



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

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May 23, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Thorpe, Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: David Brook *for David Brook*

SUBJECT: Historic/Architectural Resources Survey Report, Widen US 221 from
SR 1536 in Rutherford County to I-40 in McDowell County, R-2597,
Rutherford and McDowell Counties, CH02-10510

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 2003, transmitting the survey report by Frances P. Alexander of Mattson, Alexander and Associates.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

William Monteith House, Gilkey, Rutherford County
Albert Weaver Farm, Thermal City, Rutherford County
B. G. Hensley House, Glenwood vicinity, McDowell County

The William Monteith House, west side of US 221, 0.1 mile north of SR 1351, Gilkey, Rutherford County, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The Monteith House is an especially fine expression of the Queen Anne style in Rutherford County. We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries as described and delineated in the report.

The Albert Weaver Farm, west side of SR 1321, 0.1 mile west of US 221, Thermal City, Rutherford County, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture and Criterion C for architecture. The farmhouse and its collection of intact and in-place outbuildings and pristine fields neatly illustrates the middling, cash crop farmsteads that

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May 23, 2003

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developed along the Second Broad River area during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition, the T-Plan house is a fine example of the nationally popular designs that gradually characterized larger farmsteads in the area with the arrival of the railroad and commercial farming. We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries as described and delineated in the report.

The B. G. Hensley House, east side of US 221 0.3 mile south of SR 1318 and 0.1 mile down an unpaved lane, Glenwood vicinity, McDowell County, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The house is a notable variation of the traditional two-story single pile form in western North Carolina. We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries as described and delineated in the survey report.

The following properties are determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

1-4; 6-22; 24-35; and 37.

We would also like to reiterate that our previous findings still stand in the Historical Architectural Resources Report, Widen US 221 from South Carolina state line to SR 1536 north of Rutherfordton, R-2233 A&B. In addition, we would like to request an addendum to the R-2233 A&B report. We request a full evaluation of Gilbert Town, placed on the North Carolina Study List in 2001, and surveyed by the National Park Service Battlefield Protection Program. The Gilbert Town study area boundary is in the vicinity of this project area. The project has the potential to impact this historic landscape.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr
Frances P. Alexander, Mattson, Alexander and Associates

bc: ✓ Southern/McBride
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County

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
WIDEN U.S. 221 FROM S.R. 1536 IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY TO
INTERSTATE 40 IN MCDOWELL COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
T.I.P. NO. R-2597
STATE WORK ORDER NO. 6.899002 T

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24 April 2003

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Frances P. Alexander

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24 April 2003

Date

Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.

Date

Mary Pope

N.C.D.O.T.

4.29.2003

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This North Carolina Department of Transportation project is entitled, *Widen U.S. 221 from S.R. 1536 in Rutherford County to Interstate 40 in McDowell County*. The T.I.P. Number is R-2597, and the state work order number is 6.899002 T. The proposed action is the widening of existing U.S. 221 from S.R. 1536 north of Rutherfordton to Interstate 40 south of Marion. The project is approximately twenty miles in length (**Figure 1**).

An area at the southern end of this project area overlaps with the northern end of the study area for an earlier project entitled, *Widen U.S. 221 from the South Carolina State Line to S.R. 1536, North of Rutherfordton, Rutherford County* (T.I.P. Number is R-2233 A & B) (see field survey map in **Appendix A**). During the field investigations for the earlier project, five properties within the area of overlap were identified as being fifty years of age or greater (Nos. 36-40). Of the five, only Gilboa Methodist Church (No. 38) was determined eligible for the National Register.

This architectural survey was conducted in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the area of potential effects (A.P.E.) for the project as part of the environmental studies conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (N.C.D.O.T.) and documented by an environmental assessment (E.A.). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the E.A., which is on file at the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina. The technical addendum is part of the documentation undertaken to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (N.E.P.A.) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Federal regulations require federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on properties included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings.

The report meets the guidelines for architectural surveys established by N.C.D.O.T. (15 June 1994). These guidelines set forth the following goals for architectural surveys: (1) to determine the A.P.E. for the project; (2) to locate and identify all resources fifty years of age or older within the A.P.E.; and (3) to determine the potential eligibility of these resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by N.C.D.O.T. and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (February 1996).

The methodology for the survey consisted of background research into the historical and architectural development of the study area and a field survey of the A.P.E. (see **Appendix A**). The field survey was conducted to delineate the A.P.E. of the proposed highway construction and to identify all properties within this area that were built prior to 1953. The boundaries of the A.P.E. are shown on US Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) topographical maps. The A.P.E., which cuts through the predominately rural foothills of Rutherford and McDowell counties, encompasses a variety of residential, commercial, agricultural, and light-industrial properties. One hundred percent of the A.P.E. was surveyed (**Figures 2 and 3**).

A total of thirty-eight resources were identified as being at least fifty years of age. Three resources were evaluated in the Property Inventory and Evaluations Section of the report. These three properties included two early twentieth century houses and one late nineteenth century farmstead. All three were recommended as eligible for the National Register.

Properties Listed in the National Register
None

Page No.

Properties Evaluated Intensively and Considered Eligible for the National Register

No. 5	William Monteith House	22
No. 23	Albert Weaver Farm	29
No. 36	B.G. Hensley House	40

Other Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register
See Appendix A

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II. INTRODUCTION

This Phase II intensive level architectural survey was undertaken in conjunction with the proposed improvements to U.S. 221 in Rutherford and McDowell counties. The T.I.P. Number for this North Carolina Department of Transportation is R-2597, and the state work order number is 6.899002 T. The project extends for approximately twenty miles along existing U.S. 221 north of Rutherfordton. The project ends at Interstate 40 south of Marion (**Figure 1**). Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. of Charlotte, North Carolina, conducted this study for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, North Carolina. Richard L. Mattson and Frances P. Alexander served as the principal investigators, and the work was undertaken in December 2002 and January 2003.

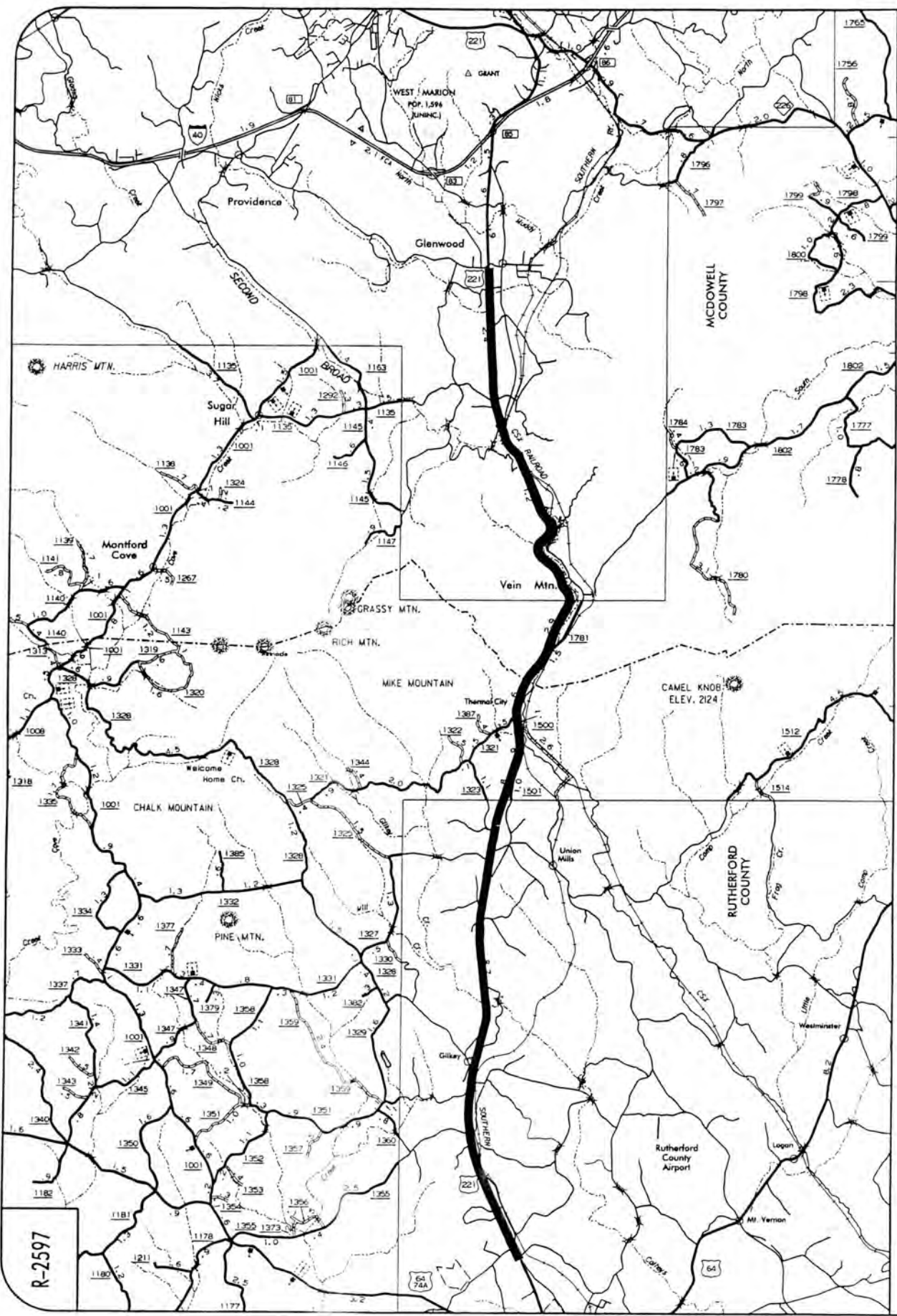
An area at the southern end of the project area overlaps with the northern end of the study area for an earlier project entitled, *Widen U.S. 221 from the South Carolina State Line to S.R. 1536, North of Rutherfordton, Rutherford County* (T.I.P. Number is R-2233 A & B) (see field survey map in **Appendix A**). During the field investigations for the earlier project, five properties within the area of overlap were identified as being fifty years of age or greater (Nos. 36-40). Of the five, only Gilboa Methodist Church (No. 38) was determined eligible for the National Register.

This architectural survey was undertaken in accordance with the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 C.F.R. 800), and the F.H.W.A. Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents). Section 106 requires the identification of all properties eligible, or potentially eligible, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to criteria defined in 36 C.F.R. 60. In order to comply with these federal regulations, this survey followed guidelines set forth in *Phase II Survey Procedures for Historic Architectural Resources* (N.C.D.O.T., 15 June 1994) and expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by N.C.D.O.T. and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (February 1996). Federal regulations require that the area of potential effects (A.P.E.) for the undertaking must be determined. The A.P.E. is defined as the geographical area, or areas, within which an undertaking may cause changes to the character or use of historic properties, if such potentially eligible properties exist. The A.P.E. is depicted on U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps (see **Figures 2** and **3**).

