



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: August 7, 2018
Person Contacted: Josh Landell, Pilot/Owner of N1193Y
NTSB Accident Number: ERA18LA202 – Matthews, NC

This investigator interviewed Mr. Landell by telephone. He reported the following:

The flight departed 8A6 (Charlotte, NC) about 1810 local time. He flew to the Willow Grove area about 6 mi away, then came back to highway 74, over the Matthews area. He was about 7 miles from the crash site when he was flying over some dense trees, about 1,800 msl. He noticed that the airplane was “sluggish” and would not “maintain lift.” The engine was performing normally. He added carburetor heat, and the engine speed dropped about 300 rpm. Carburetor heat had no effect on the sluggishness, so he removed the carburetor heat. The engine ran “fine” up to 2,750 rpm (max for the engine). There was no sputtering or hesitation; he did not believe that he had an engine problem. Since the airplane continued to fly sluggishly, he decided to land it in a grass field next to a church. After landing, the airplane flipped over and came to rest on its back.

During the preflight, everything was normal. There was no water in the fuel. The tanks were full. He suspects that the high outside air temperature (100°) and full tanks may have contributed to the sluggishness.

Mr. Landell reported that he had flown 3.1 hrs dual instruction and about 15 hrs solo. He did not have a solo endorsement from his instructor.