



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

February 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: Historic Structures Survey Report for Grade, Drain, Base and Pave SR 1170,
PA 17-07-0027, Watauga County, ER 18-0245

Thank you for your memorandum of January 31, 2018, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the **Nathan Hicks House (WT0364)** is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and B, in the area of performing arts, for its association with three generations of the Hicks family, acclaimed storytellers and Appalachian folk musicians and under Criterion C, in the area of architecture as an outstanding and intact example of an early-twentieth-century frame farmhouse that embodies rural vernacular building traditions in Watauga County. We also agree that the most appropriate boundary for the eligible property follows the current tax parcel.

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 STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

for

**Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave SR 1170 (Old Mountain Road)
Watauga County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 11C.095121**

**Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598**

**Prepared by:
Acme Preservation Services, LLC
825C Merrimon Avenue, #345
Asheville, NC 28804
828-281-3852**

January 2018

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January 2018

Clay Griffith, Principal Investigator
Acme Preservation Services, LLC

Date

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

Date

Grade, Drain, Base, and Pave SR 1170 (Old Mountain Road), Watauga County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 11C.095121

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to grade, drain, base, and pave SR 1170 (Old Mountain Road) in the Laurel Creek area of Watauga County. The project area lies on the northeast side of Beech Mountain near the communities of Rominger, Matney, and Banner Elk in the western part of Watauga County. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is delineated as 100 feet to either side of the center line of Old Mountain Road for the length of the project, which extends 0.6 mile.

NCDOT contracted with Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) in December 2017 to complete an intensive historic resources evaluation of the Nathan Hicks House (WT 364) at 218 Old Mountain Road, just north of its intersection with SR 1128 (Andy Hicks Road). Architectural historian Clay Griffith conducted the fieldwork on January 9, 2018 photographing and mapping the property, and authored the report. Primary source investigation included research at the Watauga County Register of Deeds Office, Watauga County Public Library, and Pack Memorial Library in Asheville. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office’s Watauga County survey files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville were searched to provide some architectural context.

After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility, the Nathan Hicks House was found to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C. Built around 1914 by Nathan Hicks, a farmer and dulcimer maker, the two-story, side-gable frame dwelling is significant for its association with the traditional music and storytelling culture of Watauga County and folk revivals of the twentieth century; the life of internationally acclaimed storyteller Ray Hicks, son of Nathan and Rena Hicks; and as a good example of a traditional frame dwelling in Watauga County. Nathan Hicks, along with his son Ray, were part of a large clan of Hickses who settled on the northeast side of Beech Mountain and gained renown for preserving traditional lifeways, including farming, domestic skills, instrument making, ballad signing, and storytelling.

SSN	Property Name	Address	PIN	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
WT 364	Nathan Hicks House	218 Old Mountain Road	1950-98-6255-000	Eligible	A, B, C

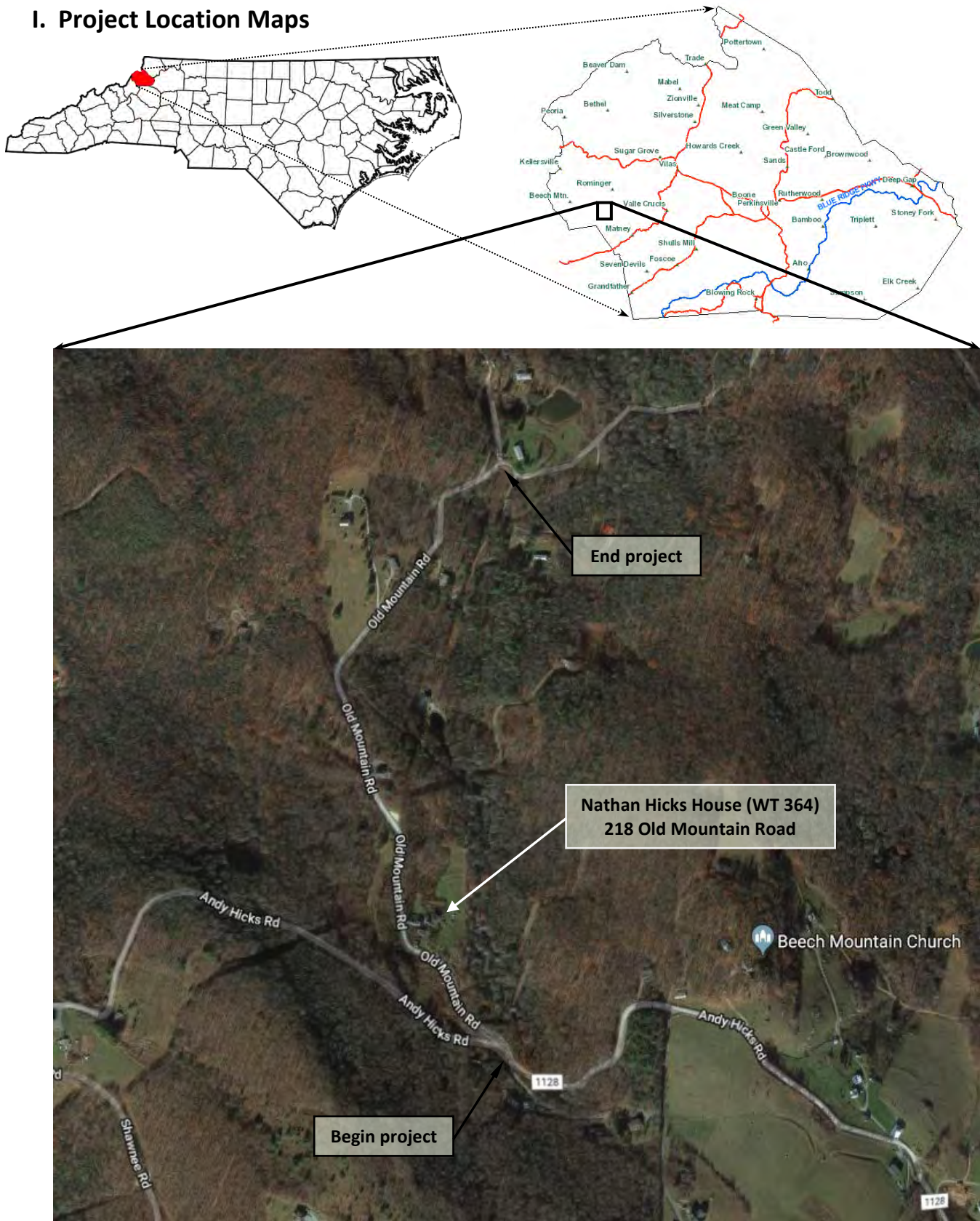
APS conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; the HPO’s *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey*

