



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

February 20, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos

Repe for Ramona M. Bartos

Re: Replace Bridge 31 on SR 1464 (Shawtown Road) over Big Pine Creek, PA 13-09-0005,
Alleghany County, ER 14-0180

Thank you for the January 27, 2014, transmittal of the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and concur that the **R. L. Hendrix House (AL0198)** is **not eligible for listing** in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined in the report.

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.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE
R.L. HENDRIX HOUSE (AL 198)
ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Replace Bridge No. 31 on SR 1464 (Shawtown Road) Over Big Pine Creek
Alleghany County, North Carolina

Prepared for:

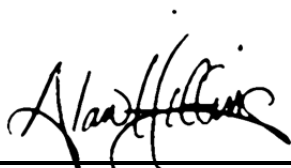
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

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Richmond, Virginia 23255

S. Alan Higgins, M.S.
Principal Investigator

January 2014



January 6, 2014

S. Alan Higgins, Principal Investigator
Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

Date

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

Date

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE R.L. HENDRIX HOUSE (AL 198), ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Replace Bridge No. 31 on SR 1464 (Shawtown Road) Over Big Pine Creek
Alleghany County, North Carolina
WBS No. 17BP.11.R.62

I. INTRODUCTION

In November 2013, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), conducted an intensive-level historic architectural analysis for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in association with the project to replace Bridge No. 31 on State Road 1464 (Shawtown Road) over Big Pine Creek in Alleghany County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 17BP.11.R.62). The goal of the historic architectural analysis was to evaluate the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the property known as the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198), located on a 1.73-acre parcel at 5905 Mountain View Road in Alleghany County, which was previously documented through reconnaissance survey in 1981 (Figures 1 and 2). CRA's investigation, completed on November 13 and 14, 2013, included a combination of archival research, visual investigations, and photographic documentation of extant buildings and structures and their contextual setting.

CRA performed the historic architectural analysis in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; Executive Order 11593; and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 660-66 and 800 (as revised, 1999). The field research and report meet the requirements specified in the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation" (*Federal Register* 48: 190:44716-44742) (U.S. Department of the Interior 1983), as well NCDOT's *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003) and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources and Digital Photography for Historic Property Surveys and National Register Nominations, Policy and Guidelines* (2012). Based on archival research and a detailed physical investigation, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., recommends that the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) is not individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B, C, or D due to a loss of integrity.

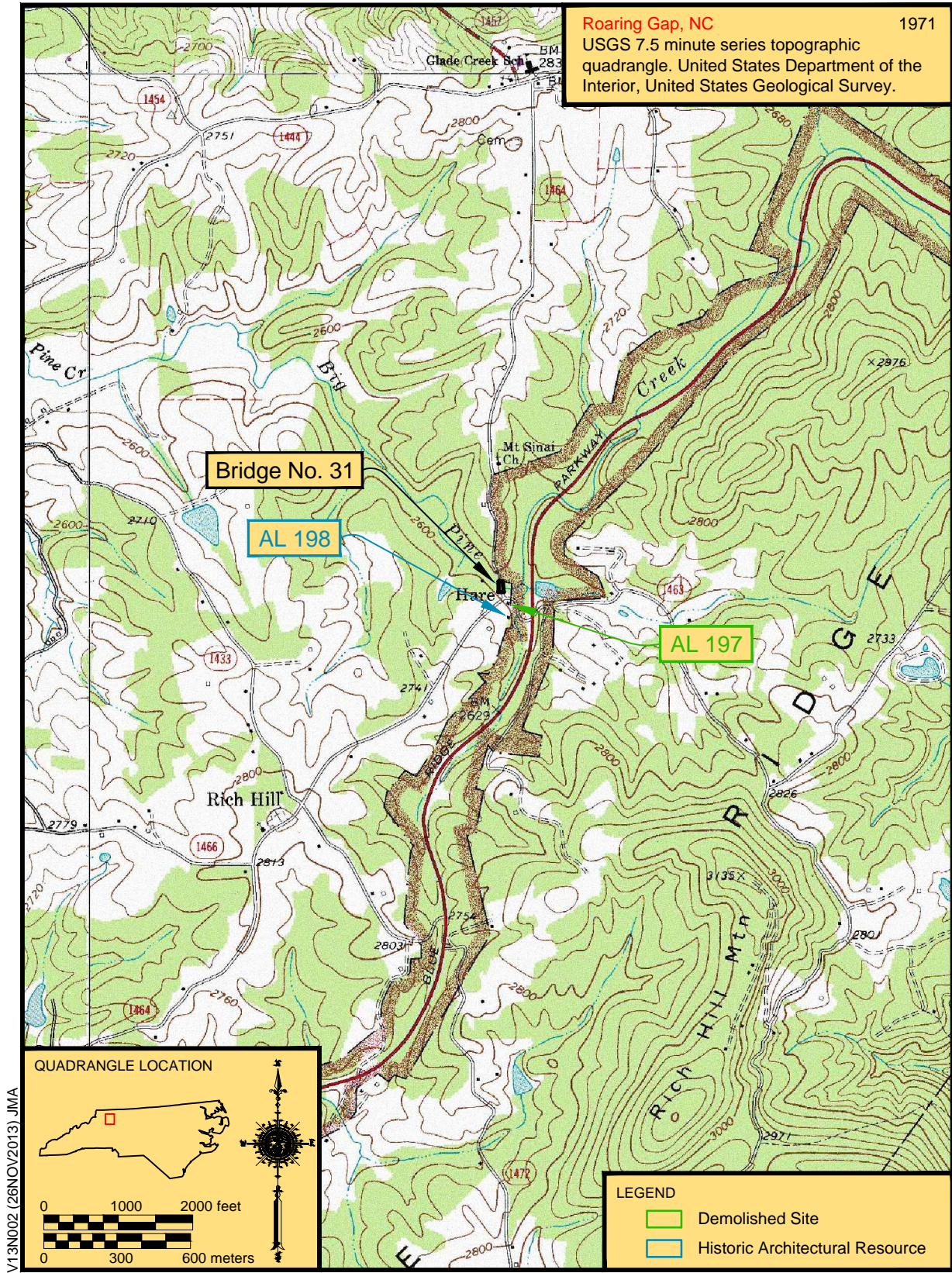


Figure 1. Portion of United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Roaring Gap, North Carolina, quadrangle showing the location of the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198).

