



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

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October 16, 2014

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RE: Historic Structures Survey Report for Johnson Street Sandy Ridge Road, High Point,  
U-4758, Guilford County, ER 12-0959

Dear Ms. Turco:

Thank you for your letter of September 25, 2014, transmitting the above referenced report on a CD. We have reviewed the report and **concur that the Zion Hill Methodist Church (GF8660) and the Smith Grove Baptist Church (GF8668) are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places** for the reasons outlined.

We **concur that the Elihu Mendenhall House (GF1544) remains eligible for listing in the National Register** under Criterion B and C, with the house and the springhouse site as the two important historic resources.

We would like to note that Property #33 is of some interest in that this type of resource, which appears to be a low security prison work camp, seems to be a disappearing property. Given its location on the very edge of the Area of Potential Effects, we do not feel that it is necessary to address it further, unless the project changes and moves closer to the brick buildings.

As we cannot accept downloads for review and staff finds hardcopies of reports easier to review, we would appreciate your providing us with a hard, color copy of the current report for our files. In the future one hard copy and a CD will be appreciated.

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 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona M. Bartos

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

[mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)

# Eligibility Evaluations for Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road

High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina

STIP No. U-4758



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.





**Eligibility Evaluations for Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road**

High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina

STIP No. U-4758

Report submitted to:

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28217

Report prepared for:

North Carolina Department of Transportation, Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

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Mary Beth Reed – Principal Investigator

Ellen Turco – Historian and Author

August 26, 2014 • **Draft Report**  
New South Associates Technical Report 2415



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The City of High Point (City), in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, proposes to widen 4.4 miles of Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road from Skeet Club Road to I-40 in High Point and Guilford County (STIP No. U-4758). The City hired Atkins to conduct the federally required planning and environmental studies and to design the road.

In November 2013, New South Associates, Inc., was contracted by Atkins Global to conduct a historic resources inventory within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Sixty-four resources 50 years of age or older were documented. New South prepared a PowerPoint summary report of the inventory, which was presented to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and NCDOT on June 6, 2014. The HPO identified three resources that merited further investigation at the intensive level, one of which had been previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The HPO requested an assessment of the NRHP eligibility for the two newly identified resources and a brief evaluation to ensure that the one previously identified resource remains eligible to the NRHP.

New South makes the following National Register-eligibility recommendations for the three resources:

Site ID#	NCDOT Survey #	Name	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
GF 8660	7	Zion Hill Methodist Church	Not Eligible
GF 8668	15	Smith Grove Baptist Church	Not Eligible
GF 1544	64	Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House	Remains Eligible under Criteria B and C



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....	i
LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES .....	v
I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY.....	1
II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
III. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER .....	7
ELIHU AND ABIGAIL MENDENHALL HOUSE (NCDOT SURVEY # 64) .....	7
IV. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER .....	9
ZION HILL METHODIST CHURCH (NCDOT SURVEY #7) .....	9
SMITH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH (NCDOT SURVEY #15).....	27
REFERENCES CITED .....	41
APPENDIX A: HPO CONCURRENCE FORM AND HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY	



## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLE

Figure 1.	Project Location and Area of Potential Effect .....	2
Figure 2.	Location of Surveyed Properties .....	3
Figure 3.	Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House NRHP Boundary .....	8
Figure 4.	Zion Hill United Methodist Church Location Map and Site .....	10
Figure 5.	Front (Northeast) and Southeast Sides .....	16
Figure 6.	Northwest Side .....	16
Figure 7.	Southwest Side .....	17
Figure 8.	Typical Stained Glass Window .....	17
Figure 9.	Looking Southwest to Pulpit .....	18
Figure 10.	Pulpit .....	18
Figure 11.	View from Fellowship Hall to Sanctuary, Looking Southeast .....	19
Figure 12.	Picnic Shelter, Looking West .....	19
Figure 13.	Cemetery, Looking West .....	20
Figure 14.	Cemetery with Smith Grove Baptist Church in Background, Looking Southeast .....	20
Figure 15.	Concrete Marker .....	21
Figure 16.	Water Lily Grave Marker .....	21
Figure 17.	Concrete Marker with Name Plate .....	22
Figure 18.	Concrete Marker with Broken Name Plate .....	22
Figure 19.	Grave Marked with Brick .....	23
Figure 20.	Grave Depressions .....	23
Figure 21.	Lindsay Family Plot .....	24
Figure 22.	Undated Photograph of the Zion Hill Methodist Episcopal Church .....	25
Figure 23.	Circa 1955 Photograph of Zion Hill Methodist Church Congregation on Front Steps of Church .....	25
Figure 24.	Smith Grove Baptist Church Location Map and Site Plan .....	28
Figure 25.	Front (East) Side .....	33
Figure 26.	North Side .....	33
Figure 27.	South Side .....	34
Figure 28.	Basement Window Well .....	34
Figure 29.	Rear (West) Side .....	35
Figure 30.	Fellowship Hall .....	35
Figure 31.	Storage Shed/Carport .....	36
Figure 32.	Cemetery with Church in Background, Looking South .....	36
Figure 33.	Cemetery, Looking West .....	37
Figure 34.	Looking East from New Section to Sandy Ridge Road .....	37
Figure 35.	Cemetery Maintenance Shed .....	38
Figure 36.	Undated Documentary Photograph of Old Smith Grove Baptist Church .....	38
Figure 37.	Circa 1953 Photograph of the New Smith Grove Baptist Church Under Construction .....	39
Figure 38.	Circa 1955 Photograph of the New Smith Grove Baptist Church .....	39
Table 1.	List of Properties Surveyed .....	1





## I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The City of High Point (City) is planning to improve Johnson Street and Sandy Ridge Road (STIP No. U-4758) by widening 4.4 miles of the road from Skeet Club Road to I-40 in High Point and Guilford County (Figure 1). The corridor is an important connection between High Point and Greensboro and an important access point to I-40. The corridor is also a popular designated bicycle route. A median-divided four-lane roadway is proposed with bicycles lanes, a sidewalk, and a multi-use path. Atkins Global is preparing the preliminary designs, an Environmental Assessment (EA), and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this Complete Streets project.

In May 2014, Atkins contracted New South Associates to survey the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The project corridor includes Sandy Ridge Road from I-40 to Johnston Street, and Johnston Street from Sandy Ridge Road to Skeet Club Road. The APE was defined to include 500 feet on either side of the proposed alignments. Sixty-four resources over 50 years of age were inventoried at the reconnaissance level and entered into a PowerPoint file according to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) guidelines (Appendix A). In June 2014, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) reviewed the inventory of resources and identified two individual resources, Zion Hill Methodist Church and Smith Grove Baptist Church, that merited investigation at the intensive level (Figure 2; Table 1). The HPO also noted that one property, the Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House (GF 1544; NCDOT Survey #64) at the south end of the APE, had already been evaluated and determined eligible for the NRHP as a result of previous Section 106 studies conducted for the proposed widening of North Main Street (Old U.S. 311/SR 1003) from U.S. 311 to Skeet Club Road, and of Skeet Club Road from North Main Street to Eastchester Drive (NC 68) (TIP No. U-3516) (Table 1). They requested that this resource be briefly evaluated to determine if it retained the necessary integrity to remain eligible for the NRHP (see HPO Concurrence form in Appendix A). Atkins subsequently requested that New South assess the NRHP eligibility of the three resources and prepare this report.

