

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

NC 143 from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business West of Robbinsville

Graham County, North Carolina

ER 02-8107

TIP No. R-2822B Federal Aid No. STP-1127(1) WBS No. 34508.1.1

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Due 4/17/12



Katherine Husband Architectural Historian North Carolina Department of Transportation

March 2012

Graham County #546

NC 143 from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business, West of Robbinsville ER 02-8107, R-2822B



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor Landa A. Carlisle, Secretary Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

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

April 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Kate Husband

Office of Human Environment NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM:

SUBJECT:

Ramona M. Bartos Responsa M. Boutos

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, Improvements to NC 143 from West Buffalo

Creek to NC 143 Business, R-2822B, Graham County, ER 02-8107

On March 26, 2012, we received the North Carolina Department of Transportation's historic architectural resources survey report for the above project. We are unable to comment on the National Register eligibility findings until the following questions and comments are addressed:

General

Please include an 11"× 17" color map that shows the Area of Potential Effect (APE) boundary, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (ECBI) Trust Lands (as shown in Figure 27), and all of the surveyed sites.

More historic context is needed, including information on the history of Graham County, the Snowbird people and culture, and white settlement in the area. This information is crucial to fully evaluate the National Register eligibility of each site.

We are not sure why the Traditional Cultural Properties were broken out into a separate section when they are meant to be evaluated using the same National Register Criteria as any other identified resource. The description of the ECBI Trust Lands on Pages 33-34 is helpful, but could be included in the introduction or the requested context.

Given that this undertaking has federal involvement, we recommend that a copy of the survey report be provided to the EBCI, on a government to government basis, by the lead federal agency. A courtesy copy of the report would likely be appreciated by the Snowbird. The National Register eligibility of the Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site, the Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site, and the Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery should be reexamined, if any comments are received from the ECBI or the Snowbird, or as additional information becomes available.

Are there any foreseeable issues with disclosing the location of any of the Traditional Cultural Properties in our publicly available files or GIS website?

Garland House (GH 0084, Property #13)

The integrity assessment states that the property "does not possess all aspects of integrity required for National Register listing." The National Park Service's National Register Bulletin #15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation states that a historic property "will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects [of integrity];" retaining all aspects is not a requirement.

The National Register Evaluation states that the house is not eligible under Criterion A for Social History. Properties should be evaluated considering all applicable areas of significance; mentioning specific areas of significance is not necessary unless the property is found eligible.

West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery (GH 0086, Property #15)

The Location and Physical Description states, "Three older sections of headstones... are interspersed within the mostly modern cemetery..." Please provide a table of the approximate count of the historic (greater than fifty years old) and non-historic (less than fifty years old) headstones within each of the three sections and the rest of the cemetery. The sections are described as consisting of three rows of fourteen headstones, but it is unclear if this means a) a total of fourteen headstones distributed across three rows, or b) three rows, which each contain fourteen headstones.

The National Register Evaluation states that the "Integrity of workmanship and materials is slightly compromised by the deterioration of the headstones." We believe that the integrity of materials has not been compromised, and that integrity of workmanship is only minimally compromised as the deterioration appears to be caused by natural weathering. Please clarify if this deterioration is indeed the result of natural weathering.

What is meant by "more recent burials" in the second paragraph of page 29? Are these less than fifty years old? Or are they just more recent than the Infant burials?

Like the Garland House, the National Register Evaluation for this property refers to only one area of significance, Social History; the property should be evaluated considering all applicable areas of significance. Is the site eligible under Criterion A for Exploration/Settlement given that the cemetery contains the remains of some of the earliest white families to settle the area and those associated with the early twentieth-century logging operations? Are there any other known historic cemeteries in Graham County? If so, how does this cemetery fit within that context? The earliest markers date to shortly after the county was formed.

Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site (GH 0087, Property #17)

Provide context on the practice of washing. How is it significant to the tradition and culture of the ECBI and/or Snowbird? Is it still performed today, at this or other sites?

Please identify the location of the spring on the site plan.

Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site (GH 0088, Property #18)

What is the elevation of the mountain peak(s) within the APE? Are there other notable or culturally significant features of the site, such as its location, visibility, topography, geology, etc.? Are there any documented footpaths or trails in the area that are associated with the Snowbird people or the Snowbird Legend? The Western Concurrence Meeting Agenda of December 16, 2010, notes that a "ridgeline trail" near NC 143 and SR 1125 was also identified during the Snowbird community meeting. Is this trail associated with the Legend Site? Is it a separate resource or Traditional Cultural Property that should be evaluated?

Provide context on the Snowbird Legend and its association with the Snowbird culture and practices. Is their additional information and documentation available in *The Path to Snowbird Mountain* or other sources?

Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery (GH 0089, Property #19)

We are unsure why this cemetery is considered a Traditional Cultural Property. Is there any documentation or other indications that the site possesses traditional cultural significance? Is there enough available information to evaluate the cemetery using the four National Register criteria like the West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery?

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 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

cc: Tyler Howe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, tylehowe@nc-cherokee.com Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report

NC 143 from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business West of Robbinsville

Graham County, North Carolina

TIP No. R-2822B Federal Aid No. STP-1127(1) WBS No. 34508.1.1



North Carolina Department of Transportation Report Prepared by Katherine Husband

March 2012

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Katherine H		, Principle	e Investiga	tor
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North Caroli	na Der	partment o	f Transpor	rtation

Mary Pope Fur, Supervisor Historic Architecture Group

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to improve NC 143 from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business west of Robbinsville in Graham County. The 4.5 mile project begins at the bridge over West Buffalo Creek and ends at the intersection of NC 143 and NC 143 Business.

The project's TIP Number is R-2822B, and the State Project Number is 8.2930301. This project is federally funded (Federal Aid Project No. STP-1127 (1)) and state funded (WBS Project No. 34508), and is classified as an Environmental Assessment (EA). In June and October of 2011, NCDOT architectural historians conducted a survey to identify historic architectural resources within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The initial field surveys identified a total of fifty-one resources. This report recommends that none of the properties identified are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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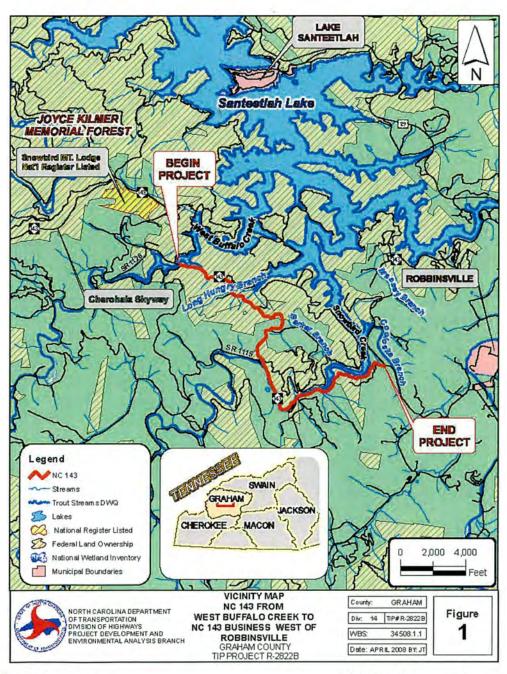
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Project Description

NCDOT proposes to improve NC 143 from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business west of Robbinsville in Graham County. The 4.5 mile project begins at the bridge over West Buffalo Creek and ends at the intersection of NC 143 and NC 143 Business. The project's TIP Number is R-2822B, and the State Project Number is 8.2930301. This project is federally funded (Federal Aid Project No. STP-1127 (1)) and state-funded (WBS Project No. 34508), and is classified as an Environmental Assessment. Project Vicinity is shown in **Figure 1**.