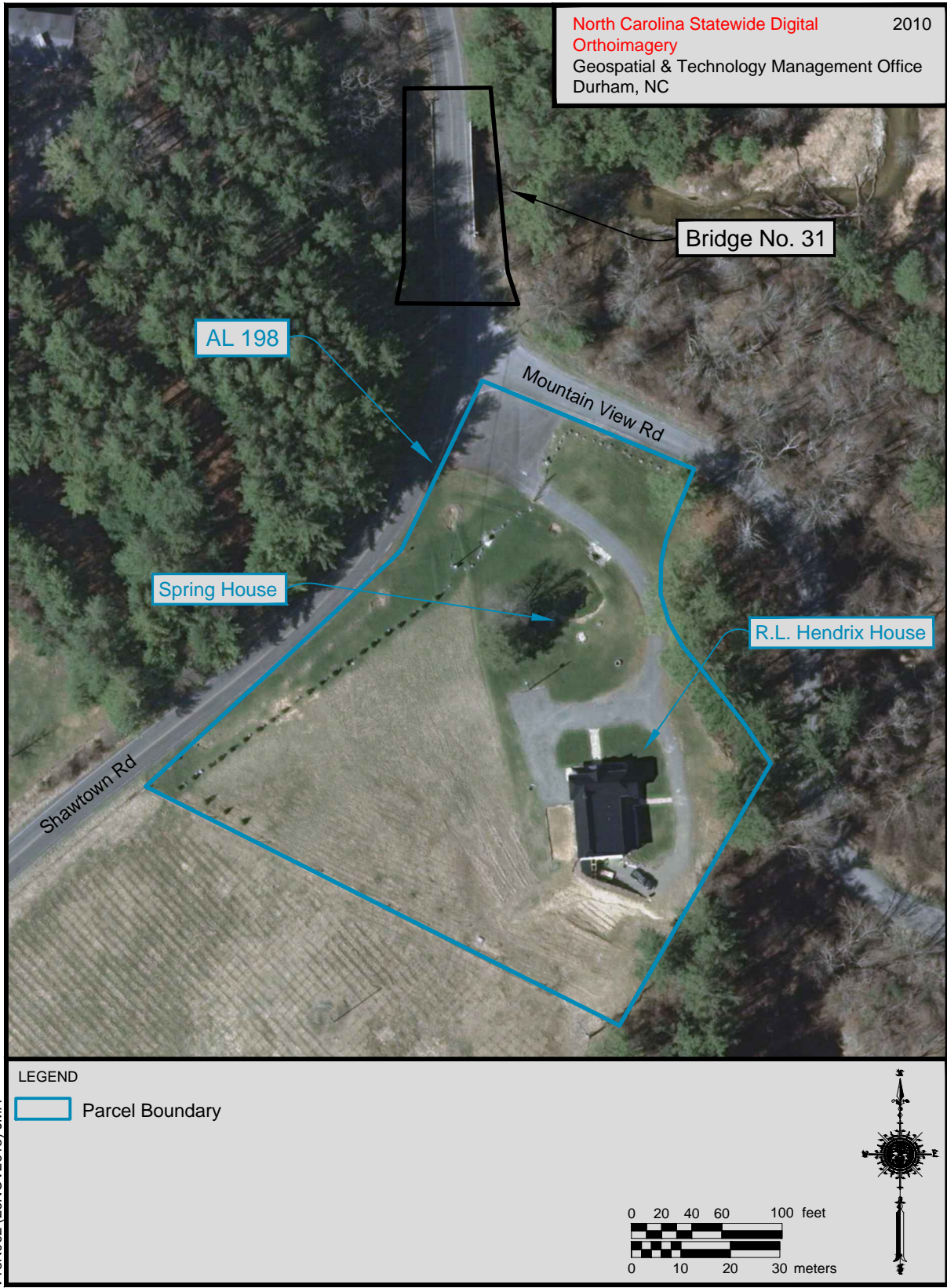


Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the location of the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198).

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, CRA performed background research to gain understanding of the development of Alleghany County. CRA consulted the NC HPO's online HPOWEB GIS Service to ascertain the level of existing documentation of the property or of others within the area that might share a similar context. Archival research also included an investigation at the NC HPO Western Office and an inspection of archival resources, published histories, historic aerial images, topographic quadrangle maps, and historic map collections available through facilities, such as the Alleghany County Public Library, and resources such as the North Carolina Maps project. CRA also examined property tax records available at the Alleghany County Tax Office and deed records at the Alleghany County Register of Deeds. CRA also completed interviews with persons knowledgeable in the history of the property, including Cara Higginbotham, who presently owns the property. CRA also attempted to consult with the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc., about the property and known occupants, but correspondence with the organization was not returned.

Field Investigation

Following the archival research, CRA architectural historian Hallie Hearnnes performed an intensive-level field investigation of the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198). Ms. Hearnnes took detailed notes and made a sketch site plan of the property and floor plans of the historic residence to facilitate an understanding of the property's contextual setting and the spatial relationships and evolution of those relationships within the house. The recordation included documenting physical characteristics, dates of construction, character-defining features, and integrity. All buildings and structures were marked on a USGS topographic quadrangle map and aerial photograph.

