



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: February 21, 2019
Person Contacted: Michael Sanford, FAA Inspector

Mr. Sanford provided the following statement via email:

December 26, 2017

N5254G landed at VNC at approximately 1915 (EST) likely with the gear in transition or partially extended. The pilot, Timothy W. Coleman was the only person on board and was traveling with his dog from his last departure point of Darlington, SC (UDG) to Venice, FL (VNC). Both Mr. Coleman and his dog were unhurt in the accident.

Mr. Coleman has been very cooperative and stated that he did hear a beeping on final and can't be sure when he lowered the gear handle. N5254G slid on its belly for approximately 400' and came to a stop on the runway centerline. The aircraft also suffered a significant prop strike. The gear handle was down when the aircraft was recovered from the runway and it was also noted by maintenance that the Gear Actuator circuit breaker was open. Once the aircraft was raised onto jacks, maintenance was able to extend and lock the gear using the emergency extend handle and tow the aircraft from the runway.

The aircraft slid on its belly throughout the accident with very little damage except for the prop and the belly skin. However, a portion of the tubular steel frame/cage along the forward portion of the belly was ground down from its normal 360-degree tube to a less than 180-degrees. This structural damage is the reason for classifying the event as an accident.