



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor  
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

October 27, 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

From: David Brook *for David Brook*  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Re: Grading, widening, upgrading, drainage and paving of SR 1332 (Waterville Road),  
State Project #6.942144, Haywood County, ER 00-7229

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 2000, transmitting the survey report by Mary Pope Furr and Kenneth McFarland, NCDOT concerning the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

Waterville Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion a for Community Development as it reflects the era's hydroelectric power "boom" and the resources, industrial and residential associated with the development of the industry. The district is also eligible for listing under Criterion C for architecture as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of an industrial site surrounded by a residential community. We concur with boundaries noted on page 12 of the report.

{former} Mt. Sterling School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Education as it is directly associated with the federal government's building campaigns via the WPA during the 1930s and early 1940s. The school is also eligible under Criterion C for architecture as a nearly intact example of an education building constructed by the WPA, boundaries noted on page 28 of the report.

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 919/733-4763.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

bc: Brown/Montgomery  
County  
RF

Telephone/Fax

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Location

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ARCHAEOLOGY 421 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC  
RESTORATION 515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC  
SURVEY & PLANNING 515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC

HW0524

HW0454

NOV - 2 2000

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY REPORT  
FINAL IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION  
(ABRIDGED)**



**GRADING, WIDENING, UPGRADING DRAINAGE, AND PAVING SR 1332 (WATERVILLE ROAD) FROM THE PAVEMENT TERMINUS IN THE VILLAGE OF WATERVILLE RUNNING SOUTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 3,075 FEET TO A POINT JUST NORTH OF THE (FORMER) MT. STERLING SCHOOL**

**HAYWOOD COUNTY  
STATE PROJECT # 6.942144**

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Report Prepared by Mary Pope Furr, Architectural Historian  
And Kenneth M. McFarland, Architectural Historian**

**January 2000**

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HAYWOOD COUNTY  
STATE PROJECT # 6.942144

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Report Prepared by Mary Pope Furr, Architectural Historian  
And Kenneth M. McFarland, Architectural Historian

January 2000

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

January 14, 2000  
Date

Kenneth M. McFarland  
Kenneth M. McFarland, Investigator  
Historic Architecture Section  
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January 14, 2000  
Date

Barbara H. Church  
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Historic Architecture Section  
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January 14, 2000  
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### III. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

**A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to grade, widen, make drainage changes, and pave a section of SR 1332 (Waterville Road) for a distance of 3,075 feet in Haywood County. The project will commence at the point where existing SR 1332 pavement terminates just south of the village of Waterville to a point just north of the (former) Mt. Sterling School, a structure now adaptively used for commercial purposes. The proposed cross-section for the subject project is a two-lane shoulder section, consisting of 18 feet of pavement with 5-foot shoulders. The proposed right of way is 50 feet, 25 feet to each side of the centerline.

**B. SURVEY METHODOLOGY:** A Final Identification and Evaluation Survey was conducted to determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and to identify and evaluate all structures over fifty years of age within the APE according to the Criteria of Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places. Haywood County survey files were consulted in the western office of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Asheville. The survey was conducted on August 18, 1999 and covered 100% of the APE.

**C. DESCRIPTION OF THE APE:** The APE was drawn to include all properties adjoining SR1332 (Waterville Road) from and including the bridge spanning Big Creek on the north end, encompassing the village of Waterville and terminating at the former Mt. Sterling School.

**D. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY:**

**1. Properties evaluated:**

Property #1: Waterville Historic District, which includes the following:

- Waterville Village
- Walters Hydroelectric Power Plant
- Bridge No. 175

Property #2: (former) Mt. Sterling School

**2. Properties considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:**

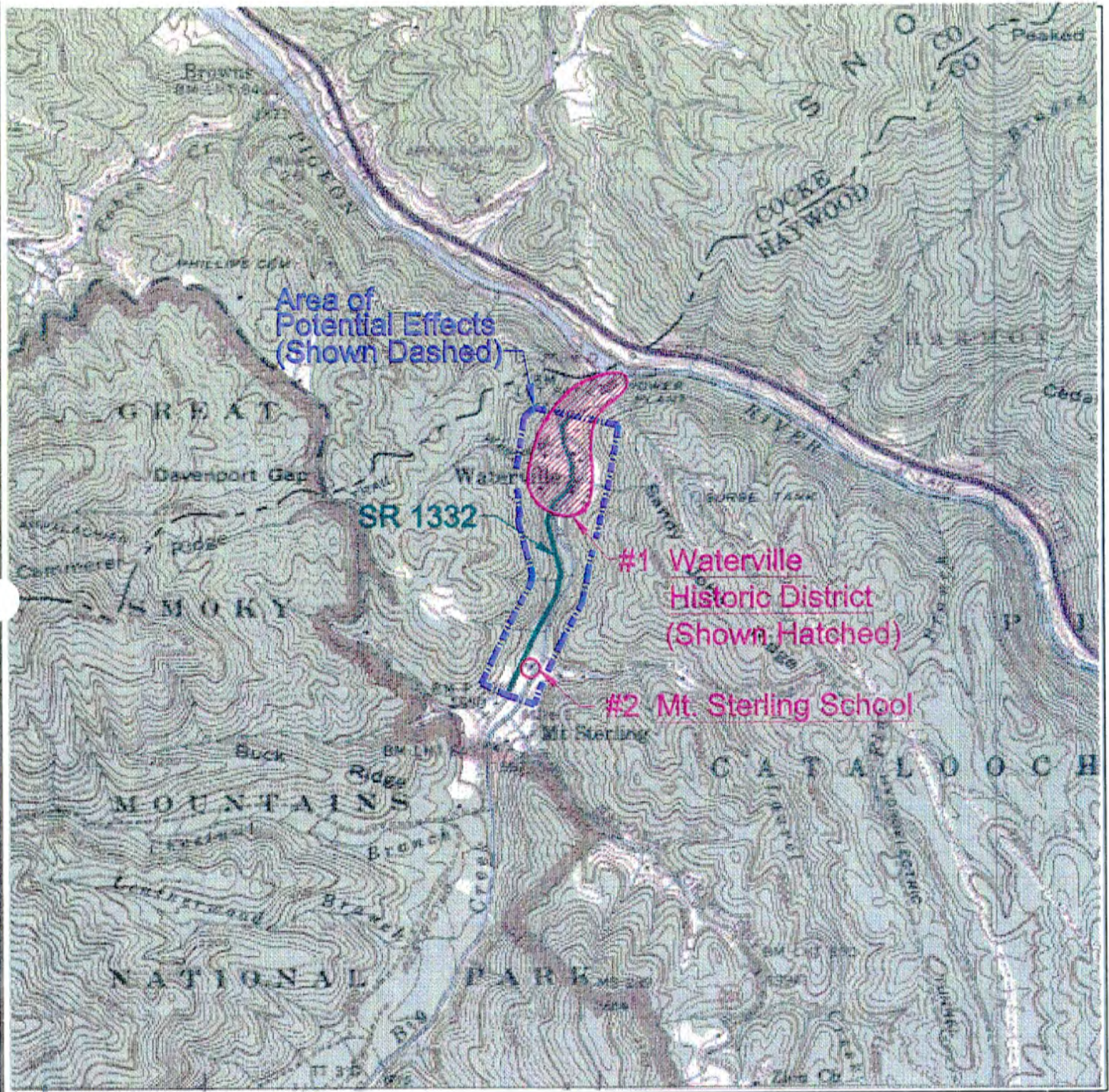
Property #1: Waterville Historic District

Property #2: (former) Mt. Sterling School

**3. Properties evaluated but not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:**

None

IV. PROJECT MAP (Figure 1)



**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE**  
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 P.O. Box 25201  
 Raleigh, NC 27611-5201  
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Project  
**SR 1332 - WATERVILLE ROAD**  
**HAYWOOD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

Sheet Title  
**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL  
 RESOURCES SURVEY MAP**

Supervisor  
**E. CHURCH**  
 Principal Investigator  
**Mary Pope Furr**  
 Drawn By  
**R. Silverman**

File Name  
**a1.1.dwg**  
 Issue Date:  
**12-20-1999**

Division <b>14</b>	
Work Order No <b>6.942144</b>	
Scale: <b>NTS</b>	Sheet No <b>A1.1</b>

## V. PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

This Final Identification and Evaluation Survey was conducted and the report prepared to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies conducted by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the CE and adheres to the guidelines for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This report is on file at NCDOT and available for review by the general public.