*Table 1. List of Properties Surveyed*

Site ID#	NCDOT Survey #	Name	Level of Survey	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
GF 8660	7	Zion Hill Methodist Church	Intensive	Not Eligible
GF 8668	15	Smith Grove Baptist Church	Intensive	Not Eligible
GF 1544	64	Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House	Reevaluated	Eligible Under B and C

New South senior architectural historian Ellen Turco conducted work on this intensive survey in May and August of 2014. According to HPO records, neither of the two newly identified properties selected for intensive survey had been previously surveyed. HPO survey site numbers were assigned to Zion Hill Methodist Church (GF 8660) and Smith Grove Methodist Church (GF

Figure 1. Area of Potential Effect

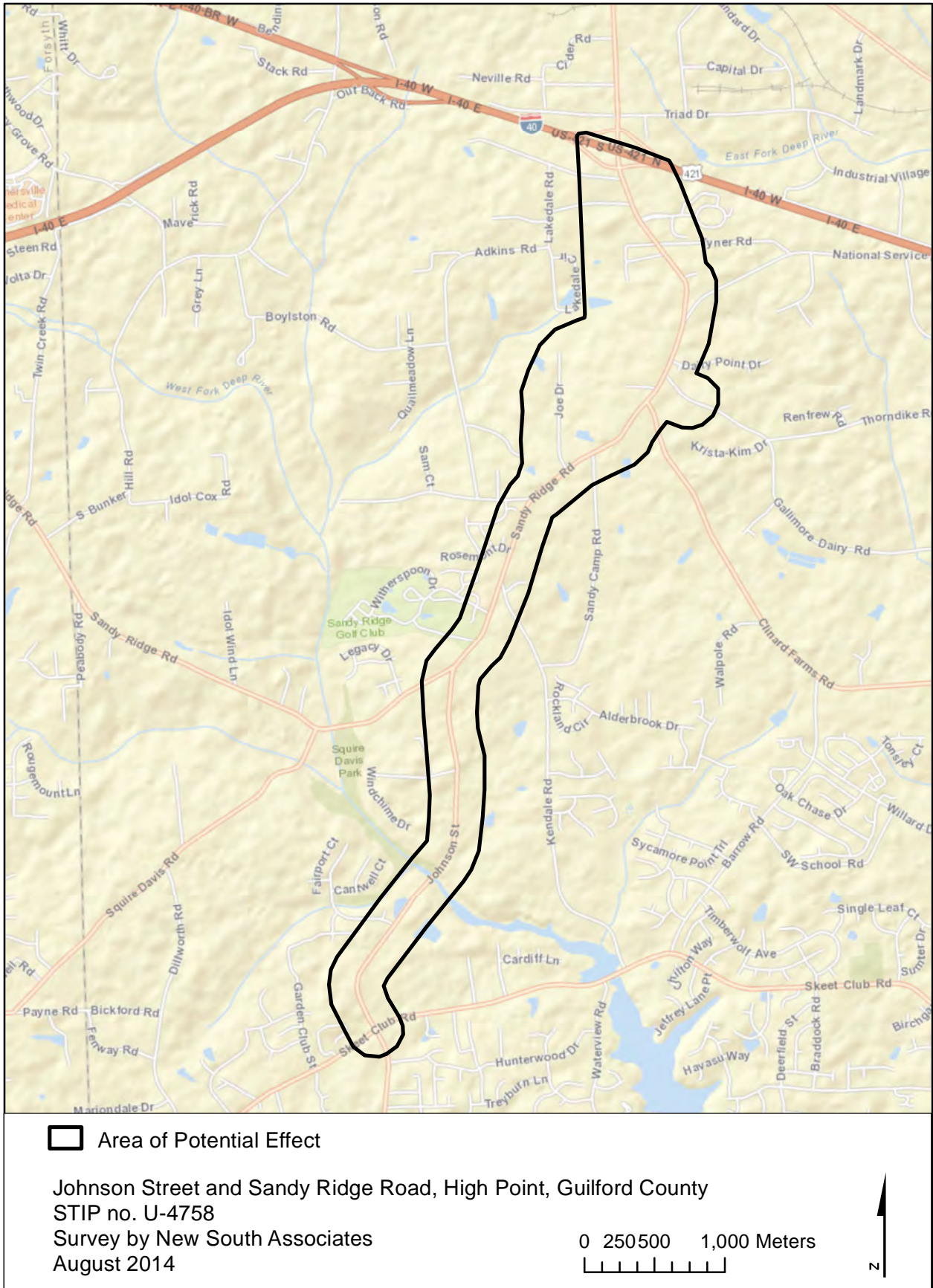




Figure 2. Location of Surveyed Properties



Source: ESRI Resource Data

8668). Each property was visually inspected and their exteriors and settings were documented through written notes and digital photographs. The interior of Smith Grove Baptist Church was not accessed. Research was conducted at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, both in Raleigh and online. Interviews were conducted with local informants including local historian Fred Bame; Bessie Threadgill, who has been involved with Zion Hill United Methodist Church throughout her life; and Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro, Incorporated. The historical development, as well as the architectural and cultural significance of each resource, were then assessed and evaluated within their respective contexts according to the established NRHP criteria.

The results of this intensive-level investigation and NRHP evaluation are presented in the following chapter. This report complies with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CFR 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations on the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR 800); and NCDOT's *Historic Architectural Resources, Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines*.

## II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Between 1740 and the American Revolution, several waves of settlers came to North Carolina along the Great Wagon Road through Pennsylvania and Virginia. The area later became Guilford County and was settled by three distinct groups: German Calvinists and Lutherans, who congregated in the eastern part of the county; Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in the north and central sections; and English and Welsh Quakers who claimed the county's western lands (Smith 1978:158). The Quakers had a lasting effect on Guilford County's historic architecture, with their preference for log and brick construction, conservative tastes, and distinctive religious meetinghouses and three-room "Quaker plan" dwellings. These latter resources are particular to their time and place and not found widely beyond Alamance, Guilford, and Forsyth counties.

Guilford County was officially formed in 1771 from parts of Orange and Rowan counties, but it was not until 1785 that the county achieved its present day boundary. The first courthouse was built on the banks of the Deep River in the southwest part of the county. Guilford Courthouse, also known as Martinsville, lost its place as the county seat in 1808 after a campaign to move the courthouse to a more central location (Davis and Feldman Kravitz 2001:8; Mitchell 2006:14). The new county seat, "Greensborough," named for Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene, was laid out in 14 square blocks. The tracks of the North Carolina Railroad (NCR) were run through Greensboro in 1856, a major factor in the explosive growth of the county's textile industry, which began in the 1890s (Fripp 1985:49). The 1850s also saw the incorporation of the City of High Point, so called due to its position at the highest topographical point of the NCR between Charlotte and Goldsboro. High Point also became a major manufacturing center not only for textiles, but also for furniture, for which it gained an international reputation. Since 1910, Greensboro and High Point have ranked within the top 10 North Carolina cities in population (Orr and Stewart 2000).

Outlying areas remained rural well into the twentieth century. Seventy-three percent of the land in Guilford County was in agricultural use by 1929 (Ormond 1931:155). Small towns or settlements such as Browns Summit, Gibsonville, Pleasant Garden and McLeansville developed in the eastern part of the county and Summerfield, Jamestown, Stokesdale, and Oak Ridge in the west. These communities were rural centers for agricultural trading and milling, or in the case of Oak Ridge and Pleasant Garden, grew due to the presence of academies. Less densely populated crossroads and agricultural communities sprawled across the areas between the small towns. The Sandy Ridge community is one such community.

Sandy Ridge, situated west of Greensboro and north of High Point, is one of four historically rural, although rapidly suburbanizing, unincorporated communities in the Deep River Township in west central Guilford County. Historically, the township was populated by small farms and the institutions of rural life: water powered mills, religious buildings (primarily Methodist and

Quaker), stores, and schools. U.S. Census Bureau abstracts indicate that between 1900 and 1950, the majority of Deep River Township residents were white and their numbers ranged from 1,103-1,898 within about 250 households (U.S. Census Bureau 1930). The racial composition of the township closely reflected that of the rural population of the county as a whole, which was about one-quarter African American (Ormond 1931:157).

Sandy Ridge is not a platted community nor does it have a central business area or post office. Long time residents describe Sandy Ridge Road as the approximate north-south axis of the community and its boundaries generally extend to the Friendship and Colfax communities north of I-40, east to NC 68, south to Skeet Club Road, and west to the Deep River (Fred Bame, personal communication, 2014; Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). It is important to note that area residents may describe the boundaries of Sandy Ridge somewhat differently or associate more strongly with another west central Guilford County community such as Deep River, Colfax, Friendship, or even High Point.

