



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

August 1, 2017

Laura M. Fogo
US Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 119
Southern Pines, NC 28388

laura_fogo@fws.gov

RE: Historic Structures Survey Report for the Denson Creek Vented Ford Replacement,
Montgomery County, ER 16-2108

Dear Ms. Fogo:

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 2017, transmitting the above-referenced report. We concur with your finding that the Densons Creek Vented Ford is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that no historic properties will be affect by its replacement.

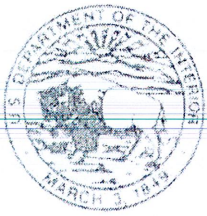
The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

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

Sincerely,

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

Handwritten initials "fr" in blue ink, followed by the typed name "Ramona M. Bartos".



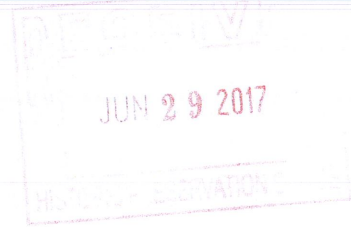
United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Raleigh ES Field Office

Post Office Box 33726

Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726



June 5, 2017

ER 16-2108

A S 8/1/17

Mrs. Renee Gledhill-Early
State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Dear Mrs. Gledhill-Early:

Due 7/24/17

Please reference your January 19, 2017 review (number ER 16-2108), concerning our review request for the "Densons Creek Vented Ford Replacement" project located east of Glenn Road, within Densons Creek, in Troy, Montgomery County, North Carolina. We have contracted for completion of the surveys you recommended, and they are enclosed. This cultural and archaeological consultation request is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Project Location (See Appendix A-1 & A-2):

Latitude: N 35° 21' 50"; -79° 51' 08" W

It is located on the properties of the Uwharrie National Forest and Edwards Wood Products, Inc., on Densons Creek, east of Glenn Road, near Troy, NC.

Project Contact Information:

Laura M. Fogo, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 119
Southern Pines, NC 28388
910-695-3323 ext. 13
laura_fogo@fws.gov

Project Description:

The objective of this voluntary project is to remove the existing Densons Creek Vented Ford (logging bridge), a barrier to aquatic life passage, and replace it with an acceptable wet ford crossing alternative. This project is in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc., (PCC). The cooperating land owners are the US Forest Service, Uwharrie District, and Edwards Wood Products.

The primary purpose of this project is to restore Densons Creek for the benefit of aquatic life passage for State endangered freshwater mussels and the Carolina redhorse, a state species of concern that all occur near this site. The crossing replacement will improve habitat for these rare species. The secondary objective is to provide safe access for Edwards Wood Products to conduct forestry management.

New South Associates, a cultural resource consulting business, prepared two detailed investigations for PCC and the Service pursuant to your request. Please find the attached:

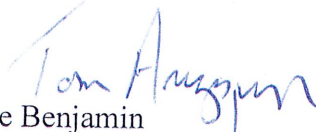
- National Register of Historic Places (NFHP) evaluation: "NRHP (Architecture) Evaluation of Vented Ford over Densons Creek, Glenn Road, Troy, Montgomery County, North Carolina."
- Phase I archaeological investigation: "Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Densons Creek Vented Ford in the Uwharrie Ranger District"

As a result of the NRHP evaluation, New South Associates recommends the Densons Creek vented ford is not eligible for the NRHP.

