



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

June 12, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: William Gilmore
Project Development & Environmental Analysis, NCDOT

From: David Brook *David Brook*

Re: Replace Bridge 72 on SR 1004 over Hachers Run, B-3643,
Granville County, ER 01-9623

Thank you for your letter of May 14, 2000, transmitting the survey report by Mattson, Alexander & Associates for the above project.

The report meets our office's guidelines and those of the Secretary of the Interior. For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited.

- ◆ ^{Bowling} Currin-Brown Farm under Criterion A for agriculture, as a farmstead the exemplifies the prosperous and substantial tobacco farms in Granville County during the bright leaf tobacco era; and Criterion C for architecture as one of the finest Colonial Revival houses in the county. *GV 0666*
- ◆ Oxford Water Works under Criterion A for community planning and development and politics/government, as an illustrative example of the government-sponsored public works campaigns of the early twentieth century. *GV 0667*

We are unable to concur with the boundaries for these two properties without some clarification. The Currin-Brown Farm boundaries are cited as the current tax parcel. However, it is not clear from the figures what the boundaries are along SR 1004. Does the right-of-way extend into the yard or is it the ditch line along the road? We suggest that it be the ditch line. There are no boundaries cited for the Oxford Water Works. Do you intend to use the chain link fence? This would be acceptable to us.

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

- ◆ Bridge #72 over Hachers Run

The above comments are offered in accord with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800. If you have any questions concerning them, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley at 733-4763. Thank you.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT
Nicholas Graf, FHwA
Mattson, Alexander & Associates

bc: RGE
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



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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

May 14, 2001

Mr. David L. S. Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

RECEIVED
MAY 16 2001

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2201-9623
Renee 5/29

Dear Mr. Brook:

RE: B-3643, Granville County, Replace Bridge No. 72 on SR 1004 over Hachers Run, State Project # 8.2370901, Federal Aid # BRSTP-1004(7)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached three copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. This report concludes that there are two properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are eligible for the National Register. These properties are:

- Currin-Bowling Farm
- Oxford Water Works

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact me at 733-7844, ext.300.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Section

Attachment

Cc (w/ attachment): Gail Grimes, P.E., Assistant Branch Manager, PDEA
Nicholas Graf, P.E., Federal Highway Administration

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 72 ON SR 1004
OVER HACHERS RUN
GRANVILLE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TIP NUMBER B-3643
FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER BRSTP-1004(7)
STATE PROJECT NUMBER 8.2370901**

**Prepared for
Earth Tech
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Prepared by
Mattson, Alexander & Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina**

19 April 2001

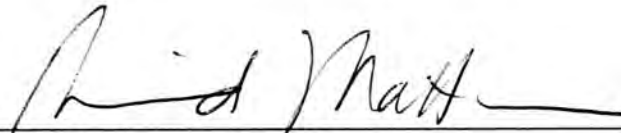
● GV 221
CR

**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 72 ON SR 1004
OVER HACHERS RUN
GRANVILLE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TIP NUMBER B-3643
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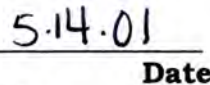
**Principal Investigator
Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.**



Date



**Historic Architectural Resources
North Carolina Department of Transportation**



Date

**Replacement of Bridge No. 72 on SR 1004 (Providence Road) over Hachers Run
Granville County
T.I.P. No. B-3643
State Project No. 8.2370901
Federal Aid No. BRSTP-1004(7)**

Project Description

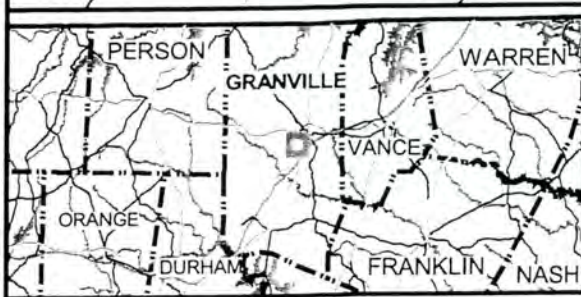
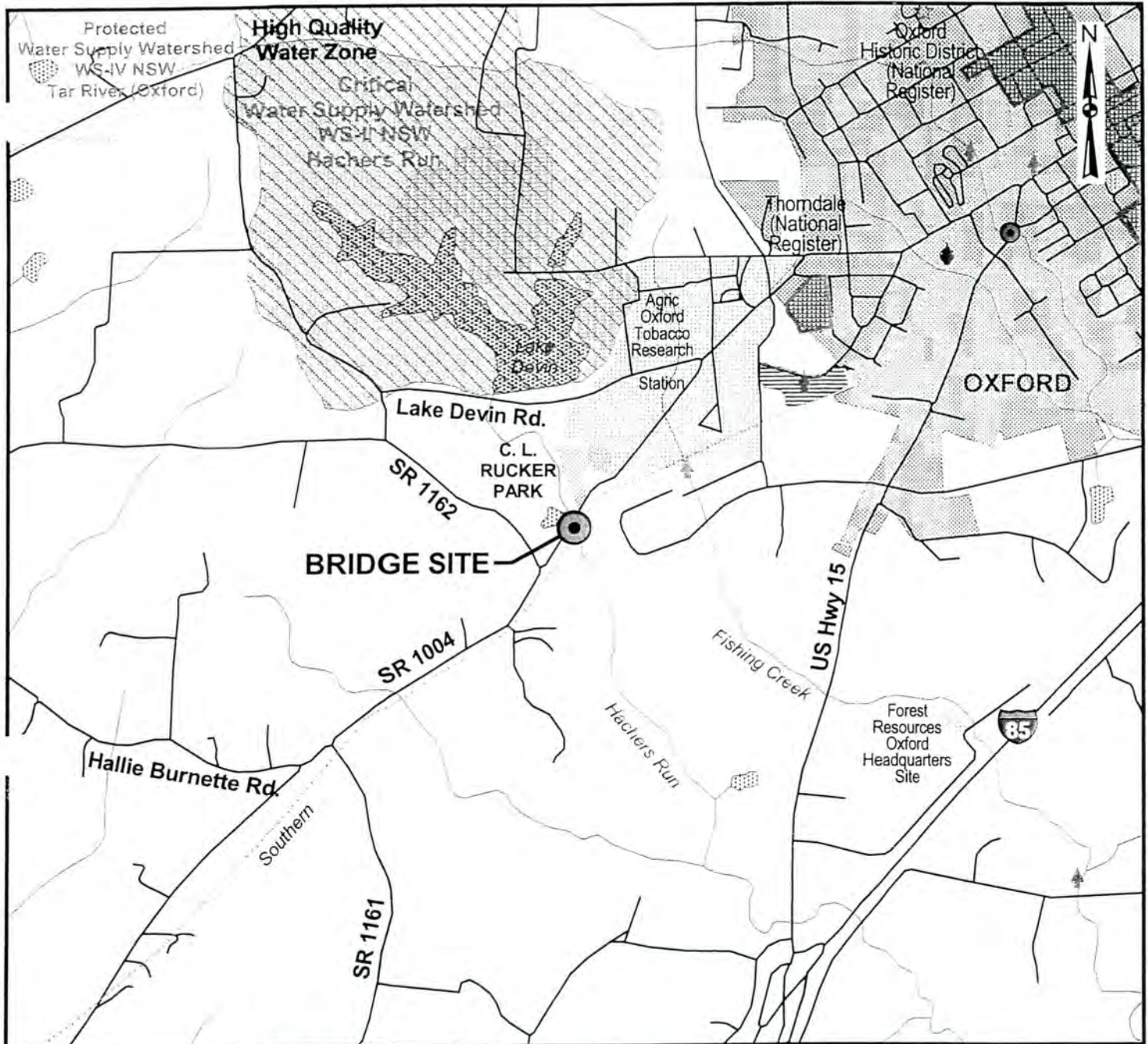
The North Carolina Department of Transportation (N.C.D.O.T.) proposes to replace Bridge No. 76 which carries two-lane SR 1004 (Providence Road) over Hachers Run southwest of Oxford, the seat of Granville County (Figure 1). Built in 1969, the bridge is now classified as structurally deficient. The Sufficiency Rating of the bridge is 30.1. Depicted in Figure 2, the following alternatives are being considered and evaluated for the proposed project.

