

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dr. James O. Matthews Office

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

E. side SR 1960, 0.1 mi S of SR 1004

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Taylor's Bridge Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Sampson

163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <u>Vacant</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Kathleen Matthews Carter (919) 525-5652

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 36

CITY, TOWN

Salemburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 28385

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sampson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

North Carolina 28328

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Tom Butchko

Jim Sumner, Research

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Survey and Planning Branch

Research Branch

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

109 E. Jones St.

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

N. C. 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

This charming little two-room office was built about 1900 for Dr. James Oscar Matthews (1868 - 1943); it is the finest of the few surviving offices in the county. The office was located southeast of the large family home built by his father, Benedict Matthews (1832 - 1918) about 1855 and given to his son at the time of his marriage in 1900. The big house burned in the early 1960s. The front gable roof engages a pedimented porch which is supported by two octagonal columns made from a solid log, with each face having three rounded flutes. These columns are an outstanding example of vernacular Sampson County craftsmanship at the turn of the century and the handsome, stately structure is an eloquent statement of the respect and place of honor accorded the practice of medicine in rural Sampson County. The office is still owned and maintained by the builder's children; it has been vacant for a number of years.

Set on short, pyramidal piers of poured cement, this clever, two-bay-by-two-bay, two-room frame office is sheltered under a pedimented gable front roof of standing seam metal. The building is only twelve feet wide and fifteen feet deep. The only stylistic elements on the building are the exceptional front porch columns which have simple, well-constructed bases and capitals and support the porch's boxed frieze. The boxed cornice of the roof extends on three sides, the rear elevation having flush gable eaves. The side windows are boarded up and the front window sash was originally six-over-nine (now six-over-six) with a flat, two-part surround. The doors provide access to the interior, a replacement door on the front facade and a side door on the northwest leading into the back office. The interior, simply sheathed with horizontally-laid narrow boards, consists of a front and rear office with a connecting door. Lately the interior has been used for storage.

The office stands by itself, facing southwest, in a corner of the old farmstead; nearby several pecan trees shelter the structure.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE

\_\_\_\_\_ X LOCAL

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (Medicine)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

**SPECIFIC DATES**

ca. 1900 - 1900

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This charming little two-room office was built about 1900 by Dr. James Oscar Matthews (1868 - 1943); it is the finest of the few surviving offices in the county. The office was located southeast of the large family home built by his father, Benedict Matthews (1832 - 1918) about 1855 and given to his son at the time of his marriage in 1900. The big house burned in the early 1960s. The front gable roof engages a pedimented porch which is supported by two octagonal columns made from a solid log, with each face having three rounded flutes. These columns are an outstanding example of vernacular Sampson County craftsmanship at the turn of the century and the handsome, stately structure is an eloquent statement to the respect and place of honor accorded the practice of medicine in rural Sampson County. The office is still owned and maintained by the builder's children; it has been vacant for a number of years.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

- A. The Dr. James O. Matthews Office is an important surviving building associated with the practice of medicine in rural North Carolina at the turn of the century.
- C. The small frame building is one of the county's finest examples of the long appeal of the Greek Revival style in rural Sampson County. The two porch columns are notable examples of the period's excellent workmanship and attention to detail.
- D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the history of the area.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Dr. James O. Matthews Office is located near the community of Taylors Bridge. The office was built by Dr. Matthews around 1900 and served as his office for over four decades. It is located just southeast of the 1850s Matthews home built by Matthews' father and destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

James Oscar Matthews was born in 1868, the oldest of six children of Benedict Matthews, a farmer and Civil War veteran, and Julia Powers Matthews. Family tradition maintains that James Matthews was inspired to become a physician by his uncle, Dr. George W. Mosely. Matthews taught school locally to finance his medical education. He graduated from the University College of Medicine in Richmond in 1897 and passed the North Carolina state medical examination the same year. He practiced briefly in Salemburg before returning to Taylors Bridge, his home community, where he took over the practice of the elderly Dr. Mosely. Dr. Matthews retained his practice until his death in 1943. He was also a civic leader and served one term, 1909, in the North Carolina Senate. Dr. Matthews was a longtime proponent of improving roads, telephone service, electrical service, schools and other areas of importance to his rural community.

Matthews married Katie Florence Peterson in 1900. They had two children, Kathleen and James. The children are the present owners of the office which has been vacant for some time.

