



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

October 11, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Division of Highways
Department of Transportation

DOE

FROM: David Brook *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report for Replacement of Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek, Burke County, Federal Aid No. BRZ-1250(1), State Project No. 8.2852601, TIP No. B-3814, ER 02-7548

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 2001, transmitting the survey report by Jennifer Martin of Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., for the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D:

J. D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site *BK 0070*

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. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

DB:kgc

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

bc: Brown ✓
Griffith
County
RF

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
Administration	507 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
Restoration	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4613	(919) 733-6547 • 715-4801
Survey & Planning	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4618	(919) 733-4763 • 715-4801

Report # ERO2-7548 / Ref ERO1-9837
Due 9/26
W.O. Copy
NO Rec'd 9/26

**Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II Final Identification and Evaluation**

Replacement of Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek
Burke County, North Carolina
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1250(1)
State Project No. 8.2852601
TIP No. B-3814

Prepared By:

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
5400 Glenwood Avenue
Suite 412
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-3228
919-785-9702

Prepared for:

Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, Inc.
3214 Spring Forest Road
Suite 310
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616-2822
919-876-6888



**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS**

August 22, 2001

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
Phase II Final Identification and Evaluation

Replacement of Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek
Burke County, North Carolina
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1250 (1)
State Project No. 8.2852601
TIP No. B-3814

Prepared by:

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
5400 Glenwood Avenue
Suite 412
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-3228
919-785-9702

Prepared for:

Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc.
3214 Spring Forest Road
Suite 310
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616-2822
919-876-6888

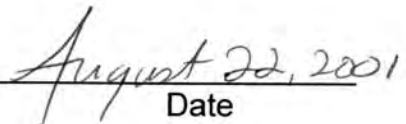
•
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
North Carolina Department of Transportation

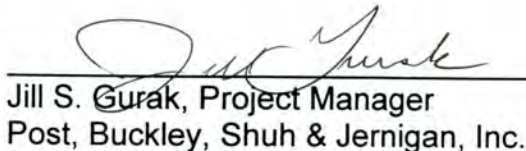
•
Federal Highway Administration

August 22, 2001

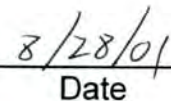


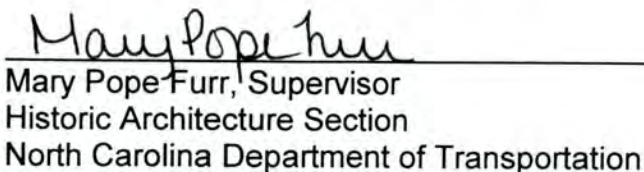
Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.


Date

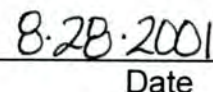


Jill S. Gurak, Project Manager
Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc.


Date



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


Date

Replace Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek
Burke County, North Carolina
TIP No. B-3814

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek in Burke County with a new structure (Figure 1). Bridge No. 56 is a two-lane timber, steel and reinforced concrete structure built in 1952 and has a sufficiency rating of 42.6 out of 100.

Alternative 1 relocates the bridge upstream, or to the west.

Alternative 2 involves building a temporary bridge upstream and replacing the bridge in its current location.

Alternative 3 involves building a temporary bridge downstream, or to the east, and replacing the bridge in its current location.

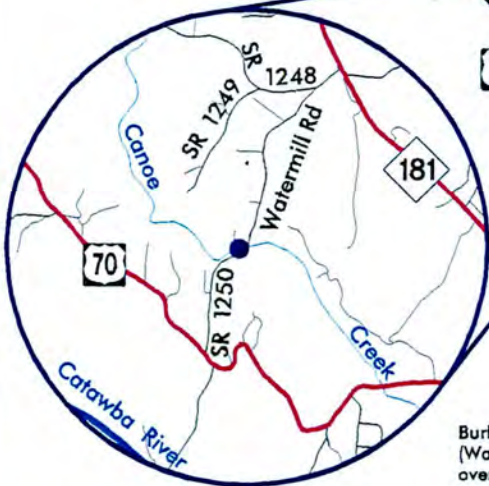
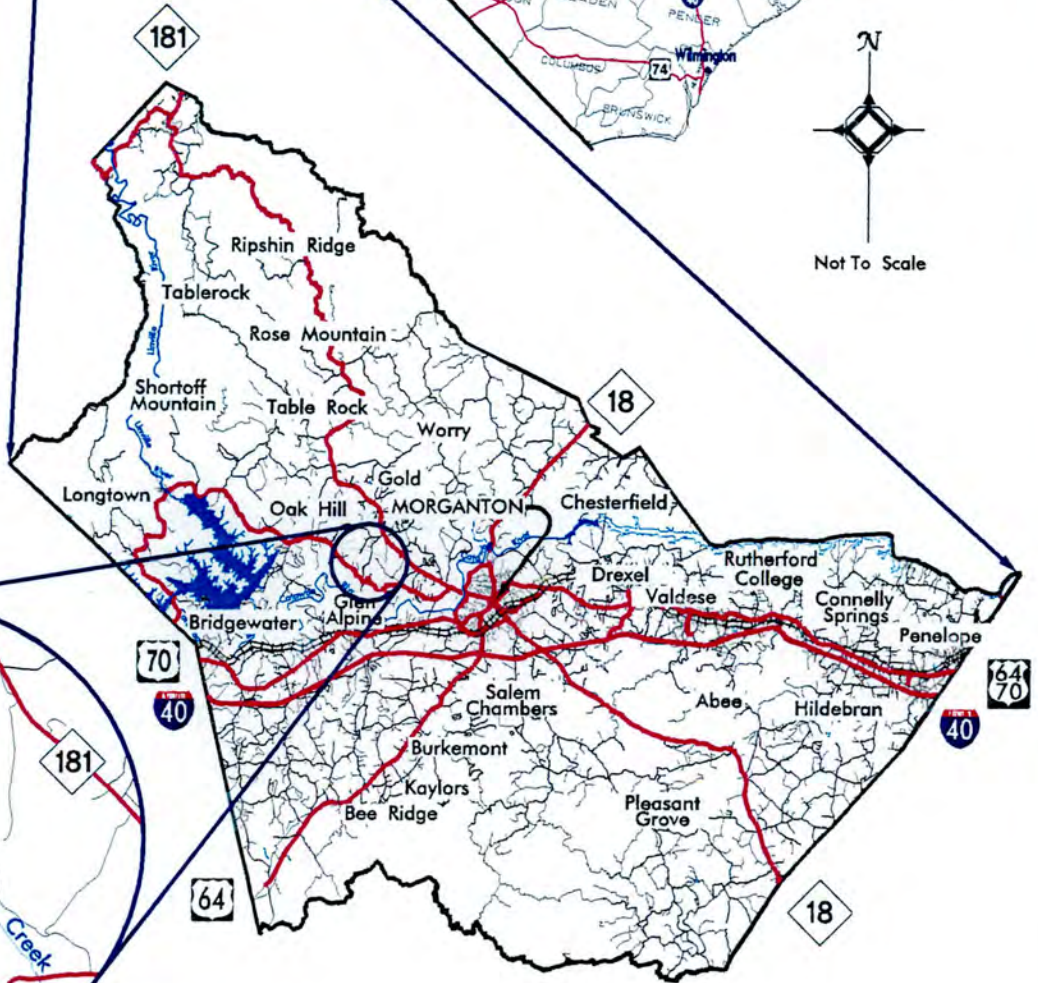
Alternative 4 routes vehicles on an offsite detour and replaces the bridge in its current location.

PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. (EPEI) conducted a survey and compiled this report for the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in order to identify architectural resources located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the CE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at the NCDOT and available for review by the public.

METHODOLOGY

EPEI conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with provisions of the Federal Highway Administration (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



Burke County SR 1250
(Watermill Road) Bridge No. 56
over Canoe Creek



**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**TIP NO.
B-3814**

**PROJECT LOCATION
MAP**

**BURKE COUNTY SR 1250
(WATERMILL ROAD) BRIDGE NO. 56
OVER CANOE CREEK**

Figure 1

Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR44716); 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. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) dated February 2, 1996.

EPEI conducted an intensive survey with the following goals: (1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project might 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 background research on the project area. EPEI staff conducted field surveys on April 19 and May 14, 2001, on foot, to delineate the APE and to identify all properties within this area that were built prior to 1951. The boundaries of the APE are shown on an area map of the project (Figure 2). The boundaries of the project alternatives study area and the APE are delineated on an aerial photograph (Figure 3). Topographical features and sight lines define the APE. All structures fifty years of age and over in the APE were photographed and keyed to an area map (Figure 2).

An EPEI historian conducted background research at the Western Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in Asheville and the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh. Carl Hennessee, a resident of Morganton with knowledge of historic mills in Burke County, provided information on the history of Pitts Dam and Mill Site.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS

The bridge under consideration spans Canoe Creek in Burke County. Built in 1952, Bridge No. 56 is a two-lane structure composed of steel I-beams on reinforced concrete abutments. The bridge has timber rails and a timber deck covered in asphalt. Bridge No. 56 is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because it is not historically or architecturally significant. The APE for the bridge replacement project includes one property considered eligible for listing in the National Register and two properties considered not eligible for listing in the National Register (Figures 2 and 3).