Purpose of Survey and Report

The purpose and need of this action is to improve safety along NC 143 using context sensitive solutions. The existing road is a narrow, winding two-lane facility that passes through mountainous terrain. Proposed improvements are to provide two eleven-foot travel lanes and four-foot grassed shoulders along with horizontal and vertical alignment improvements. Three alternatives are proposed; two alternatives generally follow existing NC 1439 and one alternative contains a new location for NC 143 that parallels Buchanan Branch Road (SR 1125) north of the existing NC 143 corridor.

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the project's APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by an EA. This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the EA, and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NR), and if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect of a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

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

In June and October of 2011, NCDOT architectural historians conducted a survey to identify historic architectural resources within the project's APE. Every property in the APE fifty-years of age or older was photographed and documented. The survey identified a total of fifty-one resources. Each property was discussed with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) during meetings in July and November of 2011. Of the fifty-one properties, five properties required in-depth evaluations of eligibility. This report contains these evaluations as well as photographs and brief summaries of the

forty-six properties determined not eligible for National Register listing during the HPO meetings.

In addition to the properties within the APE, Snowbird Mountain Lodge (GH2), a National Register listed site, is located west of the project area along NC 143, approximately half a mile from the western terminus of the project. Earlier studies included the Snowbird Mountain Lodge within an earlier version of the project area. Revised alternatives and the current project scope exclude the National Register site from the project area.

Background research was conducted at several archival repositories including the State Library of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; The NC-HPO's Survey and Planning Archives, also in Raleigh, the Graham County Public Library in Robbinsville, North Carolina, Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh, North Carolina, the libraries of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and Graham County Tax Records and Register of Deeds. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Snowbird Community leaders were also contacted through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Summary Results of Survey Findings

Properties Recommended Eligible for the National Register in this Report None

Properties Recommended Not Eligible for the National Register in this Report

Property No. 13: Garland House

Property No. 15: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery

Properties Not Evaluated for National Register Eligibility in this Report

Property No. 17: Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site

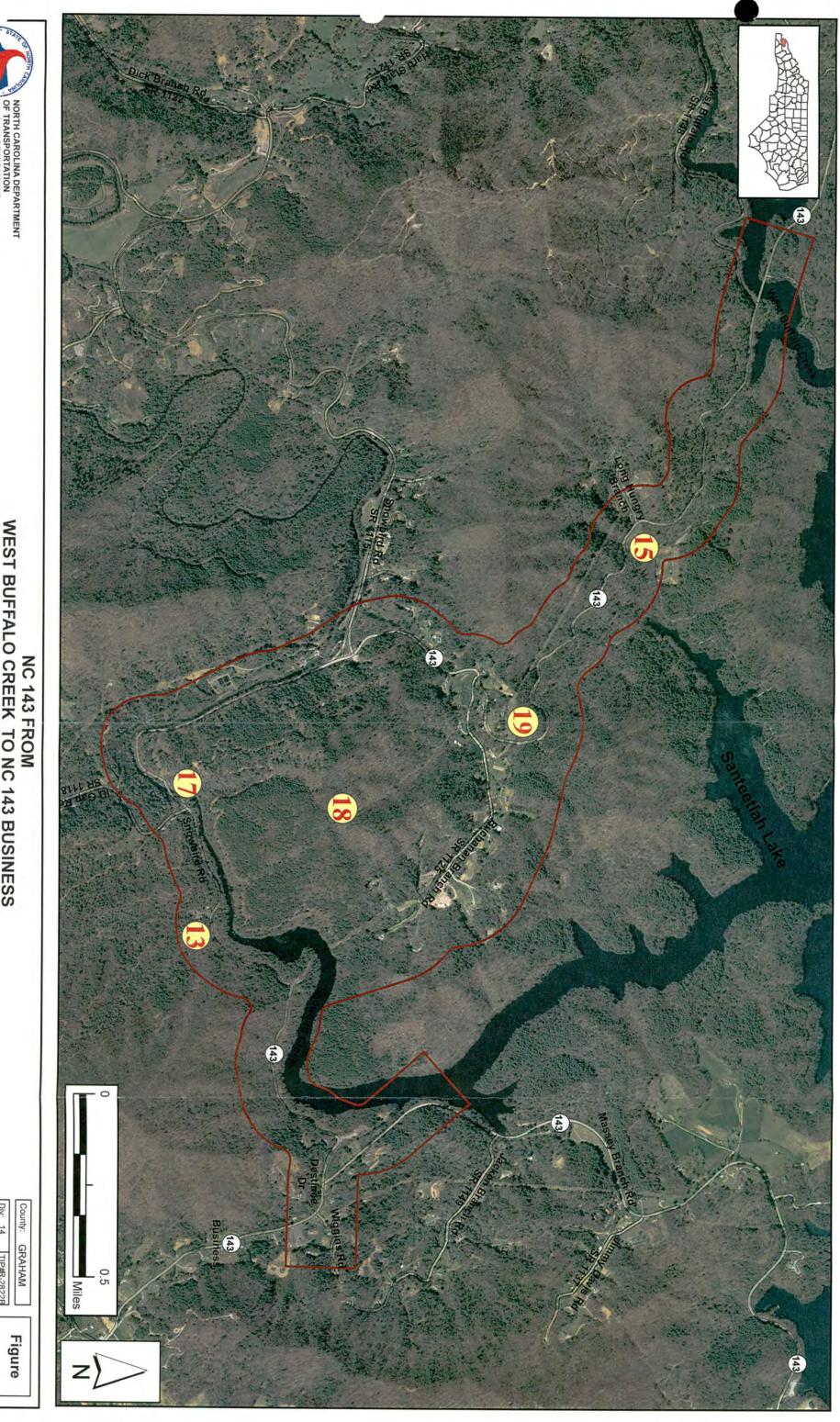
Property No. 18: Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site

Property No. 19: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery

Properties Recommended Not Eligible During Consultation with the Historic Preservation Office

Property No. 1	Property No. 2	Property No. 3	Property No. 4
Property No. 5	Property No. 6	Property No. 7	Property No. 8
Property No. 9	Property No. 10	Property No. 11	Property No. 12
Property No. 14	Property No. 16	Property No. 20	Property No. 21
Property No. 22	Property No. 23	Property No. 24	Property No. 25
Property No. 26	Property No. 27	Property No. 28	Property No. 29
Property No. 30	Property No. 31	Property No. 32	Property No. 33
Property No. 34	Property No. 35	Property No. 36	Property No. 37
Property No. 38	Property No. 39	Property No. 40	Property No. 41
Property No. 42	Property No. 43	Property No. 44	Property No. 45
Property No. 46	Property No. 47	Property No. 48	Property No. 49
Property No. 50	Property No. 51	77777	

For properties deemed not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2011 through HPO Concurrence, see Appendix II.



OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAY'S

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

NC 143 FROM
WEST BUFFALO CREEK TO NC 143 BUSINESS
WEST OF ROBBINSVILLE
GRAHAM COUNTY
TIP PROJECT R-2822B

Date: SEPTEMBER 2011

MBS: 34508.1.1

MAP OF APE

2

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS

Resource Name	Garland House
Survey Site Number	Property No. 13, GH0084
Location	3549 Snowbird Road
Parcel ID	5650-00-01-1455-0
Construction Date	1946
Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 3: Garland House, looking south. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, June 2011.

Location and Physical Description

The Garland House and related outbuildings are located on the south side of NC 143 (Snowbird Road), set back approximately 100 feet and facing north towards Snowbird Creek. The house, garage, secondary house, and chicken coop are situated on a heavily wooded 167-acre parcel in a small grassed clearing. An uncut-stone wall with a set of steps is located approximately twelve feet from the road and frames the main house. Two streams run parallel to the house, one directly east and one directly west, and both flow north into Snowbird Creek located north of the road. Two large shrubs and decorative plantings frame the house.

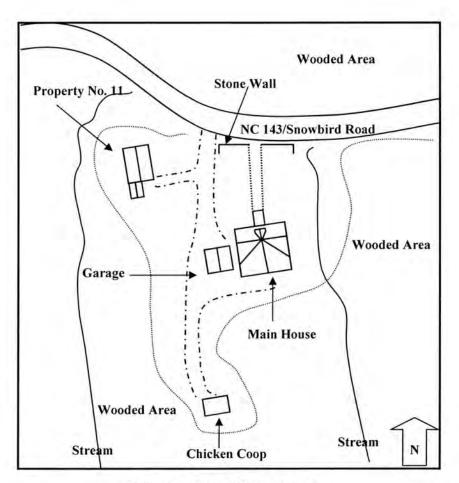


Figure 4: Garland House Site Plan.

The Garland House is a one-and-a-half story, three bay uncut-stone bungalow with a raised basement. A gabled dormer clad in vinyl siding punctuates the front facing, T-plan asphalt shingle roof. An exterior-end stone chimney is located on the east end of the house and a second exterior-end stone chimney is attached to the south elevation. On the north façade, paired one-over-one sash replacement windows are capped by stone lintels, as is the wood panel door located in the central bay of the façade. Paired one-over-one sash windows and a louvered vent punctuate the dormer. The roof extends over a recessed porch on the raised first story and is accessed by a long flight of stone steps. The roof over the porch is supported by uncut stone square columns. On the west elevation, two original doors, one wood paneled and the other batten, provide access to the basement. A stone above the paired half-story windows on the south elevation contains the hand-carved names of the architects/builders and date of construction, "G. W. BROWN AND P. BORING, 1946" (Figure 9). A one-story screened porch is attached to the south elevation.

The interior of the house features a center hall plan with three rooms on either side; the southeastern-most partition wall that once separated the kitchen from the dining room has been removed. The half-story consists of a center hall with three bedrooms.

A one-story, two bay uncut-stone garage with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles is located directly west of the house. Since its construction in 1960s, both bay doors have been removed and the openings enclosed by vinyl siding; a door and window occupy the eastern bay and shed double doors occupy the western bay.

A one-story three-bay wood frame house (Property No. 11) with a concrete foundation, asbestos siding, and a gable roof clad in standing seam metal is situated west of the main house.

A one-story wood frame chicken coop built in the early twenty-first century is situated south of the main house.



Figure 5: Garland House, north façade. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 6: Garland House, west elevation. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 7: Garland House, south and east elevations. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 8: Garland House, stone over half-story window in south elevation inscribed with "G.W. BROWN, P. BORING, 1946."
Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 9: Stone wall in front of Garland House adjacent to NC 143, looking southeast. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 10: Garland House, steps leading to walkway, looking south. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 11: Garland House garage, looking south. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 12: Property No. 11, west of Garland House. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, June 2011.



Figure 13: Chicken Coop south of Garland House. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

History

George Garland acquired various tracts of land totaling approximately 313 acres in 1944 and, according to a marked stone on the south elevation of the house, hired G.W. Brown and P. Boring to construct the stone bungalow. The house was completed in 1946. Garland sold the property to Floyd S. Griffin and his wife Cassia in 1959 and the house has been in the Griffin Family since and used as a rental property for most of that time. A cabin (Property No. 11) and garage were built in the 1960s west of the main house. In 2005, granddaughter Mary Griffin took ownership of the house and made most of the exterior and interior alterations to the house, which included replacing the original windows, removing the garage doors on the garage, and reconfiguring interior layout on the first floor of the main house. Trees that once framed the front of the house and pavers leading up to the main steps were also removed.

National Register Evaluation

The Garland House does not possess all aspects of integrity required for National Register listing. Photographs provided by current owner Mary Griffin show that the roof of the house may have originally been clad in standing seam metal; when it was replaced with asphalt shingle is unknown. The original three-over-one sash windows have been replaced with one-over-one vinyl sash windows, further compromising the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. On the interior, a wall between the kitchen and the living room was removed and a fireplace was added to the front living room. A bedroom on the first floor was converted to a bathroom and laundry room. The property retains some of its integrity of setting, and the house retains integrity of feeling, location, and association.

For National Register significance, the Garland House is **not eligible** under Criterion A for Social History. To merit eligibility under Criterion A, a district or property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history, or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to social history.² The Garland House is not associated with a specific event or pattern events that contribute to history.

The Garland House is **not eligible** under Criterion B, a category for individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. No individuals significant in local, state, or national history are known to have been active with this property.

The Garland House is **not eligible** under Criterion C for Design and Construction. To be eligible under Criterion C, a property must meet one of the following requirements:

¹ Mary Griffin, Interview with Katherine Husband, October 13, 2011.

² National Register Bulletin 15 (Washington, DC: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1991), 12.

- -Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- -Represent the work of a master;
- -Possess high artistic value;
- -Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.³

The Garland House is not a unique building type does not possess distinctive characteristics of a type and does not retain a high level of integrity. Local stone is a common building material in the western North Carolina and Graham County, and the Garland House is not a distinctive example of its use. There are several uncut-stone houses and commercial buildings built in the 1940s to the east in downtown Robbinsville, including 314 North Main Street (1940) seen in Figure 15, 376 North Main Street (1948), and motel at 268 North Main Street (1945) seen in Figure 16. Other uncut-stone houses are present along many of the county roads in Western North Carolina and the Garland House is not a distinctive example.

Finally, under the scope given for this report, which specifically addresses above-ground resources, the Garland House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D. For properties to be eligible under Criterion D they must, first, have or have had information contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory. Second, this information must be considered important.⁴ No additional above-ground information specific to Criterion D was discovered during fieldwork or research.

