

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 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge 46 on SR 1300 (Allen Road) over Panther Creek, PA13-09-0004,
Alleghany County, ER 14-0262

Thank you for transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the materials that we received on February 10, 2014 and concur that the James Weaver House (AL0075) 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.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE
JAMES WEAVER HOUSE (AL 75)
ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Replace Bridge No. 46 on SR 1300 (Allen Road) Over Prathers Creek
Alleghany County, North Carolina

Prepared for:

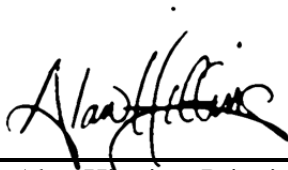
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
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Prepared by:

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Principal Investigator

January 2014



January 31, 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 JAMES WEAVER HOUSE (AL 75), ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Replace Bridge No. 46 on SR 1300 (Allen Road) Over Prathers Creek
Alleghany County, North Carolina
WBS No. 17BP.11.R.69

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. 46 on State Road 1300 (Allen Road) over Prathers Creek in Alleghany County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 17BP.11.R.69). The goal of the historic architectural analysis was to evaluate the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the property known as the James Weaver House (AL 75), located on a 16.67-acre parcel at 1093 Allen 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 James Weaver House (AL 75) 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.

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 contacted the present property owner, but no historical

