

Figure 21. NCDOT Survey #45, Dr. Joseph A. McLean House (GF-1535), 6069 Burlington Road, Guilford County, aerial photograph (2010) showing NRHP boundary.

NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585), NC HPO Study List, Guilford County Landmark (1984) 7282 Burlington Road, Whitsett vicinity, Guilford County Guilford County PIN: 8834775066

Location and Setting: The Andrew Gibson Farm is located on the south side of two-lane US 70 (Burlington Road), east of the small Whitsett settlement in a rural section of eastern Guilford County (Figures 22–29). The property is bounded by open fields and wooded tracts. The immediate setting of the property consists of a grass lawn with scattered fruit and ornamental trees and a single row of



NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585), looking southwest.

boxwoods flanking both sides of the front walkway. Access to the property is via an unpaved driveway on the west. The Andrew Gibson House and farm outbuildings were not accessible for interior inspection and photography.

Description: The main house on the Andrew Gibson Farm is prominently sited at the south end of the short driveway and boxwood allée. Probably built in the early 1820s, it is a vernacular two-story, single-pile frame house, three bays wide and two bays deep with Federal-style details. Set on an uncoursed limestone foundation, it is framed with large cedar beams and clad with white-washed weatherboard siding. The foundation covers a full cellar ventilated by horizontal wooden vents with vertical bars. The side-gable roof is clad with pressed metal shingles and features a boxed cornice and exterior-end stuccoed shouldered chimneys with corbelled caps. The central entry on the north façade features a single-leaf, four-panel wood door with rectangular transom. Some original 6/9 double-hung sash windows are on the second story of the rear elevation and there are narrow 6/6 sash windows on the west elevation. Although the house was not accessible for interior inspection, the 1975–1977 architectural survey of Guilford County described this house as having a hall-parlor floorplan.

Around 1895, most of the windows were replaced with 2/2 double-hung wood sash, and the attic windows removed. At this time, the full-width porch was most likely added to the façade and across the shed-roofed addition off the east gable end. Supported by a half-hipped roof with pedimented gable over the entry, it is clad with pressed metal shingles and supported by square wood posts. The porch has a concrete floor, probably added in the mid-twentieth century.

Also in 1895, the house was enlarged on the east when a shed-roofed ell with secondary entrance was added to the east gable end, as was a gable-roofed ell on the southeast corner. An early-to-mid-twentieth-century, shed-roofed, screened porch and exposed rafter ends was added on the east end of this second ell. Both additions rest on brick foundations, are sheathed in plain weatherboard, and have 2/2 sash windows. The side porch is set on an uncoursed limestone foundation that matches the foundation of the main block. A porch with shed roof runs across the rear elevation of the main block and is supported by square wood posts. The east end of the porch is enclosed and has a brick foundation, while the remainder of the porch foundation is of concrete block, and extends just to the stone stairwell into the cellar, with the porch roof covering the stairwell.



Outbuildings:

Wellhouse: A ca. 1900 wellhouse, located east of the main house, is a frame structure with a front-gable metal roof and exposed rafter ends. The north end of the wellhouse is enclosed with weatherboard siding and the south end is supported by square wood posts, sheltering the well. There is an entrance on the west. It is not known if the building had any other function.

Secondary Residence: A ca. 1900 frame building located a short distance to the east of the main house appears to have once been a secondary residence. This one-story building, now in ruins, once featured frame construction clad in German siding, rested upon a raised brick foundation, and featured a metal-clad front-gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The building is currently in a deteriorated state, and a large tree is growing against the façade entry on the gable end.

Barn: A one-story transverse frame barn (not pictured) is located east of the house. This barn features frame construction clad in metal panels, a metal-clad front-gable roof, and an open lean-to addition to the north. A wood-and-wire fence surrounds the barn.

Vehicle/equipment shed: To the south of the barn is a one-story ca. 1930 frame vehicle/equipment shed oriented toward US 70 to the north. The shed is clad in corrugated metal panels and has a metal-clad side-gable roof with exposed rafter tails. Several sections of metal wall-cladding are missing on the façade and west elevations. The building retains integrity.