³ National Register Bulletin 15, 17-20.

⁴ National Register Bulletin 15, 15.



Figure 14: 314 North Main Street, Robbinsville, built 1940. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 15: Hotel at 268 North Main Street, built 1945. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

Resource Name	West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery	
Survey Site Number	Property No. 15, GH0086	
Location	North side of NC143	
Parcel ID	N/A	
Construction Date	1870s- Present	
Recommendation	Not Eligible	



Figure 16: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, looking east. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, June 2011.

Location and Physical Description

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is located on the north side of NC 143 near the western terminus of the APE in an open, slightly rolling grassed area of a heavily wooded forest. The cemetery is reached by a gravel road that intersects the cemetery and loops south to the southern boundary and back to the entrance of the clearing. Following the gravel drive from NC 143 to the clearing is approximately 830 feet; from the closest road point to the clearing is approximately 300 feet. Santeetlah Lake lies to the north. Standing headstones in twenty uneven rows mark graves clustered in the northwest corner of the clearing and date from the late-nineteenth century to the present. Three older sections of headstones (Section I, Section II, and Section II) are interspersed within the mostly modern cemetery and are arranged loosely by family. Many of the older burials are that of infants and young children from the late nineteenth century to early twentieth century.

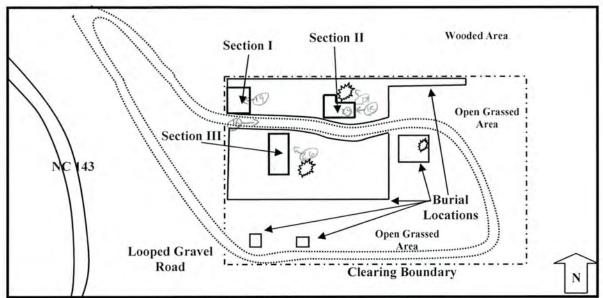


Figure 17: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery Site Plan.

The oldest dated section, Section I, consists of three rows of approximately fourteen headstones located in the northwest corner of the site (Figure 20). This section consists of both plain and highly decorated headstones from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. The earliest dated marker is located in this section; the plain, segmental arch headstone marks the grave of Thomas Stewart (d. 1877). One of the most highly decorated headstones in the cemetery is located in this section, that of Elvie Carver (d. 1913). The rectangular headstone with a slant top is ornately carved with a scene of a castle topped by a crown in front of a sunburst (Figure 21). Inscribed on the bottom of the scene is a phrase beginning with "In my father's..." the rest of the inscription is illegible. On the north and south sides of the headstone are ornate side mouldings of carved ivy leaves Figure 22). Two obelisk markers are also found in this section, marking the graves of Brice Stewart (b. 1900, d. 1919, Figure 23) and Ruth Elizabeth Stewart (b. 1858, d. 1922).



Figure 18: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, looking west. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 19: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section I, looking west. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 20: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section I, headstone of Elvie Carver. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 21: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section I, headstone of Elvie Carver, side moulding. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 22: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section I, obelisk marker of Brice Stewart. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

Section II, located eight rows east of the first section, contains simple segmental arch headstones (Figure 24). The approximately seventeen headstones contain no birth or death dates and consist of Carver, Colvard, Stewart, Waldroup, and Farr family graves. Four headstones in the easternmost row contain dates of birth and death, they are: Sumner Stewart (b. 1898, d. 1899), Laura Stewart (b. 1904, d. 1904), Ronald Stewart (b. 1912, d. 1912), and John Ingel (b. 1902, d. 1904). Based on the dates inscribed, this section most likely dates to the early twentieth century.



Figure 23: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section II, looking northwest. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 24: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section II, Stewart section. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 25: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section II. A more ornate headstone, Dillard Farr. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

Section III, located within the loop formed by the gravel drive, consists of three rows of twenty-five segmental arch headstones identical to Section II (Figure 27). A majority of the headstones in this section are marked simply as "Infant of," and no headstones in this section contain birth or death dates. The section is mostly marking the burials of the Queen family, along with the grave of Rebecca Colvard and two headstones marked "Infant of Rebecca Colvard."



Figure 26: West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery, Section III, looking northwest. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

There are a few early twentieth century headstones scattered throughout the more recent burials, most notably in a Waldroup family area east of Section III within the loop created by the gravel road.

History

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery was established as a community cemetery in the late 1800's on a grant of land that passed from the Queen family in 1883 and the Queen and Carver families in 1896. The earliest burial dates to 1877 (Thomas Stewart, d. 1877) and most of the graves date to the early twentieth century.⁶ Early farming families to the area, including the Carvers, Colvards, Stewarts, and Lovins, are buried in the cemetery. These families settled in Graham County in the mid- to late nineteenth century, with the Colvard, Stewart, and Lovin families settling along Long Hungry Branch; the cemetery is sometimes referred to as the Long Hungry Cemetery in addition to West Buffalo/Carver.8 In the early twentieth century lumber companies bought land in the immediate area and logging became the main industry of Graham County in the West Buffalo and Big Snowbird watersheds. West Buffalo Creek, Snowbird Creek, and Little Snowbird Creek were used to transport the logs to mills. Many of the families buried in the cemetery are connected to the logging operations of the early twentieth century, as described by descendants of the original families in Graham County Heritage. The cemetery is currently still in use.

National Register Evaluation

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery retains a moderate level of integrity. There are three distinct older sections, however more recent burials in and around the area, one of which is within Section I, affect integrity of feeling. Integrity of workmanship and materials is slightly compromised by the deterioration of the headstones; some markings are becoming illegible. The cemetery retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, and association.

For National Register significance, the West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is not eligible under Criterion A for Social History. To merit eligibility under Criterion A, a district or property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history, or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to social history. 10 The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is not associated with a specific event, moment, or pattern of events in history.

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is **not eligible** under Criterion B, a category for individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented.

R-2822B// Graham County Identification and Eligibility Evaluation

⁵ Deborah Joy and Megan O'Connell, Archaeological and Historical Background Research Report for the proposed Improvements to NC 143 (Kilmer Road) Cherohala Skyway-Snowbird Road (SR 1127), Graham County, North Carolina (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Transportation, January 1998), 54-55.

⁶ Recordation provided by Bill and Wilma Millsaps, "Carver (Long Hungry) Cemetery," Graham County Heritage (Robbinsville NC: Graham County Historical Society, 2001), 279-280.

Graham County Heritage (Robbinsville NC: Graham County Historical Society, 2001).

⁸ Graham County Centennial, 1872-1972 (Robbinsville, N.C., 1972), 9.

⁹ Graham County Heritage (Robbinsville NC: Graham County Historical Society, 2001).

¹⁰ National Register Bulletin 15, 12.

Although it appears the families of the earliest settlers of the area are buried in the cemetery, no individuals significant in local, state, or national history are known to have been active with this cemetery.