CRA also completed extensive photographic documentation of the property according to NC HPO standards and guidelines. Digital photographs were taken of the site and contextual setting, the exterior of all buildings and structures, and all accessible interior spaces of the house. Emphasis was placed on capturing building forms and plans, character-defining features, and changes that have occurred throughout the property's history. The physical investigation was complemented by an interview with the present property owner who was questioned about the property's development and evolution.

Based on the available historical information and field observations, CRA has provided a recommendation regarding the R.L. Hendrix House's (AL 198) eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

III. DESCRIPTION

R.L. HENDRIX HOUSE (AL 198)

Address: 5905 Mountain View Road, Glade Valley, NC 28627
Quad: Roaring Gap, NC
Map: see Figures 1 and 2
Deed Book/Page: 296/359
PIN No.: 4919795555
Date(s) of construction: c. 1895; c. 1920; and 2007

Setting: Located within the small community of Hare in the east central portion of Alleghany County, North Carolina, in Glade Creek Township, the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) is located at 5905 Mountain View Road, on the south side of its intersection with Shawtown Road and approximately 310 feet west of its intersection with the Blue Ridge Parkway. The property lies in a very rural area, surrounded by forested areas to the north, east, and south, and by a tree farm immediately to the southwest. Big Pine Creek is located to the north; the Blue Ridge Mountains are located to the east (Figures 3–5). No commercial development is located within the vicinity of the property; the closest residence is located approximately .25 miles to the southwest.



Figure 3. Northeasterly view of the Blue Ridge Parkway from the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198).



Figure 4. Northerly view of Christmas tree farm, R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198), and the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Figure 5. Southerly view of Bridge No. 31 over Big Pine Creek and the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198).

The property includes a house and springhouse, which are situated on an approximately 1.73-acre parcel along a hillside (see Figure 2). The land was most recently subdivided in 2006 (ACCO DB 296:365). The store and post office (AL 197) run by Ransom L. Hendrix during the early to mid-twentieth century was historically located north of the house, along the highway (see Figure 1); based on aerial imagery, the building was demolished between 1998 and 2005. The R.L. Hendrix House is the only extant building remaining from the crossroads of Hare, situated within the larger community of Rich Hill. It is no longer a private residence and now operates as a bed and breakfast.

The parcel is accessed by a gravel driveway that leads south from the intersection of Mountain View and Shawtown Roads to the residence, where it splits into two drives; one leads to the rear of the house and the other leads to a parking area along the west elevation. When surveyed in 1980, the property was noted for its original landscaping, which included a duck pond fed by a large spring and willow trees that fronted the hillside lot (Sizemore 1980). These elements of the landscape no longer remain, although the springhouse historically adjacent to the duck pond remains.

House, overview: The house, which totals 3,136 square feet of living space, is comprised of two distinct sections: the original, three-bay, clipped gable central passage I-house portion constructed circa 1895, and a large, two-story rear addition. The addition is formed by the circa 1920 western portion and an enclosed porch of an unknown vintage on the east; the entire house was renovated in 2007 to support its operation as a bed and breakfast (Figure 6) (Sizemore 1980; Blue Ridge Bed and Breakfast 2013).



Figure 6. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Southeasterly view of the residence.

All sections of the house are of frame construction and clad with vinyl siding beneath a new v-crimp metal panel-clad roof. The foundation of the original portion of the house is not visible, as it is sheathed behind a flagstone veneer. This veneer, not present in the photographs accompanying the 1981 reconnaissance-level survey form for the property, was added at an unknown date. The addition is situated on a concrete block foundation; the side elevations are concealed behind a veneer identical to that of the primary mass.

House, exterior: The original portion of the house is of the "triple A" form (a central front gable that breaks the roofline) with clipped gable ends (Figure 7). An interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap projects from the ridge of the rear addition. Exterior chimneys formerly on the east and rear elevations of the addition have been removed.

The central façade entry is comprised of a vinyl replacement door set behind a modern wood screen door with decorative scrollsawn work. The entry is flanked by modern Craftsman-inspired porch lights and opens onto a full-length wood porch sheltered beneath a hipped roof with a projecting front gable; the porch roof is supported by wood posts of recent vintage and is encompassed by a modern wood railing with square balusters. Concrete steps flanked by a wooden handrail lead up to the porch at its center. A secondary set of wooden steps lead to the porch along the west side. One-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows with snap-in grids that simulate the geometry of a Craftsman-period window are throughout the house.

The east elevation (Figure 8) features a secondary entry centered within a small, one-story, front-gabled shelter. The single-leaf, modern replacement door provides exterior access to the basement. A single window punctuates the first and second floor. The west elevation (see Figure 6) features a paired window opening on the first floor and a single opening on the second floor.



Figure 7. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Southerly view of the residence.



Figure 8. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Southwesterly view of east elevation and rear additions.

Running perpendicular to the original mass, the large rear addition (see Figure 8) more than doubles the house's footprint. Like the primary mass, it is clad in vinyl siding and continues one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash windows with snap-in grids simulating a Craftsman-inspired geometry. The east elevation of the addition features a secondary entry, comprised of vinyl French doors set behind a sliding screen; the entry opens onto a full-length wood porch constructed of contemporary materials. The entry and a paired window unit to the north are sheltered beneath a two-bay shed roof supported by wood posts; a wood railing runs along the perimeter. A single window is positioned to the north beyond the porch roof. Five singly-placed windows of varying sizes front the second floor. The west elevation features one paired and two singly placed window units on the first floor and two irregularly placed window units on the second floor.

The rear addition is exposed below grade. Here, a vinyl sectional overhead garage door is located at the eastern corner, opening onto the gravel driveway (Figure 9). A small paired unit occupies the first floor of the rear elevation and two paired units flank a single unit on the second floor. A wood lean-to is attached to the rear elevation, west of the garage. Wood posts support the ribbed-metal roof.

