



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

August 30, 2016

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Replace Bridge 309 on SR 1627 over
Bald Knob Creek, PA 15-10-0011, Cleveland County, ER 16-1374

Thank you for your August 4, 2016, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and **concur that the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL1499) is not eligible** for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

On page 7, the report refers to this as a four-bay-wide dwelling. In this case, it's not necessary to specify that it is X bays wide. The house has the appearance of a more complex form than something that is four bays wide, which suggests a more simple form. The front gabled entrance bay occupies the right half of the façade and projects about two feet from the main block. It features a round-arched door opening below a gabled hood beside a slightly projecting nested gable that contains paired double-hung sash. Further complicating the building's appearance are the presence of a chimney between two windows that occupy the left half of the façade and the side-gabled porch that projects from the right elevation directly behind the projecting gables of the façade.

The report includes four examples of other brick-veneered dwellings in Casar, Cleveland County, that are near to the subject property. All of the examples date from the mid- to the late 1940s, and none of them suggest the complexity of form conveyed by the Edgar Pruett House. While three of the examples do have a front-facing gable projecting from the side-gabled roof, only one of these, Figure 10 (1948), has a projecting bay. Otherwise, the dwelling in Figure 10 appears basically to be a box. Similarly, the dwelling in Figure 11 (1944) is also quite boxy and perhaps more related to the contemporaneous Cape Cod form. The dwelling in Figure 12 (1948) appears to be more of a Ranch form with abstracted late Tudor Revival-style elements in the steeply pitched front gable, round-arched entrance, and façade chimney. The dwelling in Figure 13 (1946) is more akin to the Cape Cod form and even appears to have replacement windows. That other brick-clad dwellings of the second quarter of the twentieth century simply exist in Casar does not mean that the Edgar Pruett House is insignificant. When compared in detail to these four comps, the Edgar Pruett House actually rises to the top in its form and ornament.

Located just one street away from NC 10/Casar Road, 206 Casar Methodist Church Road, is, in fact, a better comp for the Edgar Pruett House. This dwelling (1942), displays similar complexity of form and architectural details to the Edgar Pruett House. In addition to nesting projecting gables, it features a partial wrap-around porch and a recessed niche on the façade chimney. It also retains original 6/6 double-hung wood sash.

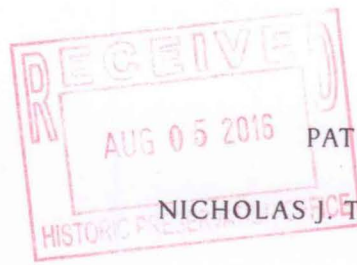
If the Edgar Pruett House retained its original window sash, it would be a good candidate for National Register listing. Because it has lost its original windows, which are a significant character-defining feature of a house and critical for individual eligibility, it is not a candidate for National Register listing.

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



PAT McCRORY
Governor
NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

ER 16. 1374

August 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

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

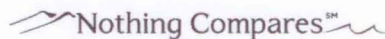
*H. Gledhill-Earley
8/29/16*

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

Due 8/29/16

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge No. 309 on SR 1627 (Pruett Road), Cleveland County
(PA No. 15-10-0011)

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey 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 ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF
THE EDGAR A PRUETT HOUSE (CL 1499),
CLEVELAND COUNTY

Replace Bridge No. 309 on SR 1627 (Pruett Road)
Over Bald Knob Creek
Cleveland County, North Carolina
WBS No. 17BP.12.R.58

Prepared for:

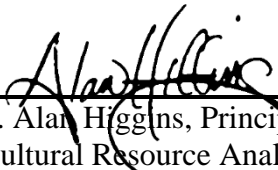
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.
P.O. Box 71220
Richmond, Virginia 23255

S. Alan Higgins, M.S.
Principal Investigator

March 2016


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

March 23, 2016

Date

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

Date

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE EDGAR A. PRUETT HOUSE (CL 1499), CLEVELAND COUNTY

Replace Bridge No. 309 on SR 1627 (Pruett Road) Over Bald Knob Creek Cleveland County, North Carolina WBS No. 17BP.12.R.58