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is not eligible under Criterion C for Design and Construction. To be eligible under Criterion C, a property must meet one of the following requirements:

- -Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- -Represent the work of a master;
- -Possess high artistic value;
- -Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. 11

The West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery has several highly decorative, early twentieth century carved headstones; however as a whole the cemetery is not a unique or distinctive type of cemetery design or workmanship. Most headstones are plain, common segmental arch capped headstones inscribed with names and dates. Although there are several more elaborate headstones within the cemetery, highly decorative headstones are not uncommon in western North Carolina.¹² The cemetery as a whole possesses common characteristics, such as family groupings and headstone design, of cemeteries in the region and in the state. The loss of integrity of feeling due to recent burials surrounding and interspersing the three historic sections contributes to the lack of eligibility under Criterion C.

Finally, under the scope given for this report, which specifically addresses above-ground resources, the West Buffalo/Carver Cemetery is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D. For properties to be eligible under Criterion D they must, first, have or have had information contributing to our understanding of human history or prehistory. Second, this information must be considered important. 13 No additional above ground information specific to Criterion D was discovered during fieldwork or research.

¹¹ National Register Bulletin 15, 17-20.

¹² Ruth M. Little, Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 13.

¹³ National Register Bulletin 15, 15.

TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES

Traditional Cultural Properties

The area in which the APE is located is closely linked to the Eastern Band of Cherokee history and heritage. The Snowbird Community of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, known as one of the more remote and lesser-known communities, live on Federal land trusts in the region. ¹⁴ The Eastern Band of Cherokee currently own twenty-three tracts of land in Graham County and five tracts are located within the APE, which fall within the Cheoah Boundary: Tract 477, the Towayallah Tract; Tract 373, the Ootalkanah Tract; Tract 17, the Elowah Tract; Tract 93, the Cooloska Tract, and Tract 91, Unknown Name. The location of these tracts is seen in Figure 28, and properties within the APE on these tracts determined not eligible for National Register listing can be found in Appendix II.

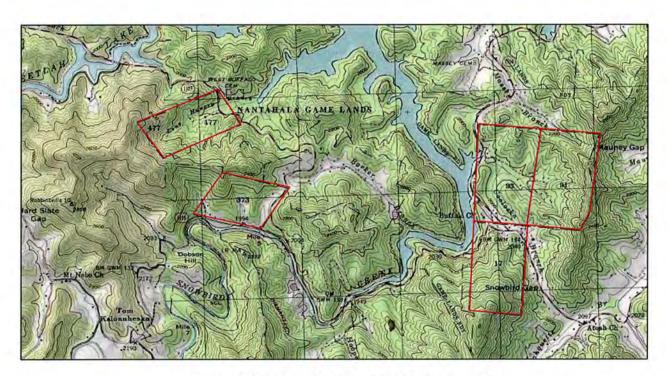


Figure 27: Tribal Lands, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

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¹⁴ The area around Long Hungry Creek and Big Snowbird Creek was known as Yunsawi (Buffalo Town) before federal land was granted to the Cherokee. Some of this original area is now underwater due to the creation of Santeetlah Lake.

In addition to tribal lands, there are several traditional cultural properties tied to the Snowbird Cherokees within the APE.

Background research indicates that the region is heavily tied to the myths and legends of the Cherokee, several of which originated in western North Carolina and specifically Graham County. Traditional cultural properties within the APE reviewed for National Register eligibility are the Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site, the Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site, and the Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery.

¹⁵ An extensive list of specific sites and legends within western North Carolina can be found in the work of James Mooney: James Mooney, *Myths of the Cherokee* (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1900), 404-411.

Resource Name	Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site	
Survey Site Number	Property No. 17, GH0087	
Location	N. Side of NC 143 on E. Bank of Snowbird Creek	
Parcel ID	N/A	
Construction Date	N/A	
Recommendation	Not Evaluated for National Register Eligibility	



Figure 28: Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site, looking east. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, June 2011.

Location and Physical Description

The Washing Site associated with the Snowbird Cherokee is located on the south bank of Snowbird Creek, east of Graham County Bridge No. 13 and near the intersection of NC 143 and SR 1118 (I U Gap Road). The site is located within the Nantahala National Forest Snowbird Picnic Area. A dirt pathway with rectangular stone pavers leads down to a narrow dirt bank on the edge of the creek. The rest of the banks along Snowbird Creek are heavily wooded.

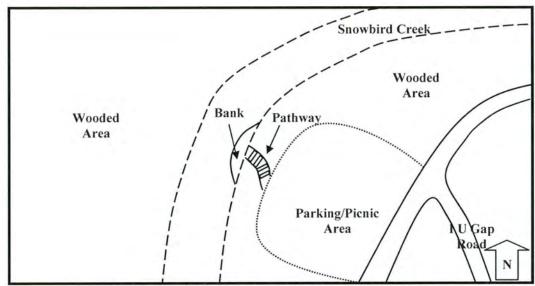


Figure 29: Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site, Site Plan.



Figure 30: Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site, path down to bank, looking north. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 31: Snowbird Creek, looking west from bank. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

History

In a public involvement meeting with the Snowbird Community held on March 4, 2008 by NCDOT to discuss project R-2822B, it was noted by residents of the Snowbird Community that there is a natural spring near SR 1118 known as Indian Springs where the Cherokee have gone for cultural washing for many years. ¹⁶ This site is thought to be the location of the cultural washing site based on a survey visit.

National Register Evaluation

Extensive efforts were made to evaluate the Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site with reference to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as a Traditional Cultural Place (TCP), but there is not enough documentary data to support an eligibility recommendation. Several attempts, through FHWA, were made to meet and discuss the site with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office as well as the Snowbird Community, but no meeting took place, nor was information provided. Therefore NCDOT cannot establish an integral relationship of the property to traditional cultural practices or beliefs. Furthermore, little history is known about the Indian Springs Cultural Washing Site and therefore NCDOT is unable to document an association with significant events or tribal "persons."

¹⁶ R-2822B Concurrence Meeting Information Packet, December 16, 2010.

Resource Name	Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site	
Survey Site Number	Property No. 18, GH0088	
Location	Mountain Peaks along Buchanan Branch Road	
Parcel ID	N/A	
Construction Date	N/A	
Recommendation	Not Evaluated for National Register Eligibility	

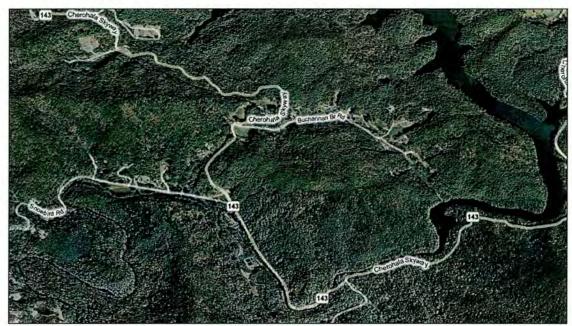


Figure 32: Snowbird Legend Site. Image courtesy of Bing Maps Imagery.

