



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

July 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory J. Thorpe, Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Division of Highways
Department of Transportation

FROM: Peter Sandbeck *for Peter Sandbeck*

SUBJECT: Revised Historic Architectural Survey Report, Improvements to US 19E from SR 1186 to Existing Multi-Lane Section West of Spruce Pine, R-2519B, Mitchell & Yancey Counties, ER02-11410

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 2004, transmitting the revised survey report by Marvin A. Brown of URS Corporation. We appreciate the additional information provided in this report.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property has been determined eligible and remains eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

The Micaville Historic District, intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80, Micaville, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, for Community Planning and Development and for Commerce, and under Criterion C for Architecture.

We concur with the proposed National Register boundaries for the Micaville Historic District as described and delineated in the survey report and found in the appendix.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following property has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

The E.W. and Dollie Huskins House, south side of US 19E opposite Arbuckle Road, Newdale vicinity is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture for its Craftsman-style architecture and local stone construction. The house retains all seven aspects of National Register eligibility. The property includes the house, an original stone shed, a non-contributing cinder-block garage, and the lawn.

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
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RESTORATION	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6547/715-4801
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount Street, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919)733-6545/715-4801

We concur with the National Register boundaries for the E. W. and Dollie Huskins House as described and delineated in the survey report.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Properties 5, 8, 9, 10, and 22.

Properties 1-4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18-21, 23-25.

Properties determined not eligible on the 6/20/03 concurrence form.

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.

cc: Mary Pope Furr
Marvin Brown, URS

bc: ✓ Southern/McBride
County



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JUN 2 2004

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

June 2, 2004

Ref. # ER02-11410
"Due Master" to OSA - Due 6/2/04

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

S this Due 6/24

Dear Mr. Brook:

RE: R-2519B, Mitchell & Yancey Counties, Improvements to US 19E from SR 1186 to Existing Multi-Lane Section West of Spruce Pine, State Project # 6.909001T, ER# 02-11410

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

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact me at 715-1620.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Section

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JUN 03 2004

Attachment

Cc (w/ attachment): Brian Kluchar, P.E., Project Engineer, PDEA
John Sullivan III, P.E., Federal Highway Administration

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FINAL REVISED REPORT

**PHASE II
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY
OF US 19E FROM SR 1186
TO EXISTING MULTI-LANE SECTION WEST OF SPRUCE PINE,
MITCHELL AND YANCEY COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA
TIP NO. R-2519B
WORK ORDER NO. 6.909001T**

Prepared For:

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Prepared By:

URS Corporation – North Carolina
1600 Perimeter Park Drive
Morrisville, NC 27560

Marvin A. Brown,
Principal Investigator

May 2004

FINAL REVISED REPORT

**PHASE II
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Marvin A. Brown,
Principal Investigator

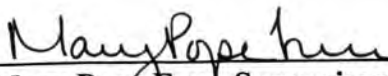
May 2004



5-28-04

Marvin A. Brown, Principal Investigator
URS Corporation-North Carolina

Date



June 2, 2004

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

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improving US 19E from SR 1186 to an existing multi-lane section west of Spruce Pine in Mitchell and Yancey counties (TIP No. R-2519B; Work Order No. 6.909001T; Contract No. A304272). The current cross-section of US 19E within the project area is two lanes. The proposed cross-section is four lanes divided with a raised 20-foot median.

URS Corporation-North Carolina (URS) recommended an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted reconnaissance-level fieldwork within that APE. URS identified 26 individual resources or groups of resources within the APE that appeared to be 50 years old or older. URS presented the results of its initial findings to NCDOT and NCDOT, in turn, presented those results to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) on June 20, 2003. At this meeting, NCDOT and the HPO agreed that six of the 26 resources should be evaluated further: the Howell Family House (#5), Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill (#8), R.L. Young House (#9), Lattie and Nora Young House (#10), E.W. and Dollie Huskins House (#17), and Liberty Hill Baptist Church (#22). NCDOT and the HPO deemed 19 resources—##1-4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-25—to be Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation. The 26th resource, the Micaville Historic District, was determined eligible for National Register listing in 2000 following a survey of a section of US 19E immediately to the west of the current section of the highway (TIP No. R-2519A).

At the request of NCDOT, under the terms of an open-end contract with the Department for historic architectural services, URS commenced further research on the six designated resources. URS conducted intensive-level fieldwork and local research for the project during the week of July 20, 2003. URS subsequently evaluated the National Register eligibility of the six resources in question. Its survey methodology consisted of historical background research into primary and secondary sources, interviews with knowledgeable individuals, site-specific research, and an intensive-level field survey during which 100 percent of the APE was surveyed. This report records the results of the field survey, research, and evaluation.

URS recommends that of the six resources that were further evaluated, one—the E.W. and Dollie Huskins House (#17)—is eligible for listing in the National Register. URS believes that the other five intensively evaluated resources are not National Register-eligible. URS further believes that the Micaville Historic District continues to merit a determination of National Register eligibility. The following summarizes the status and evaluation of all 25 historic architectural resources within the project's APE:

**SUMMARY OF RESOURCES EVALUATED WITHIN THE
AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS**

<u>URS Survey #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Status History</u>
<i>RESOURCES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OR THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE STUDY LIST OR DECLARED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING</i>		
None	Micaville Historic District	Assessed in Section V and at Appendix

RESOURCES RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

17	E.W. and Dollie Huskins House	Assessed in Section V
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RESOURCES RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING

5	Howell Family House	Assessed in Section V
8	Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill	Assessed in Section V
9	R.L. Young House	Assessed in Section V
10	Lattie and Nora Young House	Assessed in Section V
22	Liberty Hill Baptist Church	Assessed in Section V

RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING AND NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER EVALUATION

1-4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18-21, 23-25	Determined Not Eligible 6/20/03—see Section V and concurrence form attached as Appendix
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I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improving US 19E from SR 1186 to an existing multi-lane section west of Spruce Pine in Mitchell and Yancey counties (TIP No. R-2519B; Work Order No. 6.909001T; Contract No. A304272) (Figure 1). The current cross-section of US 19E within the project area is two lanes. The proposed cross-section is four lanes divided with a raised 20-foot median. This report presents the results of a Phase II historic architectural survey of the project area by URS Corporation-North Carolina (URS) for the Federal Highway Administration and the Project Development and Analysis Branch of NCDOT.

URS recommended an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted reconnaissance-level fieldwork within that APE. URS identified 26 resources within the APE that appeared to be 50 years old or older. URS presented the results of its initial findings to NCDOT and NCDOT, in turn, presented those results to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) on June 20, 2003. At this meeting, NCDOT and the HPO agreed that six of the 26 resources should be evaluated further: the Howell Family House (#5), Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill (#8), R.L. Young House (#9), Lattie and Nora Young House (#10), E.W. and Dollie Huskins House (#17), and Liberty Hill Baptist Church (#22). NCDOT and the HPO deemed the 19 resources—##1-4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18-21, and 23-25—to be Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation. The 26th resource, the Micaville Historic District, was determined eligible for National Register listing in 2000 following a survey of a section of US 19E immediately to the west of the current section of the highway (TIP No. R-2519A). (The concurrence documents for this project and TIP No. R-2519A are attached as appendices.)

At the request of NCDOT, under the terms of an open-end contract with the Department for historic architectural services, URS commenced further research on the six designated resources. URS Senior Architectural Historian Marvin A. Brown conducted intensive-level fieldwork and local research for the project during the week of July 20, 2003. Mr. Brown supplemented his local research with research at the North Carolina State Library and Archives. He subsequently evaluated the National Register eligibility of the six resources in question. His survey methodology consisted of historical background research into primary and secondary sources, interviews with knowledgeable individuals, site-specific research, and an intensive-level field survey during which 100 percent of the APE was surveyed. This report records the results of the field survey, research, and evaluation.

An historic architectural survey within the APE associated with the proposed improvements to US 19E Business was necessary for compliance with the basic requirements of: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CFR 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations on the "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800); and NCDOT's "Historic Architectural Resources, Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines." In order to meet the requirements of these laws and regulations, the work plan for the survey included the following items: (1) identification of all resources 50 years old or older within the APE; (2) intensive

evaluation of the six designated resources; (3) general historical research in order to develop historic and architectural contexts for the six resources; and (4) the preparation of a report developed pursuant to the above-referenced laws, regulations, and guidelines.

URS recommends that of the six resources that were further evaluated, one—the E.W. and Dollie Huskins House (#17)—is eligible for listing in the National Register. URS believes that the other five intensively evaluated resources are not National Register-eligible. URS further believes that the Micaville Historic District continues to merit a determination of National Register eligibility.

The Area of Potential Effects or APE is the area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties. The boundaries of the project's APE were recommended by URS and confirmed by NCDOT. They are delineated in this report on the Spruce Pine and Micaville USGS topographical quadrangle maps (Figures 2a and 2b). Due to the nature of the improvements and the project area's terrain, which is mountainous and wooded with limited viewsheds, the APE is limited to those resources that stand on either side of US 19E and a few resources off of the immediate road that overlook the project area.

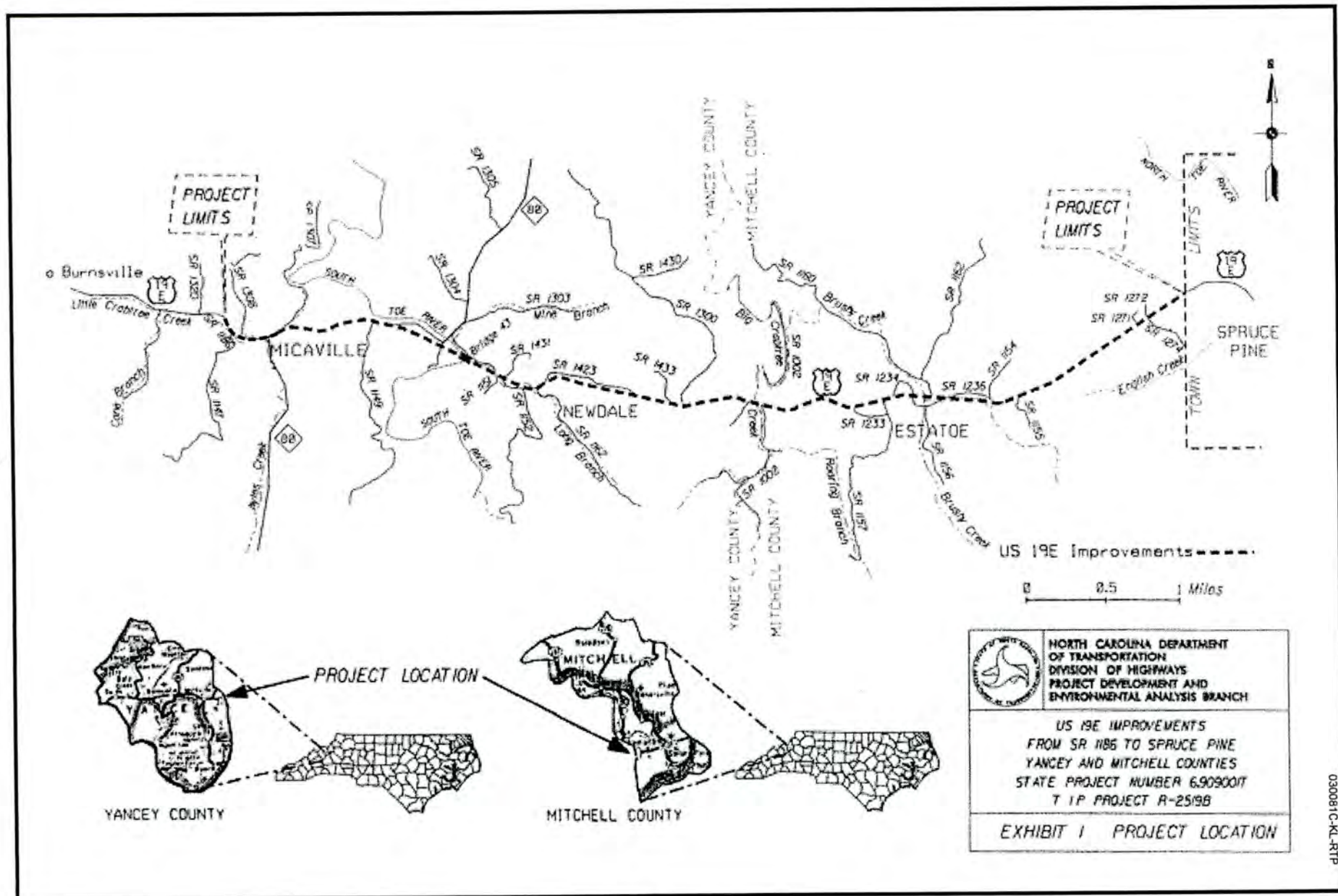
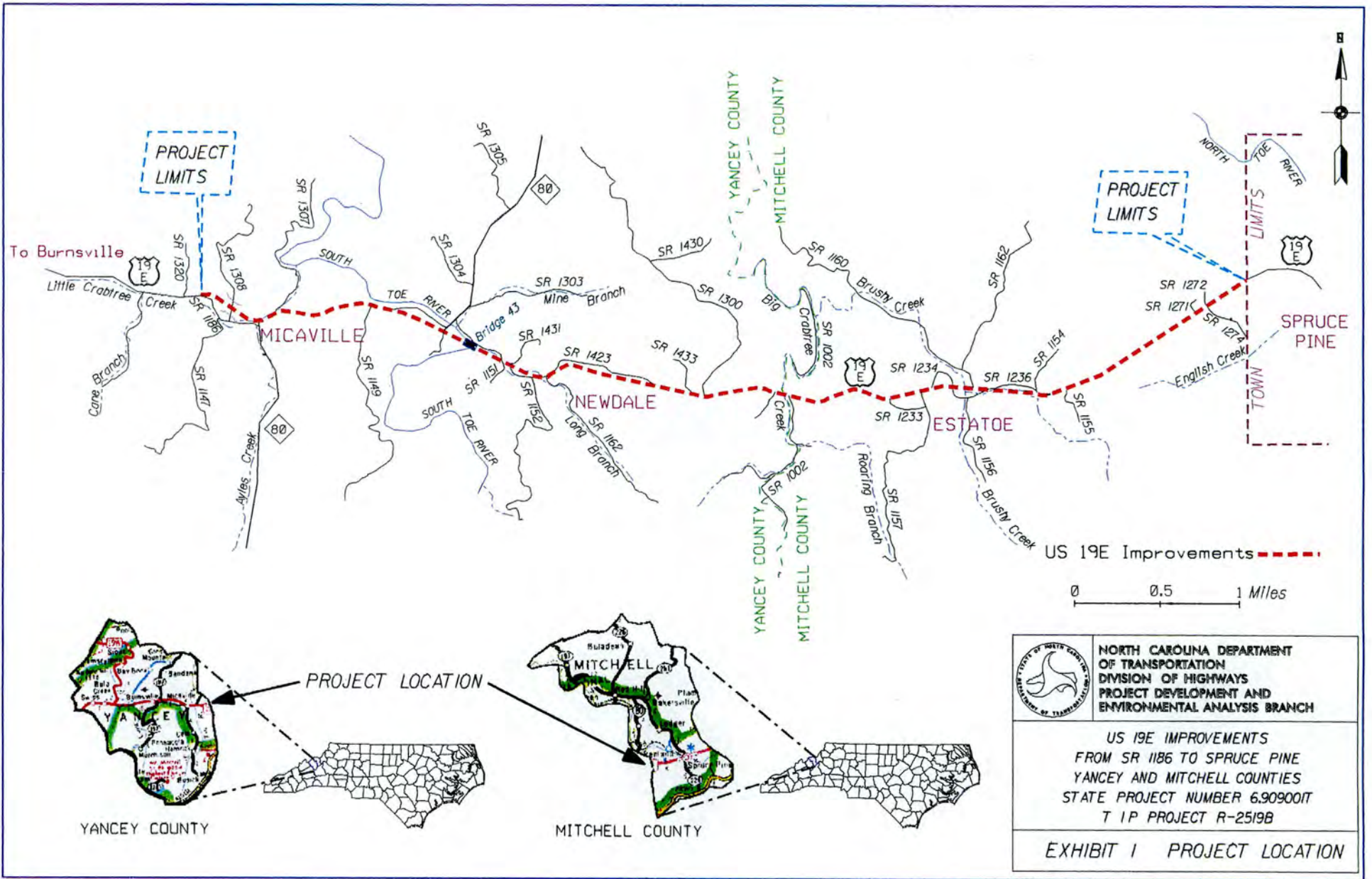