Alternative 1 includes the replacement of Bridge No. 72 on its existing location. During construction, traffic would use an off-site detour. The detour route would measure 2.6 miles and would follow SR 1164, SR 1162, and SR 1163. A portion of the detour is unpaved, and the capacity of the route to accommodate emergency vehicles and school buses would need examination.

Under **Alternative 2**, Bridge No. 72 would be replaced at its existing location, using either a bridge or culvert structure. A temporary route would be constructed just west of Bridge No. 72 to carry traffic during the bridge replacement.

Purpose of Survey and Report

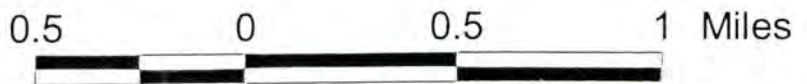
This historic resources survey was conducted, and the report prepared, to identify all historic architectural resources located within the area of potential effects (A.P.E.) (Figure 3). This survey and report are part of the environmental studies conducted by N.C.D.O.T. and documented by a categorical exclusion (C.E.). This report was prepared as a technical appendix to the C.E. and is part of the compliance documentation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (N.E.P.A.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (N.H.P.A.) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the N.H.P.A. states that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in, or potentially eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation should be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed undertaking. This report is on file with N.C.D.O.T. and is available for review by the public.

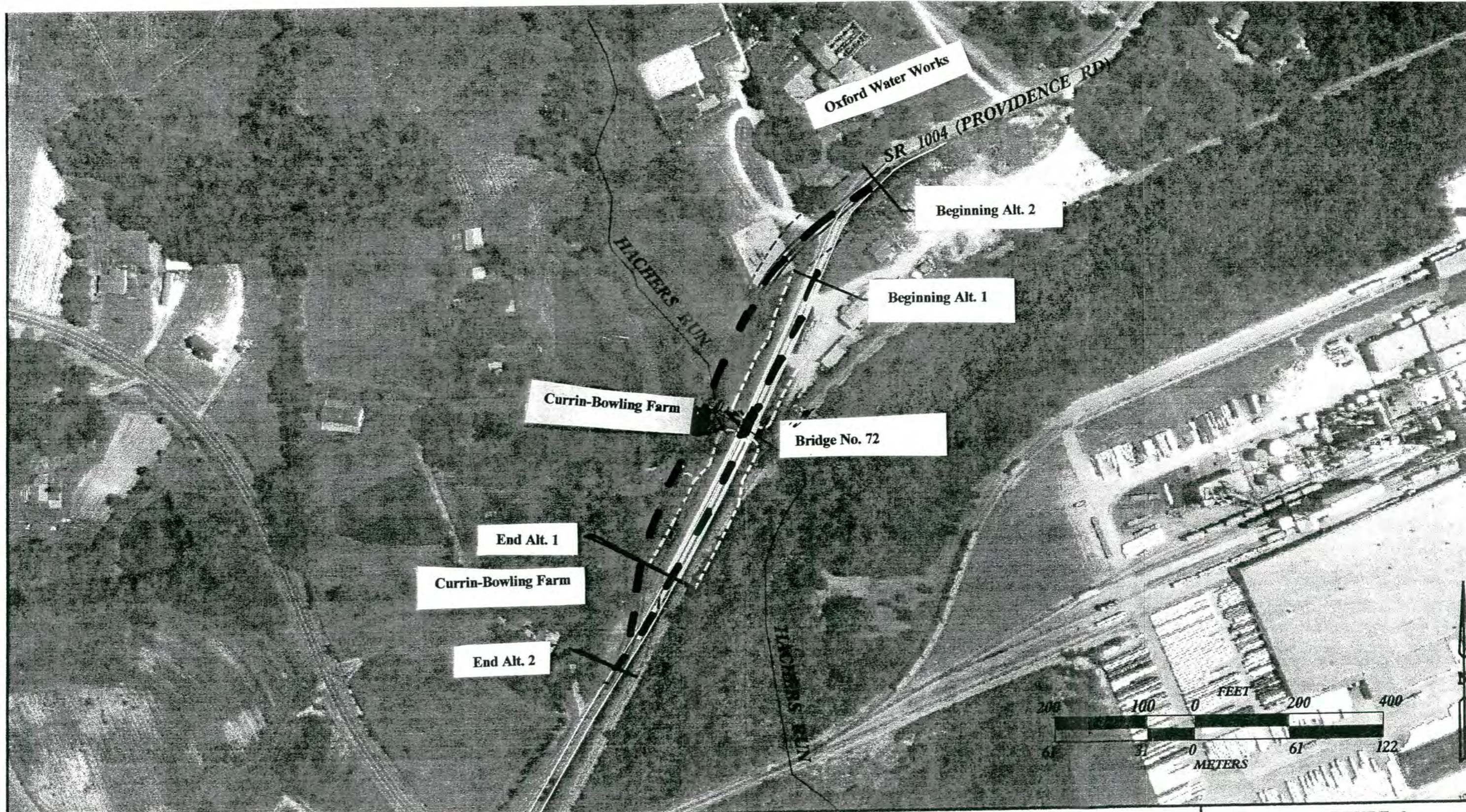



North Carolina - Department of Transportation
 Division of Highways
 Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

**FIGURE 1
 VICINITY MAP**

**REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NUMBER 72
 ON SR 1004 OVER HACHERS RUN
 GRANVILLE COUNTY
 TIP NO. B-3643**






 North Carolina Department of
 Transportation
 Division of Highways
 Project Development & Environmental
 Analysis Branch