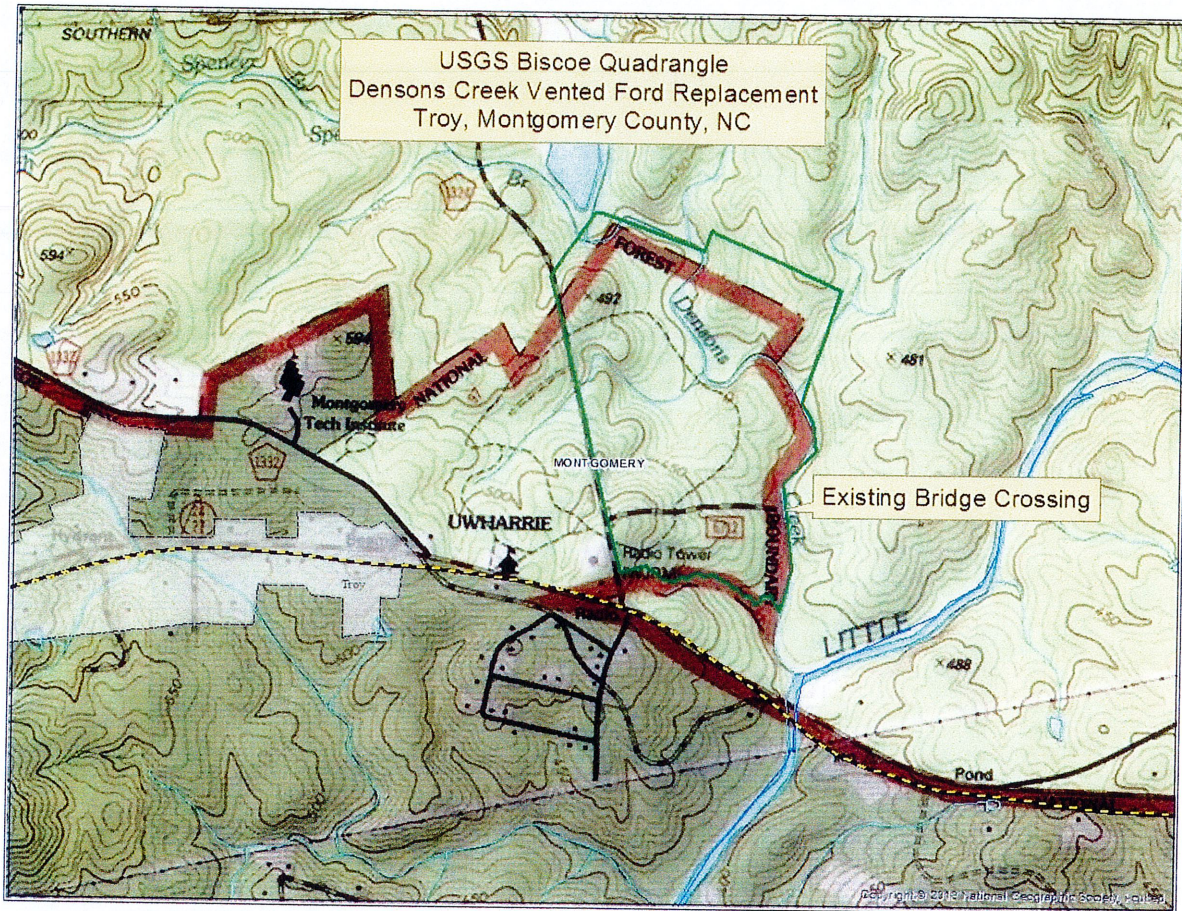
As a result of the Phase I Archaeological Survey, New South Associates did not find any archaeological resources. Therefore, they concluded a "no effect" opinion on significant archaeological resources located within the area of potential effect. With these results, they recommended no further investigations.

If you have any questions, regarding this consultation request, please feel free to contact Partners Biologist Laura Fogo at 910-695-3323, ext. 13.