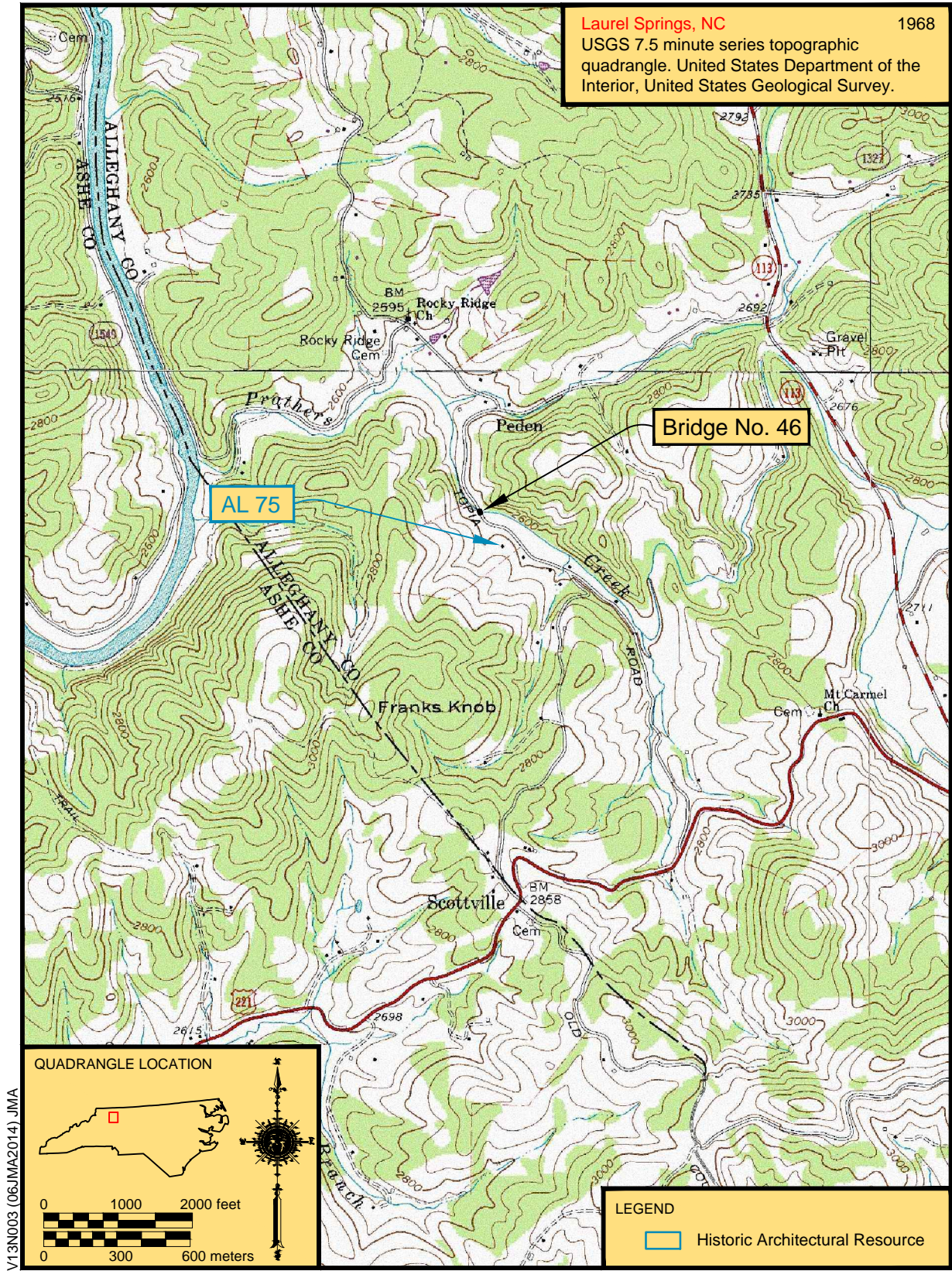


Figure 1. Portion of United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Laurel Springs, North Carolina quadrangle showing the location of the James Weaver House (AL 75).

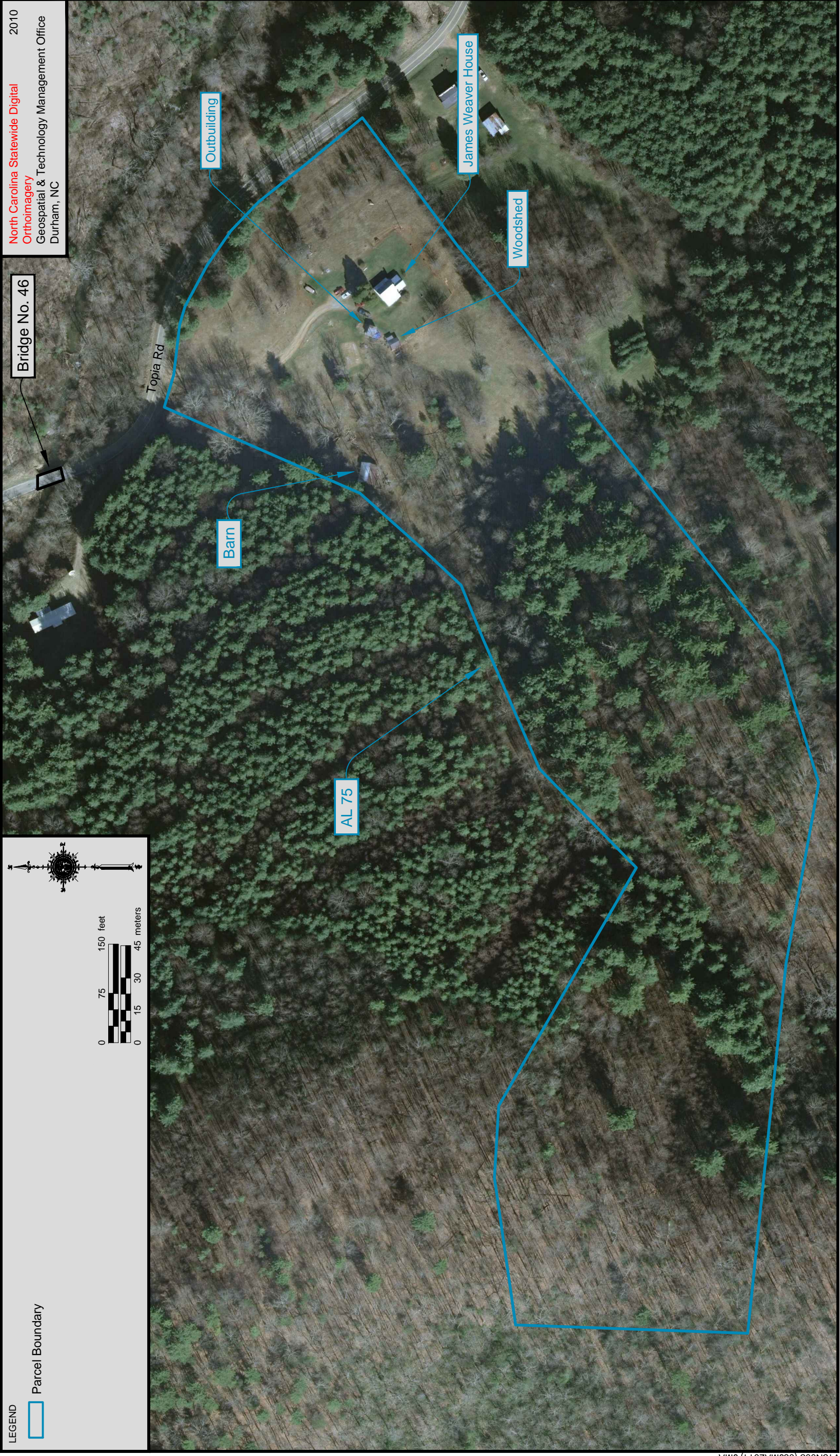


Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the location of the James Weaver House (AL 75).

