



**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

July 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, BR-0095, Replace Bridge 170 on SR 1360 (Smith Road) over US 220, PA 19-09-0068, Rockingham County, ER 19-2182

Thank you for you July 8, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128) - under Criterion C.

We also concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing due to lack of significance and/or integrity.

- Ed Matthews House (RK1130)
- Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826)

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. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

Received: 07/11/2019
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-2182

July 8, 2019

Due -- 8/2/19

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

H-2 letters
2019/7/25

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: BR-0095: Replace Bridge No. 170 on SR 1360 (Smith Road) over US
220, PA No. 18-09-0068, Rockingham County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

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HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT REPLACE BRIDGE No. 170 ON SR 1360 OVER US 220

Rockingham County, North Carolina

WBS No. 67095.1.1 / TIP No. BR-0095 / PA No. 18-09-0068



Prepared for:



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:



Louis Berger U.S., Inc.
A WSP Company
1001 Wade Avenue, Suite 400
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

Final
July 2, 2019

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT REPLACE BRIDGE No. 170 ON SR 1360 OVER US 220

Rockingham County, North Carolina

WBS No. 67095.1.1 / TIP No. BR-0095 / PA No. 18-09-0068

Prepared for:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit**
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Prepared by:

Camilla McDonald and Meredith McCulley

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Steven M. Bedford, Principal Investigator
Louis Berger U.S., Inc., a WSP company

7/2/2019

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Final
July 2, 2019

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Louis Berger U.S., Inc., a WSP company (Louis Berger), conducted National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluations as part of the environmental investigations for the project to replace Bridge No. 170 on SR 1360 (Smith Road) over US 220, Rockingham County, North Carolina. The state project number is WBS No. 67095.1.1, the T.I.P. No. is BR-0095, and the PA No. is 18-09-0068. The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Three resources warranted intensive eligibility evaluation for listing in the NRHP. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties are not worthy of further study and evaluation because they lack historical significance and/or integrity.

The study area is located in northwestern Rockingham County in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, at the intersection of U.S. Route 220 (US 220) and SR Route 1360 (SR 1360 or Smith Road). The project’s APE is the same as the study area, which is an elongated rectangle that includes Bridge No. 170, the on- and off-ramps for US 220, and adjacent properties. The APE is approximately 400 feet wide and 1,500 feet long, extending from the intersection of U.S. 220 and Smith Road to near the westernmost driveway of the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church.

In late October 2018 NCDOT requested Louis Berger to complete eligibility evaluations for three properties within the project APE. The properties are the (former) Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), the Ed Matthews House (RK1130), and Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), located at 241 Smith Road (Table MS-1). Two of the properties had been previously been identified and surveyed as part of the comprehensive Rockingham County architectural survey conducted in 2003 by Sarah A. Woodard of Edwards-Pitman Environmental. The remaining property had not been previously recorded.

Louis Berger concluded that the Former Gulf Gas Station is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, in the area of Commerce for its association with the development of roadside commercial businesses such as gas stations and stores in the rural agricultural area of northern Rockingham County, and Criterion C, in the area of Architecture as a rarely seen, intact example of a frame house with canopy-style gas station with a residential extension. The remaining two properties are not eligible for the NRHP, as most of the buildings have a medium to low degree of integrity and also lack significance, with low or no known association with any events or persons significant to Rockingham County’s history, and no architectural craftsmanship that would meet NRHP Criteria. Alterations to the Ed Matthews House include replacement of a large percentage of original exterior materials, later additions, and porch alterations, and a loss of period outbuildings, all affecting the property’s integrity and its context in terms of a rural, farming community. The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church lacks significance and has alterations to its exterior such as cladding of the bell tower and replacement windows.

TABLE MS-1: SURVEYED PROPERTIES, PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF
BRIDGE NO. 170, SR 1360 AND U.S. 220, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

RESOURCE NAME	SITE SURVEY NUMBER	NRHP ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	SITE ADDRESS/PIN No.
Former Gulf Gas Station, ca. 1865/1932	RK1128	Eligible	5982 U.S. 220 Business/ 7020 00 93 7325 00
Ed Matthews House, ca. 1900	RK1130	Not Eligible	220 Smith Road/ 7020 00 82 6699 00
Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church, 1958	RK1826	Not Eligible	241 Smith Road/ 7020 00 82 3999 00

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Louis Berger U.S., Inc., a WSP company (Louis Berger), conducted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluations as part of the environmental investigations for the project to replace Bridge No. 170 on SR Route 1360 (SR 1360 or Smith Road) over U.S. Route 220 (US 220), Rockingham County, North Carolina. The state project number is WBS No. 67095.1.1, the T.I.P. No. is BR-0095, and the PA No. is 18-09-0068. The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT Architectural Historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Three resources warranted intensive eligibility evaluation for listing in the NRHP. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that all other properties are not worthy of further study and evaluation because they lack historical significance and/or integrity.

1.2 Methodology

The APE for this project is the same as the BR-0095 study area as delineated by NCDOT (Figures 1 and 2) and consists of Bridge No. 170, including the on- and off-ramps for US 220, and adjacent properties along SR 1360. An NCDOT architectural historian conducted a preliminary screening for the project and determined that three resources in the APE warranted additional evaluation to determine NRHP eligibility (see Figure 2). The APE as delineated captures the resources that would be affected by project construction associated with the replacement of the bridge.

The investigation included research and fieldwork. Prior to the fieldwork, Louis Berger consulted the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) online Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping system, HPOweb, as well as the most recent Rockingham County architectural survey completed in 2003, for basic geographical and contextual information on the study area. Two of the properties had been previously surveyed and had survey forms on file at the NC HPO in Raleigh. Research also included primary and secondary sources at various local and state libraries and archival repositories, such as the Madison Public Library, Greensboro Public Library, and the NC HPO survey file room. Online sources, such as the UNC Maps Collection, Ancestry.com, newspaper records, Rockingham County deed records, and U.S. Census records, were consulted for information on the history of the properties. When possible, property information was also acquired through interviews with local residents and property owners.

Louis Berger Assistant Architectural Historian Meredith McCulley conducted the fieldwork with assistance from Senior Field Supervisor Tracey Jones on April 17-19, 2019, which included surveying and photographing the exteriors of the resources. Ms. McCulley and Ms. Jones conducted a windshield survey of nearby comparable resources in the area on April 17, 2019, photographing the resources for architectural context. Senior Architectural Historian Camilla McDonald and Ms. McCulley wrote the report.

This report was prepared in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation of 1983 (48 *Federal Register* 44716), as amended; *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources* (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources [NC DCR] 2008); NCDOT's