I. INTRODUCTION

In February 2016, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA), conducted an intensive-level historic architectural analysis for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in association with the project to Replace Bridge No. 309 on SR 1627 (Pruett Road) over Bald Knob Creek in Cleveland County, North Carolina (WBS No.: 17BP.12.R.58). The goal of the historic architectural analysis was to evaluate the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of the property known as the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499) (Table 1), located on an 11.93-acre parcel at 409 Pruett Road in Cleveland County (Figures 1 and 2). The property falls within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project, which extends 75 feet from the center of the existing road on each side and 300 feet from each end of the existing bridge. CRA's investigation, completed on February 23 and 24, 2016, included a combination of archival research, visual investigations, and photographic documentation of extant buildings and structures and their contextual setting.

CRA performed the historic architectural analysis in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; Executive Order 11593; and Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 660-66 and 800 (as revised, 1999). The field research and report meet the requirements specified in "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines" (National Park Service 1983), as well as NCDOT's *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003) and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources and Digital Photography for Historic Property Surveys and National Register Nominations, Policy and Guidelines* (2012). Based on archival research and a detailed physical investigation, CRA recommends that the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499) is not individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B, C, or D due to a lack of significance.

Table 1. List of Historic Architectural Resources.

Resource Name	Site Number	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
Edgar A. Pruett House	CL 1499	Not Eligible

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, CRA conducted background research to gain understanding of the development of Cleveland County. CRA consulted the NC HPO's online HPOWEB GIS Service to ascertain the level of existing documentation of the property and other properties within the area that might share a similar