According to U.S. Census Bureau abstracts, the average Guilford County farm was around 65 acres in the 1930s and 1940s. Sandy Ridge farms fit this pattern as long time residents describe the community as consisting of small family farms prior to 1950. While tobacco was the most important cash crop, oats, corn, and other vegetables were also cultivated (Fred Bame, personal communication, 2014; Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). Sandy Ridge began to lose its agricultural character in the 1950s as the children of farmers relocated and large tracts of land were subsequently divided (Fred Bame, personal communication, 2014). It is not known to what extent this shift in land use was directly attributable to the planning and construction of I-40 in the 1950s and 1960s. Today, I-40 forms a hard boundary at the north edge of Sandy Ridge. It is the main commuter highway serving the suburban residential subdivisions within the project area, as well as the state owned Piedmont Triad Farmers Market situated at the I-40/Sandy Ridge Road interchange (Exit 208).



### III. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#### ELIHU AND ABIGAIL MENDENHALL HOUSE (NCDOT SURVEY # 64)

Resource Name	Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House
HPO Survey Site #	GF 1544
Location	1106 Skeet Club Road
PIN	6893932764
Dates	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> Century through 1916
Recommendation	Eligible for the NRHP under Criteria B and C



The Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House (GF 1544; NCDOT Survey #64) was determined eligible for the NRHP in 2001 as part of the proposed widening of North Main Street (Old U.S. 311/SR 1003) from U.S. 311 to Skeet Club Road, and of Skeet Club Road from North Main Street to Eastchester Drive (NC 68) (TIP No. U-3516) (Davis and Feldman Kravitz 2001) (Figure 3). In 2010, NCDOT reassessed the eligibility of the Mendenhall House and its historic boundary. At this time, it was determined that the property remained eligible for the NRHP, and the eligibility criteria, period of significance, and NRHP boundary were updated. Today, the Mendenhall House remains eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B, for its association with both Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall, two prominent and significant members of the Quaker community of Deep River and Piedmont North Carolina and is eligible under Criterion C, as one of Guilford County’s most significant, mid nineteenth-century, Greek Revival-style houses (Brown 2010). The property’s period of historic significance extends from the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century, when the house’s earliest portion was erected, through 1916. The 6.43-acre NRHP boundary corresponds with tax parcel PIN 6893932764. Contributing resources within the boundary are the Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House and the spring house site. Non-contributing resources within the boundary are the dairy processing house, silo, pump house, garage, and storage shed.

Figure 3. Elihu and Abigail Mendenhall House NRHP Boundary



Source: ESRI Resource Data



## IV. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

### ZION HILL METHODIST CHURCH (NCDOT SURVEY # 7)

Resource Name	Zion Hill United Methodist Church
HPO Survey Site #	GF 8660
Location	2901 Sandy Ridge Road
PIN	7805611884
Dates	1953; ca. 1975
Recommendation	Not Eligible for NRHP



#### DESCRIPTION

Zion Hill Methodist Church sits on a 1.3-acre triangular parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection of Sandy Ridge Road and Tyner Loop Road (Figure 4). The parcel contains four resources: the brick church, which is situated on the parcel's the southeast corner; a rectangular open picnic shelter; the church cemetery; and a freestanding sign. A gravel driveway parallels Sandy Ridge Road in front of the church, but the parcel lacks a clearly identifiable area for parking.

*Church (1953; ca. 1975; ca. 1985)*

The approximately 2,400-square-foot front-gabled church was built with concrete blocks in 1952 (Figure 5). The exterior was brick veneered sometime between 1971 and 1981 (Guilford County 2011; Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). The L-shaped building consists of the main sanctuary which faces northeast toward Sandy Ridge Road and two telescoping wings on the northwest side which contain the fellowship hall (added at an unknown date between 1971 and 1981) and bathrooms (circa 1985) (Figure 6). A gabled stoop porch (circa 1985) projects from the northwest side of the bathroom addition. A second stoop porch is on the rear of the sanctuary (Figure 7). The church has a concrete slab foundation with metal foundation vents, vinyl trim, and a composite shingle roof.

Figure 4. Zion Hill United Methodist Church Location Map and Site



Paneled double-leaf front doors are sheltered by a gabled entry stoop that is supported by square brick posts. The stoop is accessed by five brick stairs on the southeast and northeast sides and a concrete ramp on the northwest side. A small round wood vent is set into the peak of the front gable. Surmounting the roof is a prefabricated steeple that mimics the traditional four part tower-lantern-belfry-spire-form steeples typically found on Christian churches. The steeple is sheathed in vinyl weatherboards, has arched vents set in the belfry, and is topped by a four-sided spire. The belfry contains the cast iron bell from the earlier church.

On the church's southeast elevation are four equally spaced rectangular stained glass windows (circa 2000) (Figure 8). Two more stained glass windows are on the northeast side of the sanctuary. The two rear windows of the northeast elevation were removed when the fellowship hall addition was built. The fellowship hall has vinyl 1/1 window sashes. The rear (northwest side) of the sanctuary has two stained glass windows north of the stoop porch.

One enters the church from a small entry vestibule at the east end across from the raised pulpit, which is set behind an angled proscenium arch (Figures 9 and 10). An aisle separates two rows of modern wood pews. The pastor's office and administrative office flank the pulpit. The sanctuary's historic layout is intact with the exception of the vestibule, which was added at the same time as the front porch. However, the interior wall surfaces, trim, and furnishings date from the 1970s and 1980s when the congregation made a series of improvements. Drywall and faux wood wainscot covers the walls and the ceiling is sheathed with pine boards. The fellowship hall is accessed by a set of glazed and paneled bi-fold doors in the northeast wall (Figure 11). Board wainscot and drywall cover the walls of the fellowship hall. A doorway in the northwest wall leads to the kitchen. At the northwest end of the fellowship hall is the small restroom addition.

#### *Picnic Shelter (ca. 1975)*

North of the church is a 12x32-foot open picnic shelter (Figure 12). Eight wood posts with Y-bracing at the top support a gabled roof with exposed rafter ends. The shelter sits on a concrete slab.

#### *Sign (date unknown)*

Between the church and Sandy Ridge Road is a sign on a brick pedestal (See Figure 6).

#### *Cemetery (ca. 1925-2014)*

The Zion Hill Methodist Church cemetery is situated west of the church and picnic shelter (Figures 13 and 14). The cemetery limits were not determined as part of this project. There are approximately 100 marked graves, but it is important to note there may be additional unmarked ones. The earliest



grave marker observed dates from 1925; however, given the church's establishment around 1880 and the confirmed presence of an earlier church building on the site, earlier burials may be present. Graves are arranged in north-south rows, but the burials are oriented on east-west axis as is typical of Christian cemeteries.

There are a variety of types of markers, including commercially made granite tablets with flush foot stones and granite flush headstones. Handmade concrete slabs are also present in great numbers (Figure 15). One of note is crudely engraved with a lotus or water lily, a symbol that depicts the renewal of life (Figure 16). There are also a significant number of low concrete makers with inset concrete name plates, although many of the name plates have been lost or are broken, probably as a result of lawn maintenance (Figures 17 and 18). Concrete markers are a common substitute for formal stone monuments in Southern folk cemeteries, both black and white (Jeane 1992:116; Vlach 1991:45). Other graves are marked with bricks or uninscribed fieldstone markers (Figure 19). One temporary metal funeral home marker was observed. Grave depressions are visible throughout the cemetery, particularly along the western edge (Figure 20). Family plots or groupings are either delineated or delineated with bricks or granite curbing. The Lindsay family plot, which is enclosed by low polished granite curbing, has been covered with concrete, decorated with rows of pebbles, and painted white (Figure 21). Geographer Gregory Jeane (1989:116) has noted the use of aluminum or silver colored paint on markers in African American cemeteries of the Upland South. Two clusters of yucca plants were also observed. This traditional funerary plant was used to mark graves, and its prickly nature was believed to ward off bad spirits.

## HISTORY

Zion Hill United Methodist Church is an African American church established around 1885 as a "Methodist Episcopal Church" (Guilford County Register of Deeds 1890:82:695; Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). On September 26, 1885, I.P. (Ira Pinkney) Raper and his wife Charity Raper, both white, conveyed to G.W. Taylor, Alex Stewart, and Samuel Wheeler, the trustees of the "Methodist Episcopal Church of Guilford County and State of North Carolina," two acres of land for a payment of 20 dollars. Taylor, Stewart, and Wheeler are identified in U.S. Census records as both "black" and "mulatto." The Rapers specified the land was to be used, kept, and maintained as a "place of divine worship for the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America" (Guilford County Register of Deeds 1890:82:695).

