

**North Carolina Department of Natural and 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

July 28, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Kate Husband  
Office of Human Environment  
NCDOT Division of Highways

**FROM:** Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*  
Environmental Review Coordinator

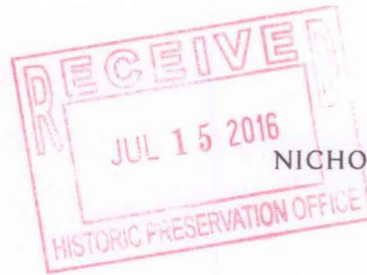
**SUBJECT:** Historic Structures Survey Report for Replacement of Bridge 127 on SR 1387 over  
Burningtown Creek, PA 16-01-0119, B-5908, Macon County, ER 16-1204

Thank you for your memorandum of July 13, 2016, transmitting the report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and **concur that Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places** for the reasons outlined.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)



PAT McCrory  
Governor  
NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON  
Secretary

ER 16- 1204

July 13, 2016

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Renee Gledhill-Earley  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

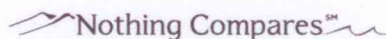
S. [Signature]

**FROM:** Kate Husband  
Architectural Historian  
NCDOT Division of Highways

Due 8/8/16

**SUBJECT:** Historic Structure Report for the Replacement of Bridge No. 127 on SR 1387 (Upper Burningtown Road) over Burningtown Creek, Macon County (PA No. 16-01-0119)

Enclosed please find the eligibility report and survey site form for the above referenced project. Please feel free to contact me by phone (919-707-6075) if you have any additional questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you.



**Historic Structure Survey Report for the Replacement of Bridge No. 127 on SR 1387  
(Upper Burningtown Road) over Burningtown Creek**

**TIP No. B-5908  
Macon County**

**Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)  
5869 Upper Burningtown Road**

**Prepared for:**

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

**Prepared by:**

**Environmental Corporation of America  
222 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Suite 315  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201  
615-228-3888**

**ECA Project No. S0562**

**April 2016**



**ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA**

**Historic Structure Survey Report for the Replacement of Bridge No. 127 on SR 1387  
(Upper Burningtown Road) over Burningtown Creek**

TIP No. B-5908  
Macon County

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April 2016

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Jaime L. Destefano – Principal Architectural Historian  
Environmental Corporation of America

Date

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

Date

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 127 on Upper Burningtown Road (SR 1387) over Burningtown Creek in Macon County. The project area is located within the northwest section of Macon County. The bridge is located approximate 2.7 miles southwest of the community of Burningtown and approximately 8 miles northwest of the town of Franklin. NCDOT defines this project’s Area of Potential Effects (APE) as approximately 300 feet on either side of Bridge No. 127 and 600 feet from each end of that structure. This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2015). NCDOT Architectural Historians established an APE for the project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. Macon County Bridge No. 127 is not addressed in this report. Built in 1965, the structure does not exemplify any distinctive engineering or aesthetic type and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. NCDOT Architectural Historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that one property greater than 50 years old warranted further evaluation: Mount Sinai Church (MA0334).

In April 2016, NCDOT requested Environmental Corporation of America (ECA) complete an evaluation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334), located at 5869 Upper Burningtown Road near Franklin, Macon County. Architectural Historian Jaime Destefano conducted the field work on April 14, 2016, photographing and mapping the property, and authored the report. Background research was conducted to obtain a greater understanding of the historical development of the region and to place the resource within its historic agricultural and architectural context, as well as to document the families historically associated with the property. Information was acquired through research at the Macon County Public Library, the Macon County Register of Deeds and Tax Assessor, and a general internet data search. After an intensive evaluation following National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility, the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) was found to be ineligible due to a lack of special historic and architectural significance and the loss of integrity.

ECA conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with complies with NCDOT’s *Historic Architectural Resources, Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines*, and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) *Report Standards for Historic Structures Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports*. This property evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

Resource Name	Mount Sinai Church
HPO Survey Site #	MA0334
Location	5869 Upper Burningtown Road, Franklin, North Carolina (Macon County)
PIN	6556-22-6407
Date(s) of Construction	c.1930; c.1970 addition
Recommendation	Not eligible for NRHP

