

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

March 20, 2015

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Grade, Drain, Base, & Pave SR 1137, Justus Road, PA 14-02-0006, Watauga County,
ER 15-0439

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2015, transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and **concur that the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.** It is eligible under Criterion A for community planning/development and social history related to the local weaving industry and Criterion C for a distinct cluster of vernacular dwellings constructed by families, who have remained in the area for generations. The boundaries as shown appear appropriate.

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

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

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr.ncdot.gov



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

**GRADE, DRAIN, BASE, AND PAVE SR 1137
(JUSTUS ROAD), WATAUGA COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA**

WBS# 17BP.11.R.103

Limited Services Contract No. 7000014414

by

Penne Sandbeck


Prepared for

NCDOT Human Environment Section

Prepared by

DOVETAIL
Cultural Resource Group

February 2015



Historic Architectural Eligibility Evaluation

Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave SR 1137 (Justus Road), Watauga County, North Carolina

WBS# 17BP.11.R.103

Prepared for
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Dovetail Job #14-069

February 2015



Principal Investigator
Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

February 18, 2015

Date

Supervisor, Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted a historic architectural eligibility evaluation on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in preparation for a project to grade, drain, base, and pave SR 1137 (Justus Road) in Watauga County, North Carolina. The North Carolina state project number is WBS# 17BP.11.R.103. The project area was the subject of reconnaissance evaluation by NCDOT staff in 2014. Based on their inspection, as well as subsequent research by Dovetail in October 2014, it was recommended that one rural historic district should be the subject of an intensive evaluation to determine National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, including the evaluation of resources within the district to determine their status as contributing or non-contributing elements to the district.

The scope of the current investigation included an evaluation of the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District (WT 759) and associated resources, located at the intersection of Justus Road (SR 1137) and Clark's Creek Road (SR 1136). Given this, the goals of this investigation were to: first, gather archival data on the history of Clark's Creek to develop a historic context; second, conduct a field investigation to evaluate each above-ground resource as a contributing or non-contributing element to the district based on the context; and third, to examine the physical elements and historical context to properly evaluate the district under established criteria for the NRHP. The fourth goal of this investigation was to propose a NRHP boundary for this potential historic district should it be recommended eligible for listing.

As a result of this investigation, it was determined that the district was developed between 1850 and the mid-twentieth century. This distinct cluster of late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century buildings and structures retain sufficient integrity of setting, location, workmanship, design, and feeling. The built environment is sheltered within natural surroundings such as wooded hillsides, exposed large rocks, and Clark's Creek itself. These surrounding resources of natural landscape and the built environment comprise a small rural historic district. During survey fieldwork, it was also discovered that the area contains a notable tie to Watauga County's early twentieth-century handicraft industry, specifically weaving. It is **recommended that the Clark's Creek Rural Historic property is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A** for community planning and development, as well as social history due to its association with the rural development of Watauga County and the weaving industry. It is also **recommended eligible under Criterion C** due to the distinct cluster of vernacular dwellings constructed by families who have remained in the area for generations. It is recommended **not eligible under Criterion B** due to the absence of an association with a notable individual and **not eligible under Criterion D** for its potential to reveal data on area history. The Period of Significance is suggested to be 1850 through 1959.

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INTRODUCTION

Dovetail conducted a historic architectural eligibility evaluation on behalf of NCDOT in preparation for a project to grade, drain, base, and pave SR 1137 (Justus Road) in Watauga County, North Carolina (Figure 1 and Figure 2, p.2). The North Carolina state project number is WBS# 17BP.11.R.103. NCDOT architectural historians initially reviewed this project in February 2014 when the project description was to grade, drain, base, and pave SR 1137 (Justus Rd) in Watauga County. Architectural historians from NCDOT conducted a site visit and determined that one property located at 110 Justus Road, Banner Elk, warranted evaluation for NRHP eligibility. NCDOT contracted Dovetail to conduct that investigation and complete an evaluation of that property. In October 2014 NCDOT was notified that the nature of the project had changed and now only includes the replacement of Watauga County Bridge No. 137 on SR 1136 (Clark's Creek Rd). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the current project is defined as 300 feet of SR 1136 (Clark's Creek Rd) from the intersection with SR 1137 (Justus Rd) and 250 feet both north and south on SR 1137 (Justus Rd) at the intersection with SR 1136 (Clark's Creek Rd). Based on this new project APE, it was determined that 110 Justus Road was no longer in the project APE; however, the surrounding area had the potential to be a rural historic district.



Figure 1: Map of Watauga County within State of North Carolina (NCPedia).

Based on the change in the APE, the scope of the current investigation included an evaluation of the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District (WT 759) and all above-ground resources within the district boundaries, located at the intersection of SR 1137 and SR 1136. Of the 19 above-ground resources located within the project area, three properties were formally recorded by the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) during the 2001–2003 Watauga County Survey: the Moody Townsend House (WT 0342), the Lowrance House, a.k.a., "House" (WT 0351), and the former Clark's Creek Baptist Church (WT 0349). The remaining 16 properties have not been

formally recorded as individual resources, but they were briefly inspected during NCDOT's reconnaissance study of the project area in 2014. This area was also revisited in October 2014 by Dovetail. As a result of both of these studies, it was believed that none of the resources retained the significance or integrity as individual properties to warrant eligibility for the NRHP, but as a collective they had the potential to represent an eligible rural historic district.

Given this, the goals of this investigation were to: first, gather archival data on the history of Clark's Creek to develop a historic context; second, conduct a field investigation to evaluate each above-ground resource as a contributing or non-contributing element to the district based on the context; and third, to examine the physical elements and historical context to properly evaluate the district under established criteria for the NRHP. The fourth goal of this investigation was to propose a NRHP boundary for this potential historic district should it be recommended eligible for listing. Research and fieldwork on this project was conducted in accordance with relevant state and federal regulations as part of the compliance process established in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800).

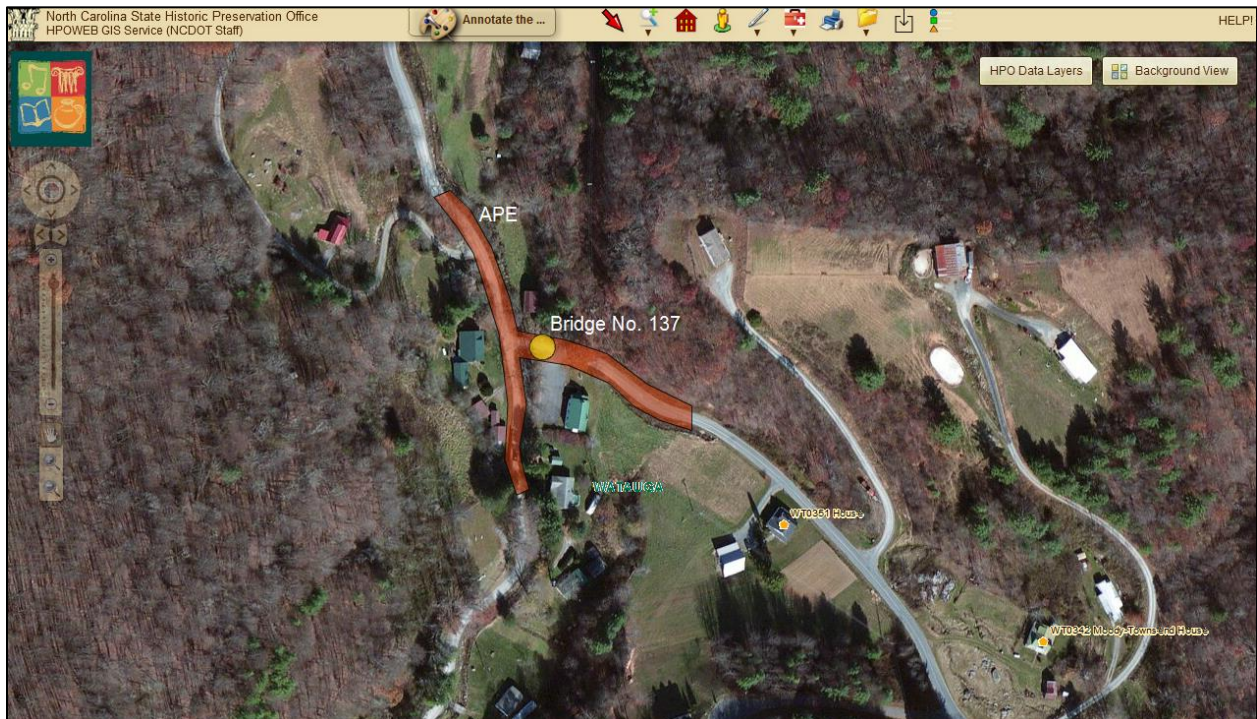


Figure 2: APE of Project Area, Showing Bridge No. 137 on SR 1136 near Junction with SR 1137. (HPOWEB aerial generated by NCDOT Historic Architecture staff, February 2015.)

ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

Environmental Setting

Located in the central part of Watauga County, the small body of water known as Clark's Creek is one of three creeks in the area, the other two being Crab Orchard Creek and Dutch Creek. The creeks stream from upper valleys and mountain coves to their confluence in the wide, lower valley of Valle Crucis before flowing into the Watauga River (Edwards-Pitman 2003:7-3). The creek, its source south of Valle Crucis near the Foscoe community, flows through narrow mountain coves and a rural community sited on two valleys above Valle Crucis. Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, a rural community developed along Clark's Creek upper valley (Photo 1), located in southwestern Watauga County's Watauga Township, positioned 2.5 miles south of Valle Crucis and 2 miles north of Foscoe. The lower valley extends nearly to the junction of NC Highway 194 before rising to Clark's Creek Falls, a small waterfall on the east side of Clark's Creek Road. Beyond this lower valley and the falls is a small upper valley where traces of earlier agriculture—open meadows, bottomland for farming, apple and fruit trees—remain.

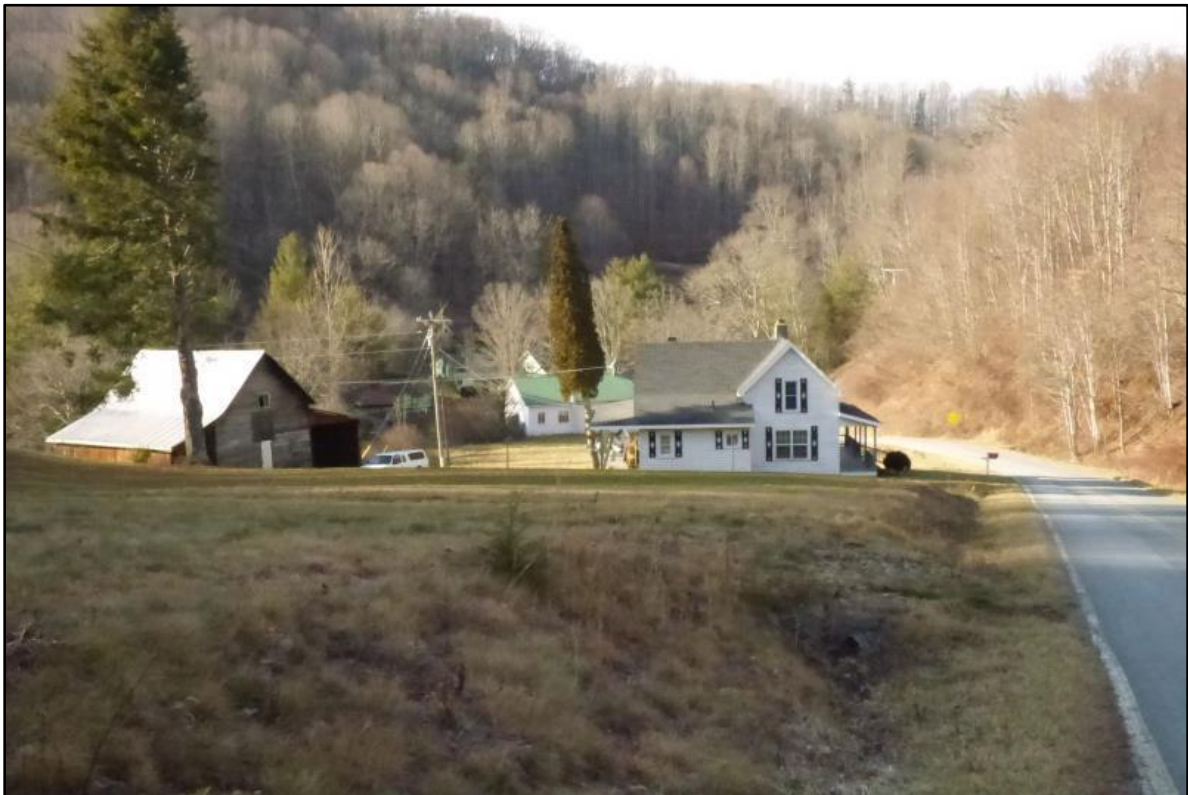


Photo 1: View of Clark's Creek Road (SR 1136) Looking from Northeast to Southwest.