The A.P.E. is based primarily on the relationship of the project area to both natural and manmade boundaries. Proceeding north along existing U.S. 221 from S.R. 1536 north of Rutherfordton, the A.P.E. is delimited by rolling terrain, modern construction near the major crossroads, and woodlands that buffer the project area from surrounding farmland and development. Most of the historical development that occurred along Old U.S. 221 and the Southern Railway east of U.S. 221 is outside the A.P.E., shielded from the project by woodlands. The string of small railroad towns east of U.S. 221 also developed historically outside the A.P.E. In the main, modern construction associated with these towns extends into the project area. At the project's northern terminus, modern roadside businesses fill the A.P.E. just south of Interstate 40.



Figure 1 Project Vicinity Map



US 221, RUTHERFORD-MCDOWELL COUNTIES. SR 1536 IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY TO SR 1153 IN MCDOWELL COUNTY. WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES.

R-2597

Figure 2
Area of Potential Effects Map
Large Scanning Required

Figure 3
Area of Potential Effects Map
Large Scanning

III. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The project area follows north-south U.S. 221 through northern Rutherford County and southern McDowell County in the foothills of the North Carolina Blue Ridge. While the northern and northwest sections of Rutherford County are mountainous, rising to some 4,000 feet, and the northern border of McDowell County is defined by the Blue Ridge, the project area consists of rolling terrain. The project area includes agricultural lands, woodlands, and modest dwellings and businesses. Modern U.S. 221 was constructed in the 1960s to replace an earlier roadway connecting Rutherfordton and Marion. Portions of the early road (Old U.S. 221) still wind through the project area and contain some of the area's older houses and farms. By contrast, residential and commercial development along the modern route took place primarily in the latter twentieth century. U.S. 221 generally follows the bottomlands of the Second Broad River and its tributaries. None of these waterways is navigable, and before the arrival of railroads in the late nineteenth century, subsistence farms characterized the region. Few farms remain within the A.P.E. However, the Abbott F. Weaver Farm near Thermal City survives substantially intact. The Weaver farmstead is a fine example of the middling, cash-crop farms that developed in the fertile lands bordering the Second Broad River after the coming of rail transportation.

The former Southern Railway tracks that linked Rutherfordton and Marion run parallel to U.S. 221. The study area contains a string of small railroad towns that arose in the 1890s and early twentieth century. The historical cores of these places are located east of U.S. 221, outside the A.P.E. These towns gradually expanded westward to meet the modern highway, and for the most part, modern dwellings and commercial buildings occupy parcels near U.S. 221 west of the original town centers. The exception is the town of Gilkey, where modern U.S. 221 evidently follows the path of the original roadway, and a string of early twentieth century houses line the highway. Gilkey contains one of the finest early twentieth century houses in the A.P.E. Facing U.S. 221, the William Monteith House, a well preserved, Queen Anne dwelling, reflects the town's emergence as a railroad stop and sawmill center in the early 1900s.

Near the center of the project, in southern McDowell County, U.S. 221 cuts just west of Vein Mountain. The discovery of gold in the South Mountain belt spurred antebellum development around Vein Mountain and South Muddy Creek to the east. Today, just east of the A.P.E. along the Second Broad River, the community of Vein Mountain contains some modern mining activities geared to tourists. The north end of the project contains modern commercial establishments oriented to the Interstate 40 interchange. The county seat of Marion lies to the north. Drained by North Muddy Creek, a chief tributary of the Second Broad River, the project area below Interstate 40 was historically farmland. Few farmhouses survive although the ca. 1900 B.G. Hensley House remains within the A.P.E. on the east side of U.S. 221 north of Ashworth Road (S.R. 1168). Once the center of 200-acre farm, the Hensley house is now vacant, and the farmland has been given over to woodlands and modern residential growth.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This Phase II architectural survey was conducted as part of the planning for the widening of U.S. 221 in Rutherford and McDowell counties. The architectural survey for this project was undertaken in accordance with the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 C.F.R. 800), and the F.H.W.A. Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents). The survey followed guidelines set forth in *Phase II Survey Procedures for Historic Architectural Resources* (N.C.D.O.T., 15 June 1994).

The survey was conducted with the following goals: 1) to determine the area of potential effects (A.P.E.), which is defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes to the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all resources at least fifty years of age within the A.P.E.; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to National Register of Historic Places criteria (36 C.F.R. 60). The geographical context for evaluating architectural resources was Rutherford and McDowell counties. The field survey was conducted in December 2002 and January 2003 to delineate the A.P.E. and to identify all resources within the A.P.E. that appear to have been built before 1953. One hundred percent of the A.P.E. was surveyed.

Historical research was conducted to provide a context for evaluating the eligibility of those resources discovered during the field survey. The background research included the analysis of an assortment of primary and secondary sources. The publication, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Bishir et al. 1999) offered an historical and architectural overview of Rutherford and McDowell counties. The architectural survey files at the Western Office of the Division of Archives and History in Asheville were searched for previously recorded properties. Mr. John Horton with the Western Office was interviewed concerning historic resources in the study area. The principal investigators also met with Miss Nancy Ellen Ferguson, Rutherford County historian, to discuss the significance of various resources within and around the A.P.E. In 1982-1983, Rutherford County sponsored an architectural inventory of the county that culminated in the publication, *The Historic Architecture of Rutherford County* (Merkel 1983). This work provided information about the history of the area and identified historic properties in and around the A.P.E. Ted Alexander's 1985 historic architecture survey and essay of McDowell County also provided an architectural context for evaluating buildings within the study area.

Once the historical research had been conducted and an initial field survey of the A.P.E. had identified all resources at least fifty years of age, a preliminary presentation of findings was submitted to N.C.D.O.T. for review. The principal investigators subsequently conducted an intensive level field survey of those resources that were determined to merit such intensive evaluation. For each of these resources, the following information and supporting materials were provided: physical description and evaluation of integrity; photographs of the exterior and interior (if owner permitted); site plan; and historical background information. In addition, for those resources considered eligible for the National Register, the proposed National Register boundaries were depicted on tax maps.

V. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND AGRICULTURAL CONTEXT

Settlement to the Civil War

European settlers began moving into present-day Rutherford and McDowell counties during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Typical of the foothills and mountain regions of the southern Appalachians, newcomers of Scotch-Irish heritage dominated the migration stream. Rutherford County was established in 1779, and McDowell was formed from portions of Rutherford and Burke counties in 1842. During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this area gradually developed with small and medium-sized farms and dispersed agricultural communities. The first Rutherford courthouse was built at Gilbert Town, a rural settlement south of the A.P.E. near present-day Rutherfordton. During the American Revolution, Gilbert Town gained significance as a campsite and staging and recovery areas alternately occupied by Patriot and Loyalist troops. The town of Rutherfordton was selected as the permanent county seat of Rutherford County in 1787. Approximately twenty-five miles to the north, Marion was platted as the administrative seat of McDowell County in 1843. By the eve of the Civil War, both towns contained clusters of dwellings, churches and small hotels and public buildings oriented around brick courthouses (Lefler and Newsome 1954: 255; Draper 1954; Alexander 1985: 1-3; Trebellas 1997; Hood 1995: 44; Bishir et al. 1999: 163).

The area grew slowly during the early nineteenth century, but the discovery of gold in the South Mountain belt spurred antebellum development around the A.P.E. near Vein Mountain and South Muddy Creek. In 1847, a traveler to this area near the McDowell County line observed:

The great hordes of mining population changed the face of the earth. Jamestown [Vein Mountain] had been a struggling community in a small valley but was turned topsy-turvy by the gold diggers who utterly ruined the beautiful valley for agricultural purposes (Fossett 1976: 81).

Just south of Vein Mountain, German immigrant, Christopher Bechtler, established a mint near Rutherfordton in 1831, and by 1840 the mint produced over two million dollars worth of gold coins (Trebellas 1997).

Beyond the South Mountain belt, small, isolated agricultural communities supported by rural stores, churches, and grist and sawmills characterized the two counties. The numerous waterways, including the Broad and Second Broad rivers in Rutherford County, and the upper basin of the Catawba River in McDowell, provided sources of power for the mills, which, in turn, attracted nodes of settlement. In 1768, Scotch-Irish settlers in the Westminster community in northern Rutherford County established Brittain Presbyterian Church, the first church organized within the present boundaries of the county. Bill's Creek Baptist Church was formed in 1785, and by the early 1800s a small collection of Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches accompanied mills as the key landmarks of settlement. In McDowell County, where the Piedmont intersected with the Blue Ridge, mountain communities such as North Cove and Montford Cove north of the A.P.E. began in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Drained by the North Fork of the Catawba, the bottomlands of North Cove sustained a mix of middling and larger farmers (U.S. Census 1860; Merkel 1983: 18-19; Bishir et al. 1999: 170-171; Greiner, Inc. 1994: VII).

Typical of the region, poor transportation and rugged terrain hampered trade and restricted cultural exchange. River navigation was unreliable and the poor quality of overland routes

fostered tightly knit, tradition-bound communities. The few major roads linked Rutherfordton with Spartanburg to the south and Salisbury (via Lincolnton) to the east. The Charlotte-to-Asheville post road (roughly following present-day U.S. 74) also passed through Rutherfordton. Some landowners attained prosperity through the sale of grains, livestock, and cotton at Spartanburg, South Carolina, and more distant markets. However, centers of trade and commerce were remote, and most rural families engaged in diversified subsistence farming (Sharpe 1965: 2027).

While the two counties included an influential coterie of planters, most farmers owned few or no slaves. On the eve of the Civil War, only thirteen slaveholders in Rutherford County held title to more than forty slaves, and just two plantations totaled more than five hundred acres. No plantation was greater than 1,000 acres. Over two-thirds of the county's 730 farms in 1860 were less than one hundred acres. In McDowell County, the largest landowners established farms in the rich bottomlands of the Catawba River and its tributaries north of Marion and the A.P.E. But in the main most farmers strove for comfortable subsistence, raising some livestock and a variety of fruits, vegetables, sweet potatoes, and small grains, especially corn (U. S. Census 1860; Bishir et al: 1999: 173).