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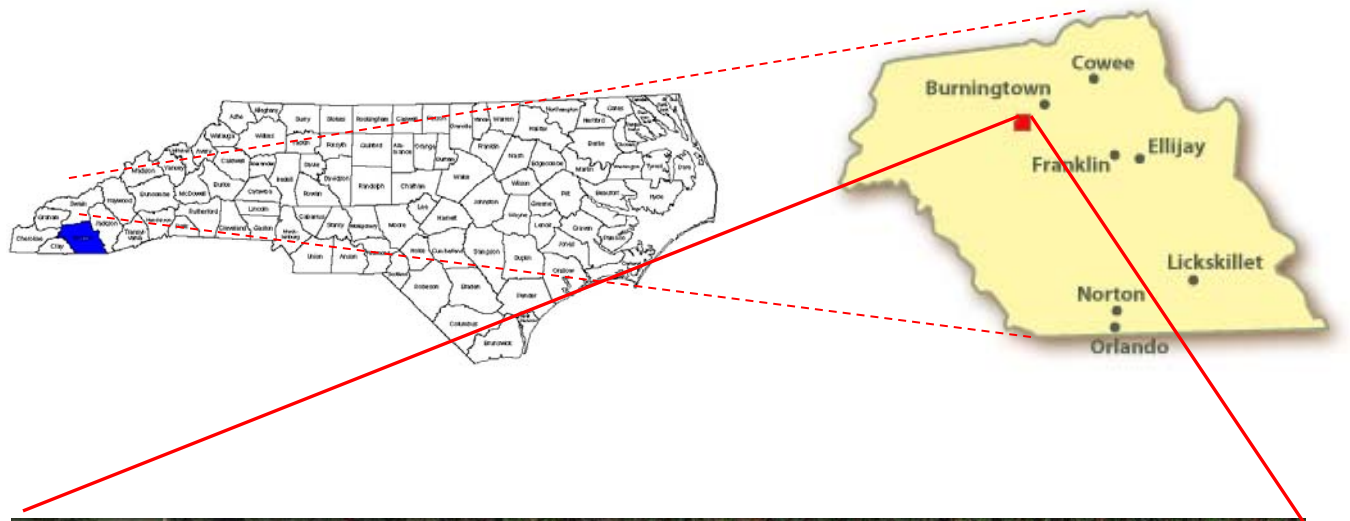
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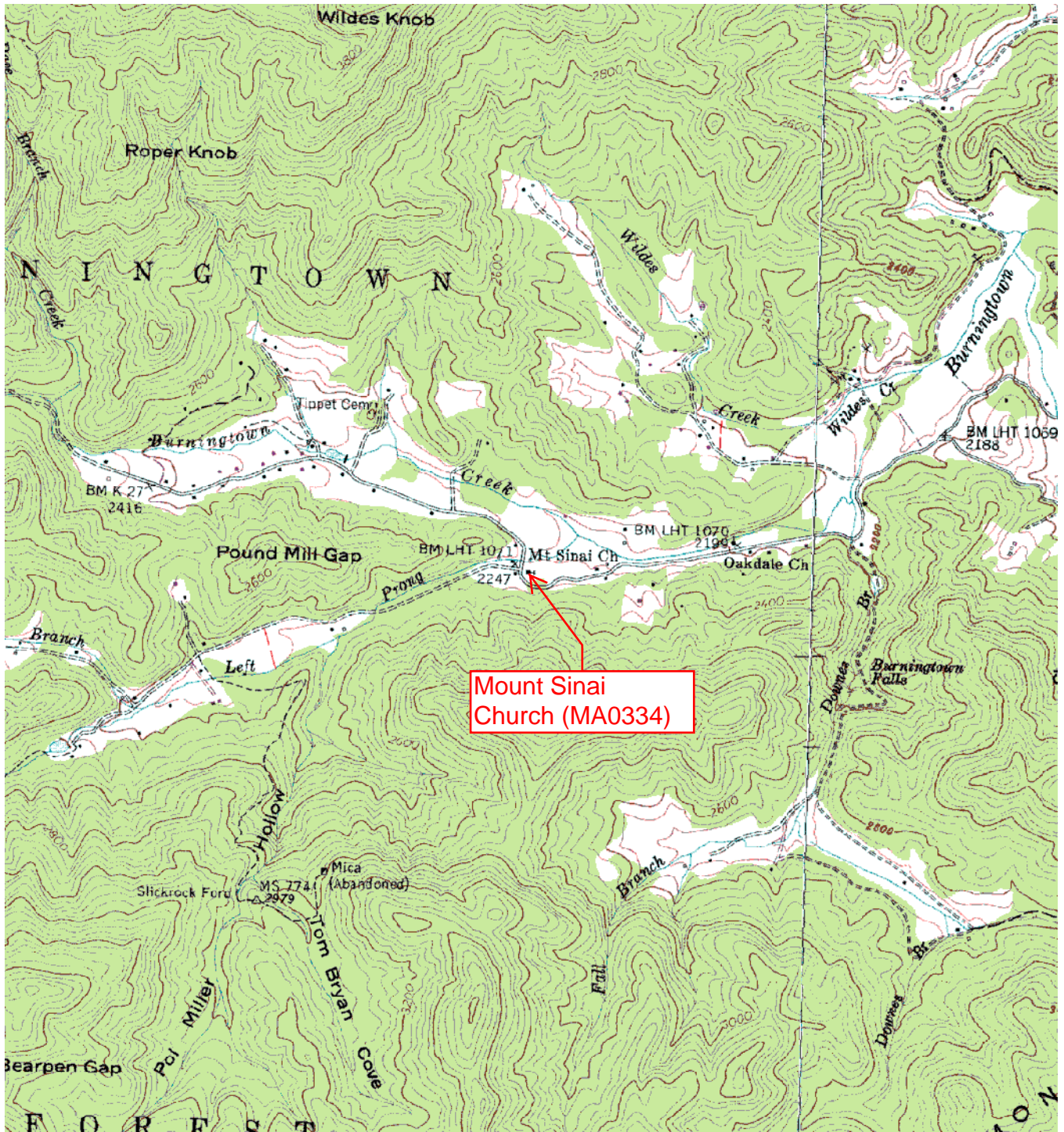
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# I. PROJECT LOCATION MAPS





Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)

2000 0 2000 Feet



Source: USGS Topographic Map, 7.5 Minute Series, Wayah Bald, NC 1957 (Photo revised 1978) and Franklin, NC 1946 (Photo revised 1978)

Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)

5869 Upper Burningtown Road, Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina  
 NCDOT Project: Replacement Bridge No.127 on SR 1387 (Upper Burningtown Road)  
 over Burningtown Creek; TIP No.B-5908/WBS No. 48040.1.1  
 USGS Topographic Map







Source: 2015 Google Earth Aerial Photograph

Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)

5869 Upper Burningtown Road, Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina  
NCDOT Project: Replacement Bridge No.127 on SR 1387 (Upper Burningtown Road)  
over Burningtown Creek; TIP No. B-5908/WBS No. 48040.1.1  
2015 Google Earth Aerial Photograph Showing Property Area Boundaries



## II. INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 127 on Upper Burningtown Road (SR 1387), over Burningtown Creek in Macon County. NCDOT defines this project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as approximately 300 feet on either side of Bridge No. 127 and 600 feet from each end of that structure. This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2015). NCDOT Architectural Historians established an APE for the project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. Macon County Bridge No. 127 is not addressed in this report. Built in 1965, the structure does not exemplify any distinctive engineering or aesthetic type and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. NCDOT Architectural Historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that one property greater than 50 years old warranted further evaluation: Mount Sinai Church (MA0334).

The Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) is located approximately 8 miles west of Franklin, the county seat, and within the township of Burningtown in the greater Tellico Valley. This long valley in northern Macon County "shelters an unspoiled rural landscape" and is characterized by winding rural roads, dense forests, and open pastures.<sup>1</sup> The property is located at a rural crossroads within the Nantahala National Forest, east of Wayah Bald and Pound Mill Gap. Burningtown Creek, which played a significant role in the agricultural development of the area, is adjacent to the north of Mount Sinai Church. The church is located approximately 100 feet southeast of Bridge No. 127 within the APE.