Figure 1: Project Locator Map



	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH</p>
<p>US 19E IMPROVEMENTS FROM SR 1186 TO SPRUCE PINE YANCEY AND MITCHELL COUNTIES STATE PROJECT NUMBER 6.909001T T I P PROJECT R-2519B</p>	
<p>EXHIBIT 1 PROJECT LOCATION</p>	

Area of Potential Effect

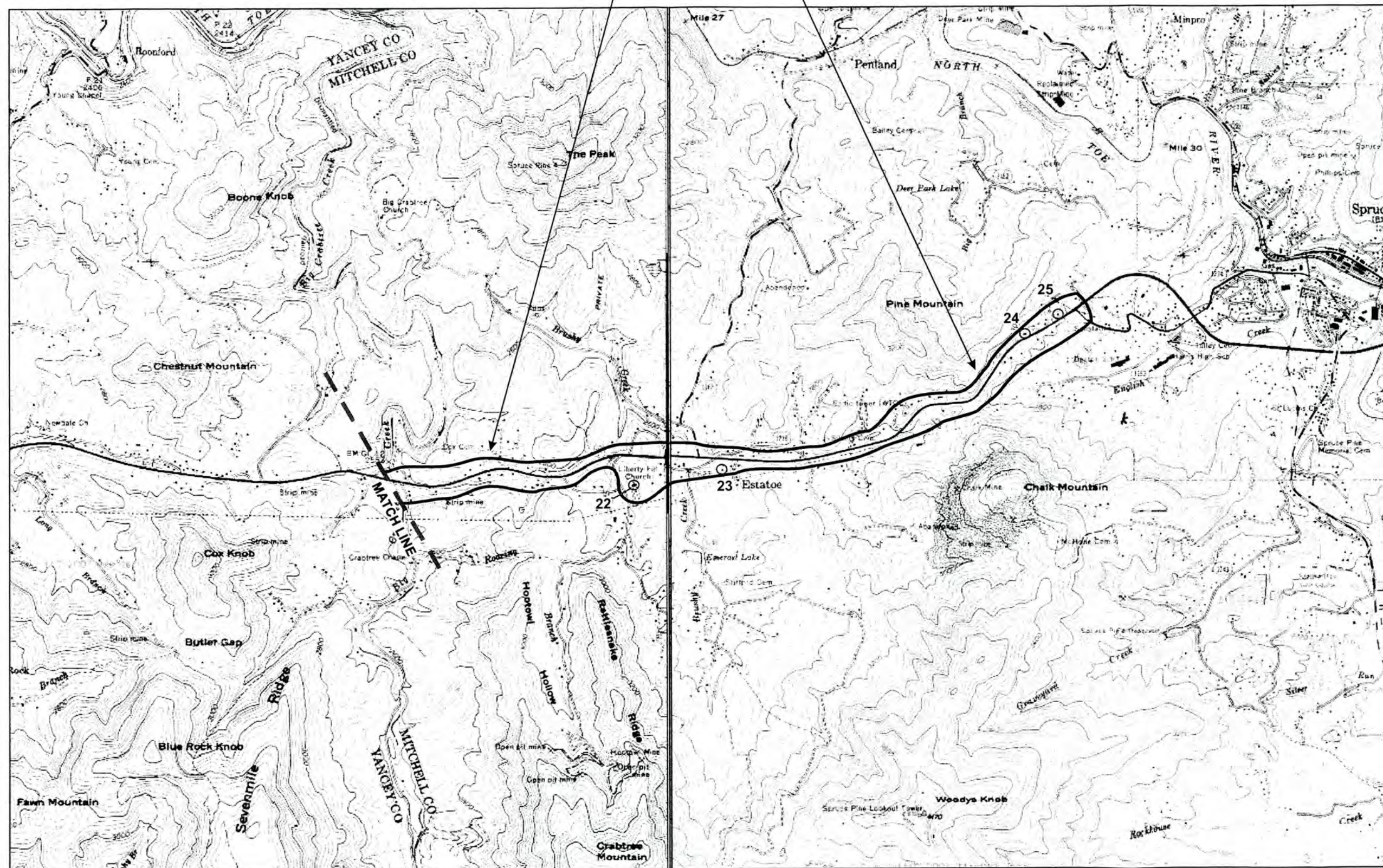


Figure 2A: Area of Potential Effects and Property Inventory Map -- Eastern Section of Project Area
(Source: 1987 Micaville and 1994 Spruce Pine USGS Quadrangle Maps)

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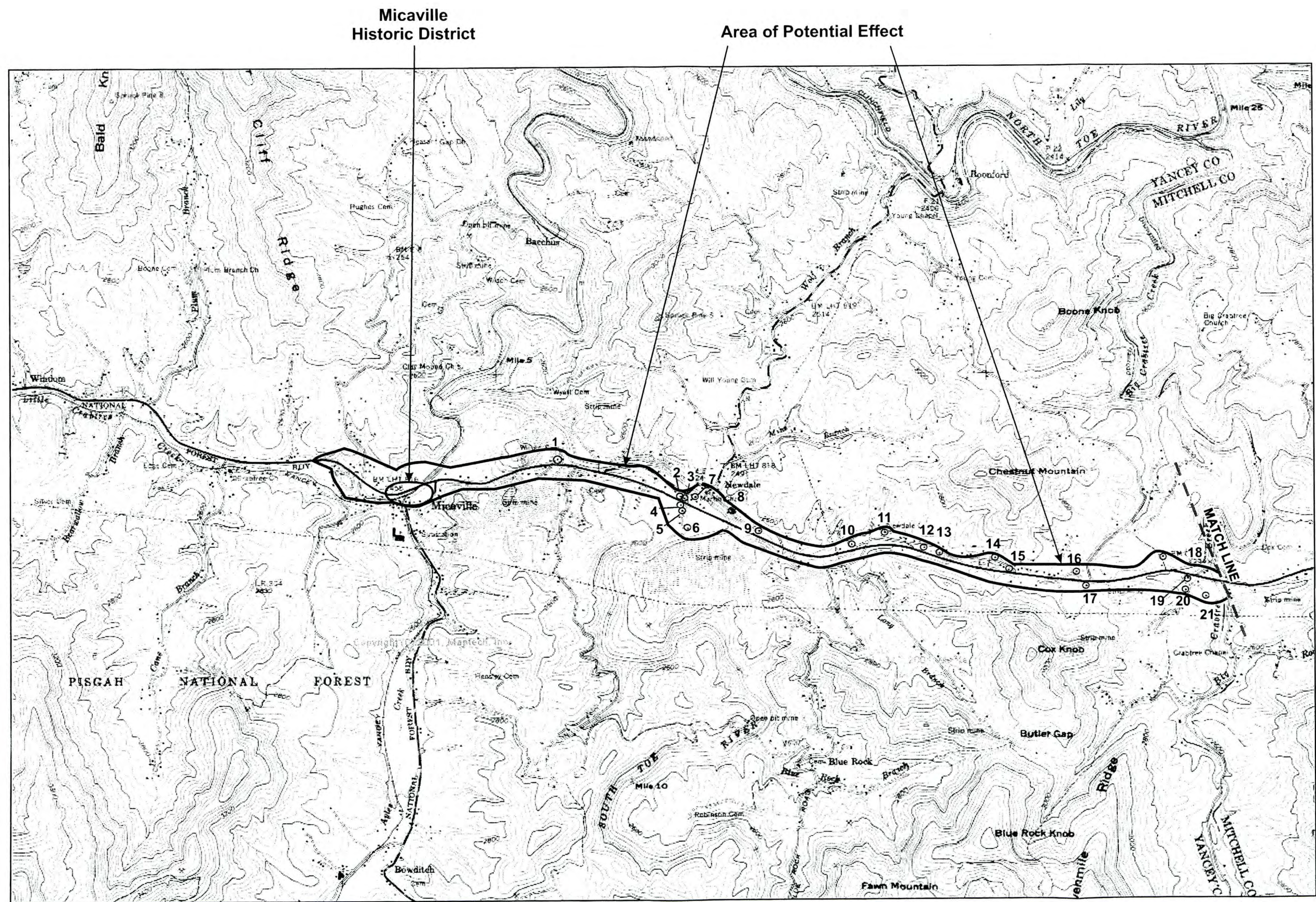


Figure 2B: Area of Potential Effects and Property Inventory Map -- Western Section of Project Area
 (Source: 1987 Micaville USGS Quadrangle Map)

030083C-KL-RTP

II. METHODOLOGY

The survey methodology for this project consisted of historical background research, site-specific research, and field survey of the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Senior Architectural Historian Marvin A. Brown of URS Corporation-North Carolina completed the fieldwork and research.

The main sources of information for the project were the deed, tax, birth, marriage, and death records held at the Yancey County Courthouse in Burnsville and the collections located at the Yancey County Public Library in Burnsville, branches of the Mitchell County Public Library in Bakersville and Spruce Pine, and the State Library of North Carolina in Raleigh. Also of assistance were personal communications with residents of the APE and the Phase II survey report prepared by The Jaeger Company (2000) for an associated US 19E improvement project (TIP No. R-2519A).

The purpose of the research and intensive-level field survey was to understand the historical and architectural contexts of the APE and the six intensively inventoried resources within it. Such knowledge was critical in determining which resources within the APE were believed to be eligible, or ineligible, for listing in the National Register.

As part of the first phase of the fieldwork, Mr. Brown identified 26 resources within the APE that were 50 years old or older. As part of the second phase of fieldwork, Mr. Brown inventoried six resources that the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office had identified as requiring intensive level evaluation. He also drafted contexts for the inventoried resources. The final product of the work effort and evaluation is this report.

III. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

US 19 East

The earliest history of the road between Burnsville and Spruce Pine, which was to roughly serve as the path for much of the current alignment of US 19E, is not known. However, when Issac English bought an inn in Spruce Pine after the Civil War, there was already a road connecting the two communities. A 1931 article by Muriel Earley Sheppard noted that the English Inn stood at the junction of the north-south Marion-Bakersville Road and the east-west Burnsville-Cranberry Road. This latter road would have extended east from Burnsville to Spruce Pine and then northeast, largely along the North Toe River, to Cranberry in neighboring Avery County (Bailey 1994:23-24; Bishir, Southern, and Martin 1999:234).

From Newdale west to the edge of Micaville within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), and then farther west to Burnsville, the route of US 19E generally followed Little Crabtree Creek, as it does today. From Newdale to the east, it also likely followed the terrain, as does the current road. It passed across Crabtree Creek at the county line and east through the community of Estatoe, before running between Pine Mountain and Chalk Mountain into Spruce Pine. While its general outline can be discerned, the route's precise course has certainly shifted over the years. An account (Bailey 1994:21) of the road between Micaville and Burnsville west of the APE indicates that part of the old route—different in its exact location from the current road—survived into the twentieth century:

The main road, if there was a road other than a trail, followed the streams, rivers or creeks but sometimes had to veer away slightly for better footing. The road in this instance ran from the present site of Micaville around the side of the hill which now holds the railroad, then turned up and over the hill to the right, then left again through a gap in the hills and on toward Burnsville. There are a few people still living today [ca.1994] who remember.

The current path of the route between Micaville and Spruce Pine is flanked in numerous sections by narrower and less straight, but generally parallel, sections of the predecessor of the current US 19E. These earlier stretches of the road are sometimes labeled Old US 19E and sometimes carry more newly assigned names. There appears to be only one resource within the APE—the R.L. Young House (#9)—that predates the early twentieth century. The sections of old US 19E parallel to the APE also appear to hold resources that date exclusively from the twentieth century. The lack of early resources within the APE is an indication of the limited population of the area prior to 1900.

Spruce Pine, which is located east of the APE, is the largest town in the Toe River Valley. It was named for a large Carolina hemlock, locally called a Spruce Pine, that was located near Issac English's tavern (Powell 1968:471). The history and development of the 2,000-person town have been succinctly summarized as follows: "Although a 19th-c. settlement gathered here around the English Inn on the south side of the North Toe River, the town, the largest in the county, is an industrial community born of the 1903 arrival of the Clinchfield Railroad and raised on mica, feldspar, and kaolin mined and processed in the vicinity." Or, as Muriel Earley Sheppard (1935:131) put it even more succinctly: linked to the world by a daily train, Spruce Pine by 1915 was a "real village" (Bailey 1994:56).

Flowing through Spruce Pine is the North Toe River, the largest tributary of the Nolichucky River. The South Toe River separates from the North Toe at Kona in Yancey County, a few miles north of Micaville and Newdale. It flows through Newdale, within the APE, occasionally with disastrous results: it flooded the community in January 1927. The North Toe has also flooded extensively over the years, most notably in Spruce Pine (Tennessee Valley Authority 1963:10, 55).

There was a small community in Newdale by 1897, when the South Toe Presbyterian Church was established. In 1898 a post office opened under the name of Newdale. The Presbyterian church, then under construction, changed its name to the Newdale Presbyterian Church. The current church building (#6), built in 1947, retains that name, as does the community (Bailey 1994:56).

Micaville, west of the APE, was established near the close of the nineteenth century as a center for the mica mining industry. In the early twentieth century, it became central to the feldspar as well as the mica mining, and processing, industry. When a tiny spur rail line—the Black Mountain Railway—came to the community in 1910-1911, it added the shipment of minerals and timber products to its economic résumé. The community prospered into the early 1960s, when its timber and mining industries declined. In 2000 Micaville's small historic center was declared eligible for National Register listing (The Jaeger Company 2000).

