



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

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

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

Division of Historical Resources  
David J. Olson, Director

April 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Thorpe, Manager  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch  
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: David Brook *Renee Hedrick-Easley, D. Brook*

SUBJECT: Historic/Architectural Resources Survey Report NC 194 from Avery County  
Line to SR 1112 (Broadstone Road), Valle Crucis, R-2710, Watauga County,  
ER02-8623

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 2003, transmitting the survey report by Richard Silverman for 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 listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

The Carender Barn  
The Lee Carender Farm  
The Valle Crucis Historic District

The Carender Barn, 8326 NC 194, Valle Crucis, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as one of the few remaining nineteenth-century barns in the county. The barn represents the development of agriculture in the Valle Crucis vicinity and is especially rare because it is sited at a higher elevation than most of the barns located in the surrounding valley.

We concur with the National Register boundaries as described and delineated in the survey report for the Lee Carender Farm and the Valle Crucis Historic District.

The Lee Carender Farm, NW side NC 194, 0.3 mile SW of Jct. with SR 1122, Matney vicinity, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The farm remains an

[www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us)

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ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
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SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4618	(919) 733-6545 • 715-4801

April 28, 2003

Page 2

unparalleled example of a rural farm property dating from the late-nineteenth-to-the-early-twentieth-centuries. In addition, the farm is a good and intact collection of late-nineteenth-to-early-twentieth-century rural domestic architecture and agricultural construction.

The Valle Crucis Historic District, including the National Register listed Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The district contains a representative collection of buildings, structures, and sites that document the evolution of the natural and built environment through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The district includes log and frame dwellings, agricultural buildings, churches, schools, businesses, and vacation homes.

We have reviewed the National Register boundaries for the Valle Crucis Historic District and find that we need further information before we evaluate the findings. Please provide us with a more complete boundary justification for the western boundary of the district and the tax parcel map for the David F. Baird Farm. Use of the aerial photograph used for the replacement of the bridge within the historic district may also be helpful and should be readily accessible.

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

1, 3-7, and 9-13.

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, 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.

bc: ✓ Southern/McBride  
County



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

April 11, 2003

RECEIVED  
APR 11 2003

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

*Sarah*

Ref. # ERO2-8623  
Due 5/5

Dear Mr. Brook:

RE: **R-2710, Improve NC 194 from Avery County Line to SR 1112 (Broadstone Road), Valle Crucis, Watauga County. State Project # 8.1721001, Federal Aid #STP-194(4).**

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

- **Carender Barn (Property #2) is eligible for the National Register.**
- **Lee Carender Farm (Property #8) is eligible for the National Register.**
- **Valle Crucis Historic District (#14-VCHD) is eligible for the National Register. Please note, the Valle Crucis Historic District is proposed to connect to the existing Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (listed in the NR in 1993).**

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact Richard Silverman, Historic Architecture Section, (919) 715-1618.

Sincerely,

*Mary Pope Furr*

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor  
Historic Architecture Section  
Project Development & Environmental Analysis Branch

MPF/rls  
Attachment  
cc: Stephanie Caudill, Project Planning Engineer  
Donald J. Voelker, Federal Highway Administration

RECEIVED

MAILING ADDRESS:  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT  
1583 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-1583

TELEPHONE: 919-715-1500  
FAX: 919-715-1522

WEBSITE: WWW.NCDOT.ORG

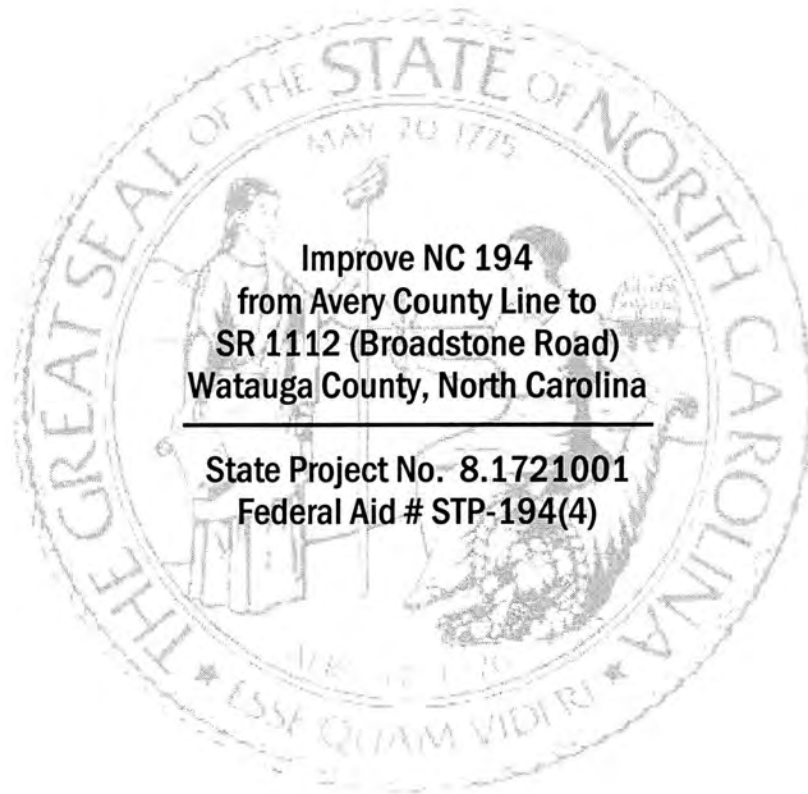
LOCATION:  
PARKER LINCOLN BUILDING  
2728 CAPITAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 168  
RALEIGH, NC 27604



north carolina  
department of transportation

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report  
Phase II - Intensive  
Final Identification & Evaluation

R-2710



Improve NC 194  
from Avery County Line to  
SR 1112 (Broadstone Road)  
Watauga County, North Carolina

State Project No. 8.1721001  
Federal Aid # STP-194(4)

*The*  
**HISTORIC**  
**ARCHITECTURE**  
*Section*

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Report Prepared By:  
Richard Silverman  
Architectural Historian  
April, 2003

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**HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT**

**TIP# R-2710**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO NC 194  
FROM AVERY COUNTY LINE TO  
SR 1112 (BROADSTONE ROAD) IN  
VALLE CRUCIS, WATAUGA COUNTY, NC  
STATE PROJECT No. 8.1721001  
FEDERAL AID No. STP-194(4)**



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
REPORT PREPARED BY:  
RICHARD L. SILVERMAN  
APRIL, 2003**

*Richard L. Silverman*

*April 11, 2003*

Principal Investigator  
Historic Architecture Section  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

*Mary Pope Furr*

*April 11, 2003*

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

Date

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# I. Management Summary

## **I. Management Summary**

### **A. Project Description**

### **B. Vicinity**

### **C. Historic Architectural Resources Summary**



## I. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

### A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to resurface and minimally improve NC 194 from the Avery County line to SR 1112 (Broadstone Road) in Valle Crucis (see sheet VIC-1, page 9 and sheet PROJ-1, page 10). As part of the project, guardrails at certain locations along this extremely winding mountain road will be added or upgraded to improve safety. The existing roadway facility is a two-lane highway with grass shoulders.

### B. VICINITY

The topography of Watauga County is dominated by mountains, rolling hills, narrow valleys formed by creeks, and nearly level bottom land. The Eastern Continental Divide runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge, across the southeast portion of the county. "The Blue Ridge" is the name applied to the portion of the Appalachian Mountains extending from just north of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia to north Georgia. The average elevation is from 2,000 to 4,000 feet.<sup>1</sup> The name comes from the hazy blue appearance of the mountains. The majority of the county lies north of the divide and is drained by the New and Watauga rivers, which flow north and west respectively. The soil is coarse, porous, and loamy, and the fifty-seven-inch average rainfall results in the lush vegetation common to the region.<sup>2</sup>

Watauga County was formed in 1849 from Ashe, Wilkes, Caldwell, and Avery Counties. Located in the northwest section of the state, it is bounded by the state of Tennessee, and by Ashe, Wilkes, Caldwell, and Avery Counties in North Carolina. Watauga County was named for the Watauga River, which is in the southwest portion of the county and flows into Tennessee where it enters the Holston River. Watauga County's area is 320 square miles, and its county seat is Boone, which has an elevation of 3,266 feet. Its townships are Bald Mountain, Beaverdam, Blowing Rock, Blue Ridge, Boone, Brushy Fork, Cove Creek, Elk, Laurel Creek, Meat Camp, New River, North Fork, Shawneehaw, Stony Fork, and Watauga. Tobacco, corn, dairy products, livestock, electronics, apparel, and gravel are products of the county.<sup>3</sup>

NC 194 (see Project Views A through C, pages 5-6) runs approximately northeast from the Avery County line, passing through the small community of Matney, as well as the Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission. Valle Crucis is a small agricultural community located about eight miles west of Boone.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968), p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Stevens and Deborah Thompson, "Preliminary Report, Watauga County Historic Sites Survey." (unpublished typescript of architectural survey report sponsored by the Watauga County Historical Society, 1988) p. 1-2.

<sup>3</sup> Powell, 519.

<sup>4</sup> See Section VI, this report for a full description of Valle Crucis.



**PROJECT VIEWS**

NC 194 Project terminus at Watauga/Avery County line.