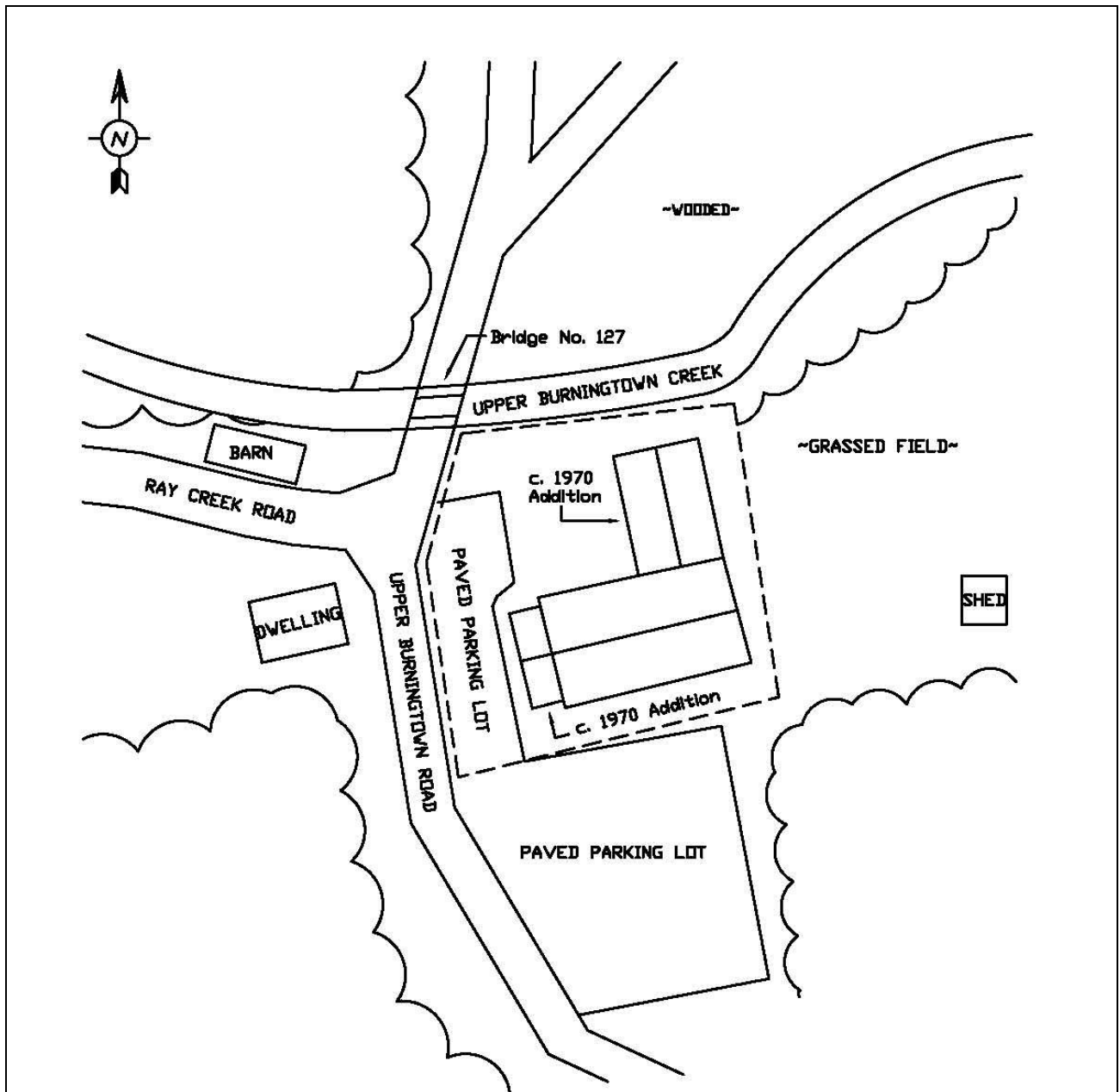
The Mount Sinai Church faces west on a 0.22-acre parcel located on the east side of Upper Burningtown Road (SR 1387). Upper Burningtown Road and its right-of-way form the west property line. The north property line is formed by Burningtown Creek. The east property line abuts an adjacent parcel occupied by an open grassed field and small, historic agricultural buildings. A paved parking lot is directly south of the property and utilized by the Church congregation. The subject parcel is owned by Mount Sinai Assemblies of God Church.

The Mount Sinai Church sits on the southeast corner of the parcel and fronts the east side of Upper Burningtown Road (SR1387). A paved driveway leading from Upper Burningtown Road and a paved parking area are located directly in front of the church and join the larger parking lot to the south. The property is primarily grassed with vegetation lining Burningtown Creek. There are no secondary structures located within the parcel.

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<sup>1</sup> Catherine Bishir and Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer Martin, [A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina](#), Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, 1999.

The following sketch map identifies the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) and its siting relative to Bridge No.127, as well as the immediate surrounding setting. The map also recognizes two historic buildings at the crossroads of Ray Creek Road and Upper Burningtown Road. These were determined by North Carolina Department of Transportation architectural historians to not require further evaluation for National Register eligibility.



Sketch Map Depicting Bridge No.127, the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334), and the Surrounding Setting

VIEWS OF THE SETTING SURROUNDING BRIDGE NO.127 AND MOUNT SINAI CHURCH (MA0334)



Northeasterly View toward Bridge No.127 and Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)



Westerly View toward Bridge No.127, from the North Elevation of Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)



Northwesterly View toward Bridge No. 127 from Mount Sinai Church (MA0334)



Easterly View from Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) toward Agricultural Buildings on Adjacent Parcel



Southeasterly View from Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) toward Adjacent Parking Lot and Surrounding Hills