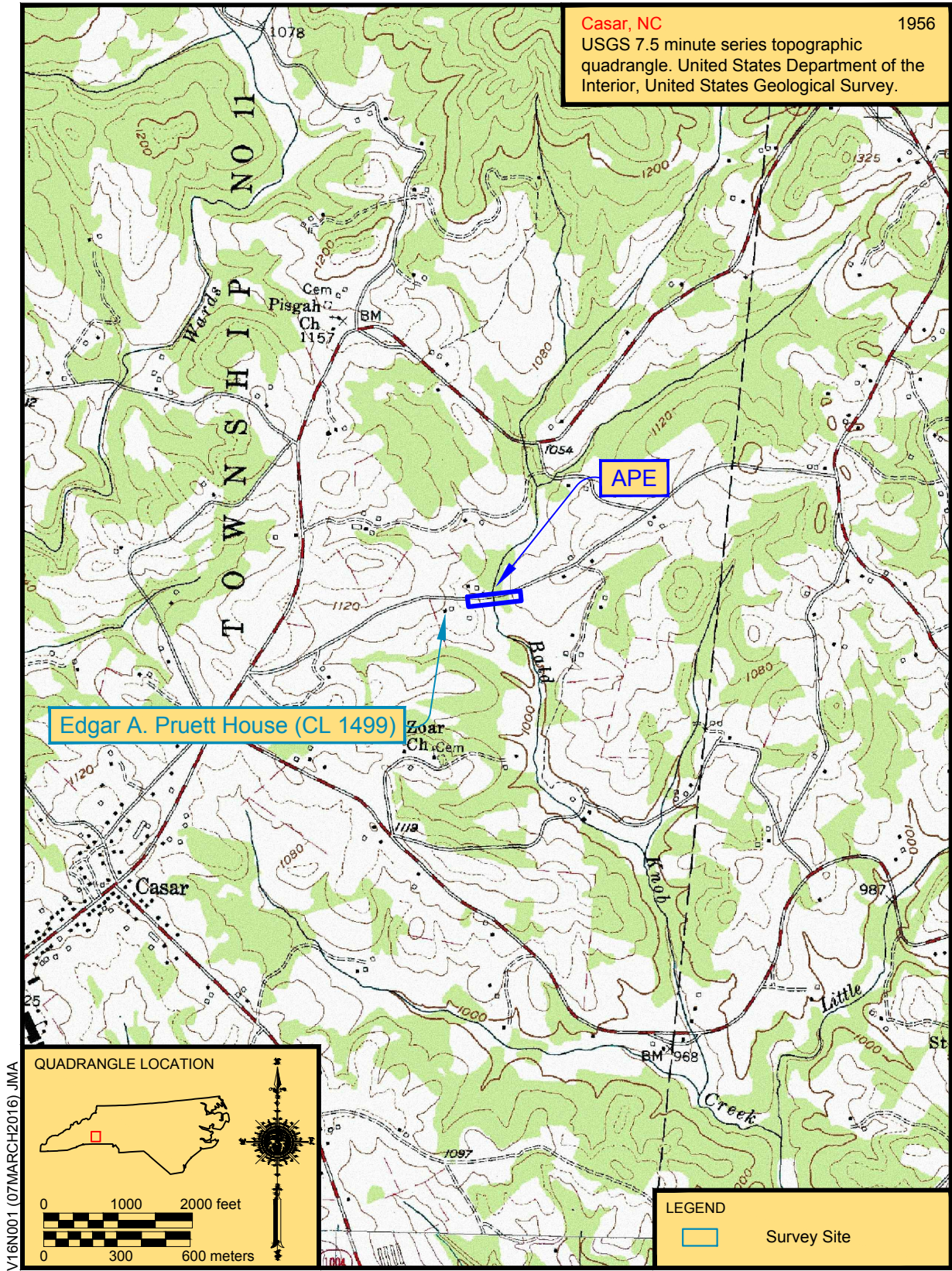


Figure 1. Portion of United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Casar, North Carolina, quadrangle showing the location of the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499).



Figure 2. Aerial showing the site plan and location of the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499).

context. Archival research also included an investigation at the NC HPO Western Office and an inspection of archival resources, published histories, historical aerial images, topographic quadrangle maps, and historical map collections available through facilities, such as the Cleveland County Memorial Library, and resources such as the North Carolina Maps project.

CRA then examined property tax records available at the Cleveland County Tax Office and deed records at the Cleveland County Register of Deeds. CRA also attempted to contact the present property owners, Clinton and Karin Cook. However, CRA was unable to contact the property owners to obtain permission to access the property.

Field Investigation

Following the archival research, CRA architectural historians Holly Higgins and Sarah Reynolds performed an intensive-level field investigation of the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499). Ms. Higgins and Ms. Reynolds took detailed notes and made a sketch site plan of the property to facilitate an understanding of the property's contextual setting. Because the property owner could not be contacted for permission to access the property, CRA was not able to access the interior of the house, and no floor plans or interior photography could be completed. Recordation included documenting physical characteristics, dates of construction, character-defining features, and integrity. All buildings and structures were marked on a USGS topographic quadrangle map and aerial image.

CRA also completed extensive photographic documentation of all portions of the property accessible from the right-of-way (ROW) according to NC HPO standards and guidelines. Digital photographs were taken of the site and contextual setting and the exterior of all buildings and structures. Emphasis was placed on capturing building forms, character-defining features, and changes that have occurred throughout the property's history.

Based on the available historical information and field observations, CRA has provided a recommendation regarding the Edgar A. Pruett House's (CL 1499) eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

III. PROPERTY EVALUATION

Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499)

Address: 409 Pruett Road, Casar, NC 28631

Quad: Casar, NC

Map: see Figures 1 and 2

Deed Book/Page: 1294:1635

PIN No.: 2625652219

Date(s) of construction: 1933

Eligibility Recommendation: Not Eligible



Edgar A. Pruett House

Setting: Located approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the small community of Casar in northern Cleveland County, the Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499) is located at the top of a hill that rises from Bald Knob Creek along the south side of Pruett Road, approximately 0.56 miles northeast of its intersection with NC 10 (Casar Road). The 11.93-acre property is comprised primarily of pasture and surrounded by rolling hills with pasture and scattered woodlots in a rural area (Figures 3 and 4). It is accessed via a gravel driveway. In addition to the residence, the property associated with the Edgar A. Pruett House includes a circa 1940 loafing shed. All buildings and structures are accessed from Pruett Road.