Reconstruction through the Mid-Twentieth Century

Rutherford and McDowell counties avoided direct military conflict during the Civil War, but as throughout the South, the postwar years brought profound social, economic, and cultural change. The rise of tenant farming, the arrival of railroads, and the subsequent emergence of commercial agriculture and manufacturing shaped postwar recovery. With the abolition of slavery and the shortage of manpower, landowners subdivided their holdings. In Rutherford County, between 1860 and 1880, the number of farms skyrocketed from 730 to over 3,000. By 1900, fifty-eight percent of the farms in Rutherford County, and forty-eight percent in McDowell County, were operated by tenants and sharecroppers. The subsistence agriculture of the antebellum period was slowly transformed into cash-crop production (U.S. Census 1880, 1900; State Board of Agriculture 1896: 393-394).

Rutherford County marks the state's western limit of significant cotton farming, and farmers in the lower half of the county raised the crop in the broad, fertile bottomlands of the Broad and Second Broad rivers. Between 1900 and the early 1920s, cotton production increased from 17,000 acres to over 35,000 acres. By World War II, nearly half of the county's farm acreage was planted in cotton. But farmers also cultivated a variety of other crops for both the market and consumption on the farm. Especially in the high elevations of the northern and western sections of the county diversified farming prevailed. Small grains remained important staples, and apple and peach orchards dotted these areas. In the Gold Valley community northeast of the A.P.E., the Melton-Fortune Farm (National Register 1984) typified the diversified middling farmstead in Rutherford County. In the latter nineteenth century, the Melton family cultivated corn, wheat, oats, and sweet potatoes, and raised sheep, milk cows, beef cattle, and poultry. The Meltons also grew orchard crops on a limited scale, and produced wool, butter, and honey for household use (Branson 1880, 1900; U.S. Census 1880, 1900, 1910; State Board of Agriculture 1896: 393-394; Bureau of Labor and Printing 1923-24; Sharpe 1965: 2029; Johnson 1941: 190; Swaim and Sumner 1984).

In McDowell County, fertile valleys along the Catawba River and its chief tributaries also sustained commercial apple orchards and grain and livestock production. However, unlike Rutherford County, no dominant cash crop took root. Instead, diversified farms characterized the

Catawba River Valley and the smaller valleys at North Cove, Buck Cove, and Turkey Cove north of the A.P.E. By World War II, county farms raised corn in quantity, but also devoted acreage to other small grains, pasturage, fruit orchards, and tobacco (Branson 1880, 1900; U.S. Census 1880, 1900, 1910; State Board of Agriculture 1896: 360-361; Bureau of Labor and Printing 1923-24; Sharpe 1965: 2029; Johnson 1941: 186; Greiner 1994: VII).

Within the A.P.E., small and middle sized, diversified farms developed in the bottomlands of the Second Broad River and its tributaries, notably North Muddy Creek. The 1880 agricultural census for Camp Creek Township, which encompasses the A.P.E. in northern Rutherford County, records farming operations that raised mainly small grains, sheep, swine, and cattle. Henderson Weaver, who operated one of the township's larger farms, owned 275 acres of cleared land and 350 acres of woods, which he timbered for sale (U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, Rutherford County 1880).

Of paramount importance to the economic growth of both counties was railroad construction. Rail construction spread rapidly across North Carolina and the South in the postwar decades so that by 1890 nine out of every ten Southerners lived in a county served by rail. For the foothills and mountain counties of North Carolina, the building of rail lines transformed local economies to end the long period of isolation. Farmers gradually adopted cash-crop agriculture while townspeople poised themselves for growth and the rising industrialization of the New South. In 1869, the Western North Carolina Railroad was extended west to Marion and Old Fort, connecting the heart of McDowell County to the North Carolina Piedmont and eastward to coastal ports. In 1887, the east-west Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherfordton Railroad arrived in Rutherfordton, joining the county to both the railroad hub of Charlotte and the port city of Wilmington. Other railroads soon followed. The Southern Railway connected Rutherfordton to Marion in the 1890s, and the Clinchfield, Carolina, and Ohio was completed from Marion through Rutherford County in 1909. In 1907, the narrow-gauge Cliffside Railroad was built in the southern end of the county. These lines linked Rutherford and McDowell counties to the major regional and national rail routes, giving rise to commercial agriculture, large-scale timbering, tourism, and manufacturing, especially textile production. Within the A.P.E., farmers took advantage of proximity to rail lines to raise crops for the market. Near the heart of the A.P.E. in Camp Creek Township, farmer Henderson Weaver's son, Albert Weaver, shipped grains, fruit, and tobacco out of nearby Thermal City along both the Southern and the Clinchfield rail lines (Fossett 1976: 95-101; Ayers 1992: 9; Merkel 1983: 20-21; Rinehart 2003).

By the 1890s, industrialized logging on a massive scale began to transform the heavily forested regions of the southern Appalachians, including parts of Rutherford and McDowell counties. Sawmills and related industries, such as tanneries, furniture plants, and other woodworking factories, arose near railroad tracks. In and around the A.P.E., the small Southern Railway towns of Gilkey, Union Mills, Thermal City, and Glenwood grew up around depots and sawmills. In Gilkey, the Warlick Lumber Company was established in 1899. By the early 1900s Gilkey contained a post office, school, Methodist church, four stores, and a collection of frame houses. Union Mills, it is said, was named for the consolidation of several small sawmills at this point. The town's growth occurred east of the A.P.E. where Round Hill Academy was established in 1899 (Griffin 1937: 29, 55; Branson 1896; Johnston 1992: 22-23).

The railroads also attracted cotton mills. By the early 1900s the foothills of the Blue Ridge was a major textile manufacturing region replete with bustling mill towns oriented to the rail lines. Marion received a hosiery mill in 1908 and a textile mill the following year. In Rutherford

County, local businessmen, R.R. Haynes and S.B. Tanner, teamed up with the important Charlotte mill investor, J.S. Spencer, in 1887 to build Henrietta Mills in the county's southeast corner. During the subsequent decades, these men formed a series of partnerships to create large cotton mills along the Second Broad River and the railroad lines in southeast Rutherford County. The mill towns of Alexander Mills, Cliffside, Henrietta, Caroleen, and Spindale were constructed between the 1887 and 1916. By 1896, Henrietta Mills, which consisted of plants at Henrietta and Caroleen, boasted the largest number of spindles of any mill conglomerate in North Carolina. The 1907 Cliffside textile operation was hailed as the largest manufacturer of gingham in the South. Other major textile plants appeared around Forest City, which surpassed Rutherfordton in population in 1900 and still remains the largest town in Rutherford County. In Rutherfordton, the Rutherford Cotton Mill (later Cleghorn Mill) arose along Cleghorn Creek in the 1890s, and Grace Cotton Mill was constructed alongside the railroad tracks in the 1910s. By the early twentieth century, the county's textile production epitomized the industrialization of the region. In Charlotte, the region's emerging financial, distribution, and industrial hub, boosters proclaimed that within the radius of 100 miles of the city there were more than 300 cotton mills, containing over one-half of the looms and spindles in the South. By the 1920s, the southern piedmont had surpassed New England as the leading textile center in the world, containing a great network of nearly 800 mills and ten million spindles (Griffin 1937: 596; Glass 1992: 57; Hanchett 1998: 90-95; Merkel 1983: 21; Hood 1995: 47; Bishir 1999: 176-179; Silverman 2002: 23-32).

Rail travel also brought seasonal visitors to the region. By the late nineteenth century, mountainous northwest Rutherford County and McDowell County, offering spectacular views of the Blue Ridge, became popular tourist destinations. Chimney Rock, a striking, monolithic granite formation that rises 1,000 feet above Hickory Nut Gorge, began attracting tourists and development schemes in the 1880s. The Mountain View Inn opened in 1890, and the Esmeralda Inn was erected in 1891. In 1922, Dr. Lucius B. Morse founded Chimney Rock Mountain, Inc. to develop a vast resort offering a 1,500-acre lake, hotels, a pavilion, an amusement center, and summer residences. The Great Depression halted much of the planned development, but not until the completion of Lake Lure, Chimney Rock Park, and the grand, Spanish Mission-style Lake Lure Lodge and Administration Building (Merkel 1983: 19-20; Bishir et al. 1999: 181-182).

In the Blue Ridge of northern McDowell County, Linville Falls and Little Switzerland emerged as thriving resort colonies by the early 1900s. Little Switzerland's initial investors were mainly from Charlotte and included attorney, Heriot Clarkson, and industrialist, D.A. Tompkins. In 1910, Charlotte architect, Louis H. Asbury, designed the twenty-five room Switzerland Inn. Linville Falls and Little Switzerland benefited early on from railroad travel, and then expanded with the construction of the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1930s. By the 1940s, the Blue Ridge Parkway, soaring automobile ownership, and new regional highways all contributed to tourism's prominent role in the local economy (Greiner 1994: VII; Sharpe 1965: 1959-1967; Bishir et al. 171).

Significant public money for road construction began in the 1920s with the passing of the state's 1921 Highway Act. By the end of the decade, new roads tied Rutherfordton and nearby Forest City to an emerging statewide system of hard-surfaced highways. State funds were used to build Highway 19 (now part of Old U.S. 221) northward to Marion in McDowell County and southward to the South Carolina line and Spartanburg. However, only small segments of the road near Marion and the Rutherford-McDowell county line were paved. By 1929, present-day U.S. 74 was paved across the county. Despite these gradual improvements in travel, local roads remained unimproved and undependable. In 1930, most farms were still situated on dirt roads.

Within the A.P.E., present-day U.S. 221 was constructed with both state and federal funds during the 1960s. The new north-south highway bypassed Union Mills, Thermal City, Glenwood, and other former railroad stops between Rutherfordton and Marion. However, the modern roadway also generated new residential construction alongside the road and pockets of development at major intersections (N. C. State Highways and Public Works 1930; Bishir et al. 1999: 49-50).

Small farms continued to characterize local agriculture well into the mid-twentieth century. Yet the pull of reliable wage labor in the cotton mills and, by the 1930s, plummeting crop prices and the devastation of the boll weevil drained the farm population. By 1950, cotton acreage in Rutherford County had dropped to only 3,200 acres, and the number of farms had declined to 1,600. McDowell County contained just 625 farms in 1962. In Rutherford County, farm income in the mid-twentieth century was among the lowest in the state, and 35,000 acres of farmland lay idle. In both counties, those landowners and tenants who remained in agriculture increasingly diversified their operations, and the production of dairy products, sweet potatoes, soybeans, and peaches became the cash-crop mainstays after World War II (Sharpe 1965: 1957-1958, 2029-2030).