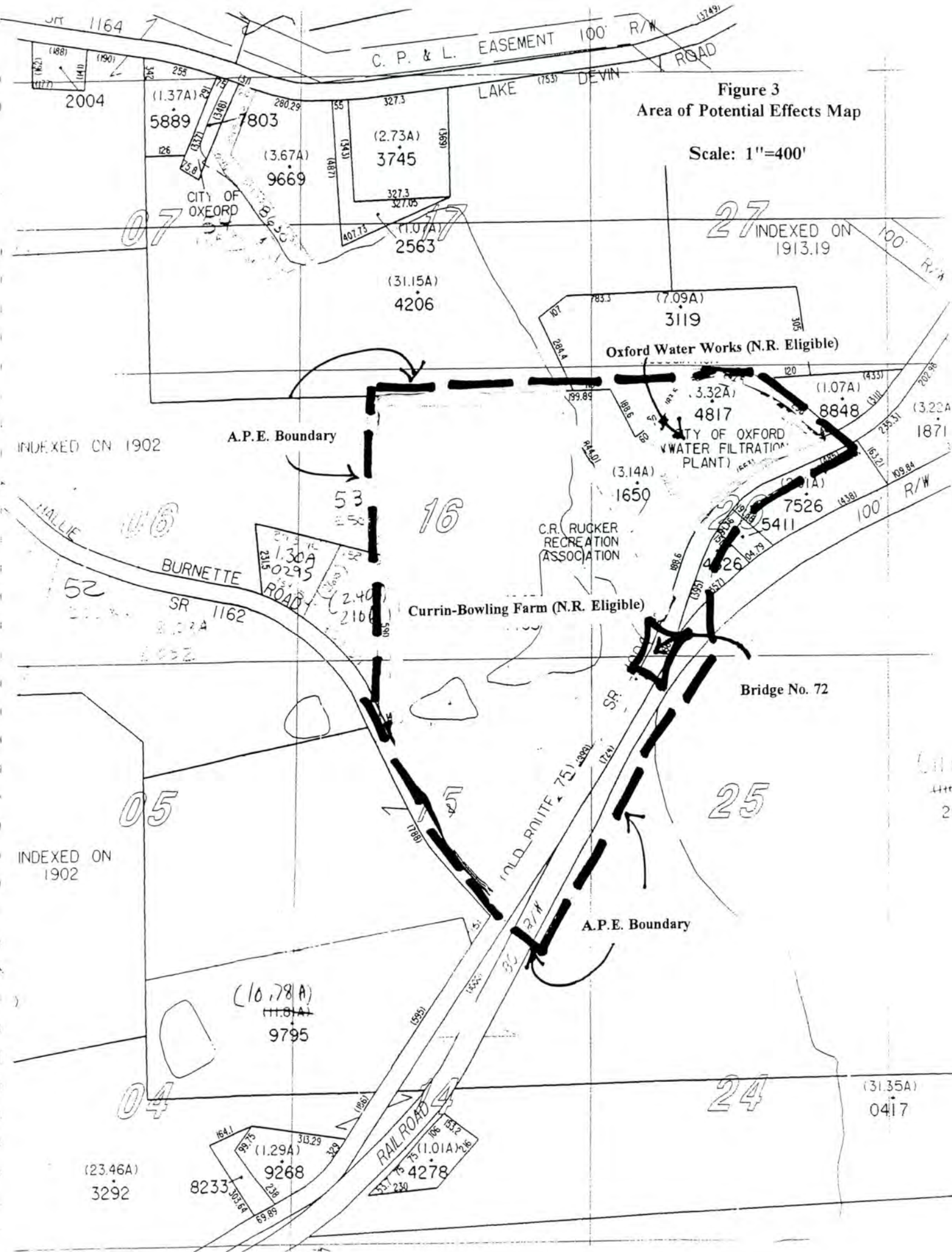
**NATURAL COMMUNITIES
 LEGEND**
 Limits of Natural Communities
 MR - Maintained Roadside
 FP - Floodplain Forest
 ML - Maintained Landscape

**FUNCTIONAL DESIGN
 LEGEND**
 Alt. 1 Centerline ----- Alt. 2 Centerline
 Alt. 1 Edge of Pavement ——— Alt. 2 Edge of Pavement
 Alt. 1 Construction Limits - - - - - Alt. 2 Construction Limits

FIGURE 2
NATURAL COMMUNITIES MAPPING
REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE 72
ON SR 1004 OVER
HACHERS RUN
GRANVILLE COUNTY
TIP NO. B-3643

Figure 3
Area of Potential Effects Map

Scale: 1"=400'



C. P. & L. EASEMENT 100' R/W

LAKE DEVIN

ROAD

CITY OF OXFORD

Oxford Water Works (N.R. Eligible)

CITY OF OXFORD
WATER FILTRATION
PLANT

C.R. RUCKER
RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

Currin-Bowling Farm (N.R. Eligible)

Bridge No. 72

A.P.E. Boundary

RAIL ROAD

INDEXED ON 1902

INDEXED ON 1902

INDEXED ON 1913.19

07

27

16

05

25

04

24

52

53

3292

8233

9268

4278

0417

2004

5889

7803

3745

9669

2563

4206

3119

4817

8848

7526

5411

1650

1309

50295

9795

4278

3292

8233

9268

4278

0417

Methodology

The survey was conducted and the report compiled in accordance with the provisions of F.H.W.A. Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 49(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FRR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and the Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources (N.C.D.O.T.).

The Phase II survey was conducted with the following goals: 1) to determine the A.P.E., which is defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes to the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the A.P.E.; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The methodology for this investigation included background research into the historical and architectural development of the areas and a field survey of the A.P.E. The field survey was conducted in January 2001, by automobile and on foot, to delineate the A.P.E. and to identify all properties within the A.P.E. that appear to have been built before 1952. Every property at least fifty years of age was photographed, mapped, and evaluated. Those considered worthy of further analysis were intensively surveyed and evaluated for National Register eligibility. For resources considered eligible for the National Register, National Register boundaries were determined.

The boundaries of the A.P.E. are shown on a map supplied by Earth Tech, the project engineers (see Figure 3). The A.P.E. is defined by modern construction, topographical features, and sight lines. One hundred per cent of the A.P.E. was surveyed.

Background research was undertaken at the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh. An examination of National Register nominations, survey files, and other historical studies revealed that no resource within the A.P.E. has been listed in the National Register or the Study List. Furthermore, no properties within the A.P.E. were identified as part of the county-wide architectural survey that culminated in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, *The Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville County*, prepared by Marvin Brown and Patricia Esperon in 1987. However, preliminary field investigations identified two properties that warranted further investigation. The Oxford Water Works (ca. 1925) and the Currin-Bowling Farm (ca. 1900) are both found within the A.P.E. on the west side of SR 1004.

Summary of Survey Findings

The bridge under consideration carries Providence Road (SR 1004) over Hachers Run on the southwest side of Oxford, the seat of Granville County. Bridge No. 72 was constructed in 1969 as a 26-foot long, single span, steel girder bridge with timber piles and caps. The bridge has steel guard rails. The two-lane road parallels the Southern Railway for much of its route, and a large industrial complex (outside the A.P.E.) stretches along the railway east of SR 1004. Houses and farms dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as modern dwellings, line the road southwest of its intersection with SR 1164. Just northeast of this intersection is the campus of the Agricultural Experimental Station and the outskirts of Oxford.

No properties within the A.P.E. have been listed in either the National Register or the North Carolina Study List. Furthermore, there are no properties within the A.P.E. that have been previously surveyed. Two properties within the project area are considered worthy of National Register evaluation. The Currin-Bowling Farm is a particularly intact early-twentieth-century farm complex with a large Colonial Revival farmhouse, an array of outbuildings, and intact fields and pastures. Just north of the Currin-Bowling Farm is the ca. 1920 Oxford Water Works. Sited along Hachers Run, which drains to the Tar River, the water works is a rare surviving public works facility from the pre-World War II era.

Finally, Bridge No. 72 is not recommended for National Register eligibility. This small bridge was constructed in 1969 and does not possess the special significance that resources less than fifty years of age need for National Register eligibility.

Properties Listed in the National Register or the North Carolina State Study List:

None

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Currin-Bowling Farm 6V 0666

Oxford Water Works 6V 0667

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

None

Other Properties Evaluated and Determined Not To Be Eligible for the National Register

None

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY

Settlers of primarily English origin began migrating into present-day Granville County during the mid-eighteenth century. While a few wealthy settlers acquired sizable holdings and established plantations, most newcomers worked small and middling farms along the bottomlands of the Tar River and its tributaries. Granville County was created 1746, and the county's current borders were finally set in 1881, following the formation of Vance County from northeastern Granville (Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 1-2; Johnson 1937: 289).

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the rise of tobacco farming brought prosperity to Granville County. Located in the Old Tobacco Belt that extended across the northern Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia, Granville County emerged as the state's leading tobacco producer in the antebellum years. Without the benefit of navigable waterways to the coast, farmers transported the crop overland to Virginia markets in Petersburg, Danville, Richmond, and Norfolk. By 1840, the federal census reported that the county produced nearly four million pounds of the leaf. With the rise of tobacco farming came a growing population of slave labor. In 1810, the county contained 7,746 slaves, one-half the total population. By 1860, its slave population of 11,086 was greater than any other county in the state (Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 4-5).