American Methodist denominations have undergone many divisions and coalescences in their 200-plus year history, many of which were a result of profound differences on the issue of race and slavery. The Rapers were members of Sandy Ridge Methodist Church (now Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church [1953] at 2223 Sandy Ridge Road), a congregation that had existed in the community since the 1820s (Fred Bame, personal communication, 2014). Research conducted for this report did not determine the specific denominational sub-affiliations of the

Raper's congregation or the Methodist Episcopal Church, which adopted the name Zion Hill at an unknown date. What is known is that proximity, Methodism, and the enduring social relationships between the members historically link the two churches. The churches participate in social and religious events to this day. In the late 1960s, both congregations were subsumed under the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church based in Charlotte (Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014; United Methodist Church 2012).

It is plausible that Zion Hill was affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) denomination, although deeds and the few surviving historical church documents do not identify it as such and most AME congregations claimed the full name. The AME denomination was established in 1787, about 50 years after John Wesley established Methodism as a reform movement of the Anglican Church. It was formed when black congregants withdrew from a racially integrated, but still discriminatory, congregation in Philadelphia. AME churches played a pivotal role in the antislavery movement, as did several, although certainly not all, of the white Methodist denominations. These churches were primarily concentrated in the urban areas of the Northeast and Midwest prior to the Civil War. During Reconstruction, recently liberated blacks across the South joined the AME church and the denomination grew considerably, reaching 400,000 members by 1880 (Dickerson 2014).

In North Carolina, the first AME Conference established in 1868. By 1900, the denomination had grown and a second state conference was added. Zion Hill's establishment in the mid 1880s may reflect this broader pattern in African American religious history as small churches exclusively for blacks were established in rural areas. Given the strong abolitionist sentiment that had existed in among Quakers and Wesleyan Methodists, Guilford County was fertile ground for nascent African American churches in the late nineteenth century.

The present church is known to be the second building on the site, but it is perhaps the third (Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). Lifelong church member Bessie Threadgill stated that the first church was a log structure, but no photographs or other evidence of such a building were found during this study. An undated documentary photograph depicts an unpainted front gable church with an open belflower (Figure 22). Threadgill recalled that this building faced due east and was situated north of the present church, approximately where the picnic shelter is now. An aerial photograph from 1952 supports her recollection.

The wood church served the congregation through 1953, when a gabled concrete block sanctuary with metal casement windows was erected under the leadership of Reverend Henry Minor (Figure 23). This building remains to this day, albeit in an altered state. The first major alteration was the addition of the fellowship hall, which aerial photography dates to sometime between 1971 and 1981. It is likely that the sanctuary and fellowship hall were visually unified with brick veneer



at this time. The front porch was added in the 1980s. The restroom addition and side stoop porch were added sometime between 1983 and 1991. When the original metal casement windows needed to be replaced around 2000, the congregation decided to install decorative stained glass windows. Congregants donated the cost of a window in honor or memory of a family member (Bessie Threadgill, personal communication, 2014). Each window is the same, with the exception of a unique central image panel, chosen by the donor, and a nameplate with the name of the honoree.

Bessie Threadgill has been active in the church since she was child. Her great grandmother Nancy Jones was a founding member of the church. The Byrd, Peak, and Lindsay families are also long time members. The congregation has historically been a small and rural one, with about 55 members in the 1950s. The current congregation numbers about 25 members under the pastorate of Roger Green.

### INTEGRITY

The Zion Hill United Methodist Church building was built in 1953 and has undergone many physical changes over time. The exposed concrete block structure was covered with brick veneer in the 1970s. Around the same time, the building was almost doubled in size with the addition of the fellowship hall. A restroom addition was built in the 1980s. The front porch was also added in the 1980s. The original metal casement windows were removed around 2000. The interior plan remains intact; however, the pews, pulpit furnishings, and wood wainscot and ceiling coverings are not original.

### EVALUATION

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have contributed to history at the local, state, or national level. Zion Hill Methodist Church was formed at a time of tremendous growth of African American churches across the South. The church's historical significance is as post-Reconstruction era African American church. However, no physical vestiges the church's early years remain on the site. The sanctuary dates from 1953, and its interior and exterior appearance have been altered significantly since its construction. The cemetery's surviving 1920s gravestones are not sufficient to convey the property's early decades. No significant events were identified as taking place at the church between 1953 and 1964, within the 50-year guideline used by the NRHP. Additionally, no historically significant events were identified as occurring after 1964, which would allow an NRHP evaluation under Criteria Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years. *For these reasons, Zion Hill Methodist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.*

Research conducted for this project did not associate the church with individuals whose specific contributions were significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. Since 1885, Zion Mill United Methodist Church has been a place of worship for the African American Methodists of the Sandy Ridge community. However, the NRHP criterion states churches do not derive significance strictly as a place of religious worship within a community. *Therefore, Zion Mill United Methodist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.*

Properties may be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value. Zion Hill United Methodist is an undistinguished and altered example of a 1950s gable front church. These buildings were erected in great numbers across the state in the years following the Depression as congregations sought to upgrade their aging frame facilities. The 1953 church has been altered with additions and modernizations, the most substantial of which changed the interior and exterior wall surfaces from concrete block to brick veneer. Guilford County is noteworthy for its Quaker meetinghouses, such as such the Deep River Friends Meeting House (NRHP 1995) and the Jamestown Friends Meetinghouse. Unlike the meetinghouses, Zion Hill United Methodist Church does not convey through its architecture a specific time and place. The church is not distinctive or illustrative of local architecture, design or construction. The cemetery contains typical twentieth-century homemade and commercial burial markers common in both white and African American cemeteries that are not notable as a collection of funerary art and craftsmanship. *For these reasons, Zion Mill United Methodist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.*

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable in archival sources. *Therefore, Zion Mill United Methodist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.*

