

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name White, James H., House

other names/site number Marshall House

2. Location

street & number 5 Hill Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Marshall

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Madison

code 115

zip code 28753

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

11/13/89
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: "Old English" vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls pebbledash

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Marshall, North Carolina, has been described as "one mile long, one street wide, and sky high." (1) Two or three streets run parallel with the French Broad River, but there is little residential growth along Main Street or on the small grid of streets between mountain and river. Residential development has occurred on the "sky high" side of Marshall where a country road winds some 200 feet above the level of Main Street. Marshall's most significant building is the Madison County Courthouse (National Register, 1979) which was built in 1907 in the center of town and against the mountain directly behind it. About 120 feet above the level of the courthouse floor is the James H. White House, one of the first dwellings in the residential area of Marshall. It is sited directly above and behind the courthouse on a terrace just wide enough for house and porte cochere, in the 180-degree bend of the narrow lane leading up the mountain from Main Street. The front of the lot is very steep and is terraced with dry-laid stone retaining walls. The lot contains mature, towering evergreens. There are no foundation plantings. The James H. White House looks west over courthouse and Main Street to Blennerhasset Island in the middle of the river. Above the house the road continues its climb past dwellings and the site of the Presbyterian school built in the late 1880s.

The James H. White House is a two-story-and-attic dwelling of frame construction sheathed in a thick stucco known as "pebbledash". This medium was used extensively by Richard Sharp Smith, Asheville architect who designed the White House and numerous dwellings in and around Asheville from 1896 to 1924. The house rests on a stone foundation. The main (west) elevation features a one-story recessed wraparound porch sheltering a double-leaf door with five-light transom flanked by triple, twelve-over-one windows. Single and paired twelve-over-one windows characterize the rest of the elevations. On the northwest corner of the porch is an attached conical-roofed gazebo, called a "tearoom" by Smith, complete with brass cap created by a local blacksmith named Hayne. The porch is supported

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

by square-in-section posts covered in pebbledash which flare slightly at the top to create the impression of a segmental-arched arcade. To the north, a one-and-one-half-story bedroom wing extends, with hipped roof and hip-roofed dormer, boxed eaves, and wide molded frieze board. A two-story kitchen wing extends to the south. On the rear (east) elevation, a porte cochere covers a door and window in the center of the facade on the first floor and supports a small second-story wing.

Extensive remodeling was done to the second floor when the house was adapted as a tourist home between 1925 and 1930. Originally the main block of the house was one-and-one-half stories with a hipped roof and dormers, and the south wing was a single story; but these portions were expanded to the current full two stories with gabled roofs. The main block also features a hip-roofed attic dormers. The gabled rooflines feature deep eaves, plain brackets, and exposed rafter ends, and the gables are covered in false half-timbering with stucco painted white. The north bedroom wing remains intact except for a bay window added to the north elevation sometime prior to 1925.

On the interior of the White House, the first floor remains as designed by Smith in 1903. The main double leaf door opens from front porch to central hall which runs from the door to a rear transverse reception hall and the door of the porte cochere. Parlor and dining room open from the central hall with pocket doors of oak. Each room contains an elaborate oak mantel with mirrored overmantel and firebox surrounds and hearth of colored tiles. Each room has ornate plaster crown molding and unpainted oak door and window surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. An archway of molded plaster edging and double doors separates the center and transverse reception halls; the latter area contains the carriage entrance, a stone fireplace and staircase to the second floor. The reception hall can be separated from the stairway by a floor-to-ceiling accordion door of oak. Short halls lead from reception hall to kitchen, pantry and storeroom on the south and to bedroom and bath on the north. This bedroom contains a fireplace with elaborate mantel and a seating niche enframed by an arch at the east window. Sometime before 1925 a bay window was added to the north wall of the bedroom.

When the roof of the house was raised in the late 1920s, the Smith plan for the second floor was totally changed. Where Smith designed three bedrooms with dormers and stairhall on the second floor, the house presently has six bedrooms and several baths.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

The stairhall was extended to the rear over the porte cochere, creating a large sitting room or sleeping porch. Stairs were added to the attic, which now contains two bedrooms. Two bedrooms were added over the previously one-story kitchen wing, using as access a wood storage closet designed by Smith.

Although the height and roofline of the White House were modified in the 1920s, the changes were executed in the idiom of Richard Sharp Smith, using pebbledash and heavy brackets as shown in the original Smith drawing. The first floor interior is unchanged from the Smith plans.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Commerce

Period of Significance
1903-1922

Significant Dates
1903

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

White, James H.