information about the property was provided. 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 Hearnese performed an intensive-level field investigation of the James Weaver House (AL 75). Ms. Hearnese took detailed notes and made a sketch site plan of the property to facilitate an understanding of the property's contextual setting. The occupants denied CRA access to the interior of the house, so no floor plans or interior photography could be completed. 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 all accessible portions of the property according to NC HPO standards and guidelines. Digital photographs were taken of the site and contextual setting and exterior of all buildings and structures. Emphasis was placed on capturing building forms, character-defining features, and changes that have occurred throughout the property's history.

Based on the available historical information and field observations, CRA has provided a recommendation regarding the James Weaver House's (AL 75) eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

III. DESCRIPTION

James Weaver House (AL 75)

Address: 1093 Allen Road, Piney Creek, NC
Quad: Laurel Springs, NC
Map: see Figures 1 and 2
Deed Book/Page: 95/79
PIN No.: 3020068181
Date(s) of construction: circa 1886



Setting: Located between the small communities of Peden and Scotville in western Alleghany County, the James Weaver House (AL 75) is situated along the western side of Allen Road, approximately .27 miles northwest of its intersection with Flint Hill Road. The property lies in a clearing in a rural, mountainous area, surrounded by forests on all sides (Figures 3–5). Prather's Creek crosses Allen Road just north of the property and runs in a southeasterly fashion along the road. No commercial development is located within the vicinity of the property. Numerous farms line Allen Road, with the closest residence located approximately .13 miles to the southeast.

The property includes four pre-1964 buildings – a house, one barn, one outbuilding of unknown function, and one woodshed (noted as a granary in the 1981 survey) – and a shed of recent vintage, which are situated on a 16.67-acre parcel in a clearing along a hillside (see Figure 2). Barbed wire fencing runs along the edge of the clearing. Approximately 79 acres were originally associated with the house; however, this acreage was subdivided when the Weavers moved to Piney Creek in 1906 (Alleghany County Register of Deeds [ACRD] DB 23:82; DB 23:168; DB 23:278; 26:137). The parcel is accessed by a long, curving gravel drive that leads approximately .1 mile uphill from Allen Road to the residence. A secondary gravel drive splits from the main drive to the southwest and leads to the outbuildings.



Figure 3. Overview of the James Weaver House (AL 75) from Allen Road.



Figure 4. Forested portion of the parcel, southwest of the James Weaver House (AL 75).



Figure 5. Northwesterly view of Bridge No. 46 over Prather's Creek.

House, overview: The house, totaling 1,412 square feet of living space, is comprised of the original, one-and-one-half-story, hall and parlor portion constructed circa 1886, a one-story addition attached to the southeast elevation, and a one-story, shed-roof addition attached to the rear elevation of the original portion of the house; both additions are presumed to have been constructed during the first half of the twentieth century due to their forms and materials (Figure 6).

Since interior access was denied by the occupants, it is uncertain whether the house is built on a post-and-beam framework or of balloon framing; however, given the shallow profile of the window openings, the latter is likely. Most of the house is clad with German siding, although the southeast elevation of the rear addition is clad with weatherboard. The house is sheltered beneath a standing-seam metal roof, and is situated on a non-original concrete block foundation. It was not discernible from field observations whether the concrete block foundation conceal and supplements the original foundation, or if the original foundation was removed during installation of the concrete block.

House, exterior: The original portion of the house is a hall and parlor, with an exterior brick chimney centered on the southeast elevation; the lower portion of the chimney has now been enclosed within the side-gabled addition, presumed to have been constructed during the first quarter of the twentieth century; the addition is present on 1948 aerials. The chimney exhibits at least three different types of bricks, including glazed hard-fired bricks and unglazed hard-fired bricks, reflecting several reconstructions (Figure 7).