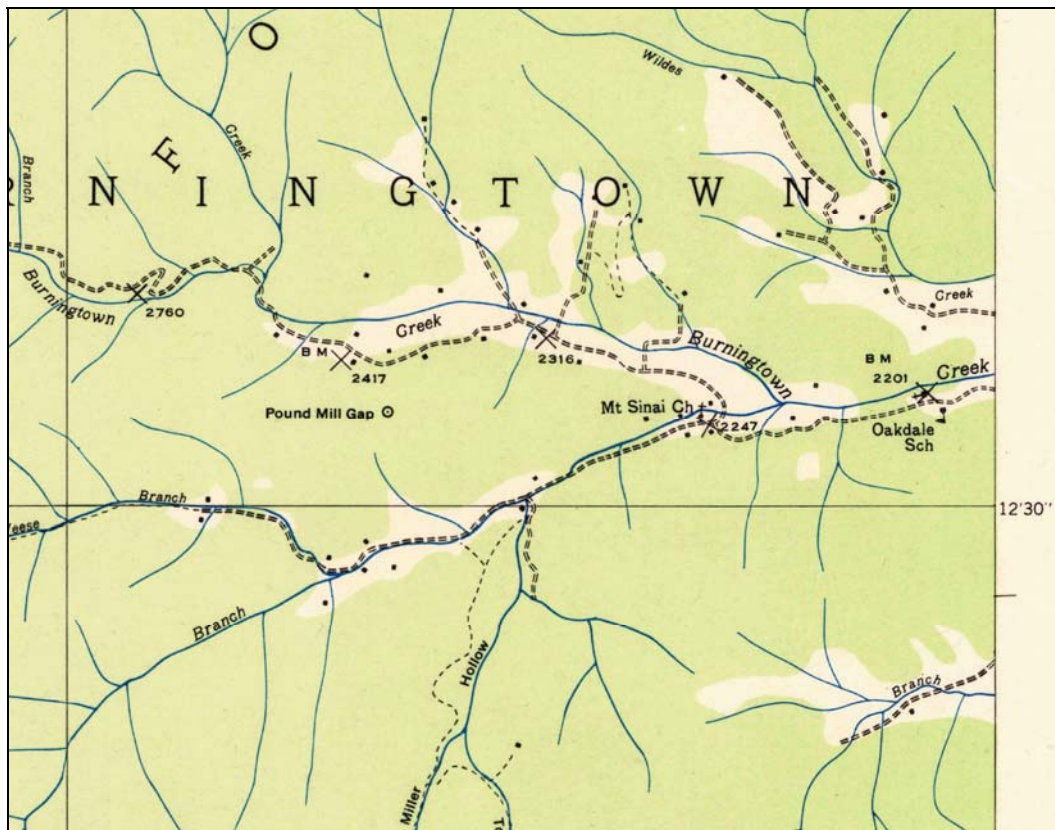
Westerly View from Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) toward Intersection of Upper Burningtown Road and Ray Creek Road

### III. METHODOLOGY

In April 2016, NCDOT requested Environmental Corporation of America (ECA) complete an evaluation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334), located at 5869 Upper Burningtown Road near Franklin, Macon County. The church was identified as a historic property within the APE of the proposed replacement of Bridge No.127.

Architectural Historian Jaime Destefano conducted the field work on April 14, 2016, photographing and mapping the property, and authored the report. Background research was conducted to obtain a greater understanding of the historical development of the region and to place the resource within its historic context. Information was acquired through research at the Macon County Public Library, the Macon County Register of Deeds and Tax Assessor, and a general internet data search.

A review of the HPOWEB GIS Service (<http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpweb>) revealed few recorded properties in the general project area. The majority of previously surveyed resources within the surrounding area generally include rural residences and farmhouses, as well as churches. The 1935 USGS topographic map below reflects a rural, heavily wooded landscape with few buildings. With minimal contemporary intrusions, the surrounding area remains a relatively intact rural setting with numerous small, family-run farmsteads.



Detail of USGS Topographic Map, Wayah Bald, NC (formerly Burningtown Bald, NC), 1935

#### IV. MOUNT SINAI CHURCH (MA0334)

Resource Name	Mount Sinai Church
HPO Survey Site #	MA0334
Location	5869 Upper Burningtown Road, Franklin, North Carolina (Macon County)
PIN	6556-22-6407
Date(s) of Construction	c.1930; c.1970 addition
Recommendation	Not eligible for NRHP



Mount Sinai Church (MA0334), Northwest Oblique



Mount Sinai Church, Façade (West Elevation)



The Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) is a rural, single-nave church with an exterior of uncoursed stone. The front-gable roof is clad in corrugated metal with overhanging, boxed eaves, and triangular wood vents in the gable ends. A c.1970 one-story, gabled addition conceals the original facade (west elevation). The addition is lower than the original building and is covered in vertical fiber board paneling. It sits on a concrete block foundation. Its roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The addition's symmetrical façade is three bays and features a central, double-leaf entry door and one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. A small gabled roof supported by square wood posts extends above the door and a concrete slab path. A concrete entry ramp leads to the stoop. A triangular wood vent is located in the gable end of the addition.



Mount Sinai Church, Southwest Oblique

The original church features four windows on the south elevation and three on the north. The original fourth window on the north elevation is replaced by an interior door leading into a c.1970 wing addition. Windows appear to be original, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash with textured panes. The two windows on the rear of the original massing are recent replacements. A small square cupola with a pyramidal roof straddles the ridgeline of the original massing, includes wood-louvered vents on all sides, and is topped by a small cross. Structural cracking is identified on the exterior of the east elevation.