Conclusion

In the decades after World War II, increasing roadway construction led to unprecedented mobility in and around Rutherford and McDowell counties. With the building of interstate highways and new secondary roads, tourists now motored into the remote, mountainous sections of these counties. Growing numbers of roadside tourist courts, motels, stores, and summer cottages appeared near Chimney Rock and Lake Lure in Rutherford County, and around Little Switzerland and Lake Tahoma in McDowell. In recent decades, these accessible resort areas have attracted both new resorts and planned subdivisions for retirees and seasonal visitors. Within the A.P.E., in northern Rutherford County and southern McDowell, residential construction spread into the countryside after World War II, as farmers subdivided roadside parcels along U.S. 221 and families commuted to workplaces around Rutherfordton, Marion, and nearby textile towns.

Architectural Context

Domestic Architecture of Rutherford and McDowell Counties: Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

In Rutherford and McDowell counties, the surviving domestic architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries demonstrates the persistence of traditional forms and the conservative expressions of nationally popular styles. While many small and middling farmers built log houses throughout the nineteenth century, the rise of sawmills and gradual improvements in transportation encouraged frame construction, and some of the finer houses were brick. In the decades after the Civil War, domestic architecture throughout the region underwent a gradual evolution. Improvements in transportation, notably the arrival of railroads, spurred urban growth and encouraged cultural exchange. Mass-produced, milled lumber became increasingly available, and innovative, light framing techniques facilitated new house forms and plans reflecting the latest picturesque styles. More complex forms and plans, inspired by the picturesque movement, appeared and included the Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne. In the towns as well as the countryside, asymmetrical Queen Anne cottages and two story, L-plan houses rose in popularity around the turn of the twentieth century. While traditional rectangular forms persisted into the 1910s, nationally popular architectural styles such as the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and bungalow were the designs of choice in the 1910s and particularly by the 1920s, gaining widespread acceptance in the growing towns (Merkel 1983: 9-14; Bishir 1990: 281-295; Hood 1995).

In Rutherfordton, successful businessmen and professionals began selecting fashionable picturesque residences during the post-Civil War decades. Between the 1870s and 1890s, the Monfredo brothers, exceptionally skilled craftsmen of Italian descent, erected a collection of exuberant, asymmetrical houses in Rutherfordton including the Dr. W.A. Thompson House on North Washington Street. The Thompson House, which remains well preserved, features steeply pitched gables and a bay window flanked by porches trimmed with sawnwork. By the early twentieth century, a variety of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival houses, and fine bungalows arose on lots along Washington and Main streets north of the business district (Merkel 1983: 9-14; 58-60, 122-123).

South of Rutherfordton, in the booming textile centers of Spindale and Forest City, mill owners and supervisors and wealthy businessmen also opted for dwellings in the latest styles. In 1914, Forest City banker, James D. Ledbetter, commissioned an imposing, Southern Colonial Revival residence on a fifteen-acre tract at the edge of town. By the 1920s, Forest City's most fashionable neighborhood near downtown boasted handsome bungalows and other Craftsman-style houses, and a variety of Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival dwellings (Merkel 1983: 58-60, 122-123; Bishir et al. 1999: 174-177).

In McDowell County, the lumber and textile industries generated unprecedented wealth in Old Fort and Marion while tourism sparked development in the scenic Blue Ridge. In Old Fort, the supervisor of the U.S. Leather Company, a tanning plant, commissioned a substantial, Queen Anne residence with Colonial and Neo-Classical details. By 1910, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival dwellings lined Catawba Avenue, Main Street, and Thompson Street just beyond the business district. In Marion, large, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival houses appeared along Main, Morgan, East Court, and Garden streets. In the resort enclave of Little Switzerland, summer visitors often favored shingled cottages in the rustic Craftsman style or commissioned

larger, weatherboarded Colonial Revival residences (Alexander 1985: 5-7; Bishir et al. 1999: 168-169).

In the small but thriving railroad stops around the A.P.E., sawmill owners, merchants, and prosperous farmers also built up-to-date houses with picturesque features during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At Gilkey, the William Monteith House (ca. 1900) stands out as an especially intact example of the Queen Anne style. This German-sided cottage has a wraparound porch with turned posts, projecting bays, and a high hip roof. North of Gilkey, at Union Mills, residents built L-plan and T-plan dwellings with Queen Anne trim and boxy, two story, Colonial Revival houses alongside the Southern Railway tracks and near the 1899 Round Hill Academy. At Thermal City, near the Rutherford-McDowell County line, Albert Weaver selected a T-shaped plan farmhouse as the new seat of his 625-acre farm. The ca. 1890 Weaver farmhouse features a spacious wraparound porch, mantels with curvilinear friezes, and an unusual arched ceiling in the center stairhall.

Elsewhere in the rural reaches of Rutherford and McDowell counties, other prosperous farmers also built houses inspired by Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architecture. For example, by the early 1900s, a host of North Cove farmers in upper McDowell County erected boxy, hip roofed houses in the Colonial Revival style. Several farmers in the county opted for asymmetrical Queen Anne designs with wraparound verandas and projecting bays. In northern Rutherford County, farmer Billy Greenlee designed and built an unusual Queen Anne-inspired farmhouse with three distinct, gable roofed bays radiating from the center block (N.C. Division of Archives and History, Survey Files 1985; Greiner 1994: 12-15).

However, amidst this mounting enthusiasm for new designs, the traditional rectangular house type remained a mainstay into the twentieth century. The two story, single pile house, with a front porch, rear ell, and a center hallway, was a popular symbol of middle class respectability into the early 1900s. Versions blended classical and picturesque motifs, combining, for example, post and lintel mantels, gable returns, and six-over-six windows while porches were often enlivened with brackets and sawnwork. A popular model into the 1900s featured a prominent front porch with a center bay, gable front upper story positioned over the main entrance. Builders often embellished such houses with fancy Queen Anne details and shaded the main floor with a deep, turned post porch that sometimes wrapped around the façade. Fine examples include the Milard B. Flack House in Gilkey Township and the Harvey Carrier House in Rutherfordton. Another favorite model among wealthier farmers included a prominent, two tiered porch. The double porch, which was sometimes engaged under a projection of the main roofline, was commonplace in the Carolina low country and probably gained popularity in the western mountains and foothills because of trading routes linking these faraway regions. Near Old Fort in McDowell County, the ca. 1890 Ransom-Moore House is an especially stylish expression of this type, adorned with a bracketed cornice, polygonal corner bay, and a double porch with decorative sawnwork. In the North Cove community, William Jehu English, William McCall, and Albert Franklin all erected versions with jigsawed, cutout balustrades. Both the English and McCall houses remain intact. Within the A.P.E., the ca. 1910 B.G. Hensley House displays a prominent double porch supported by chamfered posts and treated with decorative sawn brackets (Merkel 1983: 9-10; Greiner 1994: 12; Bishir 1990: 291; Bishir et al. 1999: 28, 332).

Concurrently, uniform side gable and L-plan cottages proliferated in the textile mill villages. Throughout the piedmont and foothills, variations of these forms as well as hip roofed and gable front models became standard worker housing. These traditional forms were popularized in

widely circulated textile publications, notably Daniel A. Tompkin's influential *Cotton Mill: Commercial Features* (1899), which prescribed the designs and layouts of mill villages and operatives' houses. In rural Rutherford and McDowell counties, builders and small farmers perpetuated the single pile, side gable cottage into the 1910s, reflecting the persistence of this traditional, conservative form. In southeastern Rutherford County, farmer George W. Bird hired contractor Pink Bridges to build such a house on the eve of World War I. In common with its counterparts erected during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Bird House has brick end chimneys, a three bay facade, a shed-roofed front porch, and a rear ell (Glass 1992: 40-42; Merkel 1983: 80).

V. PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Summary of Findings

A total of thirty-eight resources were identified as being at least fifty years of age. Three resources were evaluated in the Property Inventory and Evaluations Section of the report. These three properties include two early twentieth century houses and one late nineteenth century farmstead. Each is recommended as eligible for the National Register.

Properties Listed in the National Register

Page No.

None

Properties Evaluated Intensively and Considered Eligible for the National Register

No. 5	William Monteith House	22
No. 23	Albert Weaver Farm	29
No. 36	B.G. Hensley House	40

Other Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register

See Appendix A

**Properties Evaluated Intensively and Recommended as Eligible
for the National Register**

William Monteith House (No. 5)

West side of U.S. 221, 0.1 mile north of S.R. 1351, Gilkey, Rutherford County

Date of Construction

ca. 1900

Associated Outbuildings

Smokehouse (ca. 1900), Well house (ca. 1900), Shed (ca. 1900)

Setting and Landscape Description

The house is sited along U.S. 221, across from a modern sawmill operation and other modern commercial buildings oriented to the roadway. The house stands at the south end of a small row of four dwellings erected during the early twentieth century (see preliminary inventory list in **Appendix A**, Nos. 5-7). The Monteith House is the finest and most intact of these dwellings, which over the decades have received such modifications as replacement porches, windows, and siding. Because of these alterations, this small residential row does not have sufficient integrity for National Register eligibility as a small historic district in Gilkey.

Physical Description and Evaluation of Integrity (Plates 1-5) (Figure 4)

The William Monteith House ranks among the finest Queen Anne dwellings in the small depot stops that developed in Rutherford and McDowell counties during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Constructed ca. 1900, the William Monteith house epitomizes a popular version of the Queen Anne style. The well-preserved, one story dwelling has a double pile main block capped by a high hip roof and enlivened with projecting, gable roofed bays and a wraparound porch. The porch retains its original turned posts with decorative braces, a turned post balustrade, and a gable roofed, entry bay. The square, wooden porch posts supporting the entry bay are replacements. The roof has original metal shingles and tall, brick chimney stacks. In traditional fashion, a rear ell (or hyphen) joins the main body of the house to a rear, side gable kitchen wing. The small porch along this ell has been enclosed. Other original exterior features include German siding, two-over-two and four-over-four windows, and a paneled front door with a glazed upper section. The principal investigators did not gain access to the interior. However, the current owner states that the interior is well preserved with original wooden ceilings, walls, and floors, a center hall plan with wainscoting in the hall, paneled doors, and original mantels in the principal rooms (Girth 2003).

The property contains three small, frame outbuildings: a gable front smokehouse, a gable front well house, and a side gable, German-sided shed. All three appear to be contemporary with the construction of the house. However, the 1.5 acre parcel on which the house and outbuildings sit includes no farm or pasture land.

Historical Background

Little is currently known about the history of the William Monteith House. According to the current owner, it was evidently built for Monteith around the turn of the twentieth century when Gilkey was developing into a bustling hamlet and sawmill center along the Southern Railway. The 1896 *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* recorded Gilkey with a post office, a sawmill, and twenty-five residents. The directory lists William Monteith as justice of the peace,

but nothing else is known about his occupation or confirms that he was the original owner of this property (Branson 1896; Girth 2003).

