Figure 65. Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) from in front of the Hilliard-Edwards Cemetery, looking east.**



**Figure 66. Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) from in front of the Hilliard-Edwards Cemetery, looking north.**



**Figure 67. Watson Seed Farm Road (SR 1510) from in front of the Hilliard-Edwards Cemetery, looking west.**

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Nash County property records indicate the existence of the cemetery as a separate parcel which is also depicted on their GIS mapping system. Utilizing this information and aerial mapping system, no above ground evidence of the cemetery was visible during the 2018 field visit (Figure 68). A small pile of dirt existed south of the platted location of the cemetery, but no graves were identified at this site either. The dirt pile may be debris from harvesting the agricultural fields. Archaeological investigations were not part of this survey.





**Figure 68. Nash County Property Records with parcel lines overlaid on 2017 aerial. Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery parcel noted with red arrow (<https://nashcounty.connectgis.com/Map.aspx>).**

## HISTORY

The earliest reference to the graveyard referred to in this report as the Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery is in the 1916 deed between DeWilda Hilliard Edwards and the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company to survey, subdivide, and sell her property. Her brothers had conveyed the parcel to her following the death of her husband, John H. Edwards, in September 1905. However, the document was not signed by her brother, Jesse Hilliard, so a subsequent deed in 1916 clarified her ownership (Deed Book 152, Page 276; *North Carolina Christian Advocate* 10/11/1905; Deed Book 226, Page 264). On January 24, 1916, DeWilda Edwards sold her 118 acres to the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company with the note that “it is understood that the one-fourth acre grave-yard is hereby exempted and excepted [sic] from this deed” (Deed Book 215, Page 318). The plat filed by the company in February 1916 depicted the location of the graveyard as in the middle of lot 6 (Figure 69). Sold to Richard McLean “Mack” Moore on January 31, 1916, the deed from the Rocky Mount Insurance and Realty Company for Lots 4, 5, and 6 included the caveat “but excepting from the above lands (lot No. 6) a grave yard and a 8 foot drive leading thereto, which will be shown and designated on the plat of the said property before mentioned” (Deed Book 226, Page 269).



