



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

April 12, 2000

Nicholas L. Graf
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Department of Transportation
310 New Bern Avenue
Raleigh, N.C. 27601-1442

Re: Pave SR 1700 (Cane Creek Mountain Road), State Project No. 6.892511, Rutherford County,
ER 00-8745

Dear Mr. Graf:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2000, transmitting the survey report by Nancy Van Dolsen, NCDOT, concerning the above project.

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

Golden Valley Church of the Bretheren is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as a well preserved example of an early-twentieth-century rural church. We concur with the boundaries as noted on page 8.

The following determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Twentieth-Century Frame house (Property #2)

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

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

Sincerely,

David Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Bc: Brown/Alperin
W. Office
County
RF

cc: W. Gilmore
B. Church

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
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SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4618	(919) 733-6545 • 715-4801

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Pave and Improve SR 1700, Cane Creek Mountain Road
Rutherford County, North Carolina
State Project No. 6.892511



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Nancy Van Dolsen

January 2000

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

Pave and Improve SR 1700, Cane Creek Mountain Road
State Project No. 6.892511



January 2000

Nancy I. Van Dolsen

2.2.00

Nancy I. Van Dolsen, Principal Investigator
Historic Architectural Resources Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Barbara Church

2/2/00

Barbara Church, Supervisor
Historic Architectural Resources Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Project Description.....	1
Purpose of Survey and Report.....	1
Methodology.....	1
Summary Findings of the Survey.....	4
Historic Contexts and Background Information.....	5
Property Inventory and Evaluations	
Golden Valley Church of the Brethren.....	7
Twentieth-Century Frame House	13
Bibliography.....	16
Appendix A: Correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Office.....	17

**Pave SR 1700, Cane Creek Mountain Road
Rutherford County, North Carolina
State Project No. 6.892511**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has plans to grade, drain, pave, and install erosion control for SR 1700, Cane Creek Mountain Road in Rutherford County (Figure 1). A nationwide permit will be needed for the project.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field. The APE boundary is shown in Figure 2.

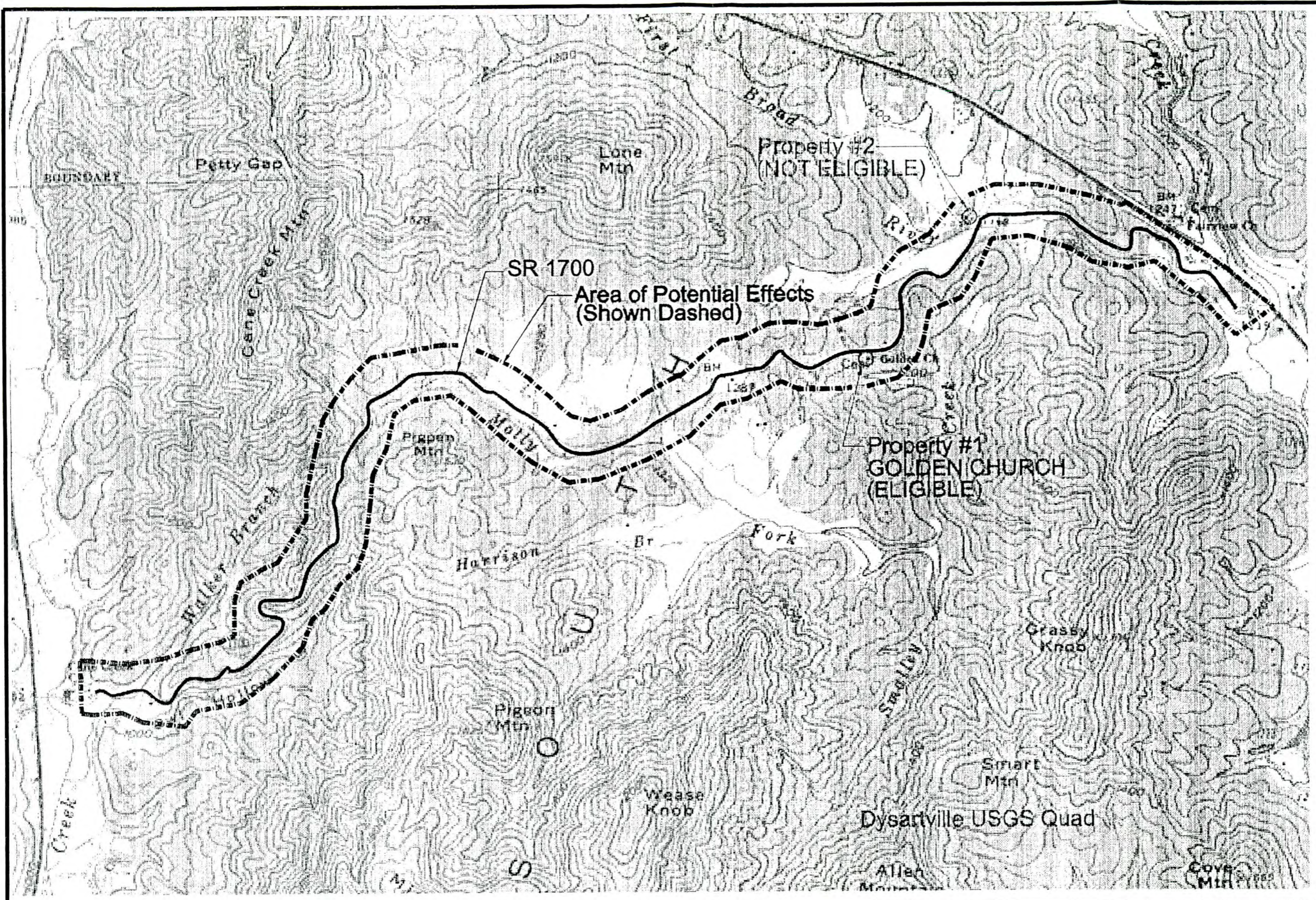
PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