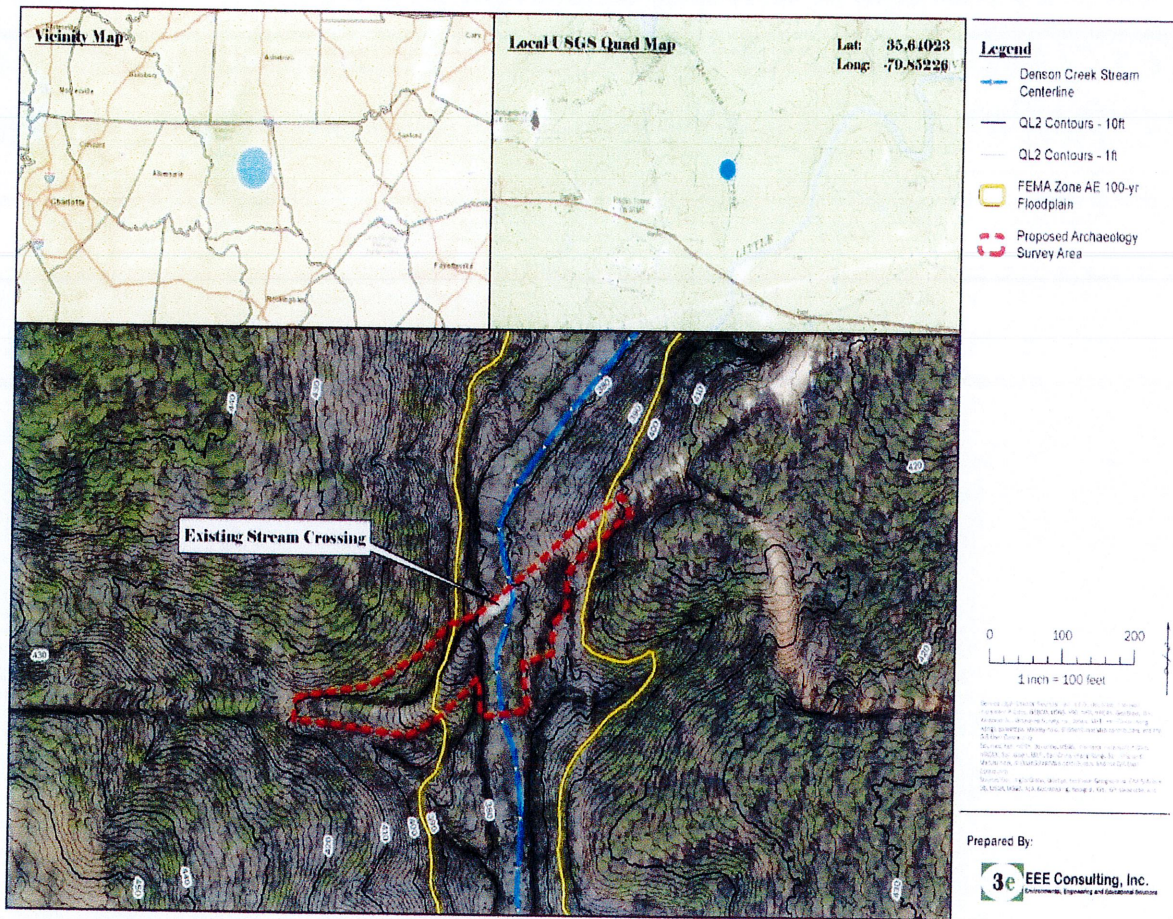
Sincerely,

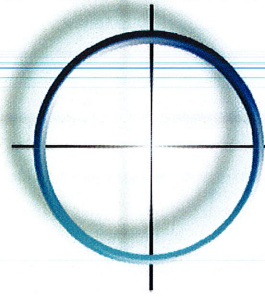

for Pete Benjamin
Raleigh Field Office Supervisor

APPENDIX A-1: Densons Creek Vented Ford Replacement Location Map



APPENDIX A-2: Densons Creek Vented Ford Replacement Project- Potential Area of Impacts





NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

A WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

March 3, 2017

Grace Messinger
Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc.
721 Foster St., Room 228
Durham, NC 27701

Re: NRHP (Architecture) Evaluation of Vented Ford over Densons Creek, Glenn Road, Troy, Montgomery County, North Carolina.

Dear Ms. Messinger:

New South Associates was contracted by the Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc., on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct cultural resources studies as part of a proposal to replace the vented ford over Densons Creek on Glenn Road, Troy, Montgomery County, North Carolina. New South was tasked with completing a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation for the vented ford and conducting a Phase I Archaeological Survey. The results of the archaeological investigation will be presented in a separate report. This letter report presents the findings of the NRHP architectural evaluation of the vented ford. *As result of the architectural investigation, New South recommends that the Densons Creek vented ford is not eligible for the NRHP.*

LOCATION

The subject property is the vented ford over Densons Creek, a tributary of the Little River, approximately 2.5 miles east of the Montgomery County seat of Troy (Figure 1). Densons Creek serves as the boundary between U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Uwharrie National Forest Parcel U-798 (Montgomery County Parcel No. 7548 00 49 2378) on the west side of the creek and a parcel owned by Edwards Timber Company, Inc. (Montgomery County Parcel No. 7549 00 70 7565) on the east side.

METHODS

Prior to fieldwork, historic maps for Montgomery County were reviewed. Sources included: historic aerial photography on file at the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District office in Troy; North Carolina Maps, an online collection of historic maps from the North Carolina State Archives, the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the Outer Banks History Center; historic topographic maps and aerial photographs from historicaerials.com and nationalmap.gov; and the U.S. Geological

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Founding Member of the American Cultural Resources Association

www.acra.org

Survey's historical topographic map collection. The statewide architectural survey records of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) were reviewed using the HPOWEB, the HPO's online GIS service. No previously recorded aboveground resources were found within 0.5 mile of the vented ford. The land acquisition records for the parcel on file at the Uwharrie Ranger Station in Troy were also reviewed.

On January 27, 2017, Ellen Turco, New South Associates senior historian, visited the vented ford, the Uwharrie Ranger Station, and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation office in Troy. The purpose of the visit was to conduct background research related to the vented ford and the parcels on either side of it and to photographically document and measure the vented ford.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Description of Densons Creek Ford

The vented ford over Densons Creek was built sometime between 1956 and 1961. It is accessed from USFS Parcel U-798, which is on the east side of Glenn Road and north of Route 27, approximately 2.5 miles east of Troy. An unpaved road leads from a metal swing gate on Glenn Road to Densons Creek and the vented ford. The road continues east across Densons Creek to an abandoned logging camp owned by Edwards Timber Products, Inc.

The vented ford is a type of low water crossing that allows water to flow underneath the road surface through a set of pipes or culverts. Figure 2 shows an example of a vented ford at Plumas National Forest in California. Fords allow vehicles to drive over water at low levels and are submerged during periods of extreme high water. The Densons Creek vented ford is an intact example of a circa 1960 of multiple vent crossing. Many vented fords with multiple, small diameter culverts were built from the 1960s to the 1980s throughout the national forests (Clarkin et al. 2006:5–14). The Densons Creek ford has been resurfaced as a part of routine maintenance (Smith 2016).

The ford is a slab of coarse gravel aggregate concrete pierced by thirteen, 20-inch diameter round concrete culverts (see photos in Appendix A). The ford is 40 feet in length and 12 feet across. There is about eight inches between the top of the culverts and the road surface. The structure is pitched so that the upstream edge is about five degrees lower than the downstream edge to prevent uplift during periods of high water. The creek embankments have been infilled with concrete and local stone to control erosion.

HISTORY

The passage of the Weeks Act by Congress in 1911 authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create national forests in the eastern U.S. The act created a mechanism by which the federal government could safeguard navigable waterways by protecting surrounding forests from development, deforestation, erosion, and fire. Beginning in 1931, the USDA assembled tracts in Montgomery, Randolph, and Davidson counties for the Uwharrie National Forest to buffer the Uwharrie, Yadkin, and Little River

watersheds (Patch et al. 2014:27–28). This land was placed under the management of the USFS.

