



**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

January 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Boundary Question for Improvements to NC 268, Wilkes County, ER 17-1692

Thank you for your December 15, 2017, memorandum asking that we provide an appropriate boundary for the suggested Northwestern North Carolina Railroad Historic District.

There is little information in the report for ER 17-1692 on which we can adequately base proposed boundaries. However, given the information that is contained in the report, and upon a second review of the report for the Murphy Branch Linear Historic District, we offer the following recommendations:

- The proposed boundary would begin in Elkin, Surry County, at the site of the non-extant Elkin Depot (SR0587) and extend in a westerly direction for approximately 19.4 miles to North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, where it would terminate at the National Register-listed Southern Railway Depot (WK0163). It may be that there is a more appropriate eastern terminus, but we have proposed the site of the Elkin Depot due to a lack of familiarity with the historic resources of Surry County.
- The boundary generally extends approximately twenty feet on either side of the track centerline to encompass the tracks, ballast, and construction contours. This is the language used in describing the boundaries of the Murphy Branch Linear Historic District. It may be that the boundaries should generally extend farther than 20 feet from the centerline, but we do not have sufficient documentation to preclude it. In some cases, the boundaries may necessarily extend beyond these limits to include other rail-associated resources, but such a deviation would require on-site documentation along the entire 19.4-mile route to make a fully informed decision. Other features, such as additional tracks, associated buildings, and railroad-related structures might be included, but are currently unknown.
- The proposed National Register boundary encompasses the following contributing resources:
  1. Site of the Elkin Depot (SR0587)
  2. Rail corridor extending from the site of the Elkin Depot to the Southern Railway Depot
  3. Big Elkin Creek Through-Truss Bridge (Elkin, Surry County—apparently unsurveyed, but referenced in the report on page 18)

4. Little Elkin Creek Girder Bridge (unsurveyed, referenced on page 113)
5. Hughes Branch Girder Bridge (unsurveyed, referenced on page 113)
6. Bugaboo Creek Girder Bridge (WK0441)
7. Roaring River Through-Truss Bridge (WK0433)
8. Rock Creek Girder Bridge (unsurveyed, referenced on page 113)
9. Mulberry Creek Girder Bridge (unsurveyed, referenced on page 113)
10. Southern Railway Depot (WK0163)
11. Any historic culverts, whistle post signs, mile post signs, and/or switches that may exist along this length of the railroad within the boundaries generally extending out from the center line of the tracks.

We would like to discuss this proposed boundary with you in greater detail before adding it to our GIS on HPOWEB. Will you please add this matter to the agenda of our next regularly scheduled eligibility/effects meeting. Thank you.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, [mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)  
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