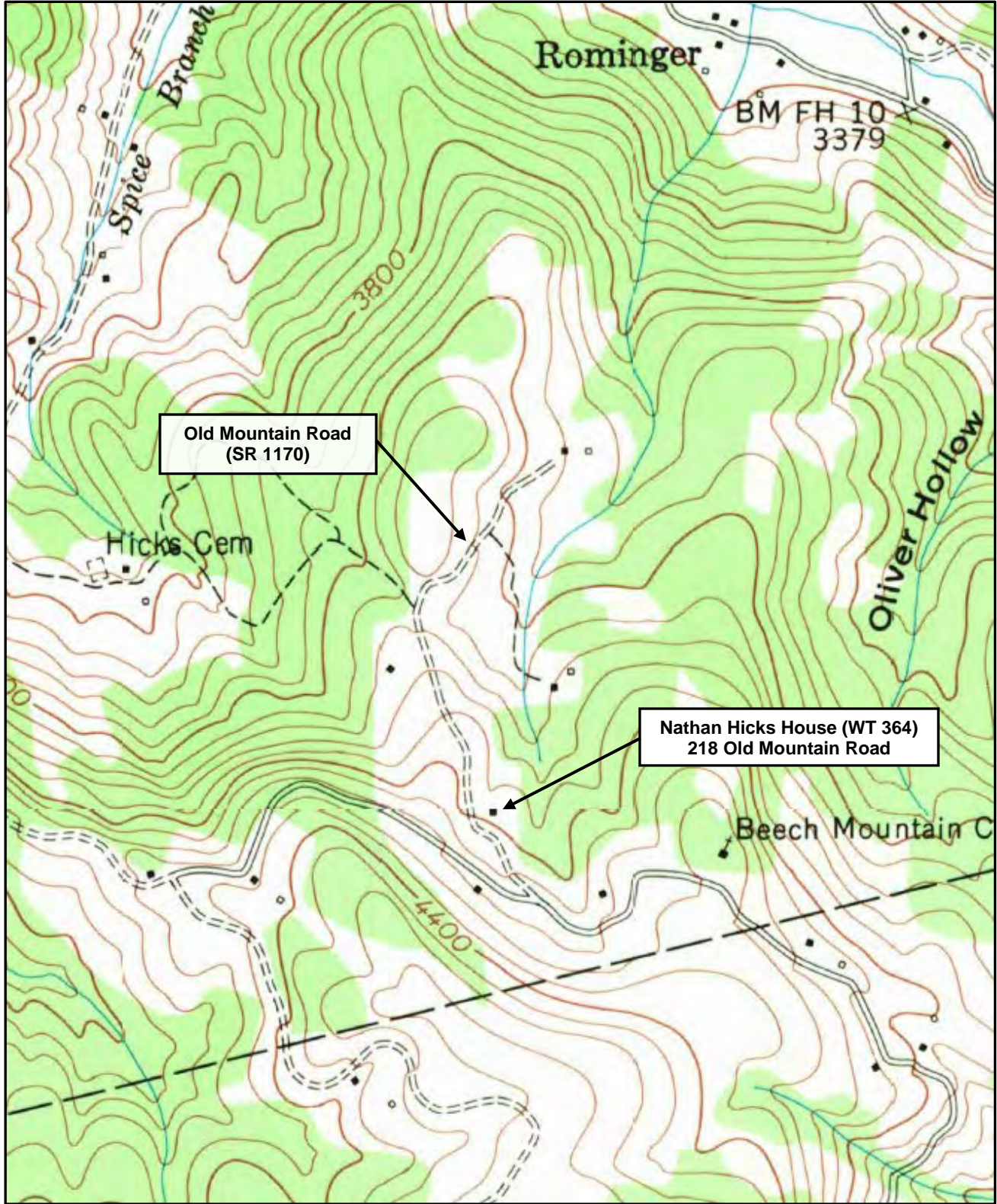
Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina; and NCDOT's current Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products. This property evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

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I. Project Location Maps





Location Map – Valle Crucis, NC USGS topographic quadrangle map (1960)

II. Introduction

The project area is located in western portion of Watauga County near the communities of Rominger, Matney, and Banner Elk. Beginning at an elevation above 4,200 feet on the northeast side of Beech Mountain, the project area descends along a ridge stretching to the north and northeast from Andy Hicks Road (SR 1128). Unpaved Old Mountain Road loses more than 200 feet in elevation from its beginning at Andy Hicks Road to its terminus 0.6 mile to the north. Old Mountain Road intersects with an unpaved section of Andy Hicks Road, although Andy Hicks Road is a paved two-lane road beginning approximately 0.7 mile to the southeast.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed improvements extends 100 feet to either side of the centerline of SR 1170. The unpaved road serves a scattering of residential properties set on large, wooded parcels. The parcel containing the Nathan Hicks House (WT 364), covering approximately eighteen acres, is located on both sides of Old Mountain Road and includes approximately 1,275 feet of frontage on Andy Hicks Road.

The general project area is characterized by wooded mountain slopes and alpine meadows. Many of the cleared agricultural fields that supported modest subsistence farms through the twentieth century have been left as grassy pastures and open meadows but no longer produce crops. According the Watauga County tax records the majority of houses located on Old Mountain Road have been built since 1980. Presnell Chapel Primitive Baptist Church located at 404 Old Mountain Road is the only non-residential property in the project area. The small frame chapel was erected in 2003.



View of Long Ridge to northeast from Andy Hicks Road (SR 1128)



Presnell Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, 404 Old Mountain Road, view to southeast

III. Methodology

The field survey was conducted on January 9, 2018, and the property containing the Nathan Hicks House (WT 364) was photographed and recorded. The property owner, who lives in Tennessee, was not available during the site visit and the interior of the house was not inspected. Basic research on the project area was conducted by consulting with Watauga County GIS records, the Register of Deeds office, the Watauga County Public Library, and at Pack Memorial Library in Asheville. The project area is shown on USGS topographic quadrangle maps dating back to 1934.

Watauga County was comprehensively surveyed for historic architectural resources in 2003, and the results of the survey were compiled and published by Dan Pezzoni in *The Architectural History of Watauga County, North Carolina* (2009). The Nathan Hicks House, however, along with other resources in the immediate area, is not represented in the survey publication. The principal investigator for the county survey, Tony Van Winkle, prepared a summary survey report in September 2003 that was formatted as a Multiple Property Documentation Form but was not submitted to the National Park Service. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) survey files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville were searched to provide some architectural context.

A review of the HPOWEB GIS Service (<http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb>) revealed few recorded properties in the immediate vicinity of Old Mountain Road (SR 1170). The Nathan Hicks House occupies an approximately 18-acre tract that extends on both sides of Old Mountain Road. Multiple generations of the Hicks family settled along Old Mountain Road and in the general vicinity of the project. Nearby surveyed properties include Rominger School (WT 69), the Presnell-Hicks Log House (WT 362), and the Ben Ward House (WT 363). The Valle Crucis Historic District (WT 15), listed in the National Register in 2005, lies approximately four miles east of the project area.



Old Mountain Road (SR 1170), view southeast to intersection with Andy Hicks Road (SR 1128)



Intersection of Andy Hicks Road (SR 1128) and Old Mountain Road (SR 1170), view to southeast



View northwest along Andy Hicks Road (SR 1128), intersection of Old Mountain Road at right



Old Mountain Road (SR 1170), view northwest from intersection with Andy Hicks Road



Old Mountain Road, view to north at Presnell Chapel Primitive Baptist Church



View to southwest along Old Mountain Road



View to northeast along Old Mountain Road



View to southwest along Old Mountain Road from intersection with Saskia Grove



Intersection of Old Mountain Road and Saskia Grove, view to north

IV. Nathan Hicks House (WT 364)

Resource Name	Nathan Hicks House
HPO Survey Site Number	WT 364
Location	218 Old Mountain Road (SR 1170)
PIN	1950-98-6255-000
Date(s) of Construction	Ca. 1914; ca. 2005
Eligibility Recommendation	Eligible – Criteria A, B, C



Nathan Hicks House, 218 Old Mountain Road, view to southeast

Constructed around 1914, the Nathan Hicks House at 218 Old Mountain Road is a sturdy two-story three-bay frame house with a side-gable roof, two-story rear ell, and an attached one-story hip-roof porch that wraps around the south and east sides. Resting on a wood-post foundation with some concrete block piers added later, the house is clad with weatherboards and has two-over-two and four-over-four double-hung wood-sash windows. The metal roof replaced original chestnut shingles, which had been cut from a single tree located on the property. A one-story shed-roof extension, added around 1940, is located on the west side of the rear ell, and a gable-roof porch shelters a single-leaf entry door on the ell. A one-story shed-roof rear wing was added to the house in 2004-2005.