This Final Identification and Evaluation Survey was conducted and the report prepared in order 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 it documents compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA and GS 121-12(a)). It adheres to the guidelines for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.

METHODOLOGY

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.8A (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 for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

NCDOT completed an intensive 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



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Project **6.892511**
 SR 1700
 RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Sheet Title **HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY MAP**

Supervisor
B. CHURCH

Principal Investigator
N. Van Dolsen

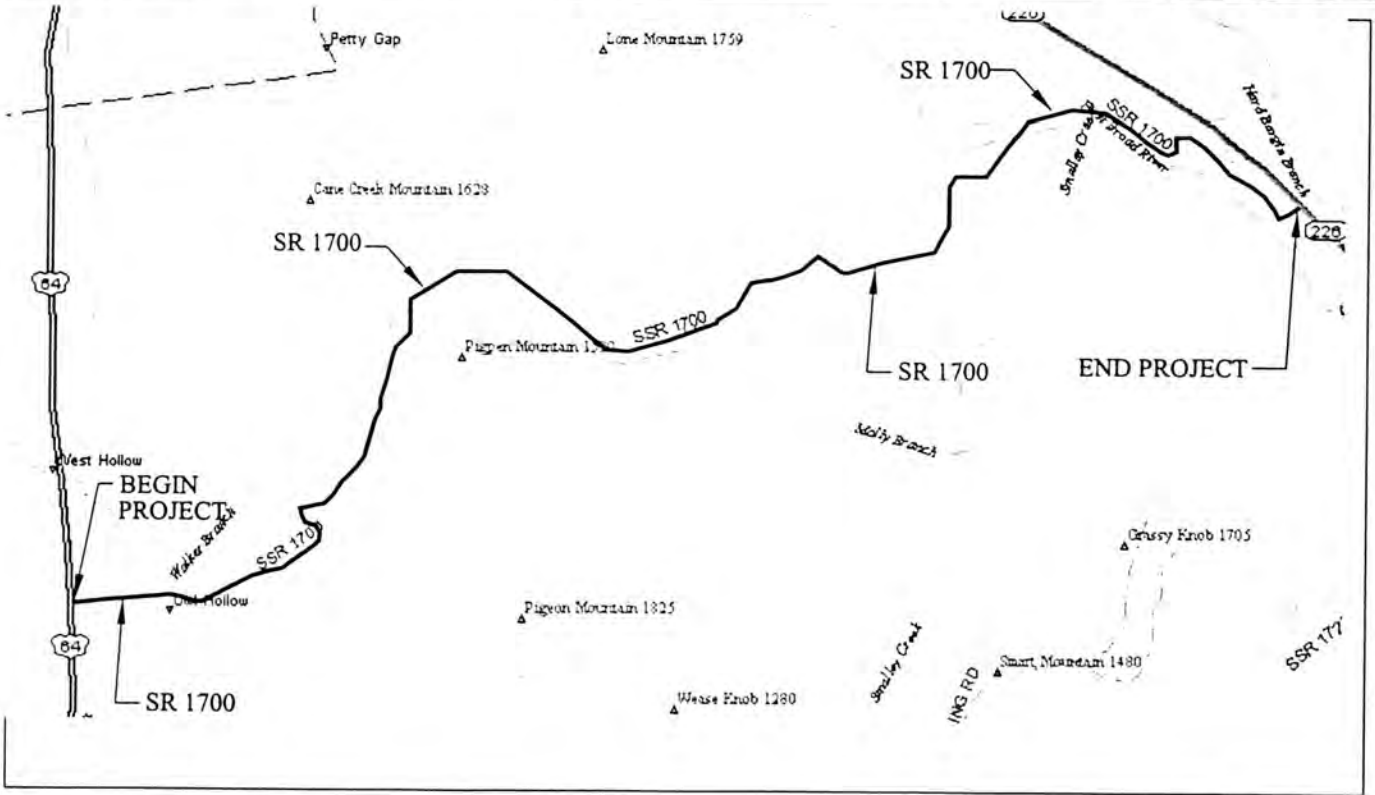
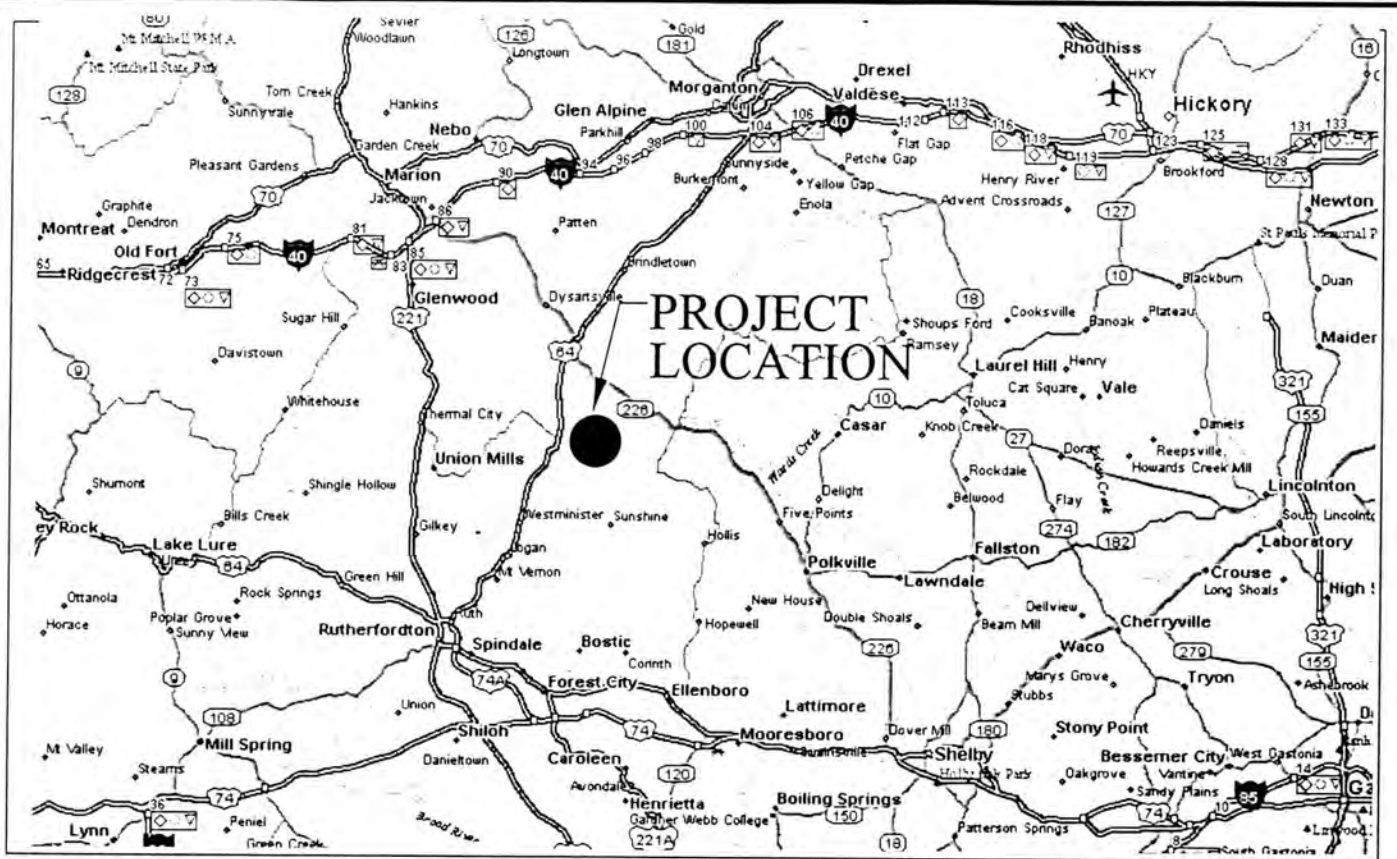
Drawn By
R. SILVERMAN