Figure 23. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585, 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County), northeast elevation, looking south-southwest; wellhouse is on the left.



Figure 24. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585, 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County), detail of twentieth-century porch on the east gable end, looking northwest.



Figure 25. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585, 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County), south (rear) elevation and west gable end, looking northeast.



Figure 26. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585, 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County), detail of ca. 1895 porch across the north façade, looking southeast.



Figure 27. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585, 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County), wellhouse, west elevation, looking southeast.



Figure 28. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585), 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County, view of deteriorated secondary residence, looking southwest.



Figure 29. NCDOT Survey #9, Andrew Gibson Farm (GF-0585), 7282 Burlington Road, Guilford County, view of ca. 1930 vehicle shed, looking south.

Historical Background: Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1750, Andrew Gibson emigrated to America in 1765 as a silversmith apprentice. After living in both Charleston and then Cheraw, South Carolina, Gibson settled in Guilford County in 1775 and operated a general store (NCSHPO 2012; Robinson and Stoesen 1980:133). The following year, Andrew Gibson married Jane Freeland, the daughter of a Justice of the Peace before whom Gibson had appeared while suing for a debt. During the Revolution, Gibson served as a soldier and cavalryman in the Militia of North Carolina, and sustained injuries at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781 (NCSHPO 2012). Andrew Gibson was a prominent and successful farmer, merchant, and church and community leader in Guilford County who eventually acquired over 2,000 acres of land.

Gibson also was a large slaveholder, owning 13 slaves according to the 1880 census (USFC 1800). Gibson accumulated property and wealth from mercantile, farming, and gold mining businesses including the "Gold Hill" gold mine located on his property, west of the location of the present Andrew Gibson house (*Times News*: May 18, 2011). Gibson's first home, possibly of log construction, is no longer extant on the farm and may have also served as a "meeting house" for which an undated subscription list exists (GHM n.d.). The dwelling historically known as the Andrew Gibson House is actually Gibson's second house on the property. He most likely constructed the home as a middle-aged man, as the architecture of this home dates to the early part of the nineteenth century (NCSHPO 2012).

Andrew and Jane Gibson had seven children—sons James, John, Moses, and Joseph, and daughters Elizabeth (Betsy), Jane (Jennie), and Nancy W. (GHM n.d.). Much like his father, Joseph Gibson was a prominent landowner, acquiring an additional 400 acres to add to the Gibson family tract. In addition to being appointed a lieutenant in the Guilford Militia in 1809, Gibson also served as the chairman and presiding magistrate of the Guilford County Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, was elected as County Surveyor in 1820, ran for the State Senate in 1821, and continued to assist with operations of the Gold Hill Mine (NCSHPO 2012). Following his father Andrew's death in 1823, Joseph inherited the home place, while the majority of Andrew's property, including his slaves, was granted to his widow, Jane, according to his will dated February 24, 1823 (GCWB B:172). Joseph thus became the second prominent individual to occupy the home place.

In addition to his civic roles, Joseph also helped to bring the railroad near to his Guilford County property when in 1851 he contracted with the state to use his own slaves to lay 3.5 miles of rail for the North Carolina Railroad. By 1854, a depot was constructed and the first train arrived the following year (Robinson and Stoesen 1980:133–134). The depot and community that developed nearby became known as Gibsonville, named in honor of Joseph Gibson, who, according to local legend, had no children and wanted to leave behind a legacy (Robinson and Stoesen 1980). The name Gibsonville was used as early as June 15, 1855, when the first post office opened; however, the town was not formally incorporated until January 18, 1871 (Robinson and Stoesen 1980:133–134).

After Joseph Gibson's death on January 25, 1857, Rufus L. Gibson (whose relationship to Andrew and Joseph is unknown) inherited the Andrew Gibson home place (GCWB C:466). While the chain of title does not illustrate the ownership of the property between 1857 and 1883, Rufus A. Summers, a probate judge, sold the tract, then comprised of 254 acres, to Margaret P. Summers, a widow, in 1883 (GCDB 65:159). While the house appears on the 1895 Benbow and Johnson map of Guilford County, an owner's name is not indicated. In 1895, M.P. Summers sold 100 acres of the tract to D.E. Clapp (GCDB 99:763) who is also listed as her heir on the 1900 U.S. census, and both were farming the property (USFC 1900).