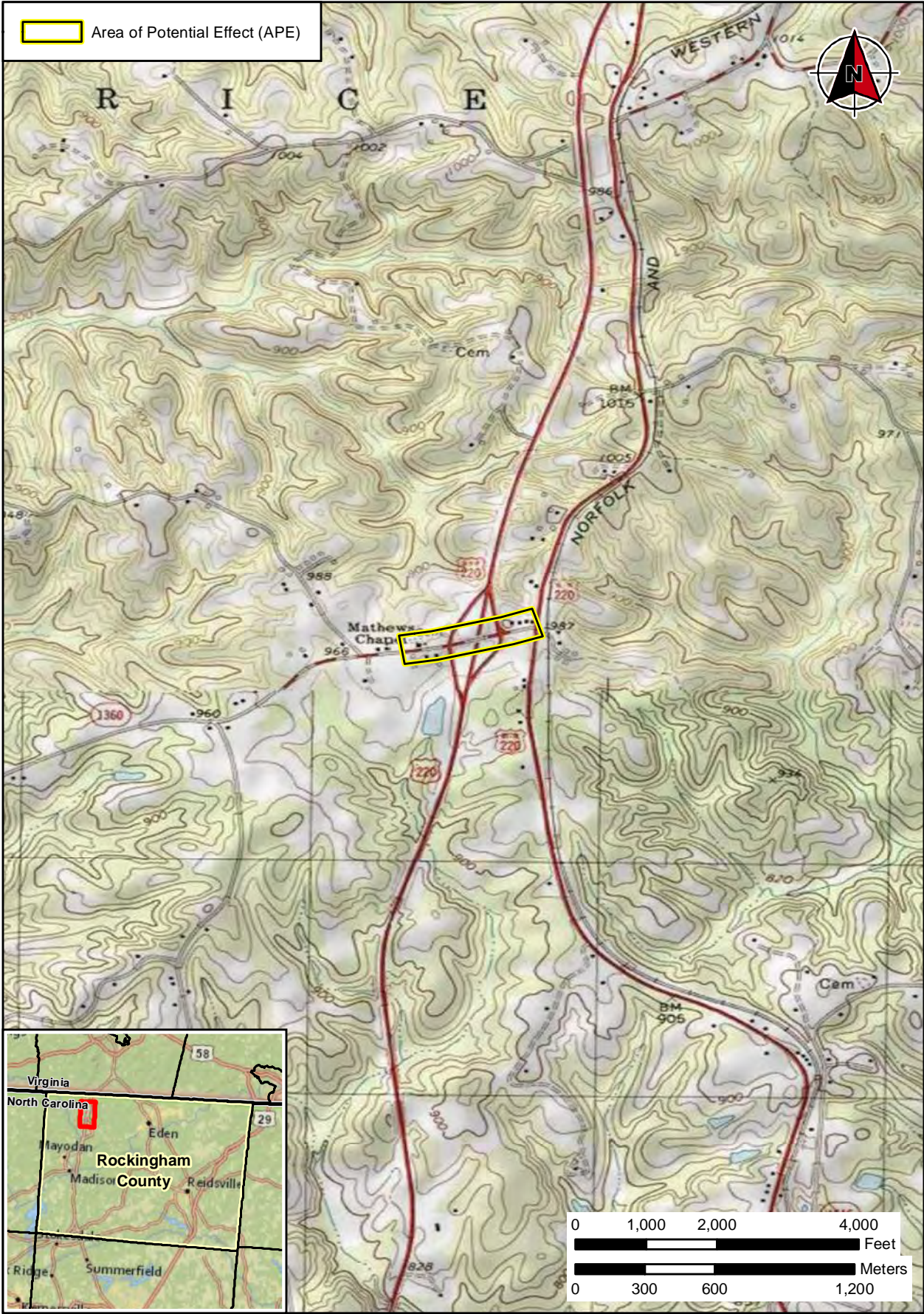


FIGURE 1: BR-0095 Project Vicinity, Rockingham County, North Carolina
(ESRI World Topo Map 2009)

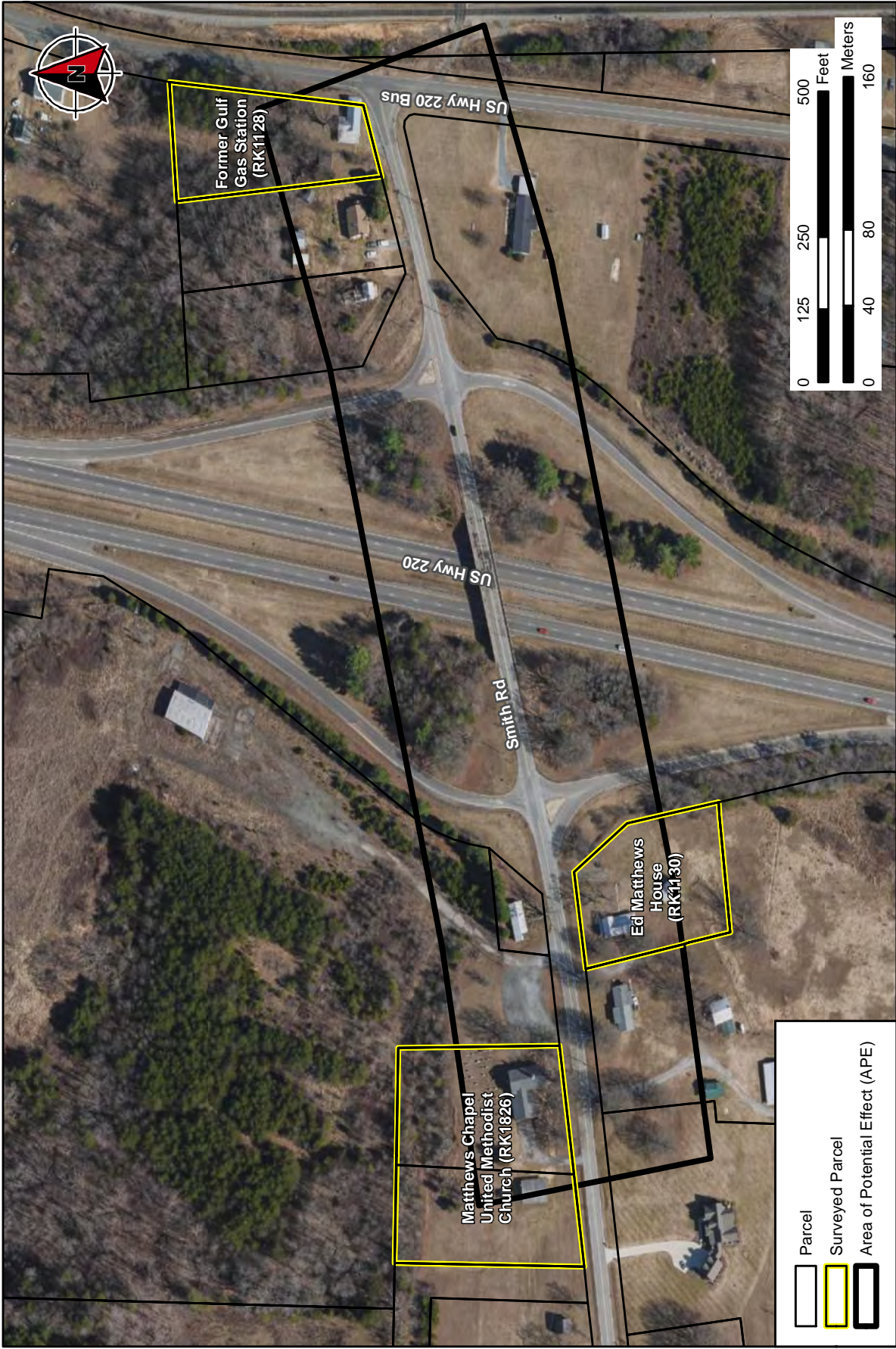



FIGURE 2: BR-0095 Project Study Area (APE) with Surveyed Properties Identified for NRHP Eligibility Study (ESRI World Imagery 2018)

current Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products (NCDOT 2015); and the NC HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (NC HPO 2018). Researches also consulted *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (NPS 1990). The architectural historian who performed the assessments meets or exceeds the Professional Qualifications Standards specified in 36 CFR 61.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS

2.1 Former Gulf Gas Station

Resource Name	Former Gulf Gas Station	
HPO Survey Site No.	RK1128	
Location	5982 U.S. 220 Business Stoneville, NC	
PIN	7020 00 93 7325 00	
Date(s) of Construction	ca. 1865, ca. 1932	
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible	

2.1.1 Setting

Facing east on Business US 220 with Smith Road directly adjacent to the southern side of the parcel, the Former Gulf Gas Station is situated approximately 10 feet from the highway (Figure 3). The complex sits on the southern portion of an irregularly shaped 1.06-acre parcel containing mature trees on the northern two-thirds of the parcel. Smith Road borders the parcel on its southern side, and a one-story brick ranch stands adjacent to the parcel on its western side. A two-story frame house that has been abandoned and a twentieth-century tool shed are located north of the station. Brick paving is located between the highway and the drive-through canopy of the gas station. A gravel pull-off, presumably once used for parking on the parcel, is located on the southern side of the former gas station. At least one outbuilding of the former family farm has been demolished as it was evident on aerial photographs as late as 1971 (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC [NETR] var.) but is no longer extant.