FIGURE  
VIEW A

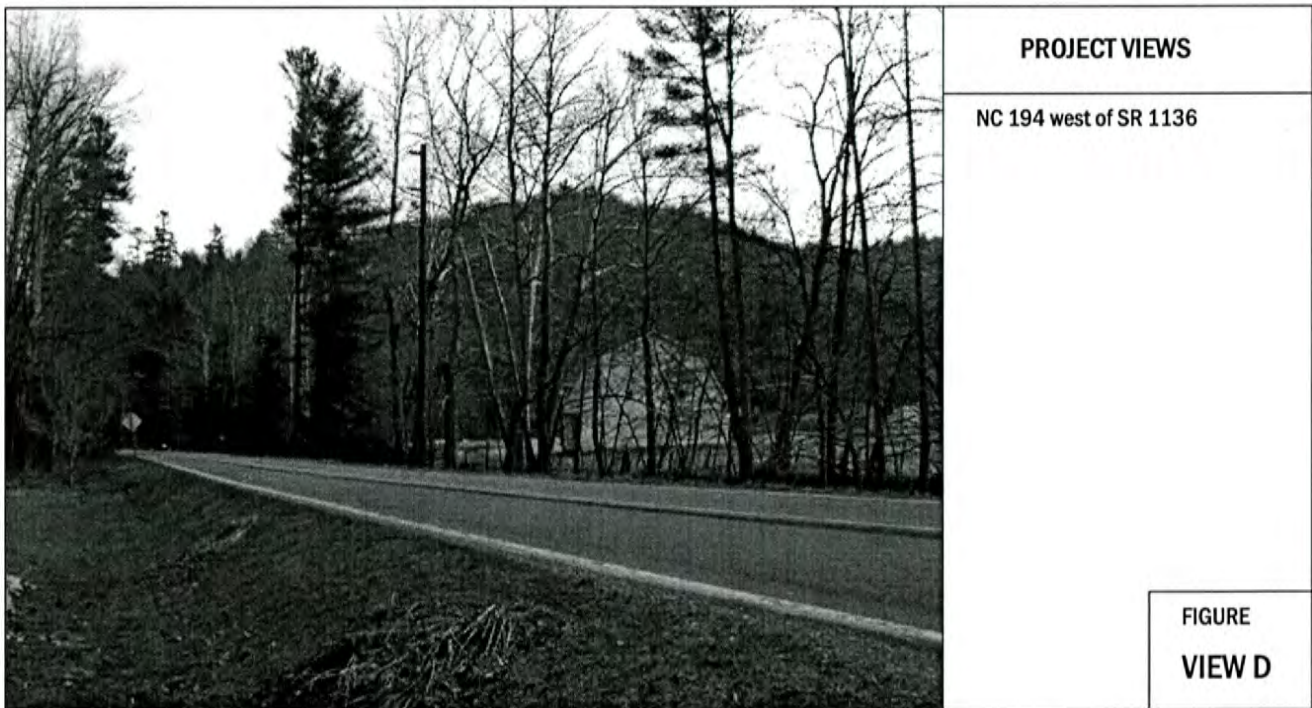
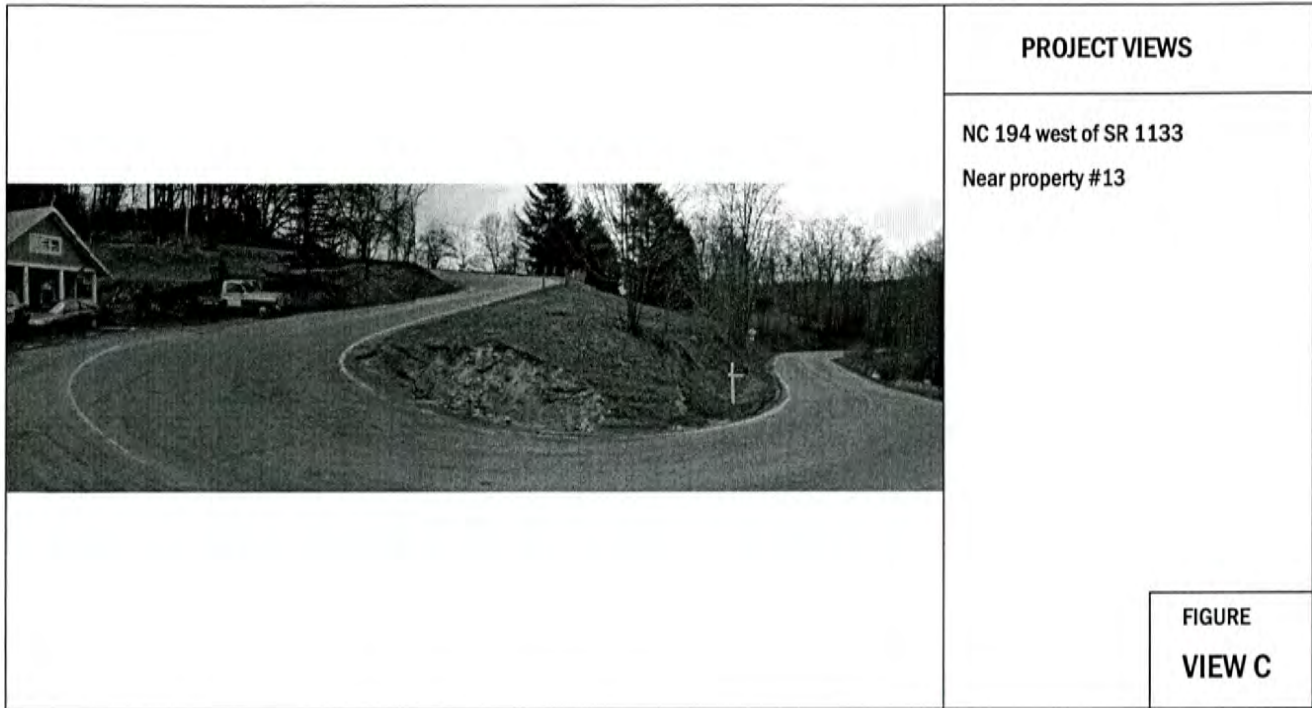


**PROJECT VIEWS**

NC 194 Project terminus at intersection with SR 1112 (Broadstone Road)

FIGURE  
VIEW B







## I. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY (CONT'D.)

### C. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field. The APE boundary is shown on sheet HR-1, page 11. Fourteen properties appearing over fifty years of age were identified in the APE as part of the NCDOT Historic Architectural Resources Survey for the R-2710 project.

#### PROPERTIES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

- Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission; *Listed in the NR 7-14-1993 and to be connected to the proposed Valle Crucis Historic District as Property #14-VCHD)*

#### PROPERTIES CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

- Carender Barn (Property #2)
- Lee Carender Farm (Property #8)
- Valle Crucis Historic District (Property #14-VCHD) *National Register nomination underway by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.<sup>5</sup> As proposed, the Valle Crucis Historic District connects to the following National Register-listed property: Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission<sup>6</sup>*

#### PROPERTIES CONSIDERED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

- Properties #1, 3-7, 9-13 were shown at an NCDOT-HPO Concurrence meeting on 1 April 2003 and determined **not eligible** for the National Register and not worthy of further evaluation. No further studies for these properties are planned by NCDOT.

#### PROPERTIES ENTERED INTO THE NORTH CAROLINA STUDY LIST

-HPO WATAUGA CO. SURVEY MAP NOT AVAILABLE FOR SCREENING-

#### PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER UNDER CRITERION G

-NONE-

<sup>5</sup> The NR nomination being prepared by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. is not sponsored or affiliated with NCDOT.

<sup>6</sup> Subject to review and modification by NC Historic Preservation Office.

# II. Maps

## II. Maps

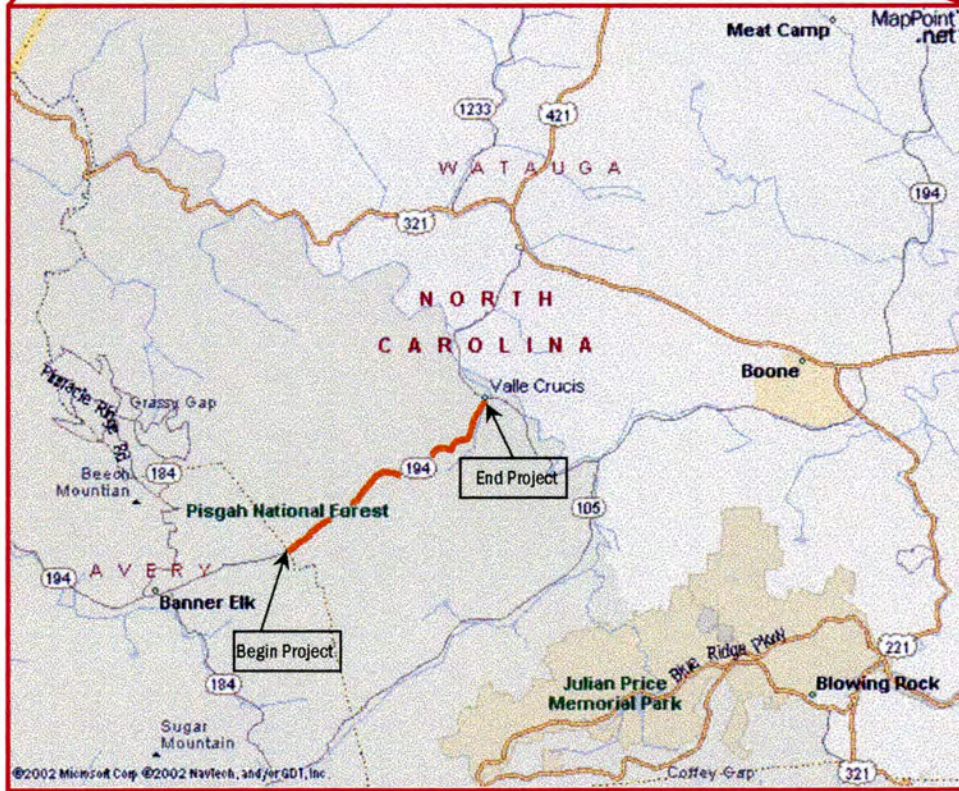
**VIC-1: Project Vicinity Map**


**PROJ-1: Project Planning Map**

**HR-1: Historic Architectural Resources Survey Map**



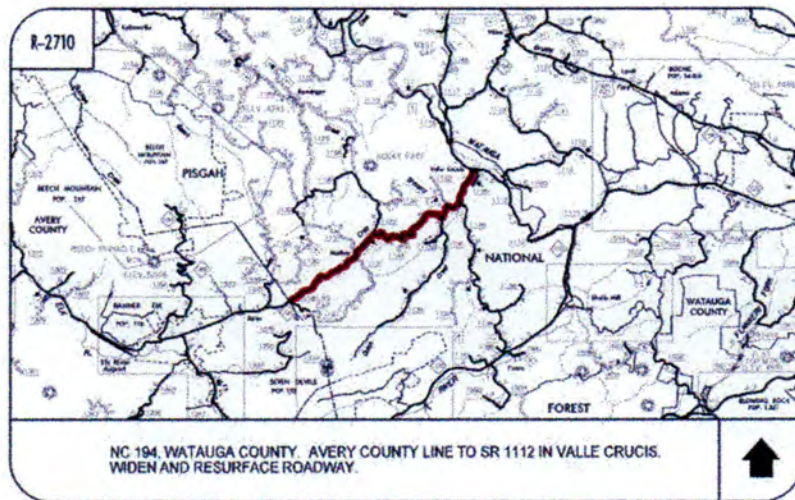
II. MAPS



 <p>NCDOT Historic Architecture 1583 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1583 T 919-715-1333 F 919-715-1522 www.ncdot.org</p>	Project	IMPROVE NC 194 VALLE CRUCIS	Drawn By: Silverman	TIP No. <b>R-2710</b>
	Sheet Title	PROJECT VICINITY MAP	Issue Date: 04-15-03	Scale <b>NTS</b>
			File Name: VIC_1.ppt	Sheet No. <b>VIC-1</b>



### II. MAPS



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1583 Mail Service Center  
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Project	<b>IMPROVE NC 194 VALLE CRUCIS</b>
Sheet Title	<b>PROJECT PLANNING MAP</b>

Drawn By:  
Silverman  
Issue Date:  
04-15-03  
File Name:  
PROJ\_1.ppt

TIP No.  
**R-2710**  
Scale  
**NTS**  
Sheet No.  
**PROJ-1**



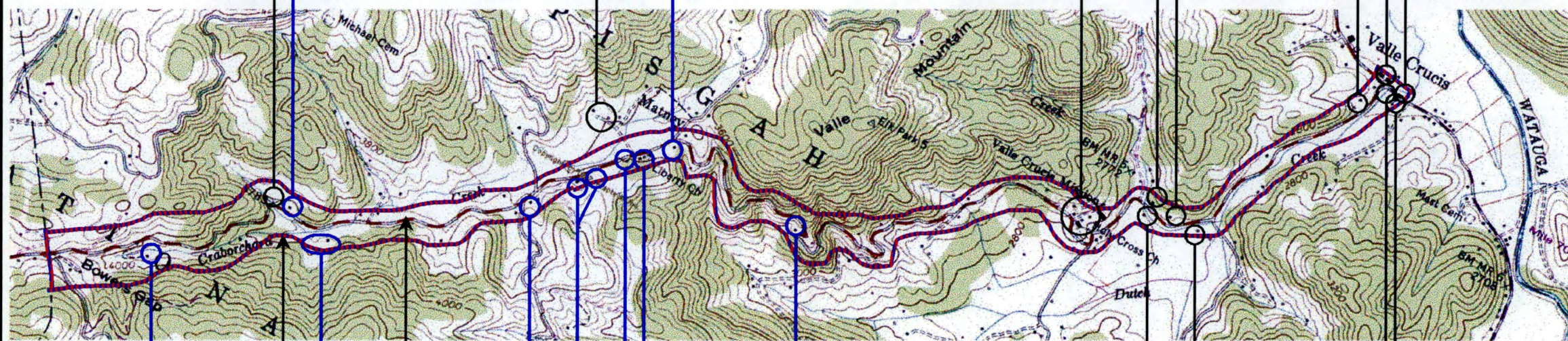


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NCDOT  
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Tel 919-715-1333  
Fax 919-715-1522  
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Note:  
See Sheet NR-1 for National Register  
Boundary, Property #2

Note:  
See Sheet NR-2 for National Register  
Boundary, Property #8

Note:  
See Sheet NR-3 for National Register  
Boundary, Valle Crucis Historic District



Area of Potential Effects

NC 194

Note:  
See Sheet NR-3 for National Register  
Boundary, Valle Crucis Historic District

Project  
Improve NC 194 from Avery County Line to  
SR 1112 (Broadstone Rd., Valle Crucis)  
Sheet Title  
HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES  
SURVEY MAP

# Surveyed  
Property  
# NR Eligible  
Property  
14-#  
NR Historic  
District Property

TIP No.  
**R-2710**

Sheet No.  
**HR-1**





# III. Purpose of Survey & Report

## III. Purpose of Survey and Report

### A. Purpose

### B. NC Historic Preservation Office Requests

### C. Previous Studies



### **III. PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT**

#### ***A. PURPOSE***

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by a CE. This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the CE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings (federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects) on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. This report is on file at NCDOT and available for review by the public.

