

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Jeff White House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Mars Hill Hwy.  
North side N.C. 213 at junction with S.R. 1388  
CITY, TOWN Marshall  
STATE North Carolina  
VICINITY OF 11th  
CODE 37  
COUNTY Madison  
CODE 115  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Runnion  
STREET & NUMBER  
Route 6  
CITY, TOWN Marshall  
VICINITY OF  
STATE North Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Madison County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Marshall  
STATE North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located deep in the Appalachian mountains is a two-story three-bay frame house with hip roof which would be noteworthy anywhere in the state, but located as it is in such a remote area it is extraordinary. The house is of rather ordinary form--a "T" shaped, late nineteenth century building with two-story gable-roof front porch--but it is made remarkable by its wooden ornament.

Dominating the main (west) facade, and indeed the entire house, is the front porch, which abounds with rich, lacelike ornamentation, especially at the first level. There are three bays, the central one smaller. The posts are chamfered with panels at balustrade level; there are neckings beneath heavy molded brackets that feature roundels and molded scroll-like turned elements in addition to paired pendants. Springing from the posts in each bay is a molded arched member. Centered in each arch is a keystone which has a round glass inset in its center and a heavy, carved pendant. Flanking the pendant, the arch is partially infilled by sawnwork ornament. A curvilinear band following the inner curve of the arch outlines a stylized openwork egg-and-dart motif. The spandrels flanking each arch are filled with sawnwork suggestive of a comet; a star shape occurs in each corner, trailing feathery flames. The front door has two leaves with two panels each, with heavy molding. Separating the door from the sidelights are heavy, undulating pilasters with roundels. The doorway and sidelights are surmounted by a transom. The architrave is ornamented with roundels in the top corners and a bead on the inner and outer edges; this architrave treatment is used at all openings and all windows have six-over-six sash. To either side of the entrance is flush sheathing with four large paneled niches occupying most of the wall space on either side. The panels have deep-set, heavy moldings which form a rounded head and terminate at a curving molded sill which has a small roundel in the center. The coffered ceiling of the porch has three planes; the two rising surfaces are flush sheathed and the flat surface has two elongated octagonal shaped panels with deep, heavy molding. The porch balustrade, at both levels, has a heavy molded handrail supported by turned balusters.

The second level of the porch is similar in form but lacks the elaborate detailing. The scroll sawn spandrel trim, which matches that below, is the chief ornamentation of this level of the porch. The second-floor entrance resembles the first. The tympanum of the porch gable is covered in variegated shingles and has a large circular vent with keystone. Superimposed over the vent louvers is a Masonic symbol.

The wide frieze, which carries around the house, has a cable molding which runs along the lower half of the frieze until it reaches a window frame (all of which reach into the frieze) where it returns in an upward curve stopped with a tassel. There is a heavy cornice molding at the top of the frieze beneath the wide, overhanging eaves. The corner boards of the house are chamfered and have molded caps.

The main block is one bay deep and on each end is a two-story, five-sided projection; the first level is enclosed, the second open as a porch. The first level has three windows with four-over-four sash each surmounted by a five-light fan of alternating red, yellow and blue panes. Framing these fanlights are molded arches terminating in pendants with roundels in place of keystones. The bays nearest the house are blind with molded

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hoods over the rounded panel heads. There are panels below each of the five faces. Brackets at each corner of each face of the bays support the slightly overhanging floor of the open porch of the second level. The balustrade is similar to that of the front porch, as are the four support posts, but they are six-sided above the necking and have no brackets. The door to the porch has a fanlight similar to that of the windows below.

The two-story wing to the rear is two bays long and one bay wide; it is treated simply. There is a one-story, hip roofed porch on either side of the wing. The porches are less ornately treated than the front porch. They have simple brackets at the posts and a scroll sawn balustrade of a repetitive design and chamfered posts similar to those of the front. Parts of these porches have been enclosed on both sides.