2.1.2 Description

2.1.2.1 Former Gulf Gas Station, ca. 1932

The former Gulf gas station is composed of two different sections: a one-story, single-pile, side-gable, frame house with a rear, shed-roof addition, and a hipped-roof gas station that projects from the east elevation of the house (Plates 1-5). The gas station has a brick foundation, German or drop siding, a metal-clad roof, and exposed roof rafters. The east elevation features an open canopy that faces US 220 to the east and is supported by three wood posts, the outer two of which are set atop brick pillars. The third post, located in the center of the canopy, has wood bracing. A full-light wood door is flanked by rectangular, fixed-sash windows. Above these windows, the exterior is clad with wide plank siding. The south elevation of the gas station has no windows or doors, but a mural has been painted on the German siding. The north elevation has a single, three-pane window opening and an exterior concrete block flue that punctures the roof of the gas station and the porch of the adjacent house.

The two-bay east elevation of the house, which is sheltered by the shed-roofed porch supported by wood posts, has an offset, three-panel, half-light wood door and a four-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash window. The wood porch floor is accessed by a single concrete step. The roof of the house is covered in V-crimp metal, and its exterior walls are clad in weatherboard siding. The north elevation of the house



FIGURE 3: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128) Site Plan, Rockingham County, North Carolina (ESRI World Imagery 2018)



PLATE 1: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Oblique View of South and East Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 2: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Oblique View of North and East Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 3: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Oblique View of West and South Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina

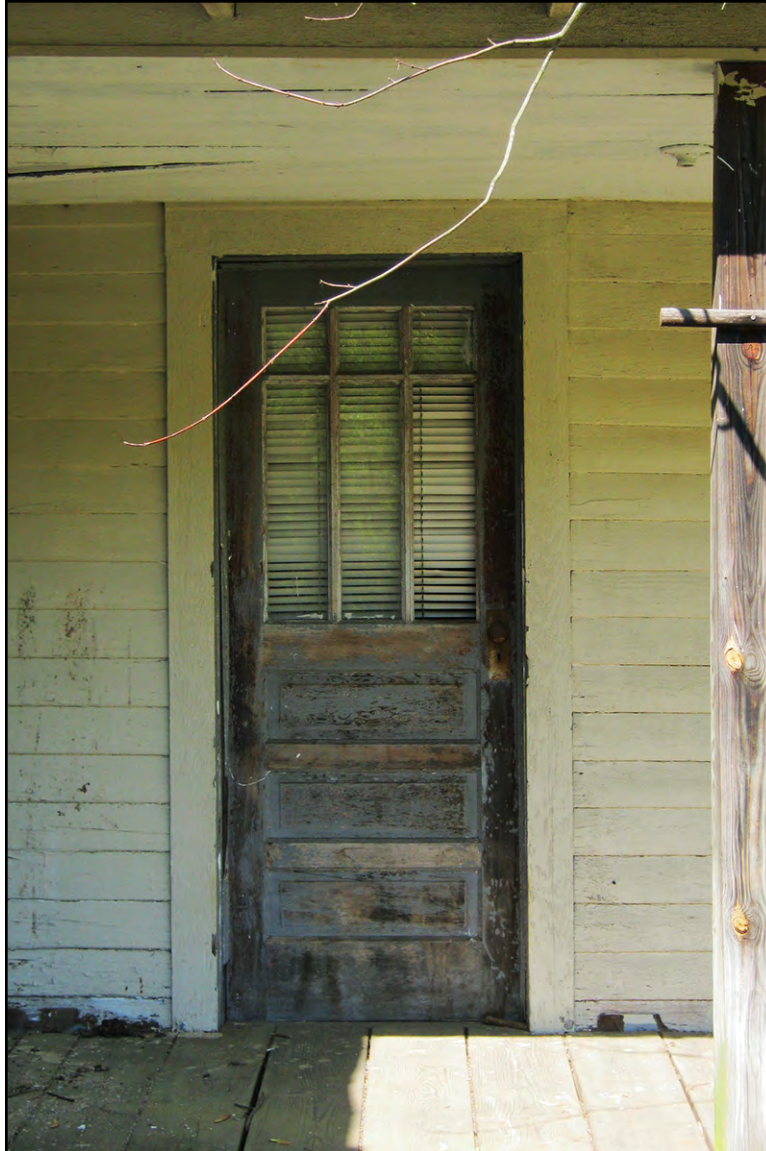


PLATE 4: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Detail View of Typical Half-light Wood Door, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 5: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Detail View of
Brick Drive, Rockingham County, North Carolina

has an exterior brick chimney in the center of the main block and a pair of wood-sash windows in the shed-roof addition that are obscured by plywood. The rear shed-roof addition, which occupies the entire west elevation of the house, has a V-crimp metal roof, exposed roof rafters, two three-over-one wood, double-hung windows, and a small engaged porch at the southwest corner. A single wood post supports the porch roof.

The interior of the Former Gulf Gas Station consists of four rooms: a living room, bedroom, kitchen, and a large rectangular store. Two small closets are found in the kitchen and bedroom. The house has no bathroom but has a sink and running water in the kitchen. The store occupies the entire hipped roof section of the building. The living room is located in the side-gabled wing on the northern side of the gas station. The kitchen and bedroom are within the side-gabled section on the western side of the house. Access to the living room and kitchen is gained from the outside by the front porch and side porch, respectively, and through the store. The only access to the bedroom is through the kitchen. The flooring throughout the interior is tongue and groove, which has been carpeted over in the bedroom (Plate 6).

The walls of the store are finished with both horizontal board (original) and late twentieth-century painted paneling. The ceiling is finished with fiberboard panels. The south wall of the room is dominated by original floor to ceiling wood shelving with decorative crown molding (Plate 7). A wood counter is situated in front of the shelving and is also likely original to the store. A wood-burning stove, which is not original, is located in the corner of the room. The door between the store and the kitchen is a half-light door with three vertical panes above four raised panels. The door between the store and the living room is more modest with two large vertical panes of glass over three, horizontal, flat panels. Door and window surrounds are plain wood.

The living room walls and ceiling are finished with painted bead board (Plate 8). A fireplace with no mantel is situated in the center of the north wall. A modern electrical panel is mounted on the wall to the left of the fireplace. Late twentieth-century shelves and built-in storage bins are found on the eastern and western walls of the room. A late-twentieth-century ceiling fan provides light to the room.

The kitchen (Plate 9) and bedroom (Plate 10) have late twentieth-century wood-paneled walls and synthetic tiles on the ceiling. The original bead board wall finish can be seen on the interior of a small closet in the bedroom. A stove, dishwasher, sink, and some built-in counter cabinets that appear to date to the 1950s are located along the western wall of the kitchen beneath the pair of double-hung, wood-sash windows. The door between the kitchen and the bedroom is a solid bead board door that appears to be original. A flat-panel wood door, which also appears to be original, provides access to the closet in the kitchen.

2.1.2.2 Daniel M. Matthews House, ca. 1865

To the west of the Former Gulf Gas Station near the western edge of the parcel, stands a two-story, double-pile, frame, front-gable house with a shed-roof addition that has been abandoned for some time (Plate 11). The house, which is oriented to the south, has weatherboard siding, some of which is missing or falling off, platform framing, exposed roof rafters, and wood-plank walls on the interior. The south elevation has doors on both the first and second stories, although the second-story door may be an alteration. A third doorway is located in the center of the shed-roof addition. The east elevation has two double-hung windows on each story, but the glass and original muntins and mullions are no longer present. The basement wall on the east elevation, which is constructed of brick, has been exposed on the eastern side of the house and has a doorway and three window openings (Plate 12). Concrete retaining walls extend north and south from the northeastern and southeastern corners of the house. The brick foundation and openings on the east elevation appear to be alterations perhaps dating to when the gas station was constructed on the property.