#### ***B. HPO REQUESTS***

-NONE RECEIVED AT THE TIME OF THIS REPORT-

#### ***C. PREVIOUS STUDIES***

HPO maintains a collection of survey files resulting from a Watauga County survey presently being completed. National Register nominations also provide a good source for architectural and historic information relating to the county, among them the National Register Nomination for the Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission, listed in the National Register on July 14, 1993. Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. is producing a National Register nomination for the Valley Crucis Historic District. In addition, NCDOT has completed Phase II TIP reports in Watauga County, among them a survey for B-2197, Replace Bridge No. 4 over Crab Orchard Creek on NC 194, Valle Crucis.

# IV. Methodology

## IV. Methodology

### A. Technical Guidelines

### B. Goals

### C. Fieldwork and Research

## IV. METHODOLOGY

### *A. TECHNICAL GUIDELINES*

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

### *B. GOALS*

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

### *C. FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH*

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and background research on the project area. NCDOT staff architectural historian Ed Davis conducted a field survey in December, 2001. Richard Silverman continued the survey on 11 March 2003 by car and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were photographed and keyed to a project map (see sheet HR-1, page 11). Background research was conducted at the Watauga County Courthouse in Boone, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill libraries, the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (Raleigh and Asheville locations) and the North Carolina State Library & Archives in Raleigh.

# V. Historic Contexts

## V. Historic Contexts

### A. Historic Abstract of Watauga County

### B. Background Information & Historic Contexts: Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Religion, & Social History

### C. Architectural Context



## V. HISTORIC CONTEXTS

[Section V., Part A is drawn directly from a draft National Register nomination for the Valle Crucis Historic District. Permission to use this information granted by the preparer of the draft, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.]

### **A. VALLE CRUCIS, NORTH CAROLINA: BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND HISTORIC CONTEXTS: AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, EDUCATION, RELIGION, AND SOCIAL HISTORY**

The community of Valle Crucis lies in west-central Watauga County in the high mountains of northwestern North Carolina. In all likelihood the area that forms present-day Valle Crucis was probably inhabited by the Cherokee prior to European settlement in the mid-eighteenth century, although there is no recorded evidence of contact between Native Americans and early settlers in the region. As the result of small pox and other diseases introduced by Europeans, the Cherokee had largely disappeared from the region by the time permanent farmsteads were established in the 1770s. David Hicks, the first recorded settler in what is now Valle Crucis, filed for a 300-acre land grant along the Watauga River in 1779. His grant covered much of the land in the Lower Valley of Valle Crucis. On the same day that Hicks filed his application, Benjamin Ward also applied for a land grant of 300 acres on the Watauga River, approximately five miles downriver from Hicks. The grants were processed in Washington County, North Carolina (formed 1777), which included parts of present-day Tennessee.<sup>7</sup>

Located beyond the Blue Ridge on the western side of the Continental Divide, the area that became Watauga County began, and remained for many years, an isolated mountain wilderness. The Watauga River, fed by numerous creeks and tributaries, flows westward into the Holston and Tennessee Rivers and is ultimately drained by the Mississippi. A group of ten Wake County families traveled across the Blue Ridge to Sycamore Shoals in 1769 as a result of the Regulator movement that opposed the strict authority of North Carolina's colonial governor and, along with several families from Virginia, established the Watauga Settlement. The settlement, which had no direct connection with the later North Carolina county, grew quickly and adopted a constitution in 1772 to provide some law and order. In 1775 the Watauga Association, as it was then called, purchased the land they had settled from the Cherokee, including all the waters of the Watauga. The formal organization of the colony marked the beginning of the state of Tennessee, although residents petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly to be annexed in 1776 and the District of Washington was formed. Later to be known as Washington County, the area extended from the Blue Ridge to the Mississippi River. In 1784 Washington County and three other North Carolina counties, which are now in Tennessee, took steps to form the state of Franklin - electing a governor and sheriff and collecting taxes. The State of Franklin collapsed four years later, and shortly thereafter North Carolina ceded all of its western territory to the Mississippi to the United States. The area of Washington County

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<sup>7</sup> I. Harding Hughes, Jr., Valle Crucis: *A History of an Uncommon Place* (n.p.: published by author, 1995), 6-11.

that was retained was made part of Wilkes County in 1792. Watauga County was not formed until 1849.<sup>8</sup>

The eighteenth century settlers in present-day Valle Crucis and Watauga County encountered a rugged countryside that, though beautiful, presented constant challenges to survival. The first settlers faced the prospect of building sturdy dwellings and clearing land to establish small self-sufficient farms. The earliest houses were constructed of log, typically one or two rooms with a loft and single, large fireplace. With trees felled and stumps and undergrowth removed, the early pioneers planted Irish potatoes, beans, cabbage, corn, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, pumpkins, and onions. Hunting and fishing also provided food for the table. Some early settlers brought along horses, mules, oxen, cows, and hogs mostly to assist with the farm work. As more families settled in the valleys of the Watauga River and its tributaries, neighbors helped with larger tasks like building cabins or raising barns, and over time individuals developed specialized skills such as blacksmithing, woodworking, or milling that could benefit many families in the community.

In addition to David Hicks and his descendants, who populated the Watauga River valleys before 1800, three other families came to the area and had a long-term impact on the community. Joseph Mast, born in Randolph County in 1764 of Swiss descent, established a homestead on the Watauga River in the late 1880s with his wife Eve and their children. By 1795, the Masts owned a 490-acre farm, and by 1815 their holdings included nearly 1,400 acres in what is now Valle Crucis. Dr. Ezekial Baird, wife Susanna, and their three sons built a house in the valley approximately one mile downriver from the Hicks's tract by 1890. The section of the Watauga where the Bairds settled became known as the Baird community due to the large number of descendants who lived there. John Frederick and Gertrude Shull, along with their son Simon and his wife Mary, settled upriver from the Masts sometime before 1793. With the death of David Hicks in 1792, these three families - the Shulls upriver, the Bairds downriver, and the Masts in the middle - gained control of the fertile bottom land along the Watauga River in what is now the Valle Crucis and became the prominent valley families. By 1800, nearly all of the best farmland in the Lower Valley was claimed and attention shifted to the upper valley and the coves surrounding it. Joseph Mast established a sugar camp in the Upper Valley, and the fertile farmland there later found its way into the ownership of the Mast descendants. Families that arrived later and settled in the Upper Valley farmed the steep hillsides and narrow creek valleys.

In the first part of the nineteenth century the community of Valle Crucis began to take shape although the area still lacked a store, post office, church, and school by 1840. The large families of the Bairds, Masts, and Shulls continued to expand and solidify their presence in the area. They also began to intermarry. David Mast, son of Joseph and Eve Mast, remained on the family property and built a log house around 1812 that is the oldest surviving structure in Valle Crucis. David Mast married Mary Shull, the daughter of neighbors Simon and Mary Shull. Joel Mast, a bachelor son of Joseph and Eve Mast, built a mill on the creek, which became so prominent that it was called "Mast Mill

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<sup>8</sup> Hughes, 1995, 13-14, 25.

Creek” for a time. The most significant changes of the early-nineteenth century began with the establishment of the Episcopal Mission in the Upper Valley in the 1840s, when the area was first called “Valle Crucis”.

Episcopal Bishop Levi Silliman Ives, second bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, saw opportunities to strengthen the reach of the Episcopal Church in the sparsely settled areas of western North Carolina. In 1842, the Episcopal Church claimed a meager 1,521 communicants across North Carolina and suffered from association with its pre-Revolutionary, predecessor denomination, the Church of England. Bishop Ives learned of the area through a botanist from York, who had made an excursion to the Watauga Valley in the summer of 1842. Ives soon traveled to the area himself, and by December the bishop sent a missionary, Rev. Henry H. Prout, to the “Lower Settlement” on the Watauga (several miles downriver from present Valle Crucis). Prout traveled the region on horseback, visiting homes and conducting Sunday services at several locations on the Watauga and New Rivers. Prout told Bishop Ives of a particularly beautiful valley where he had baptized a child, and Ives visited the area personally in August 1843. As a result of the visit

he became so much charmed with the country and so much interested in the people that he proposed making this ground the site of important Mission Work for the Diocese ... the bishop proposed making this valley an important centre of work for the entire Diocese, to include a Missionary Station, a Training School for the Ministry, and a Classical and Agricultural School for boys. The latter school was designed to aid the foundation.<sup>9</sup>

Though supported in principal by the Diocese, Bishop Ives used his own money and other financial resources to acquire 400 acres of land in the Upper Valley from Joel Mast in 1844, including 100 acres under cultivation, a tannery, and Mast's grist mill. The bishop also contracted for the construction of several new buildings including a two-story frame building with brick basement, log kitchen and dining room, a four-room dwelling house, and a sawmill. Ives selected Rev. William Thurston to lead the school, which opened in July 1845 with thirty boarding students and seven candidates for the ministry.

The new mission, established on the western side of the valley, needed a name, as did the whole community surrounding the mission. Bishop Ives called the place Valle Crucis (Latin for “Valley of the Cross”) after an ancient Cistercian monastery in Wales. Ives and others also commented that the confluence of the three creeks draining the valley resembled a cross of St. Andrew on the landscape. In August 1845, the Valle Crucis Post Office was established at the mission with William Thurston as the first postmaster. The work of the mission soon extended beyond the mission property, and day schools were established in the Lower Valley and other sites several miles away. New buildings were added including a two-story brick building, grist mill, blacksmith shop, several log buildings, and a barn with brick basement for stables. One year after the schools began, Thurston died and he was replaced by Jarvis Buxton. William West Skiles, who would play an important role in the Valle Crucis community in the late-nineteenth century, was

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<sup>9</sup> Hughes, 1995, 28-33.



hired to head the agricultural program. Skiles became postmaster following Thurston's death, operated a small store for the benefit of the community, studied to be ordained as a deacon, and served as the community's informal doctor. Skiles continued his missionary service in the Valle Crucis community until his death in 1862.<sup>10</sup>

Bishop Ives also sought to establish a monastic order at the Valle Crucis Mission, the Society of the Holy Cross, although there had never been a monastery anywhere in the Episcopal Church or the Church of England. In 1847 Bishop Ives asked Reverend William Glenney French of New York to come to North Carolina and lead the order. Eventually criticism of the monastic order's religious practices, particularly the practice of private confession and absolution, convinced Ives to abolish the Society of the Holy Cross in 1849. Bishop Ives left the diocese in 1852 and sold the mission property to Robert Miller, the son of an Episcopal clergyman. Miller, who farmed the mission property, allowed Deacon Skiles to remain and continue his missionary service and succeeded Skiles as postmaster of Valle Crucis in 1853. The work of the Episcopal Mission at Valle Crucis did not resume in earnest until the end of the nineteenth century.