Original, one-over-one, double-hung wood sash window with textured pane



Structural Cracking

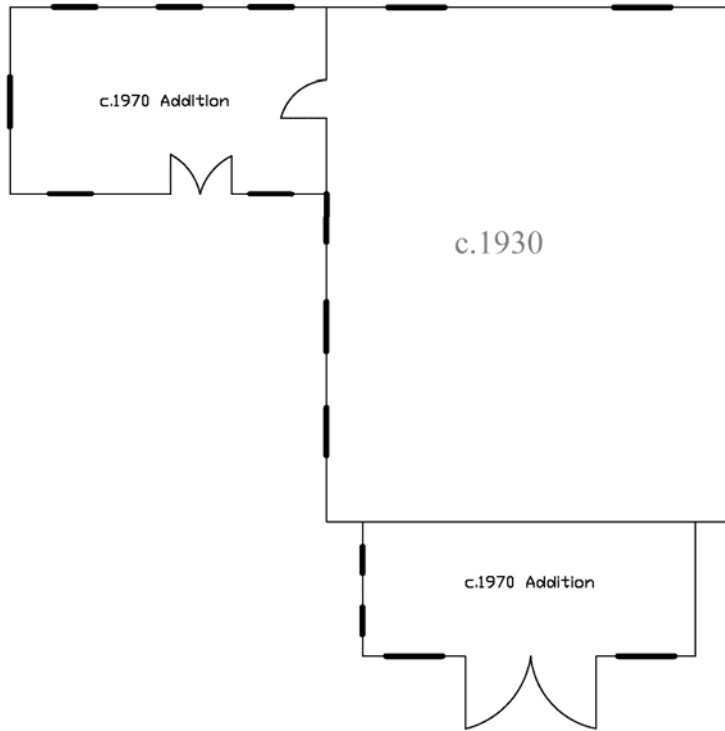
A c.1970 one-story, gabled wing is located at the northwest corner of the building and sits on a concrete block foundation (Photograph 9). The addition creates the present L-shape of the church. Its exterior is clad in vertical paneling and its roof is covered with corrugated metal. Windows are one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash. A double-leaf, entry door with fanlights is located on the west elevation of the addition. A rectangular wood vent is located in the gable end of the north elevation. Figure 6 provides a general floor plan of the church, including window and door placements, and the c.1970 additions. The interior of the church was not available for inspection. Further, due to the colored, textured glass of the windows, interior visibility was not possible. The following floor plan is based on exterior observations only. However, it is not likely that the single nave interior of the original building is substantially remodeled.



Northeast Addition (c.1970)



Replacement Windows on the Rear



NOT TO SCALE

General Floor Plan

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The origin of the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) remains unclear, although historical maps and deed records are useful in determining the approximate date of construction of the resource. The Mount Sinai Church lies within the Township of Burningtown. Census data confirms the settlement of the Township as late as the 1840s, which has remained a rural region of Western North Carolina comprised of small communities situated along Burningtown Creek. Located approximately ¾-mile to the east, the historic crossroads community of Oakdale is the nearest named community to the Mount Sinai Church. A 1933 soil survey map identifies the Oakdale School on the south side of Upper Burningtown Road, and a church directly across the street.

In 1931, Elbert and Sallie Cope donated the present parcel of land, as well as the parcel to the south (parking lot), to the Trustees of the Church of the Pentecostal Assembly of God. This confirms the establishment of the congregation by this year; however, it is unclear where the congregation met prior to the erection of the church. The 1933 soil survey map does not identify the Mount Sinai Church. However, a 1935 USGS topographic map shows the church at its present location. As such, it is presumed that the current church building was erected between 1933 and 1935.

The names of the Trustees, as identified on the deed records, provide some insight into the families associated with the Mount Sinai Church. Names identified as Trustees of the Pentecostal Assembly of God include Elbert Cope, John Roper, Earnest Roper, Tom Reeves, Arlesa Roper, Henry Tallent, and Joe Raby. The Roper family was among the original Trustees of the church when the land was acquired in 1931. Present-day property records indicate numerous agricultural properties within the vicinity of the church as being owned by members of the Roper family. One property in particular is located approximately 600 feet northeast of the church, and includes a driveway named “Roper Homestead Road.” Several, smaller residential and wooded properties belonging to the Cope and Tallent families are scattered throughout the Burningtown Township. The Raby family occupies numerous residential, agricultural, and wooded properties a short distance from the Mount Sinai Church. Federal Census records for Burningtown Township in 1930 identify a number of the Trustees listed on deed records. The majority were farmers, with the exception of Elbert Cope who operated a grist mill. Based on the Trustees alone, membership of the Mount Sinai Church appears to be historically tied to the agricultural community of the region.