PLATE 6: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Interior Detail View of Wood Flooring, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 7: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Interior View of Store, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 8: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Interior View of Living Room, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 9: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Interior View of Kitchen, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 10: Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Interior View of Bedroom, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 11: Daniel M. Matthews House (RK1128), Oblique View of East and South Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 12: Daniel M. Matthews House (RK1128), Oblique of East and North Elevations, Rockingham County, North Carolina

2.1.3 History

Like many of the surrounding properties, this property was previously owned by a member of the Matthews family. In 1870 Daniel Mullins Matthews lived in Mayo with his first wife Charlotte and four children, working as a farmer (Ancestry.com 1870; United States Bureau of the Census [U.S. Census] 1870). Ten years later, he resided in Mayo with his second wife Mary Ann and eight children, still working as a farmer. Three of the sons, including Caleb, were farm laborers (Ancestry.com 1880; U.S. Census 1880). Although it cannot be confirmed through deed records, it is believed that Daniel Matthews resided in the Matthews House from its construction ca. 1865 until 1893, when he and his wife Mary Ann Matthews conveyed the house and approximately 86 acres to their son Caleb H. Matthews, two weeks prior to Daniel's death (Ancestry.com 2019; Rockingham County Deed Book [RCDB] 91/524). Caleb H. and Trottie Matthews continued to own the property until 1930, when 75.6 acres of the property was sold to his brother J. Edward Matthews and sister-in-law Alice Matthews for the sum of \$2,500 (RCDB 320/491). According to the property card, the gas station was constructed on the property soon after this sale in 1932.

The U.S. Census of 1940 lists Everett Durham, J. Edward Matthews's son-in-law (husband of Lelia Gertrude Matthews), as the proprietor of a filling station as well as a farmer. Information from the current property owner, Rebecca Watkins, confirms that Everett and Lelia, the owner's grandparents, lived in and operated the gas station. J. Edward Matthews, widower, conveyed the property to his daughter Lelia Gertrude Durham in 1949. Presumably Everett and Lelia continued to run the gas station under their ownership of the property. The transaction specifically excluded the 2 acres granted to Lelia's brother Howard Ray Matthews that same day (RCDB 385/580) and 0.5 acre granted to the conference now known as Matthews Chapel. It also reserved a 1-acre tract adjoining the church for use as a cemetery (Find a Grave 2019a; RCDB 485/583). In 1957 Lena and Early Gray and Howard Ray Matthews conveyed two parcels totaling 23 $\frac{3}{5}$ acres as well as a 2-acre parcel (Tracts 1, 2, and 3) to their sister Lelia Gertrude Durham (RCDB 499/316). It was on the 2-acre parcel that Everett and Lelia constructed the current brick house located on the parcel immediately west of the gas station. The couple moved into the house but Lelia "could not handle" the stairs to and within the home and the couple moved back to the gas station until Lelia Durham's death in 1974 (Watkins 2019). Everett Durham died in 1977 (Find a Grave 2019b, 2019c). During that time the store continued to be operated by Everett and Lelia's daughter Classie, and it was known to the locals as "Classie's Store" (Watkins 2019).

In 1978 Lelia and Everett's son James C. Durham and his wife Patricia Durham conveyed their interest in the three tracts via quitclaim deed to his siblings Estelle D. Grogan, Kathleen D. Watkins, Mary Ann D. Joyce, and Classie Durham (RCDB 719/605). On the same day Elsie D. (another sibling) and her husband Cloyd Ferguson conveyed their interest in the tracts to Estelle, Kathleen, Mary Ann, and Classie (RCDB 719/931). Estelle and Joseph Grogan, Kathleen and Ray Watkins, Mary Ann and Charlie Joyce, and Classie Durham conveyed the current 1.06-acre parcel to Mary Ann Durham Joyce in 1981 (RCDB 740/39). Mary Ann Durham Joyce transferred the same acreage to Robert R. Watkins and Rebecca D. Watkins in 2008 (RCDB 1343/001). According to the current owner, the gas pumps and tanks were removed before Robert and Rebecca Watkins took over the property. They attempted to run a produce store in the building for a short period of time. The gas station and store building are currently vacant and used for storage. The residence to the northwest has been abandoned for some time, and the current owner did not have any information about its history.

The now abandoned Daniel M. Matthews House is shown on the ca. 1910 Rural Delivery Routes map of Rockingham County as well as the soil survey map (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1926) of Rockingham County (Figures 4 and 5). The 1938 State Highway and Public Works Commission map of Rockingham County shows the gas station, house, and a third building, which was extant as late as 1971 (Figure 6).



FIGURE 4: Rural Delivery Routes Map of Rockingham County Showing Study Area (APE), ca. 1910s. (Post Office Department ca. 1910)

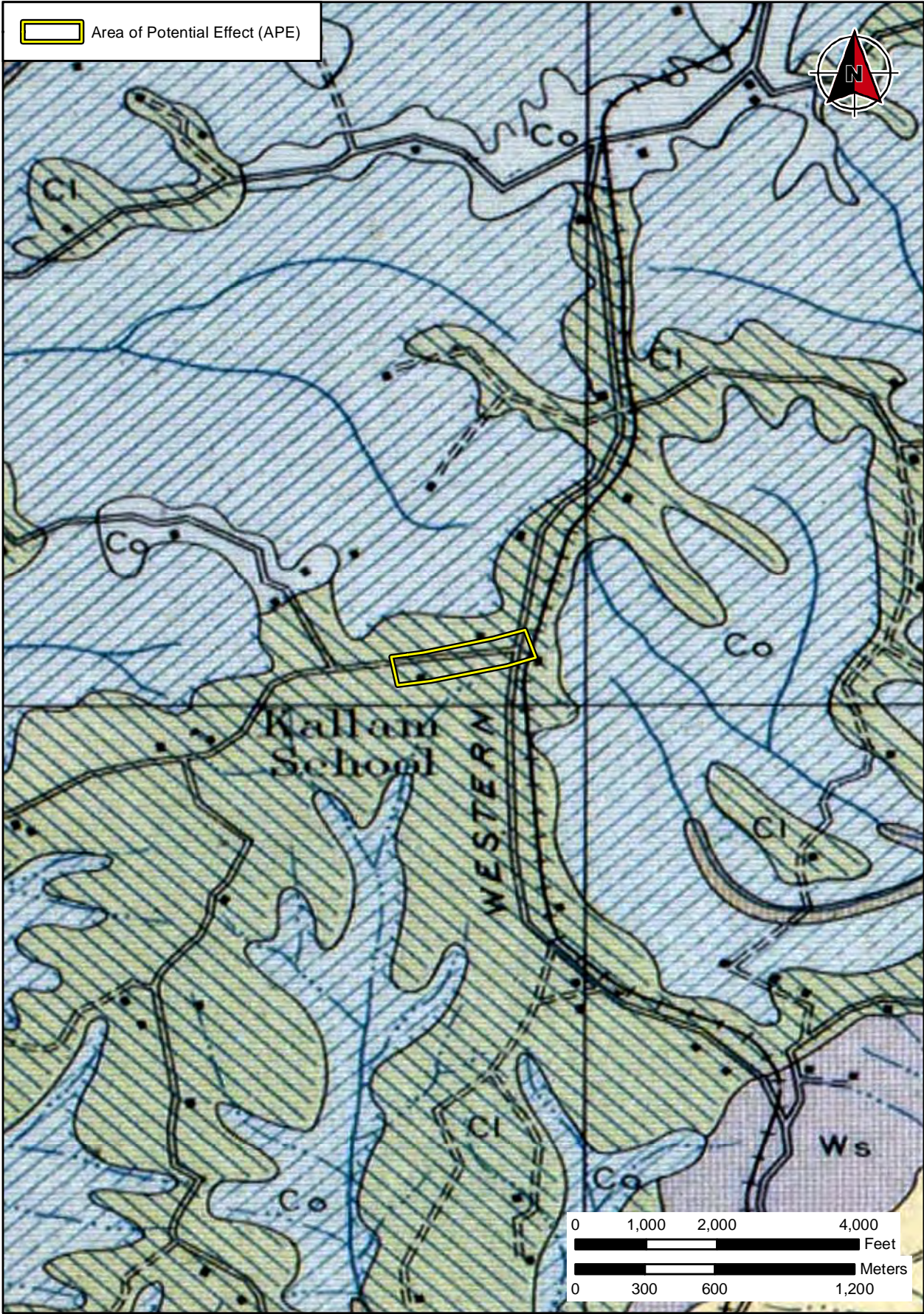


FIGURE 5: Soil Map of Rockingham County Showing Study Area (APE), 1926
(U.S. Department of Agriculture 1926)



FIGURE 6: State Highway and Public Works Commission Map Showing Study Area (APE), 1938, Rockingham County, North Carolina. (North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission 1938)

2.1.4 Architectural Context

The Former Gulf Gas Station embodies a modest, gable-front, frame building with canopy, also known as a house with canopy, which was one of the most popular forms for rural gas stations in the 1920s and 1930s in North Carolina. As automobile ownership increased in the early twentieth century, gas stations were constructed in the towns as well as along roads in rural areas. Early gas stations were merely stationary pumps placed outside existing dry goods stores and other commercial establishments. As automobiles became more popular, more gas stations were constructed, often on prominent corner lots and parcels to take advantage of traffic from two primary roads (Woodard 2003:E-77, F-133, 135).