Architect/Builder

Smith, Richard Sharp, architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The James H. White House, built in 1903 in Marshall, North Carolina, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for its association with White, a self-made man who changed the physical appearance of the town of Marshall and was instrumental in its development from backwoods village to twentieth-century town of commerce and trade. He was owner and publisher of the newspaper, president of the bank and clerk of Superior Court. He also brought to Marshall the latest in architectural style when he hired Richard Sharp Smith, employed by Richard Morris Hunt as supervising architect of the Biltmore House in Asheville, to design his own house and the Madison County Courthouse. James H. White sold his house in 1922. Between 1925 and 1930 the White House underwent changes in roofline and second floor interior, but in original fabric and detail, the Smith plan and idiom are readily apparent.

Commerce context: The town of Marshall began as a drover's stand on the Buncombe Turnpike, a track opened in 1828 which ran from Tennessee along the French Broad River to Hendersonville and Asheville and on to the markets of South Carolina and Georgia. In wide, flat pastures along the Turnpike, drovers would sleep and eat and their flocks and herds would roost and rest. (2) In the tight passes between mountain and river, Marshall offered a relatively wide space for drovers to rest. In 1837 David Vance, father of Governor Zebulon Vance, built a drover's stand in Marshall, (3) but not until 1881, when the railroad entered Madison County, did Marshall begin to look toward a future dominated by commerce, trade, banking, and industry, instead of the frontier businesses of agriculture, hunting, and fishing. (4)

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 1

James H. White grew up on a farm near Marshall, where his energy and wit made him the town's leading figure during the early years of the twentieth century and the personification of the town's growth in commerce and industry. White's activities were centered around business, commerce, and civic endeavors, from his first venture in 1887 with tobacco to his establishment of the first bank in the town. From 1887 to his death in 1925, White was involved in railroad construction, tobacco warehousing, a merchantile business, and a drugstore. He was the developer of the local power company and the local water system, and the owner and publisher of the local newspaper. He served as Marshall's postmaster and Madison County's tax collector, land agent, and sheriff. He founded and was first president of the Citizen's Bank of Marshall (the town's first bank) and led a fundraising drive which resulted in the construction of the county courthouse, designed by Richard Sharp Smith and completed in 1907. (5) At White's death in 1925, the town of Marshall was a thriving county seat, with banking, mercantile, and textile businesses in successful operation at the side of governmental business. White was personally responsible for the establishment of most of these business operations.

Historical Background: James H. White was born June 20, 1868 on a farm about five miles east of Marshall, North Carolina, the son of a Union soldier who was captain of a North Carolina Union Infantry Company. He attended county schools in season and worked on the family farm. In the fall of 1884 he attended Judson College in Hendersonville and in the fall of 1885 entered Greenville and Tusculum College near Greenville, Tennessee. He graduated from the Lexington, Kentucky, Business College in 1886 and in 1887 went into business selling tobacco in Asheville and Marshall. After the collapse of the tobacco market across the state in 1888, White began his varied business career, taking advantage of every new business prospect which was presented in Marshall. Before the turn of the century, he had worked in railroad construction, in the drug and mercantile business in Marshall, and as agent and proprietor of a warehouse in Asheville. During that time he was also postmaster at Marshall and sheriff, tax collector, and land agent for Madison County. In 1898 he was elected Clerk of Superior Court in Madison County, which position he held until after 1910. (6) He bought and sold land in Madison County, and inherited property from his father. (7)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

In May, 1903, White purchased property near the courthouse in Marshall, (8) and in July of that year he married Annie Mae Winslow of Johnson City, Tennessee. (9) In September, 1903, he hired Richard Sharp Smith of Asheville to design his show-place home on the side of the mountain overlooking Marshall's Main Street. (10) As befitting his place in county business and society, his house was of the latest regional style.

Richard Sharp Smith, employed by Richard Morris Hunt as supervising architect for George Vanderbilt's Biltmore House, remained in Asheville after the completion of the Vanderbilt mansion in 1895 and maintained a prolific architectural practice from 1897 until his death in Asheville in 1924. (11) Smith was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1852 and studied in the offices of Hunt and Hunt in New York City before arriving in Asheville in 1889. After Hunt's death in 1895, Smith served as Vanderbilt's resident architect and opened a practice in Asheville. (12) His houses combined Colonial Revival and Queen Anne motifs and favored hipped roofs and dormers, stuccoed wall surfaces, heavy brackets and twelve-over-one window sashes. Often a combination of shingles and pebbledash was employed. Smith established this idiom in the "Old English" vernacular design of Biltmore Village under the direction of Richard Morris Hunt (13) and before the turn of the century had designed similar dwellings in the Montford and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods of Asheville. (See Montford Historic District National Register nomination, 1979; and Chestnut Hill National Register nomination, 1983).