For 80 years, the church has held services for members of the Burningtown community. Though a small, rural congregation, its c.1970s expansions reflect an active membership. It is unclear what the present church membership is. However, it continues to operate as a small, rural church in the Burningtown community.

## V. ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Mount Sinai Church is associated with the Pentecostal Movement of the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Pentecostalism stems from Methodist roots and has an emphasis on direct experiences with God and baptism with the Holy Spirit.<sup>2</sup> The Mount Sinai Church is a part of the Assemblies of God, which is a denomination of Pentecostalism that was formed in 1914.<sup>3</sup> The Assemblies of God focuses on evangelism and missions, and is one of several denominations of Pentecostalism. Pentecostalism among white communities occurred in small numbers throughout the United States. However, the mountains of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina are considered to serve as a hearth to Pentecostalism, giving birth to the Church of God. Whereas the deep south of Mississippi and nearby Memphis nurtured black Pentecostalism through the Church of God in Christ.<sup>4</sup> The Mount Sinai Church is one of six Assemblies of God churches located within the vicinity of Franklin and the only one in the Burningtown Township.<sup>5</sup> Throughout Macon County, ten (10) known Pentecostal churches are scattered throughout the landscape, primarily in remote, rural areas.

A review of surveyed resources identified on North Carolina's HPO GIS revealed three historic rural churches within the Burningtown vicinity. These include Oakdale Baptist Church (MA0328), Burningtown Baptist Church (MA0243), and Iotla Methodist Church (MA0261). All were surveyed between 1994 and 1995, and have not been evaluated for National Register eligibility. Current NC HPO status for each is "surveyed only." With the exception of Mount Sinai Church, Oakdale Baptist Church (MA0328) is the only other extant early-20<sup>th</sup> century church within the township.



Oakdale Baptist Church (MA0328)

The Oakdale Baptist Church (MA0328) is an early-20<sup>th</sup> century frame, single-nave building with a front gable roof. Small, transept additions extend from the side elevations. Oakdale Baptist Church is located only a half mile east of Mount Sinai Church along Upper Burningtown Road. Characteristic of small, rural churches is a lower, enclosed entry lobby centered on the façade. This particular example features a cupola similar to the one on the Mount Sinai Church. The Oakdale Baptist Church also features stained glass windows. A large, non-historic addition is on the west elevation. Unlike the Mount Sinai Church addition, this large addition does not compromise character-defining elements of an early-20<sup>th</sup> century rural community

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<sup>2</sup> Christian Assemblies International, "History of the Pentecostal Movement," <https://www.cai.org/bible-studies/history-pentecostal-movement>

<sup>3</sup> Assemblies of God, "Brief History of the Assemblies of God," Accessed May 2016, <http://ag.org/top/About/History/index.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> Charles Reagan Wilson, "Religion and the US South," *Southern Spaces*, 16 March, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Assemblies of God, "Assemblies of God Church Directory," Accessed May 2016, [http://ag.org/top/church\\_directory/index.cfm?QuickSearch=no](http://ag.org/top/church_directory/index.cfm?QuickSearch=no)

church. Additional research is required to determine its National Register eligibility.

Burningtown Baptist Church (MA0243) was formed in 1839. Its third, and present church building, was completed in 1949. This stucco-over-concrete block church is a single nave with east and west transepts. The building features a front gable roof topped with a square cupola similar to the one on the Mount Sinai Church. Also featured are decorative stained glass windows. For the most part, the Burningtown Baptist Church retains good integrity with minimal alterations including the front-gabled entry porch and concrete steps. The following photographs reflect the alterations since its construction in 1949. It does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register.



Photograph 1. Burningtown Baptist Church, c.1950  
Source: *Heritage of Macon County*



Photograph 2. Burningtown Baptist Church, c.2010  
Source: Macon County Tax Assessor

The Iotla Methodist Church (MA0261) is located approximately five-and-one-half miles northeast of Mount Sinai Church. Formed in 1839, the church's first permanent center of worship was erected

c.1895. Its second church building was constructed in 1922 of concrete and brick. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1943. The present church building was built in 1947 in a very similar design as the Burningtown Baptist Church, constructed two years later (Photograph 13). The original church was a single nave, front-gabled building with side transepts and an exterior of stucco-over-masonry. In 1963, a vestibule was added to the façade (Photograph 14). That same year, carpeting was applied to the interior, and in 1984, the foundation was laid for a Fellowship Building.<sup>6</sup> Due to additions and alterations, the church does not appear to possess historic or architectural distinction.



Iotla Methodist Church, c.1950  
Source: *Heritage of Macon County*



Iotla Methodist Church, c.1985  
Source: *Heritage of Macon County*

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<sup>6</sup> Sutton, 1987; p. 621.