## VI. METHODOLOGY

NCDOT conducted the Final Identification and Evaluation survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of 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 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina SHPO dated February 2, 1996.

NCDOT conducted a Final Identification and Evaluation Survey with the following goals: (1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; (2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and (3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places Criteria.

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and historical background research of the project area. The field survey was conducted by automobile and on foot on August 18, 1999. All structures over fifty years of age were photographed and keyed to a U.S.G.S. quadrangle map. The survey covered 100% of the APE.

Background research about the project area concentrated on the architectural, industrial, and educational development of Haywood County. Haywood County survey files were consulted in the western office of the SHPO in Asheville. There are no properties in the APE that are listed on the National Register and none listed on the North Carolina State Study List.

## VII. RESULTS OF FINDINGS

### A. EVALUATION OF PROPERTIES:

#### **Property # 1: Waterville Historic District (Figures 2-26)**

*Location:* Northern end of SR 1332, Haywood County, North Carolina

*Period of Construction:* 1927 to 1930

*Physical Description and Historical Background:*

Owned by Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L), the Waterville Historic District consists of the Walters Hydroelectric Power Plant and Waterville Village, a collection of well-maintained residential and civic buildings placed in a highly manicured landscape setting along Big Creek. The district is sited in a mountain valley, and its buildings are located on both sides of Big Creek and SR 1332. A 1929 plan of Waterville Village shows that it initially included the Walters Hydroelectric Power Plant, the bridge over Big Creek, ten houses, one school, one club house, and various other maintenance facilities.<sup>1</sup> The contractor for the project was the Great Smoky Mountain Power Company, which CP&L acquired prior to completion of the power plant in 1929.<sup>2</sup> At that time pedestrian and rail traffic were the only two methods of transportation into the village. A railroad followed the path taken today by SR 1332 and the current bridge over Big Creek originally accommodated rail traffic.<sup>3</sup> While the railroad was in use, the power company provided access to the buildings throughout the district via a winding dirt road and sidewalks. A suspension pedestrian bridge led from the main component of the village on the west side of Big Creek to a grouping of five houses located on a plateau above the creek's eastern bank.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to information gathered during the field survey, details on the Waterville Village have been obtained from James R. Hill, "Waterville Village Historic Structure Data Sheets," (Unpublished manuscript, Asheville: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1995).

<sup>2</sup> Jack Riley, *Carolina Power & Light Company, 1908-1958*, (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1958), 122.

<sup>3</sup> In the early twentieth century it was common practice for builders of mills and power plants to use rail cars for transportation of construction materials because it was both economical and reliable, especially in mountainous terrain.



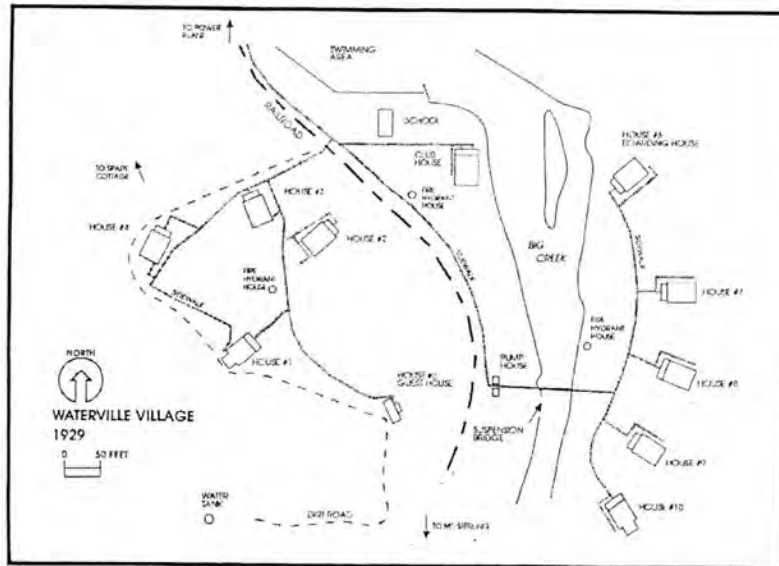


Figure 2: Plan of Waterville Village in 1929  
(Taken from James R. Hill, "Waterville Village Historic Structure Data Sheets.")

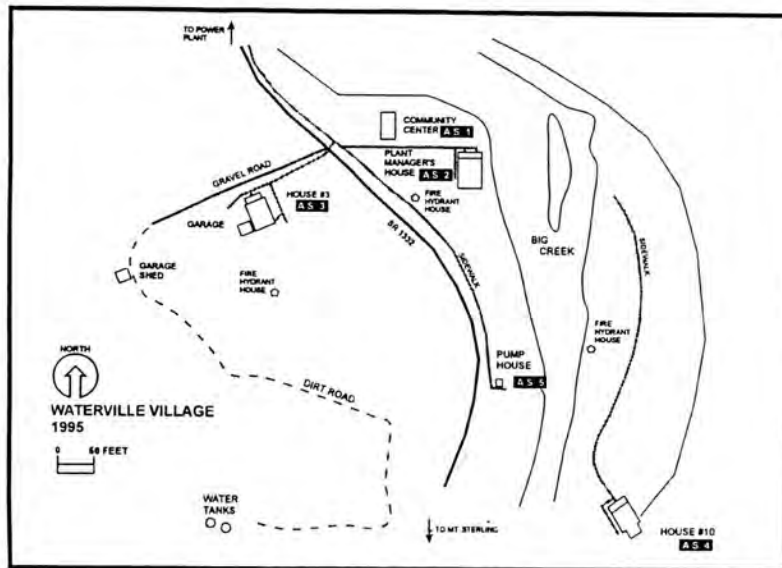


Figure 3: Plan of Waterville Village in 1995  
(Taken from James R. Hill, "Waterville Village Historic Structure Data Sheets.")