2.1.4.1 Gulf Oil Company Gas Stations

The Gulf Oil Company was established in 1901, discovering oil near Beaumont, Texas. The company was credited with operating the first gas station in a retail establishment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1913 (Jones 2003:24). The earliest Gulf gas stations, between 1910 and 1920, were either operated curbside or associated with other auto-related businesses (Jones 2003:24). Gulf gas stations constructed from 1920 to 1930 did not follow a standardized form but were most often a house with canopy or simple box form (Jones 2003:35). Stylistic details were most often Bungalow/Craftsman or Colonial Revival. Signage was often the most distinguishing feature of early twentieth century Gulf gas stations. By the 1930s Gulf gas stations typically had a standardized box form in the Art Deco style with a flat roof and smooth stucco exterior (Jones 2003:52).

2.1.4.2 Gas Stations in Rockingham County

The Former Gulf Gas Station displays the typical house with canopy form with a gabled extension that presumably served as the proprietor's residence. The station exhibits Bungalow/Craftsman style detailing with its hipped roof, exposed rafter ends, wood-frame construction, and residential appearance. Typical of early Gulf gas stations, the building does not have corporate colors or logos typical of more standardized stations. No Gulf Oil Company signage is present on the building or property.

The Former Gulf Gas Station is one of six previously surveyed gas stations in Rockingham County (Table 1). These stations, exhibiting a wide array of stylistic influences and forms, were constructed during the early automobile era and Good Roads movement of the early twentieth century. The house with canopy was the most prevalent form. Gas stations constructed in towns tended to be more highly designed with Tudor or Spanish eclectic detailing (RK1271 and RK1387). Rural examples tended to follow more straightforward forms such the gable-front with canopy or house with canopy. These stations, particularly in the rural locations, often had a house attached to the back of the building. The house appears to have been a later addition on RK1302 and RK1387, but the house on the Former Gulf Gas Station appears to have been part of the original design.

RK1302 and RK0862 are both house with canopy types similar to the Former Gulf Gas Station but are constructed of brick. The Former Gulf Gas Station is the only recorded frame example in Rockingham County. Similar examples of frame house with canopy gas station forms are the NRHP-eligible Moore's Store (NS1556) in Nash County (Plate 13) and the NRHP-eligible Creekmore Store/Gas Station (CM0009) in Camden County (Plate 14).



PLATE 13: Moore's Store (NS1556), Looking South, Nash County, North Carolina (Cardno 2018)



PLATE 14: Creekmore Store/Gas Station (CM0009), Looking West, Camden County, North Carolina (Dovetail 2013)

TABLE 1: PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED GAS STATIONS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

SITE ID	STATION TYPE	LOCATION	PHOTOGRAPH
RK1641	Early brick house w/canopy	Corner of Main and S. 2nd Ave., Mayodan	
RK1387	Spanish Eclectic house w/canopy	Wenworth Street, Reidsville	
RK0862	Brick house w/canopy and bays	607 Boone Road, Eden	
RK1302	Brick house w/canopy	126 Eden Road, Eden vicinity	
RK1271	Brick house	14349 Old State Highway 87, Eden	

The house with canopy gas station on Eden Road (RK1302) is a brick building with a hipped roof clad with V-crimp metal roofing, a canopy supported by three brick columns, exposed rafter ends, six-over-six windows, and half-light wood doors (Plate 15). At least three additions have been constructed on its east and north (rear) elevations. A small, storefront-type addition with a central door flanked by 1950s-era, two-over-two windows has a pseudo-mansard roof. A second, larger addition with a single, garage-door opening is constructed on the east elevation of this storefront addition. A concrete-block chimney rises from the roof of this addition. Current aerial photographs indicate that the roof of these two additions has completely collapsed into the building. A shed-roofed addition, located on the rear elevation of the original gas station, extends across the full width of the elevation and appears to be a frame building set on a concrete block foundation. Compared to the Former Gulf Gas Station, this example on Eden Road has diminished integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association because of the large additions, collapse of the roof, and apparent change in use of the building indicated by the absence of gas pumps. The Former Gulf Gas Station is a more intact example of the house with canopy type.

The gas station at 607 Boone Road in Eden (RK0862) is also a house with canopy type but has been altered with a garage bay extension (Plate 16). The brick building features a hipped-roof canopy supported by metal posts and clad with terra cotta tile. The garage bay extension has a side-gabled roof with parapet and a one-story brick addition used for storage. The main elevation has a display window with painted transom and late twentieth-century glass-door entrance beneath the canopy and two garage-door openings in the extension. The south elevation has a display window that is the same size as the one found on the main elevation and a simple parapet. A brick chimney is located at the intersection of the hipped roof and side-gabled roof sections. Both examples have a high degree of integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, materials, location, and setting.

2.1.5 NRHP Evaluation

The Former Gulf Gas Station has lost some of its integrity of setting as a result of the construction of US 220 immediately west of the property. The loss of an outbuilding to the north, according to mid-twentieth-century aerial photography, has also diminished the building's setting (NETR var.). Its location remains the same. The Former Gulf Gas Station retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship with the original siding, windows, doors, shed-roofed porch, and hipped-roof canopy with wood posts. The Daniel M. Matthews House that is located on the same property displays severely diminished integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, materials, and association, a result of the deterioration of the structure, loss of windows and doors, and the loss of some siding.

The Former Gulf Gas Station is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its association with the development of roadside commercial businesses such as gas stations and stores in the rural agricultural area of northern Rockingham County. The building served as both a gas station and store from its construction around 1932 until around 1981, when Classie Durham sold the property. The station appears to be one of the few rural gas stations left in the county and certainly with the highest degree of integrity amongst known rural examples. Located on the highway between the towns of Price and Stoneville at the intersection with Smith Road, the gas station was built to provide gas and other goods for local residents and the surrounding agricultural community.

The Former Gulf Gas Station is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B, as it is not directly associated with any particular person who played a significant role in local, state, or national history. None of its former occupants or owners is known to have made specific contributions to history that can be identified and documented.



PLATE 15: House with Canopy Gas Station on Eden Road (RK1302), Looking Northeast, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 16: House with Canopy Gas Station on Boone Road (RK0862), Looking West, Eden, Rockingham County, North Carolina (Google Maps 2019)

The Former Gulf Gas Station is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for Architecture as a rarely seen, intact example of a frame house composed of a canopy-style gas station with a residential extension. The only other rural example of a house with canopy gas station in the county (RK1302) does not have sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, materials, and association to be considered an important example of the type. Also, RK1302's residence appears to be a later addition and not part of the original design. The Former Gulf Gas Station has its original exterior materials, windows, doors, shed-roofed porch, and hipped roof canopy, which is rare for this vanishing property type, as well as numerous intact interior features such as store shelving, wood floors, bead board walls, and original doors.

A building may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions. The Former Gulf Gas Station does not meet Criterion D.

2.1.5.1 NRHP Boundaries

The recommended NRHP Boundaries for the Former Gulf Gas Station are drawn to include the gas station, the brick paving between the canopy and the road, and a sidewalk that once led to an outhouse, all contributing or significant features to the property (Figure 7). The boundaries also include the non-contributing Daniel Mullins Matthews House, which has diminished integrity. The boundaries generally follow tax parcel lines on the north, west, and east, and NCDOT ROW ditch lines, beginning with the boundary at the NCDOT right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to Smith Road and running the length of the tax parcel boundary, then turning north and east following the tax parcel, then turning south again following tax parcel boundaries to the northern edge of the brick paving. Then the boundary turns east along the northern boundary of the paving and south along the boundary between the brick paving and the shoulder of US 220 Business, then turning west along the parcel boundary to complete the polygon. When they are adjacent to roadways such as Smith Road and US 220 Business, NRHP boundaries follow the edge of the shoulder and include boundary features such as brick paving. The recommended NRHP boundary encompasses a total of 1 acre.



