



Marley Cemetery (31CH1016**)

Site Number: 31CH1016**	NRHP Recommendation: Not eligible
Site Type: Family Cemetery	Elevation: 600 ft AMSL
Components: Early to mid-19 th century	Landform: Hilltop
UTM Coordinates: E631784, N3957294 (17N, NAD 1927)	Soil Type: Appling sandy loam
Site Dimensions: 33 N/S x 25 E/W m	Vegetation: Hardwoods

Site 31CH1016** is an early to mid-nineteenth century family cemetery located on a hilltop in the western portion of the project area, east of J.C. Teague Road (Figures 1.1 and 5.41). The cemetery has not been previously recorded with the OSA, but was visited and recorded by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 1964. During the 1964 visit, 31 graves were recorded (13 grave markers and 18 field stones) within a stone wall enclosure that was partially broken down (Willett 1964). In 1991, a revisit of the cemetery took place and eight partially legible markers were identified, along with three illegible markers, and 12 field stones. During the 2013 survey of the project area, it was mentioned that the Marley Cemetery contains the remains of Benjamin and a number of his sons and their families and decedents (Reid 1013). The current investigations identified nine legible headstones, one illegible headstone, 10 footstones, and 17 fieldstones within a stone wall enclosure that measures approximately 33 m north/south by 25 m east/west (Figure 5.44); there are many unmarked graves that can be seen as depressions within the stone wall. The stone wall remains intact in the northern portion of the cemetery, but has broken down or been disturbed by clearing activities in the southern portion of the cemetery (Figures 5.45 and 5.46). The cemetery has not been maintained, some of the headstone have toppled over and erosion has taken its toll on a number of the standing stones; hardwood trees remain in the cemetery, however, the vegetation has been cleared at some point surrounding the cemetery and secondary growth covers the landscape (Figures 5.47 and 5.48).

Site 31CH1016** is a traditional Southern Folk Cemetery. Research into rural cemeteries throughout the south has created a broad definition of a Southern folk cemetery, which was usually a smaller cemetery located close to a homestead, containing burials of one or two related families (Clauser 1994). "The upland folk cemetery is a distinctive type of burial ground widely dispersed across the south...characterized by hilltop locations, scraped ground, mounded graves, east-west grave orientation, creative decorations expressing the art of making do, preferred species of vegetation, the use of graveshelters, and cults of piety" (Meyer 1989:108). Clauser defined the layout of such cemeteries as "ordered chaos"; although most examples of this type of cemetery have a rectangular form, with graves oriented west-east, in discernable rows, there is much variation among different examples (1994). Site 31CH1016** fits these three broad pattern markers (Figure 5.47). One of the hallmarks of the Southern folk cemetery is the variation in grave markers from cemetery to cemetery, ranging from wooden stakes, to fieldstones, to cement markers. Although location and economic status influenced the type of markers, the temporal division between pioneer cemeteries, transitional cemeteries, and modern cemeteries is also a significant factor in marker choice. "Until the early twentieth century, fieldstone markers at both the head and foot of the grave were probably the most common type of folk marker for North Carolina graves" (Clauser 1994); the majority of the burials at 31CH1016** fit this pattern, although the marked graves in the cemetery date from the early to mid-nineteenth century.



Figure 5.45. Intact stone wall around northern portion of 31CH1016, facing west.**



Figure 5.46. Broken down/scattered stone wall around southern portion of 31CH1016, facing south.**



Figure 5.47. Cemetery overview, showing legible headstones, vegetation, and rock wall in background, facing 31CH1016, facing northeast.**



Figure 5.48. Picture showing a few of the fieldstone markers at site 31CH1016, facing west.**



Figure 5.49. Picture showing different types of markers at site 31CH1016, facing west.**

The land on which the cemetery is located was part of a 781 acre plantation owned by Benjamin Marley (1755-1815) in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Marley was a successful plantation owner and mill operator in the western portion of Chatham County around the turn of the nineteenth century. In 1790, Benjamin Marley had five residents in his household, but no recorded slaves; by 1800, the household included eight free white people, corresponding to Benjamin Marley, his wife, and their six children, and five slaves (United States Census Bureau 1790, 1800). In 1810, Marley's household had no slaves reported in the census, but he did continue to own slaves during this period (United States Census Bureau 1810). Upon his death in 1815, Benjamin Marley's estate was divided among his children, with his wife Rachel receiving the 200 acre tract on which he lived, along with a number of household items and two slaves; this 200 acre parcel would pass to his son Jesse Marley upon the death of Rachel Marley (Chatham County Probate Records 1815). The remaining land in Benjamin Marley's estate was to be divided among his three remaining sons, Thomas, Benjamin, and John, and the three brothers were to also share equally the profits of the mill. Also, in addition to the two slaves that Benjamin willed to his wife, his will made provisions to distribute one slave to each of his children, with the remainder to be divided up equally among his heirs, indicating that at the time of his death, Benjamin Marley owned at least eight slaves (Chatham County Probate Records 1815).