Historic Context

Brief History of Clark's Creek

Printed references to Clark's Creek as a community first occur in the 1930s (North Carolina Maps 2014), but this small valley became a rural settlement in the 1830s when the Townsend family arrived (Townsend, personal communication 2014). According to local historians, brothers Peter and Andrew Jackson Townsend left their Snow Creek home in northern Iredell County for these mountains, where Peter farmed and Andrew built the community's first grist mill (Hughes 2002:111; Townsend, personal communication 2014). In 1850 Peter Townsend and his wife, Sarah, lived in this vicinity with their 10 children, ranging in age from nine months to 22 years (United States Census 1850); one of their offspring, Larkin Townsend, would become a founding member of Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with Harrison Clark, Hardie Clark's father, in the 1880s (Spalding 1962:180–181; Townsend, personal communication 2014). The community had a brief name change, but it did not stick; between 1905 and 1911, Clark's Creek is said to have been called "Goo Goo," a local term for quicksand, because of two such quagmires in the immediate area (Townsend, personal communication 2014). At that time, Ellen Lowrance served as Goo Goo's first postmistress, receiving mail at her house halfway up the slope east of the creek (Hughes 1995:177; Townsend, personal communication 2014). "Goo Goo" is not listed in the *North Carolina Year Book*, the state's directory between 1900 and 1919, but it is noted as such in the local paper (*Watauga Democrat* 1907).

Clark's Creek residents were farmers, mostly engaged in subsistence farming and clearing a small proportion of their land, leaving the bulk of it uncultivated for woodlands and pasture (United States Department of Agriculture- North Carolina [USDA-NC] 1925). Besides the Townsends and Lowrances, other "first families" of Clark's Creek included the Fox family, the Byrds, the Taylors, and the Clarks, who had bestowed their name upon the eponymous creek. Several residents in the area were either Lutherans or Baptists, but many of these families would become staunch Seventh-day Adventists, a conservative denomination that resulted from the 1840s Second Great Awakening—a millennial movement mainly in the northeastern United States. The Seventh-day Adventists held that the Bible was infallible; that Saturday, not Sunday, was a day of worship; that the world was created less than 10,000 years ago; and that the Second Coming was imminent (Beliefnet 2014). The church took root in southwestern Watauga's Valle Crucis-Banner Elk area thanks to northern missionaries during the 1880s (Hughes 1995:160,166; Spalding 1947:181). Neighbors worked through their religious differences; by the 1930s Hardie Clark had a small grist mill for grinding corn into meal, but it was understood by all that his mill did not operate on Saturdays. It also did not open on Sundays due to his assistant being a Baptist (Hughes 2002:111). This mill is no longer standing, but was located on Clark's Creek, northeast of the community. Another mill, the Townsend Mill, was located nearby, to the north at Clark's Creek Falls, until the devastating 1940 flood when the mill building, along with several area houses and outbuildings, were washed away (Gaffney 1984:81; Townsend, personal communication 2014).

Clark's Creek and the Art of Weaving

Beyond an association with general rural settlement patterns in western North Carolina, the Clark's Creek area has a notable tie to Watauga County's early-twentieth-century heritage of home industry and handicrafts for market. A traditional craft in the region, weaving was revitalized in the early-twentieth century with the advance of regional schools, such as John C. Campbell Folk School in Clay County's Brasstown and Crossnore in Watauga County, instructing students and selling their wares (Alvic 2003:15–24). Closer to home was Allie Josephine Mast (1861–1936) of Valle Crucis, who converted an 1812 log cabin on her family farm into a loom house where she made coverlets, rugs, table linens, and other woven goods (Wilson 2001:84) (Photo 2). Unaffiliated with any of the regional craft centers, Mast pursued her weaving largely on her own, selling pieces to summer guests who boarded at her home, which she continued to do so well into the 1930s (Alvic 2003:124–125). There was also the Watauga Handicrafts Center, established at Boone in 1938. Under the tutelage of Elizabeth Lord, who had trained at the John C. Campbell Folk School and Penland School, local Watauga County citizens were taught to weave. More experienced weavers used the Watauga Handicrafts Center to sell their handmade coverlets and linens (*Watauga Democrat* 1938:1). This effort was supported by Watauga County's Lutheran community, who established Holy Communion Lutheran Church in the Clark Creek vicinity in 1938 (Townsend, personal communication 2014; *Watauga Democrat* 1938; Watauga Industries 1934).



Photo 2: Josie Mast Loom House (former), Mast Farm, North Side NC 194, Valle Crucis, North Carolina. January 2015.

Within the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District, resident Zettie Clark, the wife of Hardie Clark, was one of many women in western North Carolina to not only demonstrate a talent for weaving, but also to sell her work. Mrs. Clark used the entire second floor of her family's cellar house for weaving-related activities, and sold her coverlets and other woven goods from her house (Townsend, personal communication 2014). The loom room is actually two rooms. There is a smaller anteroom, 9 feet 11 inches by 13 feet and 1 inch. This anteroom still retains its manufactured beaded board sheathing (Figure 3). The larger room's sheathing has been stripped to reveal the upper story's box frame construction (Photo 3, p. 7) and its ceiling has been secured by standing seam metal; it is a long, narrow room, 26 feet, 1 inch by 13 feet, 1 inch. Both rooms show various weaving supplies—woolen skeins hanging from the ceiling, loom wires, shuttles—throughout, but the loom is no longer in place (Photo 4–Photo 5, p. 8).

No records have been found to date showing that Zettie Clark participated in any of the area schools or craft centers, nor is she listed as one of the many Watauga County women who specialized in creating knotted bedspreads (Appalachian State University [ASU] 1974). However, two circa 1940–1950 photographs of Mrs. Clark weaving at her home survive (Photo 6–Photo 7, p. 9), as well as scattered examples of her work (Townsend communication 2014). A selective study of buildings in the Watauga County survey indicate that either very few such buildings survive, or their identity within a domestic-agricultural complex remains unknown (VanWinkle 2002). The discovery of Hardie and Zettie Clark's "loom room" is thus notable and an important component of the district's context.

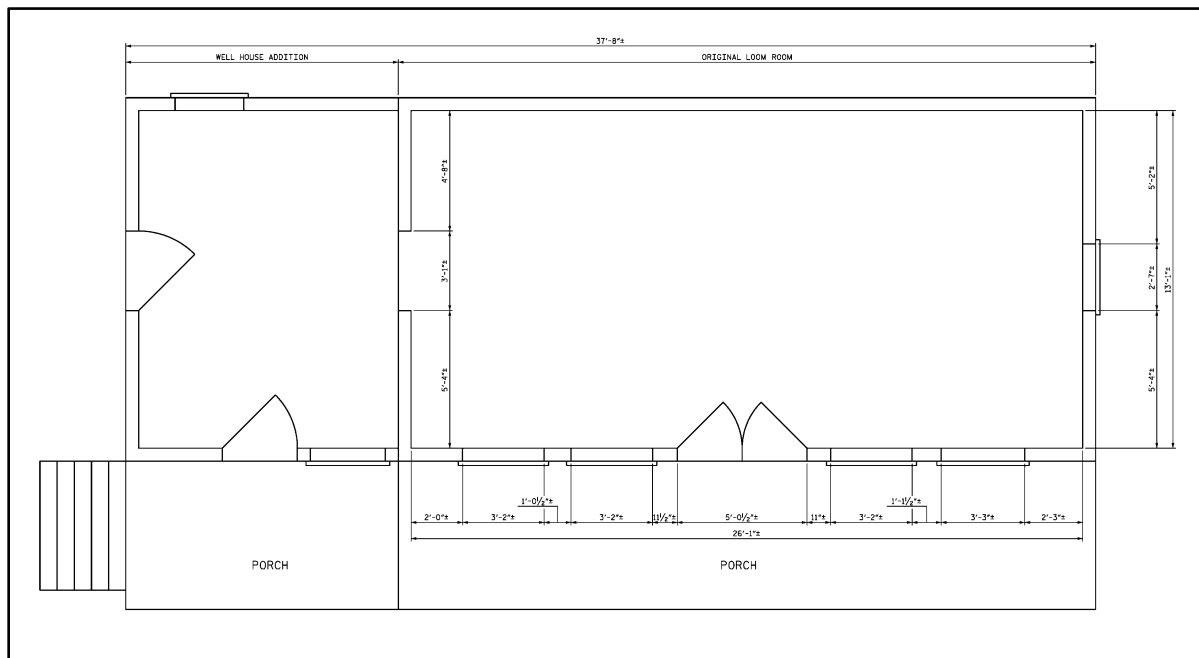


Figure 3: Floor Plan of Loom Room, Hardie Clark House, Goo Goo-Clark's Creek Vicinity, Watauga County, North Carolina (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).



Photo 3: Interior of Former Loom Room, Looking South, with Windows and Paired Door on Left Side (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).



Photo 4: Partial Skein Hanging From Ceiling, Former Storage Room for Loom Room (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).

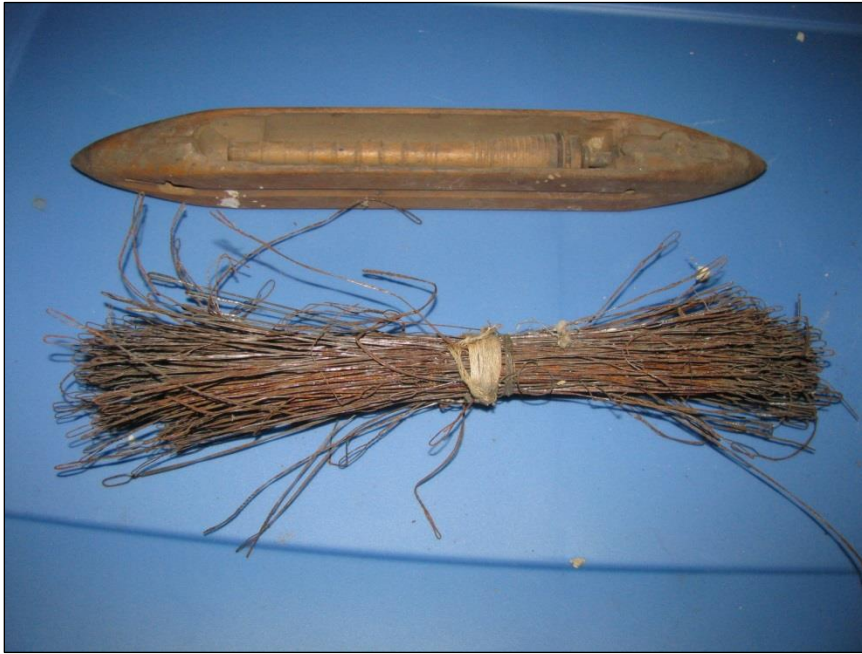


Photo 5: Shuttle and Wires for Zettie Clark's Loom, Found in Loom Room (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).



