



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 12, 2015

Ted Wells
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

ewwells@tva.gov

Re: Sell or Lease Chatuge Tavern, Chatuge Dam Road, Clay County, ER 14-1920

Dear Mr. Wells:

Thank you for your letter of December 23, 2014, regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the *NRHP Assessment of Chatuge Tavern* and offer the following comments.

We concur with the Tennessee Valley Authority's finding that the Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, further action pursuant to Section 106 is not required. However, we would like to request an additional hard copy and an electronic copy (saved on a cd) of the *NRHP Assessment of Chatuge Tavern* for our files.

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

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

for Ramona M. Bartos

AN NRHP ASSESSMENT OF CHATUGE TAVERN, CLAY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



**AN NRHP ASSESSMENT OF CHATUGE TAVERN,
CLAY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

by
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September 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Management Summary	1
Acknowledgements	2
I. Introduction	3
Environment	5
II. Historic Overview	6
III. Methods	11
Architectural Records Search	11
Architectural Survey Methods	11
National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Criteria	11
IV. Architectural Survey Results	13
Architectural Survey	13
Chatuge Tavern	13
NRHP Assessment	14
V. Conclusion and Recommendations	21
References	22

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Figure 1. Excerpt of the USGS 1979 <i>Hayesville</i> , North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the location of the Chatuge Tavern	4
Figure 2. Excerpt of the USGS 1937 <i>Hayesville</i> , North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the future location of the Chatuge Tavern	7
Figure 3. Ca. 1941 TVA land acquisition map showing land purchased during construction of the Chatuge Dam	8
Figure 4. Map depicting relocation of roads and utility lines as a result of the Chatuge Dam project, ca. 1948 (TVA 1948: 496)	9
Figure 5. Excerpt of the USGS 1966 <i>Hayesville</i> , North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the location of the Chatuge Tavern	10
Figure 6. Property CY0036; view is east and features the features the façade	15
Figure 7. Property CY0036 view is northeast and features the façade and south elevation	15
Figure 8. Property CY0036; view is southwest and features the east (rear) elevation	16
Figure 9. Property CY0036; view is south and features the north elevation	16
Figure 10. Property CY0036; interior of main room; view is northwest	17
Figure 11. Property CY0036; interior of main room; view is south	17
Figure 12. Property CY0036; interior passage to the back room; view is east.	18
Figure 13. Property CY0036; interior of back room featuring access to rear shed extension	18
Figure 14. Property CY0036; interior of back room featuring the bathroom	19
Figure 15. Property CY0036; features the remains of the gasoline pump island	19
Figure 16. Property CY0036; view is southeast and features the bank cellar	20
Figure 17. Property CY0036; view is east and features the stone staircase	20

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

At the request of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research (TVAR) conducted a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of a former gas station locally known as “Chatuge Tavern” (CY0036) in Clay County, North Carolina. TVAR’s NRHP assessment was performed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.

TVAR conducted its NRHP evaluation of Chatuge Tavern on June 19, 2014. Based on the results of its evaluation, it is the opinion of TVAR that Chatuge Tavern is not eligible for the NRHP due its lack of architectural and historical significance. TVAR recommends no additional investigation of Chatuge Tavern in connection with the proposed undertaking.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Ted Wells and Kemmy Garrett of the Tennessee Valley Authority for providing TVAR with information on the project in a timely fashion and the facilitation of our access to the project property.

At TVAR, Ted Karpyneec served as Principal Investigator. As such, Mr. Karpyneec coordinated all aspects of the project, directed the field assessment, and authored this report with TVAR Preservation Planner Meghan Weaver.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is considering the potential sale or lease of a former gas station building locally known as “Chatuge Tavern” (CY0036) in Clay County, North Carolina (see Figure 1). At the request of TVA, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research (TVAR) conducted an architectural survey of the property in order to provide a recommendation regarding its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). TVAR’s NRHP assessment was performed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.

TVAR conducted its NRHP evaluation of Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) on June 19, 2014. Based on the results of its evaluation, it is the opinion of TVAR that Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) is not eligible for the NRHP due to its lack of architectural and historical significance. TVAR recommends no additional investigation of Chatuge Tavern in connection with the proposed undertaking.

This report continues in Chapter II with a brief historic narrative of Chatuge Tavern. The methodology and results of the architectural assessment is discussed in Chapters III and IV. Chapter V summarizes TVAR’s findings and recommendations.