The USFS-owned tract on the west side of Densons Creek is identified in USFS records as the Smitherman Tract. A portion of the tract, and the part that abuts Densons Creek at the ford, can be first traced to William Stone, who was granted 100 acres from the British crown on October 3, 1775 (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1938). In January 1938, the USDA acquired a 367-acre tract from Mrs. Grace Brown and Mrs. Leta S. Trotter through a condemnation proceeding. The cost to federal government was \$3.40 per acre (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1938). U.S. Census records indicate that Grace and Leta were the married daughters of Samuel J. Smitherman (b. 1855; d. 1915) (North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 2007). Smitherman and his wife, Tamie, had 12 children. He was listed as both a farmer and merchant in U.S. Census entries collected between 1880 and 1910 (U.S. Census Bureau 1910). In 1938, when the federal government acquired the Smitherman tract, three buildings were described in the Acquisition Examination Report: a “house in poor condition, a shed in poor condition and a barn in poor condition.” These buildings were situated in a cleared area of “plow land” (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1938) (Figure 3).

From 1937-1960, the 461-acre parcel on the east bank of Densons Creek at the ford was owned by Thelma Allen King and John Carson King. Thelma had inherited the land from her father, George Washington Allen (b.1847; d.1937) (North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics 2007). The 1940 U.S. Census identified Thelma Allen King as living on Spring Street in Troy, suggesting she did not live on the parcel she had inherited. After Thelma’s death, her estate was divided into three 145-acre tracts that were left to the couple’s children: John C. King Jr., Helen King Nance, and Josephine King McLaurin. Helen and her husband, Clyde Hurley Nance, received the southernmost tract, known as parcel C, adjacent to the ford (Wright 1987). The Nances maintained ownership of the parcel until 1999. It is now owned by the Edwards Timber Company (Montgomery County Register of Deeds 2017).

The earliest known aerial photograph showing the Smitherman and Edwards Lumber (formerly King) parcels dates from November 1938, just a few months after the government acquired the land from the Smitherman heirs. The photography shows at least one building in a clearing west of the present day ford in a location corresponding to the 1935 land use map prepared by the USDA prior to purchase (Figure 4). By 1950, when the next aerial photograph was made, the building appears to be gone and the clearing was in the process of revegetating (Figure 4). The parcel on the east side of the creek does not show signs of occupation or cultivation. The vented ford first appears in an aerial photograph made in 1961, as does the unpaved access road leading from Glenn Road to the ford (Figure 4). Since available aerial photographs place the date of construction between 1956 and 1961, it can be deduced that Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 2410, which was stationed in Troy and known to be working in the Uwharrie Mountains building camps, trails, bridges and other forest infrastructure between 1933 and 1934, was not responsible for construction of the Densons Creek vented ford (Espenshade and Price 2007:14–16) Figure 5 illustrates the CCC Vented Ford surveyed in Espenshade and Price (2007). Figure 6 shows the distance from the Densons Creek Vented Ford to the CCC Vented Ford.

The ford's location across Densons Creek between the USFS and the King parcels make it plausible that one or both parties financed its construction, although research conducted as part of this investigation could not establish this with certainty. Perhaps the bridge was built to facilitate logging on the King's parcel as forest products were, and continue to be, part of the local economy.

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A 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. Research suggests, but does not establish, that the Densons Creek vented ford was built for vehicular access to the King parcel, which did not otherwise have road access. The construction of the ford to access a privately-held parcel was not a significant event in local history. *Therefore, the Densons Creek vented ford is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.*

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP if they are associated with persons significant within community, state, or national historic contexts. The King family, owners of the parcel during the period of construction, were not found to have played a demonstrably significant role in the history in the local community. *Therefore, the Densons Creek vented ford is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.*

Properties may be eligible under Criterion C if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The Densons Creek vented ford is a typical vented ford design lacking in distinguishing decorative, design, or engineering details. It is one of hundreds maintained on federal land for vehicular travel during times of low water flow. *Therefore, the Densons Creek vented ford is recommended not eligible under Criterion C.*

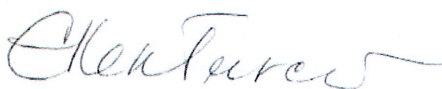
It is unlikely that additional study of Densons Creek vented ford would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through archival sources. *Therefore, the Densons Creek vented ford is recommended not eligible under Criterion D.*

No additional work is recommended.

If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-219-1489 or eturco@newsouthassoc.com

Sincerely,

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.



Ellen Turco,
Senior Architectural Historian

REFERENCES CITED

Clarkin, Kim, Gordon Keller, Terry Warhol, and Suzan Hixon

- 2006 Low-Water Crossings: Geomorphic, Biological, and Engineering Design Considerations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Espenshade, Christopher T. and David L. Price

- 2007 *Rehabilitation of FDR 5597 from SR 1179 to FDR 544, Uwharrie National Forest.* Report Prepared for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Raleigh, North Carolina. Report available from New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Montgomery County Register of Deeds

- 2017 Montgomery County Register of Deeds, Deed Book Page 375. Montgomery County Register of Deeds, Clarksville, Tennessee.