In 1904 James White directed a campaign to raise money for a new county courthouse and was instrumental in the hiring of Richard Sharp Smith as designer of the new building, which was completed in 1907, directly in front of and below the White House. (14)

By 1910, James White had been elected president of the Citizens Bank of Marshall, a bank he founded and directed until his death in 1925. He was also instrumental in the construction of a power system and water works for the town. (15) Sometime before 1910 he became president and publisher of the News-Record, the county newspaper, and maintained those positions until 1924. (16) He was active in the service of the Baptist Church of Marshall, where he was chairman of the Board of Deacons and superintendent of the Sunday School. He was also an active Mason and a delegate to the Republican National Convention which nominated William Howard Taft. "He had a brilliant mind and a warm and compassionate heart." (17)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

By 1920, White was plagued by poor health. In 1922 the house was sold to Wiley M. Roberts for \$1,813.95. (18) In 1923 the house was sold again, this time at the courthouse door, to R. S. Ramsey, (19) who made changes in the roof and second floor to accommodate boarders. In 1934, foreclosure led to the property's being taken over by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, an instrument of the United States Government, and sold by the Corporation in 1940 to J. N. and Bessie Lee Edwards Penland, of Marshall. (20) From 1940 to 1978 the Penlands ran the house as the Balsam Tourist Home. Bathrooms were added on the second floor by the Penlands. In 1988 the Penland heirs sold the White property to James and Ruth Boyland, who renamed it the Marshall House. (21)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

FOOTNOTES

1. Robinson, Blackwell P., ed., The North Carolina Guide, p. 593.
2. Dykeman, The French Broad, pp. 138-151.
3. Ibid., p. 141; also historical marker, Madison County Courthouse, Marshall.
4. Wellman, The Kingdom of Madison: A Southern Mountain Fastness and Its People, p. 108.
5. News-Record, (Marshall), February 13, 1925.
6. Ibid.
7. Madison County Register of Deeds, Index to Deeds Book #1, 1855-1897.
8. Madison County Register of Deeds, Book 16, page 356.
9. News-Record, (Marshall), February 13, 1925.
10. Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, Richard Sharp Smith Papers.
11. Southern, Historic Montford, p. 9.
12. Swaim, Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina, p. 82.
13. Ibid., p. 84.
14. Boyland, Ruth, Study List application, September 27, 1988.
15. News-Record, (Marshall), Bicentennial Edition, July 1976.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

18. Madison County Register of Deeds, Book 24, page 189.
19. Madison County Register of Deeds, Book 31, page 9.
20. Madison County Register of Deeds, Book 64, page 537.
21. Madison County Register of Deeds, Book 175, page 574.

Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, Richard Sharp Smith Papers, Asheville.

News-Record, (Marshall), February 13, 1925; Bicentennial Edition, July 1976.

Robinson, Blackwell P., ed., The North Carolina Guide, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1955.

Southern, Michael T., ed., Historic Montford, The Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County, Asheville, 1985.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 1 2/5 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
---	---

3	4	7	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	6	2	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Madison County Register of Deeds Book 175 at page 574: BEGINNING on a stake Southwest of the Pritchard Road, corner of the County Courthouse tract, and runs South 74 degrees 45 minutes East 247 feet to a stake in R. L. Gudger's line; thence with said line, North 19 degrees 30 minutes East 165 feet to a stake, corner of school tract; thence with said school tract, North 74 degrees

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the James H. White House and lot as described in Madison County Register of Deeds Book 16, page 356, as purchased by White on May 18, 1903, and Book 20, page 477, additional land purchased by White on October 12, 1905, which is all of the land historically associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries, Preservation Consultant

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

Swaim, Douglas, ed., Cabins and Castles: The History and Architecture of Buncombe County, North Carolina, Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, Asheville, 1981.

Wellman, Manly Wade, The Kingdom of Madison: A Southern Mountain Fastness and Its People, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1973.