Nathan Hicks House, driveway to house, view to east

The basic form of the Hicks House is common in Watauga County, along with its siting. The attached wraparound porch is carried on square wood posts that replaced the original chamfered posts in the 2000s. The porch shelters a single-leaf two-panel wood door flanked by sidelights. The two first-story windows on the façade are two-over-two double-hung sash. The flush board ceiling of the porch displays two hex signs painted by Hicks' wife, Rena, in 1914. The hex signs were believed to keep out spirits. The west end of the porch has been partially enclosed with a light frame partition wall covered with wood plank siding. The three façade windows above the porch are fixed-sash four-light windows. Windows on the side elevations of the main block are four-over-four double-hung sash. An interior brick chimney rises from the rear ell and has been covered with stucco. The small rear porch on the west side of the ell shelters a single-leaf two-panel door and is supported by an original chamfered corner post. A pair of windows on the west side of the ell consists of a two-over-two double-hung wood-sash window and a replacement six-over-six window. The shed-roof rear wing rests on a stuccoed concrete block foundation and is covered with Hardiplank siding. It has an asphalt shingle roof and four-over-one windows and is entered through a single-leaf door at the end of the porch on the east side of the house. A separate set of wood steps connect to the porch and provide access to the addition.

The interior of the house was not available for inspection, but a few details are known through documented sources. On the interior, Hicks' father, John Benjamin (Ben) Hicks, insisted on finishing the ceilings for extra insulation. It was unusual for houses in the area to have finished



Nathan Hicks House, façade, oblique view to northeast



Nathan Hicks House, oblique view to northwest



Nathan Hicks House, entry door, view to north



Nathan Hicks House, front porch with painted hex sign, view to east



Nathan Hicks House, east side porch, view to north



Nathan Hicks House, rear ell and addition, west elevation, view to east



Site plan – Nathan Hicks House (WT 364), 218 Old Mountain Road, aerial view
(Map source: Watauga County GIS)

ceilings due to the expense, but Ben Hicks grooved and dressed the wood by hand. Ben Hicks did much of the interior finish work including the wide doorways, framed openings, and pegged doors. The house was built with a center hall, but one wall was later removed to enlarge the sitting room. A wood stove in the sitting room was purchased second-hand from a neighbor in 1937, with Nathan Hicks trading a day's labor to acquire it.¹

Nathan Hicks erected a small, single room frame **store** adjacent to his house. The one-story, front-gable frame building has a single-leaf wood door on the east elevation and is clad with

¹ Lynn Salsi, *The Life and Times of Ray Hicks: Keeper of the Jack Tales* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2008), 14-17 and 96; Robert Isbell, *The Last Chivaree: The Hicks Family of Beech Mountain* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 31-32.

vertical wood siding. The store served as a trading post where families in more remote sections could trade ginseng, herbs, and other farm and forest products for basic goods. Hicks then distributed the collected products to larger merchants. Around 2010, the store was substantially enlarged with a one-story gable-roof shed at the rear and a shed-roof extension on the north elevation. The enlarged building is covered with vertical wood sheathing and capped by a new metal roof. The rear addition stands apart from the original store building, and the narrow opening is sheltered by the new roof. A single-leaf wood door is located on the east end of the shed extension.

Set into a bank southeast of the house, the **root cellar** is a one-story front-gable structure of concrete construction with a metal-clad roof, exposed rafter tails, rolled asphalt siding on the façade, and a central single-leaf wooden entry door. Stone wing walls extend from either side of the façade.

A frame **spring house** stands to the east of the house. The one-story structure has a shed roof with new metal cladding, vertical wood siding, and a single-leaf wood door on the west elevation. A PVC pipe diverts spring water into the structure.

An **outhouse** is located a short distance away from the house to the northwest. Known by the Hickses as the “johnny house,” the family often joked that the outhouse had the best view on the property, with its vistas over the garden to the mountains beyond.² Oriented to the north, the structure has a metal-clad shed roof and vertical wood siding.

Located above the house to the south, the **barn** is a one-story front-gable frame building with a shed-roof extension on the north side. The barn has an asphalt-shingle roof, vertical wood siding, and rolled asphalt siding on the south elevation. Two single-leaf ledged-and-braced wood doors are located on the east elevation of the barn, although the main door is severely deteriorated. The barn sits close to the edge of Old Mountain Road as it curves around the house and outbuildings to the southwest.

Built around 2010 by Leonard Hicks for his mother, the one-story side-gable frame **Rosa Hicks House** stands on the south side of the driveway roughly opposite the main house. Resting on a concrete block foundation, the house has an asphalt-shingle roof, exposed rafter tails, board-and-batten siding, and a concrete block chimney flue on the rear elevation. An attached hip-roof porch carries across the full width of the façade and wraps around the west side of the house; the west end of the porch is enclosed with board-and-batten siding. The porch, which displays square wood posts and a low wood railing, is accessed by wood stairs at the west end. A portion of the porch foundation has been covered with corrugated metal sheathing. The façade is composed of a central single-leaf wooden entry door flanked by modern nine-over-nine sash windows. A single-leaf three-light-over-three-panel wood door at the rear of the house appears to have been salvaged and reused from another building. Prior to construction of the house, a small frame shed stood at this location.

² Salsi, 101.



Store, east elevation, view to west



Store, oblique rear view to northeast



Root cellar, view to southeast



Spring House, oblique view to northeast



Outhouse, view to north



Barn, oblique front view to northwest



Rosa Hicks House, façade, view to south



Rosa Hicks House, rear elevation, view to north



Cemetery, west side of Old Mountain Road, view to northwest



Cemetery, Ray Hicks grave marker, view to northwest

A small family **cemetery** occupies a clearing on the west side of Old Mountain Road approximately 275 feet north of the Hicks driveway. The plot appears to contain approximately twelve interments of Hicks and Presnell family members including Rena Hicks (1899-1975), Ray and Rosa Hicks, and their son, Ted Hicks (1954-2014). The majority of grave markers date from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. A larger Hicks family cemetery is located over the ridge to the northwest and is accessible on foot from Spice Creek Road.

History

The Hicks family of Watauga County traces its roots to David Hicks, who received a land grant of 300 acres in 1791 for property along the Watauga River. Hicks had brought his family from Surry County and established a homestead consisting of a cabin, spring, and split-log palisade near Maple Spring. A neighbor, Benjamin Ward, received a 300-acre grant adjoining Hicks' land near the mouth of Cove Creek. Upon his death in 1792, Hicks' property was divided evenly among his six heirs, only his son Samuel Hicks remained in the region and raised a large family. Samuel Hicks sold a substantial portion of his land to Benjamin Ward and moved down river toward present-day Banner Elk.³

Samuel Hicks' grandson, Andrew (Andy) Hicks (1829-1889) and great-grandson, Samuel Hicks III (1848-1929), began the line of Hickses who settled on Beech Mountain in the second half of the nineteenth century. Samuel Hicks married Rebecca Harmon (1842-1919) raised eight children, including four sons: John Benjamin (1870-1945), James Brownlow (1872-1949), Andrew Jackson (1877-1949), and Roby Monroe (1882-1957). This line of the family gained renown as old-time musicians, instrument makers, and storytellers. Rebecca Harmon was the daughter of Council Harmon, who is regarded as the source of the storytelling traditions that continued through Samuel and Rebecca Hicks and their descendants. Ben Hicks married Julia Ann (Julie) Presnell (1878-1947) and raised four children at the northern end of Old Mountain Road (SR 1170). Nathan Talbert Hicks (1896-1945), second son of Ben and Julie Hicks, built a house for his family at the southern end of the road in the early twentieth century.⁴