House, interior, first floor: The interior of the house has been altered from its original, central passage configuration. The central hall has been removed, and a non-historic staircase with turned balusters now opens into one large space that occupies the original portion of the house (Figure 10).



Figure 9. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Northwesterly view of rear elevation.

The floor consists of hardwood planks, and the walls are sheathed in wood paneling in the eastern room, the “Pool Parlor;” only the lower half is sheathed with paneling in the western room, the bar area (Figures 11–12). All other walls and the ceiling are drywall. A fireplace featuring a corbelled brick surround and molded wood mantel is centered on the south wall of the western room.

A central hallway splits the original portion of the house and opens into the addition. The addition comprises five rooms: the bathroom, two bedrooms, an office, and a large room serving as living, dining, and kitchen areas (Figures 13–15). The flooring of the hall and living, dining, and kitchen area is laminate, that of the bathroom is tile, and the floors of the bedrooms are covered in carpet. The walls are drywall, with the outer walls of the bedrooms covered with wood paneling. The ceilings consist of drywall. Entries feature wood paneled doors (Figure 16). Finishes throughout are modern counterparts and include crown molding and wood baseboards, as well as replacement light fixtures. The bathroom and kitchen have been completely remodeled and contain recent fixtures and cabinetry. The office was inaccessible.

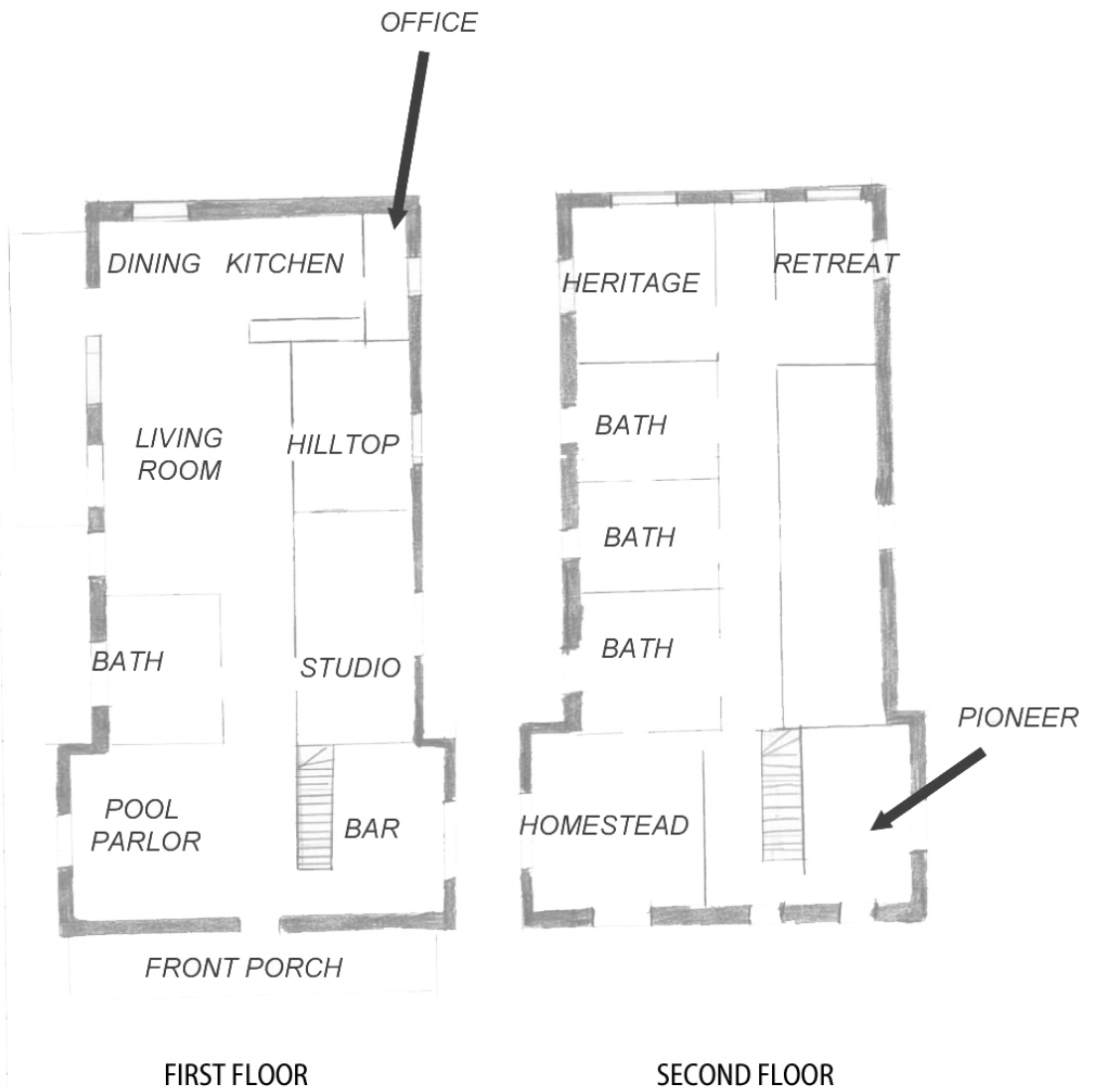


Figure 10. Floor plan of the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198).



Figure 11. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): "Pool Parlor."



Figure 12. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Bar area.



Figure 13. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): First floor bathroom.



Figure 14. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): "Hilltop" bedroom.



Figure 15. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Living, dining, and kitchen area.



Figure 16. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Typical wood paneled door.