File Name
a1.1.dwg

Issue Date: 10-25-1999

Work Order No
6.892511

Division	Sheet No
13	A1.2



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Project
SR 1700
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NC

Sheet Title
LOCATION MAP

Supervisor
B. CHURCH
 Principal Investigator
N. VanDosen

File Name
 a1.2.dwg
 Issue Date:
 04-JAN-2000

Div No	13
Work Order No	6.892511
Scale:	NTS
Sheet No	A1.2

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 background research on the project area. A NCDOT staff architectural historian conducted a field survey in October 1999, by car and on foot, covering 100% of the APE. All structures over 50 years of age in the APE were identified, evaluated, and recorded on the appropriate map.

Background research was conducted at the Western office of the State Historic Preservation Office, Asheville; the North Carolina State Library, Raleigh; and the Rutherford County Court House in Rutherfordton.

SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

The project proposes to pave and improve SR 1700, Cane Creek Mountain Road, Rutherford County. In a letter dated November 4, 1999, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) did not identify any buildings or structures of historical or architectural importance within the general project area, but requested that an architectural historian identify and evaluate any structures over fifty years of age within the project area and report the findings to the SHPO (See Appendix A). No properties listed on the National Register or the State Study List were located within the APE for the project. Two properties were identified that were greater than fifty years of age, the Golden Valley Church of the Brethren and an early twentieth-century frame house. Of these two properties located within the APE, one—the early twentieth-century frame house--was determined not eligible for the National Register. The Golden Valley Church was determined to be eligible for the National Register. 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.

Properties Listed on the National Register:

None

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List:

None

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Property #1, Golden Valley Church of the Brethren, page 7

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

Property #2, Twentieth-Century Frame house, page 13

HISTORIC CONTEXTS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rutherford County was created in 1779 from Tryon County, and named in honor of Revolutionary War general Griffith Rutherford. Rutherford, one of the western piedmont counties, lies on the southeastern slope of the Blue Ridge and encompasses 544 square miles. Its extreme western border extends from Sugar Loaf Mountain to Old Rumbling Bald, peaks of the Blue Ridge and both over 3,800 feet in elevation. A large part of the South Mountains is included in the northeastern corner of the county. The remainder of the county is hilly and rolling, the slopes becoming gentler toward the southwest. Rutherford County is drained by the Broad River and its tributaries. The soil is red clay, with some black loam along the larger streams. At the beginning of the twentieth century approximately three-quarters of the county was wooded, and today it remains predominantly forest land.