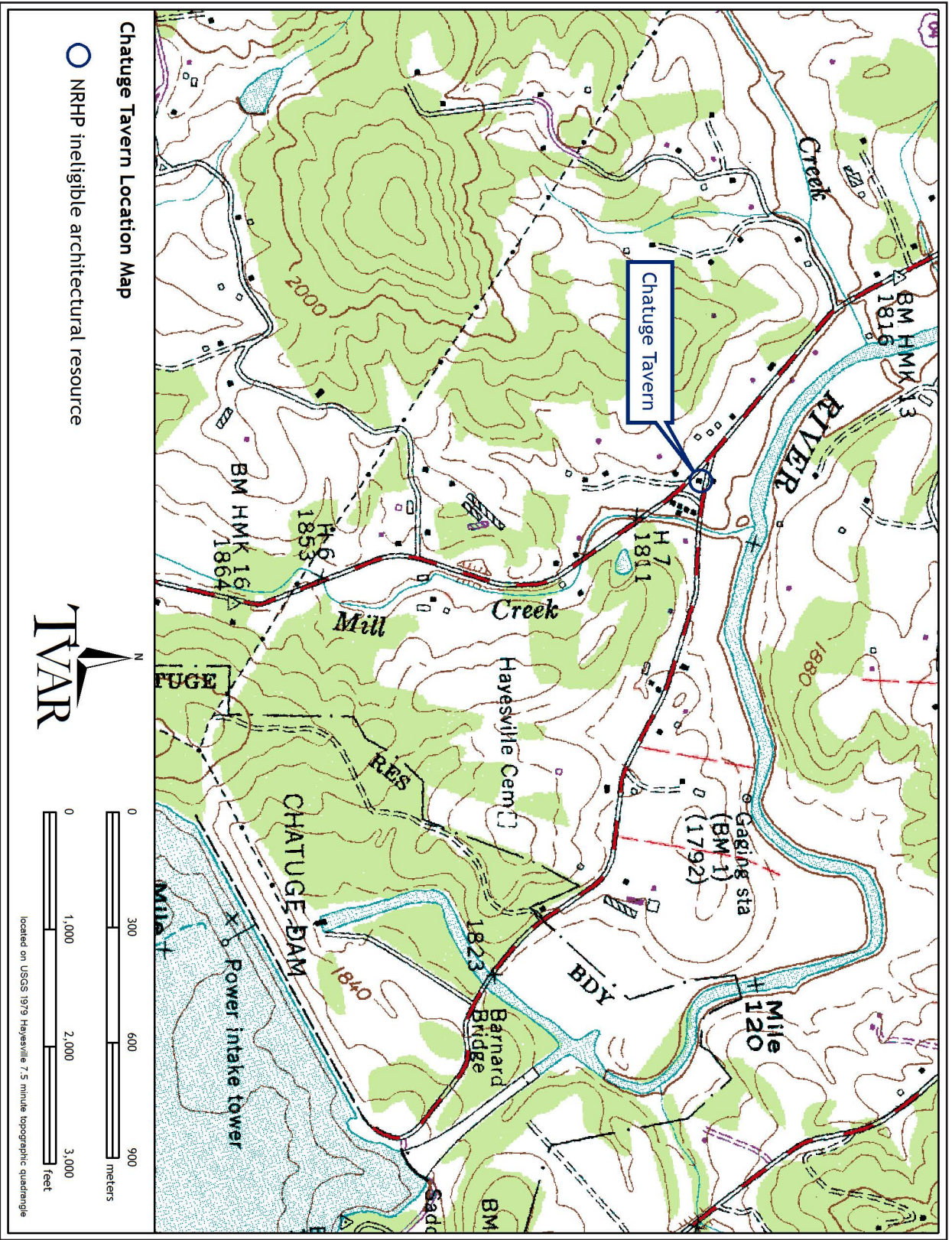


Figure 1. Excerpt of the USGS 1979 Hayesville, North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the location of the Chatuge Tavern.

ENVIRONMENT

The project area is located in Clay County, North Carolina in the Murphy Belt region and contains the location of the Chatuge Tavern and the immediate surrounding area within the parcel boundary, containing the buildings and remnants of the gas pump island.