The primary façade entry is comprised of a circa 1950 replacement wood door with three lights set behind a metal screen door; it opens onto a full-length wood porch that wraps around to the side addition, forming an angular arrangement, and is covered by a shed roof supported by modern wood posts. A modern wood railing runs the perimeter of the porch. A shed roof extension shelters the



Figure 6. James Weaver House (AL 75): Southwesterly view of residence.

portion of the porch that connects to the addition. Stone steps flanked by a modern wood railing lead up to the porch at the entry. The western end of the porch is enclosed with drop siding. Windows throughout are comprised of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sashes, with the window located at the eastern corner of the primary mass' southeast elevation possessing snap-in grids mimicking a six-over-six configuration. The northwest elevation features two window openings.

The side addition (Figure 8) features a central pedestrian entry comprised of a wood paneled door with three lights set behind an aluminum storm door; it opens onto the wood wraparound porch, which extends to grade on the southeastern end via a wood ramp. A small shed-roofed frame enclosure is attached to the south corner of the rear elevation; a well is likely located within (Figure 9).

The rear addition (Figure 10) displays two windows located at either end of the rear elevation and one window at the center of the northwest elevation. An exterior concrete block chimney is attached to the southern corner of the addition's southeast elevation.

Barn: The barn, located approximately 240 feet west of the house, is a front-gabled frame structure (Figure 11) topped by a standing-seam metal roof and clad with vertical board. Detailed inspection of the barn was not possible at the time of the survey. The southern corner of the east elevation is unenclosed.

Outbuilding: An outbuilding of unknown function, possibly a chicken house, is located approximately 60 feet west of the residence. It is a shed-roof frame structure (Figure 12), clad with board-and-batten siding beneath a corrugated metal roof. The outbuilding sits atop stacked stone footers located at each corner. A hinged vertical board door fronts a pedestrian entry at the southern corner of the east elevation; a small, rectangular fixed metal window is located at the center of the south elevation.



Figure 7. James Weaver House (AL 75): Southwesterly view of original portion of the residence.



Figure 8. James Weaver House (AL 75): Northwesterly view of side addition.



Figure 9. James Weaver House (AL 75): Northerly view of side and rear additions.



Figure 10. James Weaver House (AL 75): Northeasterly view of rear addition.



Figure 11. James Weaver House (AL 75): Southwesterly view of barn.



Figure 12. James Weaver House (AL 75): Northerly view of outbuilding, possibly a chicken house.

Woodshed: The woodshed, which historically functioned as a granary according to the 1981 survey form, is located approximately 50 feet southwest of the residence. It is a one-story, front-gabled frame structure (Figure 13), clad with vertical board beneath a corrugated metal roof; the northeast elevation is sheathed in diagonally-laid board. The southeastern corner of the building is unenclosed; a log post supports the roof at the opening. Based on the presence of a hinge on a framing post and the remnants of a door, this opening was once at least partially enclosed. A frame lean-to is attached to the east elevation, sheltered beneath a standing-seam metal roof. Both the main mass of the woodshed and the lean-to are on the verge of collapse.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

The James Weaver House (AL 75) is situated just south of the crossroads of Peden along Allen Road, within Prathers Creek Township. Peden was largely settled by members of the Weaver family, who owned 1,000 acres in the area at one time (Sturgills in America 2013; Sizemore 1981). The Prathers Creek community was well established by the late nineteenth century, with early settlers aside from the Weaver family including Daniel Jones, John Jones, Allen Jones, Alex MacMillan, Bud Edwards, John Roupe, John Irwin, Ares Taylor, and Doc Taylor. Two stores were located along Prather's Creek and Rocky Ridge School was established near Peden before 1885 (Allegheny County Historical Committee 1976: 27, 116). Today all that remains of the Prathers Creek Community and Peden is a scattering of houses and farm sites.

The Weaver family was one of the earliest families to settle in what eventually became Allegheny County, with James' great-grandfather, William Weaver, Sr., settling at Sycamore Ford (eventually Weaver's Ford) in 1804. He was one of the first justices of the first Ashe County court in 1807 (Allegheny Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. 1983: 511). James Weaver's great-grandfather,



Figure 13. James Weaver House (AL 75): Northwesterly view of woodshed/former granary.

grandfather, and father played an important role in the civic life of the county. William Sr., William Jr., and Nathan were all justices of the peace. William Jr. also served as a Deputy Clerk of the Court and Nathan as a County Commissioner, Assessor of Taxes, and Executor of Estates. Additionally, Nathan was postmaster of Laurel Springs in 1840 and 1843 and of Scottville in 1858 (Weaver 1981: 68).