Current Physical Environment

The current course of US 19E within the APE is characterized by valleys and steep hills, woods and some cleared fields, and modest early, mid, and late twentieth-century residential and, to a lesser extent, non-residential buildings. The Spruce Pine and Micaville USGS quadrangle maps indicate the presence of strip mines within and adjacent to the APE. During a green summer, these are effectively invisible from the road.

Within Mitchell County at the eastern end of the APE, the terrain rises steeply to either side of US 19E as it approaches the outskirts of Spruce Pine. The residential resources there—modest structures that range in date from the 1920s to the late twentieth century—are set on slopes above the road with woods rising behind them (Plates 1 and 2). Further west, in the community of Estatoe, the valley widens (Plate 3). Open fields and stands of trees intermingle there. The houses and non-residential resources in the Estatoe area are almost all less than 50 years old (Plate 4). West of Estatoe, US 19E passes over Big Crabtree Creek and enters Yancey County (Plate 5). From the creek west to the crossroads community of Newdale, residences dating from the early to late twentieth century are interspersed along the road and parallel sections of the early path of 19E (Plate 6). The resources standing on the parallel earlier portions of the road are largely hidden by trees (Plates 7 and 8). Just east of Newdale, an earlier section of the road is further separated from the current road by a tributary of the North Toe River (Plates 9 and 10). Near the river, the valley opens to the south (Plate 11). At the Newdale crossroads, small early and mid twentieth-century residences stand adjacent to middle and late twentieth-century residential and non-residential buildings (Plate 12). Virtually all of the resources set along US 19E in the valley to the west of Newdale and the east of Micaville within the APE date from the past 50 years.



Plate 1: House (#25) at east end of APE, looking northeast



Plate 2: House (#24) at east end of APE, looking northwest



Plate 3: Looking northeast from Liberty Hill Baptist Church (#22) toward US 19E and Estatoe



Plate 4: Looking southwest from US 19E and Estatoe toward Liberty Hill Baptist Church (#22)



Plate 5: Looking northwest along US 19E at Big Crabtree Creek/Yancey-Mitchell county line



Plate 6: Looking south from US 19E toward House (#19), at left, and House (#20), at center



Plate 7: Looking north at rear of House (#13), which fronts on Newdale Church Road



Plate 8: Looking west from Lattie and Nora Young House (#10)—US 19E at right, Newdale Church Road (old NC 19E) at left

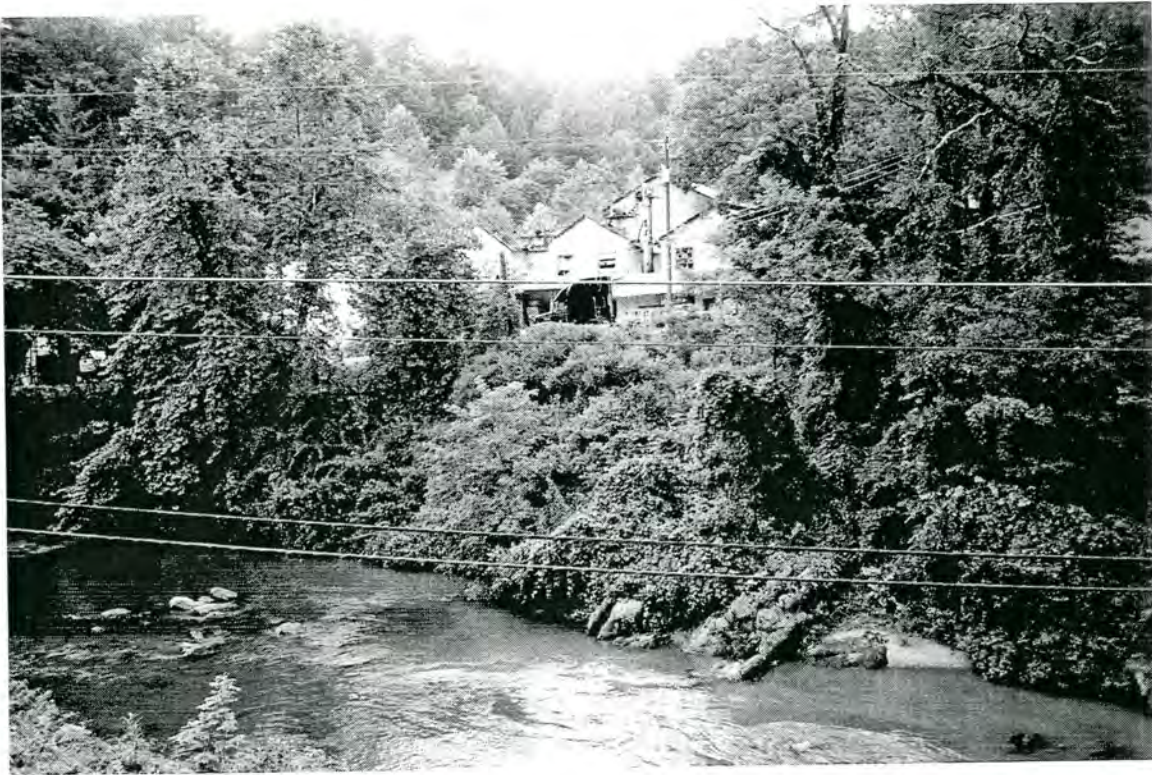


Plate 9: Looking northwest from US 19E across branch of North Toe River toward Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill (#8)



Plate 10: Looking southeast, from Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill (#8), across Deneen Road (old US 19E), toward current US 19E



Plate 11: Looking southeast from eastern end of Newdale toward US 19E



Plate 12: Looking northeast at Newdale crossroads across US 19E toward Newdale Presbyterian Church (#6)

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The Political and Agricultural Growth of the Toe River Valley—1777 to 1865

Present-day Yancey and Mitchell counties are part of the Toe River Valley, a region of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northwestern North Carolina that also encompasses Avery County. In 1777 the state legislature formed Burke County, the expansive boundaries of which included the entire valley. With the end of the Revolutionary War, settlement in the sparsely populated valley began to rapidly increase. Perhaps 80 families or 300 persons lived there in 1790, primarily in areas that were to become Yancey and Mitchell counties. The population growth, and the difficulty of traveling to the Burke County seat of Morganton, led to the 1791 formation of Buncombe County, which divided the Toe River Valley between two legal entities (Bailey 1994:4).

The newly formed Buncombe County took in present Yancey County west of Micaville, while Burke County retained all of present Mitchell County and the remainder of Yancey. Therefore, the 1791 division did not affect the lands within the project area, which remained entirely in Burke. Growth continued apace in the Toe River Valley during the first third of the nineteenth century, far outstripping any limited improvements to its rudimentary transportation network. By 1827 the twin forces of population growth and poor roads led citizens of the valley to petition for the formation of a new county out of portions of Burke and Buncombe. The petition captured the curious conflux of isolation and growth. It stated that “owing to the remoteness of their residences from either Burke or Buncombe courts, and the lofty and almost impervious mountains by which they are surrounded, we have long suffered a degree of inconvenience and hardship, and we form a hope that the period is not too far distant when from increase of population and width” the legislature would afford the valley’s citizens the same rights as others and form the proposed new county (Bailey 1994:4). According to the petitioners, the new county, though isolated, contained a substantial “population of six thousand souls and a reasonable shear [sic] of wealth” (Bailey 1994:4). In 1833 the state legislature established the new county of Yancey, with Burnsville as its seat.

Yancey County was initially quite large, encompassing all of present Yancey and Avery counties, along with most of Mitchell and parts of Madison and Watauga counties as well. Its size and mountainous terrain led to its repeated division over the next eight decades. The most important division, for the scope of this project, was the creation of Mitchell County in 1861 from parts of Yancey, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, and McDowell counties. This once again, and finally, split the Toe River Valley between two counties (Bailey 1994:5). Burnsville remained the seat of Yancey County and the newly established town of Bakersville became Mitchell County’s seat.

Most North Carolina county formation generally revolved around population growth, transportation, and sectionalism. (Due to concerns of balancing eastern and western counties, it took the state legislature six years to agree to establish Yancey County.) The formation of Mitchell County, however, sprang from the struggle in North Carolina over secession. Only 346 of Yancey County’s residents in 1850 were slaves. This small number of slaves was concentrated in the southern part of the county: the new Mitchell County had only about 65 slaves when it was created at the onset of the Civil War. Most slave holdings were small, limited

to one or two individuals. Political conflicts in Yancey County over slavery and secession and the issues that swirled about them led to the new county's formation (Yancey Historical Association 1993:155).

It was only due to growth between 1840 and 1860 in the southern part of Burke County—primarily in present-day Yancey rather than Mitchell County—that the Toe River Valley had any appreciable number of slaves at all. This growth was strongly connected to improvements in the county's transportation network. About 1840 a road was built from Burnsville to the crest of the Blue Ridge, connecting the county seat and its hinterlands with the markets of the Piedmont. A decade later the McDowell and Yancey Turnpike Company and the Laurel Turnpike Company added to the local improved road network (Sheppard 1935:43). Slaves were brought in by a small number of Toe River Valley farmers to work fields of grain on river valley farms and, most importantly, to tend to increasing numbers of livestock (Yancey Historical Association 1993:43).

Increased yields in field crops and livestock, which were raised and sold in droves, were particularly striking in the Toe River Valley between 1840 and 1850. During the decade, the number of cattle almost doubled, to over 10,000. Sheep numbers increased fourfold, to over 20,000. The nearly 20,000 pounds of wool these sheep produced in 1850 was an increase of nearly 700% over the preceding decade. The importance of burley tobacco also began to be felt, as poundage of the leaf increased from under 5,000 to over 12,000. The only declines in principal crops were the fall, in relative terms, of the staples of corn and potatoes. Corn production, though still tremendous, dropped almost a third to 285,000 bushels. Potatoes plummeted from 89,000 bushels to less than 13,000. All of these goods moved out of the valley on roads old and new (Sheppard 1935:41-43).

Railroads and Mineral Wealth in the Toe River Valley—1866-1929

A newly tapped resource—minerals—and a new mode of transportation—the railroad—diversified the Toe River Valley's economy during the last third of the nineteenth century. Native Americans had long mined mica in North Carolina. One of the best developed of these early mining sites was the Sink Mine near Bakersville in Mitchell County. In Mitchell and Yancey counties at the close of the Civil War, modern mica mining began in North Carolina (Stuckey 1965:416-419). By 1870 Yancey County had eight operating mica mines and in Mitchell County operations had begun again at the prehistoric Sink Mine. These early mines produced sheet mica, which was used in stoves and lamps and for glazing. Other minerals mined in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the Toe River Valley included feldspar or, simply, spar; ceramic-quality clay, such as kaolin; quartz; and gemstones, such as emeralds, aquamarines, and sapphires. The most important of these were the pegmatite minerals, primarily feldspar, mica, quartz, and high quality clay. (According to Sheppard (1935:111), "Mica has been the fairy godmother of Mitchell County.") Within the project area, mica was mined and processed, as perhaps were feldspar and other minerals (Bailey 1994:40-42).

Late nineteenth-century census records captured the growth of the mining industry in the Toe River Valley and hinted at how it would begin to open the valley up to outsiders. Only three Mitchell County men listed themselves as miners in the 1870 census. Ten years later 81 individuals listed themselves as mica miners, or simply miners, or mine overseers. The workers ranged in age from 12 to 57 and included natives and flatlanders, African Americans, and even a few Russians (Bailey 194:20). The presence of Russians in the Toe River Valley in the late

nineteenth century was quite unusual as, to a lesser extent, was that of blacks. In 1890 only about four percent of Mitchell County's residents were black. African-American presence in Yancey County was even smaller. Its 293 black residents comprised only three percent of the county's total population (State Board of Agriculture 1896:367-368, 412-413).

Until late in the nineteenth century, small pieces of mica and all feldspar wrested from local mines were tossed on scrap heaps. Only sheet mica was considered worth the effort and expense of mining, and shipping, from the Blue Ridge heights of the Toe River Valley. The coming to the valley of a rail line—the Clinchfield Railroad—allowed local entrepreneurs and outside interests to mine and process a wider range of mineral products. With financial difficulties, reorganizations, and the general upheaval in the railroad industry in the late nineteenth century, the Clinchfield Railroad was “a long time coming” (Bailey 1994:18). In 1886 the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago (CCC) Railroad was chartered to lay a 600-mile line between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. When the CCC went bankrupt seven years later and was broken into disconnected pieces, it had yet to set a rail in the Toe River Valley. Construction by different companies continued fitfully on different portions of the line until finally, in 1903, the South and Western Railway reached Spruce Pine. Two years later, two trains a day were traveling each way through the valley and over the Blue Ridge between Spruce Pine and Johnson City, Tennessee. In 1908 separate railroad charters were combined into a line renamed the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway. This line in turn was renamed the Clinchfield Railroad in 1924, a name it retained until it merged with CSX Transportation in 1992 (Sheppard 1935:122; Bailey 1994:18).

With rail service, miners revisited the waste dumps outside of the sheet mica mines. They shipped bits of mica and feldspar out of the valley to be ground into powder for a variety of industrial and domestic uses. (Ground mica was used for numerous products, from automobile tires and paint to wallpaper and board. Ground feldspar helped form porcelain for bathroom fixtures, and abrasives such as Bon Ami powder that were used to clean those fixtures.) Soon the miners and entrepreneurs began to dig new mines and establish local grinding mills (Bailey 1994:41-42; Yancey History Association 193:131; Sheppard 1935:111).

By 1917 North Carolina led the country in the production of feldspar, with most of the mineral coming from the Spruce Pine District, a mining region that encompassed Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties. The rise was phenomenal, for the mining of feldspar had only begun in the district six years earlier. In 1962 North Carolina accounted for 50 percent of the nation's feldspar, with nine-tenths coming from the Spruce Pine District. Also in 1962 North Carolina was producing 60 percent of the country's sheet mica. Three quarters of all of the mica produced in the state in that year came from the Spruce Pine District (Stuckey 1965:385, 417-424).

Mines active and inactive, visible and overgrown, continue to dot the mountainsides above the project area, particularly just to its east in and around Spruce Pine. Evidence remains of one mining and processing operation that was active within the project's area of potential effects. The Deneen Mica Company (#8) at Newdale—discussed separately below—was established in the early 1950s and operated until 1998.

Mining was a dangerous occupation, which may be why its work force included some of the valley's small number of African Americans and outsiders such the Russians of 1880. The vast majority of mining, however, was done by local residents who faced similar dangers. In 1936 Ralph Young, son of the builders of the Lattie and Nora Young House (see resource #10, below),

died in a mica mining accident. In the 45 minutes it took to dig him out from a cave-in, he was asphyxiated. He was 17 years old (Yancey County Death Certificate Book 21, Page 62).