House, interior, second floor: The second floor of the original portion of the house is divided into two bedrooms. The bedrooms retain their wide, wood plank flooring, and the western bedroom retains two of its plaster walls. The eastern bedroom and the outer walls of both bedrooms are covered with horizontal wood paneling. Entries feature wood paneled doors. Finishes include wood baseboards, crown molding and window surrounds with carved corner blocks (Figures 17–18).

The central hallway of the addition also retains its wood plank flooring. Walls feature horizontal wood paneling beneath a dropped tile ceiling adjacent to the original portion of the house, and a drywall ceiling and walls for the remainder of the addition (Figures 19–20). Three bathrooms with replacement fixtures and finishes line the eastern side of the hallway; an inaccessible room runs along the western side (Figures 21–23). The northern and southernmost bathrooms have tile floors; the central bathroom exhibits wood flooring of modern vintage. All three have drywall walls and ceilings. The northernmost bathroom retains its historic wood paneled door; the remaining bathrooms feature replacement wood paneled doors. Finishes include baseboard and crown molding. Two additional bedrooms comprise the southernmost portion of the second floor (Figures 24–25). They are situated on either side of the central hallway. The bedrooms are carpeted, with the walls and ceilings covered in drywall. Finishes include wood baseboard and crown molding, as well as wood door and window surrounds. Both possess modern wood paneled doors.



Figure 17. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): “Homestead” bedroom.



Figure 18. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): "Pioneer" bedroom.



Figure 19. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Hallway located within original portion of the house.

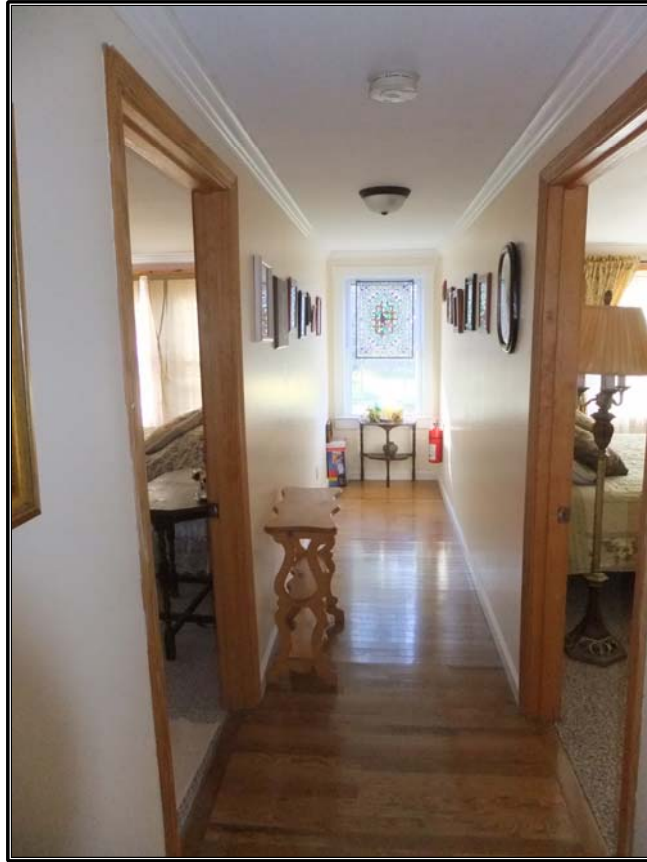


Figure 20. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Hallway located within addition.



Figure 21. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Northernmost bathroom.



Figure 22. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Central bathroom.



Figure 23. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Southernmost bathroom.



Figure 24. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): "Heritage" bedroom.



Figure 25. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): "Retreat" bedroom.

Basement: The basement was inaccessible at the time of the investigation. The current owner, Cara Higginbotham, stated that the original subfloor is visible.

Springhouse: The springhouse, located approximately 100 feet north of the house is a one-story, front-gabled concrete block structure (Figure 26). The building is situated beneath a v-crimp metal roof, with the rear portion of the structure constructed into the hillside so that it is below grade. The area beneath the gables are clad with aluminum siding. “Hare N.C. 1895” is painted onto the center of the siding on the northeast elevation; a wood paneled door is centered below. The door opens onto a flagstone walkway that leads to the filled-in duck pond. A fixed sash vinyl window with snap-in grids simulating Craftsman detailing identical to that on the house is located at the center of the rear elevation (Figure 27).



Figure 26. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Southwesterly view of springhouse.



Figure 27. R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198): Rear of springhouse.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

The R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) is situated in what was known as Rich Hill, at the crossroads of Hare, nestled at Big Pine Creek and the intersection of what are now Shawtown Road, Mountain View Road, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Established in 1870 following the establishment of the Hare Milling Company, the community of Rich Hill functioned as a crossroads gathering place for families of neighboring farmsteads. By 1890, a one-room schoolhouse was constructed; the Rich Hill Methodist Church followed in 1907 (Alleghany County Historical Committee 1976: 35). In 1910, Columbus Harris is noted as having opened the first general store; Ransom L. Hendrix is noted in the same text as having constructed a second general store in 1920, although the 1910 census record for Hendrix notes that he was already a self-employed merchant. It is unknown where Hendrix was employed as a merchant in 1910, that is, whether he took over an existing store, or the construction date of 1920 noted in text is incorrect (Alleghany County Historical Committee 1976: 35; USBOC 1910).

Regardless of the date, the community of Rich Hill and the cross roads of Hare, with its own general store, served an important function, not only providing a place to socialize with neighbors but also providing a farm market and place to purchase goods without having to travel into Sparta. From 1905 to 1915, Hare also had its own district post office, which operated out of the general store. Thomas L. Harris served as the first postmaster, appointed in April 1905.