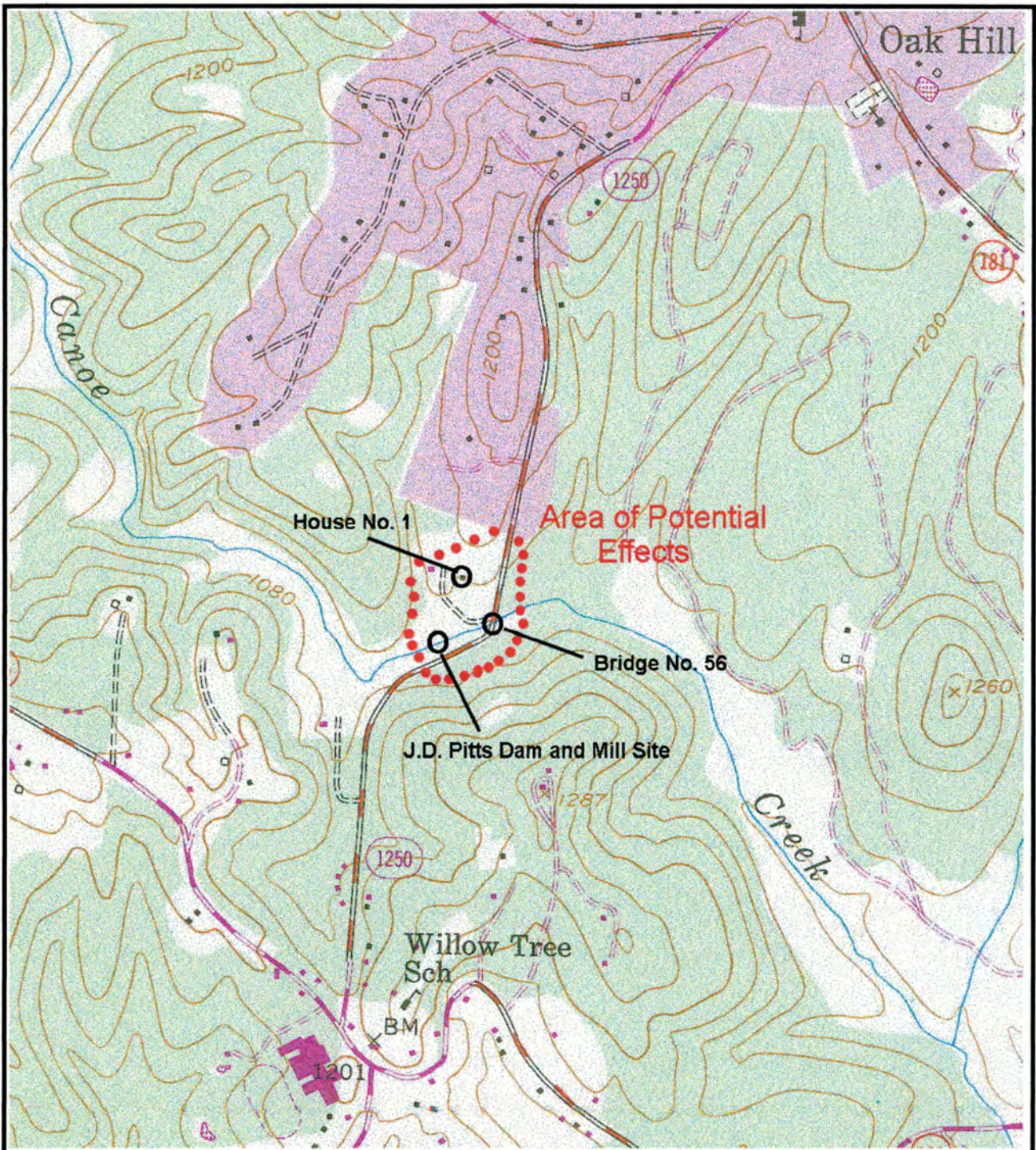
Properties Listed in the National Register

None

*Properties Listed on the North Carolina National Register Study List as
Appearing Potentially Eligible for the National Register*
None

Property Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register
J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register
House No. 1
Bridge No. 56



PROPERTY LOCATION MAP

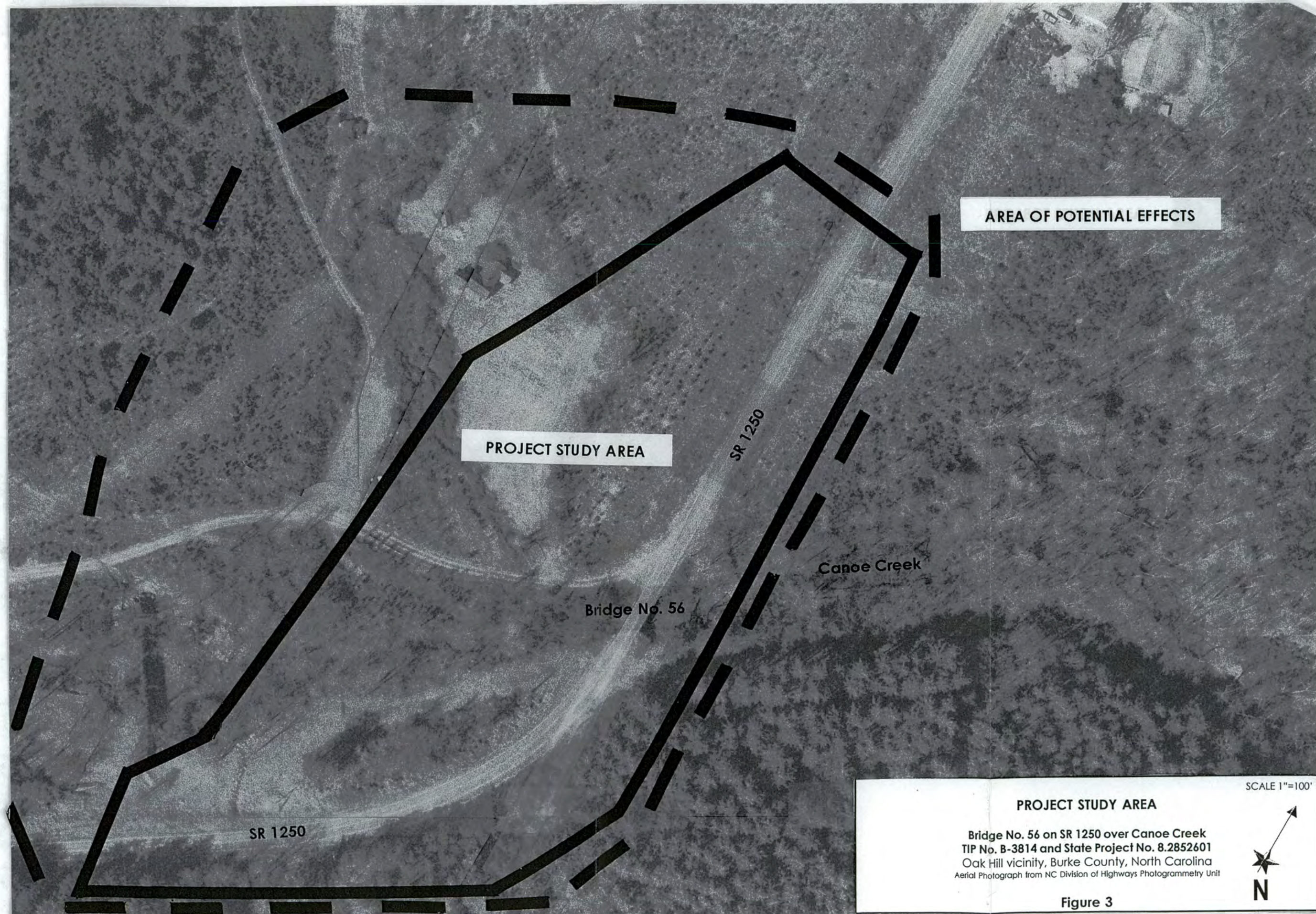
**Bridge No. 56 on SR 1250 over Canoe Creek
 TIP No. B-3814 and State Project No. 8.2852601
 Oak Hill vicinity, Burke County, North Carolina**