Elements of the Waterville complex have been lost or modified since its construction almost seventy years ago. Nonetheless, the structures that remain powerfully evoke the days of the era's hydroelectric power production "boom." This sense of vitality is dramatically enhanced by the close proximity of the massive and still functioning Walters Power Plant. In *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* the powerhouse is described as, "an imposing structure of brick, with tall windows alternating with pilasters above a concrete base."<sup>4</sup> Details such as the white concrete caps on the pilasters, hipped roof, and molded cornice and architrave give the structure an overall Colonial Revival-style appearance, as was typical of many power plants built in the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>5</sup> The plant is linked by a 6.3 mile tunnel through the mountains to Waterville Lake, where the dam is located. The dam, while not part of the proposed Waterville Historic District because of the intervening distance, is an engineering marvel. It is a concrete arch 180 feet high and 900 feet long. Beginning at the intake gates on the lake, water travels through miles of tunnel and divides into three penstocks just prior to reaching the powerhouse. In the powerhouse, three vertical reaction turbines receive the water and use its great force to power the generators. Seventy years after its completion, Walters Power Plant continues to be the largest hydroelectric installation operated by CP&L and was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1980.<sup>6</sup>

Residential structures surviving at Waterville feature Craftsman-type details and bungalow forms typical for the 1920s. They are constructed of timber materials and clad with horizontal lapped siding. The one house remaining on the east side of Big Creek features an eave-front, three-bay main façade with a full-width front porch and three-over-one sash windows. The main body of the house is two rooms wide and two rooms deep. The kitchen and related service areas are contained in a rear shed section.<sup>7</sup> The other original Waterville dwelling survives on the west side of Big Creek. In typical Craftsman fashion, four tapered posts set on piers support a telescoping gable-front porch roof. The three-bay main façade encompasses paired two-over-one sash windows, but along the side elevations three-over-one light sash light the interior of the dwelling. Like its companion dwelling east of the creek, this house follows a plan that is two rooms wide and two deep.<sup>8</sup>

A building originally used as a recreation center, or clubhouse, forms the central structural element of Waterville Village. Stylistically, the two-story structure, now a residence, principally reflects the Colonial Revival style. A full-width,

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<sup>4</sup> Catherine Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

<sup>5</sup> Aaron V. Wunsch, "Form, Function and Public Relations: the American Urban Power Station, 1880-1930." (Unpublished Masters Thesis, Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1996).

<sup>6</sup> As early as 1975 the Walters Power Station and Dam were listed in Brent D Glass, *North Carolina: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*. (Washington, DC: Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, 1975), 58-59.

<sup>7</sup> Hill, House #10.

<sup>8</sup> Hill, House # 3.

hipped roof porch shelters the three-bay first-floor façade. Reversing the typical pattern, a window occupies the central position, and is flanked on either side by twinleaf, glazed doors. At the second floor level, paired windows have been symmetrically positioned above the twinleaf doors. Absent at the second level, however, is any central fenestration element. In overall form, the building has an eave-front main block and a rear projecting ell that equals the main block both in width and in height. Cornice returns at the side gables and the rear projecting gable add to the Colonial Revival tone of this structure, but its six-over-one and twelve-over-one sash windows are features generally more associated with the craftsman movement than to the Colonial Revival style. These features, however, do provide a stylistic link between the former recreation center and the surviving Craftsman style dwellings discussed above.<sup>9</sup>

To the northwest of the one-time recreation center is the former Waterville school, a building now serving as a community center. It follows a typical frame schoolhouse configuration. The gable-front entry façade is three-bays wide, with six-over-six sash windows flanking a central door. A simple shed roof supported by Craftsman-style brackets shelters the entry. Appropriately, the school was well provided with natural light: each side elevation encompasses a bank of six nine-over-nine sash windows. Like other Waterville structures, the exterior woodwork of the school-community center is now covered with artificial siding.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to the buildings previously discussed, several original service structures also survive at Waterville. Most prominent is a pump house situated between the east side of SR 1332 and the west bank of Big Creek. It was placed here to enable the pumping system to supply water from the creek to a system of fire hydrants strategically located within the village. The diminutive building features six-over-six sash windows. A single door is positioned on the north side of the west façade. The pump house is sheltered by a side gable roof with widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails.<sup>11</sup>

Fortunately, other structures associated with the pump house also survive in Waterville. Three small wood frame fire hydrant houses remain, two located on the west side of Big Creek and one positioned to the east of the stream. In addition, a suspension bridge carries a water line from the pump house side (west) across the creek to provide service to eastern section of the village. Concrete supports stand near the pump house as well, remnants of the pedestrian footbridge that once offered an easy means of movement for Waterville residents between the western and eastern sections of the village.

On the west side of the pump house, a dry-laid stone wall buttresses the east side of SR 1332. Like other components of the village landscape, this wall is well-maintained. At this point, however, there is insufficient evidence to determine

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<sup>9</sup> Hill, Club House.

<sup>10</sup> Hill, School.

<sup>11</sup> Hill, Fire Pump House.

whether the wall dates to the period when the SR 1332 roadbed carried rail traffic as opposed to its modern day use.

Finally, Bridge No. 175 on SR 1332 over Big Creek remains in use as the primary connection between the two halves, the industrial and the residential, of the district. Built for the railroad in the late 1920s, the steel structure continues to be used, although it is rather overbuilt for the lighter loads of automobiles. The bridge has a timber floor on continuous steel plate girders and an attached sidewalk added in 1980. The sides of the bridge are steel plates, built-up with flanges and rivets, in a manner typically seen in early twentieth-century railroad bridges. The substructure is composed of reinforced concrete abutments and steel cap/H-piles secured on concrete footings. The bridge spans 85 feet and has a roadway width of 13.4 feet. The bridge remains in good condition.

#### *Evaluation:*

##### **Criterion A (event)**

*To be eligible for significance under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.<sup>12</sup>*

Waterville Historic District is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event [community development]). The development of the village is inexorably linked to the construction and operation of CP&L's Walters Hydroelectric Power Plant.<sup>13</sup> Waterville Historic District continues to reflect a period in the history of the region when the power of numerous mountain streams was being harnessed to produce electricity for industrial, commercial, and domestic purposes. Like textile mill villages, Waterville Village served the housing, recreational, and educational needs of the workforce required to operate company facilities. However, Waterville Historic District is somewhat unusual as an industrial district because it is one of a handful serving the housing, recreational, and educational needs of the workforce required to operate the adjacent power plant.

##### **Criterion B (person)**

*For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated 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 she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the*

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<sup>12</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), 12.

<sup>13</sup> W. Clark Medford, *The Middle History of Haywood County, with Story Supplement* (Waynesville, North Carolina: No publisher, 1968) 79.

*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.<sup>14</sup>*

Waterville Historic District is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). There are no persons of national, state, or local significance associated with Waterville Historic District. The Walters Power Plant was named after Charles S. Walters, a vice president of CP&L, but he does not meet the requirements of significance under Criterion B.<sup>15</sup>

#### **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 may lack individual distinction.<sup>16</sup>*

Waterville Historic District is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. Waterville Historic District embodies the distinctive characteristics of an industrial site surrounded by a residential community. The industrial and public buildings reflect the classically-inspired Colonial Revival style, while the residences are executed in the more folk-like Craftsman style. The Walters Power Plant is an intact and functioning example of an early powerhouse, complete with original turbines, generators and machine shop. The plan of Waterville Village remains intact, despite the loss of some of the residential buildings. There has been no modern structures infiltrating the district and the structures that stand have been only slightly altered by the additional of artificial siding to their exteriors. All of the walking paths and roadways remain, including Bridge No. 175. The bridge has survived primarily because of its conversion from railcar to automobile use after completion of the power plant. While the some of the buildings in the district do not necessarily possess individual distinction, the collection of buildings is certainly a rarity in the state and the district retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association.

#### **Criterion D (information potential)**

*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 prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.<sup>17</sup>*

Waterville Historic District is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Information Potential). The architectural components of the

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<sup>14</sup> National Park Service, 15.

<sup>15</sup> Riley, f. 122.

<sup>16</sup> National Park Service, 17.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 21.

buildings in Waterville Historic District are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

*Boundary:*

The National Register boundary for Waterville Historic District has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties." The National Register Boundary for Waterville Historic District has been drawn to include all of the significant resources and landscape elements comprising the district, including Walters Hydroelectric Power Plant, Bridge No. 175, Waterville Village, Big Creek and a portion of SR 1332. The historic boundary for Waterville Historic District is delineated on the accompanying tax map (Figure 26).

*National Register Boundary Justification:*

The National Register Boundary for Waterville Historic District encompasses all of the resources and landscape elements that directly contribute to the property's eligibility under Criterion A for community development and Criterion C for design and construction. The boundary follows the existing property lines and contains approximately 195.9 acres.