He was followed by Levi Fender in 1908, but Harris was reappointed in January 1910. Ransom L. Hendrix was appointed postmaster on January 31, 1912 and remained so until the post office discontinued service in September 1915 (North Carolina Postal History Society 2012). The Hendrix store, historically located directly adjacent to the R.L. Hendrix House (see Figure 1) and surveyed as AL 197 by Jean Sizemore as part of the same study that identified the R.L. Hendrix House, is no longer extant; based on aerial imagery, the building was demolished between 1998 and 2005. The R.L. Hendrix House is the only extant architectural resource associated with the crossroads of Hare.

According to the 1981 survey completed by Jean Sizemore, the R.L. Hendrix House was constructed in 1895. No source is explicitly provided for this date in the survey records, although it is presumed to have been provided by then owners Roe and Evon (nee Hendrix) Dickens, Evon being Ransom Hendrix's daughter. Local tax assessor records date the house to 1940. A house is first depicted in this location on the 1915 soil survey map of Alleghany County. Based on the form of the core of the house, a construction date of circa 1875–1900 is appropriate. The house, under the ownership of Ransom L. Hendrix for the majority of its existence, is located on a 1.73-acre parcel that was once part of a much larger landholding that Hendrix had acquired on the Big Pine Creek during the early twentieth century.

Born December 23, 1875, to Thomas E. and Matilda Hendrix, Ransom was part of a long lineage of the Hendrix family in western North Carolina; the family's presence in Wilkes County dates to between 1715 and 1740, the latter being the year that Garrett Hendrix, Ransom's great-great grandfather was born in Stoney Fork, Wilkes County. During the late nineteenth century, the Hendrix family relocated to Alleghany County, first residing in Gap Civil Township and then Cranberry Township.

Ransom Hendrix came to ownership of the property in Glade Creek Township during the first decade of the twentieth century. Married in 1900 to Martha Frances Harris, Ransom first purchased property in Cranberry Township, where he was raised (Latham). However, the growing Hendrix family remained at this location for less than five years, selling their property in May 1906. May 7, 1906, marked the first of several land purchases by Hendrix in Glade Creek Township, where the R.L. Hendrix House is located. On this day, for the sum of \$600, Hendrix purchased 50 acres "more or less on the waters of Big Pine Creek," adjoining lands of William Rector and Thomas Harris, from Charles L. Young and wife, to include all privileges and appurtenances (ACCO DB T: 532). Over the next nine months, Hendrix made three additional purchases of land, totaling 58.75 acres, adjacent to his lands purchased from Charles Young (ACCO DB U: 378; ACCO DB V: 580; ACCO DB V: 582).

Although not explicit in the transfer of property, given the Hendrix's sale of their property in Cranberry Township concurrent with their first purchase of property in Glade Creek Township, it is presumed that the lands purchased in 1906 from Charles T. Young contained the house now known as the R.L. Hendrix House. These lands had come down to Young in the late nineteenth century. In the possession of E.J. Endaily during the late 1890s, the property (then totaling 90 acres) was conveyed by bond to William B. Kennedy in 1894 for the sum of \$328; although, Kennedy did not acquire the lands until 1897, following the passing of Endaily (ACCO DB K:86; ACCO DB K: 591). Into the twentieth century, Kennedy, who had also acquired a number of adjacent parcels, began selling his land at Big Pine Creek. The sale of Kennedy's lands included the 50-acre portion that was ultimately purchased by Hendrix in 1906. This 50-acre parcel, including appurtenances, was first sold to J.F. Roberts for \$175 in May 1899 (ACCO DB R: 72). On January 4, 1904, J.F. Roberts and wife sold the parcel to Samuel P. Roberts for \$190 (ACCO DB R: 70). Samuel Roberts conveyed the lands to Charles L. Young three months later, on March 4, 1904, for \$210 (ACCO DB U: 214).

Since Hendrix relocated to Glade Creek Township in 1906, the 1910 census enumeration is the

first to list Ransom Hendrix in this location. His household is noted as including his wife Frances, son Bertie, age 4, and daughters Myrtle and Pearl, ages 4 and 1, respectively (USBOC 1910). His profession at this time is noted as a self-employed merchant. It is during this period that the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) is first depicted on maps of Alleghany County, in this instance being depicted on the 1915 Soil Survey Map of Alleghany County (Figure 29).

Into the 1910s, Hendrix made a number of purchases and sales of land adjacent to his on Big Pine Creek and stretching southward, including land near the present juncture of Highway 21 and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The most substantial of these was the purchase of 100 acres from Thomas Harris near Mill Pond (Hare Mill Pond) and the “store house” for a total of \$3,250 (ACCO DB 27: 121). Concurrent with the expanding of his landholding, by separate deed, Hendrix was also conveyed partial interest in timber rights and a saw mill at Hare Mill Pond (ACCO DB 27: 123; ACCO DB 28:348; ACCO DB 30: 432; ACCO DB 30: 248).

By 1920, Ransom is enumerated as a "farmer" rather than a merchant, and his household is comprised of son Bert, and daughters Myrtle, Pearl, Mary, and Thelma, in addition to himself and his wife (USBOC 1920). Based on the 1930 census enumeration, Ransom and his family, which had added daughter Evon, relocated to Sparta between 1920 and 1930. However, there is no deed recorded for property to the Hendrix family in Sparta, so it is uncertain where specifically or why the Hendrix family moved to Sparta. At this time, Ransom is again noted as the owner of a general store, and he is listed as explicitly not living on a farm. No information exists to verify whether this refers to the same store as that identified in the 1910 census or to a different store. Regardless, the Hendrix family retained ownership of the property near Big Pine Creek during this period; by 1935, they had returned to this property (USBOC 1930; 1940).