General Description of the Project Area

The Chatuge Tavern project area is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the town of Hayesville. The project area is a triangular parcel bordered on the north by Chatuge Dam Road, on the south by Myers Chapel Road, and on the east by Mill Creek. Clay County is lightly populated, with a total population of approximately 10,500. The county contains a total of 221 square miles, of which 6 square miles is water. The area surrounding the Chatuge Tavern consists of rolling hills, wooded areas and a few cleared agricultural fields and livestock pastures. The area is primarily rural with light residential and industrial development.

II. HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Located approximately one mile northwest of Chatuge Dam is a former gas station locally known as “Chatuge Tavern”. Research of the property conducted at Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville yielded no documentary information about the former service station or its owners, which suggests that the building did not figure prominently in the historical development of Clay County. As a result, it is unclear how or when the building received its current moniker, “Chatuge Tavern”. According to local tradition, the building initially functioned as a privately operated gas station during which time it became a principal fueling station for construction vehicles during the building of Chatuge Dam. After which, the building was converted into a local tavern sometime in the mid-twentieth century.

A review of United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps indicates that the building does not appear on the 1937 USGS Hayesville, North Carolina topographic quadrangle and was likely constructed shortly after this time, yet prior to the construction of the Chatuge Dam and the relocation of Highway 64 in 1941 (see Figure 2). Chatuge Dam was one of four TVA dams authorized as a component of the national defense program, along with Apalachia, Nottely and Ocoee No. 3. Chatuge Tavern’s triangular parcel at the intersection of present-day Myers Chapel and Chatuge Dam Roads was not part of TVA’s land acquisition for the Chatuge Dam project (see Figure 3). During their initial large-scale land procurement, TVA purchased approximately 11,061 acres and displaced 278 families. While most property owners voluntarily sold their land, approximately 12 percent of the acreage was condemned (TVA 1948:521). TVA’s acquisition policy of the early 1940s allowed only for the purchase of land directly adjacent to the dam site, areas that would become inundated and areas to be used for construction access roads. The Chatuge Tavern’s position one mile from the dam, and outside the survey area, signifies it was never intended to be procured during the initial land acquisition. As part of the dam construction project, Highway 64 was relocated further north, as it would be disconnected by the dam and inundated by the resulting reservoir (see Figure 4). The resulting dead-end Chatuge Dam Road likely cut off much of the Chatuge Tavern’s fueling business and may have hastened its closure.

The Chatuge Tavern first appears on the 1966 USGS Hayesville, North Carolina topographic quadrangle (see Figure 5). Research of Clay County deed records indicates that at this time the building was likely owned by Kelley B. Sherlin who lived in a home on the neighboring parcel directly east of the Chatuge Tavern. In 1940, his occupation was listed as a farmer and his household included wife Bessie M., daughters Glenna (employed as a housekeeper in a private home), Hattie M., Anne R.; sons Edward H., James C., twins Herbert P. and Hoover C., Earl S.; and mother Rebecca (Ancestry.com 2012). While Sherlin was occupied as a farmer, it seems that he leased the Chatuge Tavern building to a third party that operated the facility as a filling station. During the construction of Chatuge Dam, the gas station likely received significant business from personnel traveling to the construction site and may have also provided fuel for mechanized machinery used during construction. However, no supporting documentary evidence has been found indicating what role, if any, Chatuge Tavern had in the construction of Chatuge Dam.

In 1973, Sherlin sold the property to William M. Brake Sr. and William M. Brake Jr. for a sum of \$10.00 (Clay County Register of Deeds DB 69: 42). This transaction also included a parcel on the north side of old Highway 64, directly opposite the Chatuge Tavern site. The Brakes retained

ownership of the property through the 1980s. Following the death of William Brake Sr. in 1985, his stake in the property was transferred by will to children John R., Bryan M., William Jr. and their respective spouses. The Brakes sold the Chatuge Tavern building and parcel (as well as the parcel on the north side of old Highway 64) to the United States of America-Tennessee Valley Authority on March 21, 1992 (Clay County Register of Deeds DB 160: 67).