Among the four previously identified churches within the Burningtown Township, Mount Sinai Church and Oakdale Baptist Church are early-20th century representations, while the Burningtown Baptist Church and Iotla Methodist Church are mid-20th century, having replaced earlier structures. The Mount Sinai Church is a rare example of a rural, stone church within Macon County. Among the historic, single-nave churches dotting the rural, rolling landscape of Macon County, the Mount Sinai Church is the only known early-20th century representation with a stone exterior. However, it is not the best representation of a small, rural historic religious facility within Macon County due to its overall loss of integrity.

#### INTEGRITY

A property must retain a high degree of its historic integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register. The National Register recognizes a property's integrity through seven aspects, or qualities.<sup>7</sup> To retain historic integrity, a property should always possess several, and usually most, of the seven aspects. The seven qualities include the following:

- **Location** The place where the historic property was constructed, or the place where the historic event occurred
- **Design** Combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property
- **Setting** The physical environment of a historic property
- **Materials** Physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property
- **Workmanship** Physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory
- **Feeling** A property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time
- **Association** Direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property

The Mount Sinai Church retains its historic **association** as a rural community church. Further, it has continued to serve the Pentecostal community since its formation. Its historic **location** and **setting** at a crossroad along Burningtown Creek contribute to the overall sense of place, and rural character of the area. As such, the aesthetic **feeling** of an early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century rural church survives. The historic, textured windows appear to be original to the building; however, the two rear windows are recent replacements, and not in keeping with the historic appearance. Although interior observations were not possible, it is probable that few interior alterations have occurred since the construction of the church. Although the Mount Sinai Church retains its original single nave form, its roof features non-historic metal cladding. The c.1970 addition on the west elevation fully conceals the original façade. It is most often the façade of a church upon which character-defining design elements occur, particularly on modest examples such as this. The addition located on the northeast corner of the church resulted in the replacement of one of the historic windows with an interior door. Further, the

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<sup>7</sup> Beth Savage and Sarah Dillard Pope, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Washington, DC, 2009.



exterior siding of both additions is in stark contrast with the workmanship of the natural stone exterior of the original massing. Based on these alterations and additions, character-defining elements of the church have been lost, thereby compromising the integrity of **materials, design, and workmanship**.

## VI. EVALUATION

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) is **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places. The property retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, but its integrity of design, material, and workmanship have been compromised by the material changes and large additions that resulted in the loss of character-defining elements of the building.

Properties can be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (event) if they are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Mount Sinai Church (MA0334) has been an active Pentecostal church since the 1930s. However, this does not meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration A outlined in *National Register Bulletin 15*, which states that a religious facility must be judged in purely secular terms. In other words, a religious property cannot be eligible simply for being a place of religious service for a community. Further, it is not the only church in Macon County serving members of the Pentecostal or rural agricultural community. Therefore, it is recommended **not eligible** under Criterion A.

Under Criterion B (person), properties can be eligible for being associated with significant persons. Under Criterion Consideration A, a religious property can be eligible for association with a person important in religious history, if that significance has scholarly, secular recognition or is important in other historic contexts. Properties associated with individuals important only within the context of a single congregation and lacking importance in any other historic context would not be eligible under Criterion B. Mount Sinai Church includes a number of residents of the Burningtown community, including some of the area's early settlers. However, no significant persons have been identified who are associated with the church. Therefore, it is recommended **not eligible** under Criterion B.

Criterion C states that a property can be eligible if it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The Mount Sinai Church is a good interpretation of a front gabled, single nave church dating to the 1930s. Further, it is the only previously identified church within Macon County with a stone exterior. Despite this, Mount Sinai Church is not the best representation of a rural, early-20<sup>th</sup> century church in Macon County. Oakdale Baptist Church (MA0328), located nearest Mount Sinai Church, more clearly depicts modest religious architecture among Macon County's rural agricultural communities. Most notably, Oakdale Baptist Church depicts the frame construction, front gable roof, single nave plan, and small cupola common among religious architecture within the region. Further, the 1970s additions compromise qualities of integrity that would otherwise help to convey the building's significance under Criterion C. In particular, the façade of a small, rural church dating to the early-20<sup>th</sup> century is oftentimes the only elevation containing distinct design elements. The original façade of the Mount Sinai Church is no longer visible, concealed behind the prominent addition. Therefore, it is recommended **not eligible** under Criterion C.

Properties can be eligible if they are likely to yield additional information important in prehistory or history under Criterion D. It is unlikely that the Mount Sinai Church would yield additional

information about its building technology or historical documentation not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records. Therefore, it is recommended **not eligible** under Criterion D.

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