Farms, Mines, and Tourists in the Toe River Valley—1930 to the Present

In 1930, in spite of expansion of the mining industry, farming remained central to the economy and life of the Toe River Valley. In that year about a third of Yancey County's rugged terrain, or 60,000 acres, was improved farmland. Another 30,000 was national forest reserves and 100,000 acres uncut or second-growth, or later, forest. The average farm size was modest—64.8 acres—but sufficient to meet the needs of most residents. Corn, as it likely always had been, was the most valuable crop. Potatoes and apples were also raised, along with chickens and eggs. While most farms may have had a cow for milk, the county had only a single dairy farm. Most agricultural trade was conducted with Asheville and with Johnson City and Greeneville in Tennessee. To these centers farmers shipped burley tobacco, apples, corn, and an assortment of vegetables. They also sold, as they had historically, cattle, sheep, and hogs. Some goods were shipped by the railroad but, by 1930, the most important means of importing and exporting products was the truck (Teacher Training Class of Burnsville 1930:23). The prominence of trucking indicated a great change in the road system of Yancey County in a decade. According to one report, the county had only 12 automobiles in 1920 and 500,000 pounds of apples rotted on the ground because there was no good way to get them to market (Sharpe 1961:1648).

In 1940 about one third of Mitchell county's workforce labored in mines or mineral plants, while perhaps only ten percent were full-time farmers. Farming still held the strongest grip on the county, however, as two-thirds of the workforce considered themselves at least part-time farmers. A statistically questionable, but nonetheless informative, snapshot was taken of the county in 1939-1940. On one day during that school year, ten percent of the county's school children—a reported 494 pupils—were surveyed about their home life. Well over half (228) reported that their parents were farmers. Reflecting the slow climb out of the Depression, 81 said their parents were employed by the Works Progress Administration. The 52 reported miners placed third on the list of occupations. With gem cutters, clay plant workers, and a feldspar mill operator, the numbers associated with mining increased to 57 (County Board of Education 1940:52-54).

The survey also caught a glimpse of the nature of Mitchell County's houses and their amenities. Framed houses were home to 435 children and 48 children lived in more cheaply constructed boxed houses. Only 11 lived in brick, log, or bark-covered frame houses. Screens filled the windows of 342 houses, but only 52 houses had indoor toilets. Another 365 houses had outdoor toilets, while 77 had "no toilet at all." Electric lights illuminated 155 homes. Of these houses, 144 had electric irons, 91 washing machines, and 73 refrigerators. Most homes, however—339 of the tally—still relied upon kerosene lamps as a principal or supplementary source of light (County Board of Education 1940:52-54).

On a more personal level, James C. Byrd—who was born in the Bee Branch community in 1941—described life in the northeastern section of Yancey County in the 1940s and 1950s. He recalled the Rural Electrification Administration bringing power to his community in 1948 (Bailey 1994:12):

Truly, we came out of the darkness into the light! We began to enjoy the conveniences of electrical power. An electric wringer washer was purchased along with an electric iron. It was much later that a refrigerator was bought. We had an abundance of spring water, and kept milk and other food cold in the spring house.

His comments on farming, not just those on electricity and its benefits, mirrored the impressionistic findings of the 1940 report. They also connected principal elements of the local diet in the 1940s and 1950s—corn, potatoes, livestock and its products—with that of antebellum Yancey County. He wrote (Bailey 1994:13):

In every sense of the word, we were farmers and were rather self-sufficient. As with the neighboring families, we produced most of our food. The garden provided vegetables. We grew Irish and sweet potatoes, and corn was taken to one of the nearby mills for grinding into meal. The hogs provided meat, and we always had milk from the cows that we owned. The chickens roamed freely and often we had one for Sunday dinner. Eggs were always a part of breakfast. Also, we had a large allotment for growing Burley tobacco.

He continued by describing the loss of traditional rural ways in the late twentieth century:

Things have changed so much since I left home. It was rare for a family not to have at least one cow as a source of milk. Now as far as I know, there is not a milk cow in the entire neighborhood.

Modern conveniences, such as those described by Byrd, and improved roads brought a greater variety of industries into the Toe River Valley after 1930. The roads also brought tourists and seasonal residents. By the early 1960s, tourists and “summer people” were contributing to the economy of the valley (Sharpe 1961:1652). They continue to visit Yancey and Mitchell counties in droves, often via the Blue Ridge Parkway that passes through and helps economically support the counties and their pieces of the Valley.

V. PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Resources Determined Eligible for National Register Listing

MICAVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80 Micaville, Yancey County

The Jaeger Company in 1999 inventoried the community of Micaville. In 2000 Jaeger assessed it, with other resources, in its *Phase II Intensive Level Historic Resources Survey Report and Evaluations of Eligibility for the Widening of US 19E from SR 1336 to SR 1186 with a Proposed Extension from SR 1186 to NC 80, Yancey County, North Carolina* (TIP No. R-2519A. State Project No. 6.909001T). In that report, Jaeger recommended that a portion of the community was eligible for National Register listing as the Micaville Historic District. Following review of the report, the North Carolina HPO—in a letter to NCDOT dated June 9, 2000—concurred that the Micaville Historic District was eligible for National Register listing under Criteria A, for Community Planning and Development and for Commerce, and under Criterion C for Architecture. (The report's evaluation, photographs, and proposed boundary map of the historic district, along with the HPO's concurrence letter, are appended to this report.) As part of the current inventory, the historic district was field viewed and found to continue to retain its integrity and significance and therefore to continue to merit National Register eligibility.

Resources Recommended Eligible for National Register Listing

E.W. AND DOLLIE HUSKINS HOUSE (#17)

South side of US 19E opposite Arbuckle Road Newdale vicinity, Yancey County

History

Alternate dates are suggested for the construction of this stone house. According to one of its occupants, it was erected around the time of World War I by a family in the lumber business (Letterman 2003). Deed records suggest it may have been constructed about 1930 and a modern tax card states it was built in 1934. The deed record, coupled with the tax card date and physical evidence, suggest that the house was likely built in the early 1930s by E.W. and Dollie B. Huskins.

In 1930 the Huskins purchased a 46.5-acre tract of land from Anna and D.M. Glenn, Jr. (Yancey County Deed Book 68, Page 291). According to the deed, neither couple was living in Yancey County at the time. The Huskins were residents of McDowell County, while the Glenns resided in Mitchell County. The Glenns, along with James D. Glenn, had acquired a half interest in a larger parcel that included the 46.5-acre tract in 1919 from Delia and D.M. Glenn, Sr. (Yancey County Deed Book 56, Page 50). None of those parties lived in Yancey County at the time either. As Anna and D.M. Glenn did not live in Yancey County at the time of the purchase or sale of the property, and as the house appears to date from between about 1925 and 1935, it is likely that it was built by the Huskins after they purchased the property in 1930 and moved to Yancey County.

A large number of Huskins family members, apparently heirs of E.W. and Dollie, transferred the property in the mid 1990s to its current owners, Troy and Faye Huskins and Will and Frances B. Huskins (Yancey County Deed Book 252, Page 605 (1993) and Book 253, Page 555 (1994)). The transfer encompassed 46.5 acres, minus one acre excepted from the deed. Current tax information puts the size of the property at 45.35 acres.

Description

The Huskins House faces US 19E across a well-groomed, open front yard. The grassy yard extends to its sides and a short distance to its rear as well, punctuated, around the house, by boxwoods or similar shrubs trimmed in large ovals. To the rear of its yard, which holds two domestic outbuildings, are three deteriorated, vacant, agricultural outbuildings set off from the domestic yard by a fence and heavy overgrowth. To their rear open former fields that extend to the south before the land rises steeply in woods towards Cox Knob (Figure 3).

The house [A] is a rectangular gable-front structure that is three bays wide and three bays deep (Plates 13 through 16). Its finish and size are modest: a single-story tall with an attic, the house is only 30 feet wide and 40 deep. Centered at its north front elevation is the principal entry, which is flanked on either side by paired windows. These windows and all of the other windows of the house—including the full-sized windows in the peaks of the front and rear gables, hold Craftsman-style double-hung sash. The upper sash contains four long lights, the lower a single pane. An attached hip-roofed porch shades the three front bays. In Craftsman style, it has four tall piers, rising above the level of the wooden porch floor, that support thin wooden posts. One further Craftsman-style feature, three open triangular knee-braces, marks the front elevation.

The house's east side elevation has a paired window at its center, an exterior-end stone chimney stack towards its front, and an interior stone chimney stack rising near its rear. The west side elevation is more plainly finished, with three single windows and, towards its front, an interior stone chimney stack. An altered, vertical-board-sided, shed-roofed porch crosses most of the south rear elevation. Three knee-braces, like those of the front, edge this elevation.

The most striking feature of the house is its stone construction. It is formed of dressed, black and dark gray, local fieldstone. The stone is cut in large, thick, irregularly shaped sheets framed by smaller roughly rectangular stones. Thick concrete mortar joints, patched in spots, hold the stone.

Access to the house was not given, but the occupant said its walls, floors, and ceilings are all of wood (Letterman 2003). A view from the front door into the front room revealed original narrow board floors, walls, and ceiling.

An original domestic shed [B], in fair condition, stands just to the southwest rear of the house (Plate 17). Constructed of the same stone as the dwelling, it has a flat parapet roof pierced by a tiny stone chimney stack. To the southeast rear of the house stands a deteriorated, later-constructed, two-story, two-bay, gable-front, cinder-block garage [C] (Plate 18). Three former agriculture outbuildings stand to the south rear of the house, shed, garage, and yard. A wire and metal fence separates them from these domestic portions of the property. The three are a slat-sided, gable-front, corncrib/shed [D], in poor condition, to the southwest of the garage; a small, weatherboarded, gambrel-roofed barn [E], also in poor condition, to the southwest of the crib; and, to the southwest of the stone shed, a ruinous frame outbuilding [F] largely reduced to a seam-metal roof and rafters on the ground (Plates 19 and 20).

Evaluation

The little-altered E.W. and Dollie Huskins House is believed to be National Register-eligible under Criterion C for its Craftsman-style architecture and local stone construction. It retains all seven aspects of National Register integrity in support of its architectural eligibility. The house meets the criteria for National Register listing for Craftsman-style bungalows suggested in a report on an associated project that connects directly with the western end of the current project area (TIP No. R-2519A) (The Jaeger Company 2000:19). Its use of local stone bolsters its architectural significance. In the heart of the mica and feldspar mining region of Yancey and Mitchell counties between Burnsville and Spruce Pine, there are a small number of non-residential buildings of native stone, but perhaps only two other native stone residences, both in the town of Spruce Pine (Bishir, Southern, and Martin 1999:234-235). The house is not believed to be National Register-eligible under any other Criteria. It has no known historical significance and is not known to be associated with a significant individual. It is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criteria A or B. Nearby structures along US 19E were built throughout the twentieth century and comprise no distinguishable entity. The house is therefore not believed to be eligible for National Register as part of a historic district under Criterion C. On the basis of its standing components—archaeology is not addressed in this report—the house is not likely to yield information not otherwise readily available. It is therefore also not believed to be Register-eligible under Criteria D.

Boundaries

The E.W. and Dollie Huskins House occupies a 43.35-acre lot. Most of this parcel, now in grown-up fields and second- or third-growth woods, was once devoted to agriculture and, likely, timbering. Only a small portion of the parcel is associated with the significant architectural features and domestic features of the house. This portion contains the house, the original stone shed, the non-contributing cinder-block garage, and the neatly mown lawn. The recommended National Register boundaries are drawn to include these features and to exclude the overgrown and deteriorated agricultural outbuildings separated by a fence to their rear, as well as the larger expanse of open land and woods that climb behind the house to the south. The recommended boundaries are specifically defined as follows. On the north the boundary is the edge of the highway department right-of-way on the south side of US 19E. On the west the boundary is part of the entire parcel's western boundary, which follows a narrow watercourse. On the south the boundary is the fence that separates the domestic portions of the property from the agricultural outbuildings. On the east the boundary follows the maintained edge of yard that frames the house and its two associated domestic buildings. The boundaries encompass a less than two-acre parcel (Figure 4).

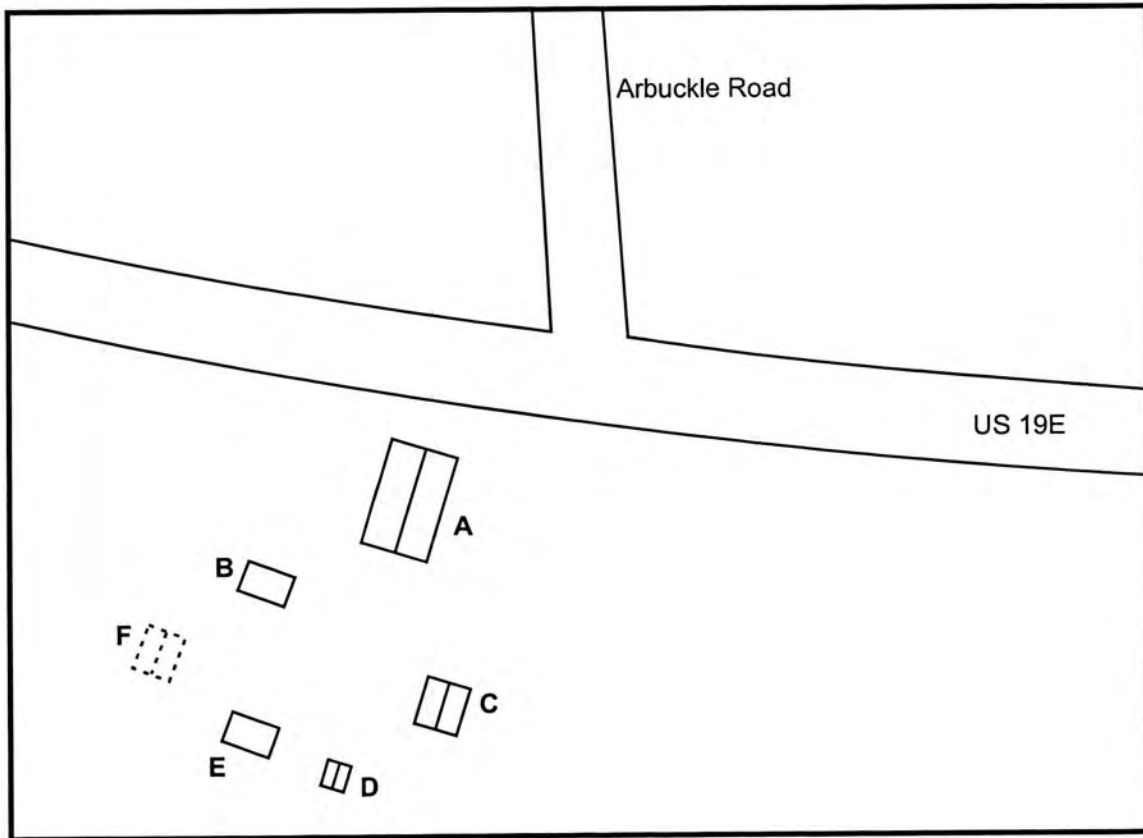


Figure 3: W.W. and Dollie Huskins House Sketch Map (not to scale)