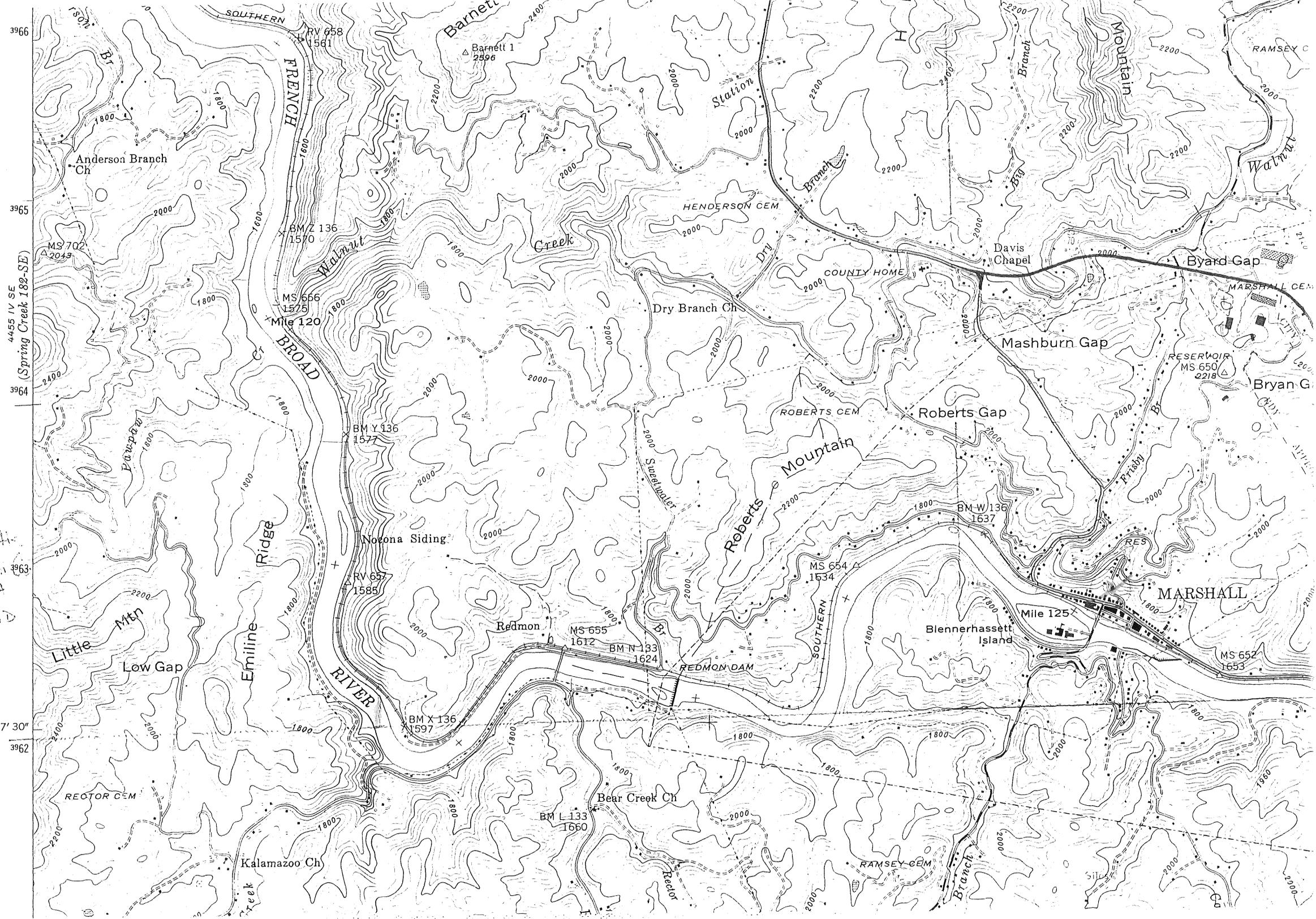
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

James H. White House, Marshall,
Madison County, North Carolina

45 minutes West 195 feet to a stake just beyond the said Pritchard Road; thence South 45 degrees 15 minutes West 24 feet to the center of said road; thence with said center of said road, North 50 degrees 45 minutes West 81 feet; thence North 14 degrees 30 minutes West 62 feet; thence leaving said road, North 86 degrees West 49 feet to the Westerly margin of said road; thence with said road, South 9 degrees 30 minutes East 207 feet to a stake on Westerly side of said road; thence South 3 degrees 30 minutes East 35 feet to the BEGINNING. Containing $1 \frac{2}{5}$ acres, more or less.



TAKEN BY H. WHITE H.
MARSHALL, MADISON
NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHALL QUAD
ZONE 17

N: 3962.640
E: 347840

4455 IV SE
(Spring Creek 182-SE)

47' 30"
3962