Oak Hill, N.C. Quadrangle

Figure 2

NOT TO SCALE





PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Property Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register **J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site (Plates 1-5)**

Location

J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site is located north of the town of Glen Alpine and south of the community of Oak Hill on Canoe Creek. The dam and mill site is just west of and visible from SR 1250, approximately one-third of a mile north of the junction with NC 126. The dam and mill site stands approximately seventy yards to the southwest of Bridge No. 56.

Date of Construction

Ca. 1890

Description

The J.D. Pitts dam stands approximately twenty-five feet high and two hundred feet long. The massive randomly coursed cut stone dam features three sluice gates. The foundation of the two-story frame mill building originally associated with the dam is clearly visible on the west side of the stone structure. Recent metal detecting activities indicate that the turbine, as well as other portions of the milling hardware, is present beneath the creek bed.¹

Background Information

John David Pitts purchased land along Canoe Creek just north of Glen Alpine in the mid 1890s and erected a stone dam and frame mill building.² He operated a gristmill, roller mill, lathe, saw, shingle and planing mill at the site until sometime during the early twentieth century.³ It is believed that a cannery also operated at Pitt's mill.⁴ The mill building was a two-story, weatherboard structure that was torn down in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The lower wooden portion of the building remains visible when the water is low in Canoe Creek. Mr. Mincey served as the miller for the longest period. He met a tragic fate when he became entangled in a piece of machinery and plummeted down the millrace into Canoe

¹ Carl Hennessee, interview with the author, May 17, 2001.

² It is possible that an earlier mill operated at or near the site of Pitts mill before the Civil War. Colonel Isaac Avery operated a mill on Canoe Creek in 1860 according to *The Heritage of Burke County* (Morganton: Burke County Historical Society, 1981), 46. Burke County deed records indicate a series of transactions between members of the Avery family and Abel Reid Pitts, John David Pitts's father.

³ General Index to Real Estate Conveyances: Grantees, Burke County, North Carolina (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

⁴ J. Randall Cotton, "J.D. Pitts Dam Site," survey file (Asheville: Western Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, created August 15, 1983); Carl Hennessee, interview with author, May 17, 2001.

Creek. He climbed out of the creek onto a high bank, but died at his home two hours later. Jerry Smith took over the job as miller after Mincey's death.⁵

J.D. Pitts was born on a farm in the Silver Creek Township of Burke County in 1862 to Elizabeth Hollar Pitts and Abel Reid Pitts.⁶ He was born into a well-to-do family. Upon J.D.'s Pitts' father's death in 1915, the local newspaper referred to the Pitts as "some of the most promising and prosperous citizens of the county."⁷ J.D. Pitts, like his father and brother, became a well-known citizen of Burke County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1897, J.D. Pitts was appointed postmaster of the town of Glen Alpine, a position he held until 1914.⁸ Around 1902 he opened a general merchandise store in Glen Alpine. The store building, a two-story brick edifice with a decorative sawtooth band of brickwork at its cornice and arched second floor windows, remains the town of Glen Alpine's most architecturally significant commercial building.⁹ A business directory of the period indicates he offered a variety of services to the public: he canned vegetables and fruit, tanned animal hides, made molasses and manufactured brick.¹⁰ In addition to his Canoe Creek operation, Pitts—recognizing the promise of these new technologies at the end of the nineteenth century—operated a successful and modern steam-driven saw, lathe, shingle and planing mill on a site just north and east of his house on David Street in Glen Alpine. By 1907, he owned a substantial logging operation and used the Western North Carolina Railroad to ship milled lumber to market.¹¹

J.D. Pitts was married to Laura Alice Poole and the couple had six children. In September 1915, the couple's oldest son Clifton died suddenly while working in his father's store in Glen Alpine. A local paper described the twenty-one year old as "a young man in the prime of vigor of young manhood, universally popular and liked by all."¹² Sometime after their son's death and the death of J.D. Pitts' father just four months later, J.D. and Laura Alice Pitts sold their many land holdings, including the mill on Canoe Creek, and left Burke County.¹³

⁵ Jim Benton. Interview with Carl Hennessee, date unknown, transcript in possession of the author.

⁶ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Burke County, North Carolina Population Schedule.

⁷ "Glen Alpine News," *The News-Herald* (Morganton), December 23, 1915, sec. 1, p. 1.

⁸ *Post Offices and Post Masters of North Carolina*, vol. 1: Alamance through Durham (Charlotte: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996), n.p.

⁹ J. Randall Cotton, Suzanne Pickens Wylie and Mille M. Barbee, *Historic Burke: An Architectural Inventory of Burke County, North Carolina* (Morganton: Historic Burke Foundation, 1987), 188.

¹⁰ *The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory, 1902* (Raleigh: News and Observer, 1902), 132; *The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory, 1915* (Raleigh: News and Observer, 1915), 127.

¹¹ Edward William Phifer, Jr., *Burke: The History of a North Carolina County, 1777-1920* (Morganton: By the author, 1977), 239.