Nathan Hicks married Corena (Rena) Lucinda Hicks (1897-1975) around 1910 and settled on Old Mountain Road. Rena Hicks' parents were Andrew (Andy) Jackson Hicks and Susan Ann (Suzy) Presnell. Upon their marriage, Ben and Julie Hicks gave the young couple a plot of land where Nathan Hicks built a house after a few years of residing with his parents. Hicks built the house from virgin hemlock trees cut on his property with the help of his father Ben, father-in-law Andy, and grandfather Samuel Hicks. The roof was covered with chestnut shingles cut from a single tree. Ben Hicks insisted on finishing the ceiling inside to provide additional insulation, and he grooved and dressed the narrow boards by hand. He also finished the wide doorways and hand-pegged

³ I. Harding Hughes, Jr., *Valle Crucis: A History of an Uncommon Place* (Valle Crucis, NC: I. Harding Hughes, Jr., 1995), 6-8 and 19-20; Betty N. Smith, *Jane Hicks Gentry: A Singer Among Singers* (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1998), 12-13 and 18-20.

⁴ Salsi, 14-16; Rudy Abramson and Jean Haskell, eds., *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), 1171.

wood doors. Rena Hicks pressed for having the house painted white upon its completion and, as a final touch, painted two hex signs on the porch ceiling to keep away ghosts. At the time of its construction, the Hicks House was the finest dwelling in the area, where most other families lived in log houses or primitive cabins.⁵

Nathan and Rena Hicks raised eleven children in the house with their son Ray residing there for nearly his entire life. The first two children were born at Ben and Julie Hicks' house on Old Mountain Road while the young couple resided there. The following nine children were born in the front bedroom on the first floor of the Nathan Hicks House. Eldest daughter Bessie Mae Hicks (1914-1997) married Frank Proffitt Sr. (1913-1965), an acclaimed folk musician and instrument maker. While the majority of the Hicks children left their Beech Mountain home, Lenard Ray Hicks (1922-2003), the fourth child, remained at home for the majority of his life and cared for his mother following the death of Nathan Hicks in 1945.

Nathan Hicks worked exhaustively to support his large family and engaged in a wide variety of activities to provide for his children. Like other mountain families, Hicks farmed the land and grew much of their food, including cabbages, potatoes, and beans. Hicks distilled teaberry and birch oil to sell for chewing gun flavoring, worked as a carpenter, cut railroad ties, and operated a small store adjacent to the family home. The family gathered galax leaves and ginseng roots to sell for medicines. Following in the footsteps of his father, Hicks also built dulcimers and was the first of the family to sell them outside of the immediate area.⁶

Despite his industriousness, Nathan Hicks only managed to eke out a hardscrabble existence for his large family, as many of his schemes and dreams failed to come to fruition. In the mid-1930s, however, the family's meager fortunes began to change for a time. Frank and Anne Warner of New York contacted Nathan Hicks about making a dulcimer for them at the urging of Maurice Matteson, a professor of music at the University of South Carolina. Matteson, who led vocal classes at the Southern Appalachian Music Camp held at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk during the summer of 1932, met and collected folk songs from Nathan and Rena Hicks and others in the area that were published in his book, *Beech Mountain Folk-Songs and Ballads* (1936).⁷ Warner began corresponding with Hicks, who fulfilled a flurry of orders for his instruments in the late



Nathan Hicks of Beech Mountain, NC, with his "dulcimoor," *Beech Mountain Folk-Songs and Ballads* (1936), p. vii

⁵ Ibid., 14-17; Isbell, 31-32.

⁶ Salsi, 43-49.

⁷ Maurice Matteson, *Beech Mountain Folk-Songs and Ballads* (New York: G. Schirmer, Inc., 1936), v-vi; Michael C. Hardy, *A Short History of Old Watauga County* (Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, 2005), 166-169.

1930s and early 1940s, including a banjo for the Warners and a dulcimer for popular author and folklorist Carl Carmer. The Warners planned a summer trip to Beech Mountain to pick up the banjo, and their arrival sparked growing interest in the songs and storytelling traditions of the Hicks family.⁸

Nathan Hicks and his family warmly received Frank and Anne Warner during their 1938 visit. The Warners, knowing of the Hickses financial strain, arrived with clothes, toys, and food, as well as cash to pay for their instruments. News of their visit drew Nathan Hicks' brother Roby and wife Buna, nephew Stanley, daughter Bessie and her husband Frank Proffitt, and other family members to the Hicks House on Old Mountain Road for an afternoon of music making, song swapping, and storytelling. During their visit, the Warners heard Frank Proffitt play the song "Tom Dooley," which was later published by Alan Lomax and popularized by the Kingston Trio. As the Warners earned acclaim as folk song collectors and performers, word spread of Nathan Hicks' instruments and orders came in from around the country. In addition to requesting instruments, Anne Warner's friends began sending orders to Rena Hicks for her hooked rugs.⁹

The Hicks were also visited in the late 1930s by noted folklorist Richard Chase (1904-1988). Chase became interested in the storytelling traditions of Beech Mountain families after meeting Nathan Ward at teachers' conference in 1935. Ward introduced Chase to his uncle R. M. Ward of Watauga County, who Chase visited in 1938 and documented a number of stories that Ward had learned from his maternal grandfather, Council Harmon. Chase also collected stories from Ben Hicks, among others, and published them as *The Jack Tales* in 1943.¹⁰

The Warners visited the Hicks at their home again in 1941, but due to the effects of World War II, orders for Nathan Hicks' instruments began to wane. Hicks eventually succumbed to the strain of supporting a large family and the disappointment of so many failed plans. Two weeks after the death of his father, Ben Hicks, Nathan took his own life in February 1945.¹¹

Following the death of his father, Ray Hicks assumed greater responsibility in the care and operation of the property. Rena Hicks had long depended on Ray as her most reliable support. He had helped care for his younger siblings and, as the other children married and moved away, Ray Hicks felt guilty about leaving his mother to care for so many small children. Ray Hicks married Rosa Harmon in 1948, and the couple lived in a small cabin on Andy Hicks Road that overlooked the homeplace. Rosa's family, especially her mother, felt strongly that Ray would make a good husband because of the way he took care of his mother and younger sisters.¹² In 1953, Rena Hicks transferred the deed to the homeplace to Ray Hicks, "in consideration of the love and affection

⁸ Isbell, 86-87; Abramson and Haskell, 1171-1172.

⁹ Isbell, 86-91; Marty McGee, *Traditional Musicians of the Central Blue Ridge* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2000), 135-136.

¹⁰ Chase, vii; Abramson and Haskell, 852-853 and 1249; Smith, 64.

¹¹ Isbell, 95-97.