Figure 3. View toward Bridge No. 309 from the Edgar A. Pruett House, facing east.



Figure 4. Overview of the Edgar A. Pruett House, facing southeast.

House, overview: The primary house associated with the property, the Edgar A. Pruett House, is a one-and-one-half-story, four-bay (w/w/d/ww), double-pile, side-gabled frame American Small House with Tudor elements (Figure 5) situated beneath an asphalt shingle roof and clad with a brick veneer. A large cross-gable is located just west of the center of the façade. A second, smaller front-gable is located within the western half of the larger cross-gable. A one-story, front-gabled frame addition is attached to the center of the rear elevation and a shed roof screened-in porch is located at the southeast corner of the house. Exterior brick chimneys are attached to the eastern third of the façade and just north of the center of the west elevation; a front-gabled dormer extends from the center of the roof over the rear elevation.

Access to the interior was not available because CRA was unable to contact the property owners. As such, details regarding the framing of the house are unknown; however, given the building's age the house is presumed to be of platform frame construction.

House, exterior: The primary entry is comprised of an arched wood paneled door that opens onto a brick stoop sheltered beneath a front-gabled hood with an arched vergeboard and supported by Tudor brackets. Brick steps lead up to the stoop. Windows throughout are comprised of paired and single six-over-six, double-hung metal sashes. Small arched metal casement windows are located beneath the gables of each front-gabled extension along the façade.

A secondary entry comprised of a wood paneled door with an etched, leaded arched window is located at the center of the west elevation (Figure 6). It opens onto a partial-width brick porch sheltered beneath a front-gabled porch roof. The roof is supported by a small brick colonnade. A single window opening is located north of the entry; paired windows are located south of the entry. Paired windows are also located along the upper story and at the north and south corners of the east elevation (Figure 7). The southernmost windows on this elevation are smaller than the other windows. Metal louvered vents are located beneath the gables along the east and west elevations.

House, interior: As noted, access to the interior of the Edgar A. Pruett House could not be secured during the survey.

Loafing Shed: The circa 1940 loafing shed is located approximately 115 feet southeast of the Edgar A. Pruett House, in a grassy area (Figure 8). It is a one-story, shed-roof, frame structure with a shed-roof addition attached to the west elevation. The roofline of this addition is higher than the rest of the shed. The original portion of the structure is clad with vertical board and the addition is clad with standing seam metal. The entire structure is situated beneath a v-crimp metal roof. The loafing shed is oriented to the southwest, and no other details are visible from the ROW.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Both the Pruett and Bumgardner families were longstanding residents of No. 11 Township in Cleveland County, which was established in 1841 from Rutherford and Lincoln Counties. The community of Casar was established in the early 1800s, but not actually referred to as Casar, named after Julius Caesar, until 1894 (Heritage Book Committee 1982:1; 529). The Edgar A. Pruett House (CL 1499) is situated northeast of the community of Casar in Township No. 11. The 50-acre property on which the house was eventually constructed was won at public auction by Albert P. Bumgardner in 1880 as a result of the Superior Court case *R.G. Wells v. Reverend John Bumgardner* (Cleveland County DB EE:354). Reverend Bumgardner was the pastor of Zoar Baptist Church located just south of the Edgar A. Pruett House property. A house was located on the property at this time, which historically belonged to the Bumgardner and Pruitt/Pruett/Prewitt families. Albert is the son of John and his wife Jemima Prewitt (Pruett) Bumgardner. Albert sold the property to his brother Wheeler in 1919, who sold 25 acres of the original property to Edgar and Stella Pruett in 1929 (Cleveland County DB GGG:363; 3V:135).



Figure 5. Edgar A. Pruett House, facing southeast.



Figure 6. West elevation, facing southeast.



Figure 7. East elevation, facing southwest.



Figure 8. Shed, facing southeast.