Photo 6: Zettie Townsend Clark at Her Loom, Hardie Clark House, Circa 1940–1950. The small barn is visible in the background (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).



Photo 7: Zettie Townsend Clark at Her Loom, Weaving, Hardie Clark House, Circa 1940–1950 (Courtesy of Jon and Inge Townsend).

Results of Survey

There are 19 above-ground resources located within the potential rural historic district (Table 1, p. 10). Of this number, three properties were previously documented during the Watauga County Historic Architecture Survey conducted by NC-HPO between 2001 and 2003. These three properties comprise the oldest resources within the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District and include the Moody Townsend House (WT 0342), the Lowrance House (WT 0351), and the Clark's Creek Baptist Church (WT 0349). These three resources, as well as the remaining 16 properties in the area, were all evaluated to determine their association with the district context and based on their significance and integrity. In sum, it is recommended that nine resources contribute to the district and 10 are non-contributing properties. Each of these resources was given a Project Resource Number (1–19) to aid in identification and mapping (Figure 4, p. 12). These 19 resources are described below followed by an analysis of the district as a whole.

Table 1: Resources within the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District.

Project Resource Number	Resource Name	Date	Address/PIN	Status
1	Moody Townsend House (WT 0342)	Late-Nineteenth Century	2146 Clark's Creek Road PIN: 1889-06-9178-000	Contributing
2	House (Lowrance House) (WT 0351)	Late-Nineteenth Century	2247 Clark's Creek Road PIN: 1889-06-4534-000	Contributing
3	Barn	1920–1950	N. side Little Tree Lane Banner Elk, NC PIN 1879-76-6865-000	Contributing
4	Hardie Clark House	1921–1925; 1945–1950	110 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1879-96-5822-000	Contributing
5	Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church	1957–1959	2333 Clark's Creek Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-06-1574-000	Contributing
6	House	1975–1990	127 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-06-1485-000	Non-Contributing
7	House	1975–1980	157 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-06-1287-000	Non-Contributing
8	Manufactured House	1985–2005	213 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-06-0098-000	Non-Contributing
9	Byrd Cemetery	1977–2015	Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-06-0334-000	Non-Contributing
10	Johnny Byrd House and Pond	1972	309 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1889-05-1733-000	Non-Contributing
11	Wilson House	1920–1935	311 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN 1879-95-8792-000	Contributing

Project Resource Number	Resource Name	Date	Address/PIN	Status
12	(Former) Clark's Creek Baptist Church (WT 0349)	1898	Justus Road (moved from Clark's Creek Road in 1930s) PIN: 1879-06-7774-000	Contributing
13	Byrd-Racz House	1990–2005	307 Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1879-95-9522-000	Non-Contributing
14	Barn (part of Charles Clark Farm separated by Clark's Creek)	1920–1940	S. side Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN1879-95-5723-000	Contributing
15	Outbuildings	1960–1980	W. side Justus Road Banner Elk, NC PIN 1879-96-1110-000	Non-Contributing
16	House	1980–2000	2502 Clark's Creek Road Banner Elk, NC PIN 1889-05-5959-000	Non-Contributing
17	Townsend Manufactured House	1980–2000	Clark's Creek Road PIN1889-07-1006-000	Non-Contributing
18	Hodges House and Barn	1990–2005; 1925–1950 (barn)	2222 Clark's Creek Road PIN 1889-06-4634 (house) PIN 1889-06-7643-000 (barn)	Non-Contributing
19	Townsend Manufactured House	1990–2000	2146 Clark's Creek Road Banner Elk, NC PIN 1889-06-9178-000	Non-Contributing

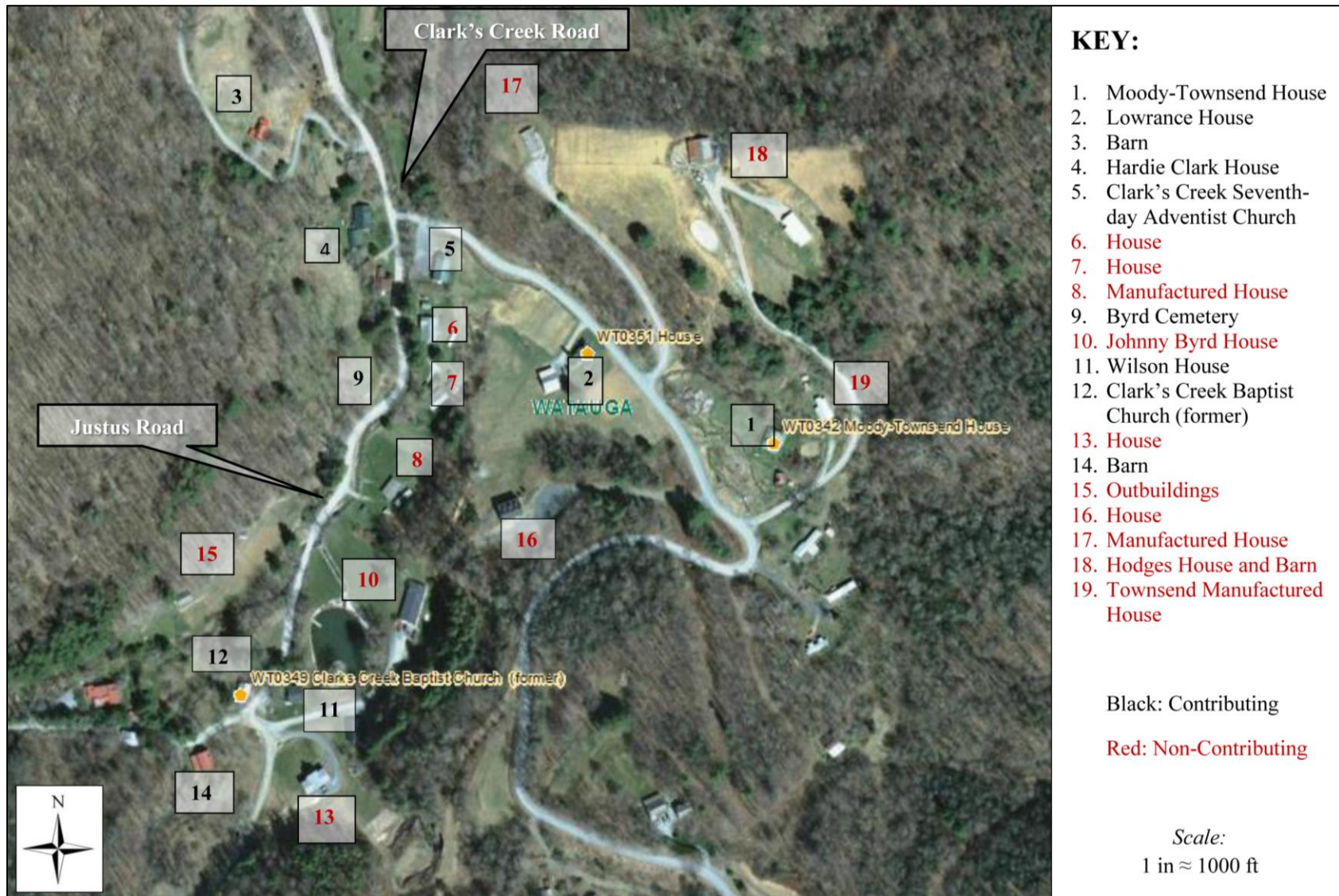


Figure 4: Location of Properties Recorded During the Current Survey (Base Map, HPOWEB).

1. Moody Townsend House

(WT 0342)

Date of Construction: 1890–1910

Modifications: 1930–1950

2146 Clark's Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-06-9178-000

Recommendation: Contributing



The Moody Townsend House was built for nineteenth-century resident Moody Townsend, the father of Zettie Townsend Clark of the Hardie Clark House (Property No. 4). The Townsends were farmers and millers who attended both the local Lutheran and Seventh-day Adventist churches. This house passed out of family ownership within the last 25 years. The dwelling is a one-and-a-half-story, balloon-frame “Triple-A” dwelling, faces south-southwest on Clark’s Creek Road, at a rise overlooking the junction of Clark’s Creek and Justus roads (Photo 8, p. 14). The house, which rests on a masonry foundation concealed by asphalt tile skirting and whose weatherboards are now covered by replacement vinyl and stucco siding, was constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. A side-gable roof, which features the decorative center gable behind the term of “Triple-A,” covers the core section of the house, while a gabled roof protects the rear ell; both rooflines have a standing seam metal covering. A 1920s–1930s small shed dormer was added at the rear ell’s west elevation. The house’s original exterior-end chimney, located on the east elevation, and the rear ell’s interior chimney are both composed of mortared river rock or ashlar masonry, suggesting, along with the ell’s small dormer, a 1920s–1930s Craftsman influence (Photo 9, p. 14). Doors and windows have been replaced with modern materials; the façade’s off-center entrance suggests that the house’s interior plan is more akin to a hall-and-parlor plan than a center hall plan. The replacement metal and glass door is covered by an earlier wood and mesh screen door. Windows are all replacement one-over-one glass and metal sash. The house’s wraparound hipped- roof porch was enclosed at its west elevation, and is now clad in stucco. At the front elevation, the full-façade porch also has a standing-seam metal roof and is supported by plain wood posts. There is a small rear shed extension attached to the ell and accessed at its southeast elevation by a wood, four-panel door.

Five frame outbuildings are sited around the Moody Townsend House, four of which stand east of the house, on the west side of an access road off Clark’s Creek Road. They include a single-pitch shed roof frame shed, likely a chicken house (Photo 10, p. 15), a small gabled barn, also sheathed with vertical boards (Photo 11, p. 15), and two small frame sheds, both with single-pitch roofs covered with corrugated metal; one or both of these may be outhouses. The last outbuilding is a small, gabled frame shed sheathed with vertical wood boards (Photo 12, p. 16).

The Moody Townsend House was built during the active period of development in Clark’s Creek by a family whose history in this district extends to the 1830s, and who were founders

of Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church. The house, expanded in the early-twentieth century, also retains many period outbuildings. It is recommended that this property is a contributing element to the district.



Photo 8: Oblique of Primary (South) and West Elevation, Moody Townsend House, with Pasture in the Foreground.



Photo 9: Moody Townsend House, Detail of Primary (South) and East Elevation Oblique with Chimneys at East Elevation and Behind Roof Ridge.



Photo 10: Moody Townsend House, South and East Elevations of Chicken Coop.



Photo 11: Moody Townsend House, Small Barn, North and West Elevations.



Photo 12: Moody Townsend House, Outbuildings (Shed and Front-Gable Small Barn in Background) from Southwest Angle.