¹² Salsi, 167-170.

paid to me by my son” (Deed Book 71, page 436). The deed carried a proviso that the conveyance would not come into full force until the death of Rena Hicks and stipulated terms that Ray Hicks was to run the farm, contribute to his mother’s necessary support, and give her body a decent burial. Failure to do so would result in nullification of the deed.¹³

Ray and Rosa Hicks raised five children in the house, which they shared with Rena Hicks until her death in 1975. As a child growing up here, Ray Hicks spent many hours listening to his grandfather Ben Hicks tell the stories he had heard as a young man, stories that had passed down over generations from Council Harmon and Samuel Hicks III. In addition to being a source of entertainment in an otherwise hard existence, storytelling was used to keep children engaged in long, repetitive chores such as shelling peas, shucking corn, and cleaning wool. The Hicks family is known for telling “Jack tales,” a group of tales derived from European antecedents and related to well-known stories like “Jack and the Beanstalk” and “Jack and the Giant Killer.” In the Hickses stories Jack is a poor mountain boy who is often in a difficult situation—“up agin’ it” was the expression Ray Hicks used—but calls upon his resourcefulness to outwit thieves, giants, ogres, witches, and wild animals to serve his mother and save himself. Although the Hickses spoke in a southern Appalachian dialect filled with archaic English words and expressions, their stories portrayed Jack with an easygoing, unpretentious manner more common to rural America than his English forebears.¹⁴



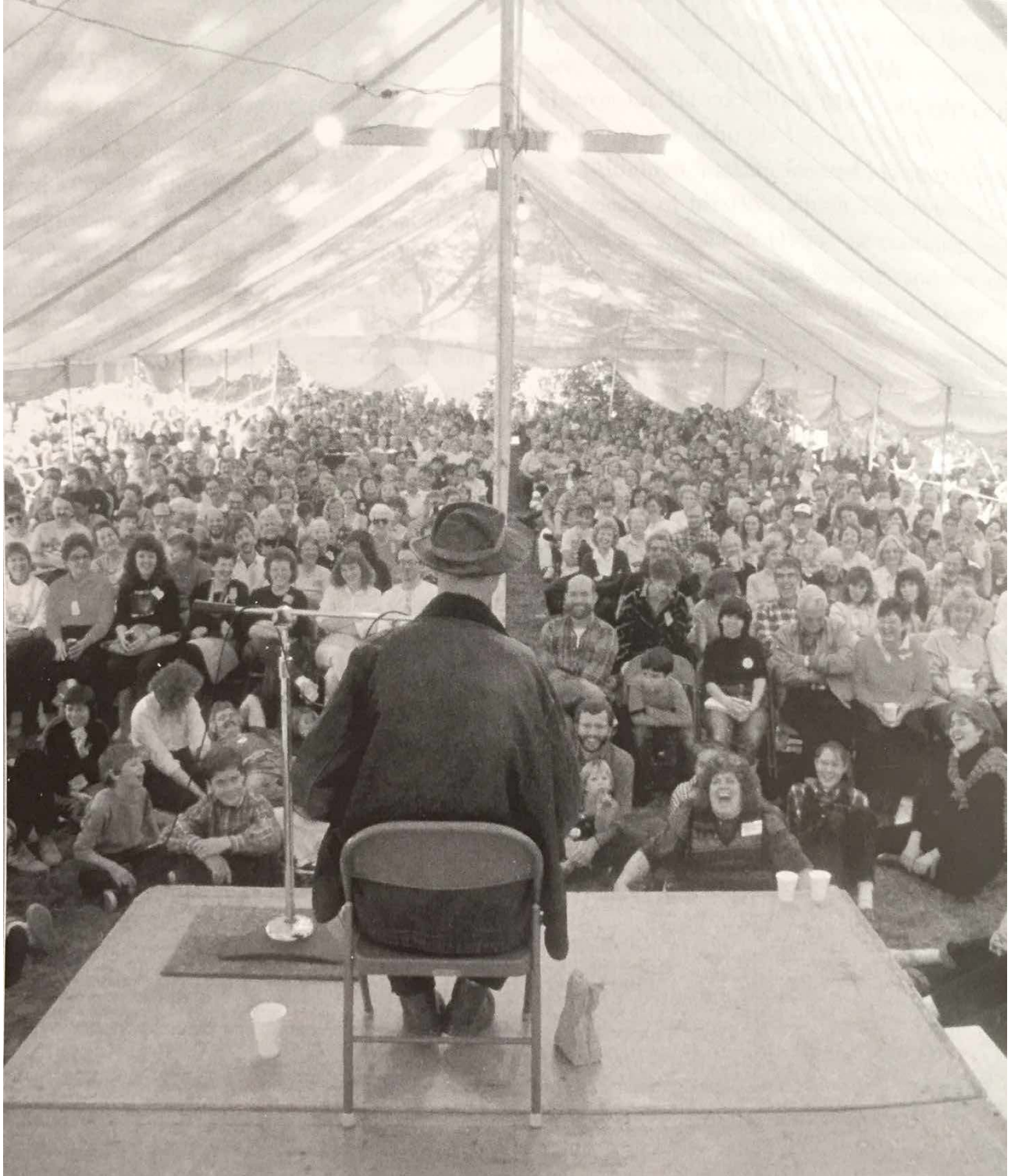
Ray and Rosa Hicks, Orville Hicks: *Mountain Stories, Mountain Roots* (2005), p. 52

Like his father and grandfather before, Ray Hicks farmed his family’s land, plowing with oxen and mules. He grew cabbage, potatoes, and onions, which were sold to the Mast Store in Valle Crucis. Hicks occasionally worked as a mechanic and carpenter, and when the family needed extra income, they gathered galax, ragweed pollen, moss, ferns, and other medicinal herbs. The Hickses lived a primitive life without electricity or running water. The wood stove in the sitting room was purchased second-hand from a neighbor in 1937, with Nathan Hicks trading a day’s labor to acquire it. The washing was done in an outdoor cast iron pot and rinsed twice; clothes were dried on the clothesline. The chimney was cleaned by lowering a burlap sack filled with cabbage heads through the flue.¹⁵

¹³ Watauga County Register of Deeds.

¹⁴ Chase, viii-ix; “Ray Hicks, Appalachian Storyteller,” NEA National Heritage Fellowships (<https://www.arts.gov/honors/heritage/fellows/ray-hicks>; accessed December 7, 2017); “Ray Hicks, Storyteller,” Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (<http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/traditional-artist-directory/ray-hicks>; accessed December 7, 2017); Julia Taylor Ebel, *Orville Hicks: Mountain Stories, Mountain Roots* (Boone, NC: Parkway Publishers, Inc., 2005), 11-14.

¹⁵ Salsi, 95-102.



Ray Hicks performing at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, 1987,
Encyclopedia of Appalachia (2006), p. 1224

The first indication that Ray Hicks' storytelling might serve him beyond his Beech Mountain home came in 1951 when a teacher invited him to nearby Cove Creek Elementary School to tell stories to her class. As word spread about how much Jennie Love's students enjoyed their storytelling guest, Hicks was invited back to tell stories to all the other classes. Love gave him \$3 to pay for gas.¹⁶ Following the folk music revival of the 1960s, which was prompted, in part, by the Kingston Trio's immensely popular 1958 recording of Frank Proffitt's song "Tom Dooley," a broader appreciation of southern Appalachian culture began to take shape in the late 1960s.¹⁷ Publications like *Foxfire*, a quarterly magazine begun in 1966, promoted traditional lifeways and helped spur a back-to-the-land movement that continued into the 1970s. Academics, linguists, folklorists, historians, and enthusiasts sought authentic links to the past and the traditional culture of the southern Appalachians, which often brought them to the Hicks House on Old Mountain Road.¹⁸

Recognition and acclaim of Ray Hicks as a storyteller grew significantly through the 1960s and 1970s. He was invited to participate in the first National Storytelling Festival, which was founded by Jimmy Neil Smith in 1973 in Jonesborough, Tennessee. The festival grew from a few dozen attendees the first year to more than 10,000 in 1997. Hicks was the only individual invited to perform every year since its inception and missed only one year due to illness. His popular performances garnered widespread attention and led to profiles in *The New Yorker* and *National Geographic* and an appearance in Robert MacNeil's PBS series *The Story of English* (1986). Johnny Carson invited Hicks to appear on the *Tonight Show*, but he declined. With the exception of the storytelling festival in Jonesborough, Hicks seldom ventured far from Beech Mountain to perform, so his audience typically came to him. Hicks graciously received visitors at his home and told stories on the porch or in the sitting room. He often appears in documentary photographs and videos holding forth on the porch with visitors either joining him on the porch or sitting on the grass bank in front of the house.¹⁹