Following the formation of the Episcopal Mission in the 1840s, a community of Valle Crucis began to evolve into the community that still exists at the beginning of the twenty-first century. In addition to the Episcopal Church, Lutheran and Methodist churches organized in the 1840s and 1850s. Reuben Mast, son of Joseph and Eve Mast, was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly and advocated for the formation of a Watauga County, which passed in 1849. Reuben Mast was appointed to survey and mark the boundaries of the new county, as well as lay off lots and designate public areas in the new county seat at Counsell's store, which was incorporated twenty-three years later as the town of Boone. Valle Crucis was also considered as a potential site for the courthouse of Watauga. In 1851 the General Assembly chartered the Caldwell and Watauga turnpike, which stretched from Lenoir in Caldwell County through Blowing Rock, crossed the river at Shulls Mills, followed the Watauga River Valley through Valle Crucis, and continued into Tennessee. William Mast erected a bridge over the river near Shulls Mills, and the road through Valle Crucis followed the path of present-day Broadstone Road and NC 194. In 1855 a stagecoach line from Abingdon, Virginia to Lincolnton, North Carolina began passing through Watauga County and Valle Crucis by way of the turnpike. The stagecoach, which also transported mail, operated until the beginning of the Civil War.<sup>11</sup>

One individual contracted to construct a section of the new turnpike was Henry Taylor, a clock salesman from Davidson County, who married Emaline Mast, the granddaughter of Joseph and Eve Mast, after relocating to Sugar Grove in 1849. The couple moved to Valle Crucis around 1851, and he established a small store (opposite the current location of the Mast Store) along the turnpike. Taylor, a talented businessman and farmer, through a series of fortuitous transactions, acquired the land holdings of Joel Mast in the Lower

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<sup>10</sup> Hughes, 1995, 40-49. Also see Cooper, 99-101.

<sup>11</sup> Hughes 1995, 52-55.

Valley and 1,100 acres from Robert Miller in the Upper Valley. The Taylor family and the Taylor store quickly became important assets to the Valle Crucis community.<sup>12</sup>

During the Civil War most of the families in Valle Crucis were sympathetic to the Confederate cause, and several local men served in the Confederate army. Many North Carolina mountain counties, however, were pro-Union, as were several communities surrounding Valle Crucis. An “underground railroad” conveyed young men avoiding service in the Confederate army across the mountains through Dutch Creek and into Tennessee, where they could enlist as Federal troops. David F. Baird II of Valle Crucis rose to be a lieutenant in the Confederate army and was wounded at Chickamauga and Bentonville. Baird was released from a Raleigh hospital and traveled as far as Lenoir, where he was transported by his young cousin Eliza Baird, back to Valle Crucis. Baird later served two terms as Sheriff of Watauga County. The period following the war was marked by slow recovery from the devastating effects of the prolonged engagement and a general migration west. The children of the early valley families, in particular, found limited farm land and resources in their home communities and left in search of new opportunities.<sup>13</sup>

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, Valle Crucis began to develop slowly and acquired much of the character it would possess through the next century. Following the Civil War new frame farmhouses were built for David Baird, Andrew B. Mast, Thomas Hardester “Hard” Taylor, and Joseph Shull. Henry Taylor built a new store (ca. 1882) on the north side of the Caldwell and Watauga turnpike to replace his thirty-year-old building, and turned over the business to his son, C.D. Taylor. The Methodists erected a log church building near Dutch Creek in 1870 and replaced that building with a frame structure in 1894. A one-room, frame school was constructed, as well as a Seventh Day Adventist Church, the new Lutheran Church, and Henry Taylor’s grist mill. The Taylor Mill stood near the entrance to the Upper Valley from the Lower Valley and served the community at large. Andrew Townsend also operated a grist mill further up Clarks Creek for his family and neighbors. Despite the many improvements, families in Valle Crucis continued to survive primarily as subsistence farmers.<sup>14</sup>

In 1882 tracks for the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad (ET&WNC), commonly known as “Tweetsie,” were laid from Tennessee to Elk Park and Cranberry, North Carolina. The station at Cranberry was sixteen arduous miles from Valle Crucis, and as a result the railroad had little immediate impact on the community. A new road constructed in 1891-92 helped to alleviate the difficult route somewhat. Shepherd Monroe Dugger surveyed the route of the new toll road, the Valle Crucis, Shawneehaw and Elk Park Turnpike, which followed Dutch Creek from the Lower Valley past the Episcopal Mission site through Matney and Banner Elk. Several prominent Valle Crucis citizens signed on as minority stockholders. The road, which still exist today as NC 194,

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<sup>12</sup> Hughes 1995, 52-55, 58-60.

<sup>13</sup> Hughes, 63-68.

<sup>14</sup> Hughes 1995, 71-75.

provided a second reliable transportation route for the community at the end of the century.<sup>15</sup>

The return of the Episcopalians to the mission site in the 1890s marked one of the most significant events in the history of the community. Joseph Blount Cheshire became Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina in 1893 and immediately sought to restore the old Valle Crucis Mission, despite the fact that the land had been sold and the buildings had deteriorated. During the 1880s and 1890s the Episcopal Church was growing rapidly, and Bishop Cheshire brought a new interest in education and the development of industrial schools. Rev. Millnor Jones was elected to lead a mission and in 1896 began constructing the Mission House, a classroom and living quarters on several acres of land donated by D.C. Taylor. In 1903 the Episcopal Mission acquired 525 acres from Taylor's brother, James P., which included the western half of the Upper Valley and most of Valle Mountain rising to the west. Junius Horner, Bishop of the Missionary District of Asheville, shared Cheshire's interest in industrial education and oversaw the establishment of four Episcopal schools to serve the people of western North Carolina. The school at Valle Crucis provided classes for first grade through high school and included female boarding students and male day students. Students received not only academic training but also classes in domestic skills, weaving, farming, woodworking, blacksmithing, and wagon making and could earn money for tuition by working on the school's farm. Bishop Horner intended the farm to support the school financially, and to increase its profitability an extensive apple orchard was planted, a herd of dairy cattle was acquired, and chicken houses were built, as well as a wagon factory, a sawmill, and planer. In 1912 the mission built a dam on Crab Orchard Creek on the side of Valle Mountain to generate electric power for the school. Water from the dam was channeled through a wooden race down the mountain to a powerhouse. The electricity generated at the mission was the first in Watauga County, and it supplied not only the school but also several homes and businesses in Valle Crucis. The Mission School hosted a summer school for religious education in the 1920s. The Episcopal Mission contributed extensively to the growth and development of Valle Crucis in the early-twentieth century, benefiting Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians alike.<sup>16</sup>

Though he was a descendant of early settlers Joseph and Eve Mast, William Wellington Mast was born and raised in the Sugar Grove community of Watauga County. He worked at his uncle's store in Sugar Grove before coming to Valle Crucis in the 1890s and went to work at C.D. Taylor's store. Mast bought a part interest in the business in 1898, which was now called Taylor and Mast. The store was enlarged around the same time and stocked everything from cradles to caskets. Neighbors received credit or traded farm products for items purchased at the store. Mast bought out Taylor's share of the business in the 1910s, and the business became known as the Mast Store. Mast opened the store every morning at 5:30 a.m., and it remained open through the evening. As a result the store, which also held the Post Office from 1898 to 1928, evolved into a center of

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<sup>15</sup> Hughes 1995, 71-75.

<sup>16</sup> See Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission National Register of Historic Places Nomination (1993). Ina W. and John J. Van Noppen, *Western North Carolina Since the Civil War* (Boone, NC: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1973), 83-84, 163. Hughes 1995, 90-93.



community social life. Roots and herbs collected in the mountains, most notably ginseng, also brought a little cash when traded at the Mast Store.<sup>17</sup>

At the beginning of the twentieth century most Valle Crucis families still farmed for their livelihood. Farmers planted cabbage, potatoes, wheat, corn, beans, beets, turnips, and rutabagas. Most kept chickens, turkeys, geese, and raised cattle, sheep, and hogs for livestock. Horses and oxen were employed to pull heavy equipment. Beginning in 1901 Watauga County required that livestock be fenced. Some farm products were transported to the railroad station at Elk Park, and others traded at the local store for necessities. Sheep and cattle were sometimes sold to a livestock buyer, but most often the farm family kept sheep for wool to be carded, spun, and woven into clothes for the family and cows for milk and butter. The first trucks and automobiles also made it easier to get farm products to market. Burley tobacco was introduced in Watauga County in the 1930s and during the Depression provided much-needed income for local families. With a heavy yield per acre and four tobacco warehouses in Boone, burley tobacco became an increasingly significant crop for mountain farmers in the mid-twentieth century.<sup>18</sup>

A small business community began to develop in the early-twentieth century along the old turnpike road in the Lower Valley. In addition to the Mast Store, R.L. Lowe of Banner Elk built a second store on the east side of Dutch Creek near the Methodist Church. The Watauga Supply Company opened in 1909, but was purchased a year later by C.D. Taylor and Dr. Henry Perry and renamed the Valle Crucis Company Store. In 1914 Aubyn Farthing came to Valle Crucis to manage the store, which he later bought with his brother Ben Farthing. The Farthing store held the post office from 1928 to 1963. The Valle Crucis Bank was organized in 1914 and its building erected on the west side of the Methodist Church. Leading citizens of Valle Crucis subscribed \$10,000 in stock to get the bank started. A robbery in September 1927 foreshadowed the closing of the bank later that year. The one-room Valle Crucis School was erected in 1907 in the field behind the Methodist Church and served the community until 1937, when students began attending the new consolidated school located across the road in a stone building constructed by the Works Progress Administration.

Following a fire in 1910 that destroyed his home, Dr. Perry erected a new house that also served as a hospital, the first in the county. Dr. Perry performed operations in a first floor room, and patients were boarded upstairs while they recuperated. Bynum Taylor and Edd Shipley opened a Ford agency adjacent to the Farthing Store in 1918. By 1925, however, the Ford Motor Company urged Taylor to move the business to Boone. Businesses in the Upper Valley included grist mills, sawmills, a roller mill, as well as the various enterprises of the Episcopal Mission. In the 1920s, Effie Heffner Moose, manager of the dairy at the Mission, opened an ice-cream parlor along the road with a screened porch overlooking Crab Orchard Creek.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Hughes 1995, 94, 113. Also see Mast Store National Register of Historic Places Nomination (1973).

<sup>18</sup> Hughes 1995, 96-99. Daniel J. Whitener, *History of Watauga County* (n.p., 1949), 54.

<sup>19</sup> Hughes, 1995, 113-123. I. Harding Hughes, *My Valle Crucis: the 1930s* (n.p. published by author, 2002), 6.