*Figure 5. Front (Northeast) and Southeast Sides*



*Figure 6. Northwest Side*





*Figure 7. Southwest Side*



*Figure 8. Typical Stained Glass Window*



Figure 9. Looking Southwest to Pulpit



Figure 10. Pulpit





Figure 11. View from Fellowship Hall to Sanctuary, Looking Southeast

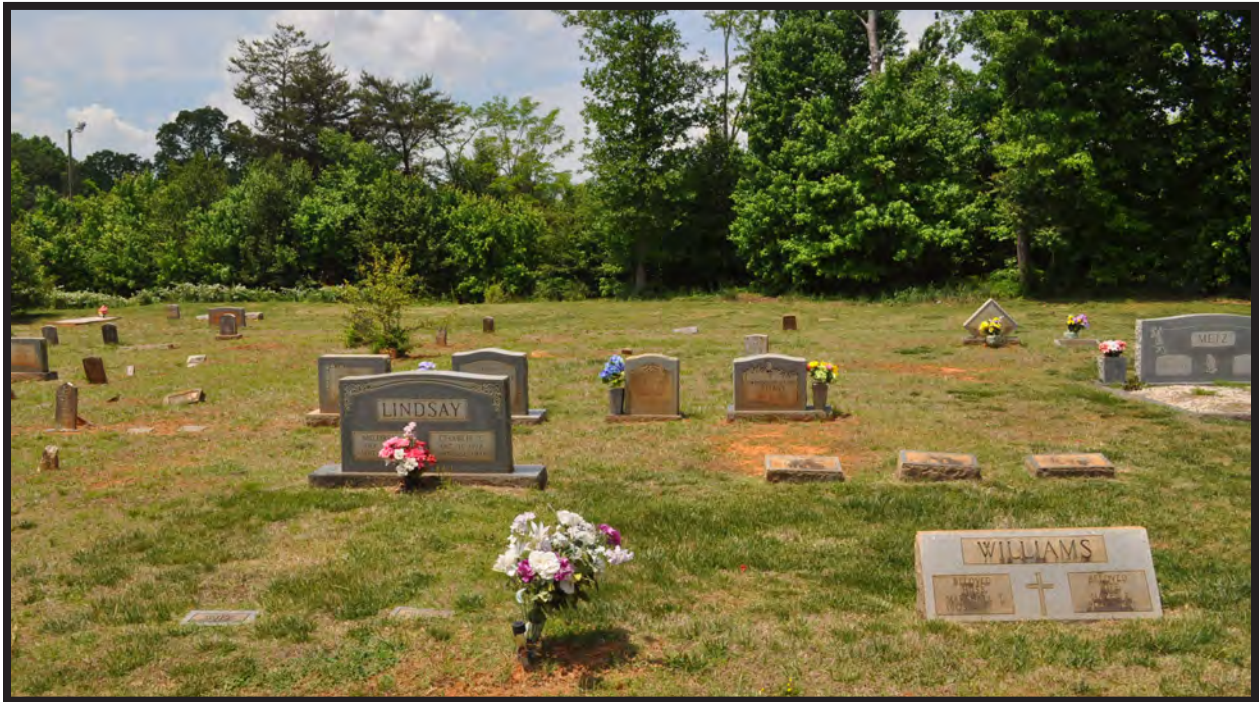


Figure 12. Picnic Shelter, Looking West





*Figure 13. Cemetery, Looking West*



*Figure 14. Cemetery with Smith Grove Baptist Church in Background, Looking Southeast*





*Figure 15. Concrete Marker*



*Figure 16. Water Lily Grave Marker*





*Figure 17. Concrete Marker with Name Plate*



*Figure 18. Concrete Marker with Broken Name Plate*





*Figure 19. Grave Marked with Brick*



*Figure 20. Grave Depressions*





Figure 21. Lindsay Family Plot



*Figure 22. Undated Photograph  
of the Zion Hill Methodist  
Episcopal Church*  
Source: Bessie Threadgill



*Figure 23. Circa 1955  
Photograph of Zion  
Hill Methodist Church  
Congregation on Front  
Steps of Church*  
Source: Bessie Threadgill



## SMITH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH (NC SURVEY #15)

Resource Name	Smith Grove Baptist Church
HPO Survey Site #	GF 8668
Location	2707 Sandy Ridge Road
PIN	7805604906
Dates	1953; 1993
Recommendation	Not Eligible for NRHP



### DESCRIPTION

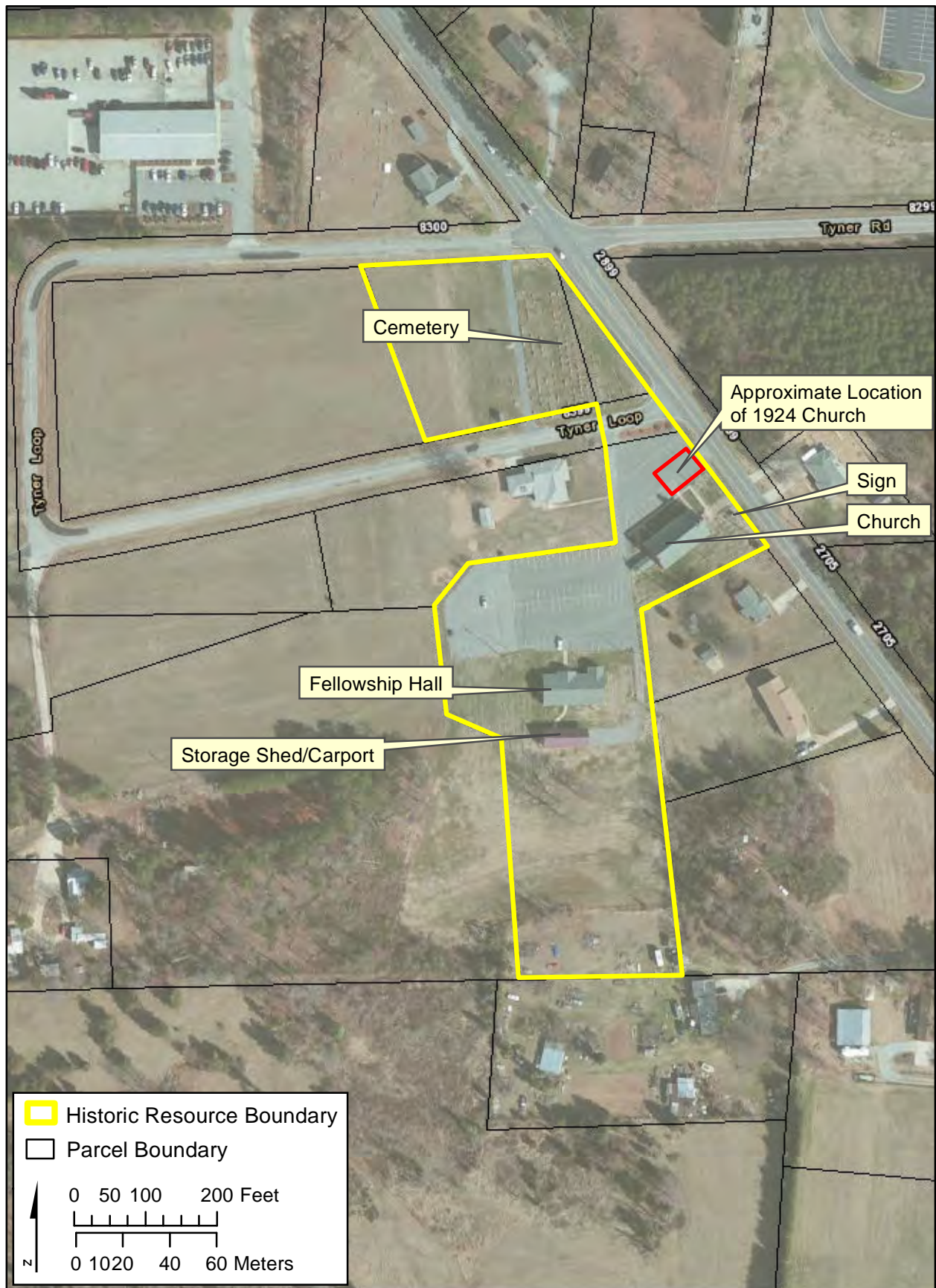
Smith Grove Baptist Church sits on a 4.06-acre irregularly shaped parcel at the southwest corner of the intersection of Sandy Ridge Road and the south end of Tyner Loop Road (Figure 24). The church cemetery is on an adjacent, but separate, 1.5-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Sandy Ridge Road and the south end of Tyner Loop Road. Both parcels are owned by Smith Grove Baptist Church. The parcels contain the following resources: the church, a sign, the fellowship hall, a storage shed/carport, the cemetery, and the cemetery maintenance shed. A paved parking lot is located north of the church and a second lot is situated north of the fellowship hall. A paved driveway runs south from Tyner Loop Road, connecting the two parking lots.

#### *Church (1953)*

Smith Grove Baptist Church faces east toward Sandy Ridge Road (Figure 25). The front-gable church building sits on a full basement with classrooms. The interior comprises just over 7,000 square feet. The exterior is covered with 5:1 brick veneer, and a composite shingle roof. A three-part steeple with vinyl weatherboards and a weathervane surmounts the roof. The peak of the front



Figure 24. Smith Grove Baptist Church Location Map and Site Plan



Source: ESRI Resource Data



gable has ventilation louvers. Centered on the façade is a one-bay gabled porch supported by brick piers. Arched stained glass windows set in soldier course surround and sills flank the porch. A set of brick steps leads to a set of double-leaf six-panel entry doors. A brick and concrete ramp leads to the north side of the porch. A stained glass transom lettered with “Smith Grove Baptist Church” is above the entry. South of the entry is a white marble cornerstone that reads:

“Smith’s Grove Baptist Church  
Organized—1921  
New Building-1953”

Each side elevation has four arched stained glass windows set in soldier course surrounds and sills (Figures 26 and 27). These windows are not original to the building. The side windows are essentially larger versions of the façade windows. Natural light is provided to the basement by metal sash windows set in brick window wells (Figure 28). At the east and west ends of the north elevation are small square stained glass windows that light the front and rear vestibules, respectively. On the south elevation, there are two square windows at the east end and single one at the west end. At the west end of the north elevation is a gabled entry stoop on brick piers.