North Carolina State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

- 2007 North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976. Online Database, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., Provo, Utah.

Patch, Shawn M., Ellen Turco, and Michael Worthington

- 2014 *National Register Evaluations of Four Sites in the Uwharrie Ranger District, Montgomery County, North Carolina.* Report prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Troy, North Carolina. Report available from New South Associates, Inc., Stone Mountain, Georgia, July.

Smith, Rodney

- 2016 January 27 Interview by Ellen Turco. January.

U.S. Census Bureau

- 1910 Thirteenth (1910) United States Federal Census. Online database. Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., Provo, Utah.

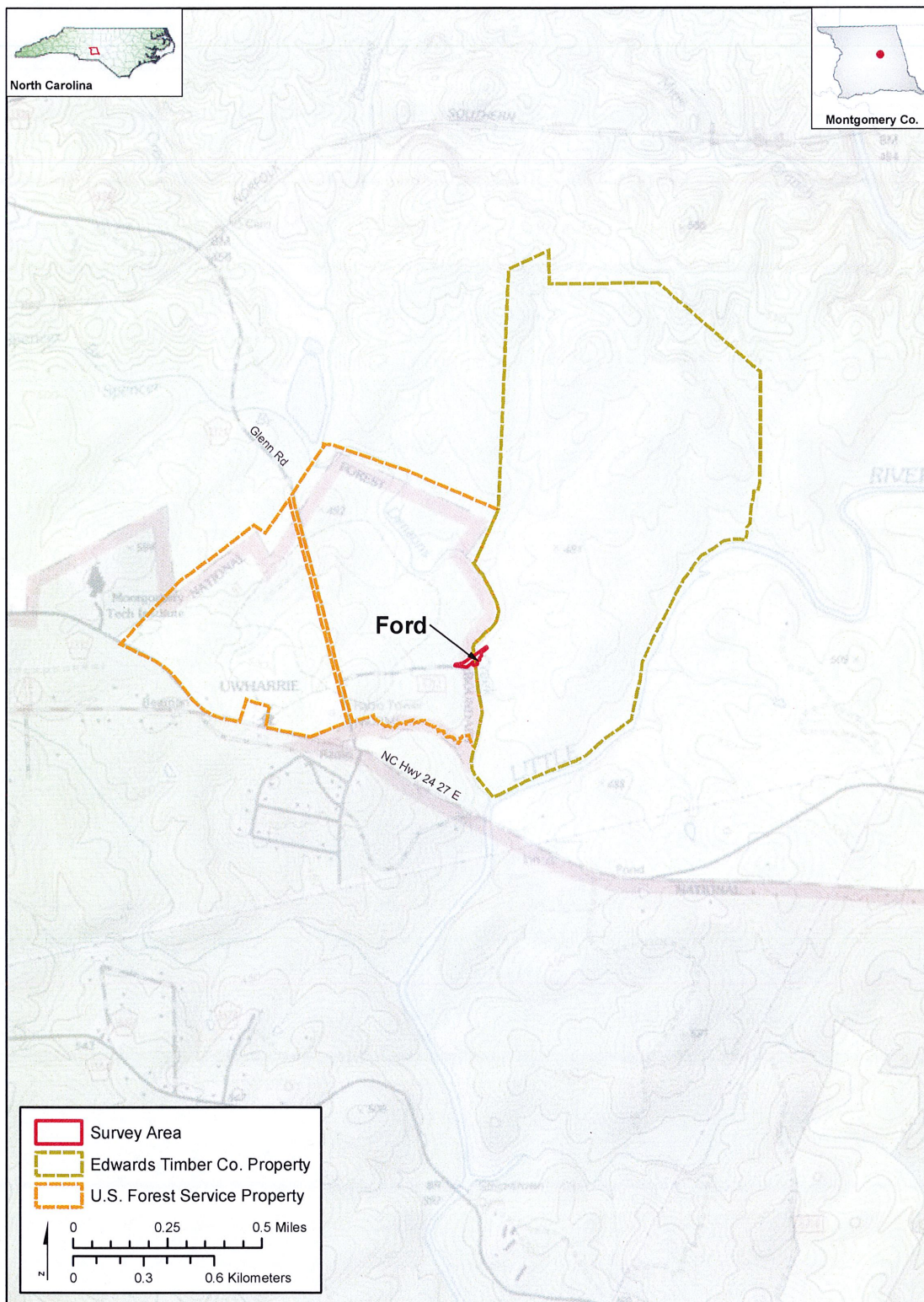
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- 1938 USDA Land Acquisition files for Uwharrie National Forest: Smitherman, S.J. et al #798. On file at the Uwharrie Ranger Station, Troy, North Carolina.

Wright, James L.

- 1987 Plat of the Thelma Allen King Estate Known as the Old Allen Homeplace. Plat. Troy Township, Montgomery County, North Carolina, September.