According to documents obtained from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO), TVA acquired the parcels from the Brakes in order to improve accessibility to the adjoining Hiwassee River (Ramsey 1992). Shortly after acquiring the land, TVA documented all the buildings located on the former Brakes property and initiated consultation with the NCSHPO pursuant to 36 CFR 800. Based on the information provided in TVA’s consultation letter, Chatuge Tavern is described as a “brick tavern” that appeared to have been constructed in the late 1930s. In their letter, TVA speculates that Chatuge Tavern originally functioned as a roadside establishment during the period when U.S. Route 64 and State Routes 287 served as a popular travel route between Hayesville, North Carolina and Hiwassee, Georgia. Moreover, three frame houses located behind Chatuge Tavern were also inventoried by TVA as part of their 1992 survey. Considering the close proximity to Chatuge Tavern, TVA suggested, without providing documentary evidence, that the three remaining houses (originally six houses stood behind Chatuge Tavern) were once linked to Chatuge Tavern and functioned as roadside tourist cabins. Following the reroute of U.S. Route 64 due to the formation of Chatuge Lake, vehicle traffic in the area slowed and, according to TVA, Chatuge Tavern closed to become a storage building for the Sherlin farm (Ramsey 1992).



Figure 2. Excerpt of the USGS 1937 Hayesville, North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the future location of the Chatuge Tavern.

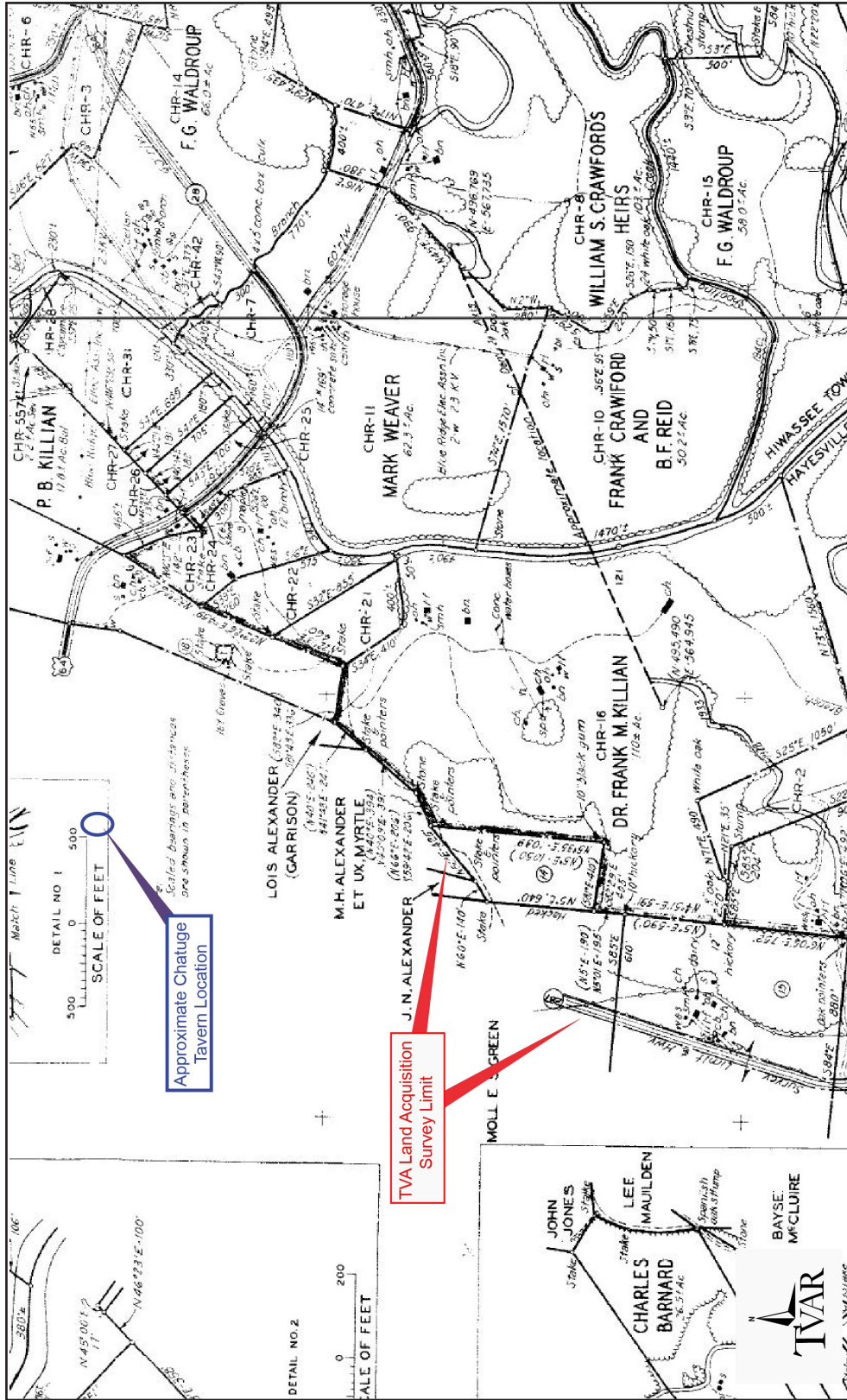


Figure 3. Ca. 1941 TVA land acquisition map showing land purchased during construction of the Chatuge Dam.

