

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 9 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House

and/or common

2. Location

W. of Robertson-McLaurin off 912

street & number On County Road 36, approximately 1/3 mi. northeast of its intersection
with S.C. Highway 912 NA not for publication

city, town Bennettsville vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Marlboro code 069

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. William C. Tolar, III

street & number Post Office Box 598

city, town Bennettsville vicinity of state South Carolina 29512

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marlboro County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Bennettsville state South Carolina 29512

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places
in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House, which is located on Naked Creek in rural Marlboro County, is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, central-hall farmhouse believed to have been built ca. 1790 for Drury Robertson. Although minor alterations and additions have been made to the house since its construction, it retains its character as a late eighteenth century farmhouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame farmhouse with a brick pier foundation, gabled roof, and exterior end chimneys. The roof is covered with composition shingles and the house is sheathed in beaded weatherboard siding. A one-story, shed-roofed porch spans the facade (northwest elevation); the porch has plain wooden posts connected by a plain balustrade. There is a painting of a lion, of unknown date and origin, on the ceiling of the porch.

The southeast elevation of the house has one-story shed rooms attached. According to tradition, these rooms were added in the late nineteenth century. However, there is no break in the weatherboards between the main house and the shed rooms, nor is there a break in the floor joists between the main house and the shed rooms; these factors, and the interior fabric of the rooms, suggest that they were either original to the house or added by the first half of the nineteenth century. A one-room addition of unknown construction date is on the northeast elevation of the house.

Fenestration is symmetrical. The facade has three even bays. The first story originally contained a door flanked by two windows. The second story is pierced by five windows. The first story windows have nine-over-nine sash, while the second story windows have six-over-six, except for the two windows to the left of the front door, which have been replaced with a tripartite window, reputedly the work of John L. McLaurin.

The Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House has a heavy-timber braced frame with hewn timbers. All major joints are pegged mortise-and-tenon. The corner posts are twelve inches by twelve inches and extend the full height of the house. Bracing timbers at each level measure five by seven inches. Studs are three by five inches, and ceiling joists are three by eight inches.

On the first floor the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House has two main rooms, the dining room and the living room, flanking the central hall, which contains a dog-leg stair. These rooms have wainscoting made of single walnut boards, approximately twenty-two inches wide, with plaster walls and ceilings. Decorative features include a chair rail and a denticulated cornice. The dining room features a built-in corner cupboard. A door in the rear of the central hall, under the stair, leads to three shed rooms; these rooms have wide board ceilings and walls with a chair rail.

On the second floor two bedrooms flank the central hall. The rooms of this floor have plastered ceilings and walls. Decorative features include chair rails and plain cornices. The hall contains a dog-leg stair leading to the attic; a distinctive feature of this stair is primitive marbelizing on the risers.

The attic has plastered walls and a sloping plastered ceiling. The walls have been signed periodically by persons visiting the house. One signature is dated 1865 by a member of

8. 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates	ca. 1790	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House is a two-and-one-half story, central-hall farmhouse located on Naked Creek in rural Marlboro County. Believed to have been constructed ca. 1790 for Drury Robertson, the house is a locally significant example of construction techniques and stylistic characteristics of farmhouses of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In addition, the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House is associated with the lives of persons who played significant roles in the political history of Marlboro County. During the formative years of the county, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Drury Robertson (1751-1822) served as county court justice, clerk of court, road commissioner, and delegate to the South Carolina General Assembly. In the early twentieth century the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House became the home of John Lowndes McLaurin (1860-1934), a former United States Congressman and Senator. While living in the house, McLaurin represented Marlboro County in the South Carolina General Assembly and served as state warehouse commissioner.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documentary and physical evidence support the local tradition that the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House was built ca. 1790 by Drury Robertson. An analysis of the chain of title indicates that Robertson owned the land on which the house is located and lived in the vicinity. Also, the map of Marlboro District included in Robert Mill's Atlas of the State of South Carolina (1825) shows "Major Robertson's Mill" very near the site of the present house.¹ Features of the house such as the heavy-timber construction, beaded weatherboard siding, nine-over-nine windows, and wrought-iron strap hinges on the front door are consistent with a late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century construction date.