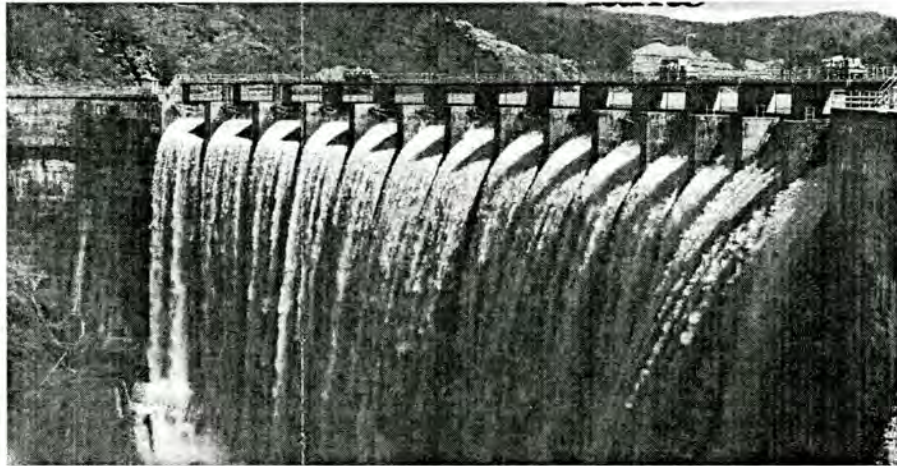
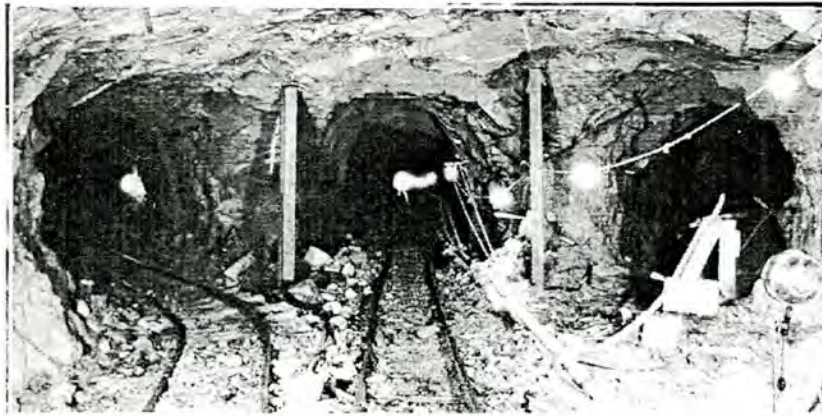
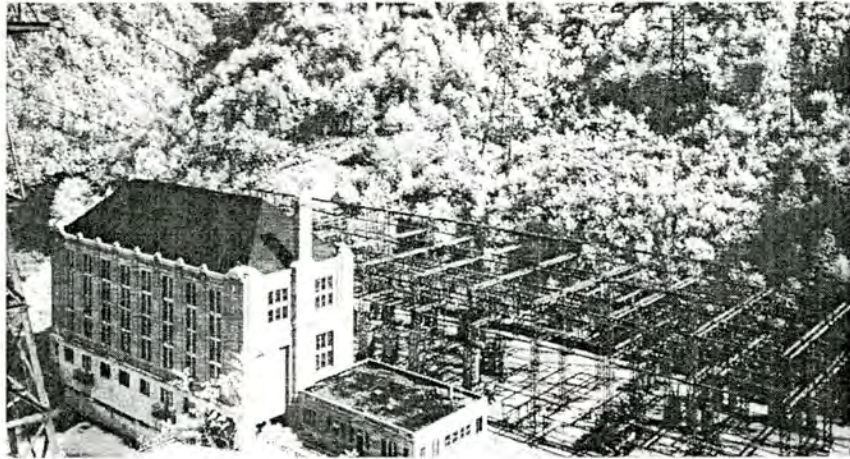


Figure 4: Historic Views of Walters Power Plant, Tunnel, and Dam  
(Taken from Jack Riley, *Carolina Power & Light Company, 1908-1958*, 1958).



Figure 5: Walters Power Plant

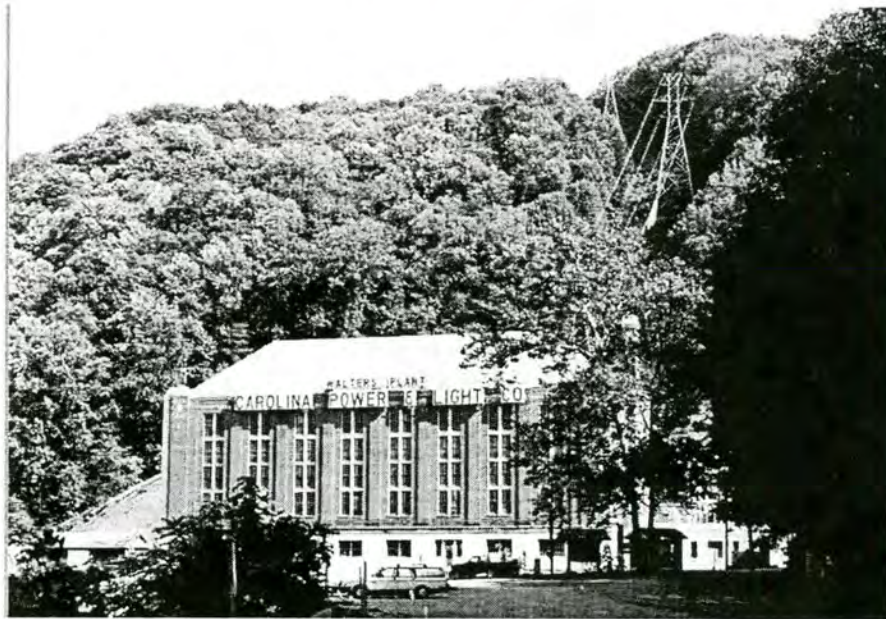


Figure 6: Walters Power Plant





Figure 7: Waterville Village, streetscape



Figure 8: Waterville Village, streetscape



Figure 9: Waterville Village, House #3 (from 1929 plan)



Figure 10: Waterville Village, House #10 (from 1929 plan)