Location and Physical Description

During a public involvement meeting conducted by NCDOT with residents of the Snowbird Community it was noted that the traditionally-recognized home of the Snowbird of Cherokee Legend resides in the mountain peaks above where Buchanan Branch Road is located.¹⁷ The highest peak is considered to be the home of a giant white snowbird, the grandfather of all Snowbird Cherokee.¹⁸

¹⁷ R-2822B Concurrence Meeting Information Packet, December 16, 2010.

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¹⁸ Traveler Bird, *The Path to Snowbird Mountain: Cherokee Legends by Traveler Bird (Tsisghwanai)* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972), 4.

History

In a Snowbird Community Meeting held on March 4, 2008 by NCDOT to discuss project R-2822B, it was noted by residents of the Snowbird Community that the traditionally-recognized home of the Snowbird of Cherokee Legend resides in the mountain peaks above where Buchanan Branch Road is located. Traveler Bird also documented this story told by his grandfather, who lived in the area, in his published collection of Cherokee legends: *The Path to Snowbird Mountain: Cherokee Legends by Traveler Bird (Tsisghwanai).*

National Register Evaluation

Extensive efforts were made to evaluate the Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site with reference to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as a Traditional Cultural Place (TCP), but there is not enough documentary data to support an eligibility recommendation. Several attempts, through FHWA, were made to meet and discuss the site with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office as well as the Snowbird Community, but no meeting took place, nor was information provided. Therefore NCDOT cannot establish an integral relationship of the property to traditional cultural practices or beliefs. Furthermore, little history is known about the Origin of the Snowbird Legend Site and therefore NCDOT is unable to document an association with significant events or tribal "persons."

¹⁹ R-2822B Concurrence Meeting Information Packet, December 16, 2010.

²⁰ Traveler Bird, The Path to Snowbird Mountain: Cherokee Legends by Traveler Bird (Tsisghwanai) (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972).

Resource Name	Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery	
Survey Site Number	Property No. 19, GH0089	
Location	W. Side of NC 143, near Buchanan Branch Rd Inter.	
Parcel ID	N/A	
Construction Date Earliest Dated Burial, 1921		
Recommendation	Not Evaluated for National Register Eligibility	



Figure 33: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, looking west. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

Location and Physical Description

The Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery is located on the west side of NC 143 on the top of a steep hill approximately 150 feet from the road. The cemetery is located in front of 621 Santeetlah Road on its own parcel. The small clearing is surrounded by mature trees and the ground is covered in a thick bed of moss. Several standing grave markers are clustered near the eastern portion of the cemetery, and other burials are interspersed throughout the clearing.

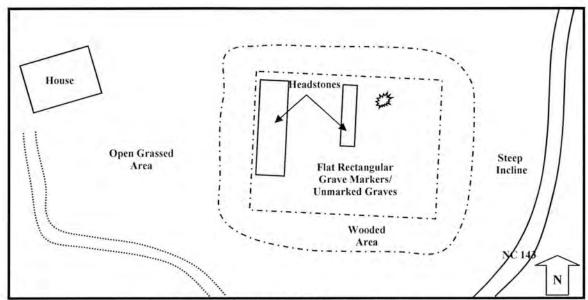


Figure 34: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery Site Plan.

A 1984 survey of the cemetery identified 67 graves, most of which are unmarked.²¹ Two inscribed standing headstones, burials marked with fieldstones, and several graves marked simply by a small rectangular marble slab set in the ground are scattered throughout the site. One of the inscribed headstones is that of Howard Cornsilk (b. 1900, d. 1921) and is located in the westernmost portion of the cemetery. Simple fieldstone markers surround the headstone, as seen in Figure 38. The second inscribed headstone is that of Chick-a-Le-Lee, a Cherokee Confederate Veteran, which is located in the north-central portion of the cemetery. The U.S. Veterans Administration-issued headstone contains the Southern Cross of Honor, the name inscribed in an arched form, and the company, inscribed as "CO. B THOMAS N. C. LEGION C. S. A" (Figure 40).

The approximately ten graves marked by fieldstones are either headstone markers or both headstone and footstone markers. The stones are roughly rectangular in shape and contain no inscriptions. Three of the fieldstones in the easternmost section mark the graves of the Jumper family. The graves are also marked with military plaques and small identification stakes bearing the names of Jimmy Jumper (b.1929, d. 1982), Ed Jumper (b. 1900, d. 1980), and Nancy Jumper (b. 1906, d. 1973).

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²¹ Joy, 28; Graham County Heritage (Graham County Historical Society: Robbinsville NC, 2001), 296.



Figure 35: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, looking northwest. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 36: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, looking northeast from entrance. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 37: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, inscribed headstone and fieldstone markers. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 38: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, fieldstone markers and flat markers, graves of Jumper Family.

Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 39: U.S. Veterans Administration-issued headstone of Chick-a-Le-Lee. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 40: Fieldstone markers, unknown graves, looking west. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 41: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery, marble marker. Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.



Figure 42: Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery.

Marble markers can be seen scattered throughout the cemetery.

Katherine Husband, NCDOT, October 2011.

History

The State of North Carolina granted the property on which Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery is located to William H. Thomas in 1854 as part of preemption 363; Thomas then passed the land to Chick-a-Le-Lee, who is buried in the cemetery. The date of the cemetery is unknown; the earliest date recorded on a headstone is that of Howard Cornsilk (b. 1900, d. 1921). Chick-a-Le-Lee was a private in the Thomas' Confederate Legion of Cherokee Indians and Mountaineers, Company B, one of two confederate Cherokee companies during the Civil War. Known as "Thomas' Legion," they were utilized to protect and defend the western counties of North Carolina. Chick-a-Le-Lee enlisted on April 9, 1862 and survived the war.²³

National Register Evaluation

Extensive efforts were made to evaluate the Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery with reference to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as a Traditional Cultural Place (TCP), but there is not enough documentary data to support an eligibility recommendation. Several attempts, through FHWA, were made to meet and discuss the site with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office as well as the Snowbird Community, but no meeting took place, nor was information provided. Therefore NCDOT cannot establish an integral relationship of the property to traditional cultural practices or beliefs. Furthermore, little history is known about the Chick-a-Le-Lee Cemetery and therefore NCDOT is unable to document an association with significant events or tribal "persons."

22 Joy, 16.

²³ Matthew M. Brown and Michael W. Coffey, *North Carolina Troops: 1861-1865*, *A Roster*, Vol. 16, *Thomas's Legion* (Raleigh, NC: Office of Archives and History, 2008), 270.

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Appendix I

	Federal Aid # STP-1127(1)	TIP # R-2822B	County: Graham	
		M FOR PROPERTIES NOT L REGISTER OF HISTORIC		
rojec	ct Description:			
n Ju	ly 12, 2011, representatives of the			
	North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) Other			
Revie	wed the subject project at historic architect	ural resources photograph review se	ession/consultation and	
All pa	arties present agreed			
	There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).			
	There are no properties less than fifty ye project's APE.	There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's APE.		
g	There are properties over fifty years old within the project's APE, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary. Photographs of these properties are attached.			
	$I_1 Z_1 Z_2 I_3 I_4 I_5 I_6 I_6 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_6 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7 I_7$			
3	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.			
	More information is requested on prope	rties 13 £ 15		
Signe	d:			
lha	thorn & Hully		July 12 2011	
Repre	esentative, NCDOT		() Date	
FHW.	A, for the Division Administrator, or other	Federal Agency	Date	
Repre	esentative, HPO		Date	
. /	me Gedill-Ear	0	7 10 11	
1/	Historic Preservation Officer	leg	7.12.11	
		U	Date	
		t a final come of this form and the attached	list will be included	
		d, a final copy of this form and the attached	list will be included.	
		d, a final copy of this form and the attached	list will be included.	
		d, a final copy of this form and the attached	list will be included.	
		d, a final copy of this form and the attached	list will be included.	