James Mastin Weaver continued to live on his father's estate through the mid-1880s, assisting him with the daily farm activities. In June 1887, Nathan sold a 79-acre portion of his landholding to his son, then 23 years of age, for \$300. In December of that year, James married Ella Margaret Daniels (Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. 1983: 509; ACRD DB 8:283; USBOC 1880). James, who served as a Justice of the Peace like his ancestors, was also a carpenter. He is noted as having constructed numerous homes in the Piney Creek area, including his own, and also engaged in furniture making, casket making, blacksmithing, and surveying. He is also recorded as owning one of the first cheese factories in the county (Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. 1983: 509) (Figure 14). His census enumeration, though, simply notes him as a "farmer" (USBOC 1990).

It is uncertain whether the house now known as the James Weaver House was on the parcel of land sold to James by his father before the transaction, or if it was constructed after the transaction in 1887. According to the 1981 North Carolina Historic Structures Survey Form completed by Jean Sizemore, the house was constructed circa 1886; however, there is no explanation for why a specific date of 1886 was used to establish its period of construction. James is noted as still living with his parents in the 1880 census enumeration; by 1900, he is listed as the head of a household containing his wife and their children. Given the start of his young family in 1887, and based on the form and massing of the house, a date of circa 1880-1887 is appropriate.

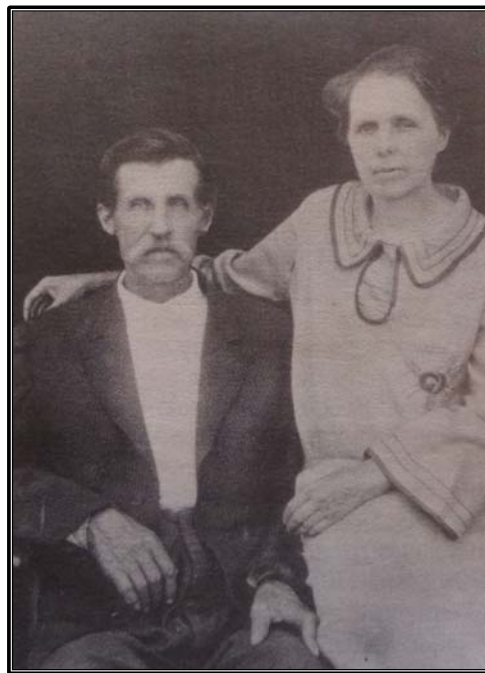


Figure 14. Undated photograph of James Mastin Weaver and Ella Margaret Daniels Weaver (Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society Inc. 1983: 509).

By 1900, the James Weaver household included his wife Ella and six children: Gracie (age 11), Minnie (age 10), Mary (age 9), Lee (age 7), Cora (age 5), and Maggie (age 1). Daughters Nora and Rachel were born in 1902 and 1904, respectively. The growing family, though, would not remain at Prather's Creek much longer. In 1906, they moved to the community of Piney Creek, selling 16 acres of their property, including all appurtenances, to Lee G. Pasley for \$530 (Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. 1983: 509; ACRD DB T:433; W:110). The remaining acreage from the original 79-acre share from his father was also subdivided and sold in 1907 (ACRD DB 23:82; DB 23:168; DB 23: 278; DB 26:137).

Lee Pasley remained at the house for only a short period. Noted as living at the property with his wife Phoebe and nine children in the 1910 census enumeration, Pasley would sell the property in 1912 to James Rufus Taylor for \$319 (USBOC 1910; ACRD DB 27:171). It was during the ownership of Rufus Taylor, as he was known, that the house is first depicted on maps of the region, in 1915 (Figure 15).

In 1946, the Taylors sold the property for \$1,200 to Marshall and Ellen Wingler, who retained it until 1963, when they both passed away (ACRD DB 56:92; North Carolina Death Indexes 1908-2004). Following their death, the property was sold at auction to Charles and Bobbie Wingler for \$3,600.