Ray Hicks came to be regarded as one of the foremost storytellers in the country, not only for his gift of narrative and language but also as a true connection to a disappearing past. Despite his popularity, Hicks did not pursue storytelling as a vocation but influenced a new generation of storytellers including Donald Davis, David Holt, Barbara Freeman, and Connie Regan-Blake. His son Ted (1954-2014), and a cousin, Orville Hicks (b. 1951), who were close friends growing up on Beech Mountain, learned Ray's stories and helped carry forward the family's storytelling traditions. He received a National Heritage Fellowship award from the National Endowment for

¹⁶ Isbell, 28-38; Connie Regan-Blake, "From Another Time: The Legacy of Ray Hicks," RayHicks.com (<http://www.rayhicks.com/another-time.htm>; accessed December 7, 2017).

¹⁷ Abramson and Haskell, 1158; John Alexander Williams, *Appalachia: A History* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 356-357.

¹⁸ Abramson and Haskell, 1533-1534; Williams; 387-388; "WNC's 50 Most Influential People, Past & Present," *WNC Magazine*, January-February 2009, 87.

¹⁹ Suzannah Smith Miles, "The Giant Storyteller," *WNC Magazine*, September 2011; T. Edward Nickens, "Oracle at Beech Mountain," *Our State*, March 2016, 77-83; Douglas Martin, "Ray Hicks, Who Told Yarns Older Than America, Dies at 80," *New York Times*, April 27, 2003.

the Arts in 1983. As a result, Hicks spent a week in Washington, DC, one of his longest ventures outside of Watauga County. He received a North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 1991 and the National Storytelling Association's first Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995. Hobbled by gout and prostate cancer in later years, Hicks passed away in 2003 at the age of 80.²⁰



Listening to the story of the bear hunt, Beech Mountain, 1959, *Traditional American Folk Songs from the Anne & Frank Warner Collection* (1984), p. 198

Following the death of Ray Hicks, Rosa Hicks and her son Ted continued to reside in the family home on Old Mountain Road. Just as Ray was determined to remain at home and help his mother Rena, Ted Hicks became Rosa's primary means of support, though her other four children lived across the border in Tennessee. Family and friends, organized by Connie Regan-Blake, offered support and made improvements to the homeplace as increasing health challenges limited Rosa and Ted Hicks' ability to maintain the property. In 2004, the Three Forks Baptist Association

²⁰ Abramson and Haskell, 1249-1250 and 1268-1270; "Ray Hicks, Storyteller;" "Ray Hicks, Appalachia Storyteller;" Ebel, 1-3 and 54.

in Boone helped to construct a 16-foot by 36-foot room at the rear of the house. The addition has heat, running water, a bathroom, and a concrete block foundation that also serves as a root cellar. A driveway was constructed adjacent to the old store building to ease the grade up to the road after Ted Hicks began making thrice weekly trips to Boone for dialysis. Eldest son Leonard Hicks (b. 1949), who has become the primary caretaker of the property, built the one-story cabin opposite main house for his mother. Rosa Hicks died in January 2014, two weeks after the death of her son Ted Hicks.²¹

The 103-year-old Nathan Hicks House holds the stories of many generations of the Hicks family and claims a special place in the history of Watauga County. Ray Hicks, the master storyteller, reflected on the significance of the house in his life:

Thinkin' about the stories, music, and jokes that sprang from the land stir my mind. Rememberin' the pleasant times in the front room, on the porch, and under the ash tree helped keep me on the mountain. The house keeps all the ol' life alive for me to tell to others—to pass it on—so it won't be forgotten. The spirits of the ol' ways and the ol' people will always be in me and in the house as long as I live and as long as it stands.²²

²¹ Leslie Boyd, "Modernizing the Old Mountain Home," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 12, 2004; Casey Blake, "Memories of Storyteller Live On," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 4, 2012; Nickens, 77-83.

²² Quoted in Salsi, 18-19.

V. Architectural Context

The area of Watauga County occupies some of the highest elevations in North Carolina with a general elevation of 3,000 feet or more above sea level. The county claims nineteen peaks more than 4,000 feet in elevation and eight peaks above 5,000 feet. Located beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains on the western side of the Continental Divide, the county, which was not formed until 1849, remained isolated mountain wilderness through much of the nineteenth century. The Watauga River, fed by numerous creeks and tributaries, flows westward into the Holston and Tennessee Rivers and ultimately drains into the greater Mississippi River watershed.²³

Eighteenth century settlers like David Hicks and Benjamin Ward encountered a rugged and rocky countryside that presented constant challenges to survival. Settlers faced the daunting prospect of building sturdy dwellings and clearing land to established small self-sufficient farms. The earliest houses were constructed of log, typically one or two rooms with a loft and a single large fireplace. This basic form continued to be executed in frame as sawn lumber became increasingly available. In the mid and late nineteenth century, the I-house became the dominant house form in Watauga County. I-houses were characterized by their single-pile depth, two-story height, center hall, and frequently rear ell or T-shape additions. The adaptability of the I-house form lent itself to a variety of stylistic embellishments and applied ornamentation where wealth allowed for such displays.²⁴

The Nathan Hicks House (WT 364) is representative of the popularity and persistence of the I-house form into the twentieth century. In the early decades of the new century, however, a renewed simplicity returned to the basic I-house form as domestic architecture trended away from the rich ornamentation of Queen Anne to more restrained expressions such as the Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Rustic Revival styles.²⁵ By the 1910s, the presence of Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles was gaining widespread popularity and beginning to filter out into the rural areas of the county and the region. Houses such as the ca. 1910 Craftsman bungalow at 1193 Oliver Hill Road, approximately 2.4 miles southeast of the Hicks House, were becoming increasing common throughout the county. The form of the one-and-a-half-story frame house with a side-gable roof, front shed dormer, and an engaged full-width porch appears frequently in the area through the mid-twentieth century. The house on Oliver Hill Road displays weatherboard siding and decorative eave brackets, but it is being rehabilitated with replacement windows and porch elements.

²³ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, Vol. II (Raleigh, NC: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1958), 1059-1061.

²⁴ Hughes, 16-17; J. Daniel Pezzoni, ed., *The Architectural History of Watauga County, North Carolina* (Boone, NC: Watauga County Historical Society, 2009), 49-50.

²⁵ Tony Van Winkle, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Watauga County, North Carolina, ca. 1763-1952," Multiple Property Documentation Form, Raleigh, NC (2003), 53-56.