Federal Aid # STP-1127(1)

TIP # R-2822B

County: Graham

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

	THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTO	ORIC PLACES			
Projec	et Description:				
On No	ovember 1, 2011, representatives of the				
	North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) Other				
Revie	wed the subject project at historic architectural resources photograph revi	ew session/consultation and			
All pa	arties present agreed				
	There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).				
Ø	There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's APE.				
Ø	There are properties over fifty years old within the project's APE, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary. Photographs of these properties are attached.				
Ø	There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's APE.				
Ø	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.				
Ø	More information is requested on properties $\frac{1718,19}{18}$.				
Signe	d:				
K	atherie S. Hubaral	Nov 1st 2011			
Repre	esentative, NCDOT	Date			
FHW	A, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency	Date			
Repre	esentative, HPO	Date			
Re	ren Gleckill- Early	11-1-11			
State	Historic Preservation Officer	Date			

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

APPENDIX II

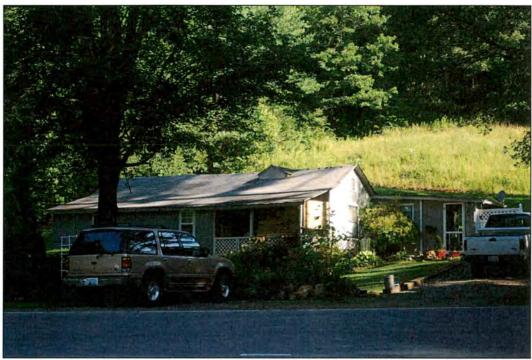
Properties deemed Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places during meetings with Historic Preservation Office



Property 1: 755 Santeetlah Road GH 00 70
PIN: 5650-00-3894-0
Loss of integrity and no architectural or archaeological significance.

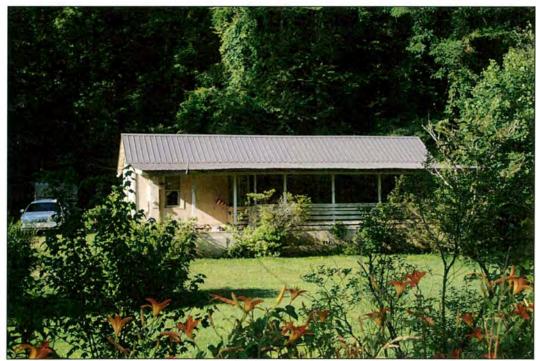


Property 2: *55 Santeetlah Road
PIN: 5598-00-00-0320
No architectural or archaeological significance.

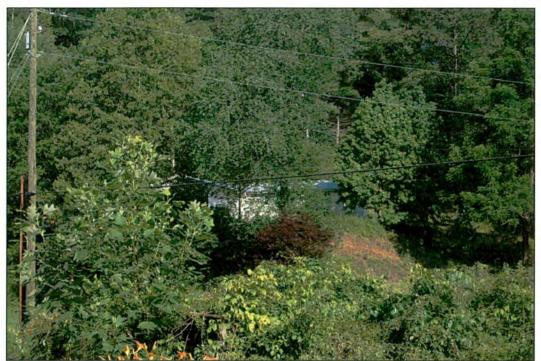


Property 3: 471 Santeetlah Road
PIN: 5650-00-1340-0

Loss of integrity and no architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 4: 160 Buchanan Branch Road PIN: 5650-00-00-3901-0 No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 5: 221 Buchanan Branch Road **PIN:** 5650-00-00-3608-0
No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H0074



Property 6: 300 Buchanan Branch Road
PIN: 5650-00-00-4410
No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 7: 351 Buchanan Branch Road **PIN:** 5650-00-00-2197-0
No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 8: 385 Buchanan Branch Road
PIN: 5650-00-00-4510
No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H0077



Property 9: North Side Buchanan Branch Road **PIN:** 5650-00-00-4390 No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H 0122



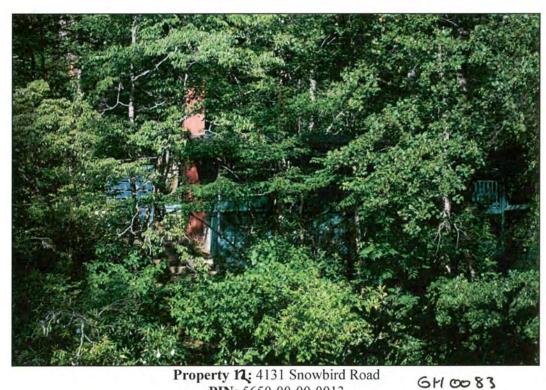
Property 10: 384 Santeetlah Road
PIN: 5650-00-00-3780
No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 11: 4761 Snowbird Road **PIN:** 5650-00-00004

No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0082



Property 12: 4131 Snowbird Road
PIN: 5650-00-00-0013
No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property 14: 3553 Snowbird Road
PIN: 5650-00-01-1455-0 P
No architectural or archaeological significance.

BH 0084



Property 16: Snowbird Suspension Bridge PIN: N/A

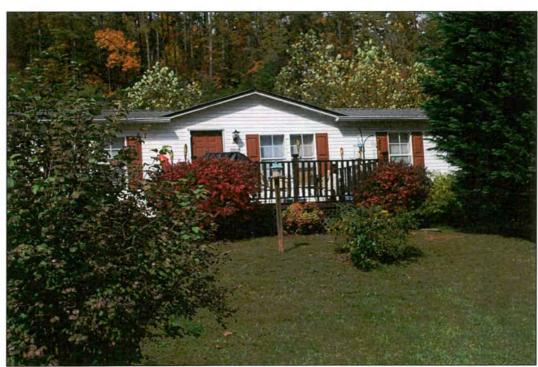
GH0017

Loss of integrity, architectural or archaeological significance.



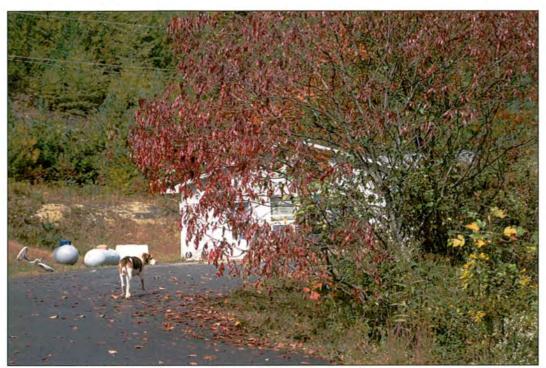
Property No. 20: 23 Long Hungry Branch
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.