Figure 11: Waterville Village, former clubhouse



Figure 12: Waterville Residential Village, former clubhouse



Figure 13: Waterville Village, former school

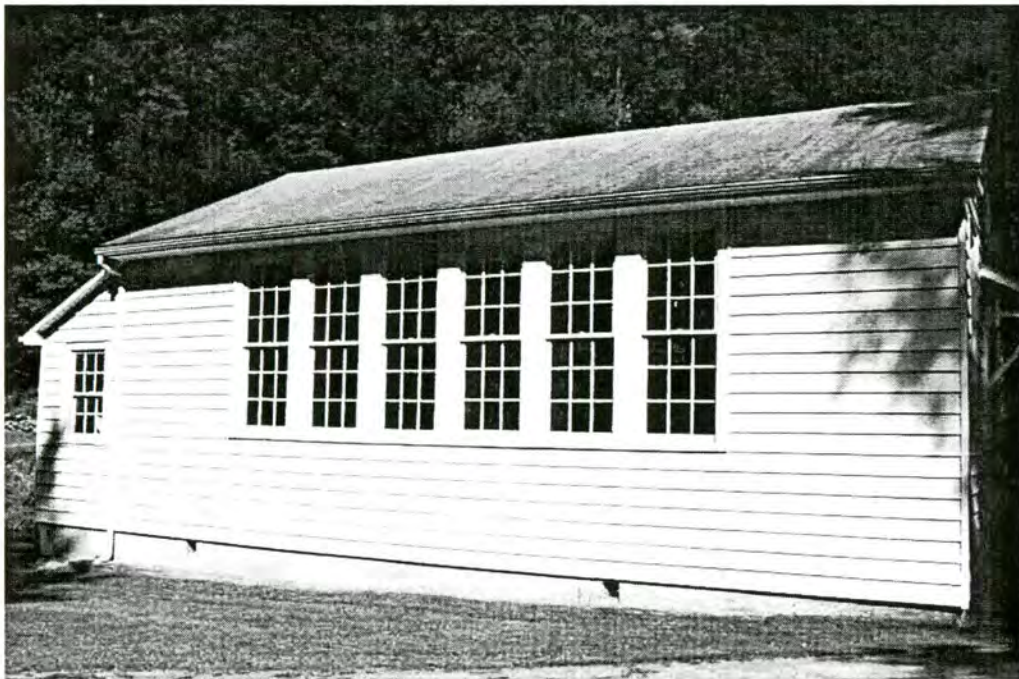


Figure 14: Waterville Village, former school



Figure 15: Waterville Village, pump house

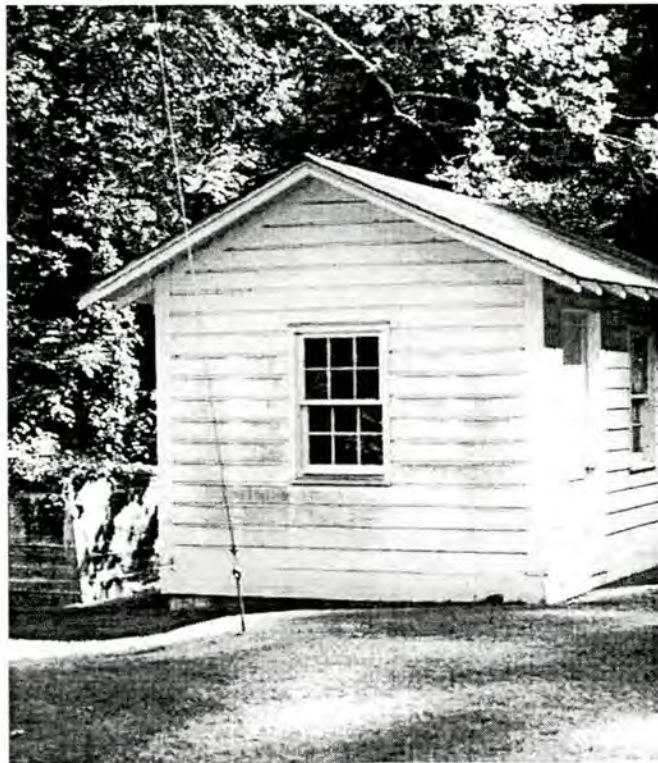


Figure 16: Waterville Village, pump house



Figure 17: Waterville Village, waterline across Big Creek



Figure 18: Waterville Village, footing of former pedestrian bridge



Figure 19: Waterville Village, wall



Figure 20: Waterville Village, wall



Figure 21: Bridge No. 175 over Big Creek



Figure 22: Bridge No. 175 over Big Creek





Figure 23: Bridge No. 175 over Big Creek

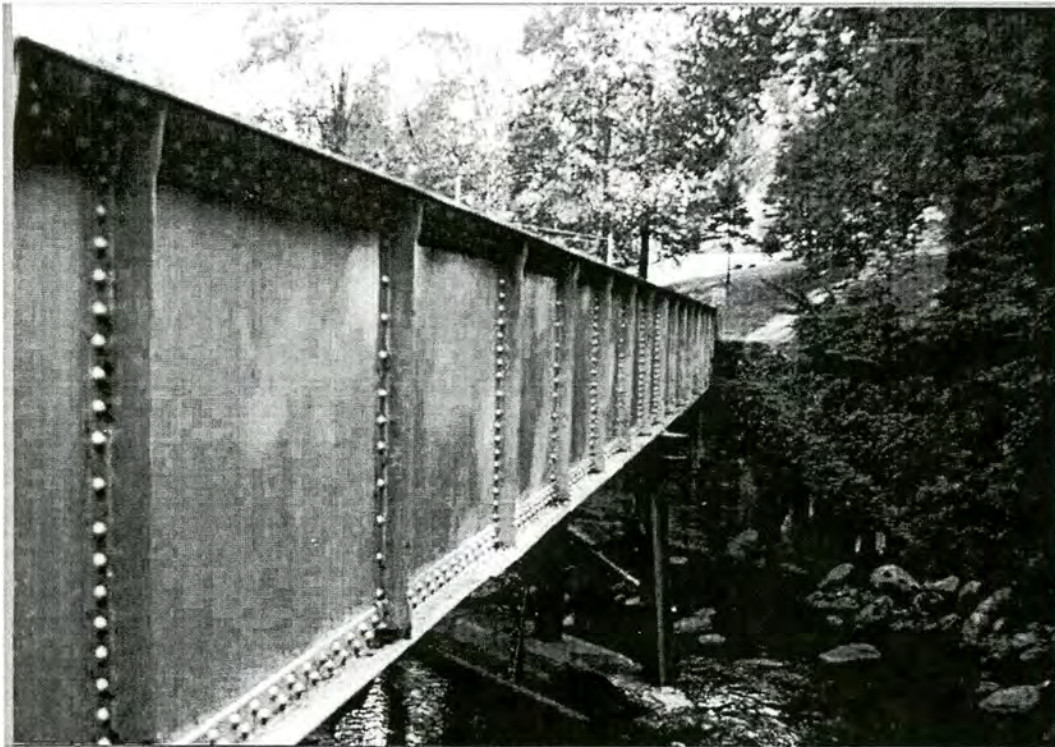
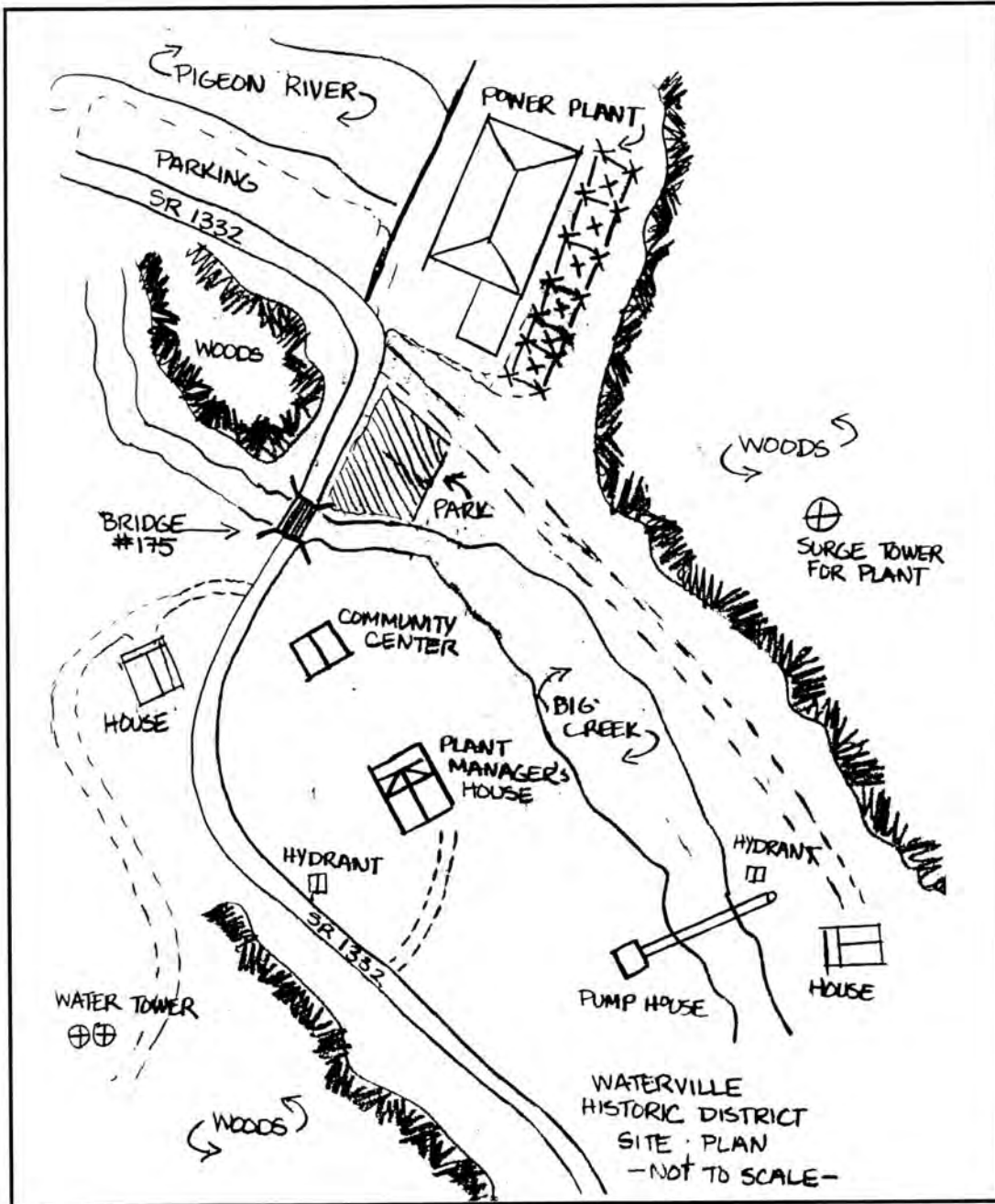


