



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

August 29, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelby Spillars
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos *RMB for Ramona M. Bartos*

SUBJECT: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Replacement of Bridge 121 on SR 1103 over Silvermine Creek, WBS 17BP.14.R.36, Swain County, ER 13-1615

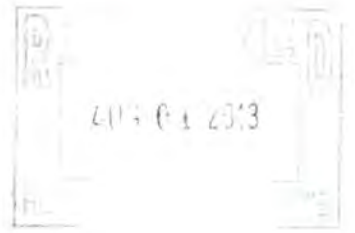
Thank you for your letter of August 1, 2013, transmitting the above survey report prepared by Acme Preservation Services.

For the purpose of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the **Boxed House** (SW 0037) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture and that the proposed National Register boundaries appear appropriate.

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 renee.gledhill-earley@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov
Clay Griffith, Acme Preservation Services, cgriffith.acme@gmail.com



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

RECORD OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

213 - 1615

TIP No.: 17BP.14.R36 PA No.: 12-08-0099 County: Swain

Brief Project Description: ~~Improvements to NC 42 and I-40 interchange in Johnson County.~~
BRIDGE #1 ON SR 1103 OVER SILVERMINE CREEK

On Aug 1, 2013 the enclosed materials were transmitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and received by the undersigned representatives of the following agency:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO)
- Other _____

See letter
JOK 8/20/13

Due 8/23/13

Materials Transmitted

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) documentation, including:
 - Photographs
 - Color Transparencies
 - Landscape Plans
 - Negatives
 - Construction Drawings
 - Other _____
- Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report(s)
Number of Copies: one digital and one printed
- Historic Architectural Resources survey materials, including:
 - Photographs
 - Survey site forms
 - Other _____

Delivered by: Shelby Spiller North Carolina Department of Transportation Date: Aug 1, 2013

Received by: RSE Name and Agency Date: 8-1-13

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1548

TELEPHONE 919-707-6000
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WEBSITE NCDOT.GOV

LOCATION:
CENTURY CENTER, BUILDING B
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610


**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
Intensive Evaluation: Boxed House**

**Replace Bridge No. 121 on SR 1103 over Silvermine Creek
Swain County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 17BP.14.R.36**

**Prepared for:
Human Environment Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583**

**Prepared by:
Acme Preservation Services, LLC
825C Merrimon Avenue, #345
Asheville, NC 28804
828-281-3852**

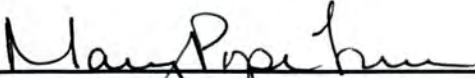
July 2013



Clay Griffith, Principal Investigator
Acme Preservation Services, LLC

7-27-13

Date



Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

7-28-2013

Date

Replace Bridge No. 121 on SR 1103 over Silvermine Creek, Swain County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 17BP.14.R.36

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 121 on SR 1103 (Silvermine Road) over Silvermine Creek in Swain County. The project area is located in the southwestern section of the county. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is delineated as 300 feet from either end of the bridge and 75 feet on either side of the center line.

NCDOT contracted with Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) in October 2012 to complete an intensive historic architectural resources evaluation of the previously recorded Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) located within the APE for the subject project. Architectural historian Clay Griffith conducted the field investigation in June 2013 and authored the report. Primary source investigation included consulting the Swain County GIS and Register of Deeds online records and research at Marianna Black Library in Bryson City, Pack Memorial Library in Asheville, and the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville.

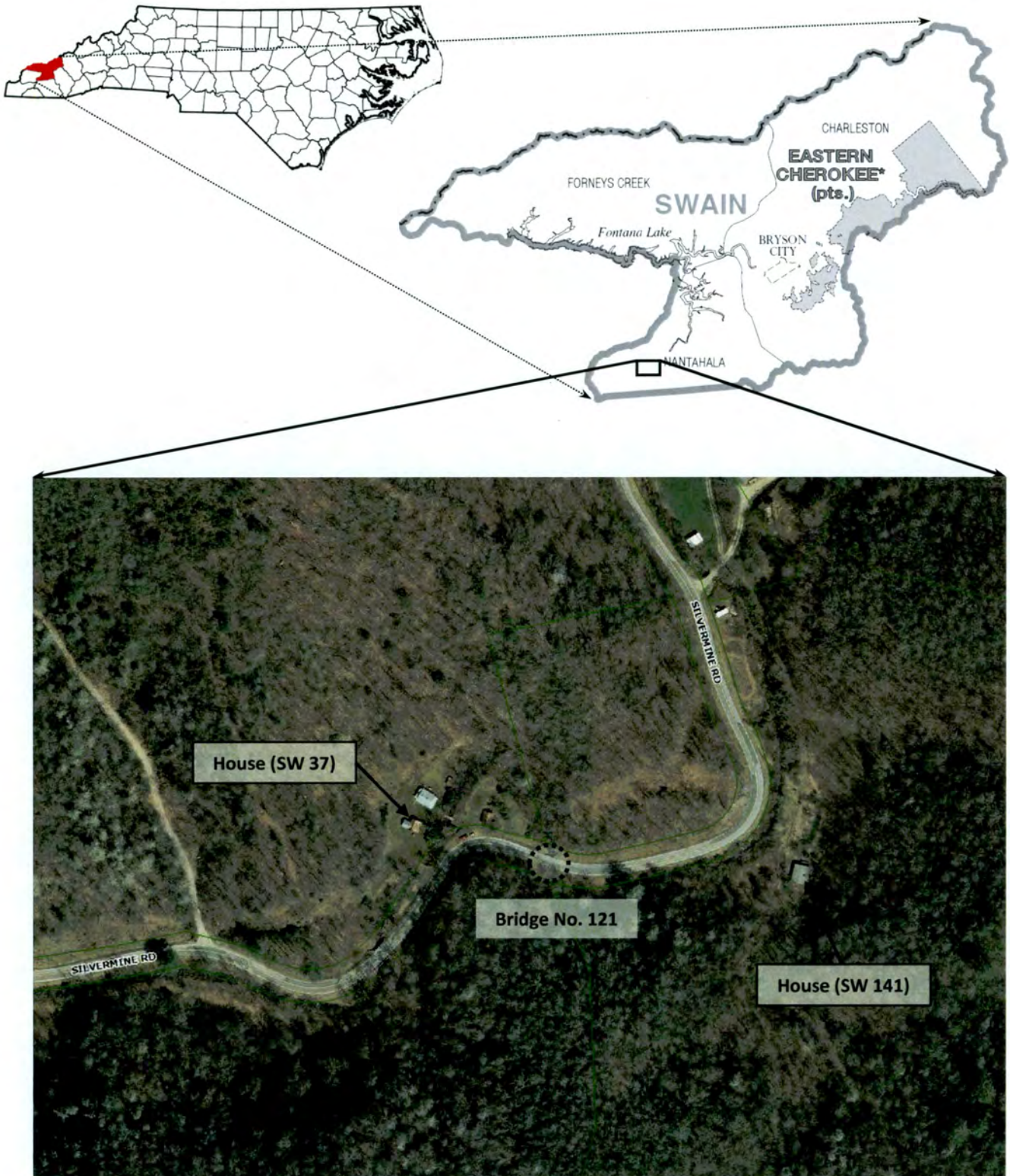
After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility, the Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) at 1810 Silvermine Road was found to be eligible under Criterion C as a locally significant example of early twentieth-century boxed construction in Swain County. One additional property, the Stiles House (SW 141), is located on the south side of Silvermine Road near the bridge, but the property does not meet the minimum criteria for National Register significance.