The first court was held in 1779 at the home of Colonel John Walker, which was located near the mouth of Cane Creek in the northeastern section of the county. The court moved to the home of William Gilbert (in what was known as Gilberttown), and in 1781 to the forks of Shepards Creek on the property of James Holland. In 1785 the court was moved to the newly created town of Rutherfordton. Two battles of the American Revolution were fought in the Cane Creek area and on Kings Mountain on September 7, 1780 and October 7, 1780. The American forces won the second battle, which some historians claim “turned the tide of the war.”¹

The earliest settlers of European descent moved into present-day Rutherford County during the mid-eighteenth century. Many of the settlers were of Scots-Irish descent, and they established a Presbyterian congregation at Brittain Church in 1768. The Bills Creek Baptist Church was founded in 1785, followed in 1787 by the Mountain Creek Baptist Church. The first Methodist congregation was organized in 1792 and founded the Oak Grove Methodist Church, followed eight years later by the Hopewell Methodist Church. Two more Methodist congregations were established in 1802, Wesley’s Chapel and Pisgah Chapel Methodist Church.² As of 1936, the majority of Rutherford County’s residents were members of either the Baptist or Methodist Congregations, but several other denominations were represented in the county including Presbyterian, Episcopal, Northern Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, Holiness, Lutheran, Primitive Baptist and one Dunkard Church in the Golden Valley.

After gold was discovered in the South Mountain belt in the northeast corner of the county, Rutherford County prospered as part of a national gold production center from 1814 into the 1840s. Gold mining in the county declined after the California gold strikes of 1849.

¹Homer Arnold, “Rutherford County, NC and American Independence,” December 18, 1999, <http://www.blueridge.net/revolution.htm>.

²Clarence W. Griffin, *The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties* (1937; reprint, Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1977) 584.

The first railroad in the county arrived in 1876. By 1918, there were four railroads in the county: the Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio which runs through the county for 27 miles; the Southern for 25 miles; the Seaboard for 20 miles; and the Cliffside for 7.5 miles.³

In the early twentieth century, textile manufacturing was the major industry in Rutherford. The success of the textile industry was partially due to the nearby supply of raw cotton and ample water power. There were six textile mills in the county in 1918, and two more were being constructed in 1918. Fourteen lumber and shingle mill firms also operated within the county in 1918.⁴

Rutherford County remained primarily agricultural into the middle of the twentieth century. The average size farm in 1910 was only 29 acres. Cotton and non-food crops (such as tobacco) accounted for half of the total crop wealth in 1910. Tenancy rates were high in the county during the early twentieth century; two-thirds of the African-American farmers and one-third of the white farmers rented their lands. Three-fourths of the tenant farmers were sharecroppers.⁵ In 1938, the Rural Electrification Act brought electric power to the farms and rural businesses in the county.⁶

The historic landscapes and architecture of Rutherford County reflect its agricultural past. The pre-1950 houses are primarily frame residences dating from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. A number of log dwellings also survive, a few from the antebellum period, but most date from ca. 1880 through 1920. Similar to the rural residences, the majority of agricultural outbuildings are frame, but some log buildings also survive.

Within the project area, the land is primarily wooded, with very few buildings populating the landscape. Once agricultural land, the properties along the road have reverted to forest.

³Rolland Ernest Price, *Rutherford County: Economic and Social* (Durham, NC: The Seeman Printery, 1918) 11.

⁴Price, 13-14.

⁵Price, 27-32.

⁶ *Rutherford County 1979: A People's Bicentennial History* (Rutherfordton, NC: Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, 1979) 482.

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Property #1, Golden Valley Church of the Brethren

Location: South side of SR 1700, approximately 1.3 miles east of the intersection with ~~SR~~ 226.

NC

Setting: The Golden Valley Church of the Brethren sits in a clearing on the south side of SR 1700. A small graveyard with approximately twenty markers (with the earliest stone dating to 1920) is located on the west side of the church. The land slopes to the south, away from the rear of the building.

Description: The Golden Valley Church, constructed ca. 1910, is a frame, gable-front building standing on piers. Two pier types support the church: tapered solid stone plinths and drylaid stone. There is no pattern to the placement of the two pier types, and both types appear to be original to the building. The church retains its original wood siding, six-over-six window sash, five-panel doors, metal roof, plain board fascia, and simple pediments over the windows. The interior of the church is one room. All interior finishes are original: unfinished pine board floor, horizontal beaded tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling sheathing, and a raised platform for the lectern at the south end of the building. Two doors are found on the façade of the building. An exterior brick chimney, for a stove, is located on the building's west elevation.