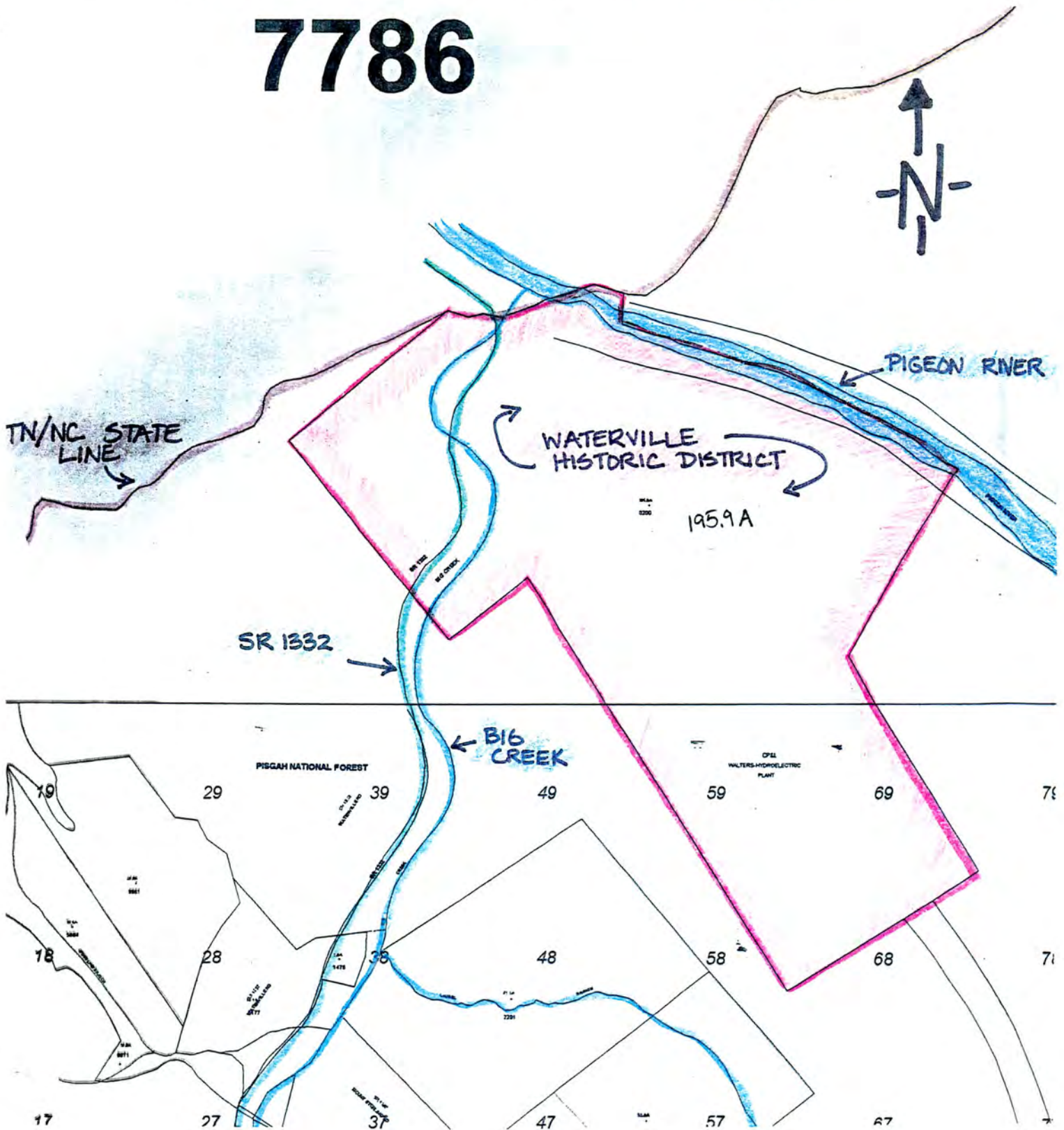
Figure 24: Bridge No. 175 over Big Creek

Waterville Historic District: Site Map (Figure 25)



Waterville Historic District: National Register Boundaries (Figure 26)

# 7786



**Property #2: (former)Mt. Sterling School( Figures 27-32)**

*Location:* East side of SR 1332, approximately .5 mi. north of intersection with SR 1397

*Period of construction:* August to December 1941

*Physical Description and Historical Background:*

Located approximately .6 miles south of Waterville Historic District, the (former) Mt. Sterling School is sited between SR 1332 and Big Creek. The building currently houses a commercial operation known as “Mountain Momma’s.” Since its days as a schoolhouse it has also been a private home.<sup>18</sup>

Mt. Sterling School offers an interesting contrast to the buildings in the Waterville Historic District and, more specifically, to the school. The former building’s fieldstone construction provides an immediately striking point of difference. In addition, the builders gave the structure a highly architectonic quality through the use of a hipped roof and a slightly projecting gabled pavilion that encompasses an arched doorway. Sidelights and a transom frame the door and illuminate the entry hallway. On both sides of the entry pavilion, banks of four twelve-over-twelve sash windows light the former classroom spaces. The plan of Mt. Sterling School originally included a wide central hallway that offered access to two classrooms, one on either side of the entry hall. Privy facilities were provided in a shed section adjoined to the east side of the school.

The Haywood County Board of Education sponsored the construction of the school, providing \$3,092 of the funding. The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) expended \$4,161, thus covering the majority of building costs. In the project proposal dated November 30, 1940, it was described as a “stone masonry, two classroom school building.” WPA construction-related documents record that twenty-three persons worked on the project, construction began on August 12, 1941 and ended on December 17, 1941.<sup>19</sup>

The Mt. Sterling School building remains the dominant structural element at its mountain-enclosed site, though a variety of smaller buildings now occupy the clearing. Despite its current use as a store, it still reminds visitors of the days when it met the educational needs of what was sixty years ago a remote region. Completed just after America’s entry into World War II, it is also recalls the closing days of the New Deal era. In particular, Mt. Sterling School exemplifies the role of the WPA in fighting the effects of the Great Depression, while helping to create a building legacy still evident in Haywood County, North Carolina.