C. D. "Squire" Taylor House (WT 312), 4584 NC 194, ca. 1911 (l) and House, 1193 Oliver Hill Road, ca. 1910 (r)

Members of the Hicks family would likely have been familiar with the ca. 1911 C. D. "Squire" Taylor House (WT 312) in Valle Crucis as they traveled to and from the Mast Store to do business. Located at 4584 NC 194, the two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival style house with a hip roof, hip-roof dormers, projecting windows bays, and a one-story wraparound porch is a particularly stylish house for its period and rural location but indicative of the architectural trends occurring in nearby Boone, Blowing Rock, and Linville. Similarly, the facilities and agricultural buildings of the Episcopal Mission at Valle Crucis, such as Auchmuty Hall (ca. 1911), the farm house (1915), apple barn (1911), and bunk house (1914), represented the evolving stylistic and technical vocabulary of the time.²⁶

Built in 1914, the Nathan Hicks House illustrates the persistence of vernacular house forms and traditional building methods in rural Watauga County into the early twentieth century. Nathan Hicks built the house with help from his father Ben Hicks, his father-in-law/uncle Andy Hicks, and his grandfather Samuel Hicks III. The house is constructed from hemlock trees that were cut on the property and taken to a saw mill. Samuel Hicks hewed the foundation joists and sills with a broad axe. The men laid a stone fireplace and finished the roof with shingles cut from a single chestnut tree. On the interior Ben Hicks insisted on finishing the ceilings to add for extra insulation. It was unusual for houses in the area to have finished ceilings due to the expense, but Ben Hicks grooved and dressed the wood by hand. Ben Hicks did much of the interior finish work including the wide doorways, framed openings, and pegged doors. The house was built with a center hall, but one wall was later removed to enlarge the sitting room. When complete the Hicks House was regarded as one of the finest dwellings in the area..²⁷

The Hickses, like the majority of their neighbors, were farmers, and the house was the centerpiece of a modest subsistence farm. Subsistence farmers in Watauga County engaged in a diversified agricultural economy that included cultivated crops, livestock production, and forest products. Typical crops included potatoes, cabbage, beans, wheat, rye, onions, and some fruits.

²⁶ Cynthia de Miranda, Clay Griffith, and Jennifer Martin, "Valle Crucis Historic District" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., Asheville, NC, 2003.

²⁷ Salsi, 14-17; Isbell, 31-32.

The high elevation farms required oxen, mules, and horses for plowing since the topography was too steep for tractors. The bountiful forest resources exploited by mountain families included timber, fuel wood, herbs, chestnuts, and small game and furs. Placement of the house and agricultural buildings was predominantly determined by topography with the house typically situated on high ground and set near a slope to protect it from strong winds.²⁸ As a farm complex, the Hicks House retains its spring house, root cellar, outhouse, barn, and store. While the Hicks House property is not the most intact or fully developed farm complex, it is good example of its type and representative of subsistence farms throughout the mountains of Watauga County as evidenced by other farmsteads in the surrounding area.



House and farm, 5085 Andy Hicks Road, ca. 1925, view to southeast

Approximately one-half mile east of the Nathan Hicks House is another farm property belonging to descendants of the Hicks family. Located at 5085 Andy Hicks Road, the one-and-a-half-story frame house was erected around 1925, according to tax records, although it reads as being earlier. The house is situated on the north side the road, and slightly below it, with two large barns and several smaller dependencies scattered around the property. The house, which displays a side-gable roof, rear ell, brick chimney, and attached hip-roof porch, has been altered with the addition of vinyl siding and replacement windows.

²⁸ Sharpe, 1061-1062; Van Winkle, 49-52.



House, 5085 Andy Hicks Road, ca. 1925, view to north

Another farm complex associated with members of the Hicks family is located at 5183 Andy Hicks Road approximately 0.6-mile southeast of the Nathan Hicks House. According to tax records the main house dates from around 1937, and the dwelling is surrounded by a large complement of agricultural outbuildings. The one-and-a-half-story Craftsman-influenced frame house sits in a swale and exhibits a side-gable roof, front shed dormer, exposed rafter tails, and an engaged full-width porch. It is covered with wide weatherboard siding and has three-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. A set back side wing on the west elevation is clad with vinyl siding. The outbuildings include frame barns, a tractor shed, animal pens, root cellar, and a spring house.



House and farm, 5183 Andy Hicks Road, ca. 1937, view to southeast



House, 5183 Andy Hicks Road, ca. 1937, view to northeast

The Yates family owned several modest farmsteads further south on Andy Hicks Road, near its intersection with Worley Road (SR 1130).²⁹ The Alfred L. Yates House (WT 360) at 1580 Worley Road is a two-story center hall plan frame house built in the late nineteenth century. The house originally included a rear ell, but the ell was later replaced with a one-and-a-half-story shed addition. The house, which is capped by a new metal roof, features exterior brick end chimney, two-over-two double-hung windows, and an attached hip-roof porch carried on turned wood posts with sawn decorative brackets. The porch shelters a central single-leaf entry door flanked by sidelights. A large gable-roof frame barn is located adjacent to the house and a one-story frame building across the road once served as a cheese factory. Two other properties belonging to the Yates family are located at 5890 and 5966 Andy Hicks Road. According to tax records the house at 5890 Andy Hicks Road was built around 1929, and the dwelling is a one-and-a-half-story side-gable bungalow with a front shed dormer, exterior brick chimney, and an engaged full-width porch. The house has been altered with vinyl siding, replacement windows, and replacement porch columns. A concrete block and frame gambrel-roof barn stands to the southeast of the house. The house at 5966 Andy Hicks Road was built around 1945 according to tax records.

²⁹ Two of Samuel Hicks III's daughters married Yates men. Alice Hicks (b. 1875) married John Yates, and Nancy Hicks (b. 1884) married Cornelius Yates. Sanna Ross Gaffney, ed., *The Heritage of Watauga County, North Carolina*, Vol. 1 (Boone, NC: The Genealogical Society of Watauga County, 1984), 244-245.



Alfred L. Yates House (WT 360), 1580 Worley Road, ca. 1880s, view to northwest



House, 5890 Andy Hicks Road, ca. 1929, view to south

Another complex near Matney, a little more than three miles southeast of Old Mountain Road, contains a one-story side-gable frame house built around 1890. Located at 273 Oliver Hill Road, the heavily remodeled house has a new metal roof, vinyl siding, replacement windows, and a stone veneer foundation. The complex includes a large gambrel-roof center-passage barn, smaller barn, spring house, wood shed, and stables. One of the best preserved farm complexes in the area stands just 0.25-mile north at 7156 NC 194. Built around 1910, the Lee Carender Farm (WT 348) is a large two-story gable-front-and-wing frame house with vernacular Victorian ornament on the porch. The complex includes two late-nineteenth century barns, a detached kitchen, and several agricultural outbuildings dating from the 1930s. The property was determined eligible for the National Register and placed on the Study List in 2003.³⁰



House, 273 Oliver Hill Road, ca. 1890, view to northwest

The relatively unaltered Nathan Hicks House helps illustrate the persistence of vernacular house forms and traditional building methods in rural Watauga County into the early twentieth century. While the property is not the most intact or fully developed farm complex, it is representative of the modest subsistence farms of many mountain farmers throughout the area. The Hicks House is good example of its type and period and retains sufficient integrity to convey the significant aspects of its design and construction.

³⁰ Richard L. Silverman, *Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, TIP No. R-2710* (Report for North Carolina Department of Transportation, April 2003), 35-43.

VI. Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Nathan Hicks House at 218 Old Mountain Road (WT 364) is **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places. The property generally retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property's integrity of design has been compromised to some degree by additions to the house and store and by partial enclosure of the porch. The weathered house and surrounding property shows signs of deferred maintenance and deterioration, but retains a strong connection and association with the Hicks family.