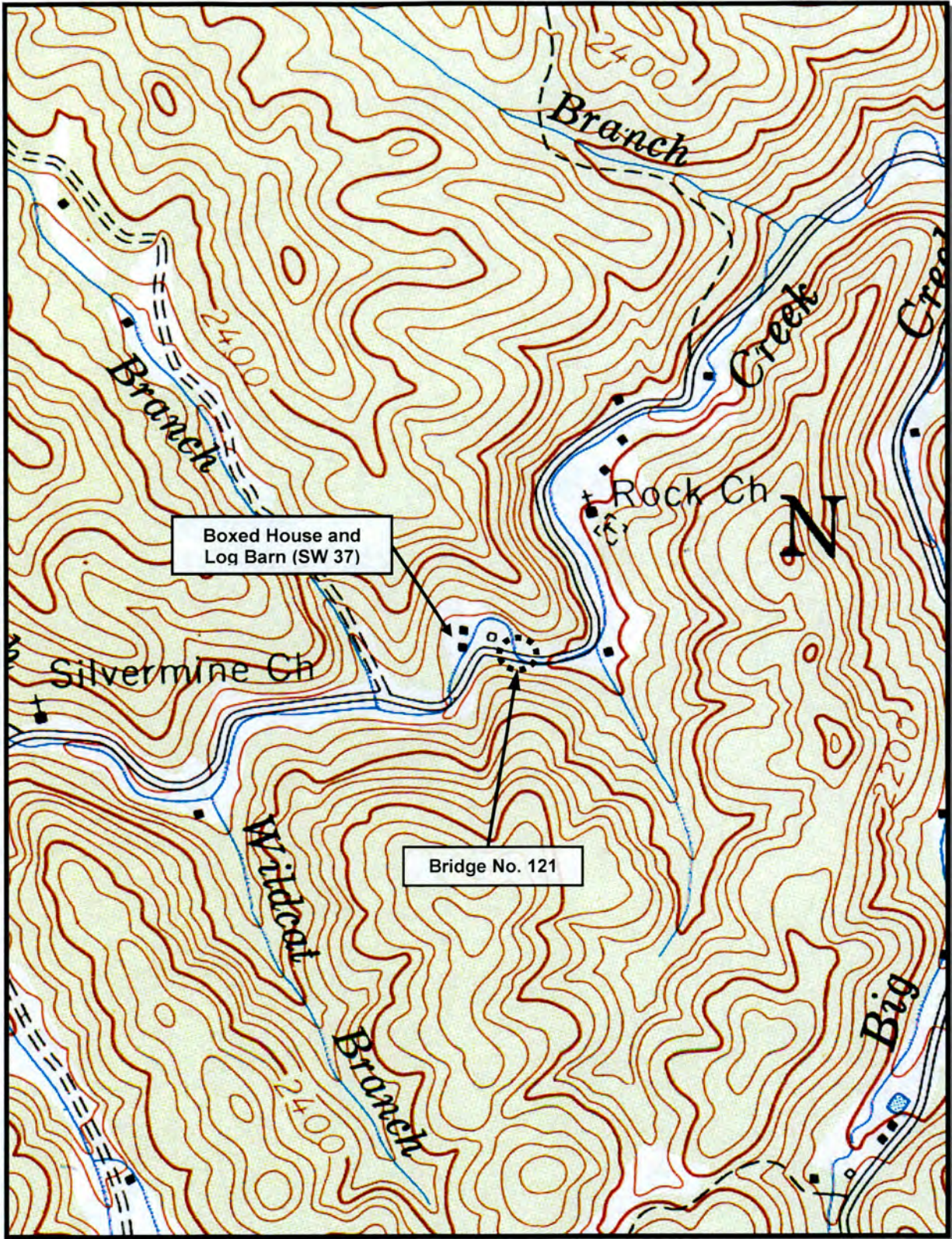
APS conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; and the NCDOT document entitled *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003). This property evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

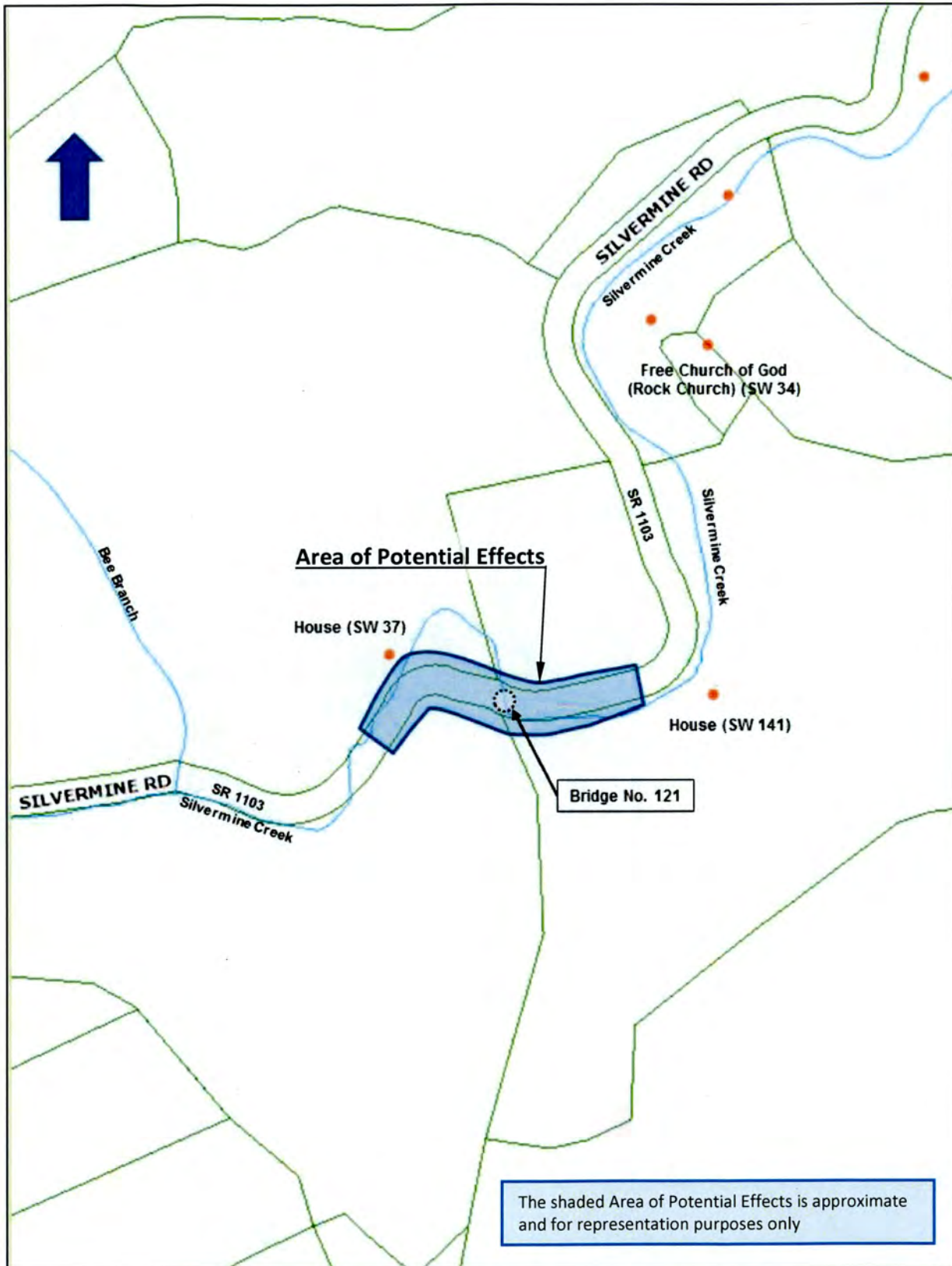
I. Project Location and Area of Potential Effects Maps	4
II. Introduction	7
III. Methodology	7
IV. Historical Background	10
V. Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) – Property Description and Evaluation	13
VI. Bibliography	33
Appendix A: Professional Qualifications	A-1