Improved overland transportation in the antebellum period spurred economic growth. In 1840, the eighty-six-mile Raleigh and Gaston Railroad was constructed through the county, linking Granville to rail lines extending southward into North Carolina as well as northward to Petersburg, Virginia. In addition, by 1850 a plank road transected the county to join the county seat of Oxford with the railroad at Henderson (in present-day Vance County). Better transportation encouraged local farmers to grow more and more cash crops. The production of tobacco in the county jumped from four million pounds in 1840 to six million by the Civil War, while harvests of wheat and potatoes also rose dramatically. Between 1850 and 1860, the cash value of farms in the county more than doubled to \$3,457,365 (Johnson 1937: 484; Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 6).

Successful tobacco farming did not demand large quantities of land, and most farms in the county ranged from small to middling in size. In 1860, over half of the farms amounted to less than 100 acres and forty percent were between 100 and 500 acres. However, a small but influential planter class also emerged in Granville County, and in 1860 the county boasted thirteen of only ninety-eight agricultural estates in North Carolina comprising greater than 1,000 acres (Brown and Esperon 1987: 8).

Tobacco cultivation and the coming of rail connections sparked small town growth. Sited along the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, Henderson thrived as a tobacco market before the Civil War. Although the rail line bypassed the county seat of Oxford, the town took shape as the principal political and cultural center. Oxford attracted a collection of private academies where eastern planters enrolled their children, and gained a reputation for its healthful climate. A nearby mineral springs drew summer visitors and supported the medical practices of local physicians (Johnson 1937: 725; Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 9-10, 16A-16G).

As throughout North Carolina, the aftermath of the Civil War brought profound social and economic upheaval to Granville County. The ending of slavery and the lack of a available capital stalled agricultural production. The number of small farms, many of which were now occupied by cash tenants and sharecroppers, rose sharply. Between the Civil War and 1890, the average size of farms in the county fell from 327 acres to 119 acres, while the number of farms increased

from 1,348 to 2,488. By 1900, sixty percent the farms in the county were cultivated by tenants or sharecroppers (*North Carolina Labor Statistics* 1901: 118-119; Brown and Esperon 1987: 11-14).

During the late nineteenth century, a new variety of golden, mild-flavored tobacco known as "bright leaf" became the key money crop in the Old Tobacco Belt. The cultivation and sale of bright leaf tobacco would remain the foundation of the region's agricultural economy throughout much of the twentieth century. Bright leaf tobacco required a fine-grained leaf best grown in thin, siliceous soil, and a laborious and precise curing process whereby flues circulated regulated heat through the tobacco barns. By the late nineteenth century this flue curing process was refined and adopted by farmers throughout the northern Piedmont. As before the Civil War, Granville County stood out as the state's preeminent tobacco producer in the postwar years, harvesting over four million pounds of bright leaf tobacco in 1890. Farmers erected new outbuildings geared to the sorting, curing, and storing of the crop. By the early twentieth century, clusters of tobacco curing barns, grading sheds, and packhouses marked the bright leaf tobacco farms across the Guilford County. Farms in the southern portion of the county produced the greater amounts of bright leaf. Here, the thinner sandy soils were ideal for the crop (Tilley 1948: 4; Bishir 1990: 303; Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 12-13; F: 31-36; Brown and Esperon 1988: 63).

While farm tenancy rose in this period, the success of larger farms operated by landowners reflected the prosperity of the bright leaf era. In 1910, Granville County ranked eleventh among North Carolina counties in the number of farms between 175 and 500 acres. Of the 3,259 farms in the county, 444 were in this range, and forty farms exceeded 500 acres. Between 1900 and the early 1910s, such families as the Kimballs, the Currins, the Watkinsons, and others established sizable bright leaf tobacco farms replete with fashionable new farmhouses and scores of outbuildings for cultivating and curing the new money crop (Thirteenth Census of the U.S., Agricultural Schedule 1910; Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 11-14; Brown and Esperon 1988: 266, 423; Bowling Interview 2001).

Tobacco production was a boon to the entire economy, and small towns arose to provide tobacco warehousing and a variety of retail and service activities to county farmers. Oxford, in particular, prospered with the arrival of rail lines in the late nineteenth century. In 1881, an extension of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad connected Oxford to the main line at Henderson. In 1888, the Southern Railway and the Seaboard Railroad extended lines to Oxford, linking the town to the tobacco-processing centers of Durham, North Carolina, and Clarksville, Virginia. By the early twentieth century, Oxford was a bustling county seat and tobacco market center. It attracted not only merchants and professionals but also wealthy absentee landowners whose tobacco profits built stylish residences near the burgeoning business district. The population of the county seat rose from 2,000 in 1900 to 3,000 in 1910, and then climbed to 3,600 in 1920 (Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 17-22).

Although some farmers diversified into livestock production and dairying in the wake of plummeting crop prices in the 1920s and 1930s, tobacco was still the major cash staple. In 1941, thirty-seven percent of cultivated land in Granville County was devoted to tobacco. Only the coastal plain counties of Pitt and Greene had greater percentages of farmland given over to tobacco. Tobacco farming remained largely unmechanized and labor intensive into the 1960s, with traditional curing barns and packhouses filling the farmyards and fields. However, since that time changes in technology, marketing, and government agricultural policy have transformed the traditional tobacco culture. With the rise of loose-leaf marketing and farm mechanization--including the widespread use of bulk tobacco barns and automated harvesters--the demand for

farm labor to pick, sort, and tie the bright leaf has virtually disappeared. Moreover, the tobacco allotment system, which regulates tobacco acreage, has steadily restricted the amount of land devoted to the crop. Consequently, tobacco's role as a leading source of income has diminished and the number of tobacco farmers is in rapid decline (Johnson 1941: 183; Daniel 1985: 260, 264; Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 15).

In recent decades the arrival of Interstate 85 and the spectacular growth of Wake and Durham counties to the south have attracted industrial and residential development along the southern border of the county. Prime tobacco farming land in southeastern Granville County was transformed into Camp Butner, a U.S. Army base, during World War II. The property was later converted to a vast complex of institutional buildings, including a federal prison and an alcohol rehabilitation center. By the 1980s, only seven percent (1,128 residents) of the work force in the county listed farming as their primary occupation, and tobacco production was no longer the main source of income (Brown and Esperon 1988: 231-232).

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Currin-Bowling Farm

West side SR 1004, at junction with SR 1162
Oxford vicinity, Granville County

Period of Construction

Ca. 1904 to Ca. 1950

Associated Outbuildings and Structures

Smokehouse (ca. 1904); 2 Packhouses, 4 Tobacco Barns, and 2 Grading Rooms (early 20th century); Windmill and Wellhouse (early 20th century); Corncrib (ca. 1950); Equipment Shelter (ca. 1950); Livestock Barn (ca. 1950); Modern Garage (1970s)

Physical Description (Plates 1-10) (Figure 4)

The forty-two-acre Currin-Bowling Farm contains the handsome ca. 1904 farmhouse and a well-preserved ensemble of farm outbuildings and fields. Although now covered with vinyl siding the house ranks among the most impressive Colonial Revival farmhouses in the county. Shaded by mature trees and embellished with classical motifs, the handsome Currin-Bowling residence is a frame dwelling with a boxy, two-story form capped by a hip roof. A kitchen wing extends from the rear and the back porch has been enclosed. The main façade features octagonal tracery in the sidelights and transom, pebbledash stucco in the front-facing dormer, and a large wraparound porch with grouped square posts on brick piers. Tall, corbeled brick chimneys pierce the roof. The principal investigators were not able to gain access to the interior. However, a view of the first floor from the front porch reveals a spacious center hallway with a broad, center stairway, mantelpieces with mirrored overmantels in the principal rooms, coffered ceilings, and tongue-and-groove wainscoting.