The interior has a center-hall plan one room deep, with the hall opening into the rear wing. There is an interior chimney on either side of the hall, but neither opens into the hall. The brackets are decorated with a star motif reminiscent of the scroll sawn spandrels of the porch. The heavy turned and carved newel is a part of the molded handrail which is supported by pairs of turned and carved balusters. The risers feature oblong, rounded panels. The walls of the house are plastered above the high baseboards which have rectangular shaped panels with heavy moldings and narrow, wooden molded cornices.

The mantel in the right (south) parlor is of a fanciful Eastlake character, with contrasting light and dark woods. Wide pilasters rise from large bases with superimposed bosses and are ornamented with an oblong horseshoe shaped band of alternating bosses and gougework; the band of blocks is surmounted by a turned curved element with finials. A band of necking on the pilasters, just below three bosses, marks the beginning of a fluted console that supports the unadorned shelf which breaks over the consoles and over a small center support. The frieze consists of carved floral designs on spandrels flanking a central carved fan. A narrow band accented with diagonal reeding surmounts the frieze. A high curvilinear backboard rises to a center point completing the mantel. The mantel in the left (north) parlor has been painted and is not so elaborate as the other. It has wide pilasters with reeding and two bosses. The frieze consists of an applied raised panel with concave corners and rounded ends; it is surmounted by a heavy, unadorned shelf. The second floor and wing rooms are more simply finished in typical late nineteenth century fashion.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jeff White House, located in a remote, sparsely settled area of western North Carolina, is a typical late nineteenth century frame farmhouse made extraordinary by the application of wooden ornament of luxuriant and fanciful nature perhaps without rival of its kind in the state. Especially striking is the front porch, fairly dripping with sawn and turned work including a sinuous comet-like motif.

The house was built probably by James Jefferson White on land acquired from Hiram Buckner in 1881. White paid Buckner \$1,750 for three tracts totalling 141 acres. The census of 1880 lists White as a farmer, but he served as clerk of the Madison County Superior Court from 1883 to 1890. (White also served as a private in Company F, Seventieth Regiment North Carolina Troops, for a brief time during the Civil War.)

White died early in 1901. In September of that year a court-appointed commissioner sold at public auction four tracts "all together constituting what is known as the Home tract and containing one hundred and forty three acres." The house tract passed through several hands before being purchased in 1948 by the present owner.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Madison County Records, Madison County Courthouse, Marshall, North Carolina  
 (Subgroups: Deeds).  
 Madison County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
 (Subgroups: Deeds).  
 Madison County Superior Court, Minute Docket, 1880-1884, and 1888-1891; Record  
 of Special Proceedings, Book A (1899-1904).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	7	3	5	1	9	3	0	3	9	6	4	2	3	0	
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING										
B																
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING										
C																
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING										
D																
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE	Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist
ORGANIZATION	Division of Archives and History
STREET & NUMBER	109 East Jones Street
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh
DATE	8 April 1975
TELEPHONE	919/829-7862
STATE	North Carolina