The large sawmill and timber operation based at Shulls Mills a few miles upriver from Valle Crucis not only brought employment opportunities to residents of Valle Crucis but also drew rail service much closer than it had been at Elk Park. The ET&WNC extended freight and passenger service to Shulls Mills in 1916. William Whiting, owner of the timber operation, sought to have the rails extended downriver through Valle Crucis, but two property owners of the Lower Valley refused to sell the needed right-of-way. The ET&WNC was completed to Boone in 1919 and operated until the 1940s. The flood of 1940 destroyed large sections of track in North Carolina and service continued for only a few more years. Increasing numbers of automobiles and improved highway conditions - NC 194 was paved in 1929 - also offset the need for a rail connection.<sup>20</sup>

Another major development of the early-twentieth century was the beginning of summer tourism in Valle Crucis. By the 1920s nearly all of the valley families opened their large farm houses to travelers and summer visitors. The Bairds, Masts, and Taylors all hosted salesman, teachers, and students from the Mission School or public school, and other guests at some time. Each developed a reputation for hospitality and generosity. Tourists drawn by the area's natural attractions and the scenic beauty of the community itself began coming in greater numbers as automobile transportation improved. The Episcopal Mission also hosted summer programs and conferences. In time the community became a desirable place for seasonal houses, a pattern that has continued to the present day. Rev. I. Harding Hughes, rector of the Holy Trinity Church in Greensboro, attended the first summer school at the Valle Crucis Mission in 1924 and the following year built the first summer house in Valle Crucis.<sup>21</sup>

Valle Crucis, as it exists today, retains much of the character developed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The community remains rural and agrarian with open fields and wooded hillsides stretching back from the roadsides. Contemporary commercial and residential buildings are intermingled with historic structures from each period of development. The historic buildings generally function in the same way they did when there were built. The Mast Store, which once again contains the post office, continues to be the informal center of community life, and many other aspects of the community still operate as they have for the past century or more. Unlike other rural communities in Watauga County, Valle Crucis became a social, commercial, and educational center for the surrounding area, largely due to the presence of the Episcopal Mission. The community also benefited from the abundant natural resources and scenic beauty of the Upper and Lower valleys, as well as the strong presence in leadership of the early valley families. Unlike the Todd Historic District (NR, 2000), which straddles the county line between Ashe and Watauga, Valle Crucis did not develop around the railroad or a specific industry, such as timber or mining. Valle Crucis also differs significantly from districts in resort communities like Linville (NR, 1979) in Avery County and the Green Park Historic District (NR, 1994) in Blowing Rock. Valle Crucis is more akin to the Grassy Creek Rural Historic District (NR, 1976) in Ashe County, which is significant for its agrarian landscape and unchanging character.

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<sup>20</sup> Hughes 1995, 128-129.

<sup>21</sup> Hughes 1995, 134-138 and Hughes 2002, 1-4.

## V. HISTORIC CONTEXTS (CONT'D.)

*[Section V., Part B is drawn directly from a draft National Register nomination for the Valle Crucis Historic District. Permission to use this information granted by the preparer of the draft, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.]*

### ***B. VALLE CRUCIS, NORTH CAROLINA: ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT***

Valle Crucis is a rural, agricultural community approximately eight miles west of the Watauga County seat of Boone. Situated in the Watauga River valley, Valle Crucis provided early settlers and pioneer families with fertile farmland in the Upper and Lower valleys of the area. The expanses of relatively flat land and abundant water sources surely attracted the first families to the region, and the prime farmland remained in the possession of the “valley families” for nearly two centuries. To optimize the productiveness of the land, houses and transportation routes were located generally at the edges of the flat fields, where the land begins to descend to the mountain slopes. Although contemporary commercial and residential structures are interspersed with the surviving historic structures, the area retains the rural, agrarian character established by the prosperous farm families of the nineteenth century.

The early settlers in Valle Crucis and Watauga County built log houses and cleared the land for their small farms, but few examples of these log dwellings survive to the present day. One notable example, however, the David Mast House, stands at the Mast Farm complex. The one-room, two-story log house with full dovetail notching was erected for David Mast around 1812 on land that belonged to his father. Andrew B. Mast, David’s son, completed a large frame house in 1885, and the old log dwelling was converted to a weaving cabin. Large, two-over-two windows were cut into the walls around 1900 to provide better light for working. The log house built at the Episcopal Mission for Bishop Ives was one of the first buildings constructed at the site. Completed around 1842, the two-story Bishop Ives House stood in the field below the Mission complex, but the building was moved and reconstructed as a one-story saddlebag structure in 1956.

By the late-nineteenth century the valley families had established large and prosperous farms in the Lower Valley, and several of the frame farmhouses still stand. The David F. Baird House, a two-story, three-bay house with a two-story rear ell and two-tier front portico is the center of a large farm complex with a number of associated outbuildings. The front portion of the Baird House was reportedly built in 1872 around an earlier two-room log structure. The Andrew B. Mast house, built in 1885 by local carpenter M.C. Church, forms the centerpiece of another large farm complex with a full complement of nineteenth century outbuildings. The Hard Taylor House also survived with many of its outbuildings. The outward appearance of the Taylor House dates to changes made around 1895 and is notable for its wraparound front porch with open turret and conical roof at the corner.

The presence of the Episcopal Mission in Valle Crucis greatly influenced the development of the community’s built environment. In organizing the Mission in the 1840s Bishop Ives embarked on an ambitious building campaign during the first year,



including a new two-story frame building with brick basement, log kitchen and dining room, four-room dwelling house, and a sawmill. The following year additional buildings - a two-story brick structure, grist mill, blacksmith shop, several log buildings, and barn with brick basement for stables - were added. Most of these buildings were in disrepair when the Episcopal Diocese revived the Valle Crucis Mission, and a new complex of buildings was erected. Since the Mission's farm served not only as a teaching ground but also as a source of revenue, a number of distinctive structures were built to house the farm's various operations including a large dairy barn, apple house, chicken houses, and ice cream shop in addition to the classroom and dormitory buildings needed for the mission school. The Gothic Revival style Church of the Holy Cross was built around 1924 out of native stone to replace an earlier frame building. Local workers constructed the building, which features large pointed-arch windows in the gable ends.

As the work of the Episcopal Mission renewed toward the end of the nineteenth century, the community was also expanding with new commercial buildings, a school, and Methodist church. The Valle Crucis Methodist Church was built in 1894 on the site of the congregation's old log building, which had been erected in 1870 by Andrew Townsend. R.M. McCoy built the new church, which has been expanded and altered throughout the years. A one-room frame schoolhouse dating from 1907 is still in the field behind the Methodist church. The interior of the Valle Crucis School building was later divided into three rooms to hold high school grades and served until a new stone school was built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration. The Mast Store began operating in the 1880s and was expanded in 1898 to include the center, gable-roof sections and two-story wing. A second store, the Valle Crucis Company Store, was established in 1909 across the road from the Methodist Church. The two-story frame structure with one-story wings was later purchased and operated by Aubyn and Ben Farthing as the Farthing store. The Valle Crucis Bank was organized in 1914, and a one-story, gabled-front building of rusticated concrete block was built on a site immediately west of the Methodist church. The cluster of commercial and community buildings is comprised of relatively plain, vernacular structures, are all representatives of their type.

The increased commercial activity is also reflected in several residences built soon after the turn of the century. W.W. Mast, owner and proprietor of the Mast Store, built a two-story frame house with a side gable roof and full-width front porch. Dr. Henry Perry, the community's medical doctor, built an eclectic, one-and-one-half-story house of rusticated concrete block in 1910 after his first home burned. Dr. Perry also used the house as a hospital with an operating room on the first floor and rooms for patients on the second floor. C. D. "Squire" Taylor, after selling his interest in the Mast Store, built a large Colonial Revival-style house in the Upper Valley as the seat of his substantial farm. In 1922 store owner R. Aubyn Farthing erected a one-and-one-half-story brick bungalow with shed dormers and an engaged porch on a hill to the east of the Farthing Store. In the early-twentieth century many of the valley families opened their large farm houses to travelers and summer guests. The Bairds, Masts, and Taylors were all recognized for their hospitality. Valle Crucis became increasingly popular as a vacation spot, and a number of retirement and summer houses were built throughout the community. Nannie Smith, a twin sister of Mrs. C.D. Taylor, built a one-story cottage next door to her sister's house in

1928. Covered with chestnut bark shingles, the house is one of two structures in Valle Crucis constructed with bark shingles and one of only three in Watauga County outside of the resort community of Blowing Rock. Lucy Mast Olsen, daughter of W.W. and Emma Mast, retired to a one- and-one-half-story stone house built adjacent to her father's store in the late 1930's. The Rustic Revival-style Ontaroga Cottage is a one-story log dwelling that occupies a wooded site overlooking the intersection of NC 194 and Broadstone Road (SR 1112) at the heart of the community.

The natural landscape, which has complemented the development of Valle Crucis over the two-hundred-year history of the community, exists today as an integral part of the built environment. The buildings contained within the Valle Crucis Historic District represent every stage of the community's development, and many historic structures continue to serve their original functions.

# VI. Property Inventory & Evaluations

## VI. Property Inventory and Evaluations

### A. Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register

*Property #2*  
Carender Barn

*Property #8*  
Lee Carender Farm

*Property #14-VCHD*  
Valle Crucis Historic District

### B. Properties Determined Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation



## VI. PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

### A. *PROPERTIES EVALUATED AND CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER*

#### **Identification**

Property #2  
Carender Barn

#### **Location**

8326 NC 194  
Valle Crucis, NC

#### **Background Information & Description**

Based on an interviews with local resident Lavola Carender as well as the current owner of the barn, William K. Jackson, the Carender barn was once owned by Lavola Carender's grandfather. It was sold to Mr. Jackson who has maintained the barn as part of a new vacation home property. There are two new houses that are located behind this barn, so the agricultural setting is no longer predominant. In the past, the large structure was used as a cattle barn, and tobacco was cured above in the loft area. Today the loft is used for hay storage. A plaque on the barn says the barn dates to 1879. Based on discussions with Lavola Carender, Mr. Jackson noted that the barn may have an earlier date. The house and other outbuildings once associated with the barn no longer stand. The house was lost in a fire more than a half-century ago.

The Carender Barn is rectangular in plan with a large, sweeping gable roof, with the eave side facing NC 194. A large opening for farm equipment is found on the long side of the barn, along with three square "barn window" type openings. Unpainted wooden weatherboards clad the wall structure, while the foundation is of continuous fieldstone. The rear of the barn, facing the newer houses, features a broad, gable form that continues over a shed addition, thus forming a "catslide" type roof. The rear shed is partially enclosed, and served by a door as well as a partially open bay. The side elevation facing the residential driveway has a three bay opening, one of which serves a center aisle. In the upper façade, there is a small opening (possibly a loft vent). The opposite gable end features a large opening that could be accessed by farm equipment (to move hay or tobacco). The barn interior with center aisle and side stalls for cattle, is mostly framed with conventional, dimensioned lumber, as is the roof structure. While not innovative from a design or construction standpoint, this barn today serves as an understated "rural landmark" in this mountain community.

### National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), The Carender Barn is considered **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A for agriculture.

The Carender Barn, Watauga County, NC, is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*<sup>22</sup> The Carender Barn, dating to 1879 and possibly earlier, is (according to the HPO Watauga County survey) one of the few nineteenth-century barns remaining in the county. While there are other barns located in the Valle Crucis vicinity, they do not represent this period in the agricultural history of this area. In addition, most barns are located in the valley, whereas this barn is found at a higher elevation. The Carender Barn is the only remaining structure of a farm that no longer exists. Modern residential development is encroaching on this area, therefore this area is perilously close to losing its agricultural landscape which this barn represents.