As a county both large and overwhelmingly rural, Sampson County has always been unusually dependent on its county doctors. The Dr. Matthews Office, as both the finest remaining such office in the county and the only remaining structure associated with one of the county's most distinguished such physicians, has considerable local historical significance.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983), 73, 494-496, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County.

<sup>2</sup>Bizzell, The Heritage of Sampson County, 495-496, The Thirteenth Census of North Carolina, 1910, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.

---

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

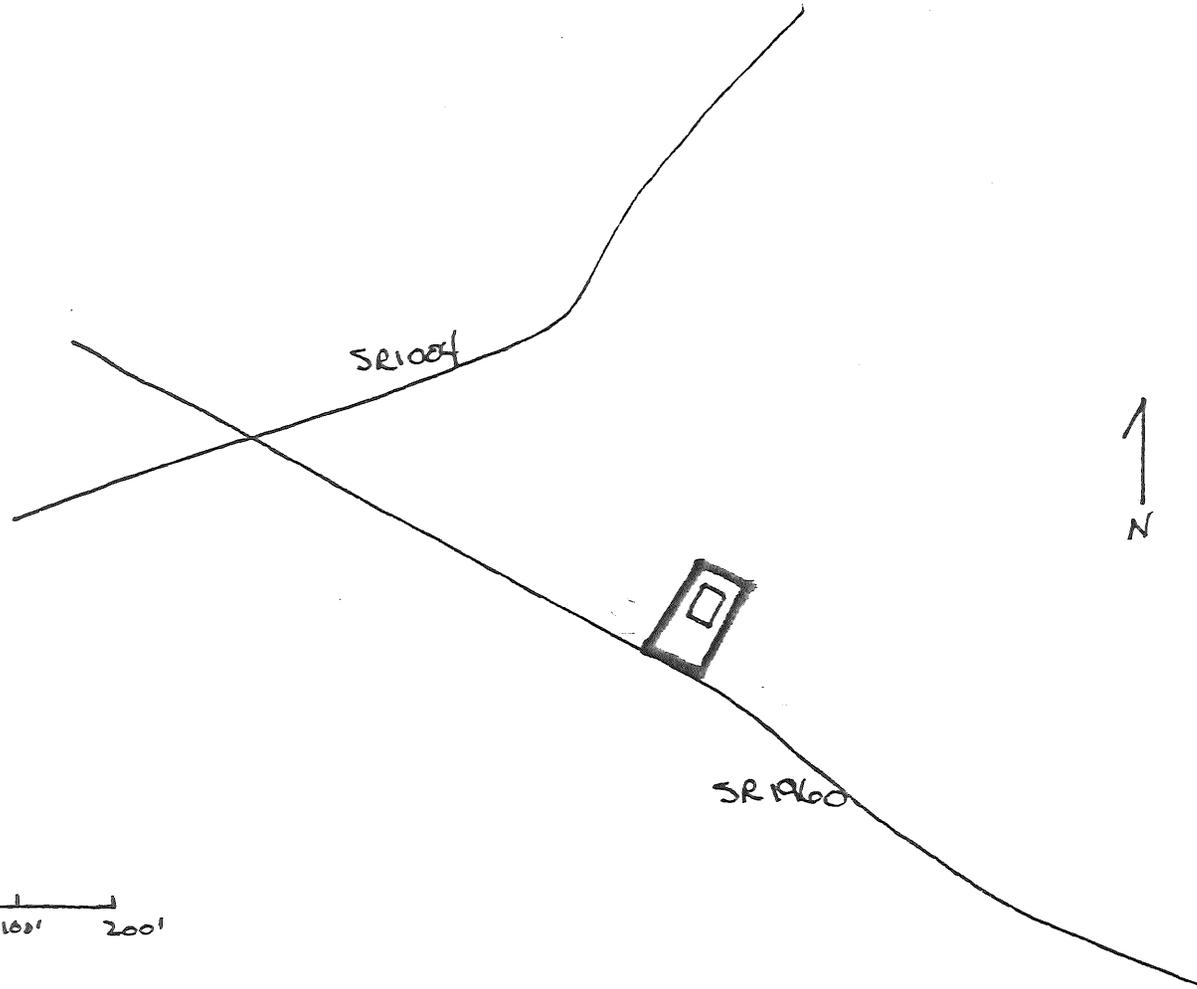
### UTM REFERENCES

A	17	751100	3861300	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is the immediate site of the office, extending 100 feet northeast from the road and 50 feet northwest from the woods, containing approximately 0.11 acres. Sketch map attached.

Dr. James O. Matthews Office  
Sampson County, N.C.



0 100' 200'