6410090



Property No. 21: 82 Long Hungry Branch PIN: N/A

GH0091



Property No. 22: 86 Long Hungry Branch
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0092



Property No. 23: 90 Long Hungry Branch
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH0093



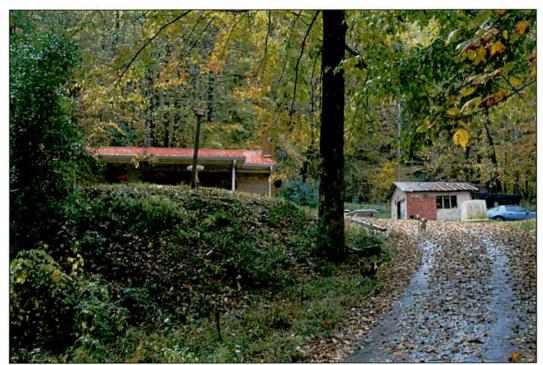
Property No. 24: 123 Long Hungry Branch **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

GHOOSY



Property No. 25: 125 Long Hungry Branch **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0095



Property No. 26: 129 Long Hungry Branch **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H 00 96



Property No. 27: 152 Long Hungry Branch **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0097

Identification and Eligibility Evaluation



Property No. 28: 176 Long Hungry Branch **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H 0098



Property No. 29: 1555 Santeetlah Road
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH0099



Property No. 30: 199 Santeetlah Road PIN: N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

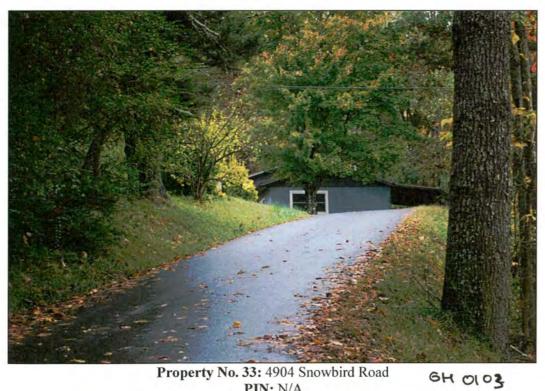


Property No. 31: 239 Santeetlah Road PIN: N/A

GH 0101



Property No. 32: 317 Santeetlah Road PIN: N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

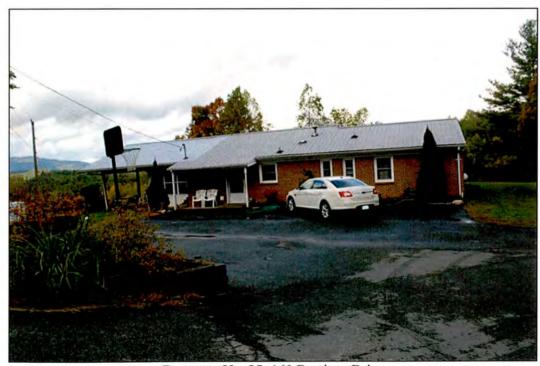


Property No. 33: 4904 Snowbird Road PIN: N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property No. 34: 37 Destinee Drive **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

6H01034



Property No. 35: 160 Destinee Drive PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0105



Property No. 36: 2542 Snowbird Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property No. 37: 48 Wiggins Road PIN: N/A

GH0107

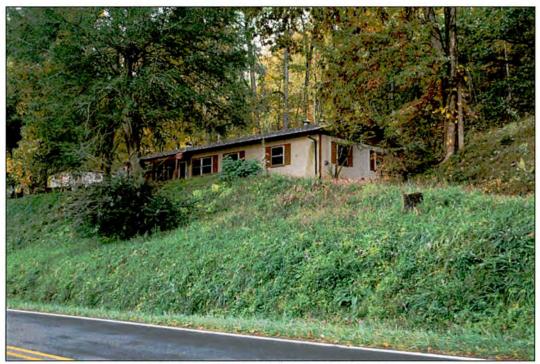


Property No. 38: 2458 Snowbird Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH 0108

Property No. 39: 2603 Snowbird Road PIN: N/A

GH 0109



Property No. 40: 2605 Snowbird Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH OILD



Property No. 40: 2609 Snowbird Road PIN: N/A

GH OIL



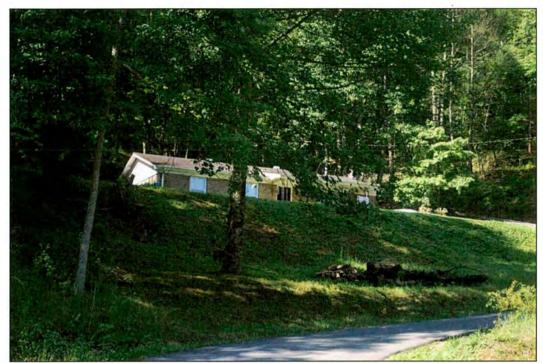
Property No. 42: 127 Wiggins Road
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.



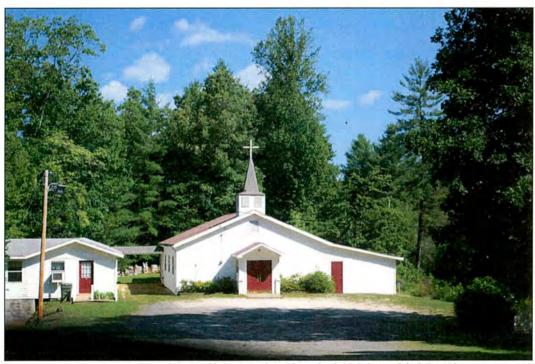
Property No. 43: 188 Wiggins Road
PIN: N/A

No architectural or archaeological significance.

GH OIIZ



Property No. 44: 225 Wiggins Road
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance.



Property No. 45: Buffalo Baptist Church, 2686 Snowbird Road
PIN: N/A
No architectural or archaeological significance



Property No. 46: 2403 Snowbird Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

GH 0116



Property No. 47: 3387 Massey Branch Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

6H0117



Property No. 48: 3341 Massey Branch Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

6 H 018



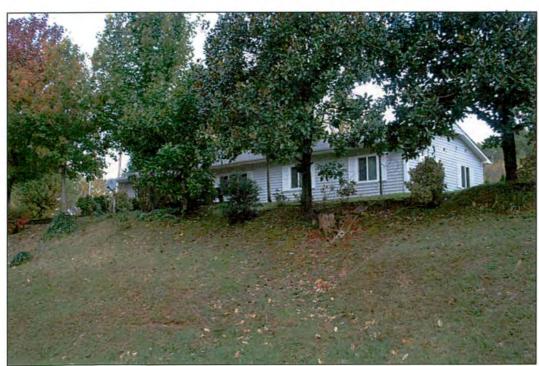
Property No. 49: 3356 Massey Branch Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

GH 0119



Property No. 50: 3298 Massey Branch Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

GHOIZO



Property No. 51: 3263 Massey Branch Road **PIN:** N/A No architectural or archaeological significance

6HOIZ1