¹² "Glen Alpine News," *The News-Herald* (Morganton), September 2, 1915, sec. 1, p. 1.

¹³ General Index to Real Estate Conveyances: Grantors, Burke County, North Carolina (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh). Neither J.D. Pitts nor his wife Alice appears in the North Carolina population census for 1920.

It is uncertain to whom J.D. Pitts sold the mill and dam on Canoe Creek, but for a period after he moved from Burke County, the mill remained known as the Pitts Mill. The site is labeled "Pitt's Mill" on a 1926 color soil map issued by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.¹⁴

Historic Context: Milling in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Burke County, North Carolina

From the earliest period of white settlement in western North Carolina, the region's bountiful streams and rivers supported water-powered gristmills. The first such enterprises were small concerns that provided service to farmers and citizens in the surrounding area. After the Civil War, sawmills were often established in conjunction with gristmills. In addition to bringing their grain to be milled into flour, late-nineteenth-century farmers felled trees selectively and transported them to mills to be cut into lumber as a way to supplement their agricultural income. Typically in late-nineteenth-century mountain communities, local mills provided services such as the sawing of lumber and the grinding of grain in exchange for a portion of the resulting product. Local merchants also followed the business practice of exchanging retail goods for surplus farm products and credit. As a result, mountain communities were usually economically autonomous and not subject to the nation's often fluctuating cash economy.¹⁵

In eighteenth-century Burke County, gristmills stood on Hunting Creek, Irish Creek, Lower Creek and Upper Creek. As the county's population increased in the early nineteenth century, millwrights set up more advanced tub mills featuring overshot wheels and rough cut stones. These mills occupied the county's creeks and streams as well as tributaries of the Catawba River, the county's principal watercourse. By 1850, two millwrights, Franklin Killian and Peter Crites, were building and fitting out mills in Burke County. On the eve of the Civil War, at least eleven gristmills operated in the county. After the Civil War, the number of new gristmills increased while many of the mills that stood before the war changed ownership.¹⁶ In addition to farming, Burke County citizens cut trees off their land to provide their families with additional income. In 1870, seven sawmills operated independently or in conjunction with water-generated gristmills in Burke County.¹⁷ Into the 1890s, when J.D. Pitts opened his mill on Canoe Creek, water-powered mills remained a principal industry in western North Carolina.

¹⁴ 1926 Soil Map, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils. State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹⁵ Ronald D. Eller, *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982), 22.

¹⁶ Phifer, 209-210.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 238.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century advances in technology transformed industry in western North Carolina. The Western North Carolina Railroad was completed just short of Morganton by the eve of the Civil War and commercial trade, logging and industrial development were greatly expanded in western North Carolina after the railroad was completed to Asheville in 1880.¹⁸ At the end of the nineteenth century as the advent of steam power made the placement of mills on watercourses unnecessary, the location of mills shifted from isolated creeks and rivers to towns along railroad rights-of-way. By 1918 when electric power further revolutionized industry and everyday life, the water-powered mill became more rare. Companies took over the local timber industry, once the side-occupation of farmers. Typically a company bought huge expanses of land and subsequently logged and processed the timber using their own mills. While these concerns were often based outside the county, local figures became involved in logging in Burke County. By 1907, J.D. Pitts was among five local men carrying out large lumbering operations in Burke County.¹⁹

Despite modernization, small gristmills and sawmills did not disappear from the county altogether in the early twentieth century. A few multi-purpose mills continued to grind grain and provide a variety of services such as shingle making to area residents. Into the new century, community mills served not only an economic function, but also a social role as a place where farmers congregated to socialize. Although they were water-driven, J.D. Pitts' mill on Canoe Creek, the Henderson Mill on Upper Creek, and Poole's Mill on the Linville River continued operating into the twentieth century.²⁰

Of the water-powered mills that once dotted the landscape, only a few structures related to this early industry currently remain intact. In addition to the J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site, the Henderson Mill on Upper Creek and the Bradshaw-Hicks Mill on Abler Creek are intact. The Henderson Mill, located in the Worry community, dates to the early nineteenth century. Arthur Erwin (1739-1821) operated the mill initially. John and Hannah Caldwell ran the mill in the 1820s and handed the property down to their daughter Cornelia Henderson by 1896. Her son, Lawson Pickney Henderson ran the mill until 1955. A flood washed away the original mill building and it was replaced with the current structure in 1916. The frame, three-and-a-half story, gabled mill building remains the best preserved of its type to survive in the county. Although the fieldstone cellar walls reportedly date to the early nineteenth century, the remainder of the building

¹⁸ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 148.

¹⁹ Phifer, 239.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 233.

documents the 1916 rebuilding. Remnants of the 1916 equipment remain inside the building. Most of the sixteen-foot stone dam has been destroyed.²¹

The Bradshaw-Hicks Mill, believed to stand on or near the 1760 mill site of Conrad Hildebran, is located on Abler Creek near Icard. John and Sarah Miller purchased the mill site in 1874 and it remained in the Miller family until the 1940 flood washed away the original mill. Dr. F.B. Hicks and Tom E. Smith purchased the site in 1940 and built a new mill on the old site, possibly using the old stone foundation. The mill retains its 1940 rough-coursed stone dam featuring three sluice gates. The 1940 frame mill building displays a hip-roofed tower on the west end. The property retains some of its milling equipment, but the mill building stands in poor condition.

Although the J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site does not retain its mill building, it remains significant for its intact and well-preserved nineteenth century dam. The J.D. Pitts Dam stands as the most intact and substantial stone dam associated with a nineteenth century milling operation in Burke County.