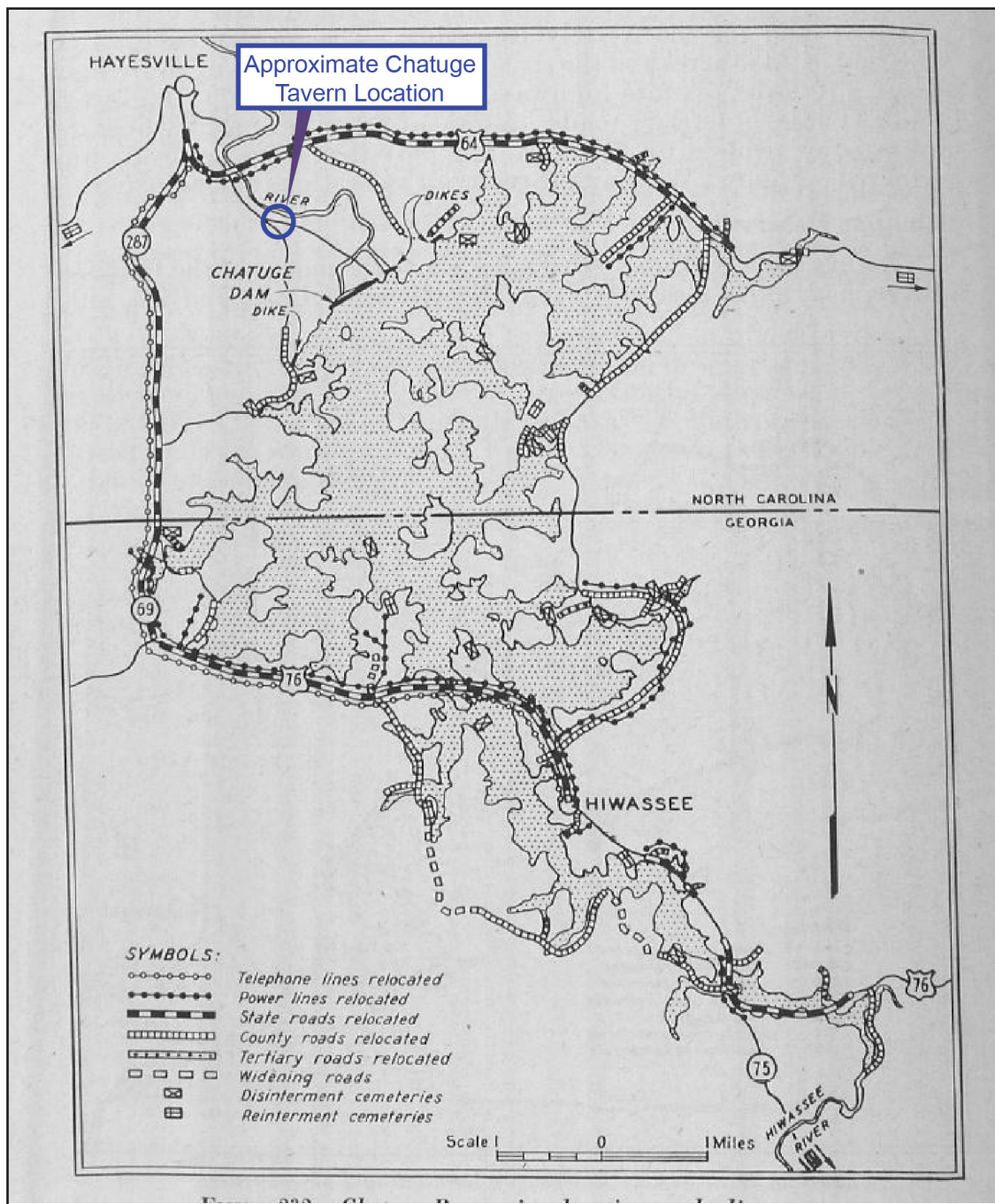


Figure 4. Map depicting relocation of roads and utility lines as a result of the Chatuge Dam project, ca. 1948 (TVA 1948: 496).