Robertson was a relatively wealthy resident of Marlboro District. His property included over 1,500 acres of land and in 1820 he owned sixty slaves.² He operated two other mills besides the one located near the site of the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House. Robertson was also probably involved in the lumber business.³

In 1831 Henry Easterling (ca. 1793-1865) purchased the property.⁴ Easterling was also a prosperous farmer. He owned 1,916 acres of land and seventy-five slaves in 1860.⁵

After the death of Henry Easterling and his wife, Martha, their son Robert C. Easterling acquired the property.⁶ He farmed on a smaller scale than his father and Drury Robertson and also operated a grist mill.⁷

After the death of Robert C. Easterling and his wife, Anna G. Easterling, the estate was purchased in 1909 by John Lowndes McLaurin, a former lawyer and businessman, who had returned to Marlboro County to farm.⁸

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 2.5

Quadrangle name Wallace, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	6	1	3	9	6	5	3	8	3	7	6	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Marlboro County Tax Map No. 26, which is drawn to a scale of 660 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes the house and its immediate setting.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county NA code

state NA code county NA code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Watson Edmonds Pete Rogers
S.C. Department of Archives and History Pee Dee Reg. Council of Governments

organization S.C. Department of Archives and History date January 10, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 11,669 telephone (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Charles E. Lee

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/1/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

Delous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/5/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the Twenty-Fifth Indiana Regiment.

Floors throughout are heart pine. The simple mantels and six-panel doors, many of which retain early hardware, appear to be original. The front door has wrought-iron strap hinges.

Surroundings: Several modern outbuildings are located behind the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House; none of the historic outbuildings remain. The house, which is located on the route of the Old Stage Road, is surrounded by woods and fields.

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Architecture: The Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House is one of the oldest farmhouses in Marlboro County. Because of its basically unaltered condition, it is a valuable record of life in the area in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The size and arrangement of interior space reveal information about the lifestyles of its residents; the heavy-timber frame illustrates construction techniques; and stylistic features such as the wainscoting, marbeling on the stairs, and denticulated cornice reflect the tastes and craftsmanship of the period.

Politics/Government: Drury Robertson represented St. David Parish in the Eighth General Assembly (1789-1790) and the newly formed election district of Marlboro in the Eleventh (1794-1795), Twelfth (1796-1797), and Thirteenth (1798-1799) General Assemblies. Local offices he held included county court justice (1789, 1797), clerk of court (ca. 1789), road commissioner (1795), inspector and major of the Ninth Brigade of the state militia (ca. 1801-1820), and commissioner to establish a new courthouse and jail in Marlboro District (1810).⁹

John Lowndes McLaurin represented Marlboro County in the state senate in 1913 and 1914 and between 1915 and 1917 served as state warehouse commissioner. Prior to purchasing the Robertson-Easterling-McLaurin House, he had been a member of the United States Congress.¹⁰

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FOOTNOTES

¹Book A, pp. 129-31, Marlboro County Wills [LDS microfilm], Book N, pp. 481-82, Marlboro County Deeds [LDS microfilm], and Apt. 39, Pkg. 9, Marlboro County Estate Papers [C1633], S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.; Deed Book 11, pp. 399-401, Marlboro County Deeds, Marlboro County Courthouse, Bennettsville, S.C.; Robert Mills, Atlas of the State of South Carolina, 1825; new facsimile ed., Columbia, S.C.: Lucy Hampton Bostick and Fant H. Thornley, 1938.

²Ibid.; N. Louise Bailey and Elizabeth Ivey Cooper, eds., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, vol. 3: 1775-1790 (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1981), p. 613.

³Book A, pp. 129-131, Marlboro County Wills; Book H-L, pp. 417-18, Marlboro County Deeds, Marlboro County Courthouse.

⁴Book N, pp. 481-82, Marlboro County Deeds [LDS microfilm].

⁵Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: South Carolina [Slave Schedules] (Washington: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1967), microcopy no. 653, roll no. 1236, Marlboro County, p. 53; United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina, 1850-1880 (Columbia, South Carolina: Department of Archives and History, 1971), microcopy no. 2, roll no. 4 [Agriculture: 1860], Marlboro County, p. 9.

⁶R.L. Freeman, C.E., Map of Marlboro County, Bennettsville, S.C., 1908; William Light Kinney, Jr., ed., Sherman's March: A Review (Bennettsville, S.C.: Marlboro Herald-Advocate, 1962), p. 257.

⁷United States Census: Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics, and Mortality Schedules, roll no. 13 [Agriculture: 1880], Marlboro County, S.C., p. 11, and roll no. 1 [Industry, 1870], Marlboro County, S.C.

⁸Book 11, pp. 399-401, Marlboro County Deeds, Marlboro County Courthouse; Emily Beltinger Reynolds and Joan Reynolds Faunt, eds., Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964 (Columbia, S.C.: S.C. Archives Department, 1964), p. 270.

⁹Bailey and Cooper, ed, p. 613.

¹⁰Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, Being the Regular Session Beginning Tuesday, January 14, 1913 (Columbia, S.C.: Gonzales and Bryan, 1913), p. 4; Journal of the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, Being the Regular Session Beginning Tuesday, January 13, 1914 (Columbia, S.C.: Gonzales and Bryan, 1914), p. 62; Reynolds and Faunt, p. 270.