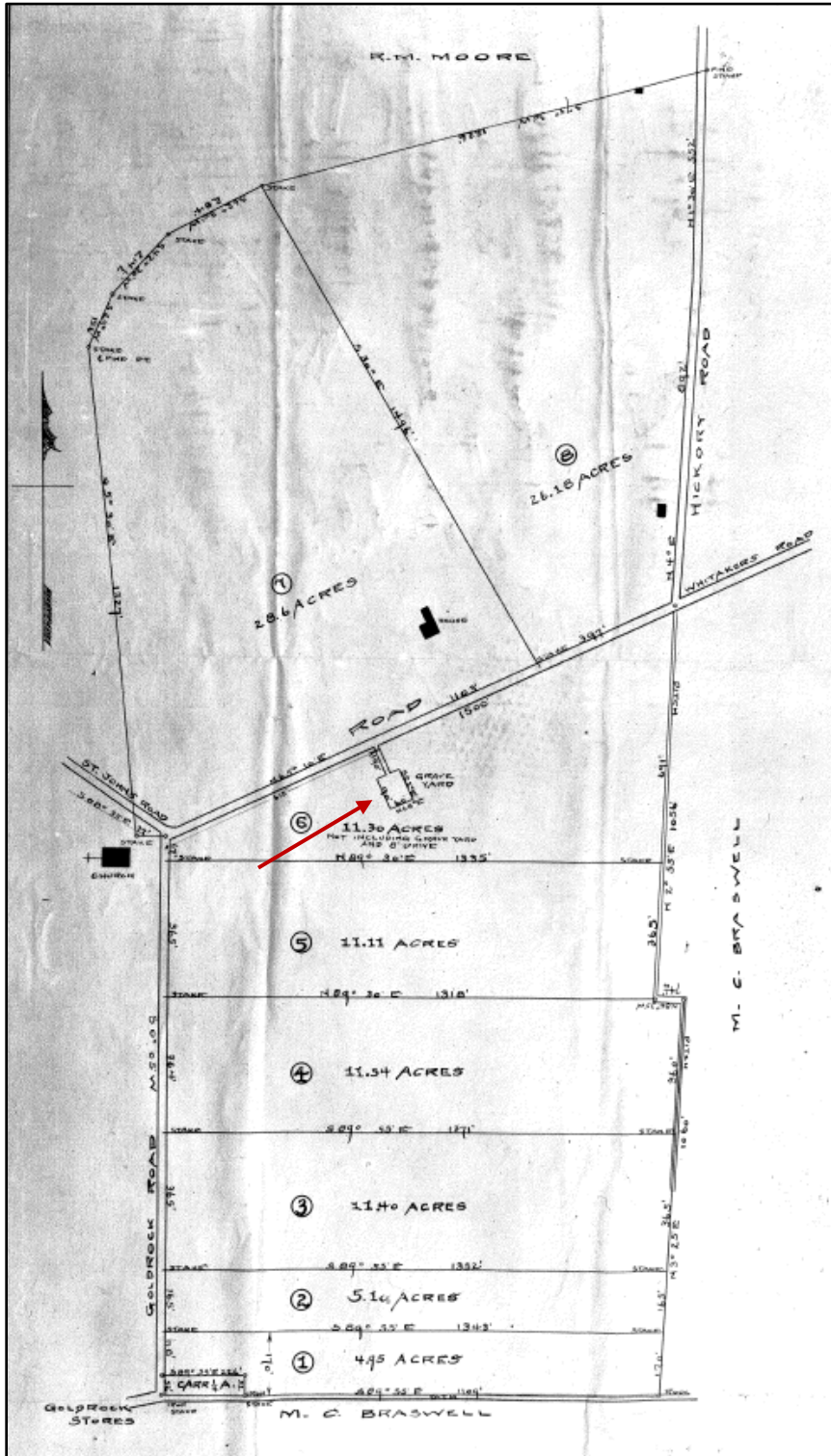


Figure 69. Plat of Hilliard Farm, 1916, with arrow indicating the graveyard (Plat Book 1, Page 45).

The limited research available did not indicate who was interred in this small cemetery. When the Historical Records Survey of North Carolina conducted a cemetery survey utilizing WPA funds, this cemetery was not included (WPA 1937). It is not listed in Find-a-Grave.com's online database either. Presumably a family plot, DeWilda Edward's husband, John Edwards, may be buried at the site or other members of the Hilliard family may have been laid to rest in it. Although DeWilda Hilliard Edwards and members of her family were noted as members of the McTyeire Methodist Church, neither her husband, nor any of her Hilliard relatives, was buried in the associated cemetery (*Rocky Mount Telegram* 7/20/1952; Find-a-Grave n.d.:McTyeire Cemetery). By 1910, DeWilda Edwards had moved to Virginia and never returned to the Gold Rock area to live (Ancestry.com 2006). While a grassy area is evident on the earliest available aerials from 1954 and 1962 (Figure 70), its location seems to correspond to the present-day pile of dirt south of the platted location of the cemetery.



**Figure 70. Aerial photograph dated February 28, 1962, showing location of Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery (NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit 1962).**

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT**

The Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery was an example of a rural family burial plot common throughout Nash County and North Carolina. As no above-ground evidence of the Hilliard-Edwards Cemetery exists, no comparative examples were identified.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

### *Integrity*

Lacking any above-ground evidence of the Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery, the site lacks architectural integrity and is not considered eligible for the NRHP. Archaeological survey was not part of this project.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

The Hilliard-Edwards Family Cemetery is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP. Cemeteries are not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP under A, B, or C unless they meet the requirements specified in Criteria Consideration D (NRHP 1997; Potter and Boland 1992). A cemetery does not need to meet Criteria Consideration D if it is nominated with an associated church and the church is the main resource nominated, if it is part of a district, or if it is nominated under Criterion D for information potential. There is no church or larger historic district associated with this small family cemetery, and the limited information available does not indicate that this cemetery would have significance for research purposes.

This family cemetery does not appear eligible for listing under NRHP Criteria A, B, or C. It did not play a role in important events, either locally or on a regional level. It is not associated with the lives of historically significant persons. The cemetery does not display artistic merit in its planning, design, or workmanship. Finally, it does not appear significant for its ability to yield important information.



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