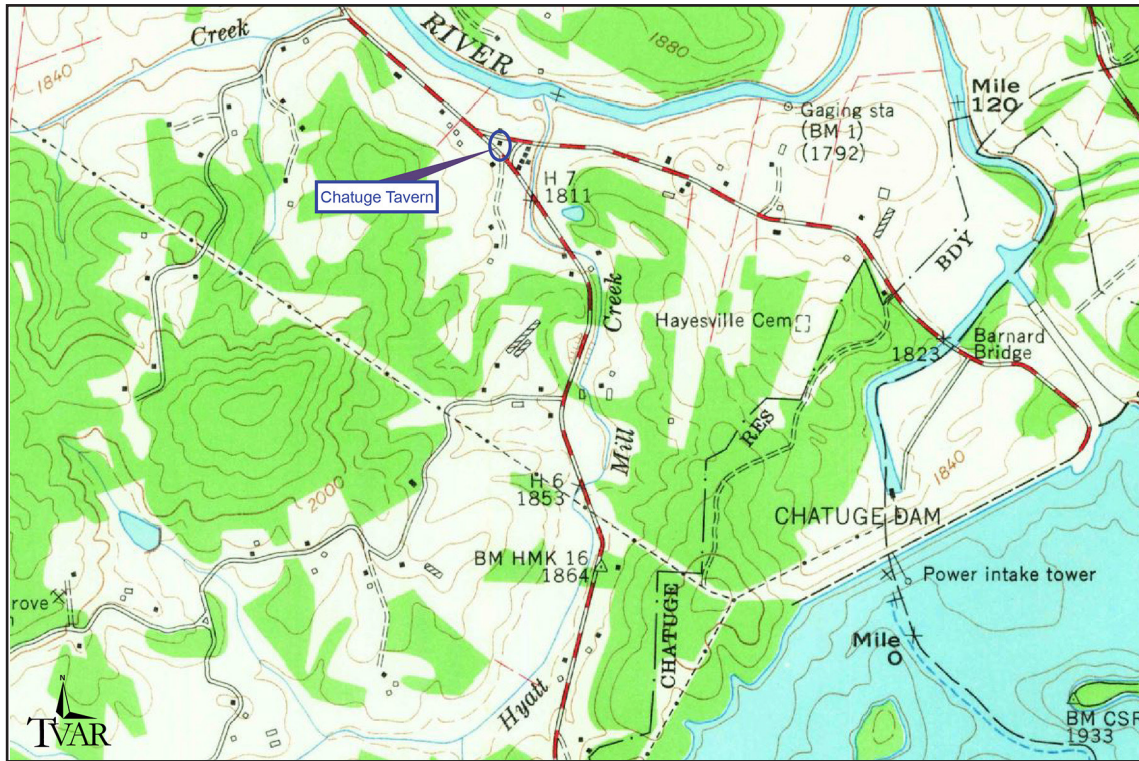


Figure 5. Excerpt of the USGS 1966 *Hayesville*, North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle showing the location of the Chatuge Tavern.

III. METHODS

ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS SEARCH

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, TVAR reviewed Clay County architectural survey files and NRHP listings on the NCSHPO HPOWEB historic resources online database, which indicated that Chatuge Tavern had not been previously documented. However, after the submission of TVAR's draft report to the NCSHPO by TVA, staff at the NCSHPO indicated that Chatuge Tavern had actually been documented by TVA in 1992 and recorded as CY0036. NCSHPO's Western Office discovered that the location of CY0036 had been mistakenly mislabeled on its HPOWEB online database. Based on the information provided by the NCSHPO, Chatuge Tavern/CY0036 has not been formally evaluated by NCSHPO staff for inclusion on the NRHP.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY METHODS

The architectural survey was conducted in accordance with guidelines provided by the NCHPO's North Carolina Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources, as Amended (NCSHPO 2008), as well as those contained in National Register Bulletin 24, Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning (Derry et al. 1985). Survey information maintained throughout the course of the inventory included field notes, sketch maps, photographs, informant interviews and a NCSHPO Historic Property Field Data Form. The property was photographed using a digital camera. USGS quadrangle maps were used to plot the location of the inventoried property. Since 20 years have elapsed since the time Chatuge Tavern had been documented, an NCSHPO Historic Property Field Data Form was completed and attached as a supplement to this report (Appendix A).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Sufficient data were compiled to make recommendations regarding eligibility for listing on the NRHP for the architectural resource addressed during this study. According to 36 CFR 60.4, cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP are defined as buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts that have "integrity," and that meet one or more of the criteria outlined below (CFR 2013; NRHP 2002).