The immediate farmyard contains a collection of frame buildings erected primarily in the first half of the twentieth century. These include a gable-front smokehouse sited behind the house, a conical-roofed wellhouse, a gable-front corncrib, and an adjacent gable-front equipment shelter. The remnant of a steel windmill is located near the wellhouse and a modern, vinyl-sided, two-car garage stands to the north.

Northwest of the farmyard, near the farm pond, stands an assortment of tobacco grading rooms, packhouses, and curing barns. These buildings are primarily frame, though one of the tobacco barns is log-constructed. A frame, gable-front cattle barn is sited in pasture land near the west side of the property. All of the farm buildings remain in generally good condition. The barn appears to be used for hay storage while the other outbuildings are no longer in use or are employed for general storage.

Historical Background

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Titus Currin acquired this agricultural tract south of Oxford. The property originally flanked both sides of NC 75 (today SR 1004), a main route through the north-central North Carolina, connecting a series of Piedmont county seats, including Oxford, and extending northward towards Richmond, Virginia. The Currins established a successful farm here that encompassed some 500 acres in the early twentieth century. They commissioned the house about 1904, and in the ensuing years built most of the outbuildings that stand on the present forty-two-acre tract. Typical of Granville County and the region, tobacco

was the principal cash crop on the farm. But the Currins also cut timber for market and raised livestock and grains (Bowling Interview 2001).

The Currins were a prominent Granville County family, with relatives owning substantial farms and tobacco warehouses and retail stores in Oxford. Titus Currin operated bright leaf warehouses in Oxford as well as in Georgia, and served in the North Carolina General Assembly. The Currin family owned and operated the Currin-Bowling Farm until the early 1950s, when Wallace Bowling purchased approximately 176 acres, including the house and outbuildings on the present acreage. The Bowling family raised tobacco (approximately thirty acres at the peak of production), beef cattle, and grains, and erected the present livestock barn and equipment shed on the property. In 1961, the family sold 113 acres on the east side of the highway, leaving them with the existing forty-two acres on the west side. The Bowlings continue to own the tract and occupy the house, though they sold their tobacco allotment last year (2000). Today the farm raises only grain (Brown and Esperon 1988: 342-343, 389; Bowling Interview 2001).

Evaluation of Eligibility

The Currin-Bowling Farm is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture. With its imposing farmhouse, well-preserved outbuildings, and fields, this farmstead exemplifies the prosperous and substantial tobacco farms that arose in Granville County during the bright leaf tobacco era (see Historical Background and Agriculture Context).

The property is also eligible under Criterion C for architecture. In particular, the house ranks as one of the finest Colonial Revival houses in rural Granville County. During the tobacco-related prosperity of the early twentieth century, a collection of fashionable Colonial Revival farmhouses appeared in the county. Among these properties are the Currin-Bowling residence, the Kimball House along the Tar River in southern Granville, the Watkins House near Cornwall, and the Royster House near Bullock. These dwellings share similar features that marked early expressions of the style across the state. They are two-story, cubic houses with weatherboard siding, hip roofs with prominent dormers, large front porches with square or round columns, and sidelights and transoms around the center doorways. The interiors have broad center stairhalls. Such Colonial Revival houses in the Granville countryside reflected the emergence of nationally popular, modern styles that corresponded with the economic vigor of the period. While conservative in their basic simplicity, these houses expressed new design trends drawn from architectural magazines and pattern books, and signaled the retreat of traditional building patterns among the wealthier landowners (Brown and Esperon 1987: F: 15-17, 19-20; Brown and Esperon 1988: 251, 266, 423; Bishir 1990: 416-417).

The Currin-Bowling Farm is not considered eligible under any other criterion. The property is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the property is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural component is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Boundaries (Figure 5)

The proposed National Register boundaries are defined by the current tax parcel. The boundaries contain the Currin-Bowling residence, the associated outbuildings erected by the Currins and the Bowling families, and the remaining fields. The modern garage is the only non-contributing resource. The 113 acres to the east of SR 1004 is no longer agricultural and a portion has been developed for industrial purposes.



Plate 1. Currin-Bowling Farm, House and Setting, Looking West.



Plate 2. Currin-Bowling House, Looking West.



Plate 3. Currin-Bowling House, Rear Elevation, Looking East.



Plate 4. Currin-Bowling House, Sidelights and Transom.



Plate 5. Currin-Bowling Farm, Looking East Towards Rear of House.



Plate 6. Currin-Bowling Farm, Tobacco Grading Room and Tobacco Barns, Looking North.



Plate 7. Currin-Bowling Farm, Livestock Barn, Looking West.



Plate 8. Currin-Bowling Farm, Wellhouse, Windmill, Garage, Corncrib, Equipment Shelter, Looking North.



Plate 9. Currin-Bowling Farm, Looking North From SR 1162.