The 1930s brought changes to the Ransom Hendrix’s property as the Blue Ridge Parkway, splitting Hare Mill Pond, was constructed immediately adjacent to Hendrix’s landholding. The house itself and a portion of Hendrix’s land was captured in a circa 1935 series of photographs depicting Hare Mill Pond at the time of the Blue Ridge Parkway’s construction (Figures 30–31). Clearly visible in at least one photograph, the house, at this time, was comprised of the primary “triple A” mass and a long, narrow addition extending off the western end of the rear (south) elevation. A shed-roof porch is set within the ell formed by the addition and the primary mass. The full-width façade porch is present at this time; however, its details are indiscernible in the photograph. The house is encompassed by a post-and-rail fence that forms a small house yard amidst the larger agrarian parcel. At least three outbuildings are visible, as are five vehicles, a sign of Hendrix’s wealth amassed through his commercial and agricultural interests. With the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway came other opportunities for investment in the area. To this, in 1938, R.L. Hendrix and wife granted right-of-way to Caldwell Mutual Corporation on his then 223.75-acre parcel for the construction of an electrical transmission corridor (ACCO DB 48:297).

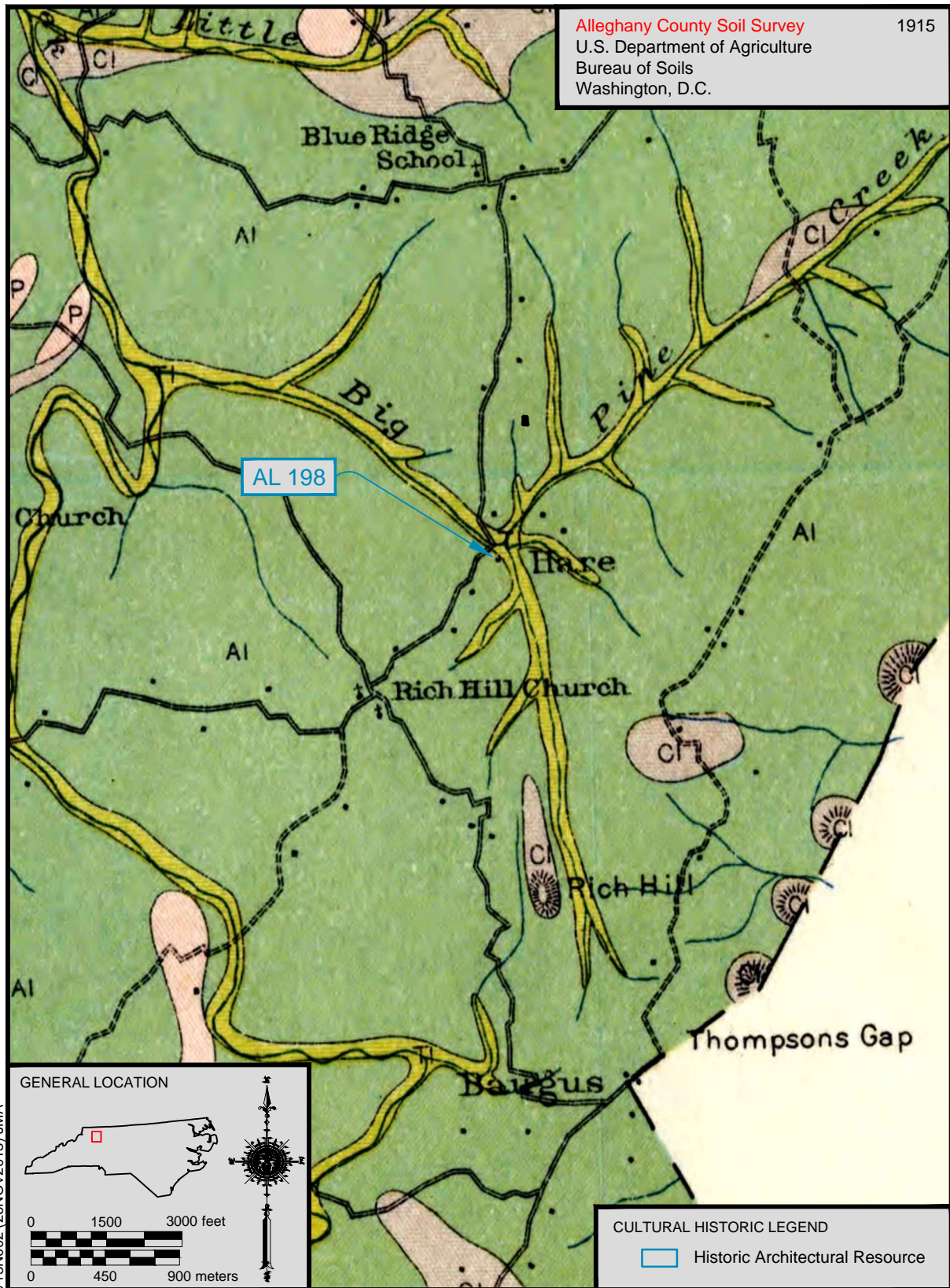


Figure 28. 1915 Allegheny County Soil Survey Map.



Figure 29. Circa 1935 photograph of Hare Mill Pond and the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) (North Carolina State Archives: Driving Through Time).



Figure 30. Close-up of circa 1935 photograph of Hare Mill Pond and the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) (North Carolina State Archives: Driving Through Time).

The 1930s also brought a change in the family dynamic for the Hendrixes. In October of that year, Frances passed away at the age of 57 (North Carolina Death Indexes 1908–2004). Ransom, age 66, continued operating his store, while three of his children remained with him: Bert, age 36 and a clerk at his father's store; Pearl, age 28; and Evon, age 15 (USBOC 1940). Little information is known about the family during the 1940s, except that Ransom served as a county commissioner from 1940 to 1947, and continued to operate his crossroads store (Alleghany County Historical Committee 1976: 46) (Figure 32).