I. Project Location Maps





Location Map – Wesser, NC USGS topographic quadrangle map (1961, photoinspected 1987)



Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map [Base map: Swain County GIS]

II. Introduction

The project area is located in the Silvermine Community of the Nantahala section of southwestern Swain County. Bridge No. 121 is situated on Silvermine Road (SR 1103) approximately 1.7 miles southwest of its intersection with US Highway 19 in Wesser. Within two miles of its intersection with US 19, Silvermine Road crosses and re-crosses Silvermine Creek more than fifteen times over its winding course. Silvermine Creek empties into the Nantahala River where the road intersects with the highway

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed bridge replacement project is delineated as 300 feet from either end of the bridge and 75 feet to either side of the center line of the road. The 68-acre tax parcel containing the boxed house completely encompasses the western portion of the APE and extends to both sides of Silvermine Road.

The general project area is characterized by heavily wooded mountain terrain. Silvermine Road winds through a narrow creek valley, rising from a confluence with the Nantahala River to Silvermine Gap and crossing Silvermine Creek numerous times. The historic resources within the APE are located in relatively small cleared areas surrounded by thick forests. The topography to the northeast and southwest of the bridge is steeply sloping and densely wooded with exposed rock outcroppings.

III. Methodology

The field survey was conducted on June 28, 2013, and all of the resources over fifty years of age associated with the boxed house were photographed and recorded. Basic research on the project area was conducted by consulting with the Swain County GIS and Register of Deeds online records, Marianna Black Library in Bryson City, Pack Memorial Library in Asheville, and the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville. The project area is not covered by Sanborn maps, but USGS topographic quadrangle maps dating back to 1936 were reviewed.

A search of the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) records revealed one previously recorded property within the APE. The property was documented by Michael Ann Williams during a reconnaissance-level survey of Graham and Swain Counties in 1997-1998; it had been previously recorded by Michael Southern in November 1977. The Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) consists of an early-twentieth century single-pen boxed house, frame bungalow, and a saddle-notched log barn on the north side of Silvermine Road to the west of Bridge No. 121. In addition to the previously recorded property, one additional resource within the APE was identified and recorded during the field survey. The Stiles House (SW 141), located on the south side of Silvermine Road to the east of the bridge, does not meet the minimum criteria for National Register significance. Nine properties in Swain County are listed in the National Register, including three archaeological sites.



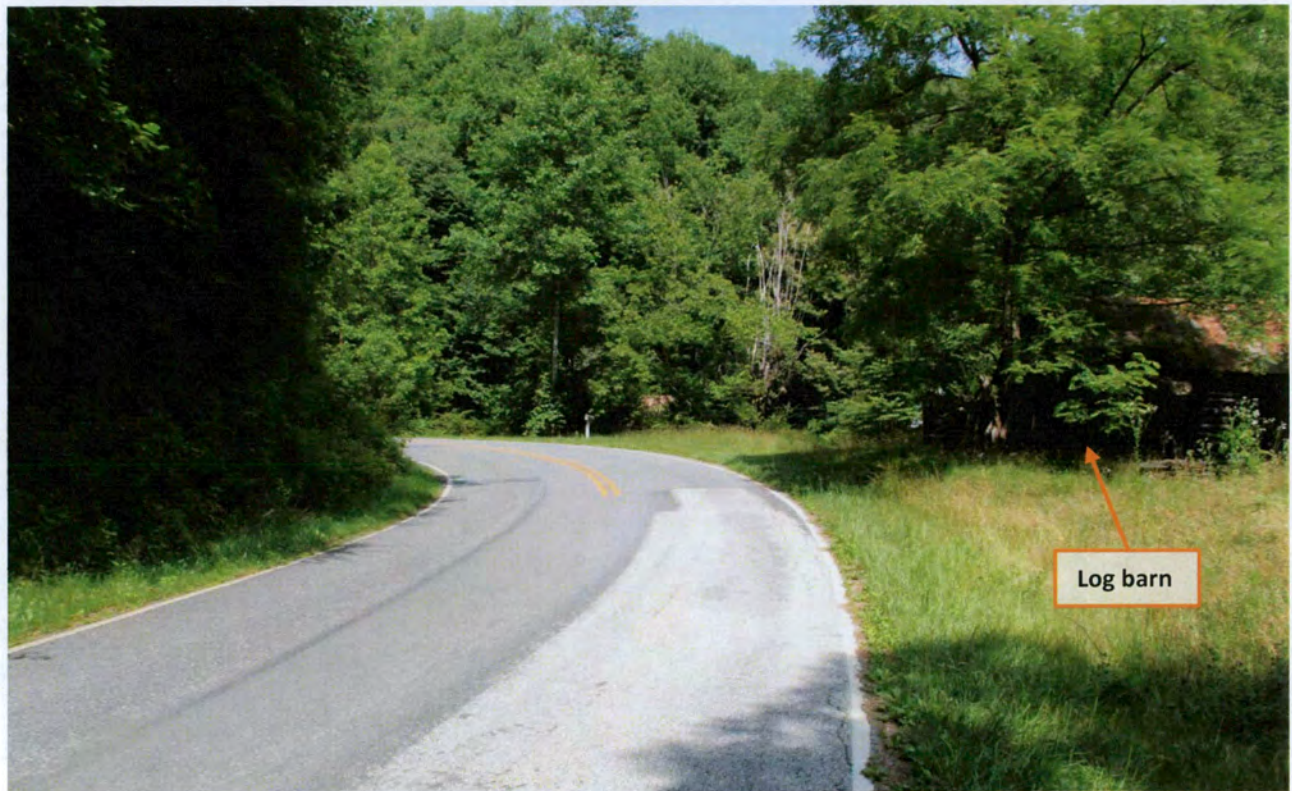
Bridge No. 121 on SR 1103 (Silvermine Road) over Silvermine Creek, view to southeast



Bridge No. 121 on SR 1103 (Silvermine Road) over Silvermine Creek, view to northwest



View to east along SR 1103 (Silvermine Road), east of Bridge No. 121



View to west along SR 1103 (Silvermine Road), west of Bridge No. 121

IV. Historical Background

Historical information about Swain County as a whole remains surprisingly limited. While much of the documented history of the county and its development has focused on the areas of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Fontana Lake, the southern section of the county has often been ignored in published works. It can be argued that the settlement and development of the southern portion of the county is typical for North Carolina's western mountain counties and, therefore, unremarkable in comparison to the rich biodiversity and contentious history of Swain's northern section. The paucity of historical documentation, however, has limited the ability to paint a good picture of the Silvermine community in the early twentieth century.