Evaluation of Eligibility

The William Monteith House is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The well-preserved dwelling remains an especially fine expression of the Queen Anne style in Rutherford County. The property is not eligible under any other criterion. The house is not eligible under Criterion A because it does not represent significant patterns of events that shaped the history of the county. The dwelling is also not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the William Monteith House is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural components are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Boundary Description and Justification (Figure 5)

The proposed National Register boundaries conform to the tax parcel on which the house stands. This tax parcel encompasses the house and three outbuildings, all four of which contribute to the significance of the property. The U.S. 221 right-of-way forms the eastern boundary of the Monteith property.

Figure 4

**William Monteith House
Site Plan**

(not to scale)

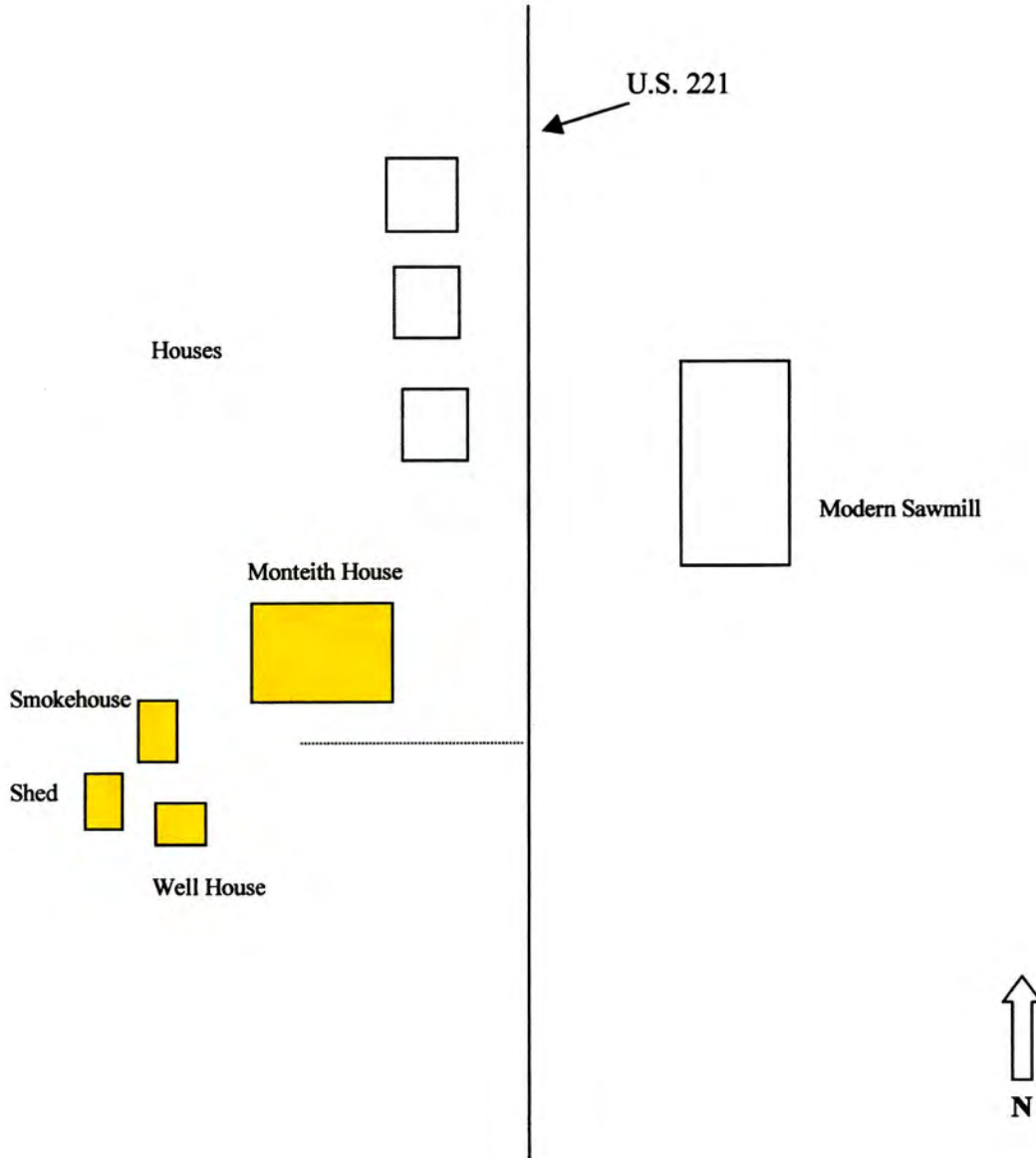
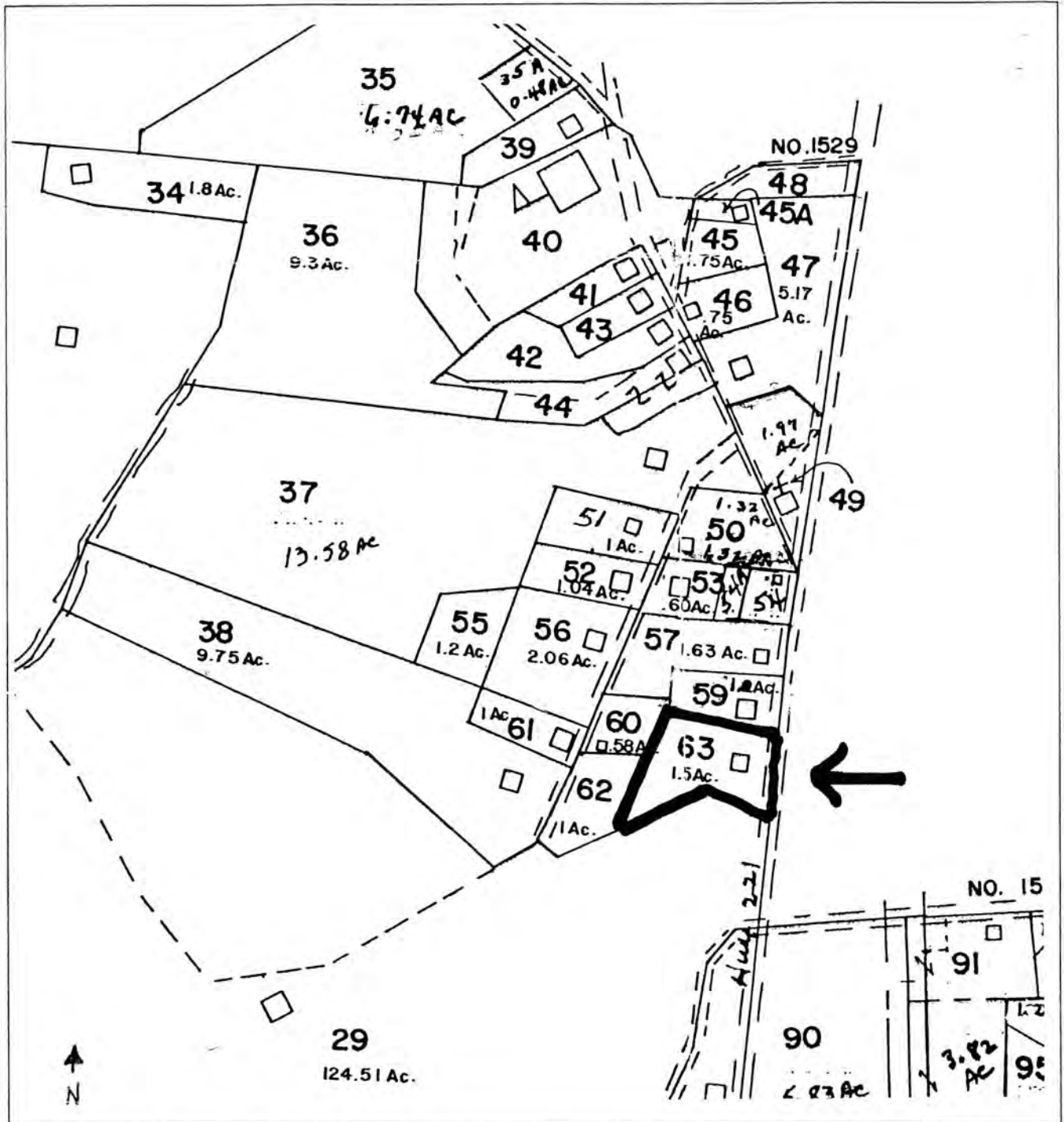


Figure 5

William Monteith House
Proposed National Register Boundaries



Source: Rutherford County Tax Map

Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet



Plate 1. William Monteith House, Facade and Side (South) Elevation, Looking Northwest.



Plate 2. William Monteith House, Side (South) Elevation, Looking North.



Plate 3. William Monteith House, Side (North) Elevation, Looking South.



Plate 4. William Monteith House, Facade, Looking West.



Plate 5. William Monteith House, Outbuildings, Looking West.

Albert Weaver Farm (No. 23)

West side of S.R. 1321, 0.1 mile west of U.S. 221, Thermal City, Rutherford County

Date of Construction

ca. 1890

Outbuildings and Other Associates Resources

Smokehouse (ca. 1850), Milk House (ca. 1890), Shed (1920s), Equipment Shed (1920s), Garage (1930s), Corncrib (ca. 1950), Barn (1960s), Family Cemetery (antebellum gravestones)

Physical Description and Evaluation of Integrity (Figure 6; Plates 6-19)

The 237-acre Weaver Farm encompasses rolling agricultural land and woods at the base of Mike Mountain in northern Rutherford County. The farm includes the ca. 1890 house and seven outbuildings built during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The family cemetery is enclosed by a decorative iron fence on a wooded hilltop east of the farmyard. The house is a handsome, two story, T-plan dwelling with a wraparound porch, standing-seam, metal roof, six-over-six windows, and a double-leaf, front door. The porch has a mix of original chamfered supports and later turned posts, and the north bay has been screened. The two story rear ell and a one story kitchen wing are original. The kitchen wing has been remodeled with an enclosed porch and modern brick chimney on the gable end. The major modification to the main two story block is the replacement aluminum siding. Inside, the main block remains substantially intact. Original picturesque mantels with curvilinear friezes decorate the principal rooms, and the center stairhall features a distinctive arched ceiling. The interior also includes four panel doors, wainscoting in the hall, and beaded board walls and ceilings.