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<sup>18</sup> In addition to information gathered during the field survey, details on the school have been obtained from J. Randall Cotton. “Mt. Sterling School Historic Structure Data Sheets,” (Unpublished manuscript, Asheville: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1982).

<sup>19</sup> Cotton, Mt. Sterling School.

*Evaluation:*

**Criterion A (event)**

*To be eligible for significance under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.<sup>20</sup>*

Mt. Sterling School is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event [education and social history]). The school is directly associated with the federal government's building campaigns via the WPA during the 1930s and early 1940s. In addition the school is significant because it is directly related to the educational development of this remote region of North Carolina.

**Criterion B (person)**

*For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated 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 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.<sup>21</sup>*

Mt. Sterling School is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). There are no persons of national, state, or local significance associated with Mt. Sterling School.

**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 may lack individual distinction.<sup>22</sup>*

Mt. Sterling School is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. Mt. Sterling School is a nearly intact example of an educational building constructed by the WPA, in the final days of the New Deal era. The highly architectonic nature of the building and the large windows stretching across the front of the building remind one of the ubiquitous frame Rosenwald schools, but the fieldstone construction unites the building with its rugged surroundings.

**Criterion D (information potential)**

*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*

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<sup>20</sup> National Park Service, 12.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 17.

*understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>23</sup>

Mt. Sterling School is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Information Potential). The architectural components of the school are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

*Boundary:*

The National Register boundary for Mt. Sterling School has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties." The National Register Boundary for Mt. Sterling School has been drawn to around the single significant resource and delineated on the accompanying tax map (Figure 32). The school is bounded on the west by SR 1332 and on the east by Big Creek.

*National Register Boundary Justification:*

The National Register Boundary for Mt. Sterling School is the same as the current tax parcel for the property. This boundary includes all of the property that has been historically associated with the school and directly contributes to the its eligibility under Criterion A for education and social history and Criterion C for design and construction.. The boundary follows the existing property lines and contains approximately 1.6 acres.

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 21.