The first white settlers did not reach Swain County until after 1800, and only after Cherokee removal in the 1830s, did settlers begin to arrive in significant numbers. Prior to their forced removal, the territory was the proud domain of the Cherokee Indians, who ranged over the mountains and valleys hunting wild game, fishing, and settling in small towns and villages. The town of Kituwah, east of present-day Bryson City, the county seat of Swain, was one of the central and most prosperous villages. The American botanist William Bartram passed through the area in 1775, recording the Cherokee settlements and studying the remarkable plant species of the area. Traders and missionaries began moving into the region at the beginning of the nineteenth century. When Arnold Guyot mapped the rugged mountains in the late 1850s, the area remained isolated and sparsely populated by pioneer settlers and small farmers.¹

The North Carolina General Assembly created Swain County in 1871 from the territory of Jackson and Macon counties and named it in honor of former governor and president of the University of North Carolina, David Lowry Swain (1801-1868). The county seat was established at Charleston (present-day Bryson City), a modest settlement consisting of one store and three dwellings on the Tuckaseegee River. Charleston became incorporated first in 1887, and then granted a new charter in 1889, renaming the town in honor of Col. Thaddeus D. Bryson. The arrival of the railroad that same year, 1889, opened Swain County to the east. The railroad connection helped to open the county's vast forest resources to outside markets. Whereas the white and Indian residents of the county had engaged in small-scale farming and lumbering throughout much of the nineteenth century, the railroad initiated a significant economic boom in Swain County.²

The first substantial saw mill was established in 1909 by the W. H. Ritter Company, which had begun acquiring large tracts of timber in the Smokies in 1903. A railroad spur line was laid to the

¹ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Vol. I (Raleigh, NC: Sharpe Publishing Company, Inc., 1954), 464-466. Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 379-382. Dale Huddleston, ed. *Official Souvenir Centennial History Program* (Bryson City, NC: Swain County Centennial Committee, Inc., 1971), 17-18.

² Lillian F. Thomasson, *Swain County: Early History and Educational Development* (Bryson City, NC: published by author, 1965), 5-7. Hazel C. Jenkins and Ora Lee Sossamon, eds. *The Heritage of Swain County, North Carolina* (Bryson City, NC: Swain County Genealogical and Historical Society, 1988), 9 [hereinafter cited as *Swain County Heritage*].

mill site on Hazel Creek. New communities, Ritter and Proctor, grew up along Hazel Creek as a result of the lumber company's presence and plentiful jobs in the area. The saw mill at Proctor, which was capable of turning out more than 70,000 board feet of lumber a day, nurtured a small town with a population of 1,000, a school, a church, and three stores. As many as fifteen band mills were operating in the area at one point, and it took seventeen years to cut out Hazel Creek tract. It is estimated that the tract produced 166 million board feet of lumber.³

In addition to timber, Swain County's other natural resources were also developed in the early twentieth century. Two large copper mines produced a significant amount of ore in the first half of the century. Other mines produced kaolin, talc, and feldspar in smaller amounts, along with marble, limestone, and granite. Presumably the Silvermine community took its name from a silver mine in the area, but no evidence of any such mine appears on old USGS topographic maps of the area.⁴

The early settlers in the area established self-sufficient farms throughout the valleys and lower slopes of the mountains. Farm families typically produced everything they needed and shared or traded with neighbors. While the timber industry provided much-needed jobs and income in the early twentieth century, many Swain County families continued to maintain a small family farm. With an average size of approximately 50 acres, Swain County agriculture generated negligible income. An estimated 75 percent of farm products were used by the farm families. Corn was the leading product, along with hays and grasses for grazing, but good amounts of fruit, potatoes, and eggs were also produced. The county's cultivated agricultural land is concentrated in the southern part of the county.⁵

Just as the success of the timber industry in Swain County was greatly aided by the construction of railroad connections, improved automobile transportation routes spurred the next wave of development beginning in the 1920s. Transportation routes remained poor for many years, but the completion of a new road into Tennessee over Deal's Gap on the western side of the county helped to open the area to new possibilities. In 1933, a scenic new road crossed the Smokies and entered Tennessee at Newfound Gap. As access to the Smokies increased, so did the interest in creating a national park to protect the mountains from the degradation caused by the timber industry. The idea of the national park generated a strong reaction from both county residents and a broader audience and from both sides of the issue. Ultimately, Congress passed legislation in 1926 to authorize the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, although it would be another fourteen years before North Carolina and Tennessee were able to acquire all of the property rights for the official dedication of the park.

³ *Swain County Heritage*, 11-13 and 17. Thomasson, 10-11. Sharpe, 466.

⁴ Thomasson, 10-11. Sharpe, 466.

⁵ Sharpe 1954, 469. Bill Sharpe, ed., *North Carolina: A Description by Counties* (Raleigh, NC: Warren Publishing Company, 1948), n.p. Thomasson, 11-12.

The creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park had significant impacts in Swain County. The most direct impact was the removal of nearly three-fourths of the county's land from the tax rolls. The federally-owned national park, along with sections of the Nantahala National Forest, account for more than 288,000 acres, leaving the residents to live on the remaining 60,000 acres. The park put an end to widespread timbering in Swain County and, as a result of job loss, many families and related businesses moved away. The timber industry, however, has been largely replaced with a tourism industry directly related to the national park, Cherokee cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities.⁶

Another significant development impacting development and tourism in the county corresponded with the country's entry into World War II. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) acquired Alcoa's Fontana holdings to construct a dam on the Little Tennessee River to supply power to plants manufacturing aluminum for aircraft and processing uranium at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Construction began on the 480-foot tall concrete dam in January 1942 and was completed in 1944; power generation began in January 1945. As the valley flooded to form the lake, Swain County families were again asked to move from their homes, farms, and communities, many of which inundated by the lake.⁷

Diversification of the county's economy in the second half of the twentieth century and improved transportation routes in and out of the area introduced new opportunities for residents, who have made an uneasy peace with the federal government's presence in Swain County. The national park and national forests have brought a tremendous economic boom to the county with tourism and outdoor recreation among the important factors. The rich and rugged landscape continues to define Swain County, even as the new economy it supports threatens to supplant the traditional rural character and lifestyle of its residents.

⁶ Sharpe 1954, 468 and 476-481. *Swain County Heritage*, 11-13. Michael Ann Williams, "Graham and Swain County Reconnaissance: Swain County," Report, Western Office of the Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Asheville, NC (September 1998), 17-18.

⁷ Bishir, et al, 394-399. *Swain County Heritage*, 17-18. Williams 1998, 18-19.

V. Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37)

1810 Silvermine Road, Wesser vic., Swain County

PIN 6620-00-51-2897



Boxed House, 1810 Silvermine Road, oblique front view to southwest

The boxed house at 1810 Silvermine Road appears to date from the early twentieth century and is located at a sharp bend in the road and the creek, which separates the house from the road. A small wooden footbridge provides access from the road across the creek to the house. A vehicular bridge composed of a heavy timber deck on steel I-beams is located to the south of the house and spans the creek upstream from the footbridge. The boxed house stands in a small clearing on the west side of the creek, and although it appears to be unoccupied, the property is still maintained as evidenced by the recently mown grass.