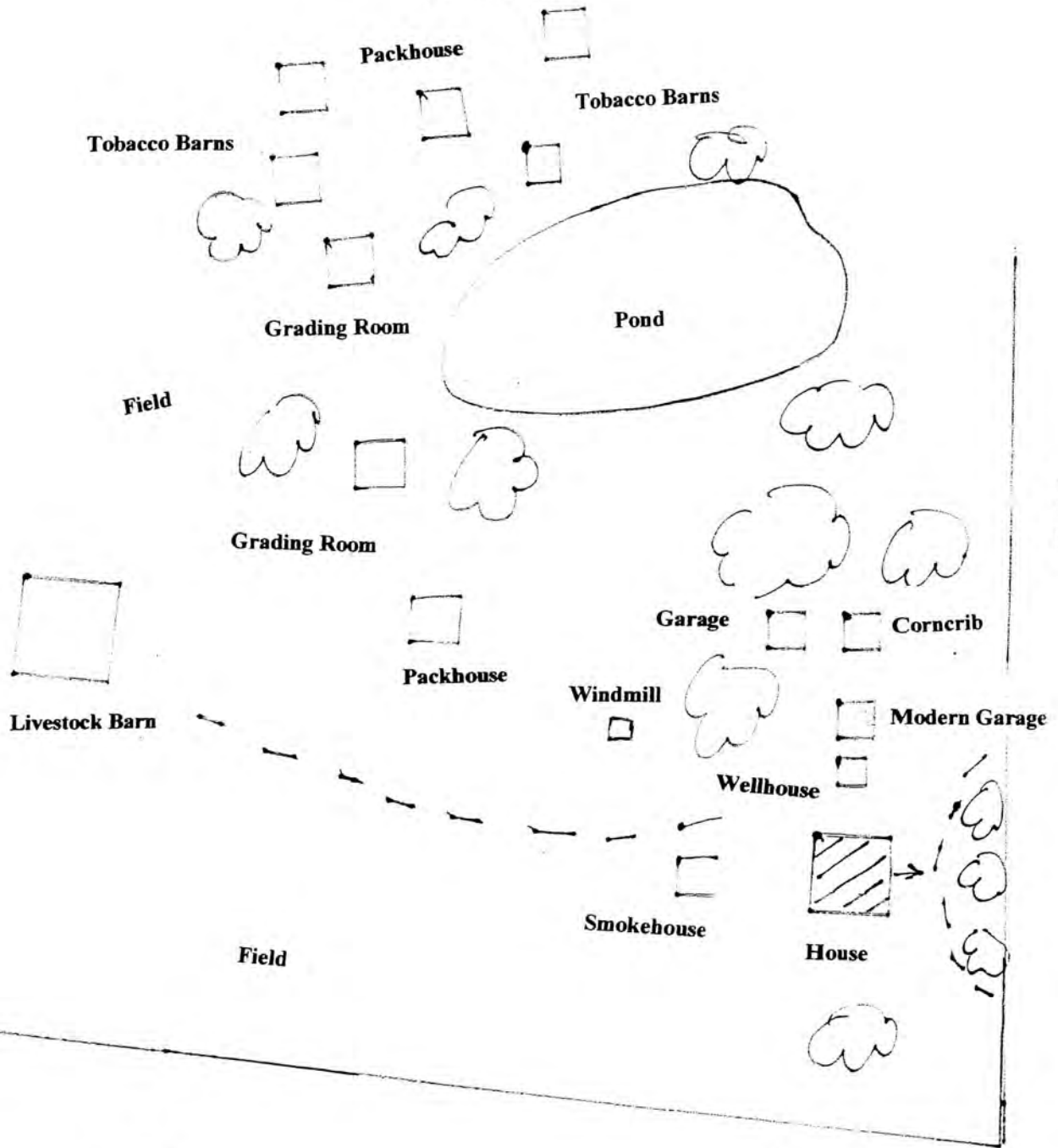


Plate 10. Currin-Bowling Farm, Right-of-Way, Looking North.

Figure 4

**Currin-Bowling Farm
Site Plan**

(not to scale)



SR 1140

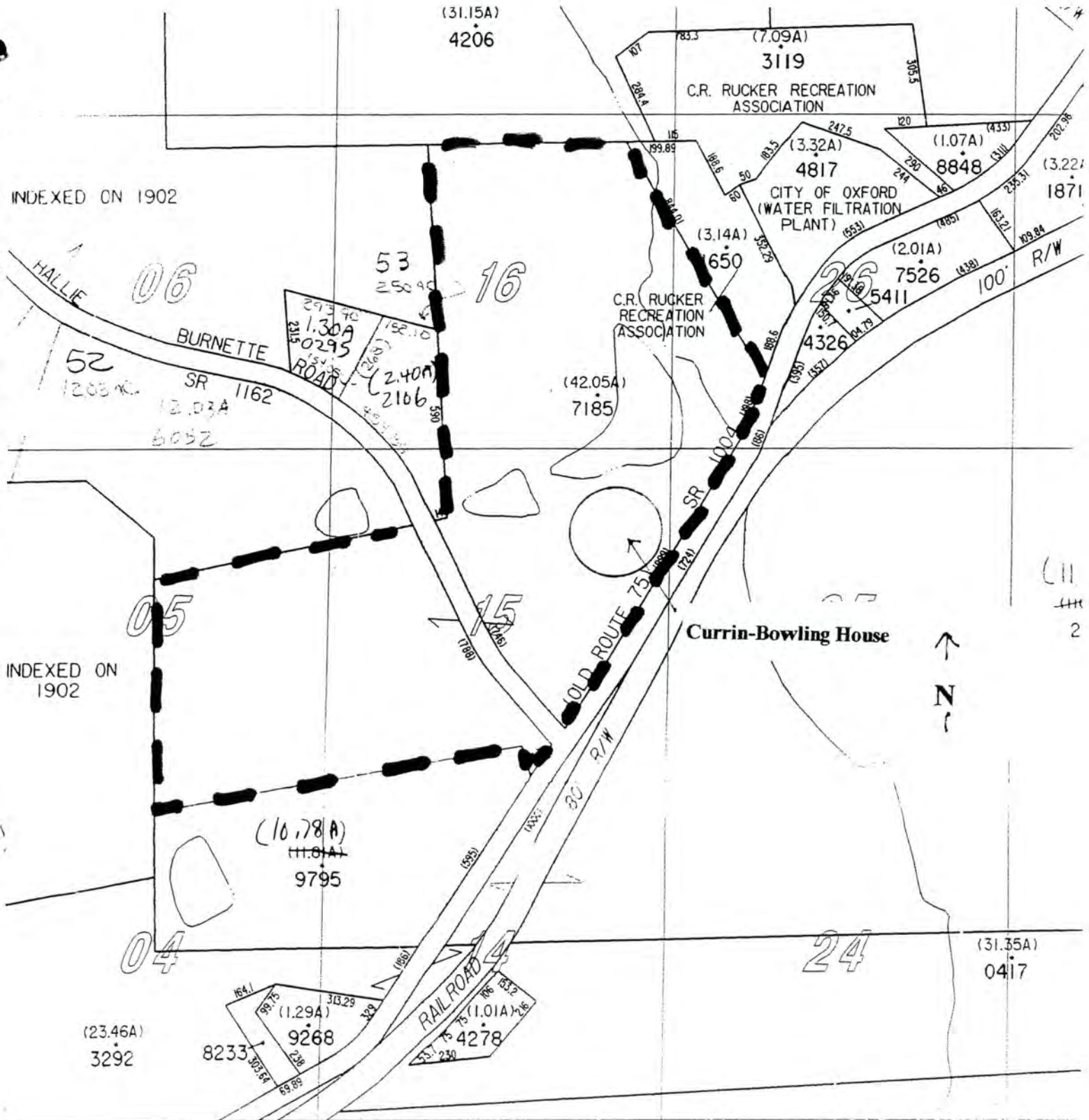
SR 1162



Figure 5

**Currin-Bowling Farm
Proposed National Register Boundaries**

Scale—1" = 400'



Oxford Water Works

West side of SR 1004 (Providence Road), roughly 0.4 mile north of junction with SR 1162, Oxford vicinity, Granville County

Date of Construction

Ca. 1920

Associated Outbuildings

None

Site Description (Figure 6)

Located on the west side of SR 1004, the Oxford Water Works sits on a flat parcel just north of Hachers Run and downstream from the reservoir of Lake Devin. The lake drains into Hachers Run, a feeder stream for the Tar River, Oxford's water source. The C.L. Rucker Park, owned by the City of Oxford, surrounds the water works parcel. The water filtration plant sits back from the road within a tree-shaded setting, and the facility is enclosed by a chain link fence.

Physical Description and Evaluation of Integrity (Plates 11-16)

The Oxford Water Works facility is housed in a brick building with a three story, cubic main block, a one story side wing, and a two story rear wing. The main block has a flat roof, but the wings have hip roofs covered in terra cotta tiles. In the 1950s, the rear was extended with a two story, brick addition that has a flat roof and steel sash windows, and a small addition was built against the rear elevation of the side wing. The building has steel sash factory windows capped by concrete lintels with keystone detailing. A few windows on the side wing have been infilled with brick. The coagulation and storage basins abut the building to the north. The basins are supported by a concrete retaining wall and sod embankment, and a fabricated steel tank sits in the knee between the main building and the rear wing. A second tank sits in front of the basin. The four-bay facade is broken by asymmetrical brick pilasters, and the double leaf, wood and glass doors are capped by a transom and concrete lintel. The water works has undergone minor alteration since its construction. The main block originally had a pyramidal roof, which has since been removed, and, like many public works facilities, minor rear additions were made during the early postwar period. The interior of the building was not accessible, but the facility retains its exterior architectural integrity.