After his father's death, Jesse Marley continued to operate the plantation lands that he had inherited. In the census records from 1830 to 1850, Jesse Marley was recorded as owning between six and 11 slaves and in 1850 his occupation was recorded as farmer (United States Census Bureau 1830, 1840, 1850). Jesse Marley died in 1859, but his widow and children continued to live on the property. In his will, Jesse Marley gave one-third of his property, including the "mansion house and all out houses and other improvements" to his wife, Laura B. (Lovey) Marley; he also left his wife four slaves, the household property, and any farming implements she wished to keep,



as well as two head of horses, twelve head of cattle, thirty head of hogs, twenty-five head of sheep, and all of the domestic fowl and poultry (Chatham County Probate Records 1859, Will Book D:50). Jesse Marley's will divided the remainder of his property, including land, slaves, and his interest in the family mills, among the six living children; specifically, the will divides the remaining slaves, not allotted to his widow, among the children (Chatham County Probate Records 1859, Will Book D:50). The large amount of livestock owned by Jesse Marley upon his death indicates that he was a farmer with diverse agricultural interests. In 1860, Lovey Marley, Jesse's widow, was listed in the census as the head of the household, with son John listed as a farmer; the household owned five slaves. Her son, Henry Branson Marley, lived nearby and owned eight slaves, some presumably inherited from his father's estate; her son-in-law, William S. McLean, widower of her daughter Mary, also lived nearby and owned three slaves, as did her daughter and son-in-law, William and Eliza Edwards, who owned eight slaves, some of whom were also presumably inherited from Jesse Marley's estate (United States Census Bureau 1860). On maps of Chatham and Randolph counties from 1870 and 1873, the Marley family is shown owning land near the location of the cemetery, including the marked location of Marley's Mill along the eastern border of Randolph County (Figures 3.4 and 3.5).

The earliest grave in the cemetery with a legible stone is that of Benjamin Marley, the patriarch of the family and original owner of the property. His stone is hand-carved out of a soft, white stone, with a crowned shape and script that utilizes backward letters; the stone of his daughter, Elizabeth (Marley) Underwood (1799-1835) is also hand-carved with a crowned shape (Figures 5.50 and 5.51). The remainder of the stones are flat, carved slabs that date from the 1830s through the 1860s, and the majority of the legible stones belong to the children and grandchildren of Jesse and Lovey Marley, who are also buried in the cemetery; the most recent legible headstone belongs to Lovey Marley, who died in 1867. The property appears to have passed out of Marley family possession around the turn of the twentieth century.

Site 31CH1016** is a nineteenth century traditional Southern Folk Cemetery. The cemetery has been abandoned and is no longer in use, but the most recent marked grave dates to 1867. Cemeteries are not usually considered eligible for listing in the NRHP, however, they can be eligible under certain Criteria Considerations, and usually Criteria Consideration D. Criteria Consideration D states that: "a cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events." Based on the information presented, it is S&ME's opinion that Site 31CH1016** does not meet the standards outlined in this Criteria Consideration. The site is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history (Criterion A), is not associated with the lives of significant persons in the past (Criterion B), does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or methods of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Criterion C), and is unlikely to yield significant information on the history of the area (Criterion D). As such, site 31CH1016** is recommended ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Although not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, site 31CH1016** is a cemetery and cemeteries are protected from disturbance and desecration under North Carolina state law (GS 14-148 and GS 14-149). Avoidance of the cemetery and the surrounding area is recommended. If the cemetery cannot be avoided additional cultural resources work and consultation may be necessary.



Figure 5.50. Picture showing grave marker of Benjamin Marley (1755-1815).



Figure 5.51. Picture showing grave marker of Elizabeth (Marley) Underwood (1799-1835).

5.1.7 Area G

Area G is located in the southwestern corner of the project area and is approximately 53 acres (Figure 5.52). The area has been deforested and is covered in secondary growth; the entrance to the project area is in this area along with gravel and dirt access roads (Figures 5.53 and 5.54). A total of 235 shovel tests were excavated in Area G; a typical soil profile in this area consisted of 10+ cm of red (2.5YR 5/8) clay subsoil. As a result of the survey no archaeological sites were identified in Area G and none of the 2013 cultural occurrences were within this area.

5.1.8 Area H

Area H is located in the middle and along the southern border of the project area and is approximately 283 acres (Figures 5.55 and 5.56). Area H had steeper slopes in some areas than was anticipated, this decreased the acreage that was intensively surveyed to roughly 231 acres. Vegetation in this area is predominately secondary growth, with a few areas of fallow field and mixed pine and hardwoods (Figures 5.57 and 5.58). A total of 1091 shovel tests were excavated in Area H; a typical soil profile throughout this area consisted of 10+ cm of strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) silty clay subsoil.

In 2013, 11 cultural occurrences (#4, #5, and #11 through #19) were noted in this area (Table 5.4); an attempt was made to re-locate each of the occurrences. As a result of the survey seven archaeological sites (31CH1004, and 31CH1010 through 31CH1015) were identified in Area H; six of the occurrences correspond to a newly recorded site. The other five occurrences were not re-located.