The house is a one-story, single-pen dwelling of boxed construction. Without interior framing members, wood planks are nailed vertically to the sill and header plate to form the exterior walls, which are stiffened with corner posts. The house rests on a stone pier foundation and is capped by a standing-seam metal roof. A full-width shed-roof porch is attached to the front of the building and is supported by square wood posts with a foundation of peeled log piers. The porch shelters a single-leaf glazed-and-paneled entry door that is positioned slightly off-center. A portion of the façade, to the north of the doorway, is partially clad with weatherboards, which appear to be a later, half-finished addition to the structure. A massive, stacked stone chimney rises against the south elevation of the house. Stone for the chimney likely came from the small quarry a short distance west of the house on Silvermine Road. Deteriorated remnants of rolled asphalt

siding are visible to either side of the chimney. Two visible windows—on the façade and north elevation—are four-over-four double-hung sash; a single six-light, fixed-sash window is also located on the façade. Window openings on the south and west elevations are covered over. A gable-roof ell extends to the rear (west) of the house and is covered with board-and-batten siding.

The house may have been built by J. P. and Nancy Truitt in the 1910s. The Truitt's purchased a 68-acre tract from R. L. and Rosa Stiles on July 25, 1913 (Deed 43/33). The parcel adjoined the lands of the Stiles, Teague, DeHart, and Grant families. Although it is not clear from the deed records, it appears that the property passed to the Truitts' son, William E. Truitt, who married Millie Gasaway around 1909. In both the 1930 and 1940 censuses, the Truitt's are listed as renting their home. Mr. Truitt worked as a laborer, performing odd jobs or working for the Works Progress Administration. In August 1955, William and Millie Truitt deeded the 68-acre property to their two unmarried children, Troy Truitt and Sylvia Truitt (Deed 77/303). The property is currently held in a life estate by Sylvia Truitt.⁸



Boxed House, façade detail, oblique view to north

⁸ Register of Deeds Office, Swain County Administration Building, Bryson City, NC. Genealogical and census records accessed through Ancestry.com (<http://home.ancestry.com/>; accessed July 2013). In both the genealogical and deed records the two local family names appear frequently with alternate spellings: Truitt/Truett and Stiles/Styles.



Boxed House, oblique front view to north



Boxed House, oblique rear view to south



Footbridge, view to northwest; wood shed to left



Vehicular bridge and access to property, view to southwest



Truitt House, view to northwest

Truitt House, ca. 1945

A one-story Craftsman-influenced frame house was added to the property immediately north of the earlier boxed house. According to USGS topographic quad maps, this house was built between 1940 and 1961, along with the log barn. The front-gable dwelling displays a standing-seam metal roof, exposed rafter tails, two stuccoed interior chimneys, three-over-one double-hung sash, and an attached hip-roof porch. Supported by peeled log posts, the porch rests on square wood piers and a log sill. Stone steps access the porch from its south side. It shelters a single-leaf door with six lights over three panels. The house is covered with tar paper siding, except for the front gable end, which is covered with rolled asphalt siding. The kitchen window on the south elevation has been replaced with a sliding, wood-sash window. An attached shed-roof porch at the rear is supported on peeled log posts and accessed by low stone ramp. A portion of the rear portion is enclosed and accessed through a single-leaf two-panel door.

William and Millie Truitt likely built this residence during the 1940s as an upgrade from the adjacent boxed house, which they may have been renting during the 1930s.



Trutt House, oblique view to southwest



Trutt House, oblique rear view to northeast



Log barn, view to north

Log barn, ca. 1945

The log barn stands on the north side of Silvermine Road on the opposite side of the creek from the two houses. The single-crib log structure features a supported log overhang on the west side and a shed-roof frame addition to the east. The barn is constructed of saddle-notched logs without chinking. Peeled log posts support the overhang, which is enclosed with wood railings. The standing-seam metal roof is carried on peeled log rafters, and the gable ends are covered with vertical wood slats spaced for venting the barn loft. Exterior wood steps lead to an opening in the gable end that accesses the loft. The enclosed shed addition is covered with crude wood shingles and capped by a standing-seam metal roof. A single-leaf wood door on the south elevation is composed of vertical wood planks bound by three wood rails.



Log barn, oblique view to northeast



Log barn, detail, view to north



Crib, view to north

Crib, ca. 1945

A single-pen crib of saddle-notched log construction stands to the north of the Truitt House on the west side of Silvermine Creek. Resting on a stone pier foundation, the crib is closely surrounded by vegetation on the north and east sides. It is capped by a standing-seam metal shed roof on exposed wood rafters. The logs are not chinked, but covered with scraps of lumber placed horizontally, and some vertically, over the gaps between the logs. A single-leaf door on the south elevation provides access to the interior. The door is composed of vertical planks bound by three wood rails.



Crib, oblique view to northeast



Wood shed, oblique front view to southwest

Wood shed, ca. 1945

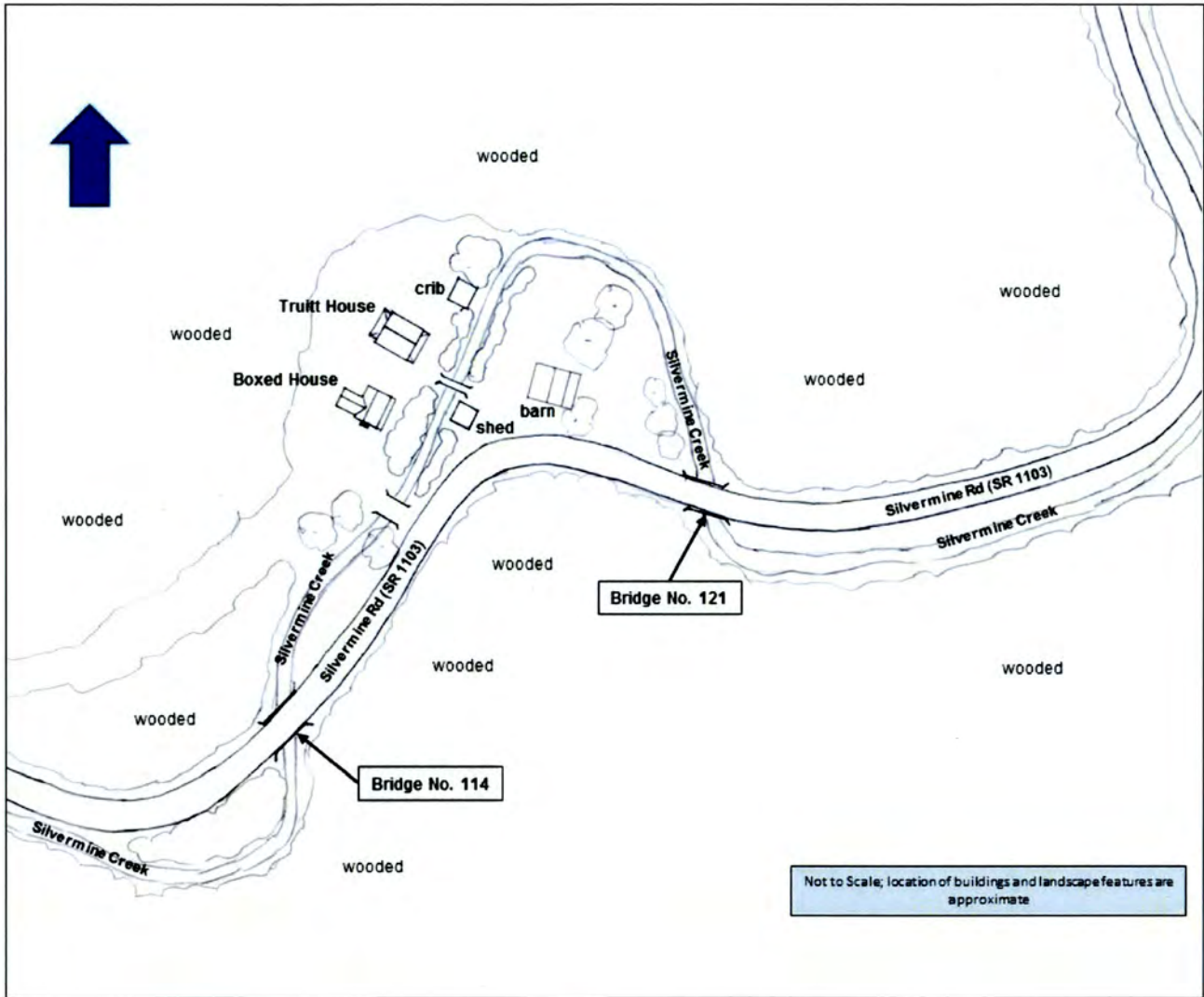
Located on the east side of Silvermine Creek between the road and the creek, the wood shed is a single-pen structure constructed with peeled log posts and rafters. An asphalt-shingle shed roof caps the structure, which is covered with crude wood shingles. A narrow opening on the north side provides access to the interior. The shed is deteriorated and leaning, reinforced on the south and west sides with additional bracing.