Farm buildings, which remain in good condition, create an informal courtyard behind the residence. In traditional fashion, the smokehouse and milk house (ca. 1890), which historically served the household, stand near the house. The smokehouse is a sizable, frame structure with a projecting gable roof. According to the current owners, it was built before the Civil War by Henderson Weaver, Albert's father, whose house once stood on the site of the present dwelling. A row of agricultural outbuildings lines the west side of the farmyard and includes an equipment shed (1920s), a small shed, also built in the 1920s, a garage constructed in the 1930s, and a 1960s barn. A mid-twentieth century corncrib stands south of the farmyard. Rolling agricultural fields survive around the farmyard.

The family cemetery is sited atop a wooded hill east of the farmyard across S.R. 1321. Protected by a wrought iron fence, the well-preserved graveyard holds a variety of traditional and popular headstone designs including arched, pedimented, and square tablets. The east side of the cemetery also contains some unfinished fieldstone markers. The largest stone is the prominent obelisk marking the gravesites of Henderson (1809-1898) and Sarah Weaver (1813-1883).

Historical Background

Albert Weaver (1858-1938) established this farm in the late nineteenth century on land inherited from his father, Henderson Weaver (1809-1898). The elder Weaver owned some 3,000 acres of farmland and forest around the base of Mike Mountain and the bottomlands of Camp Creek in northern Rutherford County. The 1880 agricultural census records that Henderson Weaver cultivated small grains and some tobacco, cut timber for sale, and raised beef cattle, hogs, and sheep. The farm also included an eleven-acre apple orchard. By the late 1880s, son Albert and his wife, Ida (1861-1954), were residing in the Henderson Weaver farmhouse while operating a

farm of roughly 625 acres. About 1890, the homeplace was destroyed by fire, and the present T-plan farmhouse constructed on the site. As with his father's farm and in common with other farmsteads in the area, Albert Weaver engaged in diversified agriculture, raising corn, wheat, oats, fruit, and some livestock for the market. A sawmill (now gone) on the property cut timber for both sale and personal use. Weaver shipped produce from nearby depots serving both the Southern and the Clinchfield railroad. The Weaver family continues to own and occupy the property, which now consists of 237 acres (Weaver/Rinehart interviews 2003).

Evaluation of Eligibility

The Albert Weaver Farm is considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture and under Criterion C for architecture. With its handsome farmhouse, intact and in-place collection of outbuildings, and pristine fields, the farm neatly illustrates the middling, cash-crop farmsteads that developed along the bottomlands of the Second Broad River and its chief tributaries during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Under Criterion C, the T-plan house is a fine example of the conservative, nationally popular designs that gradually characterized larger farmsteads in the foothills with the arrival of rail lines and commercial farming. The cemetery, the antebellum smokehouse, the ca. 1890 milk house, the early twentieth century sheds, the mid-twentieth century corncrib, the surrounding fields, and the segment of S.R. 1321 that runs through the farm are all contributing resources. The 1960s barn does not contribute to the significance of the property.

The well-preserved Weaver farm rivals the Melton-Fortune Farm (National Register) as an illustration of diversified agriculture in the North Carolina foothills during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although the Melton farm, located in the Golden Valley community of northern Rutherford County, has as its centerpiece an earlier dwelling (ca. 1800), both the Melton and Weaver farms encompass family cemeteries, fine collections of historic outbuildings, and intact fields and pastures.

The Albert Weaver Farm is not eligible under any other criterion. The property is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the property is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural components are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Boundary Description and Justification (Figure 7)

The proposed National Register boundaries are defined by the 248.4-acre tax parcel on which the Albert Weaver Farm stands. This parcel includes the resources that contribute to the significance of the tract, as well as the 1960s barn that is an integral part of the farmstead and does not detract from the overall integrity of the property. The U.S. 221 right-of-way forms the eastern boundary of the Weaver farm.

Figure 6
Albert Weaver Farm
Site Plan

(not to scale)

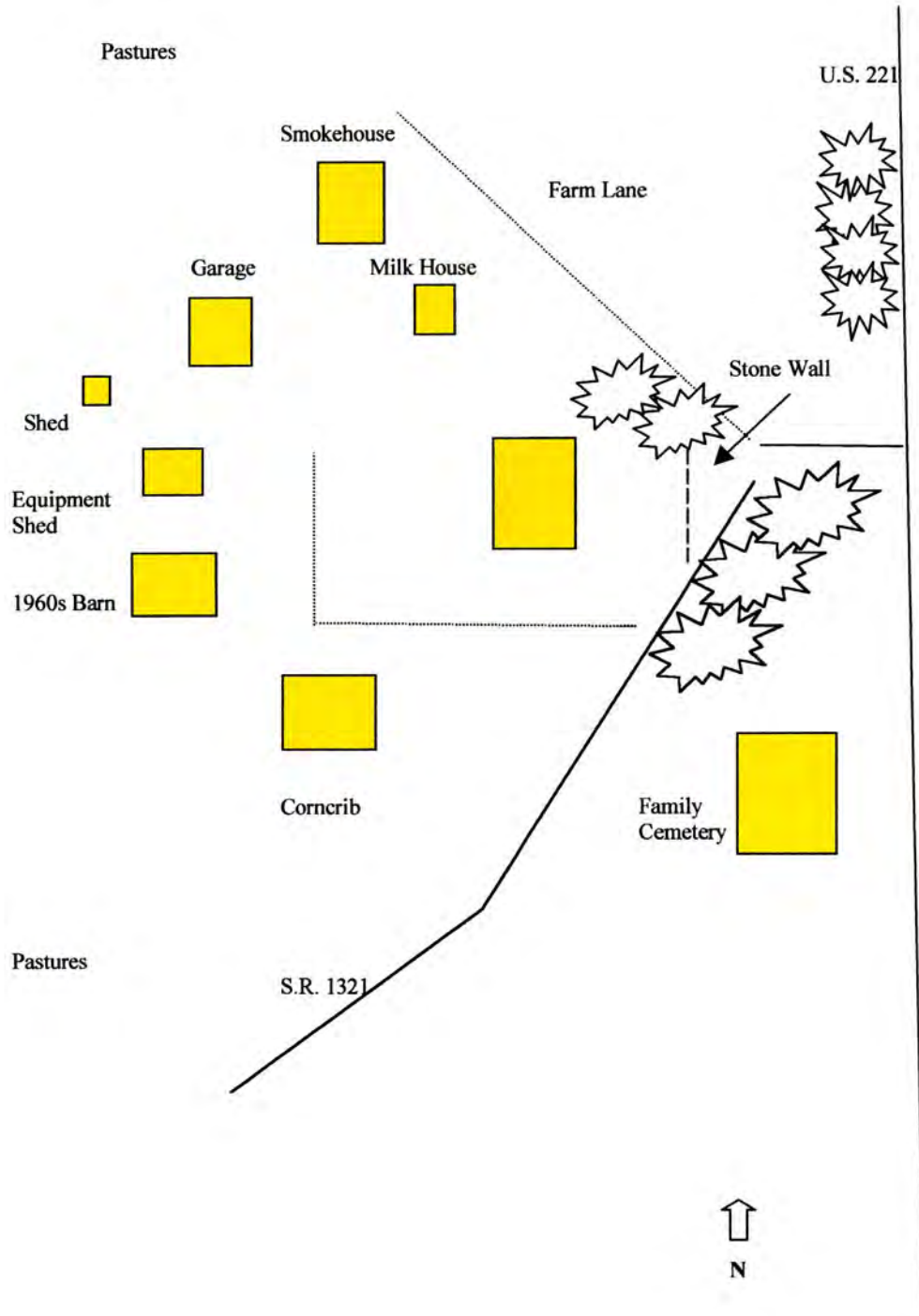
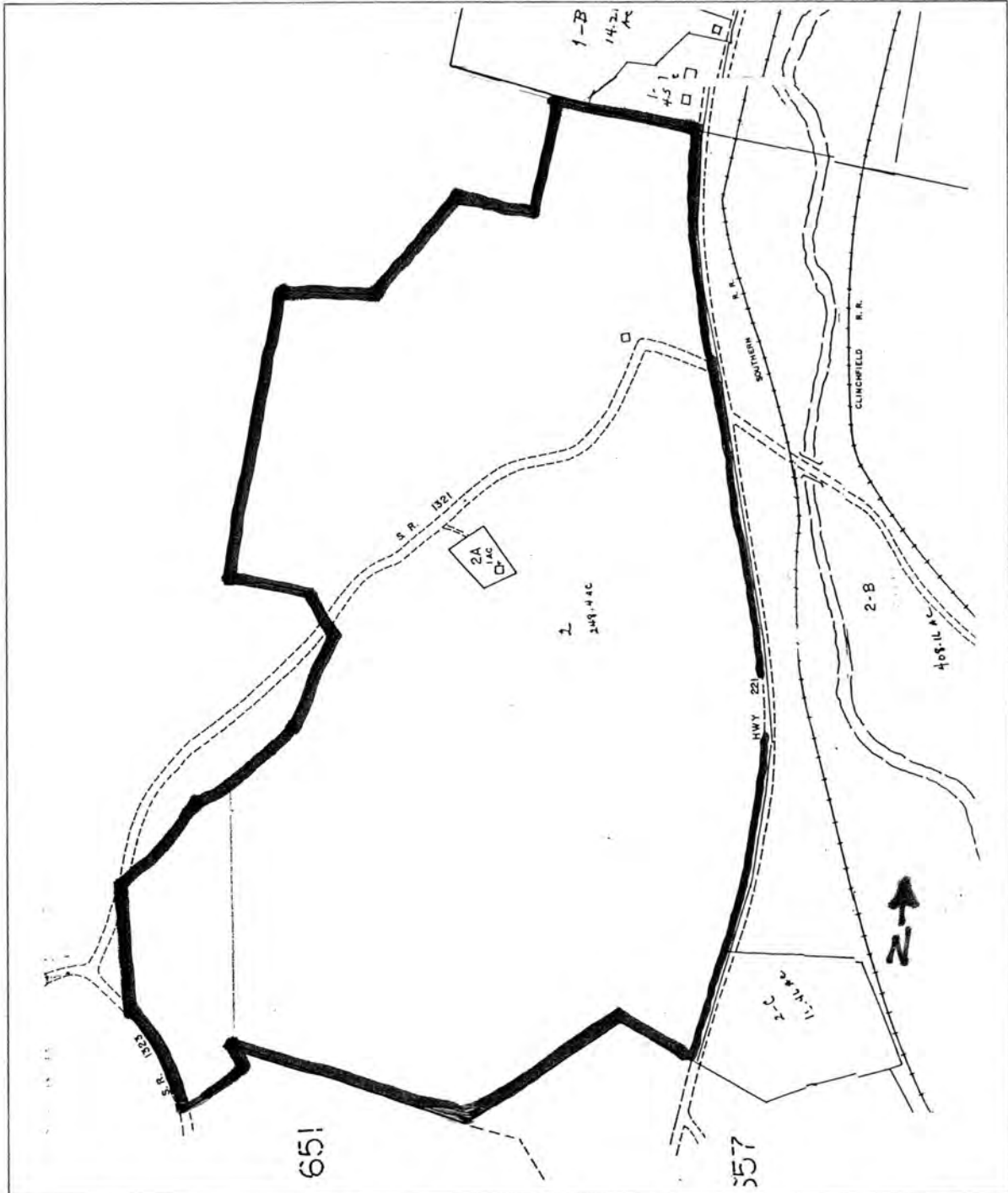


Figure 7

**Albert Weaver Farm
Proposed National Register Boundaries**



Source: Rutherford County Tax Map

Scale: 1 inch = 180 feet



Plate 6. Albert Weaver Farm, Overall View, Looking West from U.S. 221.