Historical Background

The Oxford water filtration plant was one of numerous public works projects undertaken throughout the state during the Progressive Era of the early twentieth century. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, intellectuals, social reformers, business leaders, and governmental officials began pressing for a sweeping array of reforms to alleviate social and economic ills. Calls for improved sanitation, a new interest in urban planning, park development, beautification, and concern for the urban poor all produced an array of small and large-scale projects across the nation. Flush with revenue from a reviving economy, North Carolina towns began constructing water and sewer systems, paving streets, developing parks, establishing school systems, and rebuilding governmental buildings. Sanitation and clean water were of particular concern as scientific research uncovered the relationship between hygiene and disease prevention. At the same time, population increases and urban growth taxed the longstanding reliance of most localities on private wells and nearby streams and rivers (Sies and Silvers 1996: 3-5; Elizabeth City Water Plant National Register Nomination: 8-2 and 3).

In the Piedmont, a nascent industrial base of textile mills and furniture factories provided the funding for these municipal improvements, while in eastern North Carolina and the tobacco belt, agricultural prosperity filled local coffers. Granville County emerged as the state's largest producer of bright leaf tobacco, and Oxford, in particular, prospered as the arrival of rail lines triggered the town's expansion as a tobacco market and agricultural supply center. By the early twentieth century, Oxford had attracted not only merchants and professionals but also wealthy absentee landowners whose tobacco profits built stylish residences near the burgeoning business district. The population of the county seat rose from 2,000 in 1900 to 3,000 in 1910, and then climbed to 3,600 in 1920. Prosperity, town growth, and concerns with sanitation all created a new demand for a municipal water system, and in the 1920s, Oxford built its water works on a tributary of the Tar River (Brown and Esperon 1987: E: 12-13; E: 17-22; F: 31-36).

The Oxford Water Works was built on land bought from nearby farmer, Titus Currin. The filtration plant operated until the 1970s when industrial development and a history of water shortages forced the municipality to join the regional system at Kerr Lake. Until the development of Kerr Lake, Oxford drew its water supply from the Tar River, but recurring droughts necessitated finding a more dependable water source. Droughts began in the late 1930s, and plans were developed to expand the operations of the plant. However, expansion was deferred because of a wartime moratorium on construction. One particularly severe water shortage occurred in 1943, caused, in part, by demands placed on the Tar by the new military installation at Camp Butner in southern Granville County.

Minor work has occurred at the filtration plant since its construction. With the aid of the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), the coagulation basin of the water plant was rebuilt in 1939, and in 1940, the site was graded and fifty trees were planted in a beautification effort. At the same time, a recreational park was developed on land surrounding the plant with labor supplied by the W.P.A. Other changes have occurred because of innovations in water treatment technology that have necessitated the expansion and modernization of many pre-World War II water filtration plants. In 1948, a new diesel pump was installed at the water works for use during electrical emergencies, and in the 1950s, small additions were made to the building. The plant remained in operation until the 1970s when Oxford was linked to the regional water source at Kerr Lake. Since then, this filtration plant has remained vacant (Vertical Files, Oxford Public Library, newspaper articles dated Feb. 24, 1939; September 11, 1942; and Nov. 19, 1948).

Evaluation of Eligibility (Figure 7)

The Oxford Water Works is recommended for National Register eligibility under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development and Politics/Government. Built in the 1920s, the filtration plant is illustrative of the public works projects undertaken by municipalities during the Progressive Era of the early twentieth century. During the period, water filtration plants were built in small towns and cities across North Carolina in response to urban development and a growing concern with clean water and sanitation. Continued population growth that necessitated larger filtration facilities and improvements in technology rendered many of these plants obsolete, and only a few pre-World War II water works have survived. Notable remaining examples include the 1926 Elizabeth City Water Plant (National Register 1993), the ca. 1917 facility in Durham (a contributing resource to the Watts-Hillandale Historic District 2001), and the Charlotte Water Works (National Register Study List), which was built in the 1920s. Although smaller than these plants, which are located in larger towns and cities, the Oxford Water Works is an illustrative example of the government-sponsored public works campaigns of the early twentieth century.

The proposed National Register boundaries are defined by the current 3.32-acre tax parcel on which the filtration plant sits. This parcel includes the plant and its tree-shaded setting.

The Oxford Water Works is not eligible under Criterion B because the property is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. The facility is also not eligible under Criterion C because the water works does not fully illustrate design trends of the period. The Oxford plant is architecturally restrained with only minor classically derived and Mission style elements, and the removal of the terra cotta tile roof from the main block compromises its architectural significance. Furthermore, surviving examples in other towns illustrate well the use of nationally popular designs for these public works facilities. Both the facilities in Elizabeth City and Durham were designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, and the Charlotte water works owed its architectural inspiration to the Art Deco movement of the 1920s. Finally, the water works is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural component is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.



Plate 11. Oxford Water Works, Plant and Setting, Looking Southwest along SR 1004.

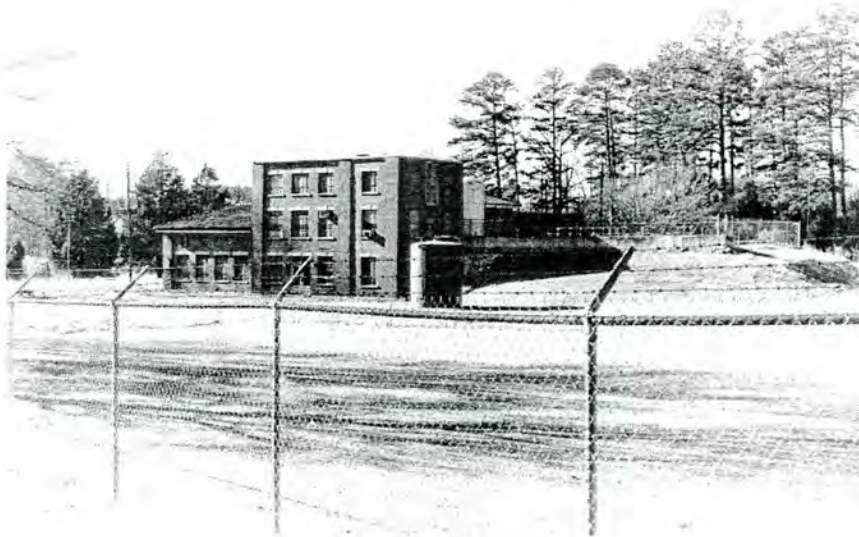


Plate 12. Oxford Water Works, Looking West from SR 1004.



Plate 13. Oxford Water Works, Plant and Setting, Looking Southwest.



Plate 14. Oxford Water Works, Looking Northwest.