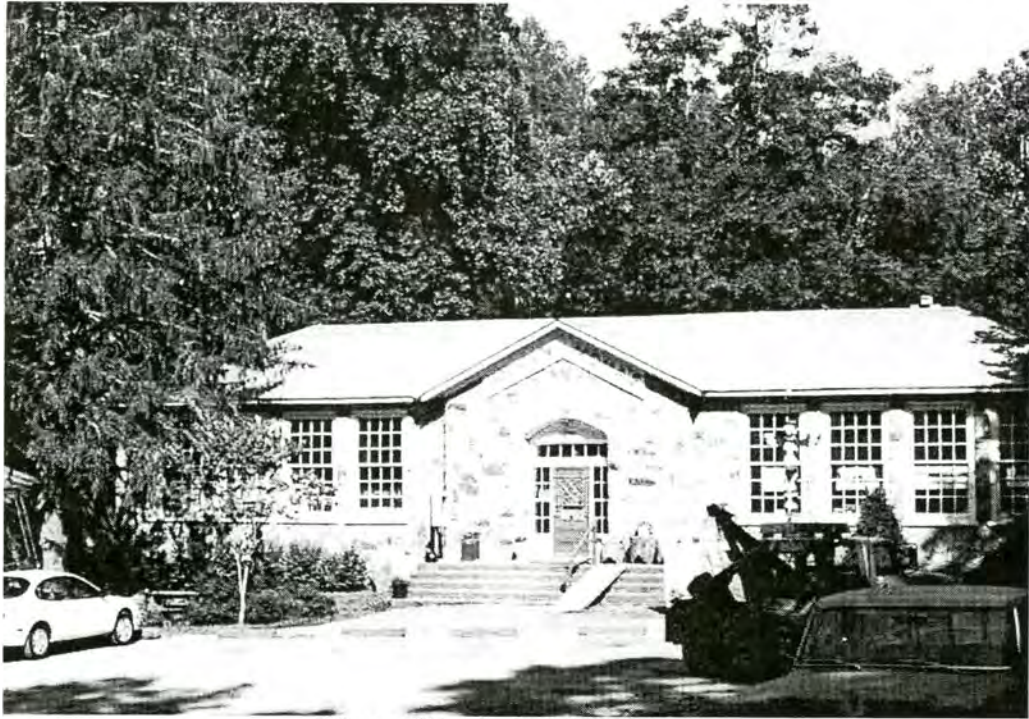


Figure 27: Mt. Sterling School



Figure 28: Mt. Sterling School



Figure 29: Mt. Sterling School

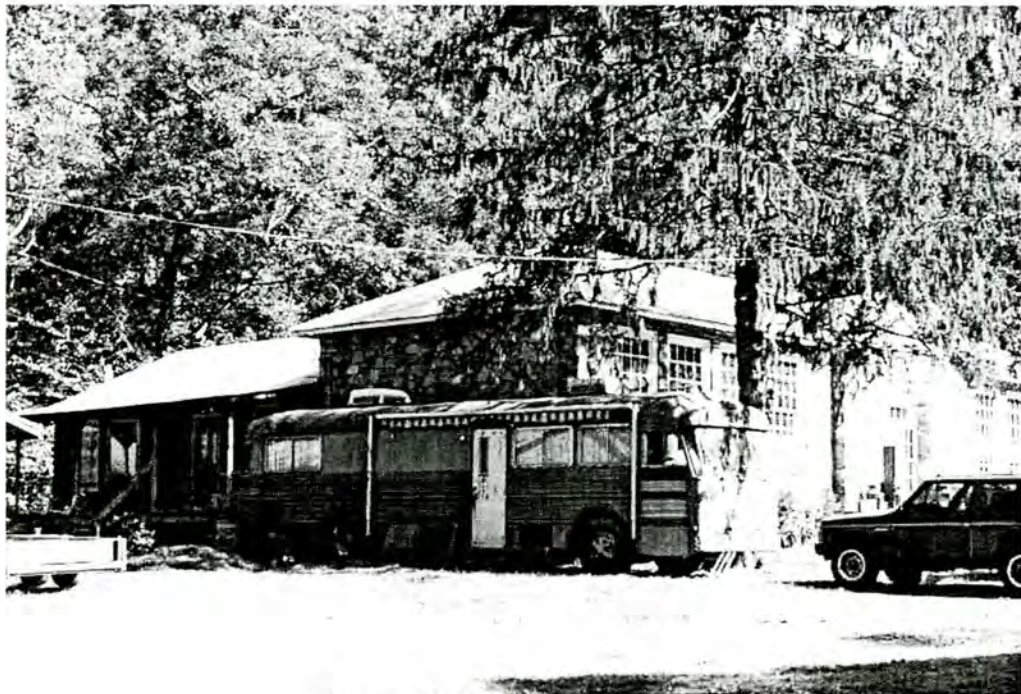
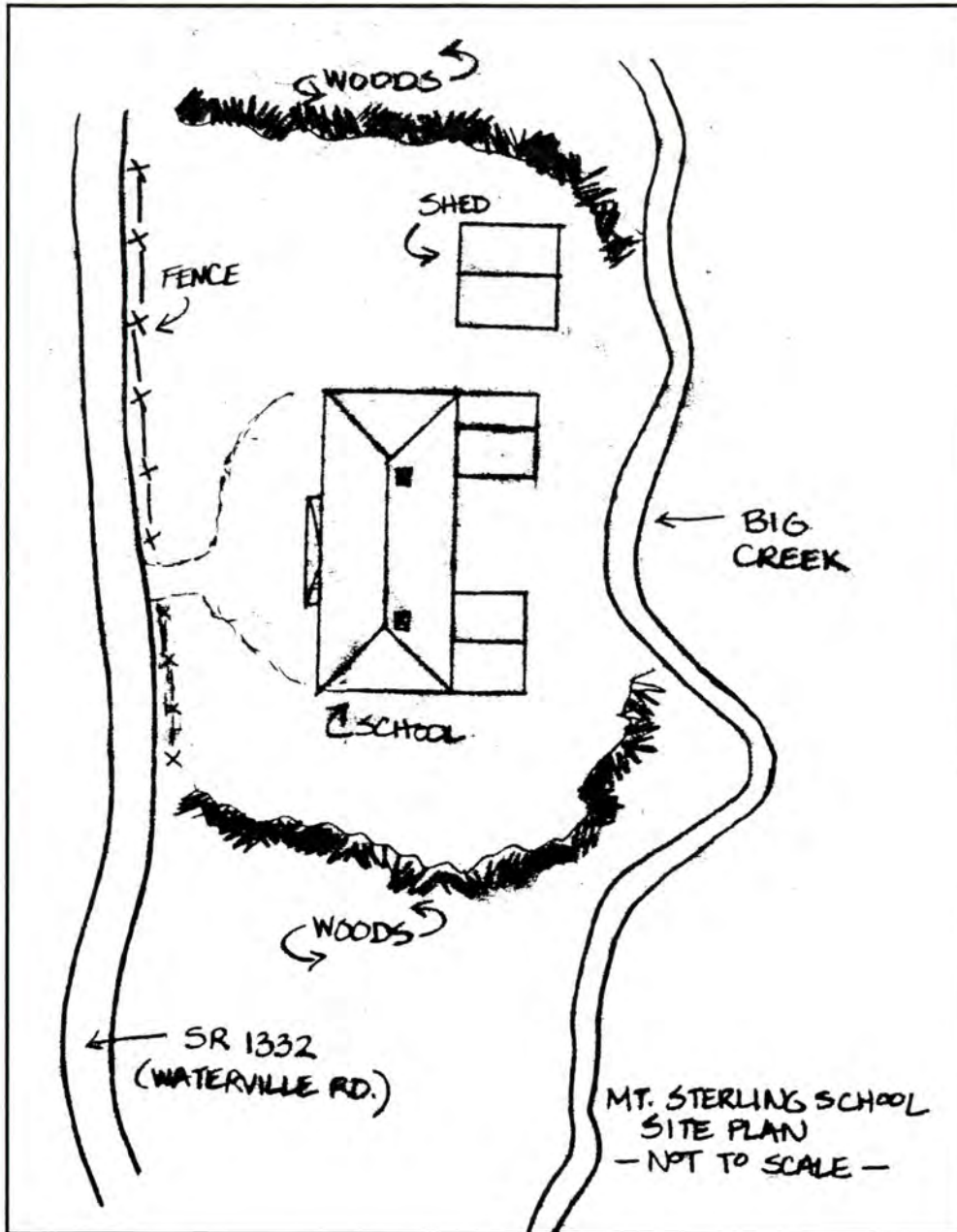


Figure 30: Mt. Sterling School

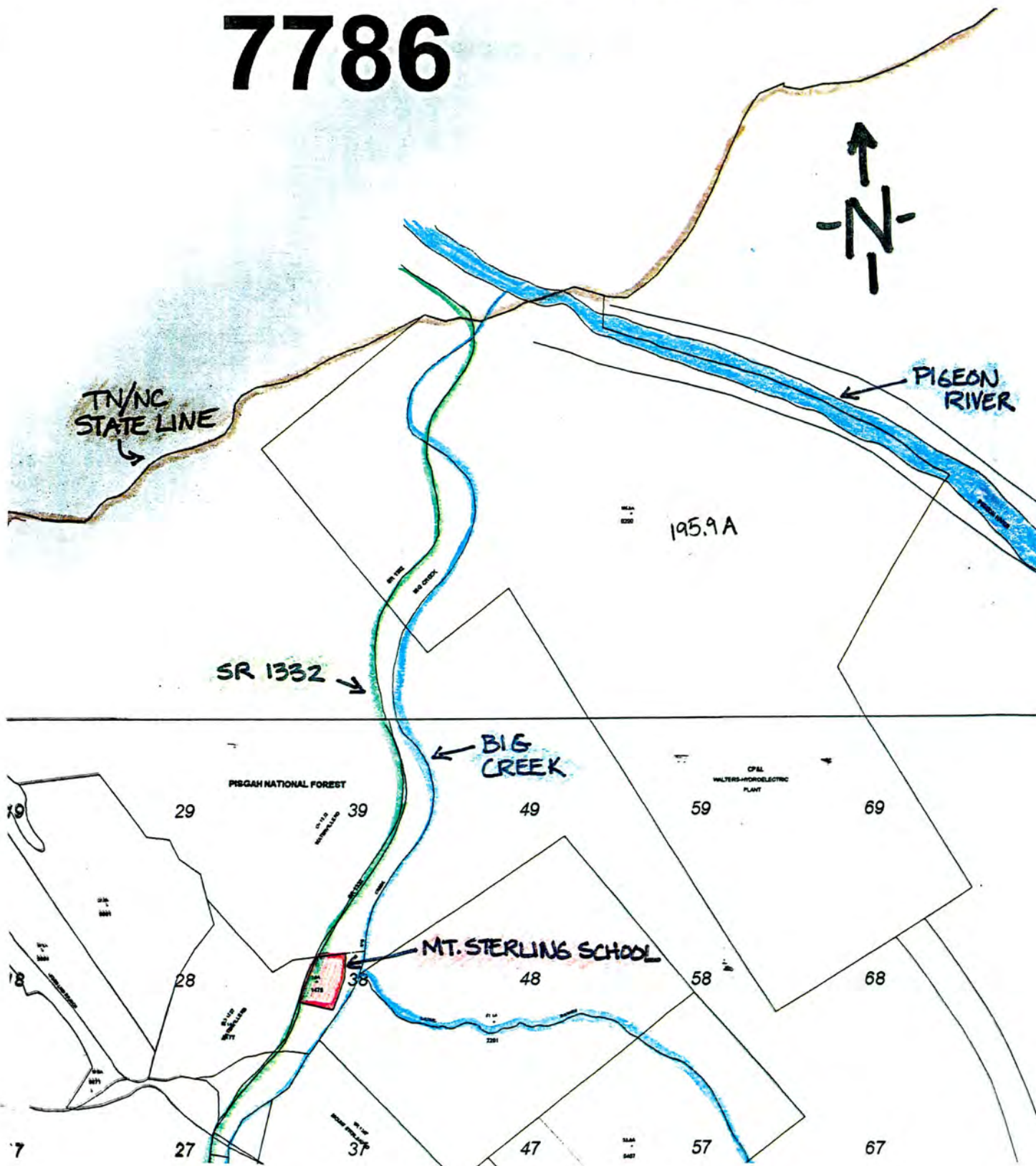


Mt. Sterling School: Site Map (Figure 31)



Mt. Sterling School: National Register Boundaries (Figure 32)

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**B. STATEMENT REGARDING PROPERTIES LESS THAN FIFTY YEARS OF AGE:**

Criterion Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, states that properties less than fifty years of age may be listed on the National Register only if they are of exceptional importance or if they are integral parts of districts eligible for the National Register. There are no properties in the APE that qualify for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G.

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