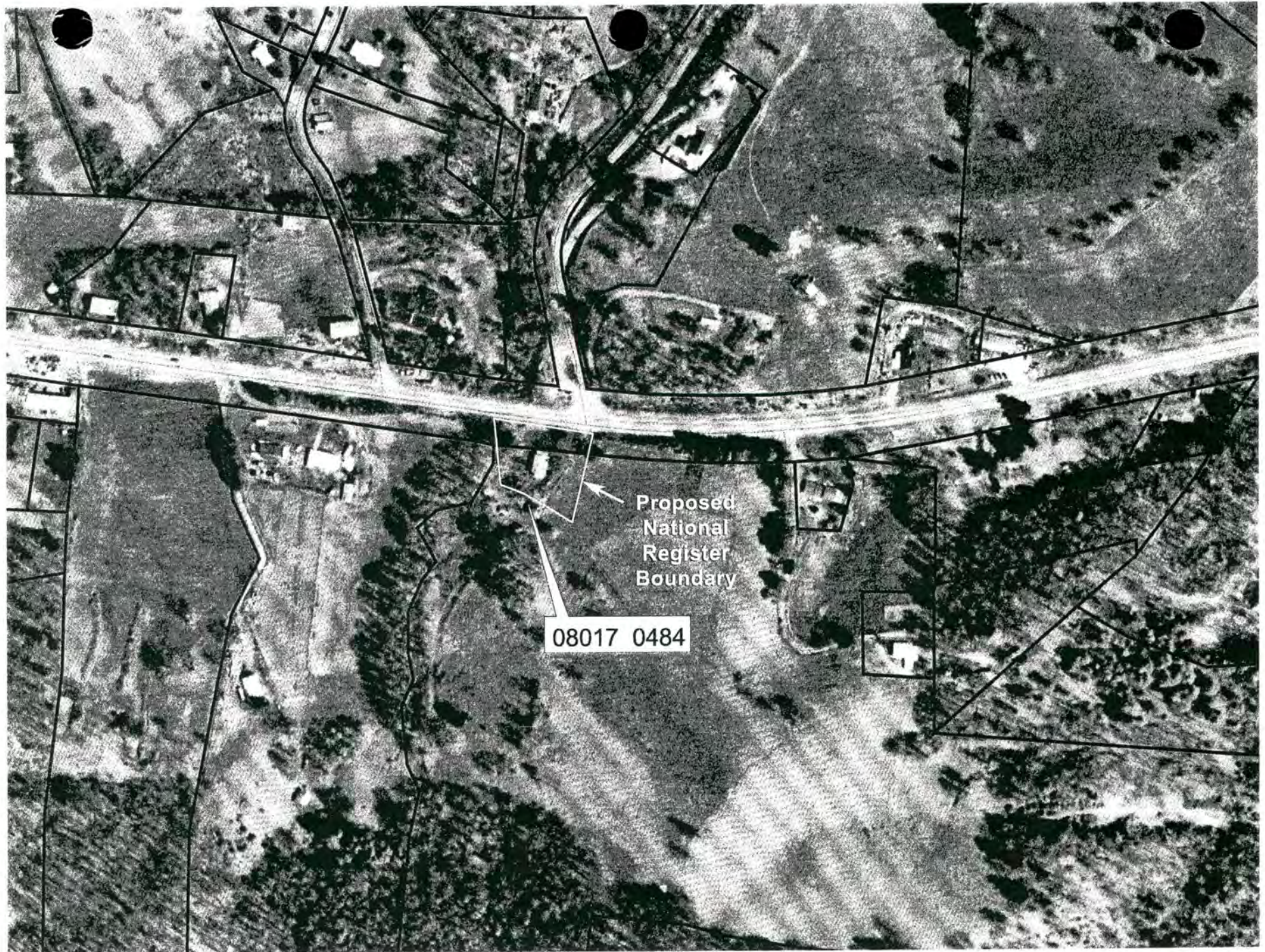


Figure 4: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House Proposed National Register Boundary Map
(Source: Yancy County orthographic tax map)



Plate 13: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – north front and west side elevations; stone shed at far right



Plate 14: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – north front and east side elevations



Plate 15: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – east side and south rear elevations



Plate 16: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – south rear and west side elevations



Plate 17: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – east front and north side elevations of stone shed

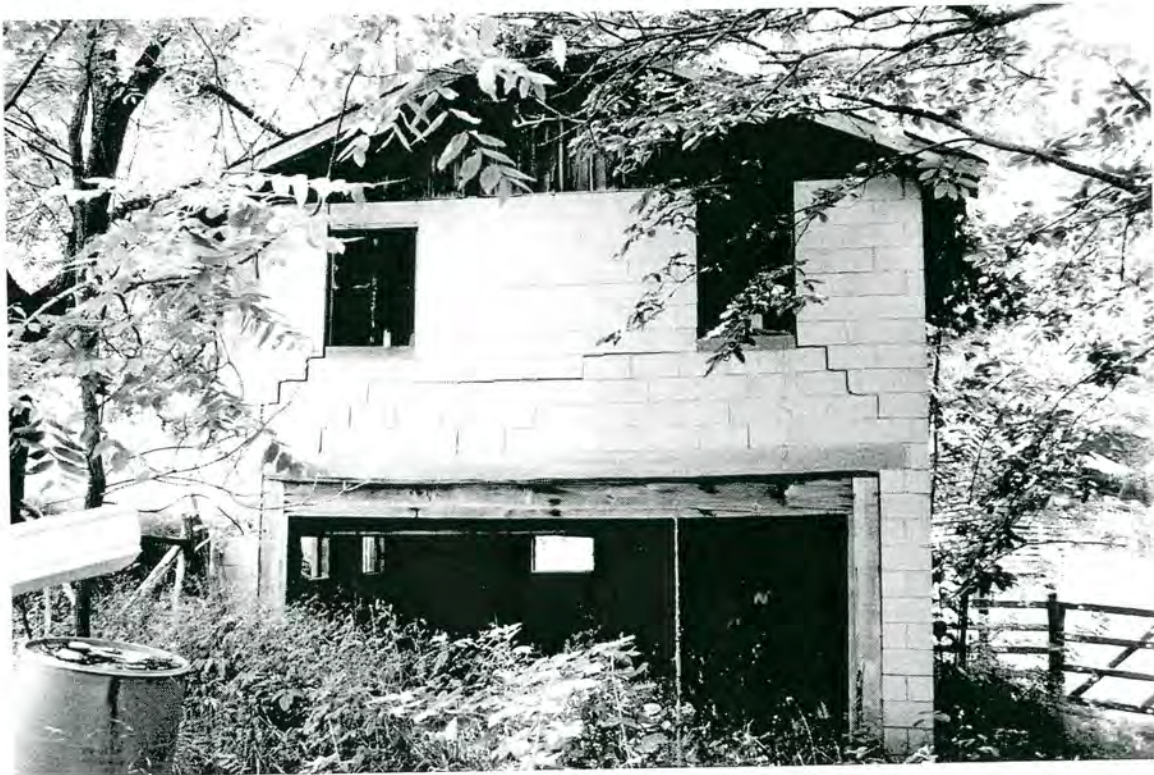


Plate 18: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – north front elevation of garage



Plate 19: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – looking southwest across fence toward corncrib/shed at left and barn at center



Plate 20: E.W. and Dollie Huskins House – looking southeast across lawn toward stone shed, fence, and collapsed outbuilding

Resources Recommended Not Eligible for National Register Listing

C. LEE AND HERMA HOWELL HOUSE (#5)

**Southwest corner of junction of Hicks Road and US 19E
Newdale, Yancey County**

History

This modest house was built in at least three sections. According to tax records, its earliest block dates from 1940. This block, at its center, was likely erected earlier than 1940, but not much earlier: its form and finish suggest a 1930s' date of construction. During that decade, the house is believed to have been owned by the Young family, a large family with numerous holdings in the Newdale area (Howell 2003).

D. Troy Howell, a truck farmer, and his wife, Elsie Jane Jarrett Howell, acquired the house in the 1940s when they moved from nearby Boonford to Newdale (Bailey 1994:130-131). In 1947 they sold it to one of their 11 children, C. Lee Howell (born 1924) and his wife, Herma Mae Thomas Howell, who were married in April of that year (Yancey County Deed Book 97, Page 201; Yancey County Marriage Certificate Book 28, Page 10; Yancey County Birth Certificate Book 11-12, Page 481). Lee and Herma Howell subsequently added a room to the north side of the original block and one to the south side as well. In 1951, when son Dennis Lee Howell was born, Lee Howell was a truck farmer (Yancey County Birth Certificate Book 36, Page 206). By 1956 he was working at his brother Ray's hardware store in Spruce Pine (Bailey 1994:130-131). The house is still owned by Lee and Herma Howell but, retired, they now live in Spruce Pine. It is currently occupied by Jackie Murray who recalls that, according to the Howells, one of the trees in the front yard was planted by them in the 1940s (Murray 2003).

The house has almost certainly always served as a residence. A review of the three Toe River heritage books (Bailey 1994, 197, and 2001) and other local history sources gave no indication that it ever served as a school for either white or black Yancey County children.

Description

German siding sheathes the long, one-room-deep, frame Howell House (Plates 21 through 24). But for breaks in this siding, marked by upright former cornerboards, the house would appear to have been built in a single episode. Exposed rafter ends extend along the entire front and rear elevations of the gable-end, asphalt-shingled roof. Exposed rafter ends also adorn the gabled front porch—which is attached to the original central block and was probably built with it—and the sun room, the house's most recent addition, that is affixed to the south gable end. Two tall brick piers topped by narrow posts support the gable-front roof of the porch, which is largely hidden by vines and a flourishing garden. Two interior brick chimney stacks rise from the roof above the house's added north and south rooms.

Two outbuildings, probably dating from the 1940s or 1950s, stand to the house's rear. Immediately behind it is a tiny German-sided shed. A garage, also German-sided, stands to its southwest.

Evaluation

The C. Lee and Herma Howell House is not believed to be National Register eligible under any of the Register's Criteria. It has no known association with significant historical events or persons and is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criteria A or B. Its workmanlike style and architecture are neither notable nor significant. There are many similar residences in Yancey County that are better representatives of its form and period that also have higher degrees of integrity. The house is therefore not believed to be individually eligible under Criterion C. Further, the house is set amidst a number of residential and non-residential buildings in Newdale that were erected throughout the twentieth century. These buildings do not form a distinguishable entity and the house is therefore not believed to be part of any National Register-eligible historic district under Criterion C. The house is further not believed to be eligible as a building—archaeology is not considered in this report—under Criterion D, for its structure is unlikely to yield information not otherwise available from other sources.



Plate 21: C. Lee and Herma Howell House – east front and north side elevations



Plate 22: C. Lee and Herma Howell House – east front and south side elevations



Plate 23: C. Lee and Herma Howell House – south side and west rear elevations; garage at far left, shed at center left



Plate 24: C. Lee and Herma Howell House – west rear and north side elevations; shed at far right

DENEEN MICA COMPANY PROCESSING MILL (#8)

North side of Deneen Road (SR 1424), 0.3 miles west of junction with US 19E
Newdale vicinity, Yancey County

History

The Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill was established no earlier than 1948 and no later than 1955. (Yancey County tax records place its date of construction in 1950.) In 1948 Fred Deneen (misspelled as Dennen in the deed) purchased two acres of land from Robert and Clara Presnell. The property extended north from US 19E “across the branch” to the top of the hill (Yancey County Deed Book 100, Page 501). In 1949 Deneen purchased an adjacent half acre from a number of individuals, including the Presnells, who were heirs of R.L. Young, the owner of the R.L. Young House (#9, discussed in the following entry) (Yancey County Deed Book 113, Page 593). In 1955 Fred and Bennie Deneen transferred the two tracts to Deneen Mica Company, Inc. (Yancey County Deed Book 197, Page 764). Also in 1955, the partners of Deneen Mica Company—Fred Deneen, Helen von Prittwitz, and Rachel D. Tepker—transferred their holdings to Deneen Mica Company, Inc. (Yancey County Deed Book 197, Page 761).

According to a story on mining in Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties, which appeared in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* on July 15, 1931, the Deneen family was active in mining in the Toe River Valley two decades before the opening of the Deneen Mica Company (Bailey 1994:43). According to the article, the newly organized Carolina China Clay Company had begun construction in 1931 of a kaolin mine and processing plant on the Bailey estate west of Spruce Pine. (This would have been near Penland, over a range of hills north of the project area.) W.F. Deneen of Micaville was president, Harry Bailey of Penland vice president, and W.B. Deneen of Bakersville the engineer in charge of construction and operation. The Fred Deneen who established the Deneen Mica Company, whose relationship to these individuals could not be determined, was a resident of neither Mitchell nor Yancey County, however, when he began to establish his enterprise. The 1949 deed that recorded his purchase of a half acre of the plant property listed his residence as Johnson City, Tennessee.

The Deneen Mica Company ground mica for industrial uses. According to a 1993 history of Yancey County (Yancey Historical Association:131):

Mica for grinding was mined by “jigging.” That is, it was washed out of the ground by water under pressure. The mineral was then hauled to processing plants to be washed, separated from waste, dried, and ground. The product is important in the manufacture of paint, wall board, wall paper, and automobile tires. Deneen Mica Company at Newdale has operated a plant of this type for decades.

In 1994 the Deneen Mica Company sold the grinding mill and its associated 4.37 acres to Aspect Minerals, Inc. (Yancey County Deed Book 255, Page 514). Aspect Minerals, also known as the Zemex Mica Corporation, continued to operate the grinding mill until 1998 or 1999. A bill of

loading in the small former office at the facility—dated September 17, 1998—records the shipping of 45,000 pounds of mica, on 18 pallets, to Baroid Drilling of Tyler, Texas. An unpacked palette of Coarse Micatex bags, to hold ground mica, remains on the mill’s loading dock. Paperwork still affixed to the palette identifies the customer as Baroid Drilling Fluids and carries the date November 5, 1998. That appears to establish the approximate date of the facility’s shuttering. In 1999 the Zemex Mica Corporation, which continues to maintain offices in Spruce Pine, sold the facility to Orin John Wilson (Yancey County Deed Book 343, Page 57). Bill R. and Lucy W. Dellinger of Burnsville currently own the property (Yancey County Deed Book 415, Page 606 (2002)).

Description

The former Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill occupies a series of connected or barely detached buildings that front on Deneen Road and partially climb the hill to the north. At the center of the complex is a long two-story building with three façade gables (Plates 25, 26, and 27). Built of stuccoed concrete or cinder block strengthened by I-beams, the central complex is topped by sheet-metal roofs. Large casement windows and truck bays open from the south front elevations of the building. Attached to its front is a concrete loading dock shaded by a sheet-metal-clad shed roof. Immediately to the west, or left, of the building is a large, plain, two-story, cinder-block building that is topped by a flat roof and sided with sheet metal and stucco. It appears to have been a later addition and is likely less than 50 years old (Plate 28). Barely visible behind a coat of white paint on its front elevation are the words “Deneen Mica Co. Inc.”. To the east of the gabled building is a tiny, gable-front, stuccoed, cinder-block building, also probably a later addition less than 50 years old, that once served as the facility’s office (Plate 29). Other connected cinder-block buildings sided with sheet metal rise to the north rear of the gabled building, partway up the hill (Plates 30 and 31).