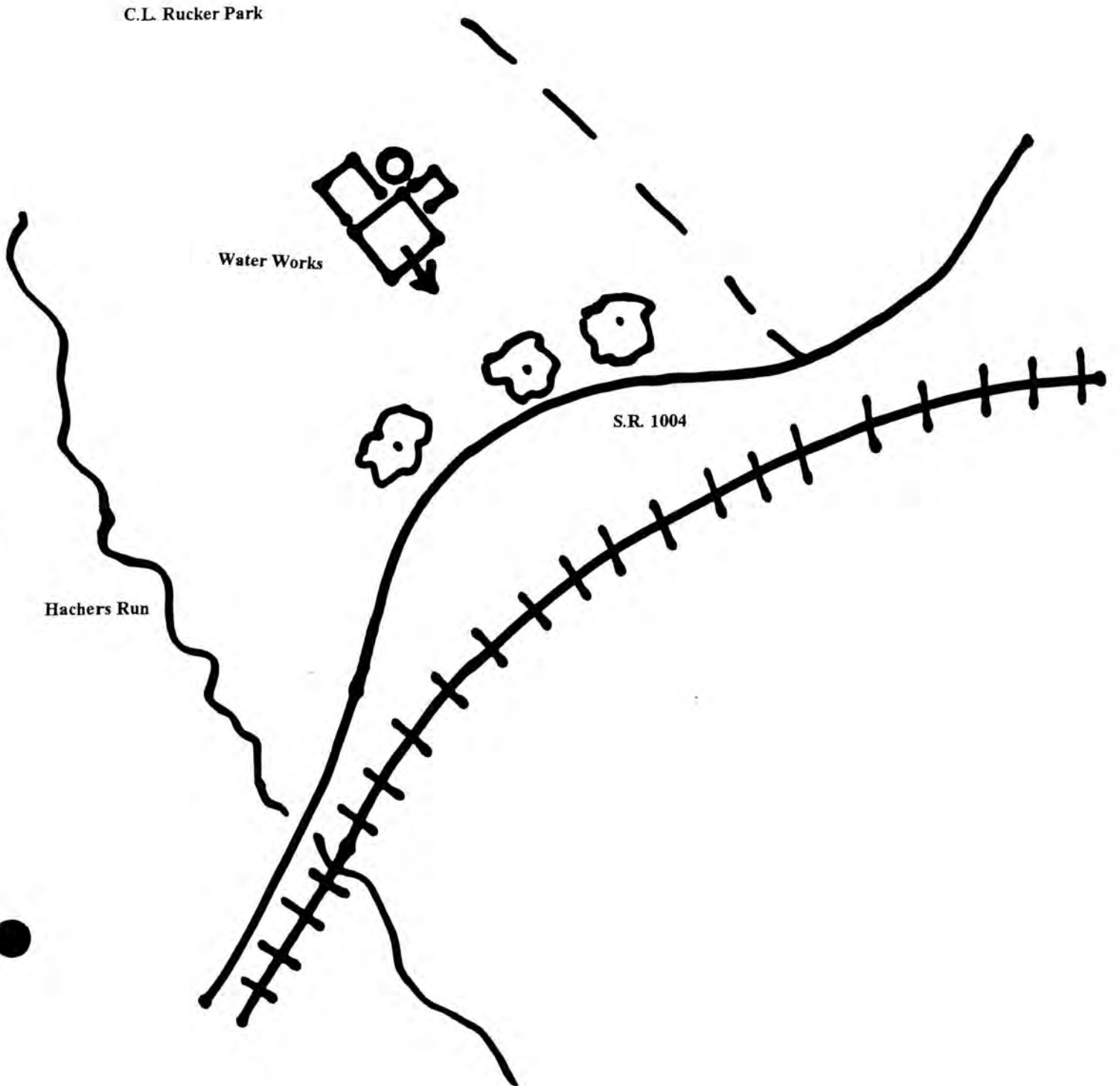
Plate 15. Oxford Water Works, South Elevations, Looking North.



Plate 16. Oxford Water Works, North Elevations of Building, Basins, and Tank, Looking South.

Figure 6
Oxford Water Works - Site Plan

(Not to Scale)



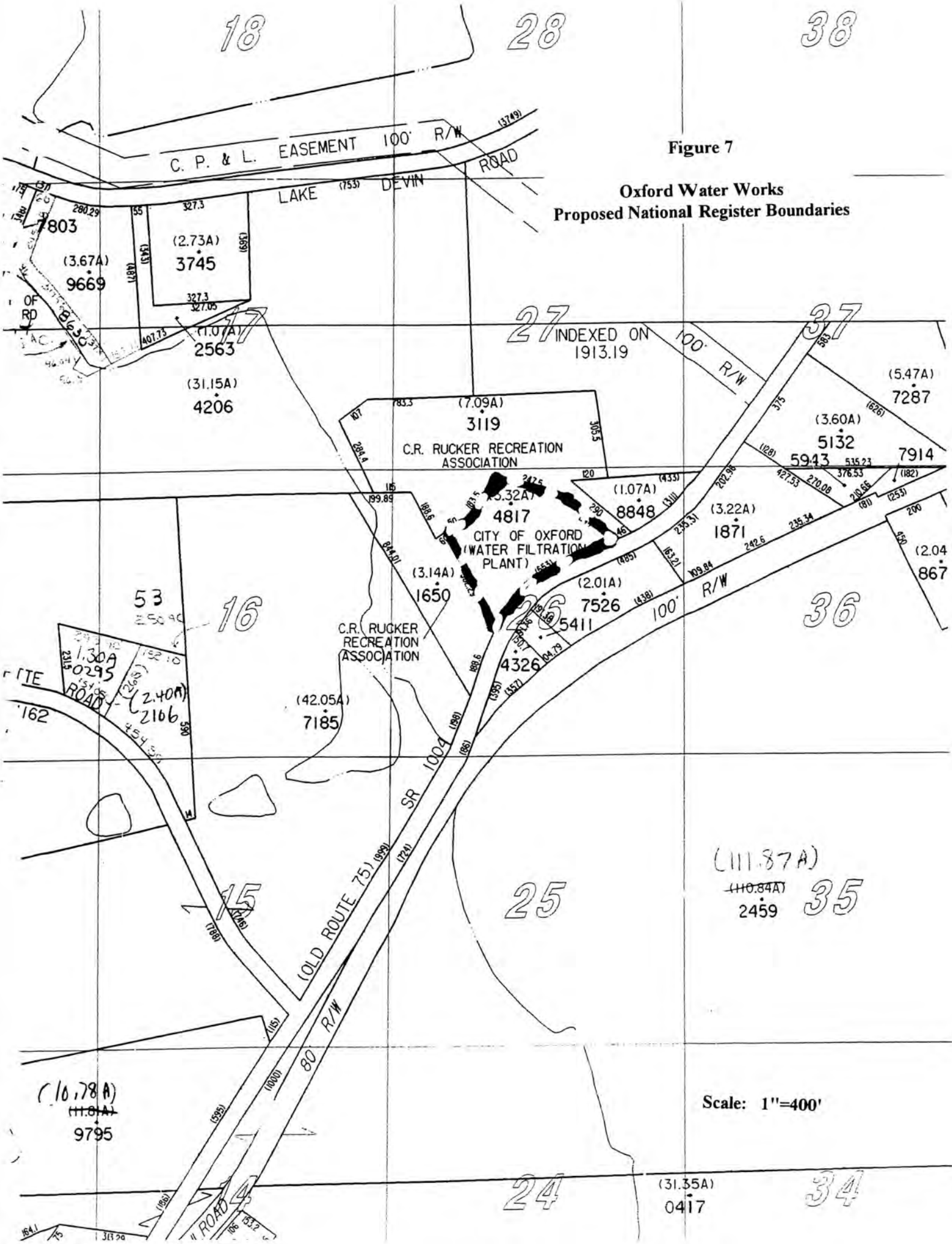


Figure 7

**Oxford Water Works
Proposed National Register Boundaries**

C. P. & L. EASEMENT 100' R/W (3749)
LAKE DEVIN ROAD

INDEXED ON
1913.19

(7.09A)
3119
C.R. RUCKER RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

(5.32A)
4817
CITY OF OXFORD
(WATER FILTRATION
PLANT)

C.R. RUCKER
RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

(111.87A)
(110.84A)
2459 35

Scale: 1"=400'

7803
(3.67A)
9669
(2.73A)
3745
(1.07A)
2563
(31.15A)
4206

(5.47A)
7287
(3.60A)
5132
5943
7914
(1.07A)
8848
(3.22A)
1871
(2.01A)
7526
(2.04)
867

53
162
1.30A
0295
(2.40A)
2106

(42.05A)
7185

(10.78A)
(11.07A)
9795

(31.35A)
0417

SR 1004
(OLD ROUTE 75) (899)
80 R/W

100' R/W

100' R/W

100' R/W

100' R/W

ROAD

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