On May 7, 1957, at the age of 81, Ransom Hendrix passed away. Identified as “Ranson Lee,” his death certificate notes that he was engaged in farming and had suffered from heart problems for a number of years (North Carolina Death Indexes 1908-2004). It is presumed that Bert, Pearl, and Evon lived in the area, and that Bert, who had served as a clerk, continued to run the store after their father's death. Bert Hendrix passed away in 1963 (North Carolina Death Indexes 1908–2004).

In 1973, Pearl Hendrix, who never married, sold the property to her sister Evon Hendrix Dickens and her husband Roe for \$10 with the condition that Pearl had a life estate with the property. Roe and Evon Dickens purchased an additional .802 acres adjoining the property from John and Ruth Kelly in June 1974, bringing the total acreage of the property to 15.508 acres (ACCO DB 89:389; DB 94:404).

Evon Dickens and her daughter, Karen, sold the property to Kenneth and Barbara Wilson in March 2006 (ACCO DB 291:350). In July 2006, the acreage was split and 1.73 acres, including the house, were sold to the current owners, Manson Scott and Cara Higginbotham, who renovated the house to run it as a bed and breakfast (ACCO DB 296:356; DB 26:359).



Figure 31. Undated photography of R.L. Hendrix (Alleghany County Historical Committee 1976: 54).

V. EVALUATION

The historic architectural analysis of the R.L. Hendrix House (AL 198) was directed at completing intensive-level documentation of the resource and assessing its eligibility for listing in the NRHP. To be eligible for listing in the NRHP, a property must be both historically significant and retain integrity, that is, possess the extant physical and associative characteristics necessary to convey its significance. According to National Park Service guidance, resources may be significant for:

- A. Association with historic events or patterns of events;
- B. Association with persons important to our past;
- C. Exceptional or important architectural characteristics; and/or
- D. Information potential.

A property must meet at least one of the criteria for listing and retain the appropriate aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Based on research and physical documentation, CRA recommends that the R. L. Hendrix House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

Characterized by numerous changes, the property does not retain sufficient integrity to reflect any associations with patterns of settlement in this region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and likewise does not retain sufficient integrity to warrant consideration of the property as a farmstead or noteworthy architectural resource. While integrity of location is intact, integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association are much diminished. With the loss of original outbuildings and landscaping treatments (such as the duck pond and weeping willows) noted in the Sizemore study, the original context has been destroyed, diminishing integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Furthermore, the house has been completely remodeled on the interior and exterior and is overtly characterized by new materials – and particularly, period inappropriate details such as Craftsman-inspired windows – the property no longer retains integrity of design, workmanship, or materials. As such, the property also no longer retains integrity of feeling or association with its period of development. Indeed, besides the basic form of the original portion of the house, the house reads as a new structure with both the associative and physical features of the house removed, and no longer appropriately relates to its developmental context.

While the house, through the story of the Ransom L. Hendrix family, very broadly reflects patterns of agrarian settlement and lifestyles associated with the development of small crossroads communities in rural western North Carolina, and particularly lands along the Big Pine Creek, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it is but one isolated element of what once was a larger setting comprised of the house, a designed landscape, several outbuildings, the nearby general store and post office, and the substantial Hare Mill Pond, which supported a flourishing mill and timber business for Hendrix and others. On its own, now, the house has much diminished integrity and limited potential to reflect trends related to the establishment of these small communities, and particularly the community of Rich Hill and crossroads of Hare at Big Pine Creek, during the period. The R. L. Hendrix House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A.

While Ransom Hendrix served as postmaster and as a county commissioner, and was locally important within the community of Hare, neither Ransom Hendrix nor his family, or any other individuals associated with the property, rise to the level of significance warranting eligibility for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

The R. L. Hendrix House was constructed during what can be termed the “Golden Age” of architecture in Alleghany County, from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century. The R.L. Hendrix House is a variant of the I-house, which, while commonly associated with the Midwest, was also the predominant form of vernacular architecture in Alleghany County during this period. This house type changed little from generation to generation, with small variations limited to porch size and chimney placement. Originally, little to no ornament was common, although some families added stylistic elements over time as a reflection of the dispersion of national trends. In its basic form, this common farmhouse form was single-pile, with a side-gabled roof. The façade was usually symmetrical, with a central entry flanked by single or paired windows; the house could exhibit either a hall and parlor or central passage plan (Sizemore 1983: VIII-IX).

The R.L. Hendrix House is a variant known as the “triple A” house. The “triple A” house is so-named for its central gable and gable ends, while the more commonly found I-house featured a one-bay, two-story porch with entrances onto both levels of the porch. One-story and one-and-one-half-story variations of the vernacular I-house form are also found within the county. These houses often displayed two-story porches (Sizemore 1983: X). As noted, most I-houses exhibited little to no ornament originally. However, some later examples of the forms did include elements of popularized styles such as Queen Anne; owners of other less ornamental houses added such features as means prevailed. Common stylistic applications included decorative shingles, stained glass windows, and turned porch posts. Other modifications commonly included the enlargement or removal of the central hall, as well as the construction of additions, which often resulted in a T- or L-plan (Sizemore 1983: XI).

While the R.L. Hendrix House in its original form was a representative example of the “triple A” house, it now stands as a much-altered residence characterized by new materials and void of any association with its architectural heritage. The residence does not retain sufficient integrity to stand out as an individually noteworthy example of vernacular architecture under Criterion C. The associated springhouse is likewise an undistinguished construction. The duck pond having been infilled and the weeping willows removed, the property no longer retains distinguishing landscape features. No longer retaining any other outbuildings historically associated with the property and not exhibiting noteworthy land patterns, the house is not significant as a historic farmstead. The R. L. Hendrix House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

Late-nineteenth century constructions common to the region (and country as a whole), neither the house or springhouse is likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The R. L. Hendrix House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

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