The Carender Barn is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*<sup>23</sup> The Carender Barn does not illustrate the activities of any particular person notable in national, state, or local contexts.

The Carender Barn is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*<sup>24</sup> The Carender Barn is representative of typical construction methods and design for barn structures in the area. There are no distinctive characteristics that make this barn exceptional.

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<sup>22</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 991), p. 12.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

The Carender Barn, is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Potential to Yield Information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>25</sup> The Carender Barn is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The structure and design of the barn is not considered highly significant within the context of building technology.

### **National Register Boundary**

See sheet NR-1, page 34.

### **National Register Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary for the Carender Barn is determined by the footprint of the structure. The barn is the only remaining structure from a nineteenth-century farm that once graced this site. Modern residential development now defines the character of the site. Thus the use of the barn's footprint is appropriate, because it envelops the remaining integrity of the site. The legal boundaries of the larger parcel are recorded on the current tax map numbers held at the Watauga County tax office in Boone.

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid., p. 21.



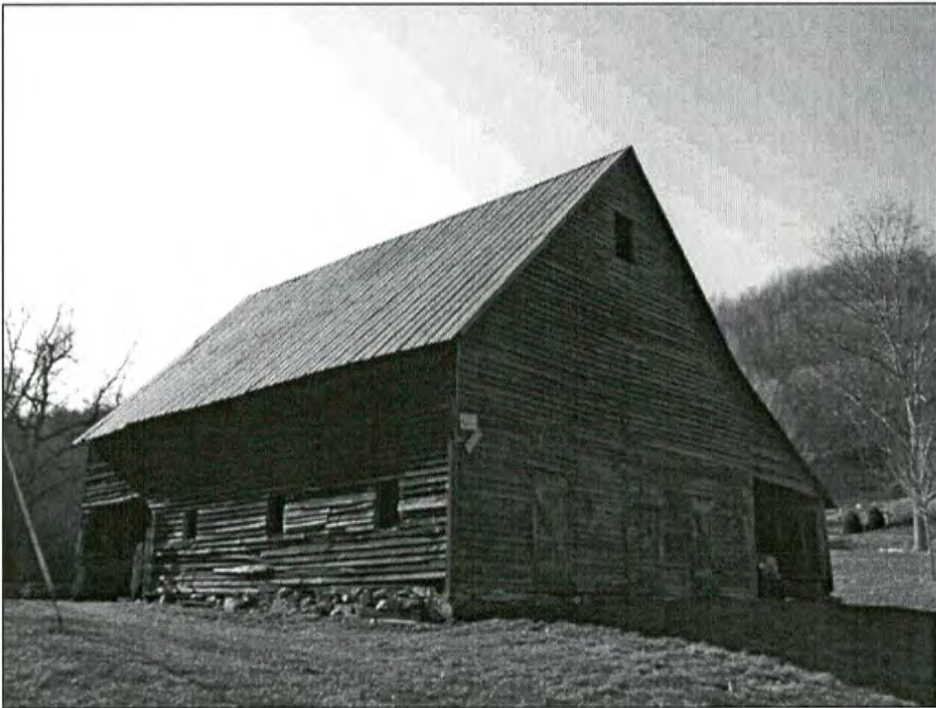


**PROPERTY # 2**

**Eligible for National Register  
Barn**

See evaluation, this report

**FIGURE  
2.1**



**PROPERTY # 2**

**Eligible for National Register  
Barn**

See evaluation, this report

**FIGURE  
2.2**



**PROPERTY # 2**

**Eligible for National Register  
Barn**

See evaluation, this report

FIGURE  
2.3



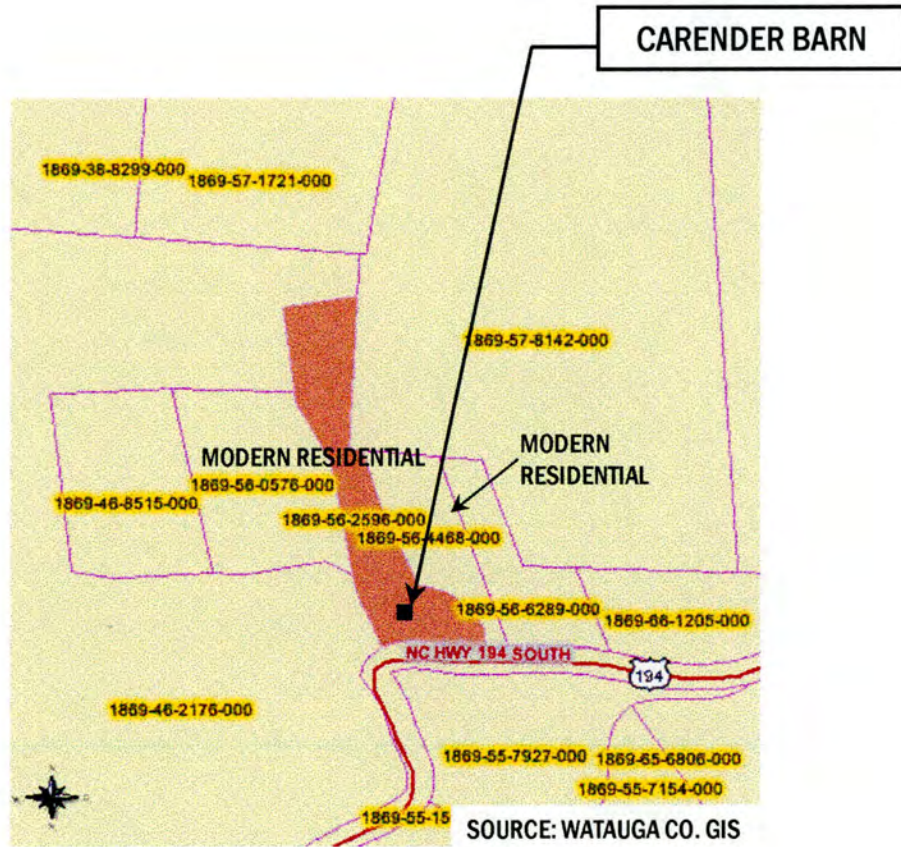
**PROPERTY # 1**

**Eligible for National Register  
Barn**

See evaluation, this report

FIGURE  
2.4





**NOTE: THE NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY IS THE FOOTPRINT OF THE BARN BUILDING ITSELF**

**SEE PROPERTY #1 - FIGURE 2.4 SHOWING NON-CONTRIBUTING MODERN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**



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 Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

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Project  
**IMPROVE NC 194 VALLE CRUCIS**

Sheet Title  
**BARN PARCEL**

Drawn By:  
Silverman

Issue Date:  
04-15-03

File Name:  
parcel.ppt

TIP No.  
**R-2710**

Scale  
**NTS**

Sheet No.  
**NR-1**



**A. PROPERTIES EVALUATED AND CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
(CONTINUED)**

**Identification**

Property #8  
Lee Carender Farm; classified by HPO as WT-348

**Location**

NW side NC 194, 0.3 mile SW of Jct. With SR 1122  
Matney vicinity  
Tel: 828-963-5574

**Background Information & Description**

HPO survey file WT-348 states:

“The Carender farm is an outstanding representative of a continuously operating, early-twentieth century, middle-class farm complex still owned by the original family. The main house, built in 1910, is a large two-story gable front and wing form with vernacular Victorian elaborations in the spindle work porch railing and porch form generally. The house has a few minor alterations, but its overall integrity as the main farm residence remains unaffected. Other structures on the property include two late nineteenth century buildings – a frame kitchen and simple one room frame house that was occupied while the main house was being constructed (both structures ca. 1890s). A series of agricultural buildings from the 1930s round out the farm complex – a two-level cellar, three frame sheds (one of which has been converted to a garage), a frame chicken house, and an outstanding gambrel-roof barn. A frame privy, built entirely of chestnut, was constructed on the farm in the 1930s by workers with the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The privy was the structure most commonly built on local farms by WPA workers according to the current owners.”

“Overall an outstanding farm complex with minimal alterations, representative of typical middle class, mountain farm life in the early twentieth century. Considering its beginnings in the 1890s, the Carender farm would be a good candidate for the NC Century Farms designation and the National Register.”

**National Register Criteria Assessment**

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), The Lee Carender Farm is considered **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A for agriculture and criteria C for architecture.

The Lee Carender Farm, Watauga County, NC, is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity*

*and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*<sup>26</sup> The Carender Farm remains today an unparalleled example of a rural farm property dating from the late-nineteenth to the early-twentieth-centuries. A remarkable series of outbuildings ranging from the original small house that was occupied while the main house was under construction to the original WPA privy constructed in the 1930s, this site meets this criterion for National Register eligibility.

The Lee Carender Farm is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*<sup>27</sup> The Lee Carender Farm does not illustrate the activities of any particular person notable in national, state, or local contexts.

The Lee Carender Farm is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*<sup>28</sup> The Lee Carender Farm exhibits a good, intact collection of late-nineteenth-to-early-twentieth-century rural domestic architecture and agricultural construction. The understated vernacular farmhouse and its surrounding outbuildings are remarkable in their range of uses as well as their outstanding states of integrity given the passage of time.

The Lee Carender Farm, is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Potential to Yield Information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>29</sup> The Lee Carender Farm is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The structure and

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<sup>26</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 991), p. 12.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

design of the Lee Carender Farm is not considered highly significant within the context of building technology.

### **National Register Boundary**

See sheet NR-2, page 44

### **National Register Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary for the Lee Carender Farm is determined by the present-day tax parcel containing the historic features that directly contribute to its significance. The property frontage along NC 194 extends to the right-of-way line. The use of existing legal boundaries is appropriate because they are consistent with the historical partition and ownership of the area, as well as its remaining integrity and inclusion of all buildings historically associated with the property. The legal boundaries are recorded on the current tax map numbers held at the Watauga County tax office in Boone.