2. House (*Lowrance House*)

WT 0351

Date of Construction: 1880–1910

Modifications: 1950–1965

2247 Clark’s Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-06-4534-000



Recommendation: Contributing

The Lowrance family, longtime Clark’s Creek residents and members of Clark’s Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, built this house. Ed and Ellen Lowrance each took turns as the community’s postmaster or postmistress before Andrew Townsend became “Goo-Goo’s” postmaster in 1907 (*Watauga Democrat* 1907; Townsend, personal communication 2014). This vernacular “story-and-a-jump” frame dwelling faces north on Clark’s Creek Road (Photo 13–Photo 15, pp. 17–18). “Story-and-a-jump” is a North Carolina term, describing houses with a shallow upper story; often these dwellings would have small windows placed in the narrow space between porch and roof (Photo 16, p. 19). The side-gabled house’s foundation is painted concrete block, likely replacing an earlier stone pier foundation. Its frame construction is covered by a variety of siding—at the house’s upper story, some earlier weatherboards exist, but other cladding is vinyl weatherboard siding. The wide gabled rear

ell, like the main section's side-gable roof, is covered by asphalt-tile roofing. There is a plastered cement interior chimney flue where the side-gable and the rear ell's rooflines join, and also a smaller concrete block flue at the rear ell, also plastered in concrete. Doors, first at the façade's center entrance and then at the porch's west termination into the rear ell, are replacements. Windows are replacement vinyl sash, except for a small fixed, two-pane window at the rear ell's east elevation. The house's shed roof, full-façade porch wraps around to the house's west side and is supported by plain wood posts with an equally plain balustrade; the concrete-block porch foundation, which features a crawl space, replaced an earlier porch foundation which was likely of either stone or wood stumps. The rear ell has a comparable shed-roof porch at its south elevation, wrapping around to the house's east elevation, which is enclosed.

The Lowrance House has lost many outbuildings over the years, but retains a very plain, two-story, gabled frame barn with horizontal siding (Photo 17–Photo 18, p. 19). Apparently not a livestock barn, the barn's center doorway has been replaced with a modern, narrow metal door and a window was cut above the earlier hayloft. A surviving “pack house” further north was used for storing and grading burley tobacco and, although altered, follows a similar form and design to this outbuilding (Photo 19, p.20) (Billy Townsend, personal communication 2015). It is believed that this barn is also a pack house (Townsend, personal communication 2014)

This dwelling was constructed during the prime building episode of the district and has a notable tie to the Lowrance family, one of the founding members of the community. It also retains an outbuilding hailing from the district's twentieth-century period of farming burley tobacco. Thus, the Lowrance House is recommended to be a contributing element to the historic district.



Photo 13: Lowrance House, Primary (North) Elevation, with Barn in Background.



Photo 14: Lowrance House, West Elevation.



Photo 15: Lowrance House, Oblique of East and North Elevations.



Photo 16: Lowrance House, Detail of Upper-Story Window (Replacement Sash).



Photo 17: Lowrance House Barn (Pack House), East Elevation.



Photo 18: Lowrance House Barn (Pack House), North and West Elevations.



Photo 19: Pack House at 2840 Clark's Creek Road (Billy Townsend House, Not in Clark's Creek Rural Historic District). Oblique view of West and North (front) elevations.

3. Barn

Date of Construction: 1920–1950
Modifications: 1970

N. side Little Tree Lane

Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1879-76-6865-000



Recommendation: Contributing

According to longtime residents, this barn was once part of Hardie Clark’s farm and, given its proximity to surviving mature apple trees, may have been a storehouse for fruit (Townsend, personal communication 2014; USDA-NC 1925). In 1945, Hardie Clark had a 30-tree orchard, as well as 3 acres devoted to clover and mixed grasses for his three cows (USDA-NC 1925). Clark sold this parcel in the 1950s, and it is now privately owned (Townsend, personal communication 2014).

Overlooking Clark’s Creek Road and facing south, this small one-bay, one-and-a-half-story barn stands on a replacement concrete-block foundation (Photo 20, p. 22). Constructed between 1920 and 1945, its framing is simple, with nailed vertical sheathing of circular-sawn boards and wire nails (Photo 21, p. 22). V-crimp metal covers the gambrel roof barn, its open side shed, and a later enclosed shed extension at the north elevation. Paired wooden hinged doors provide access to the barn’s south elevation; a smaller set of hinged doors are at the enclosed shed’s west elevation (Photo 22, p. 23). An upstairs shutter on the barn’s north elevation opens into a hay loft, above which are remnants of the gable’s former louvered gable ventilator. This barn has no window openings. Due to its construction date and direct ties with the agricultural use of this area by notable residents such as Hardie Clark, it is recommended that this resource is a contributing feature to the historic district.

4. Hardie Clark House

Date of Construction: 1922–1928
Modifications: 1960–1970

110 Justus Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1879-96-5822-000



Recommendation: Contributing

Hardie Clark was remembered by longtime residents as a successful small farmer and miller. He and his wife, Zettie, lived in this home for several decades. Constructed between 1922 and 1928, the Hardie Clark House is a frame, one-and-a-half story, side-gabled, six-bay Craftsman style bungalow with an attached two-story transverse, concrete-and-frame, side-

gabled, loom-cellar house at its south elevation (Photo 23, p. 23). The house's form is a classic rendition of Craftsman style, from its full-façade engaged porch and three-bay, shed-roofed dormer to the simple details of plain weatherboards and unmolded window and door surrounds.



Photo 20: Barn, Oblique View of South and West Elevations.



Photo 21: Barn, South Elevation with Pear Tree in Foreground.



Photo 22: Barn, Detail of West Elevation Side Shed and Wagon.



Photo 23: View of Southeast Oblique of Hardie Clark House Showing Cellar House from Clark's Creek and Justus Road.

The Hardie Clark House rests upon a stone- and concrete-block, pier-type foundation that was infilled with concrete-block walls and covered by cement plaster sometime prior to 1960. Composed of a balloon-frame structural system, the house is clad in its original circular-sawn weatherboard siding, said to have been milled by Hardie Clark himself, and secured with wire nails. The widely-pitched, side-gabled roof was once covered by metal sheathing painted green, is now sheathed with v-crimp metal roofing. A small pent roof extends along a portion of the south elevation, sheltering a part of the porch and a picture window near the southeastern corner of the house. A sloping, single-pitch shed roof covers the house's two rear shed additions, as well as the two-story extension's side-gable roofline. The house's one brick chimney was an interior stack sited near the house's south gable but, according to the owner, it was taken down in the 1990s.

The primary entrance is filled by a 15-pane, wood-and-glass French door that is protected by a decorative 1950s screen door, and windows are all uniformly, double-hung sash, with six-over-six panes and plain surrounds; of these, four windows at the house's front (east) elevation and three at the west elevation have been replaced by vinyl windows

As with most Craftsman bungalows, the Hardie Clark House's front porch is considered an extension of interior living space. Its foundation is in keeping with that of the main massing of the house. The porch is supported by single, square wood posts connected by a plain wooden balustrade that the property owners have recently restored (Photo 24). The porch was once accessed by a set of concrete steps, but the stairs were removed in the mid-twentieth century (Photo 25, p. 25).



Photo 24: View of East Elevation and Porch Features, Clark House.



Photo 25: Hardie Clark House, Circa 1940, Showing Porch and Original Concrete Steps to Front Entrance (Courtesy J. Jon and Inge Townsend).

The Hardie Clark House's four outbuildings include a garage, a workshop with an attached granary, a small animal barn, and a cellar house with a loom room at its second story. Constructed circa 1930, the one-story, two-bay, garage rests on a stone- and concrete-block foundation. It is of frame construction and clad with both vertical nailed planks and a novelty-shingle siding (Photo 26, p. 26). According to the owners, the frame, one-story, front-gabled workshop-granary was constructed circa 1925–1930 and was originally only used as a granary where the Clarks stored their corn, wheat, and rye (Photo 27, p. 26). The structure rests on a stone-pier foundation with some circa 1940s concrete block underpinnings. Siding varies from tongue-and-groove boards at the north, east, and west elevations to the standing-seam metal covering the upper portion of the south elevation.

Facing the house, on the east side of Clark's Creek Road, is a one-and-a-half story, gambrel-roofed, two-bay, barn (Photo 28, p. 27). It rests on a continuous, dry-laid, fieldstone foundation with some additional concrete blocks supporting its east elevation. The barn is of balloon frame construction with convex wood siding. The roof is covered by standing-seam metal sheeting. The form of the barn is marked by a side drive that passes through the entire structure while the other bay is filled with stalls. Evenly spaced along the west elevation are three small, four-pane, fixed, wooden-sash windows (Photo 29, p. 27). A small opening is also visible to the hayloft that extends across the entire barn.



Photo 26: East Elevation of Garage.



Photo 27: View of North Elevation of Workshop and Granary (Workshop).

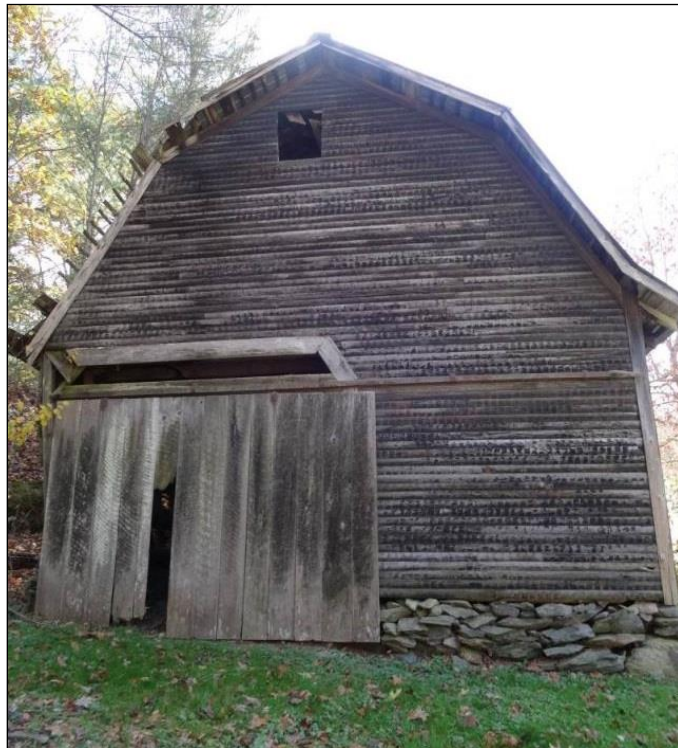


Photo 28: North Elevation of Barn.



Photo 29: View of West Elevation of Barn across Clark's Creek.

A two-story, single pile, frame- and concrete-block, side-gabled outbuilding is attached to the Hardie Clark House at the house's southwest corner (Photo 30). The outbuilding, its first floor described as a cellar house, rests on a stone and cement block foundation. The first floor's masonry is covered by plastered concrete, and the second floor is clad in weatherboards. As the lower half of the cellar house was built into the hillside slope, only the weatherboarded, second story is visible at south and west elevations. This lower story was for storage of goods, including vegetables, preserved food, and other staples.

The interior of the second floor, according to the owners, is where Zettie Clark kept her wooden loom and weaving supplies. A two-story, full-width porch is appended to the primary elevation of the outbuilding. The roof system of the lower level is supported by replacement wooden posts; the upper level porch is supported by latticework wooden posts, with a decorative rail balustrade.

The Hardie Clark House was built during the district's most active period of development by one of the community's prominent members. The house retains its original form and exterior features, and period outbuildings remain intact. Moreover, the presence of the loom room is a direct tie to this area's association with local handicrafts. It is recommended that this property is a contributing element to the historic district.