Edgar and his wife Stella lived on and farmed the property with their 11 children and constructed the house in 1933 (Heritage Book Committee 1982:474) They sold 10 acres of the property, including the house, to his parents, Julius and Susan Ella (Eller) Pruett in 1939, who in turn sold the property to their son and Edgar's brother, Noah, and his wife Mamie in 1942 (Cleveland County DB 4S:449; 5F:378). Noah farmed the property with his wife and children until they sold it to their son John Austin Pruett and his wife Eleanor, in 1965 (Cleveland County DB 10U:490). John Austin and Eleanor retained ownership throughout the late twentieth century, primarily using the land for livestock farming, prior to selling the property to Clinton and Karin Cook, the current owners, in 2001 (Cleveland County DB 1294:1635). The relationship between the Cooks and the Pruett family is unknown. Deed research indicates that the property has been divided multiple times within the twentieth century, but it has almost always been owned by Pruett descendants.

The Edgar A. Pruett House first appears on the 1938 Cleveland County North Carolina Highway Map (North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission 1938) (Figure 9).

V. EVALUATION

CRA recommends that the Edgar A. Pruett House and its associated outbuilding are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D. Research has not demonstrated that the house is associated with a particular event or explicit pattern of events that would warrant eligibility under Criterion A. Additionally, neither Edgar A. Pruett nor his family and later occupants of the property have been documented as playing a significant role within the local or regional community. Therefore, the Edgar A. Pruett House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B.

The Edgar A. Pruett House is a common housing form and style constructed during the early to mid-twentieth century. The house utilizes an American Small House form with Tudor elements such as a dominant front gable, massive chimney and arched windows and doors. Early American Small Houses, such as the Edgar A. Pruett House, were a simplified version of the Tudor house, which reached its peak in popularity during the 1920s and 1930s. Tudor houses exhibit details such as decorative half-timbering, multiple wall materials, false thatched roof, tall, narrow windows and vergeboard. The American Small house with Tudor elements usually has a dominant front gable and massive chimney, but they exhibit a shallower roof pitch and fewer Tudor details. Brick exterior wall cladding is also the most popular cladding for Tudor houses (McAlester and McAlester 2000:355, 477). The house is one of several within the immediate vicinity that exhibit this form and detailing. The house located at 5821 W NC 10 exhibits a dominant front gable and massive façade chimney (Figure 10), as does the house at 1615 Casar-Lawndale Road (Figure 11). The house at 5787 W NC 10 is the most similar to the Edgar A. Pruett House and exhibits a dominant front-gable and façade chimney, arched door and a side porch supported by an arched colonnade (Figure 12). The house located at 1614 Casar-Lawndale Road also exhibits similarities to the Edgar A. Pruett House (Figure 13). While it does not exhibit many Tudor details, it exhibits the basic American Small House form and dominant chimney. All exhibit brick veneer cladding. Even though the Edgar A. Pruett House retains integrity, it lacks the level of ornament and craftsmanship necessary to distinguish it as a noteworthy example of a Tudor house. It is one of numerous examples within the immediate vicinity of comparable integrity and ornamentation and is a representative example of an American Small house with Tudor ornamentation dating from the early to mid-twentieth century. The historic secondary resource associated with the property—the shed—is an undistinguished example of its respective types. Thus, the Edgar A. Pruett House is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C.

Early- to mid-twentieth-century domestic constructions are common to the region (and country as a whole), and neither the house nor shed are likely to yield any important historical information regarding building technology of the period not readily available from other sources. The Edgar A. Pruett House is, therefore, ineligible, for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D.