**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
View from NC 194

FIGURE  
8.1



**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
Farmland Preservation Sign

FIGURE  
8.2





**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
View of main house

FIGURE  
8.3



**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
Rear of house

FIGURE  
8.4





**PROPERTY # 8**

**Eligible for National Register**

**Lee Carender Farm**

**See evaluation, this report**

**Frame, gambrel roof barn, ca. 1930s**

**Source: SHPO files**

**FIGURE**

**8.5**



**PROPERTY # 8**

**Eligible for National Register**

**Lee Carender Farm**

**See evaluation, this report**

**Frame sheds, ca. 1930s**

**FIGURE**

**8.6**





**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register

Lee Carender Farm

See evaluation, this report

frame Chicken house, ca. 1930s

FIGURE

8.7



**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register

Lee Carender Farm

See evaluation, this report

2-level cellar, ca. 1920s

FIGURE

8.8





**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
Garage/Shed, ca. 1930s (altered)

FIGURE  
8.9



**PROPERTY # 8**

Eligible for National Register  
Lee Carender Farm  
See evaluation, this report  
Frame house, occupied while main house was constructed, ca. 1890s

FIGURE  
8.10





**PROPERTY # 8**

**Eligible for National Register**

**Lee Carender Farm**

**See evaluation, this report**

**Foreground: Privy, ca. 1930s, built by WPA; Beyond: frame kitchen, ca. 1890s**

**FIGURE**

**8.11**



**PROPERTY # 8**

**Eligible for National Register**

**Lee Carender Farm**

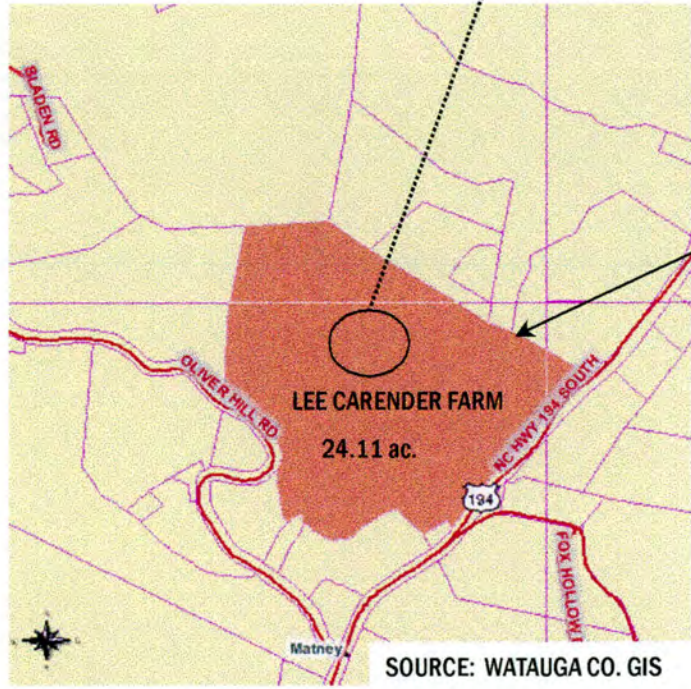
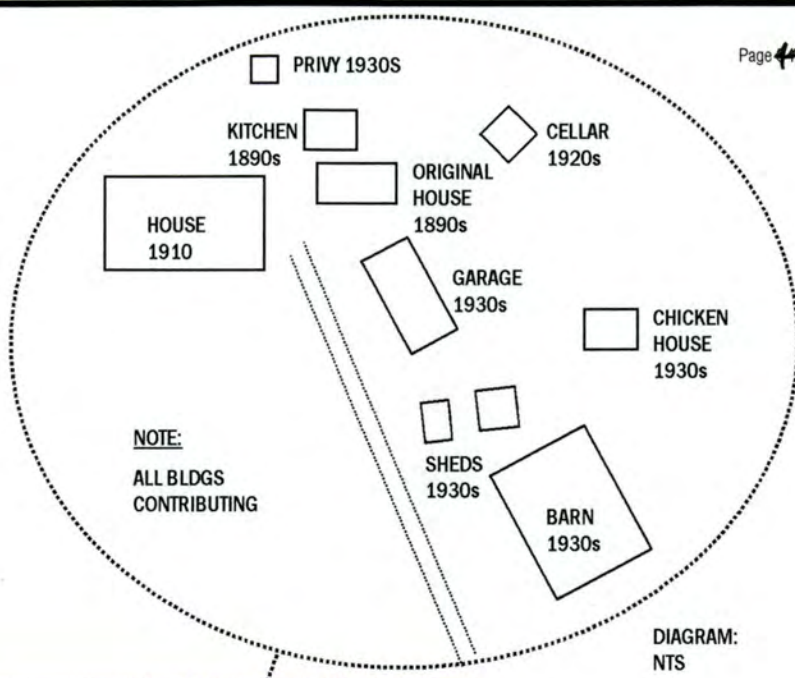
**See evaluation, this report**

**View of outbuildings**

**FIGURE**

**8.12**





NATIONAL REGISTER  
BOUNDARY DEFINED  
BY PARCEL AS  
SHOWN ON TAX MAP

SOURCE: WATAUGA CO. GIS



NCDOT Historic Architecture  
1583 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583  
T 919-715-1333  
F 919-715-1522  
www.ncdot.org

Project	IMPROVE NC 194 VALLE CRUCIS
Sheet Title	CARENDER FARMSTEAD

Drawn By:  
Silverman  
Issue Date:  
04-15-03  
File Name:  
parcel.ppt

TIP No.	<b>R-2710</b>
Scale	<b>NTS</b>
Sheet No.	<b>NR-2</b>

**A. PROPERTIES EVALUATED AND CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
(CONTINUED)**

**Identification**

Property #14-VCHD

Valle Crucis Historic District (*includes existing Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission – NR*)

**NOTE:** As part of the NCDOT survey within the Valle Crucis Historic District, structures 14.1 through 14.9, all located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE), were identified. Structures outside the APE were not photodocumented by NCDOT.

A National Register nomination for the Valle Crucis Historic District is underway by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. A National Register boundary map for the district is included (see sheet NR-3). Properties within the district are classified under the nomination's separate numbering system and are keyed as contributing or non-contributing. NCDOT has conducted field investigations to assess the content of the nomination and concurs with its findings and boundaries.

**Location**

The boundaries of the Valle Crucis Historic District extend roughly from the Watauga River in the north - with the Mast Farm (NR, 1972) at the eastern edge and the David F. Baird Farm on the western edge - along NC 194 in the Upper Valley and Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR, 1993), whose 426-acre property forms the southern limits.<sup>30</sup>

**Background Information & Description**

NOTE: For historic contexts, see Section V., Parts A & B, this report

The community of Valle Crucis covers a broad area of western Watauga County, situated along the Watauga River and several tributaries that feed the river. Since the earliest recorded settlement in the 1770s, the Upper and Lower Valleys that have come to be known as "Valle Crucis" existed as separate sections, connected by a half-mile long, winding path through a narrow gap. When Bishop Levi Silliman Ives established an Episcopal Mission in the upper valley in the 1840s, he called the place Valle Crucis (Latin for "valley of the cross") after an ancient Cistercian monastery in Wales, although residents and visitors alike noted that the confluence of the three creeks draining the valley resembled a cross on the landscape. A post office opened in August 1844 at the Episcopal Mission and gave some definition to the community.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> This information is drawn directly from a draft National Register nomination for the Valle Crucis Historic District. Permission to use this information granted by the preparer of the draft, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

The Valle Crucis Historic District comprises both the Upper Valley and Lower Valley and extends along the main roads through the community - NC 194 and Broadstone Road (SR 1112). Being on the western side of the Blue Ridge and the eastern Continental Divide, the creeks of the Upper Valley drained generally northward to the Watauga River, which flows westward to the Mississippi. Clarks Creek, Dutch Creek, and Crab Orchard Creek descend from coves around the Upper Valley and converge near the northern edge of the valley and flow north through a narrow gap before entering the wide, fertile bottom lands of the Lower Valley. NC 194 snakes through the rugged terrain of the Upper Valley until its intersection with Broadstone Road (SR 1112) along the southern edge of the Lower Valley. The T-shaped intersection of these two primary roads generally marks the center of the Valle Crucis community; the elementary school stands to the north of the intersection and the former bank and Methodist Churches are located just east. The Mast Store and old Farthing Store are situated west and east, respectively, a short distance from this intersection. Broadstone Road (SR 1112), which joins NC 194 from the east, continues several miles upriver along the southern edge of the Lower Valley until it joins present NC 105 near the historic community of Shull's Mill. NC 194, which entered from the south, continues to the west along the southern edge of the valley before it crosses the Watauga River and twists along until it reaches the community of Vilas. The Watauga River flows along the northern edge of the Lower Valley.<sup>32</sup>

Valle Crucis is a remarkably intact rural mountain community located in the Watauga River valley of western Watauga County, North Carolina. The Valle Crucis Historic District is comprised of fertile farmland, wooded hillsides, and the river and several creeks that form the Upper and Lower valleys, which were settled in the late-eighteenth century by the Baird, Mast, and Shull families. In addition to the prosperous farm families that developed the rich bottom land of the Lower Valley, their descendants and other families moved into the coves and creek valleys of the Upper Valley, where the Diocese of North Carolina established the Episcopal Mission in 1842 that gave the community its name. The persistence of the prominent farm families, difficult transportation, and the success of the Episcopal Mission in the early-twentieth century contributed to the independence and strong identity of Valle Crucis, defined not only by its landscape and built environment, but also by its people and institutions. Change came slowly to Valle Crucis during the twentieth century. Much of the new development from mid-century to the present day has been undertaken by descendants of the early families, summer visitors originally hosted by the Masts, Bairds, and Taylors, or people associated with the mission, now operating as a conference center.<sup>33</sup>

### **National Register Criteria Assessment**

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), The Valle Crucis Historic District is **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A for agriculture, commerce, education, religion, and social history and C for architecture.

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.



The Valle Crucis Historic District, Watauga County, NC, is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*<sup>34</sup> The district represents the patterns of agriculture, commerce, education, religion, and social history that began in the early-nineteenth century and continued through the twentieth century in rural communities around Watauga County. In Valle Crucis these patterns were established with the settlement of the early Valle Crucis families - Baird, Mast, Shull - and the formation of the Episcopal Mission in the 1840s.

The Valle Crucis Historic District is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*<sup>35</sup> The Valle Crucis Historic District does not illustrate the activities of any particular person notable in national, state, or local contexts.

The Valle Crucis Historic District is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its architectural significance. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*<sup>36</sup> The district also contains a representative collection of buildings, structures, and sites that document the evolution of the natural and built environment through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including log and frame dwellings, agricultural buildings, churches, schools, businesses, and vacation homes.<sup>37</sup>

The Valle Crucis Historic District, is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Potential to Yield Information). *For a property to be eligible under*

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<sup>34</sup> National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 991), p. 12.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>37</sup> *This information is drawn directly from a draft National Register nomination for the Valle Crucis Historic District. Permission to use this information granted by the preparer of the draft, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc]*

*Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*<sup>38</sup> The Valle Crucis Historic District is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The structure and design of the Valle Crucis Historic District is not considered highly significant within in the context of building technology.

### **National Register Boundary**

See sheet NR-3, page 65

The boundaries of the Valle Crucis Historic District extend roughly from the Watauga River in the north - with the Mast Farm (NR, 1972) at the eastern edge and the David F. Baird Farm on the western edge - along NC 194 in the Upper Valley and Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR, 1993), whose 426-acre property forms the southern limits.

### **National Register Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary for the Valle Crucis Historic District encompasses the concentration of historic properties in the Upper and Lower Valleys of Valle Crucis. The Watauga River, whose rich bottomlands attracted the earliest settlers to the area, forms the northern edge as it flows through the Lower Valley. The substantial Baird Farm marks the western limits of the District in the Lower Valley while the Mast Farm (NR 1972) forms the eastern edge. Sections of the old Caldwell and Watauga Turnpike link these two farms, and the commercial and civic center of Valle Crucis is located along the old roadway. The district extends southward along the historic roadbed (present NC 194) and Dutch Creek and the north side of the highway until they intersect the large parcel of the former Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR, 1993). Still owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina and operated as a conference center, the Episcopal Mission property forms the southern and western limits of the Valle Crucis Historic District.

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 21.