Wood shed, oblique view to north



Wood shed, oblique rear view to south



Site plan – Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37), 1810 Silvermine Road

Architecture Context

The presence of boxed, or plank, houses in Swain County represents the rare survival of a popular early-twentieth century construction method once prevalent in southwestern North Carolina. Although documented examples of boxed houses are relatively uncommon in architectural inventories of the southwestern counties, their presence has been recorded by surveyors and noted for their scarcity. Oral tradition, however, suggests that the practice of quickly and cheaply assembling a dwelling from sawn planks with a minimal amount of interior framing was once fairly commonplace in the region. Documentary photographs taken during the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park indicate that boxed houses stood throughout the northern section of the county. Unfortunately the park photographs also document that boxed houses were targeted for removal due to their mundane character and frequently run down appearance.⁹

Boxed houses have some antecedents in late-eighteenth and nineteenth century New England, but it is unclear what influence, if any, these precedents may have had in western North Carolina. Boxed, or plank, houses became popular with the availability of sawn lumber that was fastened vertically to a sill and header plate to form the walls of the structure. The assembled walls were sometimes stiffened with corner posts. Boxed houses typically followed the basic floor plans of log construction, with either a single pen or two rooms located on either side of a central chimney in a saddlebag configuration. Just as log houses predominated in nineteenth-century western North Carolina due to the abundance of timber for materials, boxed houses gained popularity at the beginning of the twentieth century with the rise in saw mills. Boxed houses were often erected in the timber camps as cheap housing for timber company employees. As timber camps and their buildings were frequently abandoned when the timber tracts were cut over, boxed houses are often associated with impermanence.¹⁰

In her 1997 architectural survey of Graham and Swain counties, Michael Ann Williams noted that the survey revealed “a rich tradition of rural vernacular building,” and she identified a greater number of boxed houses than was expected.¹¹ However, the majority of recorded structures of this type were located in Graham County, rather than Swain County. Ms. Williams documented four boxed houses and one plank church building in Swain County, including the Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) on Silvermine Road belonging to the Truitt family.

The boxed house at 1810 Silvermine Road is a good, intact example of a one-story single-pen dwelling. While Ms. Williams noted that most boxed houses in Graham and Swain counties were built with two equal sized rooms and two separate entrances, a less-frequent variant was a sub-divided single pen. The interior was not available for inspection, but it did not appear that the

⁹ Michael Ann Williams, “Pride and Prejudice: The Appalachian Boxed House in Southwestern North Carolina,” *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (Winter 1990), 217-220.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 218-225. Michael Ann Williams, *Homeplace: The Social Use and Meaning of the Folk Dwelling in Southwestern North Carolina* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1991), 122-124.

¹¹ Williams 1998, 6.

interior is sub-divided at present. The rear ell of the house likely contains the kitchen. The house is simply finished with a standing-seam metal roof, attached full-width porch, four-over-four double-hung sash, and a substantial exterior end chimney.

Boxed houses were not typically covered with any additional siding when built other than the vertical planks that formed the walls. Over time, however, many owners added exterior siding to help insulate and enclose the house. A section of weatherboards on the façade of the Truitt's suggests that the family considered covering the house with another layer of exterior cladding. Remnants of tar paper siding on the south elevation were probably added to help keep heat from the fireplace inside and cool drafts out. The addition of weatherboards or asphalt siding occurs on the three other boxed houses recorded in Swain County.

The Welch-Burnett House (SW 27) at 27 Grady Estep Road in the Brush Creek community is the most substantial boxed house in Swain County. The saddlebag-plan house with side and rear additions is believed to have been built in the 1890s by John Welch and remodeled by the Burnett family after they acquired it in 1939. The house is now completely covered with weatherboards and features a wraparound porch that is partially enclosed at one end.



Welch-Burnett House (SW 27), 27 Grady Estep Road, oblique front view, photo by Michael Ann Williams, July 1997

An undisturbed farmstead with a boxed house (SW 41) and a good collection of agricultural outbuildings is located at the end of Lower Needmore Road on the east side of the Little Tennessee River. It is located on the Needmore Tract, which was purchased for conservation by the State of North Carolina in 2004. The single-pen side-gable house is covered with weatherboards and has a rear shed kitchen addition and exterior stone chimney. The associated outbuildings and structures include a saddle-notched crib and double-pen barn, log footbridge, and a frame spring house.



House (SW 41), Lower Needmore Road, façade, photo by Michael Ann Williams, July 1997

The Breedlove House (SW 43) at 900 Panther Branch Road is a one-story, side-gable house with two front entrance doors, stone foundation, and a stone exterior end chimney. The house is believed to be of plank construction, which has been covered with asphalt siding. It sits close to the road has a small storage building built into the bank behind the house. Several other outbuildings, including a shelter for cooking sorghum, are located across the road.



Breedlove House (SW 43), 900 Panther Branch Road, façade, photo by Michael Ann Williams, July 1997

The last building of boxed construction recorded by Ms. Williams in Swain County is known as the Sam Webb Church (SW 49). Located on Coopers Creek Road in the Ela vicinity, Sam Webb reportedly erected the building around the turn of the twentieth century after he had a falling out with another congregation. Webb was able to find a preacher and attract a congregation of about seven members to his small structure. The plain building is constructed of vertical planks with a low shed roof, square four-light windows on the side elevations, and a single-leaf wood door on the façade.



Sam Webb Church (SW 49), Coopers Creek Road, façade, photo by Michael Ann Williams, July 1997

Although relatively few boxed houses survive in Swain County, a number of additional examples exist remain in several surrounding counties. Two boxed houses in Graham County are included on the Study List for the National Register: the Sawyer Boxed House (GH 4) and Cabe Boxed House (GH 5). The Sawyer Boxed House was still occupied into the late twentieth century, but the Cabe Boxed House has been converted for storing hay and farm equipment. Both the Jes Carpenter Farm (MA 285) and the J. A. Clark Farm (MA 372) in Macon County have boxed houses at the center of their small farm complexes. Both houses are two-room structures, and both farms are included on the Study List. The Carpenter House retains much of its original appearance, but the Clark House is now covered with weatherboards. Several other boxed houses were recorded during an architectural survey of Jackson County in 1989-1990.¹²

¹² Williams 1998, 6. Jennifer Martin, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Macon County, North Carolina, ca. AD 600-1945* (Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Register of Historic Places, 1998), F-103-104. Williams 1990, 222-223.