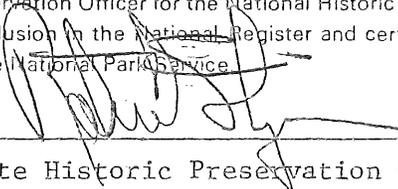
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE X LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 8 April 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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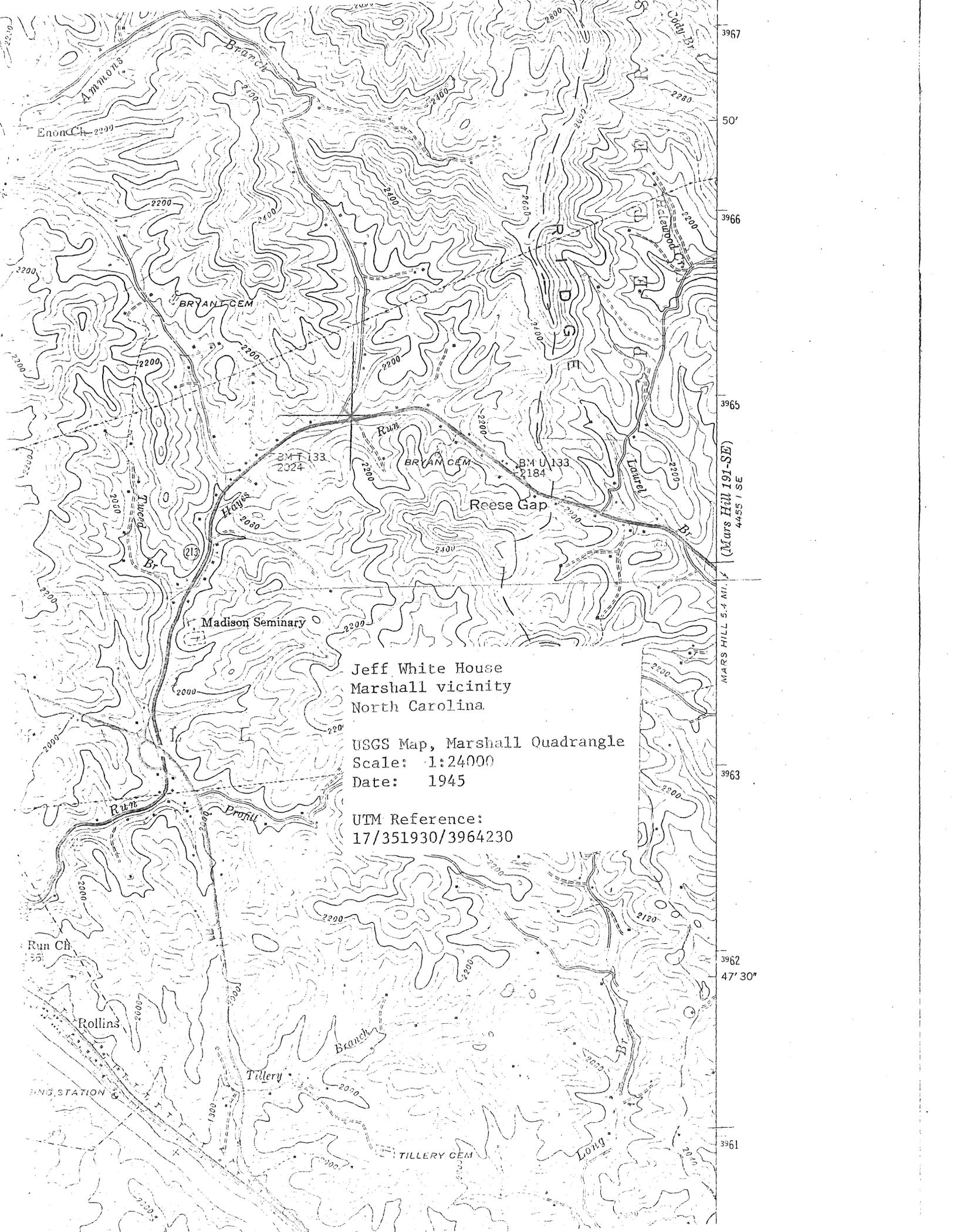
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE one

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Moore, John W. Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War between the States.  
Raleigh: (State of North Carolina), 4 volumes, 1882.  
U. S. Census Office. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Madison County,  
North Carolina, Population Schedule.



Jeff White House  
Marshall vicinity  
North Carolina.

USGS Map, Marshall Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:24000  
Date: 1945

UTM Reference:  
17/351930/3964230

3967  
50'  
3966  
3965  
3963  
3962  
47' 30"  
3961

MARS HILL 5.4 MI. (Mars Hill 191-SE)  
44551 SE