Plate 7. Albert Weaver Farm, House and Setting, Looking West.



Plate 8. Albert Weaver Farm, House and Outbuildings, Looking North Along S.R. 1321.



Plate 9. Albert Weaver Farm, House and Setting, Looking West from S.R. 1321.



Plate 10. Albert Weaver Farm, Side (North) Elevation of House, Rear Elevation of Antebellum Smokehouse, and Rear Elevation of Milk House, Looking South.



Plate 11. Albert Weaver Farm, Antebellum Smokehouse and Milk House, Looking West.



Plate 12. Albert Weaver Farm, Garage, Shed, Equipment Shed, and Modern Barn, Looking Northwest.



Plate 13. Albert Weaver Farm, Pastures South and West of House, Looking West.



Plate 14. Albert Weaver Farm, Family Cemetery on Hilltop Southeast of House, Looking Northeast.



Plate 15. Albert Weaver Farm, Family Cemetery, Reputed Slave Gravestones at Rear of Cemetery, Looking North.



Plate 16. Albert Weaver Farm, View of Farm from Cemetery, Looking North.



Plate 17. Albert Weaver Farm, House Interior, Entrance, Hall, and Staircase.



Plate 18. Albert Weaver Farm, House Interior, Hall, Staircase, and Entrance.



Plate 19. Albert Weaver Farm, House Interior, Parlor Mantel.

B.G. Hensley House (No. 36)

East side of U.S. 221, 0.3 mile south of S.R. 1318 and 0.1 mile down an unpaved lane, Glenwood vicinity, McDowell County

Date of Construction

ca. 1910

Outbuildings

Well House (ca. 1910), Equipment Shelter (ca. 1910)

Setting and Landscape Description (Figure 8)

The Hensley House now occupies a one-acre parcel subdivided from a larger thirty-five acre tract that contains the current owner's residence. The Hensley House parcel is located approximately 0.1 mile east of U.S. 221, and the house is oriented to the north, probably to face an earlier road (now gone). The parcel includes two outbuildings, a frame, gable front well house and a frame equipment shelter. Both appear to be contemporary with the construction of the house, and both remain in stable condition. The larger thirty-five tract that surrounds the Hensley House includes the owner's modern, brick ranch house, facing U.S. 221, a deteriorated equipment shed, and the remnant of a glazed tile silo. Both the shed and the silo postdate the construction of the Hensley House. The remainder of the tract consists of hay fields (McCall 2003).

Physical Description and Evaluation of Integrity (Plates 20-25)

Constructed ca. 1910, the B.G. Hensley House is a traditional, two story, single pile, side gable farmhouse distinguished by the prominent double porch that extends across the width of the three bay façade. Although now vacant and in need of repair, the house remains in stable condition and displays significant original elements. The exterior has German siding, single and paired two-over-two windows, and a metal shingled roof. The hip roofed porch retains slender, chamfered porch posts with decorative brackets. The upper level of the porch has the original balustrade with simple stick balusters. The original paneled doors, with glazed upper sections, survive on both stories. The house is a sizable expression of its type and includes a substantial, two story rear wing. The rear, shed roofed porch remains open with a German sided apron and slightly chamfered posts. The major change to the exterior is the modern brick chimney flue that replaced the original chimney on the rear gable end. In addition, one of the two brick chimney stacks positioned at the junction of the main block and rear ell no longer survives. The other chimney stack is in disrepair.

Although the principal investigators did not gain access to the interior, the current owner states that it has received few alterations and retains original mantels, paneled doors, and flush board walls and ceilings. The house is also said to retain the original center hall plan and staircase (McCall 2003).

Historical Background

The house was built by farmer, B.G. Hensley, who ran a 300-acre farm along the bottomlands of North Muddy Creek. In common with other middling farmers in southern McDowell County, Hensley raised corn in quantity, as well as other small grains and livestock. About 1920, John McCall purchased the Hensley farm. The McCall family operated the farm into the early 1960s, when portions of the original 300-acre tract were sold for residential development. The house was occupied until 1985 when John McCall passed away. McCall's son, Joseph Wayne McCall, continues to own the property (McCall 2003)

Evaluation of Eligibility

The B.G. Hensley House is recommended for National Register eligibility under Criterion C for architecture. With its prominent double porch, the Hensley House illustrates a notable variation of the traditional two story, single pile form in western North Carolina. The two tier porch, extending across the full width of the façade, was a favorite among wealthier landowners in this region into the early 1900s. This porch configuration, often an extension of the main roof, was commonplace in the coastal areas, and its frequency in the mountains evidently reflected the influence of trade between these regions. The house also retains a host of other original elements. The associated well house and equipment shed, which date to the construction of the house, are also contributing resources.

The house is not considered eligible under any other criteria. The property is not eligible under Criterion A because it does not represent significant patterns of events that shaped the history of the county. The property is also not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the house is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural components are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Boundary Description and Justification (Figure 9)

The recommended National Register boundaries conform to the existing subdivided, one-acre tax parcel for this property. The boundaries encompass the resources that contribute to the significance of the tract, the house and two outbuildings, and the immediate surroundings that define the setting. The boundaries exclude the remnant of the later tile silo, the later equipment shed, and the modern brick residence, all of which are located on a separate tax parcel.

Figure 8
B.G. Hensley House
Site Plan
(not to scale)

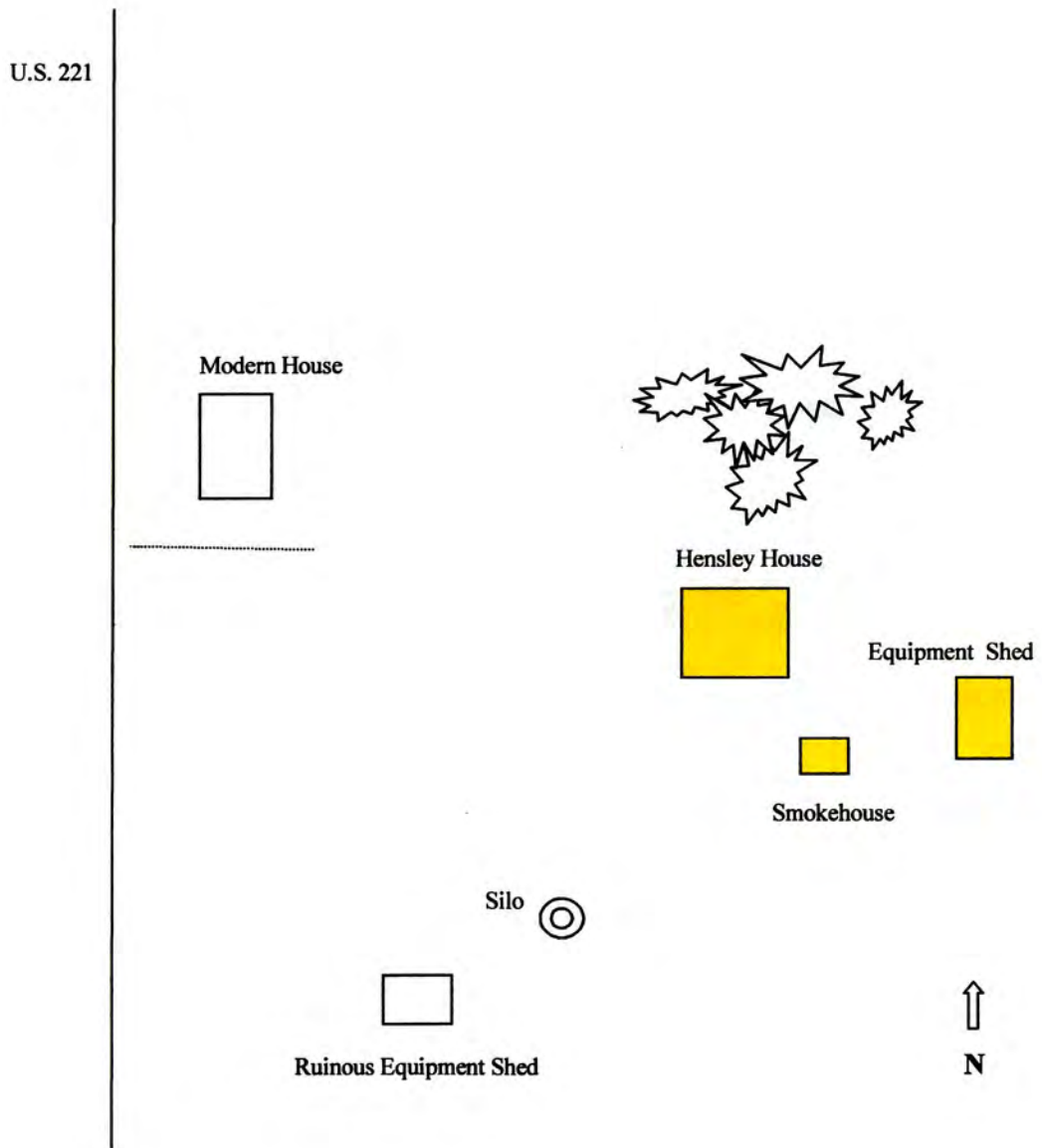




Plate 20. B.G. Hensley House, Facade, Looking South.



Plate 21. B.G. Hensley House, Overall View of House and Equipment Shed, Looking West.



Plate 22. B.G. Hensley House, Side (East) Elevation, Looking West.



Plate 23. B.G. Hensley House, Rear (South) Elevation of House and Well House, Looking North.



Plate 24. B.G. Hensley House, Side (West) Elevation, Looking South.



Plate 25. B.G. Hensley House, Facade, Looking Southeast.