Evaluation

The Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) at 1810 Silvermine Road is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for architecture as a good, intact example of an early twentieth-century boxed house with associated log and frame buildings in Swain County. The house retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house presents the basic form and materials typical of boxed construction. Constructed of vertical planks, the one-story side-gable dwelling is a single-pen structure with a stone exterior end chimney, attached shed porch, and rear kitchen ell. Unlike the other boxed houses in Swain County, this house remains generally uncovered by additional siding except for a section of weatherboards on the façade. The exposed vertical planks allow the construction technique to still be read on the exterior, while many other boxed houses—including most of the surviving examples—were later covered with other materials that obscure their original construction.

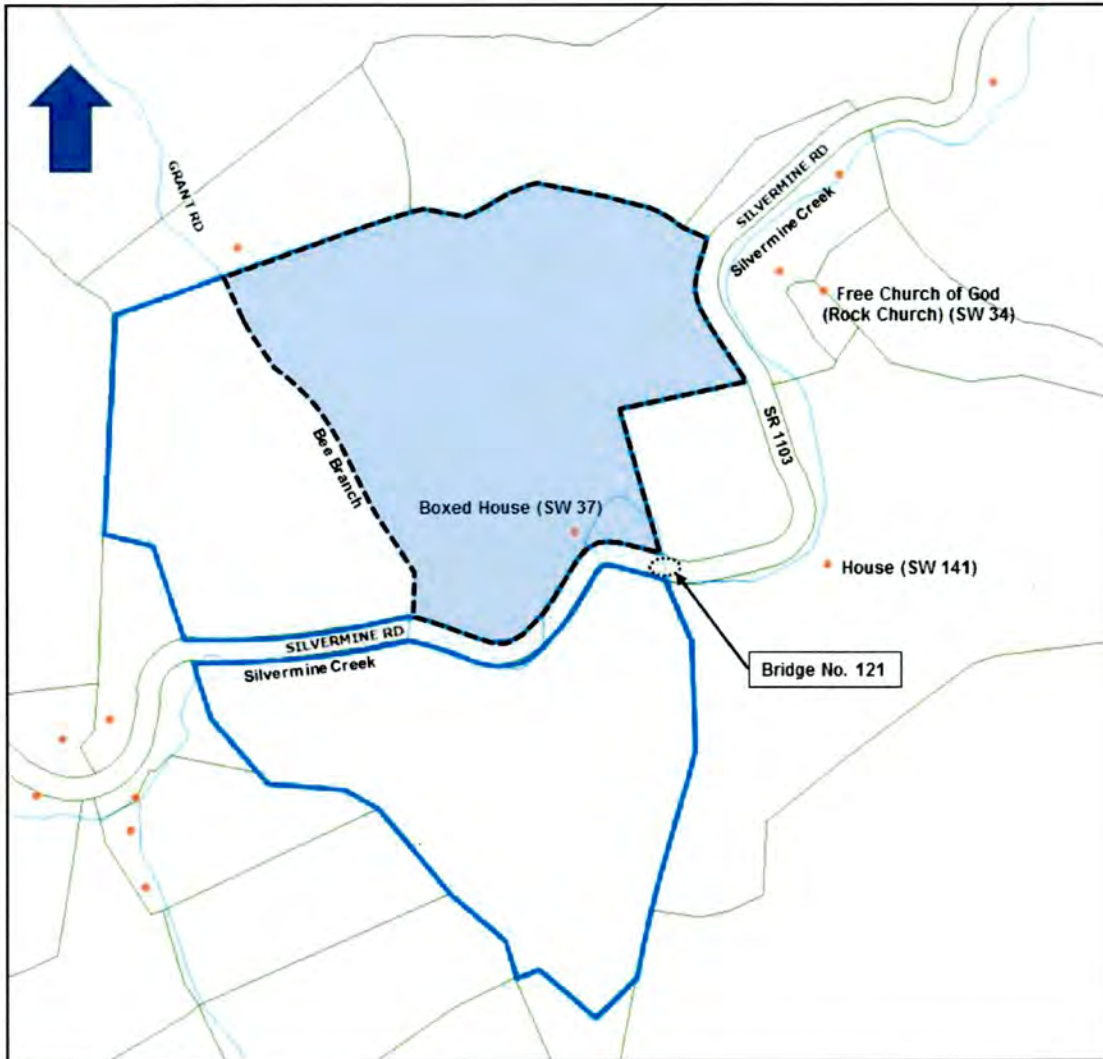
The collection of buildings associated with the boxed house serve to demonstrate the many varied functions and activities of a self-sufficient mountain farmstead. The abandonment of the boxed house for a newer dwelling in the mid-twentieth century fits into a pattern of improvement across southwestern North Carolina that was identified by Michael Ann Williams in her study of folk dwellings in the region.¹³ The barn and crib utilize saddle-notched log construction, which was common throughout Swain County where timber was plentiful and traditional building methods persisted well into the twentieth century. The outbuildings retain a good degree of integrity and contribute to the overall significance of the property. The historic integrity of the buildings, especially the boxed house, helps to distinguish the property from other comparable examples found in the area.

The Boxed House and Log Barn is not recommended as eligible under any other National Register criteria. The property is typical of small, self-sufficient farmsteads in Swain County, scattered across the rural landscape. There is insufficient evidence, however, to claim significance under Criterion A for agriculture. Apart from the few surviving outbuildings, there is no physical evidence of field patterns or timber production to suggest the property's agricultural production. The Truitt's and Stiles' were among a group of several families residing in the Silvermine community, but they did not attain the level of prominence and significance required for National Register listing under Criterion B. The property is unlikely to yield information about our past not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records, making it ineligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

¹³ Williams 1991, 122-125. Ms. Williams presents the idea that rural dwellings in southwestern North Carolina are rooted in a tradition of homesteading and that the concept of impermanence lay in the use of the buildings and not their technology or construction method. She noted that the active use of a house often ended before the physical condition of the dwelling warranted its abandonment.

Boundary Description and Justification

The proposed boundary of the Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37) includes a portion of the property lying on the north side of Silvermine Road (SR 1103) and on the east side of Grant Road. This portion of the property contains approximately 24 acres of the full 68-acre tract [Swain County PIN 6620-00-51-2897] historically associated with the boxed house and outbuildings. It encompasses all of the recorded structures on the property and a segment of Silvermine Creek that passes among the buildings.



Boxed House and Log Barn (SW 37), 1810 Silvermine Road – Boundary Map [PIN 6620-00-51-2897]
(Source: Swain County GIS)

The proposed boundary follows the legal property line beginning at Bridge No. 121 over Silvermine Creek and continues around the east and north sides of the parcel, along and over a ridge to the north and northwest of the house. The western edge of the boundary continues southward along the east edge of Grant Road, an unpaved road following the course of Bee Branch, back to the

north side of Silvermine Road (SR 1103). The boundary then continues along the north side of Silvermine Road eastward to return to the beginning at the bridge. In addition to the boxed house and recorded outbuildings, the proposed boundary contains the cleared areas surrounding the house, foot and vehicular bridges, creek, and forested hillsides.