Evaluation of Eligibility

The J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site is recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for industry. The property remains Burke County's most intact resource associated with nineteenth-century water-powered milling. The property is eligible under Criterion C as an embodiment of a distinct method and type of construction. The dam survives as the county's most well preserved nineteenth-century rough-coursed stone dam. Its rough-coursed stone construction stands as a rarity in a region where fieldstone dam construction is more common. The property is eligible under Criterion D for its potential to yield information about late-nineteenth century grist milling and saw milling in Burke County. Clear evidence of the mill building's foundation and portions of the four walls remains visible in Canoe Creek just above the dam. Recent metal detecting suggests that some of the mill equipment, including the turbine, is located beneath the creek's silt.

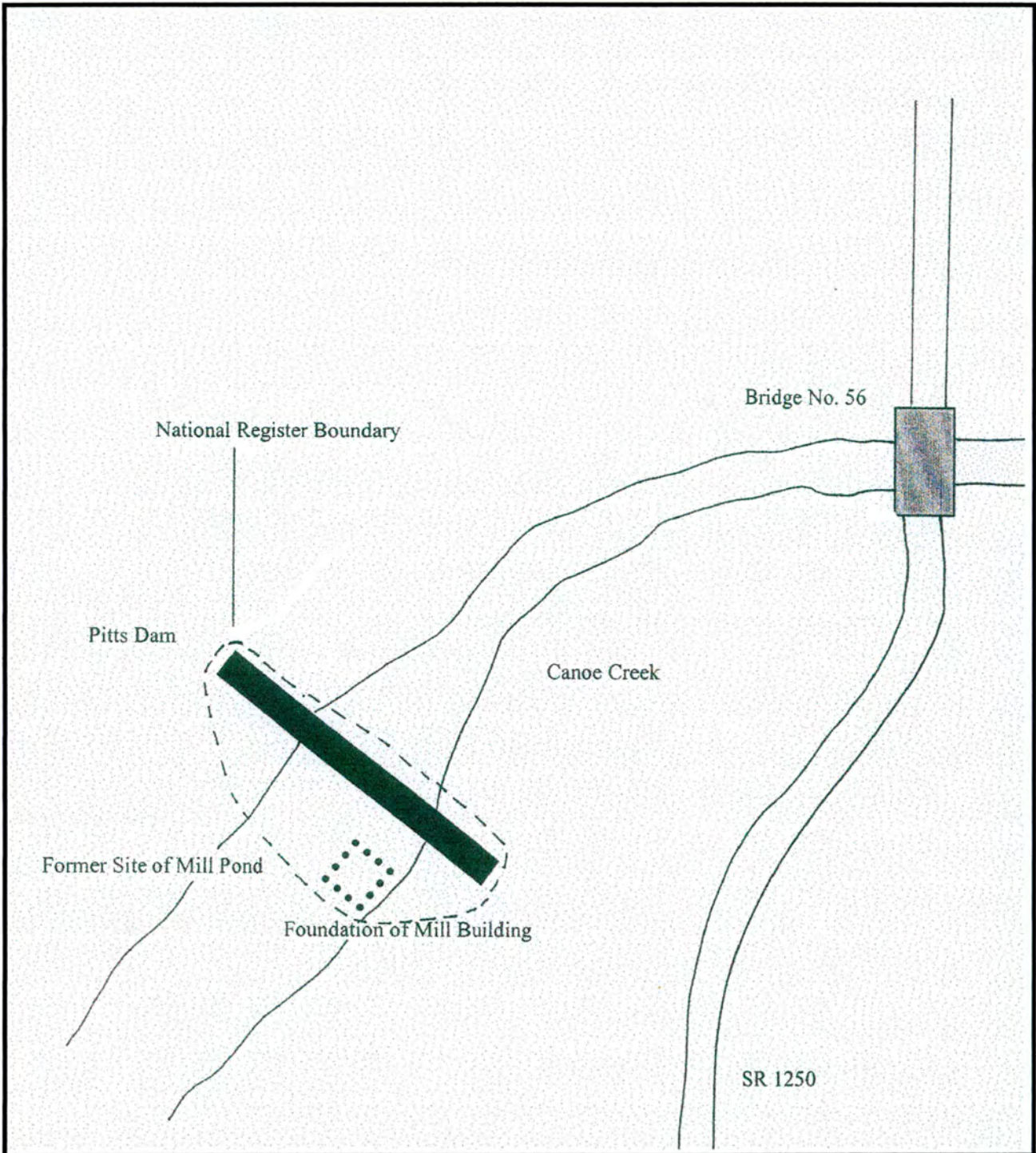
The property is not considered eligible under any other criterion. The J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with the productive life of an individual whose activities were demonstrably important at the local, state or national level. Although J.D. Pitts was a merchant, postmaster and miller, he did not make specific outstanding contributions in any of those roles.

Boundaries

The proposed boundaries are depicted in Figures 4 and 5. The National Register boundaries include the dam, remains of the mill building, and the expanse of

²¹ J. Randall Cotton et al., *Historic Burke: An Architectural Inventory of Burke County, North Carolina*, 170.

Canoe Creek from just above the remains of the mill building to just below the dam. These boundaries encompass all of the significant resources associated with the J.D. Pitts Dam and Mill Site and do not extend to SR 1250 or Bridge No. 56.