Background Information: The land on which the Golden Valley Church stands was the site of the original church building for the First Broad Baptist Church which stood on this location until 1833.⁷

The congregation of the Golden Valley Church of the Brethren (also known as the Golden Brethren Church) was organized in 1906 by Rev. William A. Reed of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He initially held services near the head of the First Broad River in a log house on this property. Charlie Smawley donated the lot for the church, which was built ca. 1910. Except for an annual memorial service, the church is no longer used for worship, having been dismissed from the Brethren Conference in the early 1960s.⁸

The location of a German sectarian congregation in rural Rutherford County is unusual. The majority of church members in the county belonged either to the Methodist or Southern Baptist congregations. Although members of the Brethren Church, like the Southern Baptists, believe in adult baptism, other religious beliefs differ between the two churches. The Brethren Church, founded in 1708 in Germany, had its strongest following in North Carolina in Forsyth County. Members of the Brethren faith settled in that area near Moravian communities during the late eighteenth-century. These early members

⁷ Lucy Fortune Ellis, "History of the First Broad Baptist Church," in *Rutherford County 1979*: 131, 133.

⁸ Mrs. Mattie Smawley Hollifield, et al., "Golden Brethren Church" in *Rutherford County 1979*: 181.

of the church arrived both from established German settlements in Maryland and Pennsylvania, as well as from Germany and Switzerland.⁹ By 1961, there were less than 2300 members of the Brethren Church in North Carolina.¹⁰

Evaluation: The Golden Valley Church is considered not eligible under Criterion A, since it is not representative of an important trend in the history of the region. The establishment of a German Brethren Baptist church in this area is an unusual occurrence but it did not have an impact upon the region and did not alter the lives of the majority of the region's residents. The congregation remained small, did not have a large number of converts, and was disbanded by the early 1960s.

The Golden Valley Church is considered not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with any individuals of special historical significance.

The Golden Valley Church is considered eligible under Criterion C, architecture, as a well-preserved example of an early twentieth-century rural church. The church retains its integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, feeling, materials, and association. The building remains virtually unaltered since its construction, and retains all original material on the interior and exterior.

The Golden Valley Church is not likely to yield information important to the history of building technology; therefore it is considered not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Boundaries: The boundaries of the Golden Valley Church were drawn to include the church and adjoining cemetery. The boundary is drawn to the edge of the road. The church stands approximately 15 feet from the road.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the church, cemetery, and open area immediately surrounding the historic elements of the property.

⁹ "History of the Fraternity Church of the Brethren" (Winston-Salem, NC: C. Emmert Bright, Publisher, 1975) 3-7.

¹⁰ Hugh Talmage Leffler and Albert Ray Newsome, *The History of a Southern State: North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1973) 667.