FIGURE 7: Recommended NRHP Boundaries for the Former Gulf Gas Station (RK1128), Rockingham County, North Carolina (ESRI World Imagery 2018)

2.2 Ed Matthews House

Resource Name	Ed Matthews House	
HPO Survey Site No.	RK1130	
Location	220 Smith Road Stoneville, NC	
PIN	7020 00 82 6699 00	
Date(s) of Construction	ca. 1900	
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible	

2.2.1 Setting

The Ed Matthews House faces north on Smith Road and is set back approximately 50 feet from the highway (Figure 8). A front-gabled barn is located south and east of the house. The complex is sited near the center of the 1-acre parcel, which contains only a few mature trees in the front and side yards. A gravel driveway enters the northeastern corner of the parcel and stops at the end of a concrete sidewalk that leads to an entrance on the east elevation of the house. The remainder of the parcel is either manicured lawn or fallow ground. The southbound US 220 on-ramp borders the property to the east. A brick ranch-style house is located west of the property. To the south is a large 14-acre parcel with a house, outbuildings, and a large pond. Aerials from 1971 and 1982 show a third outbuilding, located in the southwestern corner of the parcel, that is no longer extant.

2.2.2 Description

2.2.2.1 Ed Matthews House, ca. 1895

The two-story, side-gable Ed Matthews House has a gabled ell addition with a shed-roof extension on its east and south elevations (Plates 17-22). The house, which is two bays wide, has what appears to be asbestos composite shingle siding, V-crimp metal cladding on the roof, and an exterior brick chimney on its west elevation. A variety of windows are found in the original side-gable block of the house and addition, including three-over-one, double-hung wood sash throughout the second story and six-over-six vinyl replacement sash and one-over-one replacement sash on the first story of the side-gable block and additions. The asymmetrical north elevation features a hipped-roof front porch with a newly remodeled wood floor, wood posts with vinyl sleeves, and V-crimp metal roof cladding. The two bays have a modern steel door with a glass storm door and vinyl replacement windows on the first story and three-over-one wood windows on the second story. The east elevation of the rear ell has openings on both stories with a centrally placed door flanked by one-over-one windows in the shed-roof addition and two three-over-one windows in the second story of the ell. An air conditioning unit has also been placed in the first story of the shed-roof addition between the door and window on the south side of the elevation. No openings are present in the east elevation of the original, side-gable block. An exterior brick chimney is centered in the west elevation of the original, side-gable block. The west elevation of the ell has a pair of replacement windows and a replacement glass door on the first story, and two evenly spaced, three-over-one, wood windows on the second story. The shed-roof addition on the south elevation is clad with two different materials: asbestos shingle siding and horizontal wood siding. This change in the cladding may



FIGURE 8: Ed Matthews House (RK1130) Site Plan, Rockingham County, North Carolina (ESRI World Imagery 2018)



PLATE 17: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Looking Southwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 18: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Looking South at Façade, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 19: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Looking West, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 20: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Looking North, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 21: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Partial View of Side Elevation Looking East,
Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 22: Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Partial View of Side Elevation Looking Southeast,
Rockingham County, North Carolina

indicate that the addition on the east elevation was constructed at a later date. Two window openings are present on the addition; the upper story of the elevation has no openings.

2.2.2.2 *Barn, ca. 1930*

A front-gabled barn with a rear, shed-roof addition is set into the side of a slight hill on an uncoursed rock foundation. The building is clad in vertical metal siding on the original section and modern board siding on the addition. The gabled section measures approximately 20 feet on each side; the addition is 20 feet wide and approximately 12 feet deep. A set of double doors is located on the west elevation of the addition, which appears to have been enclosed sometime after 2008, as Google streetviews from that time show the addition with no walls. Both sections are clad with sheet metal on the roof (Plate 23).

2.2.3 *History*

Like so many properties in northwestern Rockingham County with small- and medium-sized pieces of land, the Ed Matthews House property was once part of a larger farm, which was connected to the Daniel Mullins Matthews property. Deed records indicate that in 1918 Joseph Edward Matthews acquired 33.42 acres (Tract 1) for \$450 at a public sale resulting from a judgement against his nephew Buster Matthews, who was 18 years old at the time. The land recorded in the deed was noted as “being the lands of D. M. Matthews deceased,” although no deed could be found showing that Daniel Mullins Matthews acquired land in the area (RCDB 189/429). The purchase of the Matthews property in 1918 may have been done to keep the property in the family, since Buster’s grandfather D.M. Matthews died in 1893, and his father James Robert “Robin” Matthews died about 1905, according to Ancestry.com. In 1919 J. Edward Matthews acquired Tract 2 (0.5 acre) from his brother Caleb H. Matthews and sister-in-law Sarah Elizabeth “Trottie” Matthews (RCDB 208/326). In 1920 J. Edward Matthews listed his occupation as farm operator, and he owned the home he resided in with his family in Price. His wife’s name was Emma A. (Alice), and they had two children living with them: a son named Howard R. (Ray) and a daughter Lena R. (Rivers). Emma’s father Robert Holland resided with the family (Ancestry.com 1920; U.S. Census 1920). In 1930 J.E. Matthews was listed as a farmer in the general farming industry. He resided with his wife, referred to as Alice, and his son Ray in Price. By that time, his daughter Lena had married Early Robert Gray. It appears that they were renting living space in her father’s house. Both Ray and Early were listed as farm laborers (Ancestry.com 1930; U.S. Census 1930). J.E. Matthews’s occupation remained farming in 1940. He still resided with his wife Alice and son Ray in Price. Early and Lena were listed as a separate household adjacent to her family, and by that time had two sons, Edward and David. Early’s sister Nora resided with the family. Early was still employed as a farmer (Ancestry.com 1940; U.S. Census 1940). In 1949 J.E. Matthews conveyed the approximately 34-acre property to his daughter Lena Rivers Gray (RCDB 493/677). Lena and Early transferred the property to Edgar David Gray (possibly one of their sons) and Shirley Pickrell Gray in 1977, subject to a life estate for the grantors (RCDB 743/421). In 1990 Lena Rivers Gray conveyed the remaining portion of Tracts 1 and 2 and released the life estate (RCDB 833/2150). Edgar and Shirley Gray sold 1 acre of the property with the current house and barn to Patrick Elvis Smith and Jessica Pratt Smith in 2008 (RCDB 1345/458). In 2018 Patrick Elvis Smith conveyed the 1 acre to Jessica Pratt Smith (RCDB 1536/2875). Sometime between 2008 and now, the house was renovated.

According to the property card, the house was constructed in 1925, and the barn to the rear was built in 1930. Both a ca. 1910s rural delivery route map and a 1926 soil survey map of the county show a building in the vicinity of the current house halfway between Paw Paw Road and US 220 Business on the southern side of Smith Road (see Figures 4 and 5). Both maps are likely showing the Ed Matthews House. The parcel was in the possession of the Matthews family (Daniel Mullins Matthews) for a long period of time. The house, which appears to date to the late 1800s or early 1900s, was likely built by a member of the Matthews family. The 1925 date may reflect the construction of the rear ell addition to the house.