Photo 30: East Elevation of Cellar House and Loom Room (Second Floor).

5. Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church

Date of Construction: 1957-1959

Modifications: 1970-1985

2333 Clark's Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN1889-06-1574-000

Recommendation: Contributing



Constructed between 1957 and 1959, Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church is sited facing north within a small valley east of the creek, on land given by a longtime church member (Townsend, personal communication 2014). This is the second Seventh-day Adventist church to have been built in Clark's Creek and the third one in the immediate Clark's Creek-Dutch Creek community, the first church having been constructed in Dutch Creek, on the opposite slope of Elk Ridge, in 1882. The Dutch Creek church was destroyed in the 1940 flood, but Clark's Creek parishioners had built their own frame church by the early-twentieth century (Gaffney 1984:81; Hughes 1995:160). The church, according to locals, was in good condition and it is not known why it was replaced with this building. In the later twentieth century, church attendance dropped significantly, falling to 25 people in 1992, so that Banner Elk's Seventh-day Adventist pastor began preaching periodic services at Clark's Creek, rather than the organization engaging a permanent pastor (Hughes 1995: 160). This church was decommissioned in 2010, but residents maintain the grounds and expect that the church will eventually be reutilized (Townsend, personal communication 2014).

This late Moderne-style building, whose front-gable form and belfry merge institutional and traditional church forms, stands on a concrete block pier foundation and is composed of concrete block, with a cement plaster surface coat. Its front-gable roofline has a v-crimp metal covering, above which is positioned a small, pyramidal-roof open belfry that retains its original wooden spire. The church facade's front gable is sheathed with asphalt shingles and retains a louvered wooden ventilator at its apex (Photo 31, p. 30). A single concrete block exterior flue, located at the church's east elevation, is the building's sole source of heat (Photo 32, p. 30). There is only one access to the interior, which is on the front-gable entrance; there, paired nine-light paneled sash doors above a small concrete stoop open into a small vestibule (Photo 33, p. 31). The church retains its original nine-light and eight-light metal casement windows, with four lighting the building at each side of its east and west elevations (Photo 34, p. 31). The vestibule's small fixed two-light windows are on its east and west elevations as well. Inside, the church retains its small vestibule with double wooden-paneled doors that open into the sanctuary and altar space which highlight modifications made to the interior in the 1960s and 1970s (Photo 35, p. 32).

Although this is not the original church in the community, the association of residents of the area and the Seventh-day Adventist movement is strong. The doctrines of this religion dictated the lives and schedules of many of its residents, including absence of business

activity on Saturdays. The church building retains its original exterior and interior features, and is exemplary of the lower-tier Modernism favored by many congregations in the 1940s–1960s, as they chose to rebuild their houses of worship with more modern conveniences. It is recommended that this resource is a contributing element to the district.



Photo 31: Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, Primary (North) Elevation.



Photo 32: Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, Partial Oblique of North and East Elevations.



Photo 33: Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, Primary Entrance.



Photo 34: Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, East Elevation.



Photo 35: Clark’s Creek Seventh-Day Adventist Church, View beyond Interior Vestibule to Sanctuary.

6. House

Date of Construction: 1970–1985

Modifications:

127 Justus Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1889-06-1485-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

Access to this property was limited, due to posted “No Trespassing” signs and vehicles blocking the house. The Ranch-style dwelling faces west and is one-story high and four bays wide, with a concrete block foundation and frame infrastructure (Photo 36, p. 33). The exterior is clad with painted T-111 sheathing, and contrasting boards, creating a “Tudoresque” effect. The widely pitched side-gable roof, which extends at the façade to form a three-quarter shed roof porch and a projecting front-gable bay, is covered with asphalt shingles. The house does not appear to have a chimney or any flue. Doors, where seen, are modern metal-and-glass openings. Windows are metal and glass one-over-one, double-hung sash. The shed porch has plain posts and a plain wooden balustrade. There are no seen additions to this building. The only outbuilding seen on this property is a one-story, one-bay frame gabled storage shed, located just north of the house.

This house is an example of a later construction within the core of the historic district. It also has no known ties to area social history or notable residents. As such, it is recommended to be a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 36: 127 Justus Road, Oblique of the House's North and West Elevations with the Wooden Storage Outbuilding to the North.

7. House

Date of Construction: 1960–1970

Modifications: 2005–2010

157 Justus Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1889-06-1287-000

Recommendation: Non-Contributing



A wide, one-story, four-bay Ranch-style house on a skirted foundation stands facing west on Justus Road (Photo 37, p. 34). It is of frame construction, with board-and-batten siding at the west elevation, and weatherboards at the other elevations (Photo 38, p. 34). The side-gable roof extends to form a small shelter along all four elevations and is covered by a v-crimp metal. There appears to have been a chimney at the house's north elevation (which was very difficult to photograph due to the proximity of other buildings) but it has been removed. The primary entry is a glass-and-metal door accessed by an off-center recessed entrance on the façade. Windows along the façade are replacement double-hung metal and glass sash. The band of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows at the house's south elevation attests to the house's earlier 1960s appearance. Apart from a deck at the rear of the house, there is not a porch other than the shelter at the façade entrance. Two frame outbuildings, both built circa

1970–2000, are located behind the house. This is a later development within the historic district with no known ties to area social history or notable residents. It is recommended as a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 37: 157 Justus Road, West and South Elevations.



Photo 38: 157 Justus Road within its Setting.

8. Manufactured House

Date of Construction: 1985–2005

Modifications:

213 Justus Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-06-0098-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

A side-gable, one-story, three-bay manufactured house faces west on Justus Road. The house stands on a raised concrete block foundation and is of simple frame construction, with vinyl weatherboard siding (Photo 39). The roof is covered by asphalt tile, and there is no discernable chimney. The façade entrance is a plain paneled metal door accessed by a small raised wooden stoop. Single and paired windows composed of double-hung vinyl sash with metal strips to evoke six-light and nine-light muntins, pierce the dwelling. The house has no porch. Behind the house are a small, single-wide metal trailer, built circa 1970–1985, and a wooden, gabled, modern storage building. The house is set back from the road (Photo 40, p. 36), so that it does not interfere with the area’s viewshed.

This house is an example of a later construction within the core of the historic district. As such, it is recommended to be a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 39: 213 Justus Road, Primary (West) Elevation.



Photo 40: 213 Justus Road, Looking Southeast.

9. Byrd Cemetery

Date of Interments: 1977–present

Modifications: n/a

West side Justus Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1889-06-8391-000

Recommendation: Non-Contributing



Obtained by the Byrd family from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this 0.24-acre parcel has been used as a family cemetery for the Byrd, Murray, and Norwood families since the first burial took place in 1977. Accessed by an uphill dirt road overlooking Clark’s Creek Road, a stone monument with signage denotes the cemetery. A chain link fence bounds the property, within which are eight grave markers and twelve graves. At least two markers—slated for Johnny M. Byrd (born 1945) and Mae P. Byrd, his wife (born 1949)—have to be filled. One grave marker is in memory of Raymond Clyburn Russell (1927–1977), who served in the Army during World War II. The cemetery has no natural or man-made landscaping other than a verdant lawn, and trees screening it from view (Photo 41 and Photo 42, pp. 37–37).

This cemetery was established decades after the heyday of development in Clark’s Creek. It also has no known ties to notable residents who developed the community. As such, it is recommended to be a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 41: Signage for Byrd Cemetery, on Western Side of Access Road.



Photo 42: Byrd Cemetery, Murray and Byrd Markers, West Boundary.

10. Johnny Byrd House and Pond

Date of Construction: 1972

Modifications: 1972–present

311 Justus Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1889-05-1733-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

Johnny Byrd built this one-story, six-bay, split-level Ranch-style house in 1972. Resting on a concrete-slab foundation and with a semi-subterranean basement, Byrd's house is of frame construction with a running brick veneer exterior. The long, low-hipped roof covering the house's main section recesses to create an engaged front porch that is bounded by the north end's cross-gable projecting wing; both the cross-wing and hipped roof sections are covered by asphalt shingles. The roof has deep soffits, and simple gable returns typical of Ranch houses, with the cross-gable's apex sided with weatherboards and pierced by a circular louvered ventilator. A brick chimney is located behind the front slope of the roofline. The primary entrance, located within the recessed front porch, is a metal and screen door over a plywood door with a fan-shaped glass sash, typical of 1960s and 1970s doorways. A variety of double-hung sash windows are seen along the façade and north elevation, nearly all paired; the cross-gable wing and south end of the house have smaller eight-over-eight paired windows, the windows at the porch are large, elongated six-over-nine paired windows. At the house's south elevation, earlier garage doors have been replaced by a wall of windows, suggesting that this was rehabilitated into living space some years beforehand. The recessed front porch is supported by plain, square wood posts and consists of a raised, poured concrete floor enlivened by an adjacent rock-faced terrace (Photo 43, p. 39). Another rock-faced terrace wall stands just southwest of the house's cross-gable. There is a two-bay, front-gable brick outbuilding built into a slope south of the house (Photo 44, p. 39).

West of the house is a 2-acre manmade pond and canal system created by Johnny Byrd (Photo 45, p. 40). According to Mr. Byrd, the pond, faced with concrete and stone, came first along with a concrete canal of similar treatment built within the slope leading from his house to the pond. These were initially constructed in 1972, the year his house was built (Byrd, personal communication 2015). Because of stability issues—the pond's dam broke in the 1990s—Byrd created another canal, whereby pond runoff would course into Clark's Creek (Byrd, personal communication 2015). Terraced rock platforms and walls, designed for picnics, surround the pond on all sides (Photo 46, p. 40).

This house is an example of a later construction within the core of the historic district. It also has no known ties to area social history or notable residents. It is recommended as a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 43: Johnny Byrd House, Primary (West) Elevation.

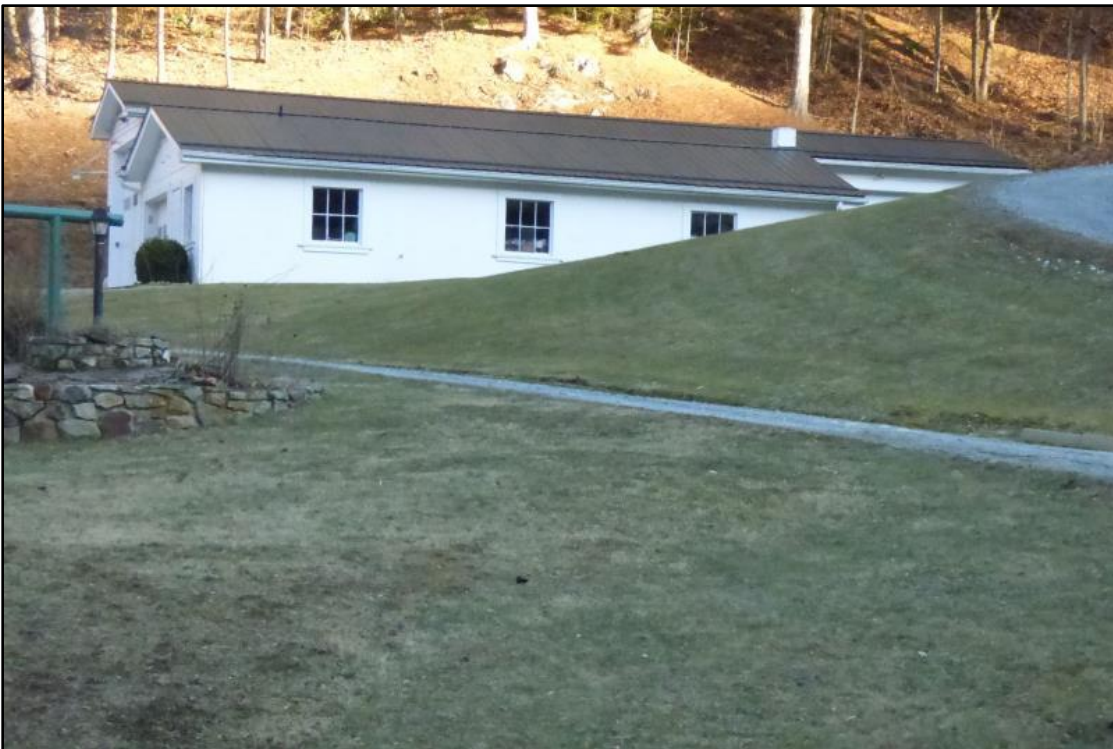


Photo 44: Johnny Byrd House, West and North Elevation of Garage Buildings.