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CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Project Description: Widen US 221 from SR 1536 to Interstate 40

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION RECEIVED

On 02/04/2003, representatives of the

FEB 11 2003

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the property identified as 1-4, 6-22, 24-35, 37 & 38 is considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of it is necessary.
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Signed:

Marylope Hum _____ 2.4.2003
 Representative, NCDOT Date

[Signature] _____ 2/4/03
 FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

[Signature] _____ 2/4/03
 Representative, HPO Date

David Brook _____ 2/7/03
 State Historic Preservation Officer Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY LIST

**WIDEN U.S. 221 FROM S.R. 1536 IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY
TO I-40 IN MCDOWELL COUNTY
T.I.P. NO. R-2597**

Properties Which Do Not Appear to be Eligible for the National Register

No. 1 House

This gable front, frame bungalow has German siding, six-over-six windows, and a hip roofed porch. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 2 House

This gable front, frame bungalow has a gable front porch, German siding, and four-over-one windows. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 3 Sorrel House

The two story, L-plan dwelling has been extensively altered. The house now has replacement siding and windows, and the shed-roofed porch is new. Furthermore the interior has been modernized. The property lacks sufficient integrity to merit National Register eligibility.

No. 4 House

This stone, side gable bungalow has replacement windows, a front gable dormer, and an engaged porch. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 6 House

The one story, side gable dwelling has a rear, side gable block, six-over-six windows, and a wraparound porch supported by simple, wooden piers. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 7 House

This frame, two story, double pile dwelling has a high hip roof, a wraparound porch, weatherboard siding, and two-over-two windows. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 8 House

This ca. 1945, frame cottage has a side gable roof, German siding, six-over-six windows, and a gable front entry porch. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 9 House

The one story, L-plan dwelling has a hip roofed, L-plan porch, and weatherboard siding. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 10 House

The side gable bungalow has a screened, gable front porch and replacement windows. The house has lost much of its architectural integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 11 House

The gable front bungalow has a gable front porch, replacement siding, and replacement windows. The house no longer retains its architectural integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 12 House

This two room, frame dwelling has a hip roofed porch and weatherboard siding. The property includes one modern outbuilding and one other, heavily deteriorated support structure.

No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex

The Robertson-Freeman Farm includes a highly altered, hip roofed bungalow as its centerpiece. The dwelling has an engaged porch supported by new wooden piers, an added dormer, replacement siding, and new windows. The rear has an enclosed, shed roofed porch. The property includes a frame barn, a granary, gable front garage, and several minor outbuildings, but no farmland remains with the site. The property lacks sufficient integrity to merit National Register eligibility.

No. 14 House

The house is a heavily altered and deteriorated, hip roofed cottage. There are replacement windows and a variety of modern siding materials. The hip roofed porch is supported by wooden columns on brick pedestals. The house lacks sufficient integrity to merit National Register eligibility.

No. 15 House

This front gable, frame bungalow has German siding, decorative knee brackets, and an enclosed, hip roofed porch. The house has lost much of its integrity and lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 16 House

This small, postwar Colonial Revival cottage has a side gable roof, German siding, and paired, six-over-six windows flanking a central entrance. There is a gable front entry porch. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 17 House

This deteriorated, gable front bungalow has a hip roofed porch. The property has only marginal integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 18 House

The side gable bungalow has a two-tone brick veneer and an engaged porch supported by two-tone brick piers. A carport has been added to one of the side elevations. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 19 House

This mid-twentieth century, cottage has a side gable roof, decorative gables, and an inset corner porch supported by brick piers. The house has tripartite six-over-one windows. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 20 House

The altered, hip roofed cottage has an engaged porch, a rebuilt foundation, replacement siding, and a hip roofed dormer. The property has only marginal integrity and lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 21 House

This simple, gable front bungalow has a gable front porch supported by wooden piers. The property includes several frame outbuildings but lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 22 House

This clipped, gable front bungalow has a clipped gable porch supported by wooden piers on brick pedestals. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 24 House

This cross gable bungalow has a partially enclosed, gable front porch supported by battered piers. The property lacks historical or architectural significance.

No. 25 Log House

This side gable, log house has been heavily altered with new aluminum siding, metal sash windows, and a side addition. In addition, the shed roofed porch has been partially enclosed. The house lacks sufficient integrity to merit National Register eligibility.

No. 26 House

The gable front, frame bungalow has been heavily modified with replacement siding and two shed roofed, side additions, one of which houses a carport. The house lacks sufficient integrity to merit National Register eligibility.

No. 27 House

This deteriorated, two story, single pile house has a rear ell, weatherboard siding, and six-over-six windows. The front porch has been removed. The house has only marginal integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 28 House

This simple, gable front bungalow has two-over-two windows and a shed roofed porch supported by wooden piers. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 29 House

The one story, hip roofed cottage has been altered with replacement siding and windows and a new porch. The property includes several frame outbuildings. The house had only marginal integrity, and the property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 30 House

The L-plan cottage has asbestos siding, three-over-one windows, and a shed roofed porch supported by new wooden piers. The house has marginal integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 31 House

The two story, single pile house has been heavily altered with a new brick veneer, replacement windows, and a new shed roofed porch. The house no longer has sufficient integrity to meet National Register criteria.

No. 32 House

This L-plan, stone cottage has a gable front dormer, an entry porch, and replacement windows. A new porch deck has been added across the front. The house has only marginal integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 33 House

This small, side gable cottage has a center gable and a shed roofed porch supported by wooden piers. The property lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 34 Morgan Farm

The Morgan Farm includes an altered, frame bungalow as its centerpiece. The house has a front gable roof, German siding, a front porch supported by replacement metal posts, and two-over-two windows. The house has had two side additions. The property encompasses several frame outbuildings, but no farmland. The farm retains little integrity and lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 35 House

This side gable bungalow has a brick veneer, a shed roofed porch, and a gable front dormer. The house lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 37 House

This clipped gable bungalow has German siding, a shed roofed porch, and two-over-two, horizontal sash windows. The house lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 38 Store

This small, mid-twentieth century, roadside store has a gable front roof, German siding, a horizontal panel door sheltered by a shed roofed canopy, and six-over-six windows. The store appears to have been built in the mid-1950s when the new alignment of U.S. 221 was built. The store lacks architectural or historical significance.

No. 1 House



No. 2 House



No. 3 Sorrel House



No. 3 Sorrel House



No. 4 House



No. 6 House



No. 6 House



No. 6 House



No. 6 House



No. 7 House



No. 7 House



No. 8 House



No. 9 House



No. 10 House



No. 11 House



No. 12 House



No. 12 House - Outbuilding



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex - House



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex - House



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex - House



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman House - Garage



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex - Barn



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman Farm Complex - Granary



No. 13 Robertson-Freeman House - Garage and Barn



No. 14 House



No. 15 House



No. 16 House



No. 17 House



No. 18 House



No. 19 House



No. 20 House



No. 21 House



No. 22 House



No. 24 House



No. 25 Log House



No. 26 House



No. 27 House



No. 28 House



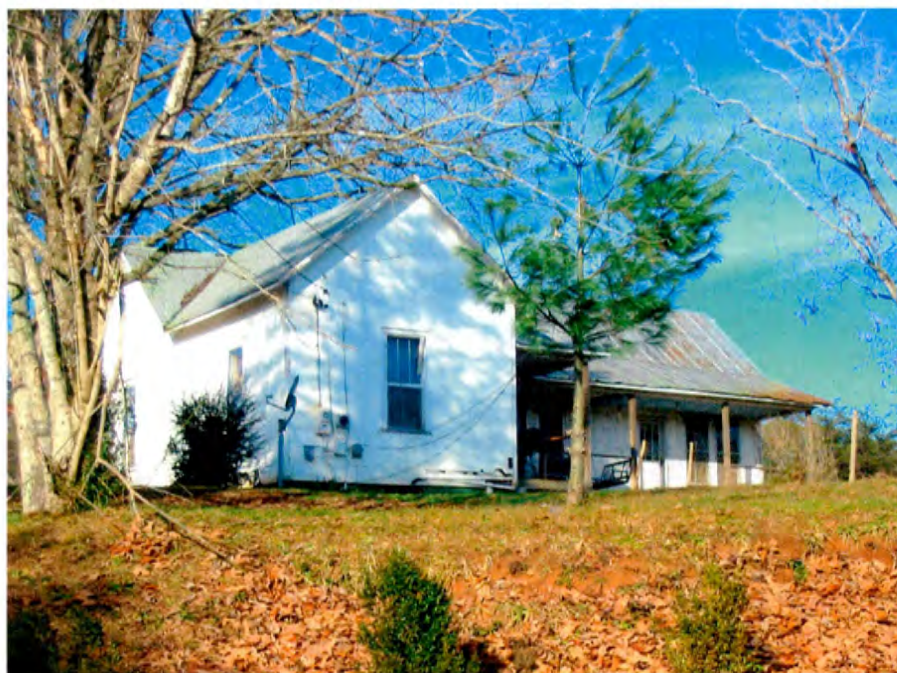
No. 29 House



No. 29 House - Outbuildings



No. 30 House



No. 31 House



No. 32 House



No. 32 House



No. 33 House



No. 34 Morgan Farm-House



No. 34 Morgan Farm - Outbuildings



No. 35 House



No. 37 House



No. 38 Store



Field Survey Map
Large Scanning

APPENDIX B

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.
Historical Geographer

Education

- 1988 Ph.D. Geography
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1980 M.A. Geography
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1976 B.A. History, Phi Beta Kappa
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

Relevant Work Experience

- 1991-date Historical Geographer, Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1991 Visiting Professor, History Department, Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Developed and taught course on the architectural history of the North Carolina Piedmont, focusing on African-American architecture, textile-mill housing, and other types of vernacular landscapes.
- 1989-1991 Mattson and Associates, Historic Preservation Consulting
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1988 Visiting Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- Taught historic preservation planning workshop, developed and taught course on the history of African-American neighborhoods. The latter course was cross-listed in African-American Studies.
- 1984-1989 Private Historic Preservation Consultant,
Raleigh, North Carolina
- 1981-1984 Academic Advisor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of
Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1981 Instructor, Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana,
Illinois
- 1978-1980 Private Historic Preservation Consultant, Champaign, Illinois

Frances P. Alexander
Architectural Historian

Education

- 1991 M.A. American Civilization-Architectural History
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.
- 1981 B.A. History with High Honors
Guilford College
Greensboro, North Carolina

Relevant Work Experience

- 1991-date Architectural Historian, Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1988-1991 Department Head, Architectural History Department
Engineering-Science, Inc., Washington, D.C.
- 1987-1988 Architectural Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic
American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1986-1987 Historian, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.
- 1986 Historian, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service,
Chicago, Illinois