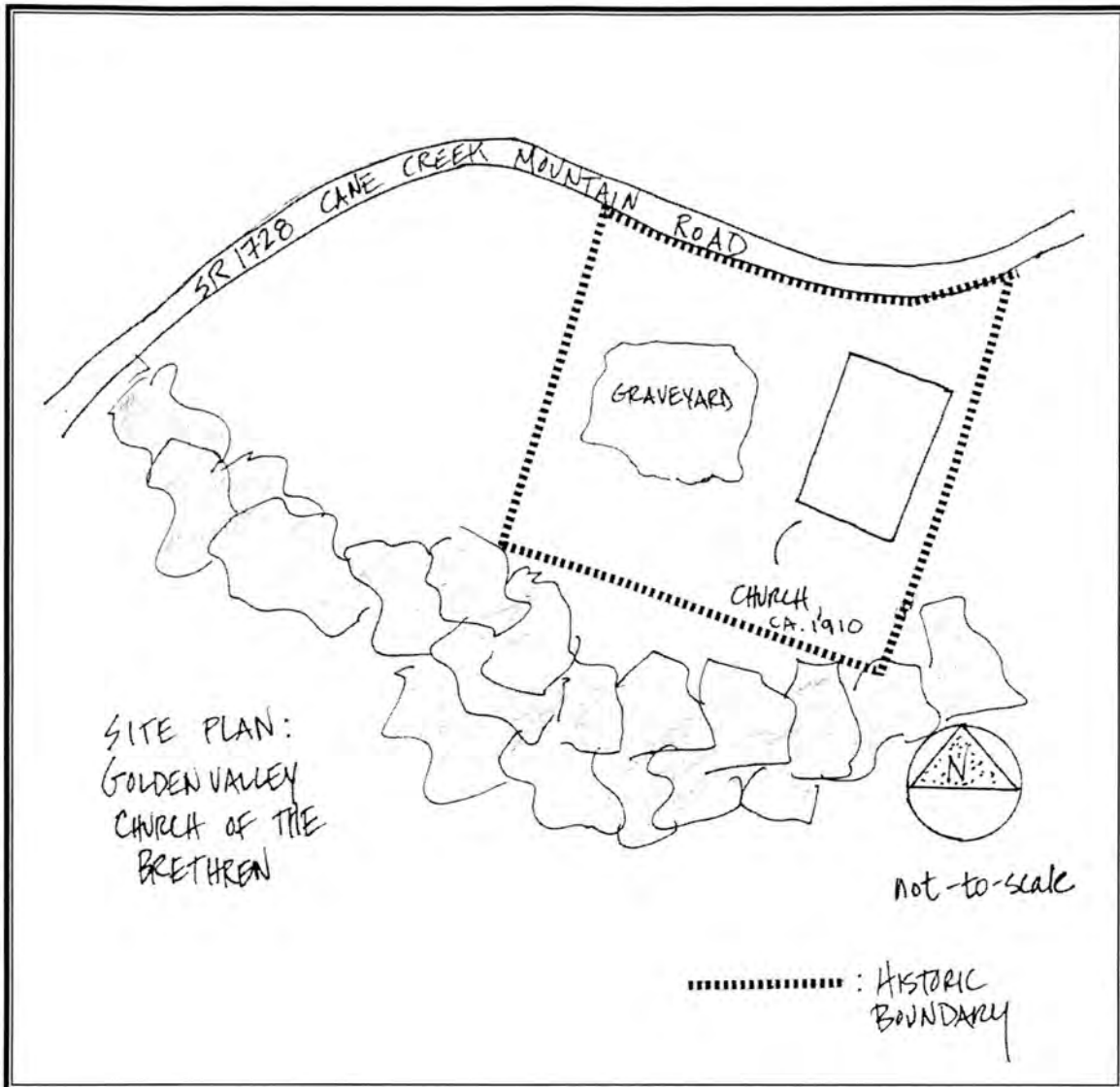
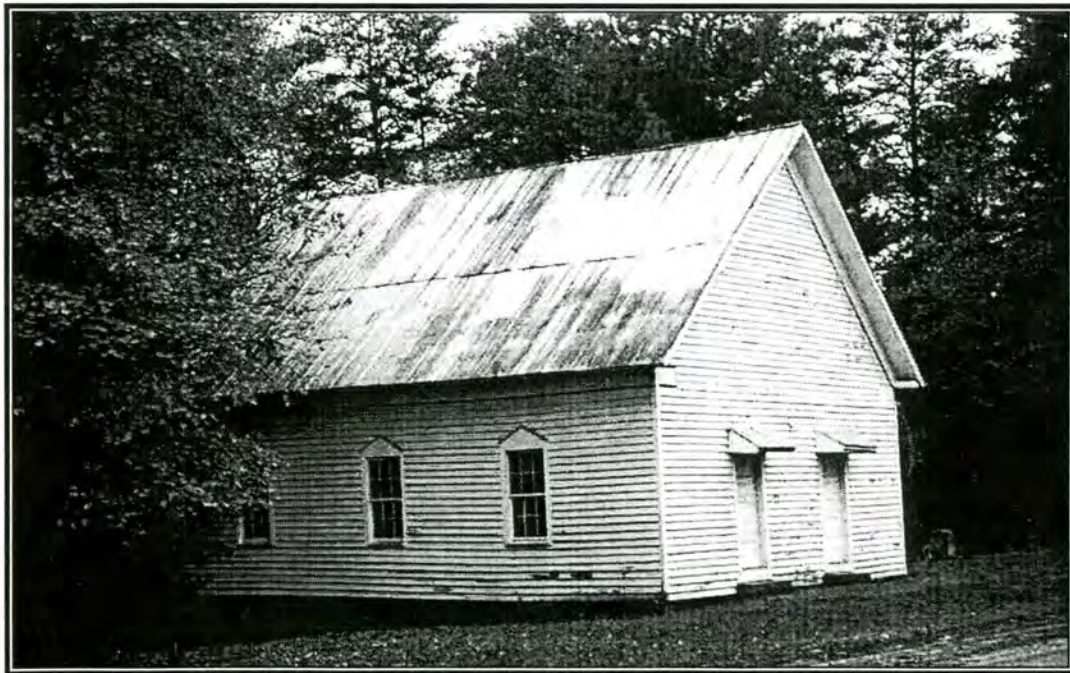