Photo 45: Johnny Byrd House, Aerial View of House, Manmade Pond and Canals (Google Earth).



Photo 46: Johnny Byrd House, View of Pond Looking South to North, with Picnic Area in Foreground.

11. Wilson House

Date of Construction: 1920–1929
Modifications: 1980–2010

309 Justus Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1879-95-8792-000



Recommendation: Contributing

According to longtime residents Johnny Byrd and Jon Townsend, this one-and-a-half story, three-bay frame bungalow belonged to the Wilson family and was built in the 1920s. The house, which faces north away from Justus Road, stands upon a concrete-block foundation and has frame infrastructure that was initially covered by weatherboards but is now faced with vertical T-111 siding (Photo 47). The wide, side-gable roofline extends to shelter the house's full-façade porch at its north elevation. The roof is covered by replacement asphalt shingles. The tall brick chimney stack at the house's south slope is original. The plywood door at the house's principal entrance, with its pierced fanlight, appears to be original; the single and paired double-hung sash windows are replacement. The porch's tall wood posts and rail balustrade, which repeat at the house's west elevation shed porch, are replacement (Photo 48, p. 42). There are no corresponding outbuildings on this property.

Although the house has been updated, the dwelling still retains its original massing and scale and represents 1920s-era construction in the district. It is recommended as a contributing element to the historic district.



Photo 47: Wilson House, West Elevation.



Photo 48: Wilson House, North and West Elevations.

12. Clark's Creek Baptist Church

WT 0349

Date of Construction: 1898

Modifications: Moved circa 1938

Justus Road (south of Clark's Creek Road)

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1879-06-7774-000



Recommendation: Contributing

Sited at the curve of Justus Road, immediately south of a creek crossing, this former Baptist church, constructed in 1898, originally stood nearly 2 miles north of its present site, at the current site of the 1930s Clark's Creek Missionary Baptist Church (Byrd, personal communication 2015; Hughes 1995:95) (Photo 49–Photo 51, pp. 44, and 44). When Hardie Clark contributed toward a new Baptist sanctuary in the late 1930s, this former church was moved to its current site, where it has served as a storage building for decades (Byrd, personal communication 2015).

Now resting on stone and wood piers, the balloon-frame, gabled former sanctuary is in deteriorated condition due to termite damage at its east elevation. It retains its original weatherboard cladding, secured by cut nails, as well as plain cornerboards. The exterior is devoid of ornament seen with other late nineteenth-century churches, such as prominent gable returns, molded window and door surrounds, or decorative brackets or posts. The

gabled roof is covered with standing seam metal. The flue chimney, which was positioned at the church's west elevation, was removed some years ago. The former entrance at the church's north elevation, is positioned at the center with paired, herringbone-sheathed doors and a wide overhead transom (Photo 52, p. 45); at the south elevation, there is a glass and wood panel door dating from the early twentieth century. Window openings are plain, filled by double-hung, one-over-one, wooden sashes. Three windows on each side light the former church's east and west elevations. There is no indication of an earlier or original porch for the Baptist church, but a shed roof supported by wood posts shelters the south entrance. Inside, the interior is still sheathed by plain tongue-and-groove siding, and a small vertical board wainscot and chair rail (Photo 53, p. 45).



Photo 49: Clark's Creek Baptist Church, Oblique of East and Primary (North) Elevations.

This building was erected as one of the first churches in the Clark's Creek community. Although it has been moved, this action was taken in the 1930s as part of the redevelopment of this crossroads area by a prominent local citizen for the construction of a new religious facility. The church retains its original form and exterior elements, and its interior is still discernable as having been a gathering place. Given its ties to the social history of the area, it is suggested that this is a contributing element to the district.



Photo 50: Clark's Creek Baptist Church, Partial Oblique of East and North Elevations.



Photo 51: Clark's Creek Baptist Church, West Elevation.



Photo 52: Clark's Creek Baptist Church, Detail of Entrance.



Photo 53: Clark's Creek Baptist Church, Interior, Looking North to Church Entrance Wall.

13. Byrd-Racz House

Date of Construction: 1990–2005
Modifications: n/a

307 Justus Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1879-95-9522-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

A two-story, frame side-gable house with an imposing front-gabled center portion, the Byrd-Racz House faces northwest toward Justus Road and Clark’s Creek. It stands on a cement slab foundation. Its lower story is plastered concrete block, while its upper story is sheathed in hardie-plank weatherboard siding and the roof is covered by asphalt shingles. A stone chimney, its stack flush against the center gable, breaks through the center gable’s apex (Photo 54). The house’s large, double-hung and triangular eyebrow windows are vinyl and glass, with a front entrance of paired metal doors beneath a wooden deck. One outbuilding, a storage shed, is located west of the dwelling (Photo 55, p. 47).

This house is an example of recent development within the historic district. It is recommended as a non-contributing resource.



Photo 54: Byrd-Racz House, Primary (Southeast) Elevation.



Photo 55: Byrd-Racz House, Outbuilding, East and North Elevations.

14. Barn

Date of Construction: 1920–1930

Modifications: n/a

Justus Road

Banner Elk, North Carolina

PIN: 1879-05-5723-000



Recommendation: Contributing

Associated with the nearby Charles Clark House, this frame, gambrel roof dairy barn stands on a stone and concrete-block foundation, facing north toward Justus Road and on the east bank of Clark's Creek (Photo 56, p. 48). It has patterned and nailed vertical wood siding, in addition to a decorative lozenge louvered wood ventilator at the front gable's apex. The barn, which has a thru-passage with three cribs to each side, is covered by a standing seam metal roof. Its hay hood is located at the east elevation, and has a shed roof dormer (Photo 57–Photo 58, p. 49). Besides the central pass-thru, other openings at the front elevation include the overhead hinged door at the second floor for the hayloft. The barn has an attached open shed at its west elevation. This property, along with woods and wetlands on the opposite bank of Clark's Creek (PIN 1879-96-1110-000), are designated Farmland Preservation areas within Watauga County (Watauga GIS 2014; Watauga Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program [VFPP] 2014).

This barn is among the most intact outbuildings in the district and retains nearly all its fenestration and exterior details. Due to its construction date and direct ties with the agricultural use of this area by residents important to this immediate area's history, it is recommended that this resource is a contributing element to the historic district.



Photo 56: Barn, North Elevation.



Photo 57: Barn, East Elevation Showing Shed-Roof Hayloft.



Photo 58: Barn, Detail of Shed-Roof Hayloft.

15. Outbuildings

Date of Construction: 1975–1990

Modifications: n/a

West side of Justus Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1879-96-1110-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

This gabled greenhouse and former pen enclosure are sited in bottomland on the west bank of Clark's Creek (Photo 59, p. 50). The foundation of the greenhouse could not be discerned due to limited access. It is of frame construction and sheathed with nailed, vertical wood boards. The gabled roof has a standing-seam-metal cover. Fenestration includes a band of single-pane windows along the greenhouse's south and north elevations, and a single entrance on the east elevation. East of the greenhouse, closer to Clark's Creek Road is a post-and-rail animal pen (Photo 60, p. 50), apparently for fencing small livestock.

Although this building has an association with the continued agricultural use of this area, it is modern construction and does not date to the primary period of farming activity in Clark's Creek. It is recommended to be a non-contributing element to the district.



Photo 59: Greenhouse, West Side Justus Road.



Photo 60: Pen Enclosure, West Side Justus Road.

16. House

Date of Construction: 1980–2000
Modifications: n/a

2502 Clark’s Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-96-1110-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

Sited on a slope above Clark’s Creek’s upper valley, this two-story, three-bay dwelling faces northwest (Photo 61, p. 51). Its foundation could not be determined due to limited access but the frame building is sheathed by weatherboards. The side-gable roof, which extends to form a shelter along the façade, is covered by asphalt shingles and pierced by three front-gable dormers. No chimney is visible from the northwest or side (northeast and southwest) elevations. Fenestration is symmetrical, with metal doors at the lower story and a central wooden door on the second-story façade, lit by sidelights and a center oval glass panel. The building is lit by single and paired vinyl-and-glass, double-hung sash windows. There is a two-story, full façade porch at the front elevation, supported by metal posts and a rail balustrade at the second floor. As can be seen from Photo 62 (p. 52), this house is visible in the upper Clark’s Creek valley viewshed, but at some distance from the cluster of community buildings, in addition to which its traditional side-gable form is more in keeping with older buildings in Clark’s Creek.

This is an example of recent development within the community, and it is recommended to be a non-contributing resource to the historic district.



Photo 61: 2502 Clark’s Creek Road, Primary (Southeast) Elevation.



Photo 62: 2502 Clark's Creek Road (in the distance) and Surrounding Landscape.
The Lowrance House and Barn are on the left (East).

17. Manufactured House

Date of Construction: 1980–2000

Modifications: n/a

Clark's Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-07-1006-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

This manufactured house faces west above Clark's Creek Road. Its foundation could not be seen, but it is of frame construction and appears to have vinyl-sided weatherboards. It has a side-gable roofline with an off-center cross gable at its façade (Photo 63, p. 53). There is no discernible chimney. Fenestration consists of non-symmetrical double-hung glass and vinyl windows, and it was not possible to see the door, due to distance and trees. No porch was seen at any elevation of the house, and there are no associated outbuildings. Its siting behind trees on a mountain slope above Clark's Creek's eastern bank is not obtrusive, as the trees screen the house from the valley's overall viewshed.

This modern home has no association with area social history or notable individuals. It is recommended to be a non-contributing resource to the historic district.