PLATE 23: Barn, Looking Southwest, Ed Matthews House (RK1130), Rockingham County, North Carolina

2.2.4 Architectural Context

The Ed Matthews House reflects a late form of the hall and parlor type of plan, with an unusual asymmetrical main elevation. The character-defining features of this particular hall and parlor type are an asymmetrical façade that is two bays wide and two stories high, a chimney on only one end of the structure, and the main entrance leading directly into one of two rooms on the first floor (CALYX Engineers and Consultants 2018:75). According to architectural historian Henry Glassie, these asymmetrical houses are known as the “two-thirds type,” which are defined as two-thirds of the Georgian house type (Glassie 1975:91). Whether defined as hall-parlor or the two-thirds type, this form is not commonly seen in North Carolina but are more commonly found in an urban setting such as Richmond, Virginia, and are “found with regularity” in rural areas of southern Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, southern New York State, and on the South Shore of Long Island (Glassie 1975:91). Most examples of hall and parlor houses in North Carolina have symmetrical main elevations and are one to two stories high. Numerous examples of this common type, which date to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, are found in Rockingham County (RK1132, RK1492, RK1512, RK1337, and RK1201; Woodard 2003). One example similar to the Ed Matthews House stands at 952 C N Smith Mill Road (RK1191). A second similar example is located at 1737 Gumtree Road near Winston-Salem in Davidson County. Neither has been evaluated with respect to NRHP criteria.

The house at 952 C N Smith Mill Road (RK1191) has the same form as the Ed Matthews House with an asymmetrical main elevation, side-gabled roof, open front porch, and rear addition (Plate 24). The exterior chimney, which was likely on the south elevation, has been removed. What appears to be an exterior brick chimney is located on the rear elevation of the two-story section of the house. Mid- to late twentieth-century one-story additions are found on the side elevations. The house is clad in vinyl siding, and all of its windows have been replaced with vinyl, double-hung sash. The shed-roof front porch is supported by twentieth-century wrought-iron posts. The house on C N Smith Mill Road is very comparable to the Ed Matthews House in form and degree of integrity with alterations to exterior materials, window replacements, and modern additions.

The house at 1737 Gumtree Road near Winston-Salem in Davidson County is a hall and parlor type with an asymmetrical façade, side-gabled roof, hipped roof porch, and one exterior stone chimney (Plate 25; CALYX Engineers and Consultants 2018:76). Similar to the Ed Matthews House, the house on Gumtree Road is a single-pile house that is two bays wide. The hipped-roof porch wraps around to the side elevation, where it is enclosed, and connects to a one-story addition that extends off the rear elevation. The roof of the porch is supported by large square posts that are not original to the house. The house is clad with wide synthetic siding, and the windows on the first story have been replaced with one-over-one vinyl sash. The six-over-six windows on the second story appear to be original. The house on Gumtree Road, which has not been evaluated with respect to NRHP criteria, is very comparable to the Ed Matthews House in form and degree of integrity with alterations to exterior materials, window replacements, and modern additions.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, when the Ed Matthews House was likely constructed, rural Rockingham County farmers frequently chose to build two-story I-Houses as dwellings, along with modest Italianate and Queen Anne style houses. Most farm dwellings contained a front porch and often a rear ell or multiple rear additions. Frame outbuildings erected to serve the specific purposes of the farm typically dotted agricultural properties. Domestic support structures like well houses, smoke houses, privies, summer kitchens, garages, and others occupied the rear yard closer to the house, and tobacco barns, pack houses, and equipment sheds were often located in areas most accessible to the pasture and farm fields, farther away from the main house (Woodard 2003:E58-59).



PLATE 24: Hall and Parlor House at 952 C N Smith Mill Road (RK1191), Looking West, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 25: Hall and Parlor House at 1737 Gumtree Road near Winston-Salem in Davidson County, North Carolina (CALYX 2018)

The Ed Matthews House exemplifies a small farmstead with little outstanding architectural significance, retaining few surviving outbuildings other than a 1930s barn. The property has lost most of its associated acreage and many of its former agriculture-related ancillary structures. Several other small farms and former farmhouses in Rockingham County can be used for comparison, with most retaining a greater degree of historical integrity as well as more architectural and agricultural significance.

The Rob Benton Joyce Farm (RK1156), located at 364 Means Creek Road near Ayersville, is a highly intact farmstead with numerous outbuildings scattered across the property (Plates 26-28). The complex is now part of the Autumn Creek Vineyards. Domestic outbuildings, which are lined up south of the two-story I-house, include a gable-front wash house, milk house, and potting house. A frame curing house is located close to the road; while a frame tobacco packing house is situated across the road from the farmstead. The Rob Benton Joyce Farm was listed in the North Carolina state study list in 2003.

2.2.5 *NRHP Evaluation*

The Ed Matthews House has a moderate degree of integrity of location and setting, as some changes have occurred to the parcel and its immediate surroundings with the loss of agricultural buildings and the construction of the church and a few mid-twentieth-century residences in the area. The Ed Matthews House retains a low degree of integrity of feeling and association, as the building no longer functions as a farmhouse and most of the agricultural outbuildings have been removed except the small barn. The house retains a low to moderate degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, with alterations such as replacement windows, replacement doors, and synthetic siding.

The Ed Matthews House is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, for association with historic events or broader patterns of history, as it lacks its historic agricultural lands and outbuildings that, had they been retained, would have contributed to the feeling of the building as a working farm within the larger agricultural context of Rockingham County.

The Ed Matthews House is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B. None of its former owners is known to have made specific contributions to history that can be identified and documented. Although the Matthews family were active citizens in their community as farmers, as well as active in the church organization they founded, they are not known to have been exceptionally historically significant to Rockingham County's history.

The Ed Matthews House is recommended as not eligible under Criterion C. The house is an altered example of the hall and parlor type that lacks distinction. Although its asymmetrical hall and parlor type is fairly rare, the Ed Matthews House does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered an important example of the type. The asbestos-shingle siding, replacement windows, and additions have diminished the building's integrity of design, workmanship, and feeling. The two comparable examples have the same poor to moderate degree of integrity of design, workmanship, and feeling, although the example on Gumtree Road appears to have original windows on the second story.

A building may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions. The Ed Matthews House does not meet Criterion D.



PLATE 26: House on Rob Benton Joyce Farm, 364 Means Creek Road (RK1156), Looking Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina




PLATE 27: House and Outbuildings on Rob Benton Joyce Farm, 364 Means Creek Road (RK1156), Looking South, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 28: Outbuildings on Rob Benton Joyce Farm, 364 Means Creek Road (RK1156), Looking West, Rockingham County, North Carolina

2.3 Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church

Resource Name	Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church	
HPO Survey Site No.	RK1826	
Location	241 Smith Road Stoneville, NC	
PIN	7020 00 82 3999 00	
Date(s) of Construction	1958	
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible	

2.3.1 Setting

Situated on the north side of Smith Road between Paw Paw Creek Road and US 220, the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church consists of a brick front-gabled church, a cemetery, a garden shed, and a picnic shelter set approximately 50 feet from the highway. The church and cemetery are on a 1.5-acre parcel owned by the church, and the picnic shelter is on a separate, 1-acre parcel located west of the church. The northern edge of these parcels is wooded, and the remainder of the parcels are manicured lawns. A gravel driveway leads into the church parcel toward the west elevation of the church. A second driveway on the east side of the church leads to a gravel parking lot used by the church but located on a separate, privately owned parcel. The cemetery is located immediately north of the church. The picnic shelter and garden shed are located on the west side of the gravel driveway (Figure 9).

2.3.2 Description

2.3.2.1 Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church, 1958

The one-story, brick, front-gabled church features a front-gabled entrance vestibule, pyramidal-roof bell tower, and a gabled extension on its west elevation (Plates 29-32). Windows are generally multi-pane, double-hung replacements. The sanctuary windows are single-pane fixed sash. One basement window may be the original aluminum-frame sash. The fascia and cornice returns are clad with synthetic material, as is the exterior of the bell tower. The replacement steel, double-door entry on the symmetrical south elevation is accessed by brick stairs and a ramp with a modern wrought-iron railing. A louvered vent, which is the only other opening, is found high in the gable of the façade. A concrete plaque near the base of the façade lists the founding date of the congregation and founders of the church (Plate 33). The north and south elevations of the extension are identical, with three, evenly spaced windows with brick sills at the basement and first-story levels. The east elevation has four fixed-pane sanctuary windows, a steel door with aluminum storm, and an exterior brick chimney. The west elevation of the front-gabled section has two fixed-pane sanctuary windows. The basement wall of the gabled extension is exposed and has a steel entry door and small window at the basement level and two evenly spaced replacement windows on the first story. The gabled section of the north elevation has a boarded-up opening at the ground level and a louvered vent high in the gable.