The portion of the property excluded from the boundary contains additional forested areas located on the south side of Silvermine Road and the west side of Grant Road and Bee Branch, which form clear physical and visual separations from the eligible section of the property. The excluded portions of the property are merely extensions of the steep, forested topography that surrounds the house and does not hold any additional significance to warrant inclusion within the boundary.



Horton-Laughrun House, 34 Guilders Creek Road – Boundary Map [PIN 082200021310000]
(Source: Swain County GIS)

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Appendix A

Professional Qualifications

CLAY GRIFFITH

President/Architectural Historian

ACME PRESERVATION SERVICES, LLC

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Asheville, NC 28804

Tel 828 281 3852

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EDUCATION

- Master of Architectural History (1993)
University of Virginia
- Bachelor of Science, Architecture (1990)
Georgia Institute of Technology
- Introduction to Federal Projects and Historic Preservation Law (1994)

EXPERIENCE

- **Acme Preservation Services, LLC, Asheville, NC**
November 2007 – present

Formed independent firm to provide historic preservation consulting services. Services provided include preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations, local landmark designation reports, rehabilitation tax credit applications, municipal historic architectural resources surveys, Section 106 compliance reports, and historical research.

- **Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Asheville, NC**
January 2002 – October 2007

Served as Senior Architectural Historian in Asheville office of private consulting firm. Responsibilities included preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations, local landmark designation reports, rehabilitation tax credit applications, municipal historic architectural resources surveys, Section 106 compliance reports, and historical research.

- **North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office, Asheville, NC**
July 1998 – January 2002

Preservation Specialist serving the 25-county western region of North Carolina. Administered State Historic Preservation Office programs including statewide inventory of historic properties, survey and planning grant supervision, National Register of Historic Places nominations, environmental review, technical assistance, and public education.

- **North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, NC**
June 1993 – June 1998

Preservation Specialist with Historic Architectural Resources Section. Responsible for conducting and preparing documentation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and other state and federal environmental laws and regulations. Duties included conducting field work, identifying and documenting historic resources, evaluating National Register eligibility, and assessing effects to minimize impacts of NCDOT undertakings.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- *Murrell House Intensive Evaluation Report, Replace Bridge No. 23 on SR 1152 over Burlingame Creek, (for NCDOT), Transylvania County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Inventory Presentation and Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Intensive Evaluation, for Widening NC 294 from SR 1130 to SR 1312-A, TIP No. R-3622B (for NCDOT), Cherokee County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for Replace Bridge No. 112 on SR 1124 over Indian Creek (for NCDOT), Yancey County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report , Intensive Evaluation, for Replace Bridge No. 217 on SR 1358 over Guilders Creek (for NCDOT), Yancey County, North Carolina*
- *Francis Grist Mill National Register Nomination (co-author), Waymesville vic., Haywood County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Inventory Presentation and Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Intensive Evaluation, for Improve Intersection NC 225/SR 1164/SR 1779, TIP No. U-5105 (for NCDOT), Henderson County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for Replace Bridge No. 244 on SR 1137 over Clarks Creek (for NCDOT), Watauga County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Surveys for Division 14 Bridge Replacement Projects (for NCDOT), Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, and Polk Counties, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Surveys for Division 13 Bridge Replacement Projects (for NCDOT), McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, North Carolina*
- *Tryon Country Club National Register Nomination, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina*
- *Dr. Samuel Stringfield House and Dr. Thomas Stringfield House Local Landmark Designation Reports, Waynesville, Haywood County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Inventory Presentation for SR 1419 (Old Fanning Bridge Road) Improvements and new access road, TIP No. 5524 (for NCDOT), Buncombe and Henderson Counties, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Inventory Presentation and Chapman House Intensive Evaluation Report, US 64 Improvements, TIP No. R-2409D (for NCDOT), Transylvania County, North Carolina*
- *Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Intensive Evaluation, for Replace Bridge No. 115 on SR 1908 over Dan River (for NCDOT), Stokes County, North Carolina*
- *Johnson House and Store Intensive Evaluation Report (for NCDOT), Wilkes County, North Carolina*
- *Downtown Newton Historic District National Register Nomination, Newton, Catawba County, North Carolina*

- *Adams-Millis Corporation Plant No. 8 National Register Nomination and Part 1 Tax Credit Application*, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Surveys for Division 11 Bridge Replacement Projects (for NCDOT)*, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga and Wilkes Counties, North Carolina
- *Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Surveys for Division 14 Bridge Replacement Projects (for NCDOT)*, Graham, Henderson, Swain and Transylvania Counties, North Carolina
- *Downtown Asheville Historic District Boundary Increase III, Boundary Decrease and Additional Documentation*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Sunnydale National Register Nomination and Tax Credit Application* Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina
- *Asheville Supply & Foundry Company Part 1 Tax Credit Application*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Asheville Survey Update*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Spread Out Historic District National Register Nomination*, Waynesville, Haywood County, North Carolina
- *Dougherty Heights Historic District National Register Nomination*, Black Mountain, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Wayah Bald Lookout Tower Documentation (for USDA Forest Service)*, Nantahala National Forest, Macon County, North Carolina
- *Lynncote National Register Nomination*, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina
- *South Montreat Road Historic District National Register Nomination*, Black Mountain, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Pink Beds Picnic Shelters and Wayah Bald Lookout Tower Documentation and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation (for USDA Forest Service)*, Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina
- *Biltmore High School National Register Nomination*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Claremont High School Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation National Register Nomination*, Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina
- *East Main Street Historic District National Register Nomination*, Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina
- *Mill Farm Inn National Register Nomination*, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina
- *Richard Sharp Smith House Local Designation Report and National Register Nomination*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Broyhill Conover Plant Redevelopment Determination of Eligibility and Recordation (for City of Conover)*, Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina
- *Tryon Downtown Survey and Trade Street Commercial Historic District Study List Application*, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina

- *Monte Vista Hotel National Register Nomination and Local Landmark Designation Report*, Black Mountain, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Bank of Tryon National Register Nomination*, Tryon, Polk County, North Carolina
- *Wilson Lick Ranger Station Documentation and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation (for USDA Forest Service)*, Nantahala National Forest, Macon County, North Carolina (co-authored with Lynn Marie Pietak, Ph.D., Archaeologist)
- *Graham County Courthouse National Register Nomination*, Robbinsville, Graham County, North Carolina
- *Historic Workcenters Documentation and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation (for USDA Forest Service)*, Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina
- *Charles E. Orr House National Register Nomination*, Brevard, Transylvania County, North Carolina
- *Franklin-Penland House National Register Nomination*, Linville Falls, Burke County, North Carolina
- *West Asheville End of Car Line Historic District National Register Nomination*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *West Asheville-Aycock School Historic District National Register Nomination*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *Lookout Towers Documentation and National Register of Historic Places Evaluation (for USDA Forest Service)*, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, North Carolina
- *The Charlton Leland (Saluda Inn) National Register Nomination*, Saluda, Polk County, North Carolina
- *South Carolina Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Survey Report, US 21 Bridge over Catawba River (for Ralph Whitehead Associates)*, York County, South Carolina
- *Biltmore Hospital National Register Nomination*, Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina
- *South Carolina Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Survey Report, S-75 (Cherokee Road) over US 29 Bridge Replacement Project (for Kennedy Engineering and Associates)*, Anderson County, South Carolina

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- "Henry Bacon," "Douglas Ellington" and "Grove Arcade" in *The Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. University of Tennessee Press, 2006.
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