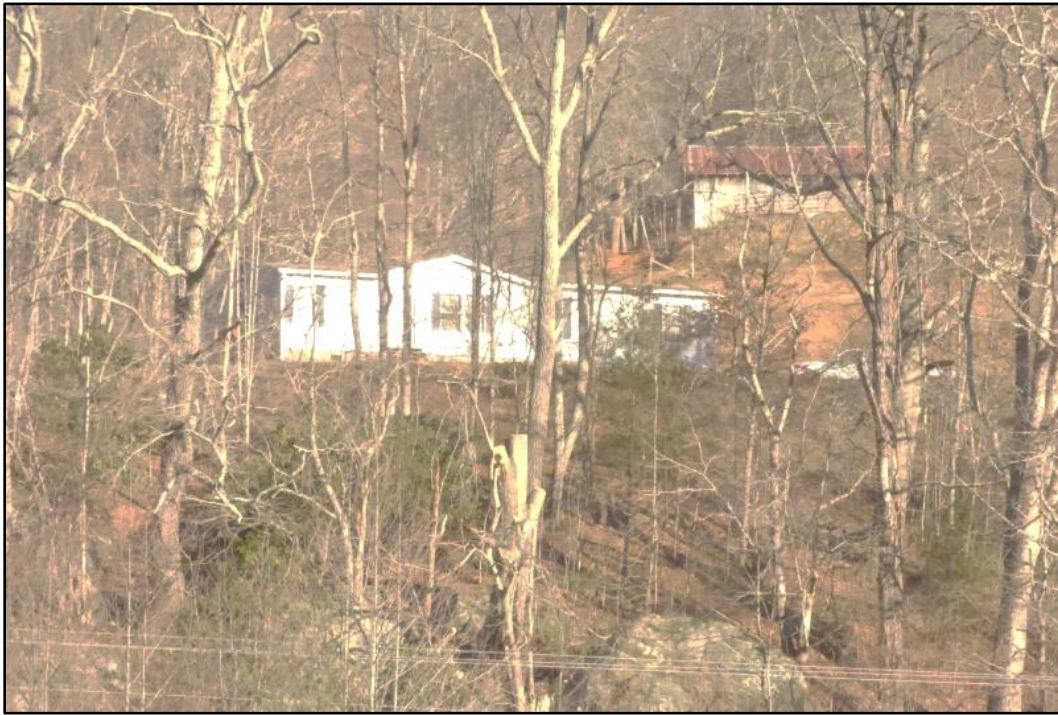


Photo 63: Manufactured House, West Elevation (Hodges Barn, Property No. 18, in Background).

18. Hodges House and Barn

Date of Construction: 1990–2005;
1950–1960 (barn); 1970–2000 (house)
Modifications: n/a

2222 Clark’s Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-06-4634-000 (house)
PIN: 1889-06-7643-000 (barn)



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

Above the north side of Clark’s Creek Road, a side-gable manufactured house stands facing south, its south (primary) elevation screened by trees three seasons of the year (Photo 64, p. 54). To its west, is a mid-twentieth-century, gabled frame barn (Photo 65, p. 54). This property is marked by “No Trespassing” signs so that access was not possible. However, the house’s siting behind trees on a mountain slope above Clark’s Creek is not obtrusive, as the trees screen the house from the valley’s overall viewshed. Over 50 years of age, the barn appears to be in fair to poor condition. Little can be ascertained of its form and function.

The house is modern construction with no apparent ties to important individuals in the community’s past. Although the barn may date to a period of robust agricultural activity in

this area, it has extremely compromised integrity and all vestiges of its association with other contributing elements are gone. It is recommended that this resource does not contribute to the historic district.



Photo 64: 2222 Clark's Creek Road, Primary (South) Elevation.



Photo 65: 2222 Clark's Creek Road, West and South Elevations of Barn.

19. Townsend Manufactured House

Date of Construction: 1970–1985
Modifications: 2000–2010

2146 Clark’s Creek Road
Banner Elk, North Carolina
PIN: 1889-06-9178-000



Recommendation: Non-Contributing

The Townsend family sited a single-wide trailer above their farmhouse, facing southeast, between 1970 and 1985. The family later modified it by adding a side-gable roof that extended into a full-façade shed porch. The projecting bay at the dwelling’s northwest end is likely a later addition. According to information gathered during the 2001–2003 Watauga County Architectural Survey, the Townsends sold their property to a couple from Maryland but retain a life interest in the modified trailer, which will be removed upon the demise of the last Townsend to inhabit the building (Van Winkle 2002). Of the buildings constructed after 1965 in the project area, the Townsend Manufactured House’s looming proximity to the Moody Townsend House is the greatest non-contributing intrusion to this potential historic district (Photo 66, p. 55). However, tree cover for three-quarters of the year serves to screen its presence, and the trailer is not a permanent fixture.

Given the modern date of this manufactured home, it is suggested that this is a non-contributing resource to the district.

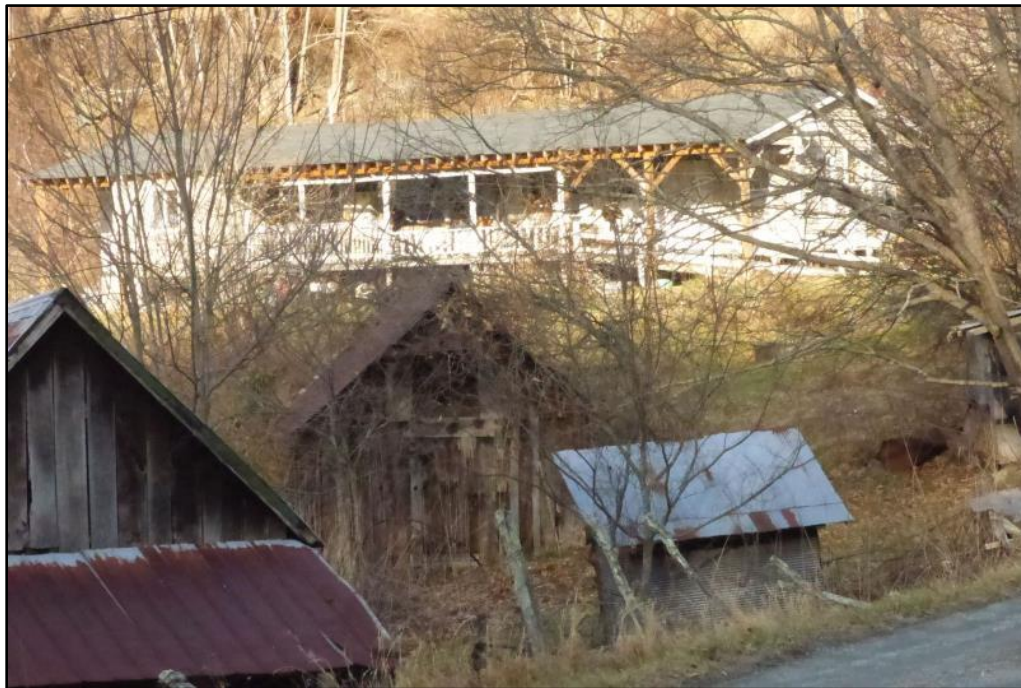


Photo 66: Townsend Manufactured House, Southeast and East Elevations.

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EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Together, the previously described buildings in Clark's Creek's upper valley tell the story of early-twentieth-century rural life in western North Carolina—the hardscrabble existence of mountain life, milling, subsistence farming, and the continuance of traditional crafts, such as weaving. These are all associated with NRHP definitions of eligibility of Criterion A, events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Remnants of field patterns, meadows, woodlands and orchards, and a few surviving early-twentieth-century outbuildings, along with creek bottomlands where farmers in the past would have planted burley tobacco, inform Clark's Creek and its surviving nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings and structures.

Cartography from the early-twentieth century shows that the routes of the district's major roadways, SR 1137 and SR 1136, have changed little in the immediate area (UNC Maps 1920, 1928). Furthermore, these elements are all framed by natural landscape features such as woodlands, rock outcroppings, and the creek itself, which winds through this small district. There are small intrusions into traditional landscape, primarily vacation homes, and manufactured houses screened by foliage. However, the district's overall fabric retains integrity of location and setting, as well as integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although some resources, such as the Wilson House (No. 11), have experienced loss of original materials, their form and sense of place in this rural environment remain authentic.

Extant churches in this immediate area were also social hubs for the community; although Holy Communion Lutheran Church is outside of this district, its role in Clark's Creek heritage is as important as the Baptist and Seventh-day Adventist churches, particularly in the part it played with cultivating locally produced handicrafts in the 1930s. One property in the district, the Hardie Clark House, encompasses definite documentation of the craft of weaving to this community, through oral history and documentary photographs of Zettie Clark on site with her loom in the 1940s and 1950s. The upstairs loom room, where Mrs. Clark worked, remains mostly intact. Some of the artifacts pertaining to her work, such as weaving materials, and special features of the interior space to aid in her craft, remain in the room, a remarkable survival where so many early-to-mid-twentieth-century weaving-related facilities from this region have perished. Therefore, Clark's Creek Rural Historic District is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for community planning and development, as well as for social history, with an extant building and artifacts pertaining to Watauga County's home weaving industry.

For a historic resource to be considered eligible under Criterion B, it must be associated with a person who is “individually significant within a historic context” and who has “gained importance within his or her profession or group” (National Park Service [NPS] 2014). There are no historic personages known in this community, so it cannot be associated with the lives of important individuals whose specific contributions to history can be clearly identified, documented, and tied to this property. For this reason, the resource is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

Eligibility for Criterion C encompasses objects that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The community of Clark's Creek is composed of buildings ranging from the late-nineteenth-century to the end of the twentieth century, none of which represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. Yet, compared to nearby rural settlements, specifically, the lower valley below Clark's Creek Falls (Photo 67, p.59) and Dutch Creek (Photo 68, p. 60), there is a greater range of intact architecture 50 years or older in the proposed Clark's Creek Rural Historic District, especially at the intersection of Justus Road and Clark's Creek Road (Photo 69, p. 60). Clark's Creek's buildings are furthermore framed by intact natural settings and remnants of pasture, with minimal intrusion into the viewshed; the road itself is also a contributing feature within the landscape (Photo 70–Photo 74, pp. 61–63). The overall result is the contributing elements of Clark's Creek represent the significant and distinguishable entity of Watauga County's turn-of-the-twentieth-century's rural development. For this reason, the resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered significant. The Clark's Creek Rural Historic District is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology, nor of significant patterns of history in the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

In sum, it is recommended that the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District (WT 759) is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with community planning and development, as well as social history due to its association with the rural development of Watauga County and the weaving industry. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion C due to the distinct cluster of vernacular dwellings constructed by families who have remained in the area for generations. Although there are modern buildings within the general area, they are masked from view by vegetation, thus maintaining the rolling, bucolic vistas that were established when the area was first settled. It is recommended not eligible under Criteria B and D.

It is suggested that the Period of Significance for the district is 1850–1959. This date range encapsulates the first settlement in this area by Peter Townsend by 1850, through the completion of the new Seventh-Day Adventist Church in 1959—a major social and religious hub for early residents of this rural community.

The recommended NRHP boundaries include all contributing resources, notable viewsheds, and other physical elements that represent the characteristics that render this district eligible (Figure 5, p. 64). As shown, the southernmost boundary would include Property No. 14 and SR 1137, moving north-northeast along Justus Road and its right-of-way to incorporate Properties No. 11, 12, and 15, as well as winding Clark's Creek. At Property No. 4, which extends to the northeast corner of SR 1137 and SR 1136, the district expands east-southeast,

with Properties No. 5, 2, and 1 connected by SR 1136 and its right-of-way. The district's eastern bounds are the east, north, and west boundaries of Property No. 1. The northern bounds of the district follow the north, east, and northwest boundaries of Property No. 2, SR 1136 and its right-of-way, and Property No. 4, with Property No. 3 included at the north bounds of SR 1136. The district's western bounds would be the west, south, and north boundaries of Property No. 4, 15, and 12's parcels, and SR 1137 itself.



Photo 67: View of Lower Clark's Creek (SR 1136, below Clark's Creek Falls), West Side of SR 1136, Looking Northwest. Watauga County, North Carolina.