The Nathan Hicks House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event). *To be eligible under Criterion A, a property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation. Furthermore, a property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, a property's specific association must be important as well.* The Nathan Hicks House served as the basis for three generations of traditional musicians, instrument makers, and storytellers, who were influential in the folk revival movements of the mid-to-late twentieth century. From their remote mountain farm the Hickses lived a simple, but hard, life largely unmoved by modern technological progress. Folklorists, academics, linguists, and historians were drawn to the Hickses as the embodiment of a disappearing culture and as practitioners of traditional lifeways. Through these connections the Hicks House became the focal point for published songs and stories, field recordings, and handmade instruments that entered into popular culture through various individuals associated with the folk revival movements, including Richard Chase, Frank and Anne Warner, Frank Proffitt Sr., and Ray Hicks. In addition to providing the backdrop to encounters influential to the folk revival movements, the Hicks house and farm endowed the Hicks family with the authenticity sought by revivalists. The Nathan Hicks House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the popular folk revival movements of the twentieth century including the folk music revival of the 1960s and the storytelling revival of the 1970s.

The Nathan Hicks House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e. individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance, and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group.* The Nathan Hicks House is indelibly associated with the life and significance of Hicks' son, Ray Hicks, who lived nearly his entire life in the house at 218 Old Mountain Road and rose to prominence as an internationally acclaimed storyteller. Born in 1922 in the first-story front bedroom, Ray Hicks became the most recognized member of the extended Hicks family, which was notable for its preservation of traditional mountain culture and folkways,

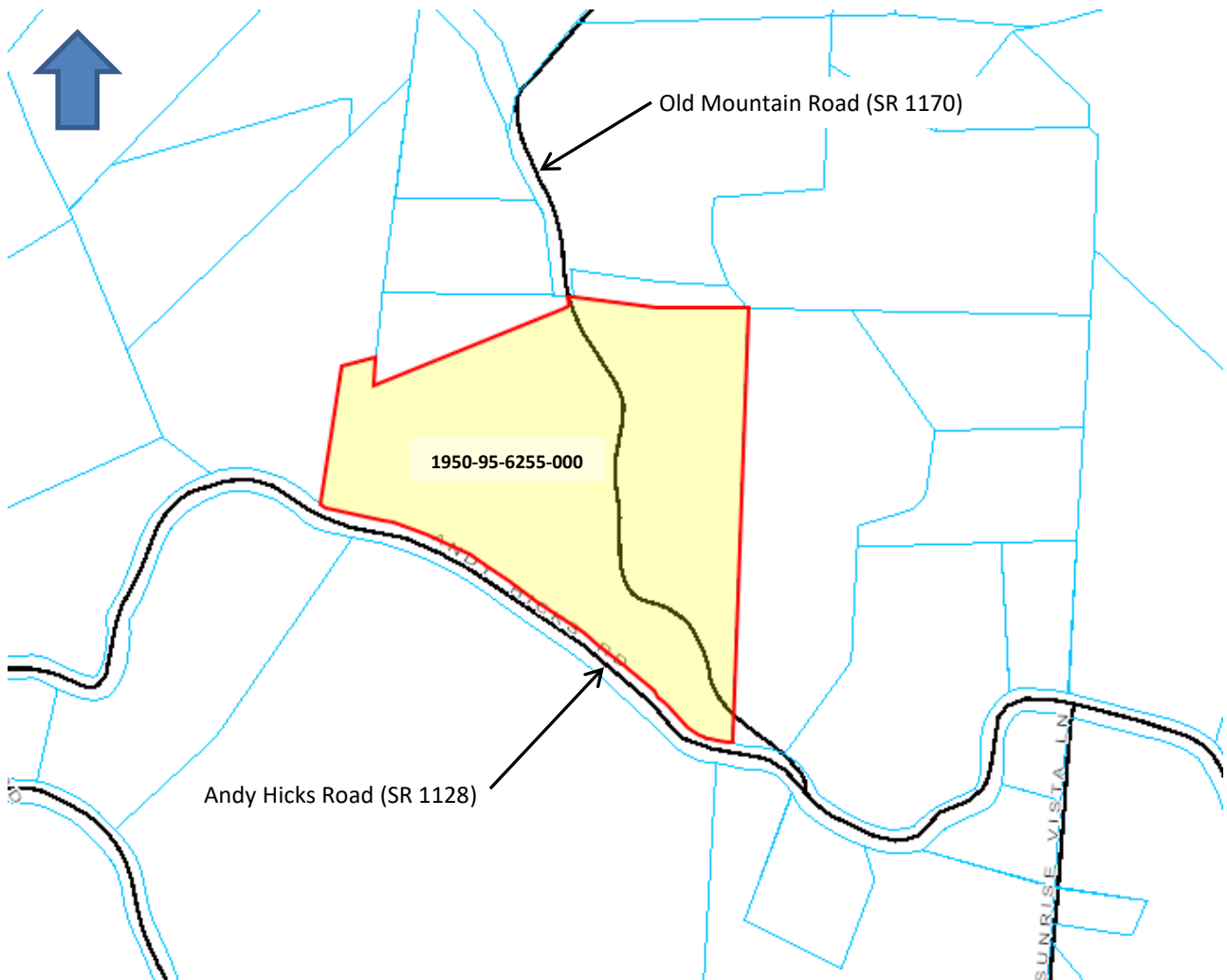
including storytelling, music, and instrument making. First documented in the early 1940s, Hicks' "Jack tales" were a continuation of ancestral stories rooted in ancient European folk tales. Due to his aversion to extended travel, Hicks spent the vast majority of his life in his father's house, which he later inherited, on the side of Beech Mountain in Watauga County. Folklorists, professors, and admirers most often visited Hicks at home to conduct interviews or listen to stories, typically visiting on the porch or in the small sitting room. In photographs and video recordings, the house and distant mountain scenery forms the backdrop for Hicks' active engagement with his audience. The recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, Ray Hicks received a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship in 1983, a North Carolina Folk Heritage Award in 1991, and the National Storytelling Association's first Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995. The Nathan Hicks House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Ray Hicks.

The Nathan Hicks House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* Built in 1914, the Nathan Hicks House is a two-story side-gable frame dwelling built of local materials with a two-story rear ell, center hall plan, and wraparound porch. The house represents a common form with minimal embellishment, but it was constructed with finished ceilings on the interior, wide doorways, and hand-pegged doors. At the time of its construction, the Hicks House was regarded as one of the finest houses in the area. The house was little altered until recent years when the age and accumulating health challenges of its owners necessitated a few concessions to modern times. The principal investigator of the 2003 county-wide architectural survey described the Hicks House as an outstanding example of type and period, although it was not selected for placement on the Study List at that time. Despite its recent additions and alterations, the Nathan Hicks House remains a good example of an early twentieth century rural farmhouse and mountain farmstead that embodies the distinctive characteristics of type, period, and method of construction, and the property retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

The Nathan Hicks House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *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 pre-history, and 2) the information must be considered important.* Constructed in 1911 and occupied by three generations of the Hicks family, the Nathan Hicks House at 216 Old Mountain Road may contain archaeological remains, such as trash deposits, wells, and structural remains that might provide information concerning traditional mountain farmsteads, building techniques, and agricultural methods. It is unlikely, however, that any potential remains would contribute significant information pertaining to building technology or historical documentation not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records, but at this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains.

Boundary Description and Justification

The proposed boundary of Nathan Hicks House (WT 364) follows the legal property line encompassing the full extent of the 18-acre property surrounding the house, outbuildings, and family cemetery (PIN 1950-95-6255-000). The proposed boundary, which includes the residual property historically associated with the Hicks House, associated structures, and landscape features, extends on both sides of Old Mountain Road within the APE and adjoins the right-of-way on Andy Hicks Road for approximately 1,275 feet. Portions of the original 40-acre tract on the south side of Andy Hicks Road were sold in 1994 [PIN 1950-99-4505-000].



Nathan Hicks House tax parcel map, PIN 1950-98-6255-000
(Source: Watauga County GIS Online)

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