Figure 1.
Location Map Showing USFS Parcel No. U-798 and Location of Densons Creek Vented Ford



Source: USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map, Biscoe, NC (1984)

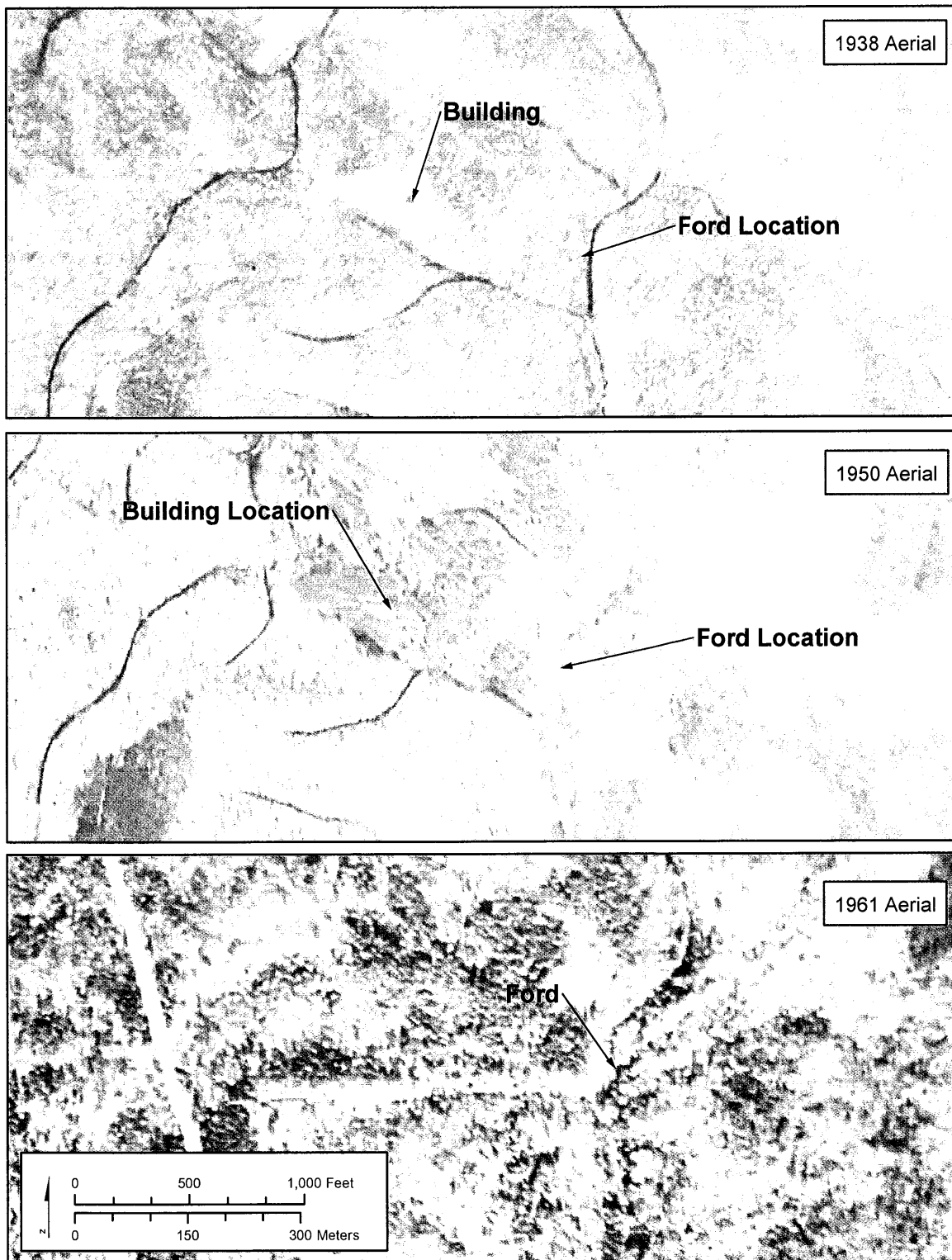
Figure 2.
Murdock Vented Ford at Plumas National Forest, California



Figure 3.
Section of 1935 USDA Land Use Map Showing Boundary of 367-Acre Smitherman Tract