The windowless rear elevation has a covered walkway on brick piers sheltering the basement access stairs (Figure 29).

The interior of the church was not accessible.

#### *Sign (Unknown Date)*

Between the church and Sandy Ridge Road is an approximately five-foot high display sign on a brick base.

#### *Fellowship Hall (1996)*

Southwest of the church is a one-story brick fellowship hall, erected in 1996 (Figure 30). The side gable brick building has a front gabled entry porch supported by square brick piers and a front-gabled projecting wing on the east end. The gables are covered with vinyl weatherboards and the windows are vinyl casements. Composite shingles cover the roof.

#### *Storage Shed/Carport (ca. 1996)*

South of the fellowship hall is a metal covered gabled storage shed with an engaged carport on the east side (Figure 31).

*Cemetery (1954-2014); Shed (circa 1954)*

The cemetery is contemporary with the church (Figures 32-34). Just over 100 marked graves were noted. A paved access driveway bisects the cemetery and the most recent burials, approximately five in number, are situated west of the driveway. A flagpole marks the approximate center of the cemetery. At the south end of the driveway is a concrete block gabled maintenance shed with a metal roof (Figure 35). Orderly rows of commercially made polished marble grave markers run north to south and the burials are oriented on the east-west axis. The earliest graves are concentrated in at the cemetery's southeast end; church records indicate the first burial took place in 1928.

## HISTORY

Smith Grove Baptist Church (also referred to as Smith's Grove) was organized in the Sandy Ridge community of Deep River Township in west central Guilford County in 1921. A series of statewide church facility surveys conducted by Duke University in the 1920s recorded 37 denominations in Guilford County. However, in the small towns and unincorporated areas, only seven denominations were recorded. These were the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (the largest of the rural denominations), Methodist, Protestant, Baptist, Quaker, Christian Reformed, and Holiness (Ormond 1931:154-158). Deep River Township was predominantly Methodist, so the establishment of Smith Grove was a notable event in local history (Fred Bame, personal communication, 2014).

Baptist prayer meetings were held in the community in the early 1900s. Many of these early Baptists attended Methodist churches, and local historian Fred Bame asserts that people freely associated with both denominations. Core members of the nascent congregation met for worship, funerals, and baptisms through the 1910s. In 1921, Smith Grove Baptist Church was formally established at a brush arbor meeting. The Ballard, Farrington, Smith, Westmoreland, and Nuckles families were among the earliest members, and those family names appear on historic parcel maps in the area immediately around the church (Guilford County 2011). The first building was erected around 1924 on land donated by Arlie and Daisy (Nuckles) Frazier in August of 1923 (Guilford County Register of Deeds 1923) (Figure 36). A documentary photograph depicts a substantial weatherboarded building with side wings at the rear of the building. In 1928, Neal Smith became the first dedicated pastor. Also in 1928, the cemetery received its first burial, the body of Leonard Smith. By 1939, the church had grown to 185 members, indicating that it was drawing parishioners from beyond the immediate vicinity. Richard Nuckles was appointed the congregation's second pastor in 1946. He served for 40 years before resigning in 1986 (Peters 2012).

In 1951, Pastor Nuckles led the church in a fundraising campaign to erect a new brick church just south of the original frame building (Figure 36). A documentary photograph strongly suggests the old church remained in use while the new one was under construction (Figures 37 and 38). The

first service was held in the new building in May of 1955 (Peters 2012). The building's exterior has changed little over the years, with the exception of the replacement of the original 4/4 clear glazed windows. The cemetery continued to expand. In 1996, a fellowship hall was built southwest of the 1953 sanctuary. Around the same time, the large storage building and carport was erected.

Today, Smith Grove Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church and remains unaffiliated with any national or state convention. The congregation of approximately 165 is lead by Pastor Charles K. Peters.

### INTEGRITY

Smith Grove Baptist Church retains its original exterior form. The sole alteration to the exterior is the replacement of the original window sashes with fixed stained glass windows. The interior was not accessed.

### EVALUATION

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP Under Criterion A if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have contributed to history at the local, state, or national level. Smith Grove Baptist Church was established in 1921 in predominantly Methodist west central Guilford County. The present day church dates from 1953. No significant events were identified as taking place at the church between 1953 and 1964, within the 50-year guideline used by the NRHP. The church could not be contextualized within a broader pattern of events significant in local, state, or national history. Additionally, no historically significant events were identified as occurring at the church after 1964, which would allow an NRHP evaluation under Criteria Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years. *For these reasons, Smith Grove Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.*

Properties may be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B if they can be associated with the lives of persons proven to be significant in our past. This NRHP criterion states that churches do not derive significance strictly as a place of religious worship within a community. Research conducted for this project could not identify the church with individuals whose specific contributions were significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. *Therefore, Smith Grove Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.*

Properties may be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value. Smith Grove Baptist Church is not architecturally distinctive or illustrative of local architecture, design, or construction. It is a typical example of a 1950s gable front brick church. This building type was erected in great numbers across the state in the

years following the Depression as congregations sought to upgrade their aging frame facilities. While the building remains largely intact, the removal of the original clear glazed windows was detrimental to the overall historic character of the building. The cemetery contains twentieth-century commercially produced burial tablets and is not notable as a collection of funerary art and craftsmanship. *For these reasons, Smith Grove Baptist Church is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.*

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable in archival sources. *Therefore, Smith Grove Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.*



Figure 25. Front (East) Side



Figure 26. North Side





Figure 27. South Side



Figure 28. Basement Window Well





Figure 29. Rear (West) Side



Figure 30. Fellowship Hall





*Figure 31. Storage Shed/Carport*

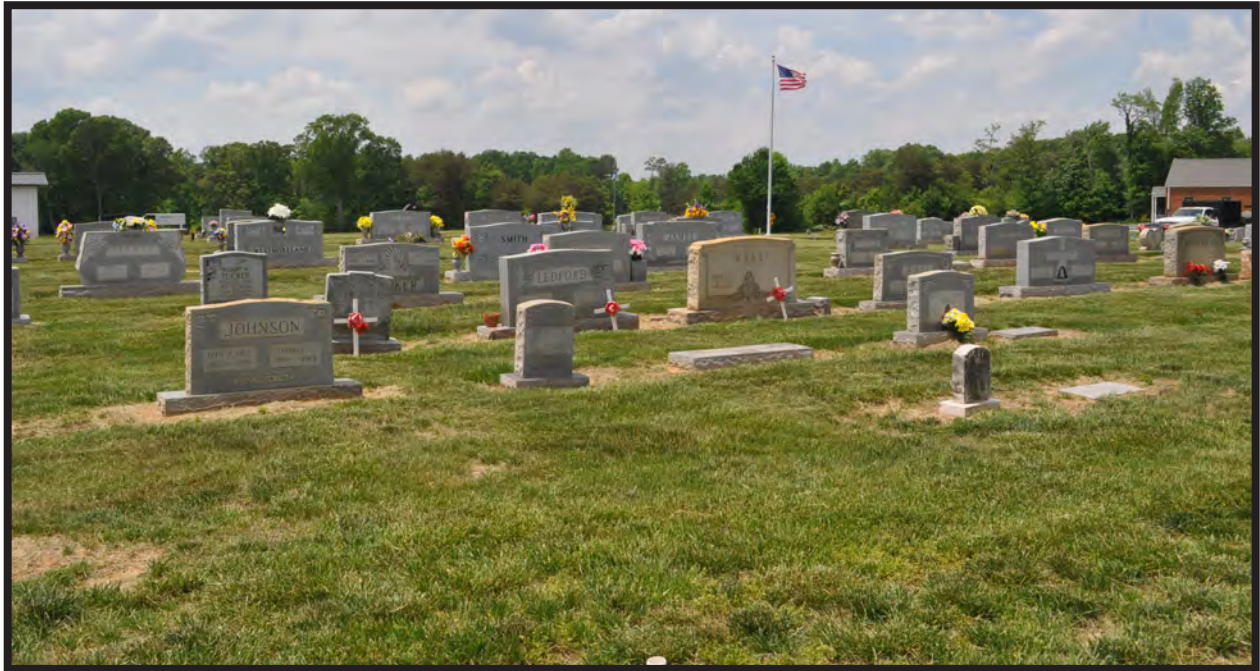


*Figure 32. Cemetery with Church in Background, Looking South*





*Figure 33. Cemetery, Looking West*



*Figure 34. Looking East from New Section to Sandy Ridge Road*



*Figure 35. Cemetery Maintenance Shed*



*Figure 36. Undated Documentary Photograph of Old Smith Grove Baptist Church*



Source: Pastor Charles K. Peters



*Figure 37. Circa 1953 Photograph of the New Smith Grove Baptist Church Under Construction*