Figure 3: Site Plan, Golden Valley Church of the Brethren



Photograph 1: Golden Valley Church, looking southeast



Photograph 2: Golden Valley Church, looking southwest



**Photograph 3: Golden Valley Church, detail of stone piers,
looking southwest**



Photograph 4: Interior, Golden Valley Church, looking south



Photograph 5: Interior, Golden Valley Church, looking north

Property #2, Twentieth-Century Frame House

Location: North side of SR 1700, approximately 0.2 miles west of the intersection with SR 226.

Setting: The house and outbuilding stand on a rise between SR 1700 and SR 226. The house sits in a cleared area, surrounded by secondary-growth forest that was formerly cleared agricultural land.

Description:

Dwelling: The twentieth-century frame house, dating to ca. 1930, is a one-story T-shaped dwelling with a one-story wing added during the last quarter of the twentieth century. The house has an extended rafter roof, and stands on a brick foundation. The building retains wood siding and some original window sash. A projecting gable front porch covers the entry. The roofing of the building has been replaced with asphalt shingles.

Outbuilding: A gable-front outbuilding stands west of the house. The building has been greatly modified, with extensive sheds added to the two eave elevations. The eastern shed addition has been enclosed by metal siding on the ground level.

Evaluation: The twentieth-century frame house is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, since it is not representative of a significant trend in the history of the area.

The Twentieth-Century Frame House is considered not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B because it is not associated with any individuals of specific historical significance.

The Twentieth-Century Frame House is not considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion C since it is not a well-preserved example of a significant dwelling form for the region. The house and outbuilding have lost integrity. Better examples of twentieth-century rural residences exist in the area, such as the dwelling associated with the Sims-Melton Farm on SR 1728. The house has been altered by an addition to the west elevation and the outbuilding has been extensively modified by two large shed additions.

The Twentieth-Century Frame House and outbuilding are not likely to yield information important to the history of building technology; therefore it is considered not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.



Photograph 1: Twentieth-Century Frame House, looking northeast



Photograph 2: Outbuilding, looking east

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- Griffin, Clarence W. *The History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties*. 1937. Reprint, Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1977.
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- Rutherford County 1979: A People's Bicentennial History*. Rutherfordton, NC: Rutherford County Bicentennial Committee, 1979.
- Rutherford County Deeds, Rutherford County Court House, Rutherfordton, NC.
- Rutherford County Will Books, Rutherford County Court House, Rutherfordton, NC.

APPENDIX A



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

November 4, 1999

Roger D. Bryan
Division 13 Engineer
NCDOT
P.O. Box 3274
Asheville, NC 28802

**RE: Grade, Drain, Base, Pave & Install erosion control for SR 1700 (Cane Creek Mountain Road),
Rutherford County, ER 00-7898**

Dear Mr. Bryan:

We have conducted a search of our files and are aware of no structures of historical or architectural importance located within the planning area. However, since a comprehensive historical architectural inventory of the planning area has not been conducted in over a decade there may be structures of which we are unaware located within the planning area.

We recommend that an architectural historian with NCDOT identify and evaluate all structures over fifty years of age and report the findings to us.

There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed project area. Based on our present knowledge of the area, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources which may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project construction. We, therefore, recommend that no archaeological investigation be conducted in connection with this project.

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

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

David Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DB:ldb

cc: W. Gilmore
B. Church
ACOE