Figure 4.
Historic Aerial Photographs of Smitherman Tract



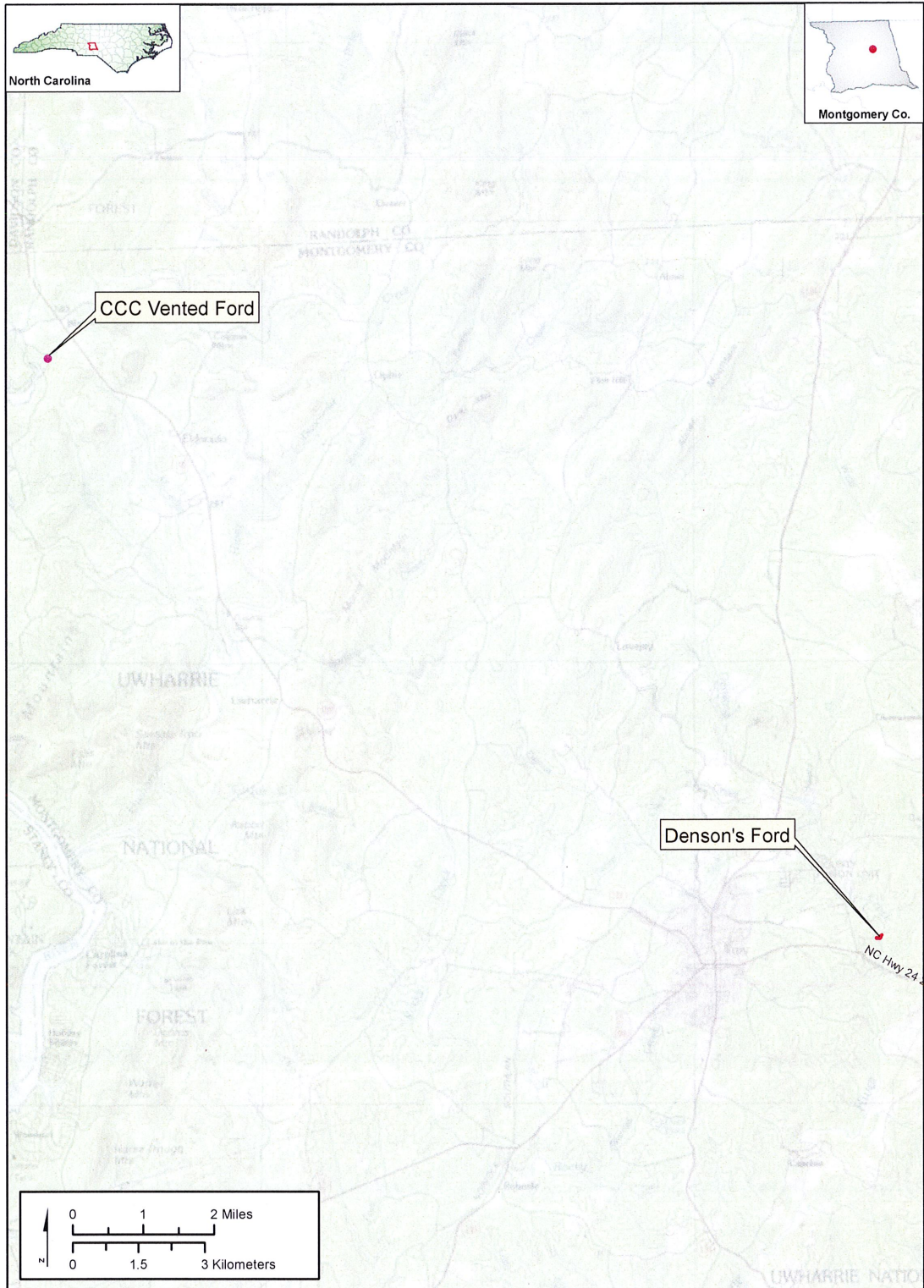
Source: Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation, Troy, North Carolina