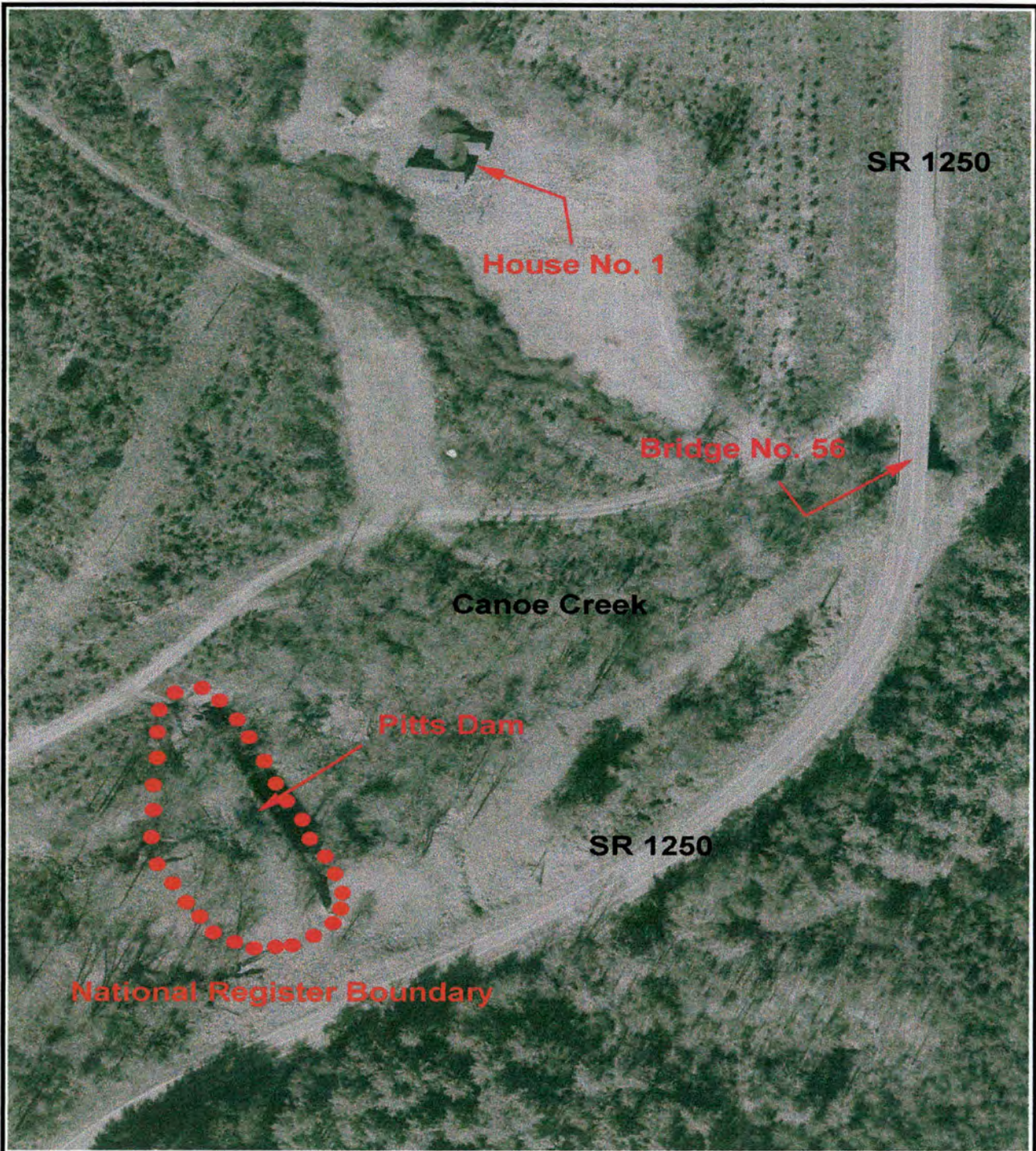


J.D. PITTS DAM AND MILL SITE
Site Plan Showing Boundary

NOT TO SCALE



Figure 4



SCALE 1" = 100'

J.D. PITTS DAM AND MILL SITE

Aerial Photograph Showing Boundary
Oak Hill vicinity, Burke County, North Carolina
Aerial Photograph from NC Division of Highways Photogrammetry Unit



Figure 5



Plate 1. J.D. Pitts Dam, Facing West from the South Bank of Canoe Creek



Plate 2. J.D. Pitts Dam, Facing Northwest from the Waters of Canoe Creek

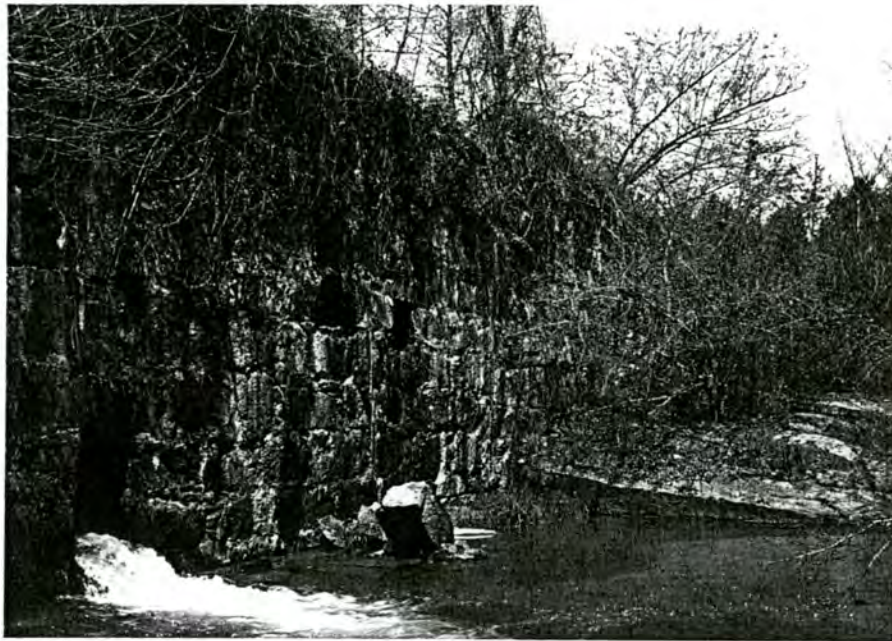


Plate 3. J.D. Pitts Dam, Facing Northwest from the Waters of Canoe Creek



Plate 4. J.D. Pitts Dam with Detail of Concrete Abutment, Facing Northwest from South Bank of Canoe Creek