- Criterion A (Event). Association with one or more events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.
- Criterion B (Person). Association with the lives of persons significant in the past.
- Criterion C (Design/Construction). Embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or representation of the work of a master; or possession of high artistic values; or representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

- Criterion D (Information Potential). Properties that yield, or are likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Criterion D is most often (but not exclusively) associated with archaeological resources. To be considered eligible under Criterion D, sites must be associated with specific or general patterns in the development of the region. Therefore, sites become significant when they are seen within the larger framework of local or regional development.

For a property to be eligible for the NRHP, it must exhibit qualities of integrity (NRHP 2002). This rule also applies to historic districts. The seven aspects of integrity are as follows:

- Location: the place where the historic property (or properties) was/were constructed or where the historic event(s) occurred;
- Design: the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property (or properties);
- Setting: the physical environment of the historic property (or properties);
- Materials: the physical elements that were combined to create the property (or properties) during the associated period of significance;
- Workmanship: the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;
- Feeling: the property's (or properties') expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of the period of significance; and
- Association: the direct link between the important historic event(s) or person(s) and the historic property (or properties).

IV. ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY RESULTS

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

The architectural survey of the APE was conducted by TVAR personnel on June 19, 2014 under the direction of Sr. Preservation Planner Ted Karpyneec and Preservation Planner Meghan Weaver. The survey resulted in the identification of one previously unrecorded architectural resource (Chatuge Tavern) (Figure 1). TVAR recommends Chatuge Tavern not eligible for the NRHP due to a lack of architectural and historical significance. In addition, the integrity of the property is poor due to the removal of key character-defining features. TVAR recommends no additional investigation of aboveground resources in connection with the proposed undertaking.

Chatuge Tavern (CY-0036)

Located at the intersection of Chatuge Dam Road and Myers Chapel Road, Chatuge Tavern is a former gas station that appears to have been constructed ca. 1940 (see Figure 18; Figures 19–23). The property currently stands vacant. The building is anchored by a one-story, wood-frame building that features a gable-front roof covered with asphalt shingles, an interior brick flue chimney, an exterior clad with a brick veneer, and a concrete slab foundation. Facing west, the façade reveals a central door that is topped by a rectangular-shaped transom. The door is flanked on either side by a window opening that contains a single-pane, fixed wood sash. Each window is topped by a three-light, rectangular-shaped transom and is partly boarded over with a sheet of plywood. In addition, all window and door openings are marked by soldier arch lintels. The façade door is shielded by a projecting hipped-roof that is supported by three wood posts atop brick plinth blocks. Situated within the gable field, which is clad with wood drop siding, is a louvered attic vent. Both the north and south elevations of the building are marked by a door opening that is flanked to the east by a window opening boarded over by a sheet of plywood. Located west of each door is a window opening that contains a single-pane, fixed wood sash. The window is topped by a three-light, rectangular-shaped transom and is partly boarded over with a sheet of plywood. The east (rear) elevation includes a door and a window opening that are boarded over with a sheet of plywood. Attached to the rear elevation is a shed roof extension that functions as a storage space.

The interior of Chatuge Tavern includes a main room that features a concrete slab floor and original wood paneled walls and ceiling. Other intact interior details include door and window casings. TVAR's examination of the interior of the building identified that the original wood sash windows remain intact, despite a few panes that were damaged as a result of vandalism. A door opening on the east wall provides access to a rear secondary room that is divided in half to include a bathroom. The rear room also contains a doorway that provides access to the shed roof extension attached to the east (rear) elevation of the building.

Located in front of the building are the remnants of a concrete pump island and the base of two brick columns, which likely supported a canopy that covered the refueling area (see Figure 15). In addition, a stone bank cellar is located directly behind (east) of the building. The cellar is topped with a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles and features a multi-panel wood door (see Figure 16).

Flanking either side of the bank cellar is a stone retaining wall that appears to have been constructed ca. 1940. The northern segment of the stone wall connects to a stone staircase that provides access to a raised knoll (see Figure 17).