Figure 5.
CCC Vented Ford at FDR 597 (Removed), Uwharrie National Forest



Source: Espenshade and Price 2007

Figure 6.
Locations of CCC Vented Ford and Densons Creek Vented Ford

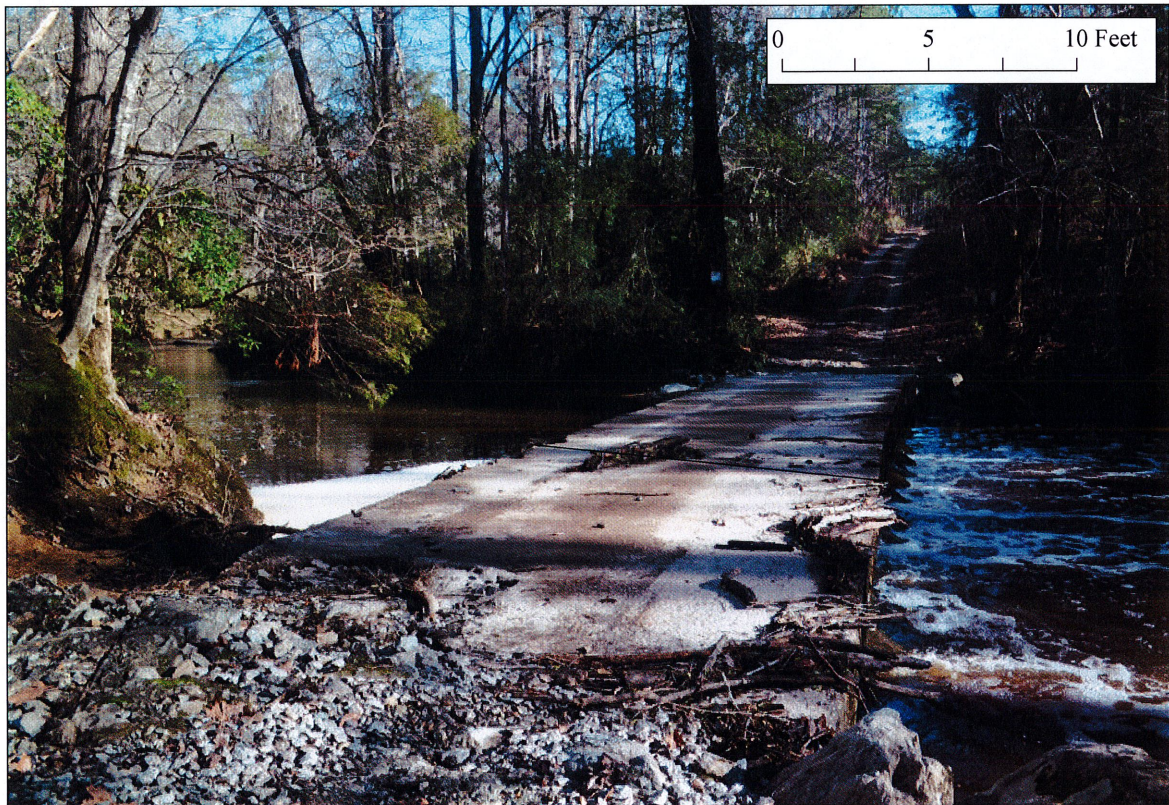


Source: USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map, Morrow Mountain (1979), Troy (1983), Biscoe (1984), Handy (1981), Eleazer (1976), Seagrove (1977), Badin (1979), Lovejoy (1984), Star (1984), North Carolina

APPENDIX A. PHOTOGRAPHS AND SURVEY SITE FORM



Photograph 1. Looking East from Access Road Off of Glenn Road to Densons Creek Vented Ford



Photograph 2. Looking East from Access Road Off of Glenn Road to Densons Creek Vented Ford



Photograph 3. Looking South Downstream to Densons Creek Vented Ford



Photograph 4. Looking North Upstream to Densons Creek Vented Ford



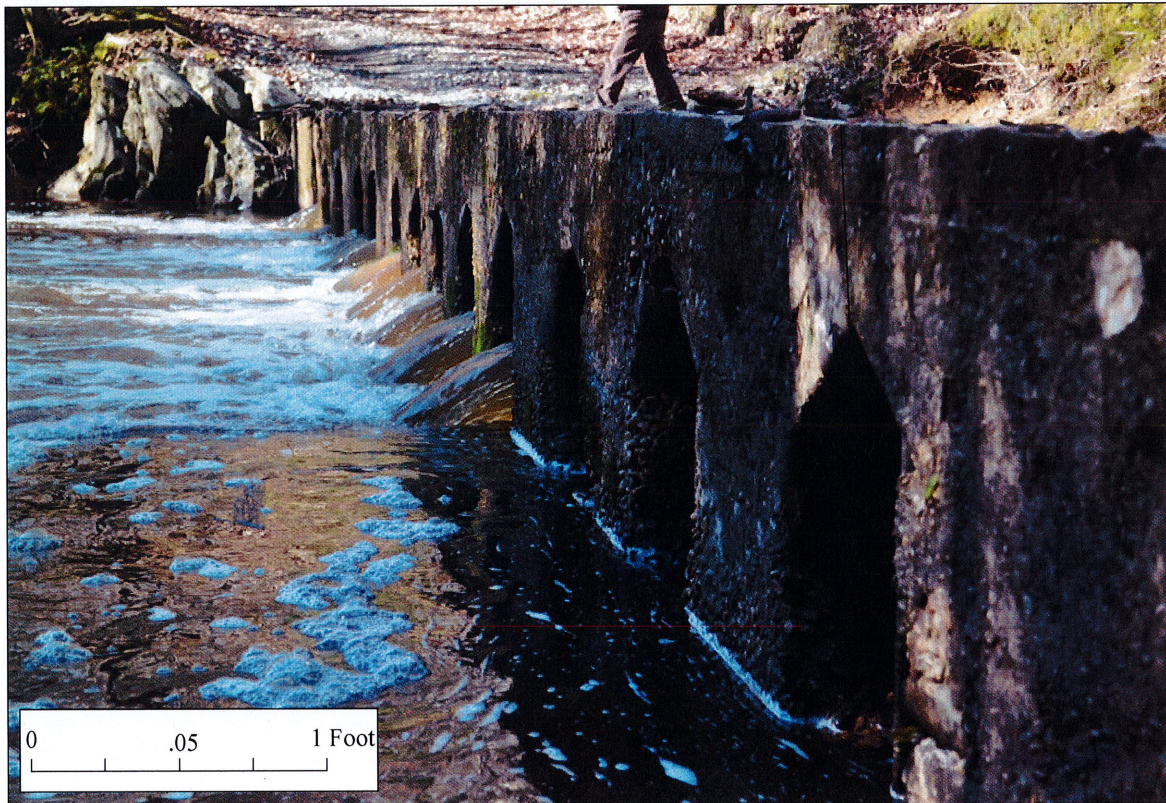
Photograph 5. Looking West



Photograph 6. Looking Northeast Upstream to from East Bank of Densons Creek to Vented Ford



Photograph 7. Detail of Aggregate Concrete



Photograph 8. Detail of Culverts Looking Northwest



Photographs 9. Detail of Culverts



Photograph 10. Fill at East Embankment