On a 1908 map of Guilford County, Ed Clapp (presumably D.E. Clapp) is shown as the owner of the property (Miller 1908), and in 1910, he is identified as a dealer in milled timber (UFSC 1910). In 1927, D.E. Clapp sold the same 100 acres to Laura Neal and Mabel Bayne (GCDB 601:305).

In 1937 and 1938, parts of the property were sold by R.B. and Mabel Bayne to J.H. Barnwell. In 1948, J.H. Barnwell sold 73 acres of the Gibson home place to Paul Ingle (GCDB 1233:348). In 1974, following Paul Ingle's death, a part of the land was granted to Lena Ingle, according to his will (GCWB 74-E:1162).

By 1999, Lena Ingle owned six tracts. On May 13, 1999, all six tracts—four of which were described as "being part of 7282 Burlington Road," the address of the Andrew Gibson house—were granted to Randy L. and Cheryl R. Ingle (GCDB 4857:2112). The land, which was annexed by the City of Burlington in 2000 (GCDB 5022:277), is still owned by Randy and Cheryl Ingle, and the house is currently leased to a tenant.

Statement of Integrity: The main house and wellhouse of the Andrew Gibson Farm retain their integrity of setting, location, design, materials, association, workmanship, and feeling. No longer used for agricultural purposes and in deteriorated condition, the agricultural outbuildings lack integrity of association and workmanship.

NRHP Criteria Assessment: The Andrew Gibson Farm is recommended **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion A. According to the NRHP: "[*t*]*o be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well" (NPS 1990:12). Research conducted for the 1975–1977 Guilford County architectural survey and as part of the 2012 survey by TRC did not establish any important event or pattern of events associated with this property (Smith 1979).*

The Andrew Gibson Farm is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B. According to the NRHP: "[f]or a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group" (NPS 1990:15). The house was built by Andrew Gibson (1750–1823), a successful famer, merchant, gold mining entrepreneur, and prominent church and community leader, who emigrated from Scotland to South Carolina in 1765 and moved to Guilford County 10 years later. His son Joseph (1785-1857), who is also associated with the house, was a prominent figure in the community of Gibsonville, which was reportedly named after him. The property is significant for its association with the Gibson family who were pivotal in the development of the mining industry and the routing of the North Carolina Railroad through Guilford County. The house retains sufficient integrity to convey the connections to the productive lives of both Andrew and Joseph Gibson despite its renovations in the 1890s. The Andrew Gibson House was recognized as a Guilford County landmark for its associations with the Gibson family.

The Andrew Gibson Farm is **eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion C on the local level as embodying the elements of the nineteenth-century vernacular Federal Style in Guilford County. According to the NRHP "[*f*]or a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction" (NPS 1990:18). The Andrew Gibson House is one of the few remaining early-nineteenth-century frame dwellings in eastern Guilford County. (Most of the houses dating from

this period identified during the 1970s Guilford County survey were log). Comparable domestic examples in this part of Guilford County include the early-nineteenth-century Daniel Foust House near Whitsett and the Kernodle House near Monticello. The house displays elements of the Federal Style, such as the hallparlor plan, tall two-story height, central entrance and symmetrical fenestration, and narrow windows on the west gable end, as well as late-nineteenth-century alterations.

The Andrew Gibson Farm is **not eligible** for the NRHP under Criterion D. According to the NRHP: "[*f*]*or a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements:* 1) *the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important*" (NPS 1990:21). The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to human history or prehistory.

NRHP Boundary Justification: The recommended NRHP boundary for the Andrew Gibson Farm has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties.* The boundary is drawn to include the main house and outbuildings and their immediate setting, containing 2.74 acres (Figure 30; see Figure 22). The northern NRHP boundary is the south side of the US 70 right-of-way. The property is bounded by cleared fields on the south, west, and east.