NRHP Assessment

In 1992, Chatuge Tavern, along with five other buildings that were once associated with the Sherlin and Brake families, were surveyed by TVA and recorded as CY0036 by the NCSHPO. According to the architectural file associated with CY0036, TVA initiated consultation with the NCSHPO regarding the eligibility of the documented resources and speculated that Chatuge Tavern originally functioned as a roadside establishment during the period when U.S. Route 64 and State Routes 287 served as a popular travel route between Hayesville, North Carolina and Hiwassee, Georgia. Moreover, three frame houses located behind Chatuge Tavern were also inventoried by TVA as part of their 1992 survey. Considering the close proximity to Chatuge Tavern, TVA suggested, without providing documentary evidence, that the three remaining houses were once linked to Chatuge Tavern and functioned as roadside tourist cabins. In addition, the collection of buildings comprising the CY0036 file included a late 1930s house and barn that were also documented by TVA in its 1992 survey. These two buildings, located on the north side of Chatuge Dam Road, were likely associated with the Sherlin family.

In its consultation letter, TVA determined that the 1930s farmhouse and barn lacked integrity; however, the agency indicated that Chatuge Tavern and the remaining three houses had “potential historic significance” as a representative example of a ca. 1940 roadside tourist motor court, tavern and possible beer garden (Ramsey 1992). TVA sought an opinion from the NCSHPO regarding the eligibility of the buildings comprising CY0036, however, no responding documentation, if any, from the NCSHPO are on file at either TVA or the NCSHPO. As a result, TVAR has concluded that Chatuge Tavern along with all the building comprising CY0036 have not been formally evaluated by NCSHPO staff for inclusion on the NRHP.

TVAR’s in-field assessment of CY0036 discovered that of all the buildings originally documented by TVA in its 1992 survey, only Chatuge Tavern remains extant. In addition, research conducted by TVAR did not find documentary evidence to support TVA’s claim that Chatuge Tavern was associated with a roadside tourist motor court or beer garden. Based on structural evidence, it is the opinion of TVAR that Chatuge Tavern is a former gas station constructed ca. 1940 that fails to exhibit unique features of its architectural style or workmanship. In addition, the property no longer retains the original gas island canopy or signage, which serve as character-defining features of historic gas stations. Based upon the loss of its original character defining features; the demolition of the five associated buildings documented in 1992 by TVA; as well as the inability to associate the property and/or its original owner(s) with an important historical event or series of events, it is the opinion of TVAR that Chatuge Tavern/CY0036 is not eligible for the NRHP.



Figure 6. Property CY0036; view is east and features the façade of Chatuge Tavern.



Figure 7. Property CY0036; view is northeast and features the façade and south elevation of Chatuge Tavern.



Figure 8. Property CY0036; view is southwest and features the east (rear) elevation of Chatuge Tavern.



Figure 9. Property CY0036; view is south and features the north elevation of Chatuge Tavern.



Figure 10. Property CY0036; interior main room of Chatuge Tavern; view is northwest.



Figure 11. Property CY0036; interior main room of Chatuge Tavern; view is south.



Figure 12. Property CY0036; interior passage to the back room of Chatuge Tavern; view is east.



Figure 13. Property CY0036; interior of back room of Chatuge Tavern featuring access to rear shed extension.



Figure 14. Property CY0036; interior of back room of Chatuge Tavern featuring the bathroom.



Figure 15. Property CY0036, the remains of the gasoline pump island once associated with Chatuge Tavern.



Figure 16. Property CY0036; view is southeast and features the bank cellar.

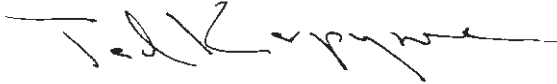


Figure 17. Property CY0036; view is east and features the stone staircase.

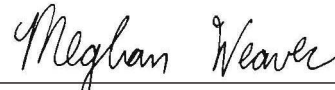
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

TVA is considering the potential sale or lease of a former gas station building locally known as “Chatuge Tavern” (CY0036) in Clay County, North Carolina (see Figure 1). At the request of TVA, TVAR conducted an architectural survey of the property in order to assess the property for eligibility to the NRHP. TVAR’s NRHP assessment was performed in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.

TVAR conducted its NRHP evaluation of Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) on June 19, 2014. Based on the results of its evaluation, it is the opinion of TVAR that Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) is not eligible for the NRHP due to its lack of architectural and historical significance. TVAR recommends no additional investigation of Chatuge Tavern (CY0036) in connection with the proposed undertaking.



Ted Karpynec
Preservation Manager



Meghan Weaver
Preservation Planner

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