Plate 5. Remains of Stone Foundation and Framing Members of Mill Building in Canoe Creek Just Above J.D. Pitts Dam, Facing North Northwest from South Bank of Canoe Creek

Property Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register
House No. 1 (Plates 6-9)

Location

House No. 1 is located on the north side of Canoe Creek and approximately one-tenth of a mile down a dirt lane west of SR 1250 and a little over one-third of a mile north of the junction with NC 126. The house stands north of the town of Glen Alpine and south of the community of Oak Hill.

Date of Construction

Ca. 1900

Description

House No. 1 faces south and is a one-story, single-pile, side-gable frame house with a rear ell; a smaller, gable-roof projection, most likely containing the original kitchen, occupies the north end of the east elevation of the ell. A stretcher bond single-shouldered chimney stands on the west gable end of the main block, while a brick flue rises from the ridge of the original kitchen's roof. Attached, partial-width shed porches shelter the main elevation, the kitchen wing and the ell's west elevation. The house rests on stone foundation piers. Two outbuildings in fair condition are behind and adjacent to the house: a smokehouse stands several yards from the dwelling's northwest corner and a privy occupies a rise just north of the house.

Background Information

Little is known of the history of House No. 1. The one-story, single-pile form is a ubiquitous Burke County vernacular house type from the turn of the twentieth century. This dwelling type—lacking any adornment—typically housed small to middling farmers and usually stood in rural parts of North Carolina. It is a contemporary of the I-house.

Evaluation of Eligibility

House No. 1 is not considered eligible for the National Register. The house is not eligible under Criterion A because it is not associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. It is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody significant characteristics or design that distinguish it from similar properties of the same period. It is not eligible under Criterion D because it does not appear to possess the potential to yield provide important information about prehistory or history.



Plate 6. House No. 1, Façade, Facing North



Plate 7. House No. 1, Southeast Corner, Facing Northwest



Plate 8. House No. 1, East Elevation, Facing West



Plate 9. House No. 1, Northeast Corner, Facing Southwest

Property Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register
Bridge No. 56 (Plates 10-12)

Location

Bridge No. 56 is located on SR 1250 and spans Canoe Creek. The bridge is approximately one-third of a mile north of NC 126 and north of the town of Glen Alpine and south of the community of Oak Hill.

Description

Bridge No. 56 was constructed in 1952 and is a two-lane timber, steel and reinforced concrete structure.

Background Information

Bridge No. 56 was built during a period of active road construction in North Carolina. Road building and bridge construction after World War II became more centralized as the state took responsibility for transportation projects away from county and local governments. Highway construction programs emphasized the development of an overall system of roads and bridges instead of stressing individual projects. As a result, standardized and economical bridge designs were adopted across the state. After World War II and into the 1960s, the North Carolina Highway Commission's bridge maintenance unit replaced most of the old county-built bridges on secondary roads. Today, about 80% of North Carolina's pre-1961 bridges date from the post World War II era.

Evaluation of Eligibility

Bridge No. 56 is not recommended as eligible for the National Register. The bridge is not eligible under Criterion A because it does not relate to a significant historic event or pattern of events. The bridge is also not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state or national context. The bridge is not considered eligible under Criterion C because it does not illustrate characteristics of distinctive bridge design and construction. The bridge follows a common form frequently employed in post-World War II bridge construction. Finally, Bridge No. 56 is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural components are not likely to yield information in the history of bridge building technology.



Plate 10. Approach to Bridge No. 56 from the South on SR 1250, Facing Northeast



Plate 11. Bridge No. 56, Facing Northeast



Plate 12. Bridge No. 56, Facing Southwest from the Waters of Canoe Creek

Bibliography

- 1926 Soil Map. North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Soils. State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- Benton, Jim. Interview with Carl Hennessee, date unknown. Transcript in possession of the author.
- Bishir, Catherine W., Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.
- Camp, Cordella. *Sketches of Burke County*. Morganton: News-Herald, 1954.
- Cotton, J. Randall, Suzanne Pickens Wylie, and Millie M. Barbee. *Historic Burke: An Architectural Inventory of Burke County, North Carolina*. Morganton: Historic Burke Foundation, 1987.
- Cotton, J. Randall. "J.D. Pitts Dam Site," survey file. Western Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Asheville, North Carolina, created August 15, 1983.
- Eller, Ronald D. *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers: Industrialization of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982.
- General Index to Real Estate Conveyances: Grantees, Burke County, North Carolina (microfilm). State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- General Index to Real Estate Conveyances: Grantors, Burke County, North Carolina (microfilm). State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
- Hennessee, Carl. Interview with the author. May 17, 2001.
- The Heritage of Burke County*. Morganton: Burke County Historical Society, 1981.
- The News-Herald* (Morganton).
- Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Burke County, North Carolina Population Schedule (microfilm). State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory, 1902. Raleigh: News and Observer, 1902.

The North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory, 1915. Raleigh: News and Observer, 1915.

Phifer, Edward William, Jr. *Burke: The History of a North Carolina County, 1777-1920.* Morganton: the author, 1977.

Post Offices and Post Masters of North Carolina, vol. 1: Alamance through Durham. Charlotte: North Carolina Postal History Society, 1996.