In 1974, the property was sold to Benjamin C. Weaver, Jr. and his wife Kathryn, who are the current owners (ACRD DB 95:79). Benjamin C. Weaver, Jr. is the grandson of James M. Weaver; his father, Benjamin C. Weaver, Sr., was born to James and Ella following their relocation to Piney Creek (Weaver 1981: 101). While they own the property, it is currently occupied by renters.

V. EVALUATION

The James Weaver House (AL 75) is not eligible 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. The house exhibits diminished integrity of design, materials, and workmanship as a result of numerous changes, including the installation of replacement doors and windows, sporadic installation of replacement claddings, construction of new porch elements such as railings and posts, multiple reconstructions of the chimney, and the introduction of a new foundation. Thus, it no longer retains integrity of feeling and association with its original period of development.

While the house, through the settlement of the James Weaver family, very broadly reflects patterns of agrarian settlement in the late nineteenth century, and their evolution through the twentieth century, the house is not directly associated with a particular event or explicit pattern of events that would warrant eligibility under Criterion A. Moreover, it is just one resource of several within an area that can reflect broad settlement patterns in the Prathers Creek area. Other such resources include the Lee Jones House (AL070); the Reedy House (AL071); the Weaver-Allen House (AL074), built by James' father Nathan; and the William Weaver House (AL002), built by William Weaver, and listed in the NRHP. While subsequent changes to the James Weaver property are historic in that they