All of the buildings are heavily deteriorated and could not safely be entered. Views through open bays, however, at the rear and on the loading dock revealed that they retain some equipment. The gabled buildings hold some partial pieces of equipment that appear to have been used in the grinding process (Plate 32). A building set behind the boxy two-story structure holds some metal and plastic tubing that was likely associated with water processing of the mica (Plate 30, at center). Also behind the boxy building stands a portion of a ramped conveyor belt (Plate 33). Across Deneen Road from the mill are two altered buildings, now legally separated from the property, that may have been used for storage and shipment of the processed mica (Plate 34).

Evaluation

The former Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill it is not believed to be National Register-eligible under any Criteria, even when judged by the particular standards applied by the Register to historic mining sites (Noble and Spude 1992). No known significant individual is associated with it and it is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criterion B. It is not believed to be eligible as a building—archaeology is not considered in this report—under Criterion D, for its structure is unlikely to yield information not otherwise available from other sources. As it is not located near any distinguishable collection of historic resources, it is therefore further not believed to be Register-eligible as part of a historic district under Criteria C.

Due to a loss of integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling, the mill does not retain sufficient overall integrity to support eligibility under either Criterion A, for its historical association with the local mica processing industry, or Criterion C as an embodiment of the

architectural and engineering characteristics of mica processing mills. The stripping of much of its equipment has in turn stripped much of its historical significance. Additionally, mica, feldspar, and other mineral processing mills are still intact and functioning within Yancey and Mitchell counties. An unremarkable functional complex from the start, it has lost its architectural and engineering integrity through the removal of equipment and consequent damage to interior spaces, as well as through the loss of windows, doors, floors, siding, and roofs.



Plate 25: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – complex looking northeast



Plate 26: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – complex looking northeast



Plate 27: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – complex looking northwest



Plate 28: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – west end of complex looking northwest



Plate 29: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – former office at east end of complex looking northeast



Plate 30: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – rear of complex looking northeast



Plate 31: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – rear of complex looking east



Plate 32: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – remnant equipment viewed from window opening on loading dock



Plate 33: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – partial former conveyor belt at rear of complex



Plate 34: Deneen Mica Company Processing Mill – looking southwest across Deneen Road, opposite mill, toward buildings no longer associated with property

R.L. YOUNG HOUSE (#9)

**South side of Deneen Road (SR 1424), 0.1 mile west of junction with US 19E
Newdale vicinity, Yancey County**

History

Modern deeds refer to this property as the R.L. Young Homeplace. The Yancey County tax card lists a date of 1870 for the house. Whether it was built that early, or by R.L. Young two decades later, could not be confirmed in the historical record. References do, however, place the Young family in the area in the mid-nineteenth-century and show R.L. Young acquiring this or a nearby parcel in the 1890s.

The first Young in the Toe River Valley was reportedly Strawbridge Young. About 1858 Martin's Chapel Methodist Church (#6, depicted below) in Newdale, less than mile west of the current house, held its first meetings in the home of Strawbridge Young. (The church was initially referred to as the "Mammy Young Meeting House.") The relationship of R.L. to Strawbridge Young, however, has not been identified. In 1895 R.L. Young first appeared in county deed records when he purchased a 140-acre tract from the Young, Dellinger, and McIntosh families (Yancey County Deed Book 19, Page 259). The tract's boundaries covered or were close to the current house parcel, for they reference the mill of Mc. Young on the North Toe River, the Wagon Road, and Mine Branch. They refer to the parcel as part of the Wesley Young home lands. R.L. Young's relationship to Wesley Young was not detailed, but a deed for an unrelated property in 1897 identified him as one of the heirs of a J.D. Young (Yancey County Deed book 34, Page 559).

Unfortunately, the extensive genealogical information in the three volumes of *The Heritage of the Toe River Valley* (Bailey 1994, 1997, and 2001), while discussing various members of the Young family, make no specific references to Wesley, J.D., or R.L. Young. Other genealogical resources at local libraries and the State Library in Raleigh also do not appear to include these individuals. The house's straightforward, vernacular, I-house form and numerous alterations make it difficult to date. (Access to the house's interior could not be gained.) The late nineteenth-century historical record and the house's traditional form, coupled with its interior chimney stack and a single surviving decorative Italianate-style bracket, suggest a construction date in the late nineteenth century.

In 1974 numerous individuals, some with the surname Young, sold a 4.7-acre portion of the R.L. Young Homeplace, including the house, to Orin John Wilson (Yancey County Deed Book 158, Page 376). This may have been the first time it left the Young family. Wilson sold the property the following year to Melba E. and Charles P. Randolph (Yancey County Deed Book 159, Page 615). The Randolphs sold it in 1989 (Yancey County Deed Book 219, Page 296) and it then passed through the hands of a few owners with residences outside of the mountains and the state. In 2000 it was purchased at a sheriff's auction and resold, the same year, to its current owners, Darlene M. and James Riddle Donzella of Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Yancey County Deed Book 358, Page 438).

Description

The R.L. Young House is set on the slope of a hill, to the south and below Deneen Road, and the north and slightly above a branch of the North Toe River and US 19E. Its front section, which faces west, is its principal block (Plates 35 through 39). This portion of the house utilizes a typical traditional I-house form. It is three bays wide, two stories tall, and one room deep. A wooden structure, it is topped by a seam-metal gable-end roof. A central stone chimney stack projects from the peak of this roof. At the upper right-hand (southwest) corner of the front block is a single surviving Italianate-style bracket. This is one of the only surviving original exterior features of the block. Its original cladding, likely weatherboard, is hidden behind vinyl siding. Its doors and windows have been replaced. Its imposing, two-tier, front porch is also either a modern addition or has been greatly altered. The large deck that extends out from the porch floor is modern as well, as are the shutters that flank the windows. A modern walkway leads from the slope to the north directly to the porch's second tier.

A one-story ell, built in two or three stages, extends to the house's east rear (Plates 40, 41, and 42). Its shed and gable roofs of varying heights are covered with seam-metal and it too is vinyl sided and has had its windows and doors replaced. Its side porch has been altered and in part enclosed.

Evaluation

The R.L. Young House is not believed to be National Register eligible under any of the Register's Criteria. It has no known association with significant historical events or persons and is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criteria A or B. Although likely the oldest building within the project area and a representative of a typical traditional residential form, it has lost its architectural integrity of workmanship, design, and materials through numerous alterations. These alterations, particularly the addition of a two-tier porch and deck and the replacement of windows, doors, and siding, have also led to the loss of the building's integrity of feeling. While from a distance it is initially striking, upon closer inspection and approach it does not evoke the late nineteenth or even the early or mid twentieth century. Further, there are many similar residences in Yancey County that are better representatives of its form and period, which also have higher degrees of integrity (see Bishir, Southern, and Martin 1999:239-246). Not located near any distinguishable collection of historic resources, the house is also not believed to be Register-eligible as part of a historic district under Criteria C. Finally, it is not believed to be eligible as a building—archaeology is not considered in this report—under Criterion D, for its structure is unlikely to yield information not otherwise available from other sources.



Plate 35: R.L. Young House – north side and west front elevations, from south shoulder of Deneen Road

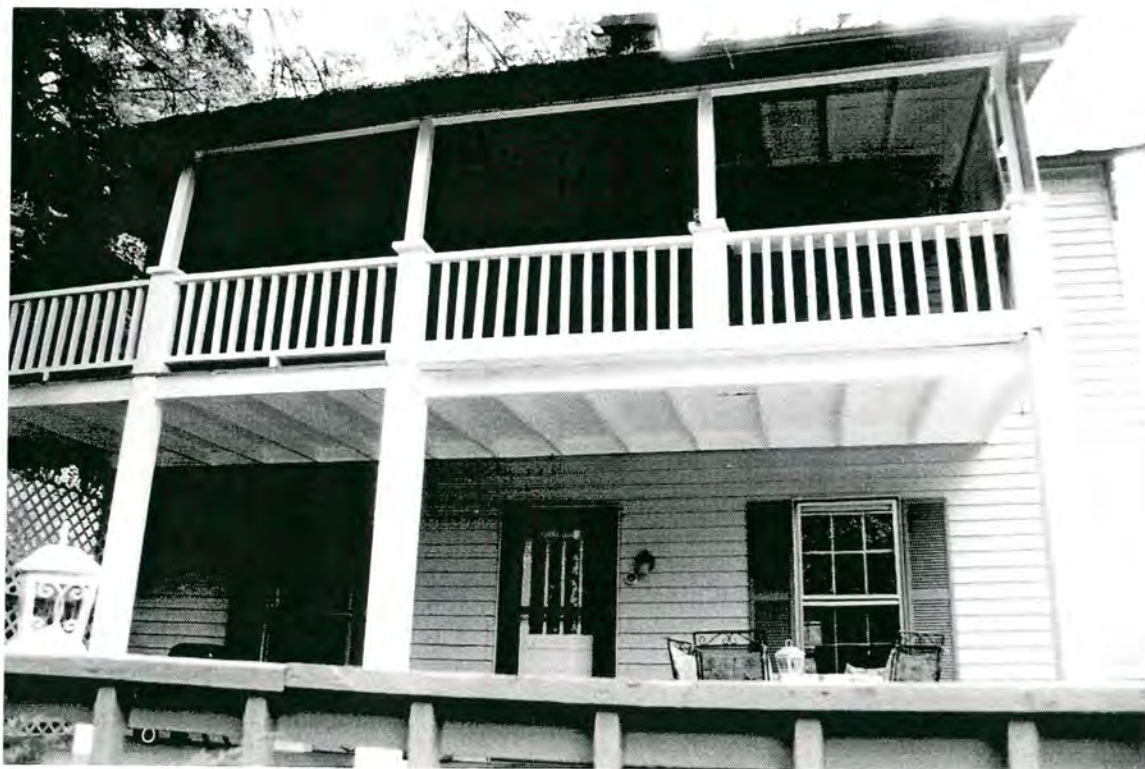


Plate 36: R.L. Young House – west front elevation



Plate 37: R.L. Young House – west front and south side elevations



Plate 38: R.L. Young House – west front and south side elevations, from north shoulder of US 19E



Plate 39: R.L. Young House – south side elevation



Plate 40: R.L. Young House – south side and east rear elevations



Plate 41: R.L. Young House – east rear elevation



Plate 42: R.L. Young House – north side elevation

LATTIE AND NORA YOUNG HOUSE (#10)

**End of private drive. 0.1 mile west of northwest corner of junction of US 19E
and Newdale Church Road
Newdale vicinity, Yancey County**

History

In 1917 Lattie Young, the 20-year-old son of Thomas and Harriett Young of Newdale, married 21-year-old Nora Robinson of Celio (Yancey County Marriage Book 15, Page 130). They had a child, Ralph, in 1918 and in 1921 acquired 39 acres near Newdale from Essie and Edward Young and Olamae and Clyde D. Young (Yancey County Deed Book 61, Page 576). This parcel, which excluded two acres deeded to Martin's Chapel Church, in all likelihood encompassed the 9.71-acre parcel associated with the current house. Lattie and Nora Young likely built the house shortly after their purchase, for its Yancey County tax card ascribes to it a construction date of 1920. In 1936, the Youngs' son Ralph died in a mica mine accident in Newdale, leaving a young widow, the former Bernice Peeke (Yancey County Death Certificate Book 21, Page 62).

The Youngs did not leave the Newdale area following their son's tragic death. Even in 1980, when widows Nora Young and Marjorie Y. Fox, and Betty Y. and Lawrence Towe—all heirs of Lattie Young—transferred the property to June A. and Ray B. Young, Mrs. Young remained in the house. The transfer reserved in her a life estate in the property (Yancey County Deed Book 182, Pages 75 and 81). The house and the 9.7 acres now associated with it continue to be owned by Ray B. Young of Johnson City, Tennessee.

Description

The Young House is one-story tall and two rooms deep (Plates 43 through 47). Of frame construction, it is sided with weatherboards and topped by a slightly clipped hip roof that is pierced by a central brick flue stack. Patterned sheet metal gives the hidden foundation the appearance of rusticated stone or concrete block. A wraparound porch, marked by a façade gable at its front, shades the five bays of the house's south front elevation and the two bays of the east side elevation. The turned porch posts are likely not original, for they are elevated above the porch floor by aluminum post braces. Relatively narrow windows flank the centered front entry; the outer front bays hold standard-sized windows. All of the windows are one-over-one sash that appears to be original. The two bays at the east side elevation include one double window. Those at the west side hold single windows. A later-added shed room, clad in German siding, extends across much of the north rear elevation of the house. The house's interior was inaccessible. However, views through windows showed a central front and flanking rooms. The visible doors were six-paneled, with each of the horizontal panels set one above the other.

The property retains four small frame outbuildings. Immediately to the north rear of the house is a German-sided shed with a single entry and a gable-end roof (Plate 48). To the west of the shed is a vertical-board-sided outbuilding with a shed roof that may have once held poultry (Plate 49). To its north is a tiny, overgrown, German-sided, shed-roofed building that may have been a privy. To this building's north is a horizontal-sided outbuilding with a small vertical-board-sided shed affixed to its north gable end (Plate 50).

Evaluation

The Lattie and Nora Young House is not believed to be National Register eligible under any of the Register's Criteria. It has no known association with significant historical events or persons and has no known association with the development of agriculture or agricultural methods in Yancey County. It is therefore not believed to be eligible under Criteria A or B. Its workmanlike style and architecture are neither notable nor significant. The house is therefore not believed to be individually eligible under Criterion C. Further, the house is set amidst a number of primarily residential buildings east of Newdale that were erected throughout the twentieth century. These buildings do not form a distinguishable entity and the house is therefore not believed to be part of any National Register-eligible historic district under Criterion C. The house is further not believed to be eligible as a building—archaeology is not considered in this report—under Criterion D, for its structure is unlikely to yield information not otherwise available from other sources.



Plate 43: Lattie and Nora Young House – east side elevation



Plate 44: Lattie and Nora Young House – south front elevation



Plate 45: Lattie and Nora Young House – south front and west side elevation



Plate 46: Lattie and Nora Young House – west side and north rear elevation



Plate 47: Lattie and Nora Young House – north rear and east side elevation



Plate 48: Lattie and Nora Young House – looking northeast at shed to rear of house



Plate 49: Lattie and Nora Young House – looking southwest at possible chicken house, at left, and privy at right



Plate 50: Lattie and Nora Young House – looking southwest at gable-end outbuilding and shed

LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH (#22)

**East side of Hoot Owl Road, 0.2 miles south of junction with US 19E
Estatoe, Mitchell County**

History

According to a legend in a stained-glass window above the easternmost of Liberty Hill Baptist Church's two original entries, the Liberty Hill congregation dates from 1866. It almost certainly did not meet at the present site, however, for the two earliest markers in the substantial church cemetery date from 1897 and 1898. The window also carries the date 1926, which marks the date of construction of the earliest portion of the current building. The church has been expanded on two or three occasions. Three bays added to the east of the original block appear to be less than 50 years old. A substantial addition to their west appears to be less than ten years old, as does the addition to the south rear of the original block.