The surveyors made repeated attempts to contact the church pastor by phone to obtain access to the interior of the property, but never heard a response to their inquiries. The church does have a website, but no interior photographs are included on the site pages.



FIGURE 9: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826) Site Plan, Rockingham County, North Carolina (ESRI World Imagery 2018)



PLATE 29: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking North, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 30: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 31: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking Northeast, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 32: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking South, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 33: Dedication Plaque, Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826),
Rockingham County, North Carolina

2.3.2.2 Cemetery

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Cemetery is located directly north of the church (Plates 34-35). There is no formal boundary to the cemetery, as no walls, fences or tree/shrubs line its perimeter. The area generally measures 200 feet east-west and 85 feet north-south. Rows are laid in a north-south direction with headstones facing east. The cemetery, which is still in active use, has headstones that date back to 1944. The headstones, which are mostly granite and marble, are adorned with typical funerary symbols such as lambs, crosses, and praying hands. One headstone, for Robert and Kathleen Watkins, is a re-purposed millstone.

2.3.2.3 Picnic Shelter, ca. 1998

A frame picnic shelter with a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles stands directly west of the church. Braced posts are spaced evenly around the perimeter of the roof and are set on a poured concrete pad. A brick barbecue pit is located at the northern end of the picnic shelter with the grill set under the roof (Plate 36).

2.3.2.4 Garden Shed, ca. 2002

A front-gable frame garden shed set on two frame skids (Plate 37) stands north of the picnic shelter.

2.3.3 History

2.3.3.1 Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church

In 1938 Joseph Edward and Alice Matthews donated land to Methodist Episcopal Church South for the construction of a place of worship (RCDB 336/91). A stone in the front wall of the church states that it was founded in 1939 by Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Matthews and Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Haizlip. Rev. Robert Hardee, who at the time was pastor at the Stoneville and Price churches, held services for the church in an old store building on old Highway 220. The services were later moved to the home of J. Edward Matthews, where Sunday School classes began. At that time plans were made to construct the church. In honor of the generosity of Mr. Matthews, the church was named Matthews Chapel. The first pastor of the church was Rev. P.L. Shore (Bicentennial Commission 1986). According to the property card for the church, the building dates to 1958. In 1966 the church purchased about half an acre of land from Cabel and Lelia Gray (RCDB 651/843). The following year, Lelia and Everette Durham and Lelia Durham, guardian for Ray Matthews (incompetent) sold an unknown amount of land at the corner of Price-Stoneville Highway to the church (RCDB 656/308-309). In 1986 the church acquired an acre of land adjacent to the property on Smith Road from Cabel and Lelia Gray (likely the parcel containing the picnic shelter) (RCDB 786/025). Four years later, the church traded six cemetery plots in the church cemetery for 0.43 acre on the northern side of Smith Road, adjacent to the ROW for US 220, from Joseph R. Grogan, Sr. and Estelle Durham Grogan (RCDB 837/996).

2.3.3.2 Matthews Chapel Cemetery

The earliest gravestone in the church's cemetery was placed in 1944 (Cabel and Lelia Gray's son J.C. Gray). In 1947 two more children were buried there (Glendola Gray and Betty Jean Smith). The first two adult burials took place the following year, for James Walter Joyce and Emma Alice Holland Matthews (Find a Grave 2019d). The 1949 deed in which J. Edward Matthews conveyed the gas station property to Lelia Gertrude Durham refers to an acre of land adjoining the church property that was reserved for use as a cemetery (RCDB 485/583). Despite at least five burials already present, the wording suggests that the cemetery was not yet in use: "a tract of land consisting of one acre adjoining church property which is to



PLATE 34: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Cemetery (RK1826), Looking West, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 35: Matthews Chapel United Methodist Cemetery (RK1826), Looking North, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 36: Picnic Shelter, Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 37: Garden Shed, Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church (RK1826), Looking Northwest, Rockingham County, North Carolina

be used as a cemetery if the occasion ever arises for same” (RCDB 485/583). The cemetery is still actively used.

2.3.4 *Architectural Context*

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church reflects the continued prevalence of the front-gabled rectangular form that was popular for rural churches during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Churches of predominantly Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian denominations have been constructed in Rockingham County since the late 1700s. Rural churches in the county are commonly rectangular buildings with simple gable roofs with the main entrance in the gable end. Secondary entrances are sometimes found on the side elevations, which or may not indicate a meeting house plan on the interior. The differences between nineteenth- and twentieth-century rural churches are few as they often employ little if any ornamentation. Frame churches dominated before World War II, but after the war rural churches were often constructed with a brick veneer (Woodard 2003:F:122).

The Wolf Island Primitive Baptist Church (RK1393), located north of Reidsville in Rockingham County, is a typical example of a post-World War II rural brick church (Plate 38). Built in 1946, the church was the third structure built by the congregation, which was founded in 1777. Wolf Island bears a striking resemblance to Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church with its gable-front form, brick exterior, entrance vestibule, and secondary side entrance, although Wolf Island does not have a bell tower. Colonial Revival stylistic references on Wolf Island include the multi-pane metal casement windows, segmental arch vestibule, and flush gables with molded fascia. Despite an unfortunate exterior application of HVAC ductwork, the Wolf Island Primitive Baptist Church exhibits a higher integrity of the restrained stylistic detail than the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church. The integrity of Matthews Chapel has been compromised with the replacement of doors and windows and cladding of the bell tower and fascia. The Wolf Island Primitive Baptist Church, which has not been evaluated with respect to NRHP criteria, therefore stands as a better example of mid-twentieth-century rural churches in the county.

Located at 1017 Fieldcrest Road in Eden, North Carolina, the First Baptist Church (RK1770) is a significant example of a front-gabled, Neoclassical Revival style church with a brick veneer. Built in 1906 and rebuilt in 1962, this two-story church features the typical centered door opening that is set beneath a full-façade portico supported by wood columns with Corinthian style capitals (Plate 39). A square brick tower with a hipped roof supports a tall, octagonal belfry and spire. Evenly spaced round-arch windows are found on the side elevations. Classical detailing is found in the broken pediments supported by entablatures and pilasters used as door surrounds throughout the building. Although clearly much more exuberant in its architectural expression and detail, it compares nicely to the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church in its front-gabled form and use of bell tower and floor plan. The First Baptist Church showcases additional architectural ornament in the form of the full-façade portico, round-arch windows, and pedimented door surrounds. The First Baptist Church was determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP in 2018.

2.3.5 *NRHP Evaluation*

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church retains its integrity of location and setting, as very few changes have occurred to the parcel and its immediate surroundings since the church’s construction. The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church also retains an adequate degree of integrity of feeling and association, as the building continues to function as a church in a rural area of the county. The church retains a modern degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, with alterations such as replacement windows, replacement doors, synthetic trim, and cladding on the bell tower.



PLATE 38: Wolf Island Primitive Baptist Church (RK1393), Rockingham County, North Carolina



PLATE 39: First Baptist Church (RK1770), Eden, Rockingham County, North Carolina
(Millis 2018)

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. The church is not significant within the history of religion in the county either through a significant event or the broader development of religion. There are no known associations of the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church with other significant trends, patterns, or events in history.

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church is recommended as not eligible under Criterion B. None of its former members is known to have made specific contributions to history that can be identified and documented. Although the Matthews family were active citizens in their community as farmers, as well as active in the church organization they founded, they are not known to have been exceptionally historically significant to Rockingham County's history.

The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church is recommended as not eligible under Criterion C. The church is an altered example of the fairly common front-gabled type that lacks distinction. As noted in the 2003 architectural survey of Rockingham County, the front-gabled form is commonly used for both town and rural churches in the county. The Wolf Island Primitive Baptist Church is comparable to the Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church in its form but exhibits more stylistic elements. The First Baptist Church, which exhibits more stylistic architectural detailing than either Wolf Island or Matthews Chapel, has been determined as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

A building may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions. The Matthews Chapel United Methodist Church does not meet Criterion D.

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