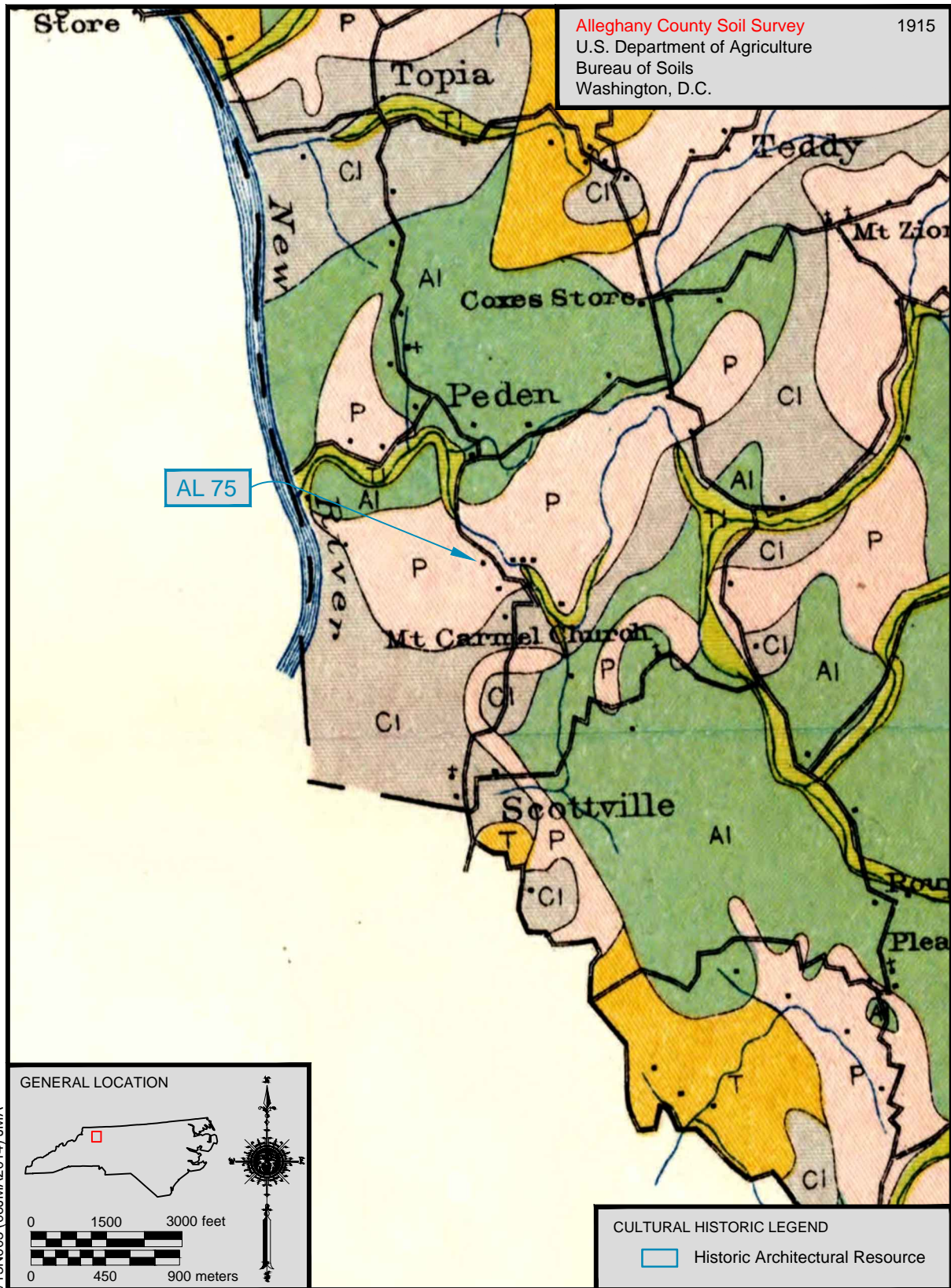


Figure 15. 1915 Alleghany County Soil Survey Map.

occurred more than 50 years ago, they do not collectively contribute to significant patterns of the house or property's evolutionary development. Therefore, lacking specific association with a particular event or explicit pattern of events, the James Weaver House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A.

While James Weaver descended from some of the earliest settlers in the county and was a Justice of the Peace and local carpenter, the house is not directly associated with his contributions to the local area and thus does not appropriately represent a tangible association with a particular period or activity for which he or a member of his family was significant at the local level. The residence is not directly associated with James Weaver's great-grandfather, grandfather, or father, who likewise served as justices of the peace, county commissioners, and were otherwise important figures within the local community. Therefore, the James Weaver House does not warrant eligibility for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

The James Weaver House was constructed during what has been termed the "Golden Age" of architecture in Alleghany County by historian Jean Sizemore (Sizemore 1981: VII). This period encompasses the period from 1875 to 1915, and, according to Sizemore, includes most of the significant architecture associated with rural life and farmhouse construction. During this period, construction of the traditional I-house – with its two-story, central hall plan – prevailed, although vernacular one story and one-and-one-half-story dwellings (primarily in frame) also continued to dot the landscape, influenced by prevailing trends of log construction during the early-nineteenth century. In the James Weaver House, the dwelling was constructed using a traditional hall-parlor plan, which had become a commonplace landscape feature in the Tidewater, from which it dispersed west and south and was translated into the local geography as a modest yet efficient dwelling, first in heavy timber and then frame (Sizemore 1981: VII; Watson 1996: 48-50; Jakle et al 1989: 106–111; Glassie 1969: 78–81). Spread widely, the form was modified as family needs necessitated, as is the case at the James Weaver House. Ells, lean-tos, and side additions were common, expanding on the tight rectangular plan of the hall-parlor form. While the James Weaver House is a representative example of this common housing form, it is undistinguished in its construction or design. Likewise, the house, constructed during the latter part of the nineteenth century is not a particularly early example of this form, which was more commonplace during the early-to-mid-nineteenth century in this area. Furthermore, the residence exhibits diminished integrity of materials, workmanship, and design, which compromise integrity of feeling and association with the period of construction. Such changes include but are not limited to the reconstruction of porch elements, reconstruction of the side-gable chimney, replacement of doors and windows, and construction of a concrete block foundation. As such, the house has become but one marginalized example of late-nineteenth century vernacular construction in the vicinity of Peden; as noted above, numerous other such constructions from the period remain in the immediate area and further into Alleghany and adjacent Ashe County, and the James Weaver House lacks integrity or significance to stand out among similar period constructions. Outbuildings are likewise undistinguished examples of their respective types and the property is not a noteworthy example of a rural farmstead. With the granary/woodshed located near the house, establishing a domestic sphere, and the barn separated from the dwelling, the property is typical but not distinguished in its arrangement. Moreover, property owners having forewent agricultural practices during the last half of the twentieth century, with lands associated with the property now forested and overgrown, the property no longer retains association with its agricultural context. As such, the property does not stand out as a noteworthy example as a farmstead or a property containing

a noteworthy collective of outbuildings, such being better reflected by properties such as the William Weaver House (AL002), listed in the NRHP as an important example of a continued one-family ownership of a farmstead, which derives a portion of its significance from its collective of outbuildings that reflect the generational changes of the site (Hood 1976). Thus, the James Weaver House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

Late-nineteenth-century constructions are common to the region (and country as a whole), and neither the house nor outbuildings are likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The James Weaver House is ineligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

VI. REFERENCES

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