Description

Liberty Hill Baptist Church stands on a hill overlooking US 19E and the crossroads community of Estatoe, and the hills beyond, to the north (Plate 51). Its original block, which now occupies its west end, is a cruciform brick-veneered structure (Plate 52). Projecting to the north front of the main hipped roof of the block is a wide front gable with a large, central, pointed-arch windows and two smaller flanking pointed-arched windows. Vinyl- or aluminum-clad triangular knee-braces edge the wide overhang of the roof. To either side of the front gable are two small square towers topped by pyramidal roofs. The shorter western tower, which barely tops the peak of the front gable, has a pointed-arch entry at the north front and a round ventilator above. The taller eastern tower also has a front entry topped by a full-sized pointed-arch ventilator. Pointed-arched windows remain visible at the sides of the towers and at the block's west elevation. The treatments of the original east side and south rear elevations, but for two windows, are obscured by later additions. Two brick-clad additions extend the church to the east. The first, finished with pointed-arch windows in imitation of those of the main block, added three bays and a basement to the east (Plate 53). It is extended further to the east by a large, modern, two-story, gable-end addition that likely holds classrooms and a social hall (Plates 54 and 55). A modern gabled addition of variegated brick has also been added to the south arm of the cross at the main block's rear elevation (Plate 56).

The Liberty Hill Baptist Church cemetery extends across much of the hill to the church's south (Plates 57 and 58). It is a large cemetery that, when last recorded in 1967, contained about 260 marked graves and about 30 more that were unmarked (Honeycutt and McKinney 1967). Its burials now far exceed 300. The lion's share of markers in the cemetery date from the mid and late twentieth century. A survey from 1942, which focused on the earliest burials, recorded only 11 markers. Only two of these—those of Myrtle E. Cox (1836-1897) and Mabel Burleson (1898-1898)—dated from the nineteenth century. The other nine ranged from 1901 to 1912 (Pritchard 1942). The cemetery continues in use to the present.

Evaluation

Liberty Hill Baptist Church and its cemetery are not believed to be National Register-eligible under any of the Register's Criteria. They have no known historical significance or association with significant individuals and are therefore not believed to be Register-eligible under Criteria A and B or Criteria Considerations/Exceptions A or D. The church and cemetery are also not believed to be Register-eligible under Criterion C or Considerations/Exceptions A or D. Due its extensive additions, the church has lost the integrity of design, workmanship, and materials necessary to support any architectural significance. The cemetery has no distinctive design features, either as a whole or in regards to its individual markers. Further, the majority of its stones are less than 50 years old. The vicinity of the church and cemetery is dominated by buildings that are less than 50 years old and is not believed to comprise any significant and distinguishable entity that is eligible for National Register listing as a historic district. The church and cemetery are also believed to be unlikely to yield information important in history that is not accessible through documentary or other means. They are therefore not believed to be eligible for Register listing under Criterion D.



Plate 51: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – south front and west side elevations



Plate 52: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – south front elevation



Plate 53: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – south front elevation



Plate 54: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – east side and south front elevations



Plate 55: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – north rear and east side elevations



Plate 56: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – north rear and west side elevations



Plate 57: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – north rear elevation and cemetery



Plate 58: Liberty Hill Baptist Church – looking northwest from rear of church across cemetery

**V. RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR
THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER
EVALUATION (PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY)**



Plate 59: House (#1) –south front elevation of house at 4743 US 19E, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 60: House (#2) – south front elevation of house at 5347 US 19E, Newdale, Yancey County



Plate 61: House (#3) – northeast front elevation of house at west side of NC 80, 0.05 miles north of junction with US 19E, Newdale, Yancey County



Plate 62: House (#4) – north front elevation of house south side of US 19E, 0.05 miles west of junction with Hicks Road, Newdale, Yancey County



Plate 63: Martin's Chapel United Methodist Church (ca. 1949) (#6) – west front elevation of church on east side of NC 80, 0.1 mile north of junction with US 19E, Newdale, Yancey County



Plate 64: House (#7) – north front elevation of house on east side of Hicks Road, 0.2 miles south of junction with US 19E, Newdale, Yancey County



Plate 65: Newdale Presbyterian Church (ca. 1947) (#11) – south front elevation of church on north side of Newdale Church Road, 0.2 miles east of junction with US 19E, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 66: House (#12) – north front elevation of house at 314 Newdale Church Road, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 67: House (#13) – north front elevation of house at 400 Newdale Church Road, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 68: House (#14) – south front elevation of house at 659 Newdale Church Road, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 69: House (#15) – east side elevation of house at northwest corner of junction of Newdale Church Road and US 19E, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 70: House (URS #16) – south front elevation of house at 7279 US 19E, Newdale vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 71: House (#18) – south front elevation of house at 43 Charles Way, Estatoe vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 72: House (#19) – north front elevation of house at 7854 US 19E, Estatoe vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 73: House (#20) – north front elevation of house at 64 Hemlock Road, Estatoe vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 74: House (#21) – north front elevation of house on north side of Hemlock Road, 0.1 mile east of junction with US 19E, Estatoe vicinity, Yancey County



Plate 75: House (#23) – north side elevation of house at 1588 US 19E, Estatoe, Mitchell County



Plate 76: House (#24) – west side elevation of house at 3151 US 19E, Spruce Pine vicinity, Mitchell County



Plate 77: House (#25) – south front elevation of house at 18 Earl’s Repair Shop Road, Spruce Pine vicinity, Mitchell County

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APPENDICES

Inventory and Assessment of the Micaville Historic District from *Phase II Intensive Level Historic Resources Survey Report and Evaluations of Eligibility*, TIP No. R-2519A (The Jaeger Company 2000) AND Concurrence Form for Properties Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (June 9, 2000)

No. 70. Micaville Historic District
Intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80, Micaville, Yancey County

Location

The Micaville Historic District is located in the heart of the small community of Micaville. The community is clustered around the intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80 south of US 19E.

Description

Period of Significance: c.1900-1950

Styles/Types: The district consists of a small collection of historic commercial buildings and houses that remain in the center of the community of Micaville. The most prominent commercial building is the c.1916 Harris Clay Company Office and General Store, a one-story, front-gabled structure of pebbledash construction. The building's original storefront and large display windows remain intact. Up the street to the west is a small, frame building constructed as a store in the 1940s and now used as the post office. Next to the post office is the former Dellinger and Silver General Store, a long, one-story, frame building with two intact storefronts and display windows, constructed c.1930. A shed extension has been made on the building's west end. At the SR 1186 and NC 80 intersection and across the street from the Harris-Clay store is a former gas station built in the 1930s. The building's widely overhanging roof and gas pump canopy remain intact. The building now houses a small restaurant. East of the main intersection and on a rise overlooking the town are two historic houses. The Cornelia Anglin House is a two-story, hipped-roof house with wraparound porch constructed during the late nineteenth century. A second house located behind the Anglin House is a one-story, hipped-roof house built c.1900. Three other houses located on the west side of town are also included in the district. They are one-and-one-half-story, frame houses constructed during the 1910s and 1920s.

Setting: The district is clustered around the intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80. SR 1186 is the old highway 19. It begins at US 19E just west of Micaville, joins NC 80 in the center of town, and extends to US 19E just east of Micaville. Little Crabtree Creek runs through the community just north of

and behind the commercial buildings, and Ayles Creek runs south through town from Crabtree, paralleling NC 80. Railroad tracks from the Black Mountain/Yancey Railway, constructed during the 1910s, remain in several locations. US 19E is located on the north side of the small community. The 1938 Micaville School is located farther south down NC 80 and is not included in the district.

Integrity:

The district retains integrity as the small, historic center of the community of Micaville. A number of other commercial buildings and residences once existed in the community, most of them constructed during the early twentieth century, but many of these are now gone. The district encompasses the remaining intact buildings that make up the heart of Micaville today.

Historical Background

The small community of Micaville was established during the late nineteenth century as a center for the mica and feldspar mining industries. The town served as the area's trading center and as home to many of the industries' workers. In 1910-1911, the Black Mountain Railway was constructed to Micaville to ship minerals and lumber from the area. The resulting prosperity of the mining and timbering industries during the early twentieth century sparked a period of growth for the town.

The Harris Clay Company Office and General Store was constructed c.1916 as the headquarters of a kaolin mining enterprise established by C. J. Harris of Sylva. During the 1930s, the building was purchased by J. L. Robinson, who operated a general store there for about 40 years. Mr. Robinson also operated the gas station across the street. The Robinson family still lives in Micaville today.

The Dellinger and Silver General Store was built c.1930. Four to five other stores once operated in downtown Micaville. Besides the Robinsons, Finley Laws, J. R. Stamey, William Clontz, and Shelby Hall also operated stores there at various times. A number of residences and commercial enterprises that once existed in the community are now gone. Today the main industry in town is Taylor Togs, a children's clothing manufacturer.

The Micaville Presbyterian Church in downtown Micaville remains in its historic building, but the building was completely remodeled during the 1960s.

Evaluation of Eligibility

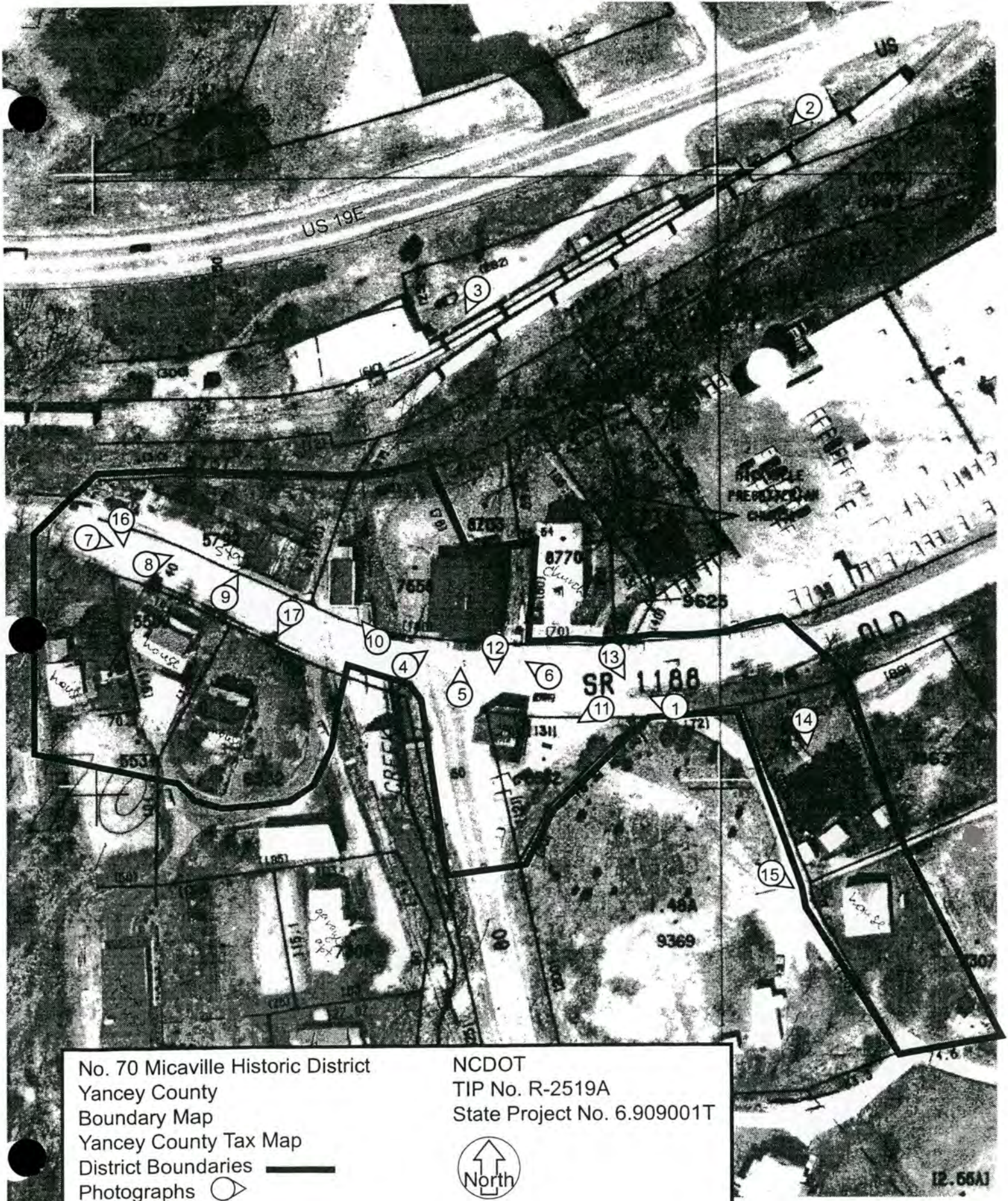
The Micaville Historic District is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for community planning and development and for commerce. The buildings in the district represent the establishment of Micaville in the late nineteenth century as a mining town and the town's subsequent growth and prosperity as a mining



and lumbering center after the coming of the railroad in 1910-1911. The Harris Clay Company Office and General Store, the Dellinger and Silver General Store, the former store now post office, and the gas station all represent the commercial activity of the early twentieth century when Micaville served as the commercial trading and operating center for the area's mining and timbering industries.

The district is also recommended eligible under Criterion C for architecture. Its buildings are a collection of early to mid-twentieth-century commercial and residential structures constructed in Micaville during the town's most significant period of growth. In particular, the Harris Clay Company Office and General Store is an example of the regional use of pebbledash as an exterior material during the 1910s. The c.1900 Anglin House is a two-story, double-pile plan house with wraparound porch and was large enough to serve as a boarding house in the community.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary encompasses the remaining intact historic buildings that comprise the center of the small community of Micaville. The boundary is shown on the county tax map following this page and the property location map.