Source: Pastor Charles K. Peters



\*\*Note: This Image is Reversed

*Figure 38. Circa 1955 Photograph of the New Smith Grove Baptist Church*

Source: Pastor Charles K. Peters





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**APPENDIX A: HPO CONCURRENCE FORM AND HISTORIC  
RESOURCES SURVEY**





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

*Project Description:*

On June 10, 2014 representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO)
- Federal Agency
- Other: Atkins, New South Associates

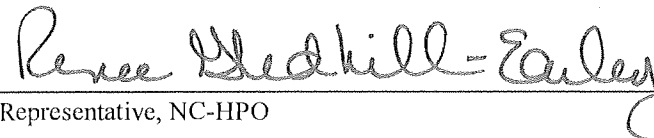
Reviewed the subject project at historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation and

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's APE.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's APE, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as \_\_\_\_\_ are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary. Photographs of these properties are attached.
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's APE.
- 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.
- More information is requested on properties # 7 (Zion Hill Methodist Church); #15 (Smith Grove Baptist Church); #64 (Elihu Mendenhall House).

Signed:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative, NCDOT 7.29.14  
Date

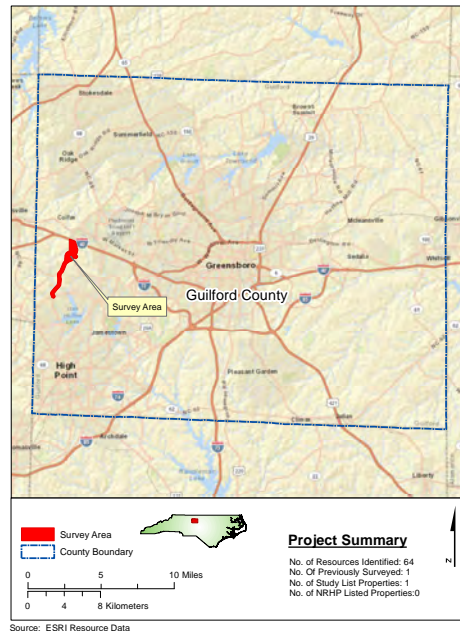
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative, NC-HPO 7.29.14  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative, Federal Agency Date

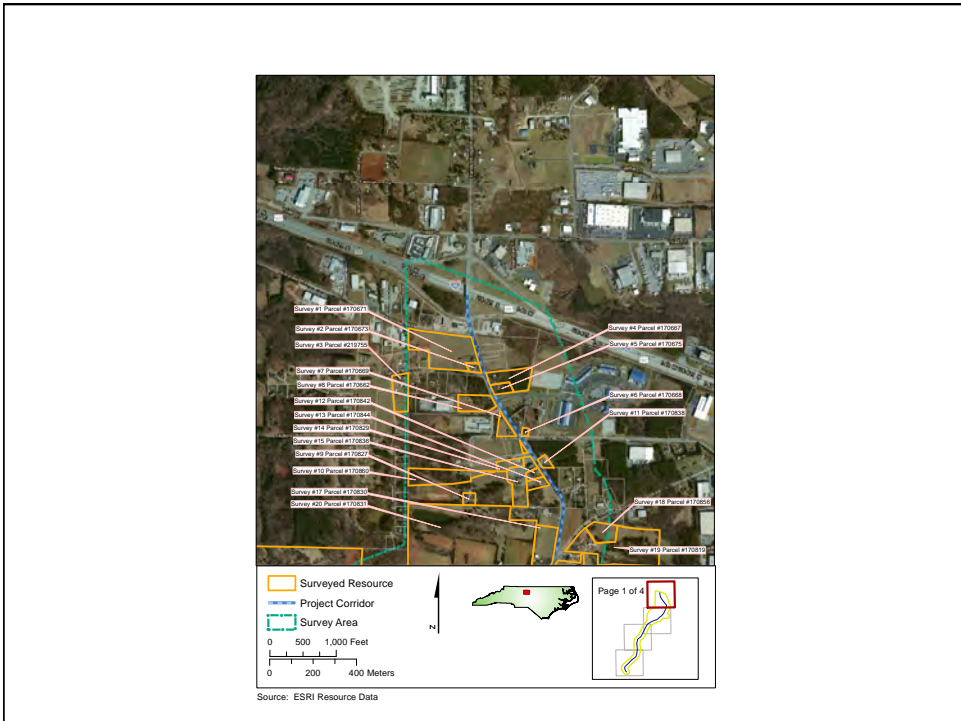
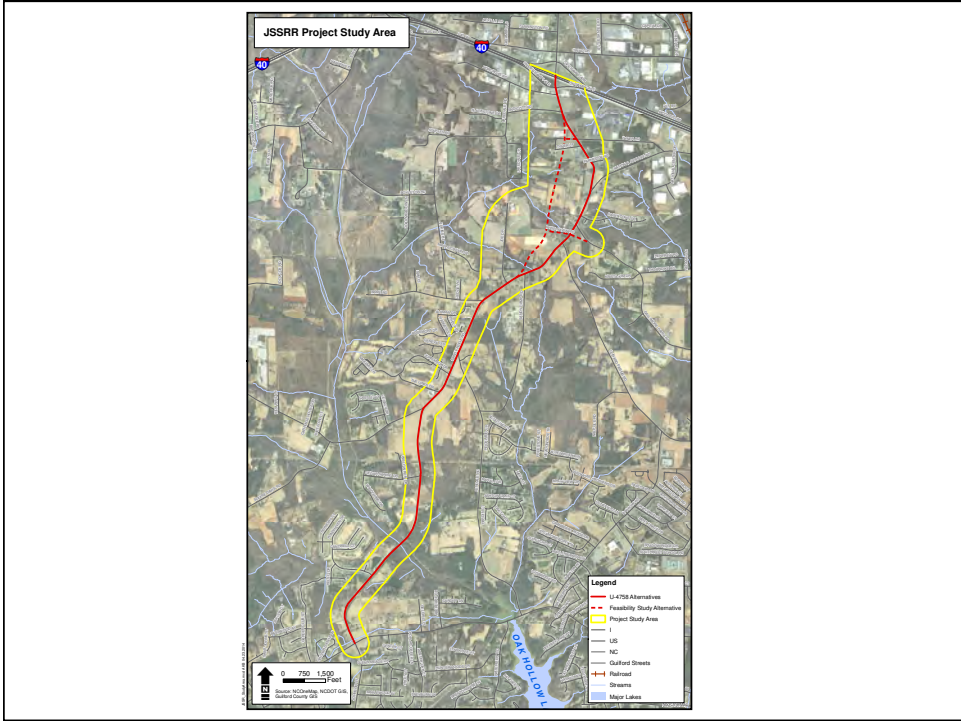
If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included.