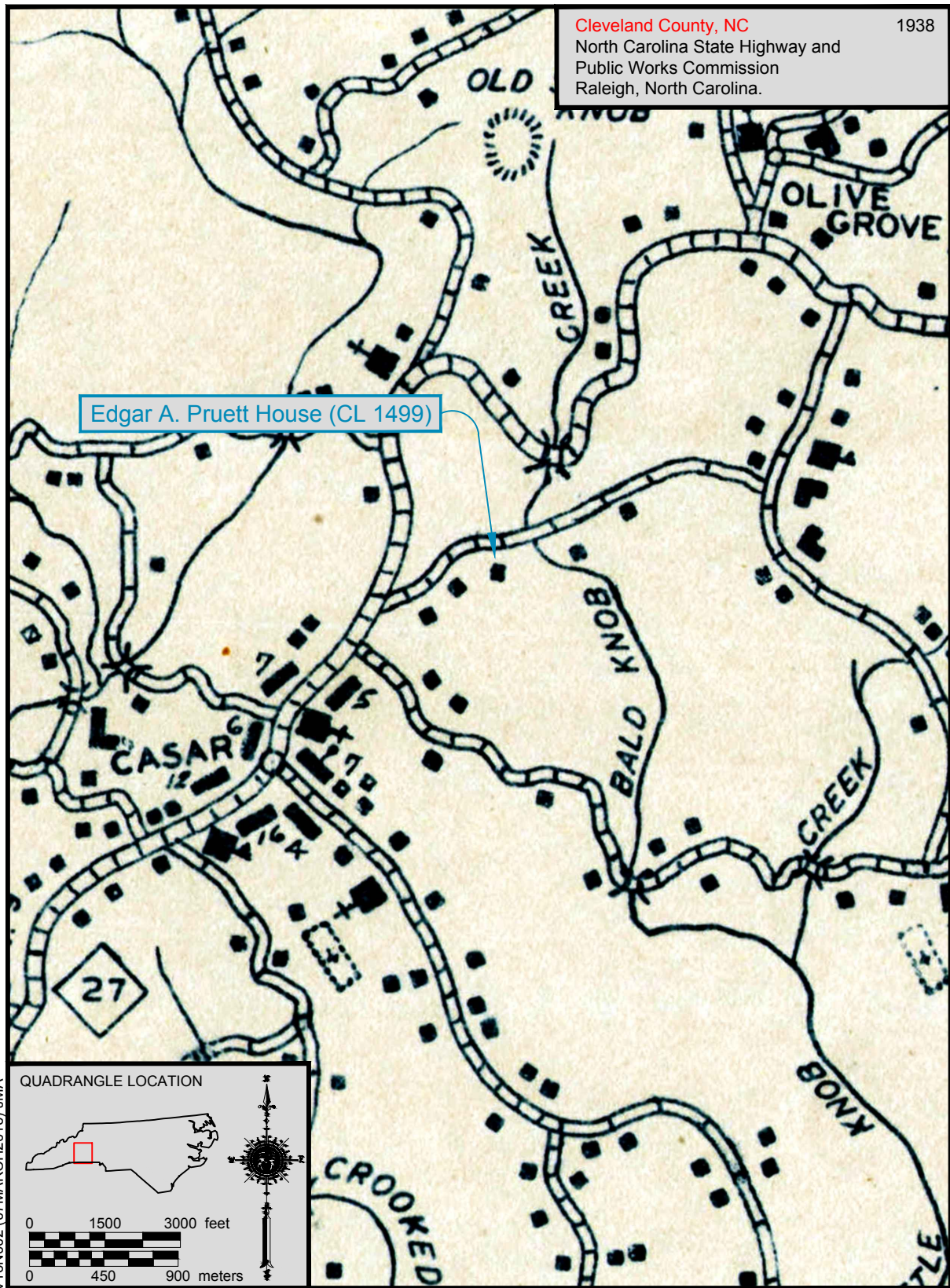


Figure 9. 1938 Highway Map of Cleveland County, North Carolina.



Figure 10. Comparative example located at 5821 W NC 10 within Casar, facing north.



Figure 11. Comparative example located at 1615 Casar-Lawndale Road within Casar, facing southwest.



Figure 12. Comparative example located at 5787 W NC 10 within Casar, facing northwest.



Figure 13. Comparative example located at 1614 Casar-Lawndale Road within Casar, facing northeast.

VI. REFERENCES

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2012 *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources and Digital Photography for Historic Property Surveys and National Register Nominations, Policy and Guidelines*. North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina.

North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission

1938 Cleveland County North Carolina Highway Map. Electronic document, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/464>, accessed March 2016.

United States Geological Survey

1956 Casar, North Carolina 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.