No. 70 Micaville Historic District
 Yancey County
 Boundary Map
 Yancey County Tax Map
 District Boundaries 
 Photographs 
 Scale: 1" = 400'

NCDOT
 TIP No. R-2519A
 State Project No. 6.909001T



No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County



1. View of center of Micaville at intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80 showing Harris Clay Company Office and Presbyterian Church



2. View of Micaville from US 19E, looking southwest

No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County



3. View of rear of Harris Clay Company Office from US 19E, looking south



4. Harris Clay Company Office and General Store

No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County



5. Harris Clay Company Office and General Store, original storefront

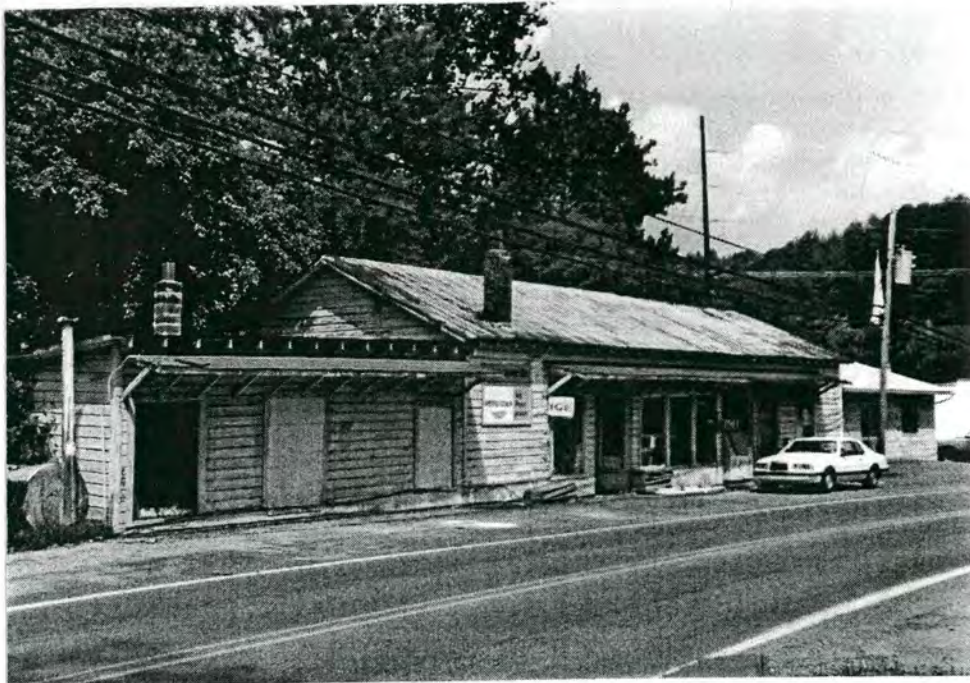


6. Harris Clay Company Office and General Store

No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County

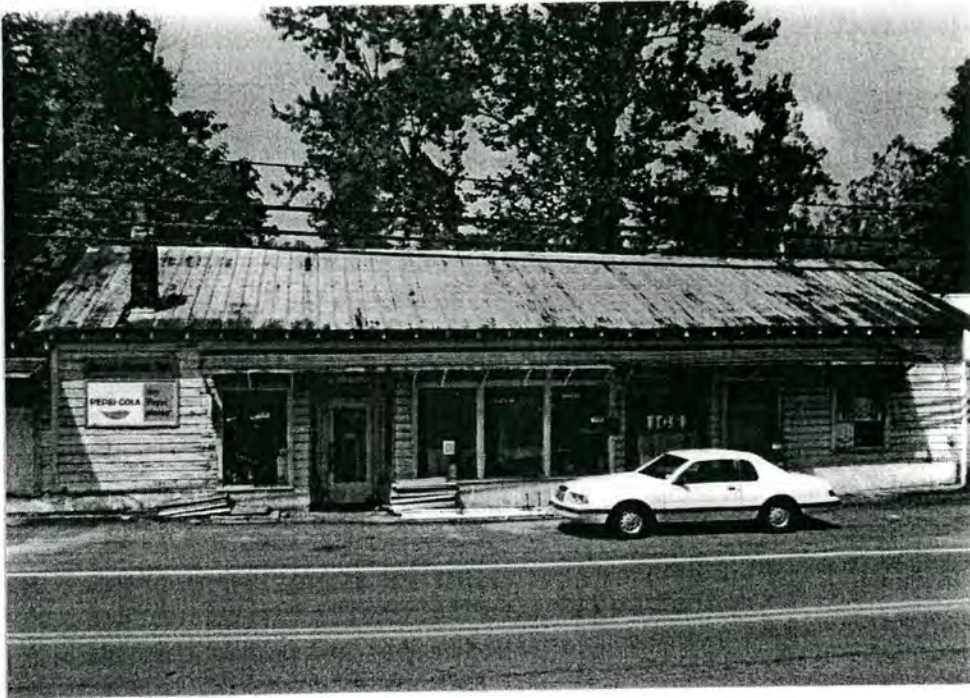


7. View down SR 1186 toward intersection with NC 80, looking southeast

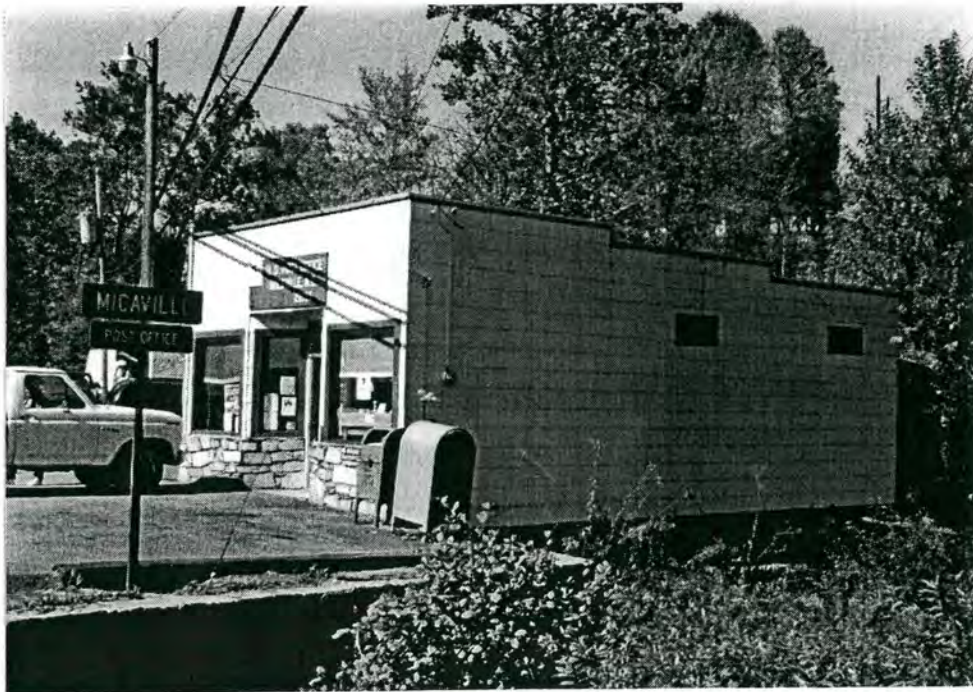


8. Dellinger and Silver General Store

No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County



9. Storefronts of Dellinger and Silver General Store

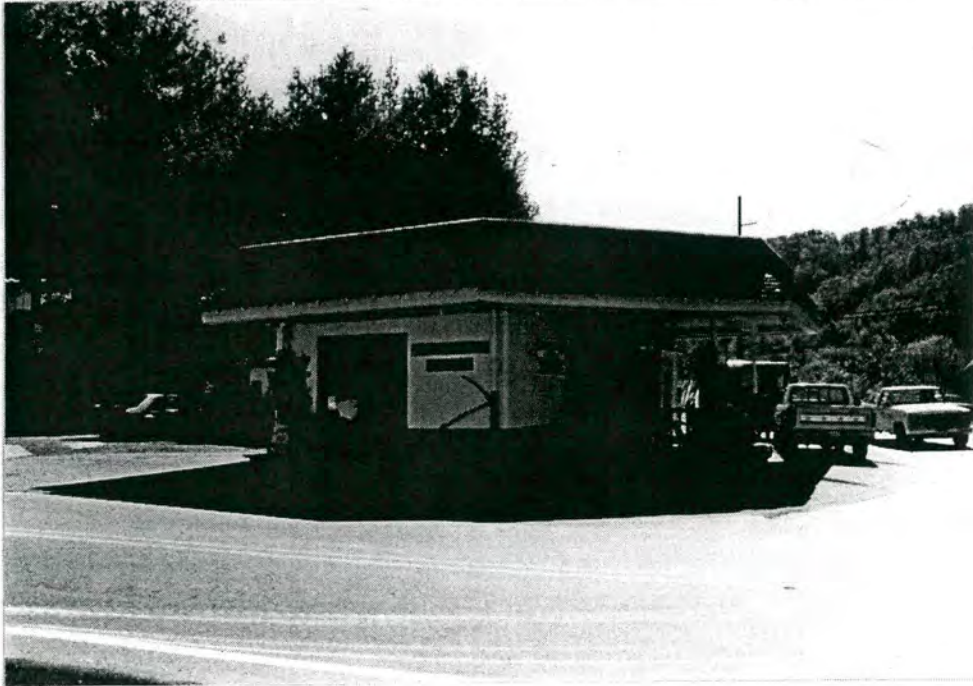


10. Micaville Post Office

**No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County**



11. Former gas station at intersection of SR 1186 and NC 80

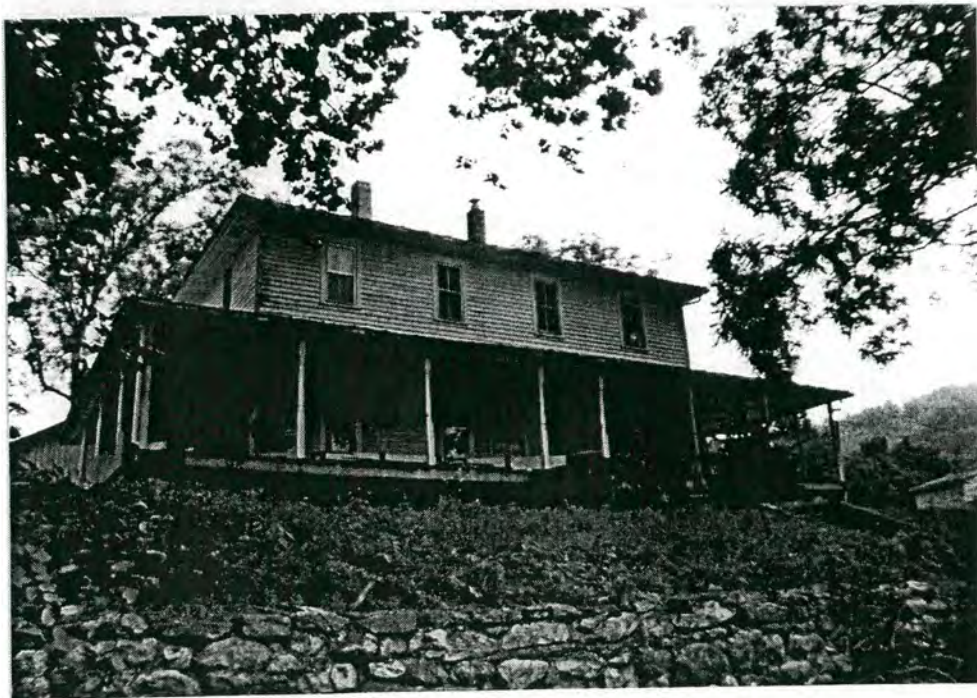


12. Former gas station showing canopy

No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County



13. Cornelia Anglin House on hillside on east side of Micaville



14. Cornelia Anglin House

**No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County**

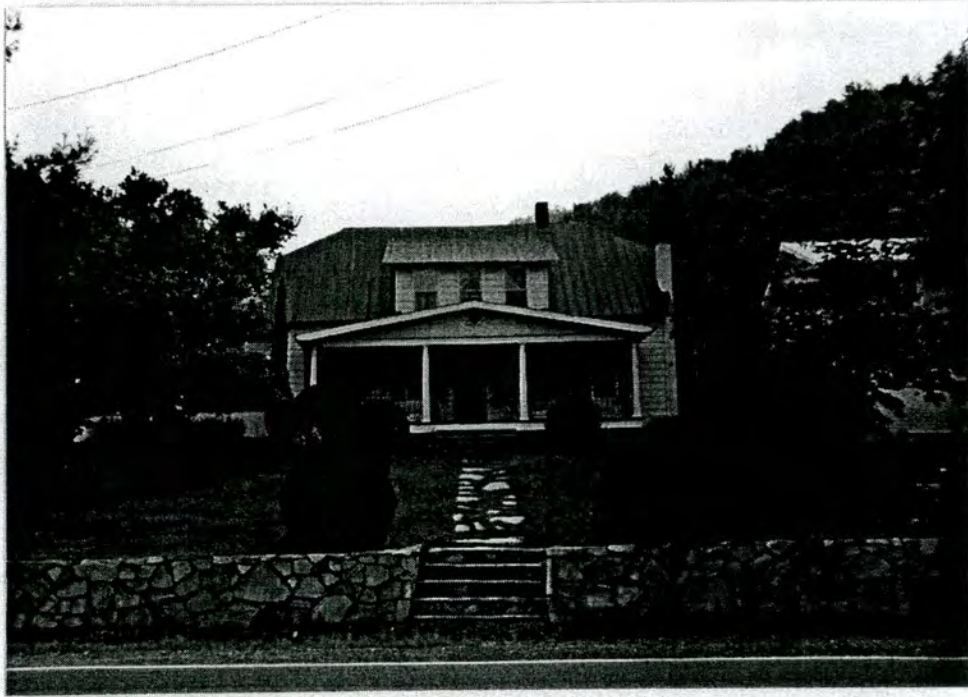


15. Historic house on hillside south of Anglin House



16. Historic house on west side of Micaville

**No. 70 Micaville Historic District
Yancey County**



17. Historic house on west side of Micaville



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

June 9, 2000

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Widening of US 19E from SR 1336 to SR 1186 with a Proposed Extension from SR 1186 to NC 80, TIP No. R-2519A, ER 00-9416

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2000, transmitting the survey report by Debbie Curtis Toole of The Jaeger Company concerning the above project.

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

Horton Hill Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for ethnic heritage as it represents the establishment of African-American communities in the period following the Civil War in Yancey County. The Cemetery is also eligible under Criterion Consideration D as it derives its primary significance from association with historic events, primarily the settlement of the area by an African-American community of which few other resources remain. We concur with the boundaries as noted in page 25 of the report.

R.C. & Zora Hise House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture as it embodies all of the distinctive characteristics on an early twentieth-century Craftsman bungalow in Yancey County. We concur with the boundaries as noted on page 28 of the report.

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
ARCHAEOLOGY	421 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619	(919) 733-7342 • 715-267
RESTORATION	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4613	(919) 733-6547 • 7
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4618	(919) 733-6545 • 71

page 2

Micaville Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development and for Commerce. The district represents the establishment of Micaville in the late nineteenth century as a mining town and the town's subsequent growth and prosperity as a mining and lumbering center after the coming of the railroad in 1910-1911. The district is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture as a collection of early to mid-twentieth century commercial and residential structures constructed during the town's most significant period of growth. We concur with the boundaries as noted on page 31 of the report.

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

Higgins Farm at Riverside
Everett Lee & Bessie Austin Ball House
R. W. Wilson House
Windom Store
Laws-Hall House

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.

DB:scb

cc: B. Church
N. Graf

**Concurrence Form for Properties Not Eligible for the National Register of
Historic Places (June 20, 2003)**

State Project # 6.909001T

TIP # R-2519B

County: Mitchell/Yancey

CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Project Description: Widen US 19E from SR 1186 to existing multilane west of Spruce Pine

On 06/20/2003, representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the property identified as 1-4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18-21, 23-25 is considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of it is necessary.
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. *(Attach any notes or documents as needed)*

Signed:

Mary Pope
Representative, NCDOT

6-20-2003
Date

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

Date

Frank D. [Signature]
Representative, HPO

6-20-2003
Date

David Wood
Historic Preservation Officer BJS

6-25-03
Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included.