Historic Architecture Reconnaissance Survey  
Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road  
High Point, Guilford County  
STIP No. U-4758  
New South Associates, Inc. for Atkins









Property 1: 3003 Sandy Ridge Road. Parcel # 170671



Property 2: 3001 Sandy Ridge Road. Parcel # 170673



Property 3: 8423 Endicott Road. Parcel # 219755



Property 4: 2920 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170667





Property 5: 2918 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170675



Property 6: 8258 Tyner Rd. Parcel # 170688



Property 7: Zion Hill United Methodist Church, 2901  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170669



Property 7: Zion Hill United Methodist Church, 2901  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170669





Property 7: Zion Hill United Methodist Church, 2901  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170669



Property 7: Zion Hill United Methodist Church, 2901  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170669





Property 7: Zion Hill United Methodist Church, 2901  
Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170669



Property 8: 2915 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170662



Property 9: 8830 Tyner Loop. Parcel # 170827



Property 10: 8324 Tyner Loop. Parcel # 170860





Property 11: 2708 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170838



Property 12: 2705 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170842





Property 13: 2703 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170844



Property 14: 8350 Tyner Loop. Parcel # 170829



Property 15: Smith Grove Baptist Church. 2707 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170836



Property 15: Smith Grove Baptist Church. 2707 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170836



Property 15: Smith Grove Baptist Church. 2707 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170836



Property 15: Smith Grove Baptist Church. 2707 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170836





Property 16: 2524 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170822



Property 16: 2524 Sandy Ridge Rd. . Parcel # 170822



Property 17: 2525 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 0170830



Property 18: 8047 National Service Rd. Parcel # 170856





Property 19: 8051 National Service Rd. Parcel # 170819

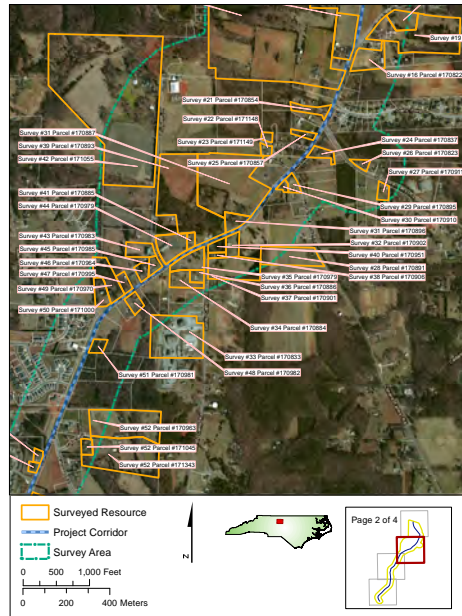


Property 19: 8051 National Service Rd. Parcel # 170819





Property 20: 2519 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170831





Property 20: 2519 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170831



Property 21. 2505 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170854





Property 22. 8409 Rose Haven. Parcel # 171148



Property 23. 8410 Rose Haven. Parcel # 171149





Property 24. 2410 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170837



Property 25. 2417 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170857



Property 26. 940 Gallimore Dairy Rd. Parcel # 170823



Property 27. 931 Gallimore Dairy Rd. Parcel # 170911





Property 28. 8045 Clinard Farm Rd. Parcel # 170891



Property 28. 854 Clinard Farm Rd. Parcel #





Property 29. 8063 Clinard Farm Rd. Parcel # 170895



Property 30. 2334 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170910



Property 31. 2313 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170896



Property 31. 2313 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170887





Property 31. 2315 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170887



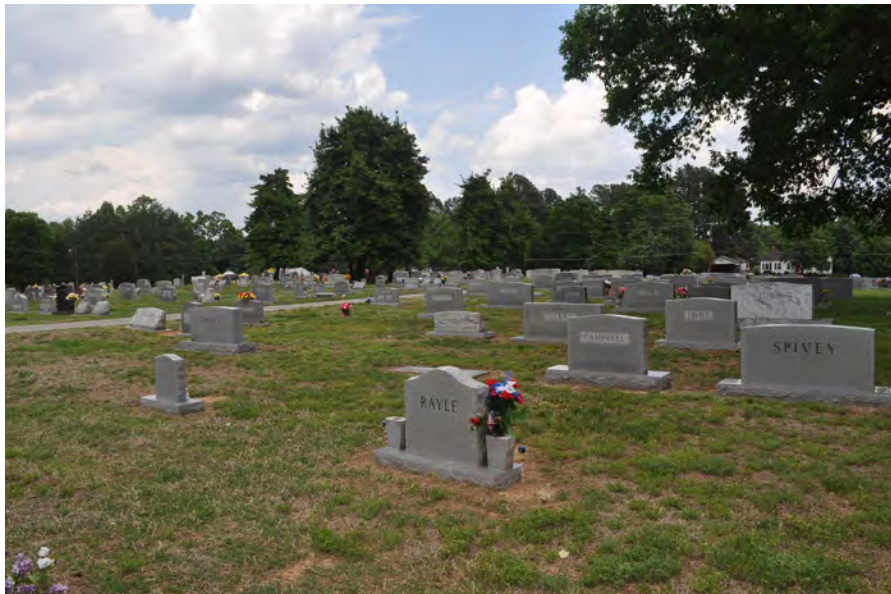
Property 32. 2310 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170902







Property 34. 4739 Sandy Camp Rd. Parcel #170884



Property 35. Sandy Ridge Cemetery. East Side Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170979 (same legal parcel as Sandy Ridge Methodist Church)





Property 35. Sandy Ridge Cemetery. East Side Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170979



Property 35. Sandy Ridge Cemetery. East Side Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170979





Property 36. 4745 Sandy Camp Rd. Parcel #170886



Property 37. 4748 Sandy Camp Rd. Parcel # 170901



Property 38. 4752 Sandy Camp Rd. Parcel # 170906



Property 39. 2235 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170893





Property 40. 4756 Sandy Camp Rd. Parcel # 170951



Property 41. 2235 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170885





Property 42. 700 Joe Drive. Parcel # 171055



Property 43. Community Center, 750 Joe Drive. Parcel # 170983



Property 43. Community Center, 750 Joe Drive. Parcel # 170983



Property 44. Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, 2223 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170979





Property 45. 2217 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170985



Property 46. 2213 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170964





Property 47. 2207 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170995



Property 48. 2208 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170982



Property 49. 2205 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170970 (house recently demolished)



Property 50. 8600 Bame Rd. Parcel # 171000





Property 51. 2128 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 170981



Property 52. 897 Flynt Rd. Parcel # 171045

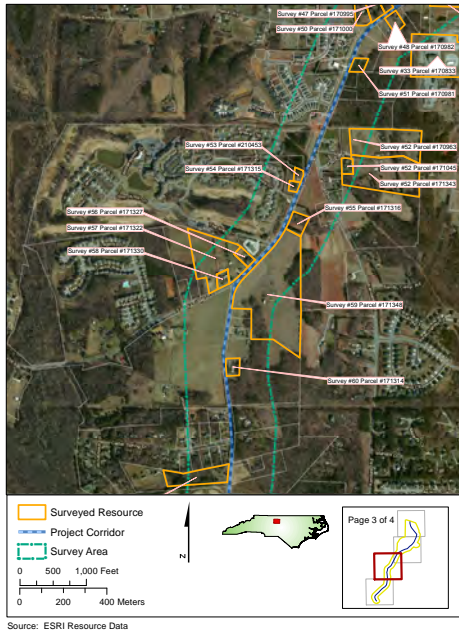




Property 52. End of Flynt Rd. Parcel # 171343



Property 52. End of Flynt Rd. Parcel # 170963



Property 53. 2041 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 210453





Property 54. 2039 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171315



Property 54. 2039 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171315





Property 55. 2028 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # # 171316



Property 56. 2007 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171327



Property 57. 2001 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171322



Property 58. 1965 Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171330





Property 59. Farm Outbuildings, East Side Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171348



Property 59. Farm Outbuildings, East Side Sandy Ridge Rd. Parcel # 171348





Property 60. 4626 Johnson St. Parcel # 171314





Property 61. 4541 Johnson St. Parcel # 171262



Property 62. 4407 Johnson St. Parcel # 169375





Property 63. 4321 Johnson St. Parcel # 169368



Property 63. 4321 Johnson St. Parcel # 169368





Property 63. 4321 Johnson St. Parcel # 169368



Property 64. Elihu Medenhall House (GF 1544) ( Study List; DOE) 1106  
Skeet Club Rd. Parcel # 203730



Property 64. Elihu Medenhall House (GF 1544) ( Study List; DOE) 1106  
Skeet Club Rd. Parcel # 203730



Property 64. Elihu Medenhall House (GF 1544) ( Study List; DOE) 1106  
Skeet Club Rd. Parcel # 203730