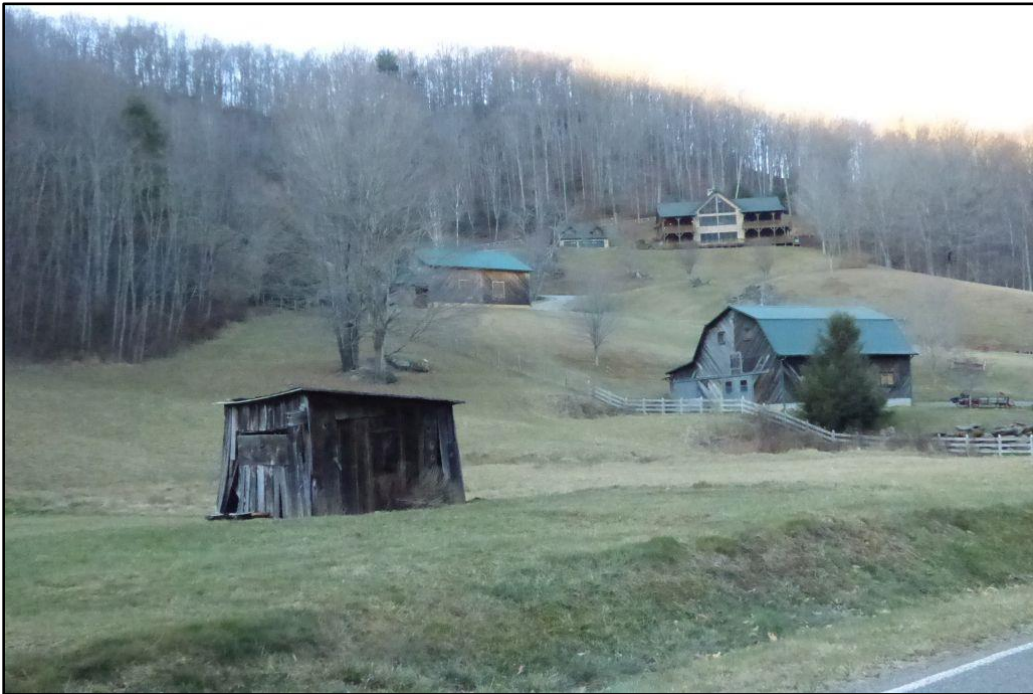


Photo 68: View of Dutch Creek Rural Community (SR 1134), West side of SR 1134, Looking Northwest. Watauga County, North Carolina.

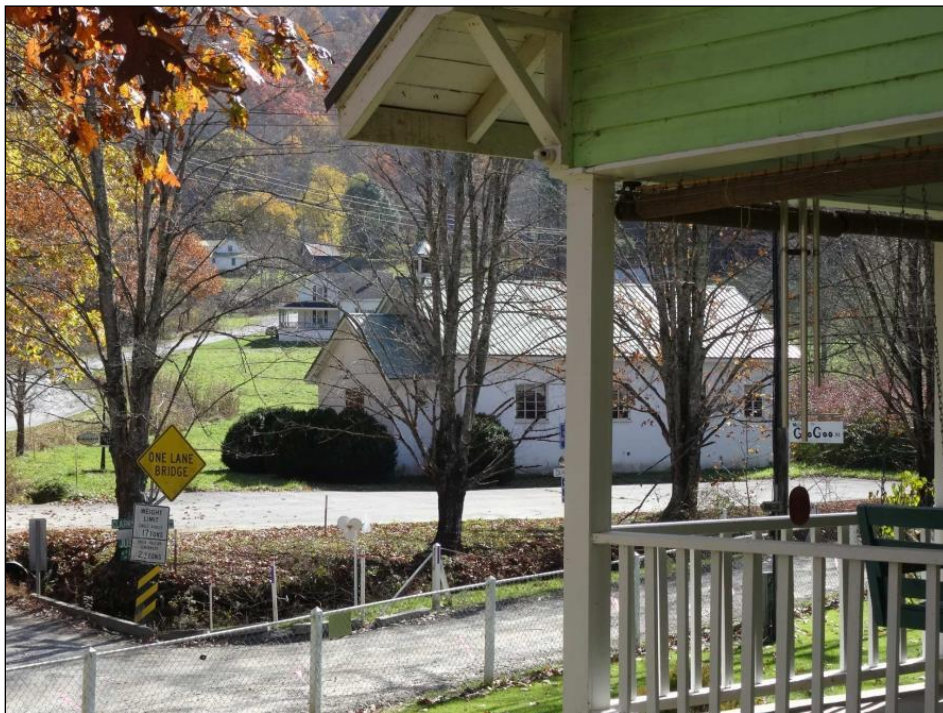


Photo 69: View to East-Southeast of Clark's Creek Community (from Foreground to Background: Clark's Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lowrance House, Moody Townsend House and outbuilding) from Hardie Clark House Porch.



Photo 70: The Lowrance House and Barn, Looking West.



Photo 71: Seventh-day Adventist Church, Looking East.

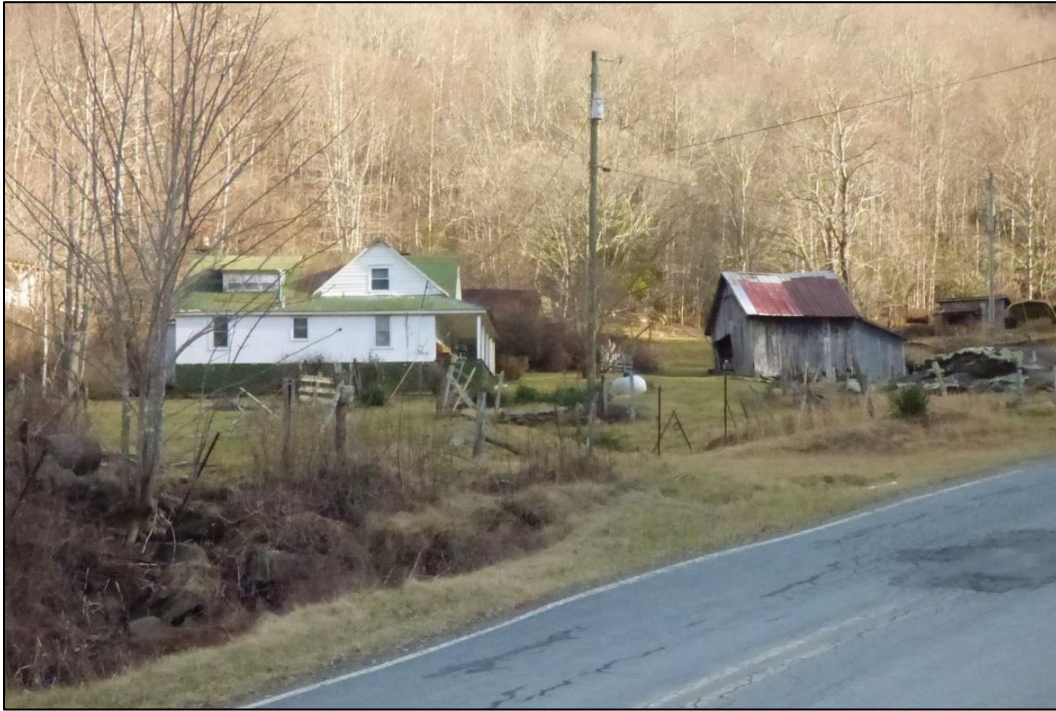


Photo 72: The Moody Townsend House and Outbuildings, Looking East.



Photo 73: The Lowrance House and Barn, Looking East.



Photo 74: The Garage at the Hardie Clark House, Looking South.

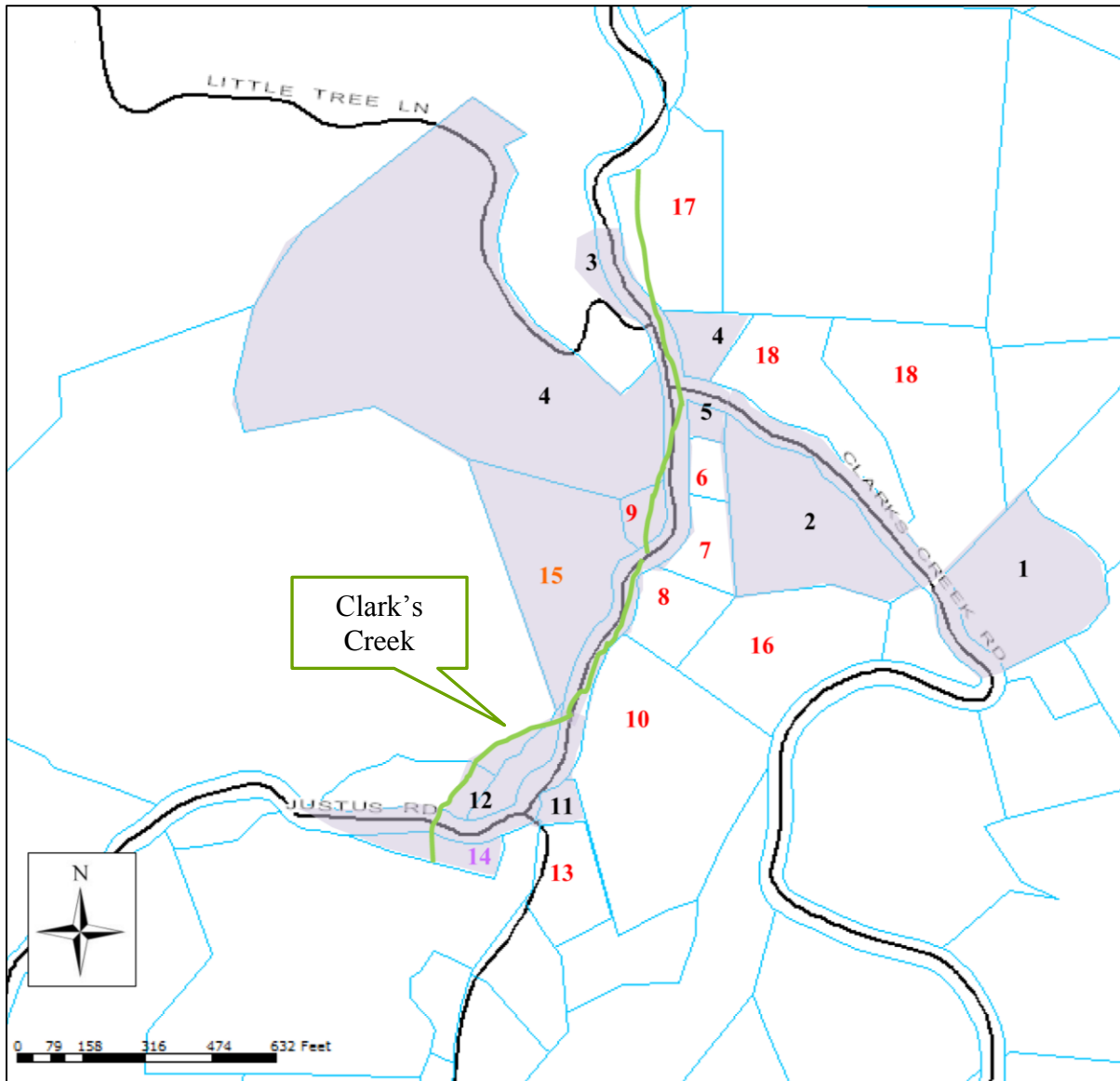


Figure 5: Recommended Boundaries for the Clark's Creek Rural Historic District (shaded in grey). Numbers correspond to property numbers in report.

Black= Contributing, Red= Non-Contributing,

Violet = Contributing Property in County Farmland Preservation Program,

Orange = Non-Contributing Property in County Farmland Preservation Program.

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