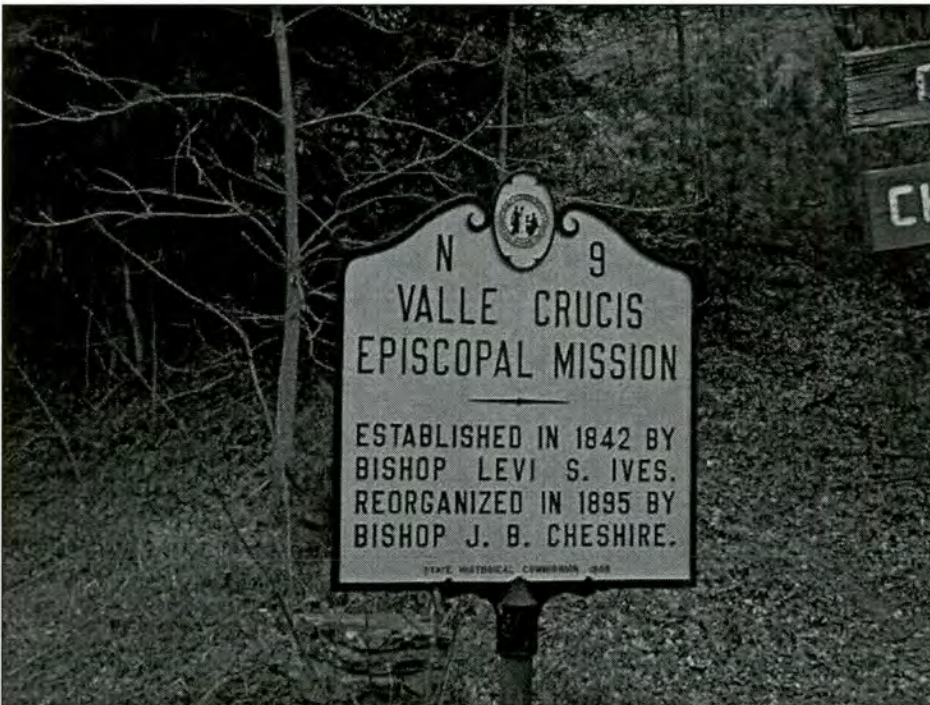


**PROPERTY # 14.1-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
"The Farm House"

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.1



**PROPERTY # 14-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
Historic Marker

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.1A





**PROPERTY # 14.2-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
Bishop Ives House

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.2



**PROPERTY # 14.3-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
Church of the Holy Cross

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.3





**PROPERTY # 14.3-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)

Church of the Holy Cross

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.3A



**PROPERTY # 14.4-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)

Auchmuty Hall

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.4





**PROPERTY # 14.5-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
The Annex

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.5



**PROPERTY #14.6- VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
Shed

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.6





**PROPERTY # 14.7&8-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)

“The Apple Barn” and “The Bunk House”

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.7-8



**PROPERTY # 14.9-VCHD**

Listed in National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)

The Old Chapel

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.9





**PROPERTY # 14.10-VCHD**

Listed in the National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)  
The Mission House

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.10



**PROPERTY # 14-VCHD**

Listed in the National Register  
Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission (NR)

View from NC 194

See NR Nomination

FIGURE  
14.10A





**PROPERTY # 14.11-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Sarah Wagner House**

This two-story, double-pile, eave-front frame house was originally built for the Burnham family. Two brick chimneys, one exterior and one interior, access fireplaces and a flue. Four-over-one windows are hung either singly or in pairs. A gable-front porch with square posts protects the front entryway. A board and batten garage/woodshed is located near the SW corner of the house.

Source: SHPO files

FIGURE

**14.11**



**PROPERTY # 14.12-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Nannie Smith House**

This one-story, bark-sided cottage was built as a summer cottage for the twin sister of the wife of "Squire" Taylor, whose large frame house stands just to the east. Ms. Nannie Smith was a teacher. The cottage has an exterior-end fieldstone and cut stone chimney, and a partial-façade porch. Two recent additions included a bedroom, bath, and kitchen to the bungalow. These have rough pine siding.

Source: SHPO files

FIGURE

**14.12**





**PROPERTY # 14.13-VCHD**

Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District

“Squire” Taylor House

Constructed in 1911. This two-and-one-half-story center-hall, double-pile frame house has a hipped roof and three clipped-gable dormers fronting NC 194. The exterior is faced with weatherboard siding, and the roofing is pressed tin. The main entry features a Queen Anne door flanked by angled sidelights. “Squire Taylor” was a farmer in Valle Crucis.

Source: SHPO files

FIGURE

**14.13**



**PROPERTY # 14.13-VCHD**

Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District

“Squire” Taylor House

The nearby frame single-story woodshed has been converted (ca. 1970) into a residence.

Source: SHPO files

FIGURE

**14.13A**





**PROPERTY # 14.14-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Henry Taylor Barn**

This frame barn was a hub of activity on the Henry Taylor farm. It survived the 1940 flood which washed away the farm house. This gambrel-roof structure dates to 1924.

Source: SHPO files

FIGURE  
14.14



**PROPERTY # 14.14-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Henry Taylor Barn**

See description above

FIGURE  
14.14A





**PROPERTY # 14.15-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Dr. Perry House**

One-and-one-half-story, three bay house is constructed of rusticated concrete block. The house is capped by a distinctive hipped roof with clipped gable ends and a front cross-gable.

Dr. Henry B. Perry built this house, which also served as Dr. Perry's office and as a hospital, the first in the county.

Source: Forthcoming NR Nomination

FIGURE  
**14.15**



**PROPERTY # 14.15-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Barn**

Clipped-gable, frame barn with shed at east side is located south of the house and faces north. Barn has weatherboard siding with diagonal lattice in the gable; shed has vertical plank siding.

Source: Forthcoming National Register Nomination

FIGURE  
**14.15A**





**PROPERTY # 14.16-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Valle Crucis Elementary School**

One-story building erected by the WPA with several one-story additions built in different decades and eventually joined as a single building. Large windows replaced with smaller windows and infill. Additional construction in the 1990s joined two buildings.

Source: Forthcoming National Register Nomination

FIGURE  
14.16



**PROPERTY # 14.17-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

(former) Valle Crucis Bank remodeled into a residence. Single-story, front-gabled building with rusticated concrete block.

Source: Forthcoming National Register Nomination

FIGURE  
14.17





**PROPERTY # 14.18-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Valle Crucis Methodist Church**

Gable-front church with tower and steeple, plain modern windows, clad in aluminum; roofing is asphalt shingle; Originally built in 1894 (altered).

Source: Forthcoming National Register Nomination

FIGURE

**14.18**



**PROPERTY # 14.19-VCHD**

**Eligible for the National Register in Valle Crucis Historic District**

**Farthing Store**

Two-story, frame commercial building with front gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. Built in 1909 by R.L. Lowe, providing competition for the established Mast General Store.

Source: Forthcoming National Register Nomination

FIGURE

**14.19**

**TABLE I: VALLE CRUCIS HISTORIC DISTRICT – PROPERTY CLASSIFICATIONS**

<b>KEY:</b>	<b>C-B</b>	CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
	<b>C-S</b>	CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
	<b>C-SITE</b>	CONTRIBUTING SITE
	<b>NC</b>	NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
	<b>V</b>	VACANT PARCEL

NOTE: The numbering ID system in the table below is taken from the NR nomination prepared by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. All resources in the historic district are combined under the NCDOT property ID #VCHD-14.

<b>VCHD ID#</b>	<b>RESOURCE NAME</b>	<b>CLASS.</b>
1	David F. Baird House	C-B
1a	Well House	C-B
1b	Spring House	NC
1c	Granary	C-B
1d	Privy	C-S
1e	Barn	C-B
1f	Barn	C-B
1g	Shed	C-S
1h	Barn	C-B
Vac-A	Vacant Parcel	V
2	Barn	NC
3	Lucy Mast House	C-B
3a	Barn	C-B
Vac-B	Vacant Parcel	V
4	Mast General Store	C-B
4a	Gas Pump Shelter	C-S
4b	Storage Building	NC
5	Commercial Building	NC
6	Former Valle Crucis School	NC
Vac-C	Vacant Parcel	V
7	Tobacco Barn	C-B
8	Valle Landing Shopping Center	NC
Vac-D	Vacant Parcel	V
9	Valle Crucis Elementary School	NC
10	Farthing Store	C-B
10a	Concession Stand	NC
Vac-E	Vacant Parcel	V



11	Valle Crucis Community Park	NC
12	Byrd House	NC
12a	Outbuilding	NC
13	House	NC
13a	Barn	NC
14	Commercial Building	NC
15	House	C-B
15a	Cottage	C-B
15b	Shed	C-B
15c	Shed	NC
16	House	NC
16a	Shed	NC
17	House	NC
17a	Shed	NC
18	House	NC
18a	Shed	NC
18b	Shed	NC
19	House	C-B
19a	Shed	C-B
Vac-G	Vacant Parcel	V
20	House	NC
20a	Barn	NC
Vac-H	Vacant Parcel	V
21	Andrew B. Mast House	C-B
21a	Meat House	C-B
21b	Spring House	C-B
21c	Loom House	C-B
21d	Wash House	C-B
21e	Garage	C-B
21f	Blacksmith Shop	C-B
21g	Apple House	C-G
21h	Wood House	C-B
21i	Gazebo	C-S
21j	Granary	NC
21k	Barn	C-B
21l	Greenhouse	NC
21m	Maple Spring Cottage #1	NC
21n	Maple Spring Cottage #2	NC
21o	Blueberry Hill	NC
22	House	NC



23	R. Aubyn Farthing House	C-B
23a	Barn	C-B
23b	Shed	NC
23c	Garage	C-B
24	House	C-B
24a	Garage	C-B
25	Howard & M.H. Mast House	NC
26	House	NC
27	Willow House	C-B
27a	Shed	NC
27b	Garage	NC
28	House	NC
29	House	C-B
30	Barn	NC
31	Commercial Building	NC
32	Valle Crucis Methodist Church	C-B
32a	Picnic Shelter	NC
33	Former Valle Crucis Bank	C-B
33a	Shed	NC
33b	Shed	NC
Vac-I	Vacant Parcel	V
Vac-J	Vacant Parcel	V
Vac-K	Vacant Parcel	V
Vac-L	Vacant Parcel	V
34	Taylor Barn #1	C-B
34a	Taylor Barn #2	C-B
34b	Chicken Coop	C-S
35	Sarah Wagner House	C-B
35a	Shed	NC
36	Church of the Holy Cross	C-B
36a	Holy Cross Cemetery	C-SITE
36b	Bishop Ives House	NC
36c	The Farm House	C-B
36d	Garage	C-B
36e	Rectory	NC
36f	Garage	NC
36g	Skiles Hall	NC
36h	Auchmuty Hall	C-B
36i	The Annex	C-B
36j	Garbage Pen	NC



36k	Dairy Barn "Apple Barn"	C-B
36l	Apple Barn "Bunk House"	C-B
36m	Mission House	C-B
36n	Shed	NC
36o	Chapel "Crab Orchard Hall"	NC
36p	Power Dam	C-S
36q	Garage	C-S
36r	Hay Barn # 1	C-B
36s	Hay Barn # 2	C-B
36t	Rector's House	NC
36u	Valley – Site	C-SITE
36v	Apple Orchard – Site	C-SITE
36w	Mountain Acreage – Site	C-SITE
37	House	C-B
38	Nannie Smith Cottage	C-B
38a	Shed	C-B
39	C.D. "Squire" Taylor House	C-B
39a	Milk House	C-B
39b	Flower Cottage	C-B
39c	Garden Shed	C-B
39d	Taylor Cottage	C-B
40	Kevin Beck Studio	NC
Vac-M	Vacant Parcel	V
41	House	NC
42	Dr. Perry House	C-B
42a	Cold Storage	C-S
42b	Outbuilding	C-B
42c	Barn	C-B
42d	Shed	C-S
43	Ontaroga Cottage	C-B
44	Hard Taylor House	C-B
44a	Garage	C-B
44b	Shed	NC
45	House	NC
46	W.W. Mast House	C-B
46a	Garage	C-B
46b	Shed	C-B
46c	Pump House	NC
46d	Well House	C-S
47	Landscape – Site	C-SITE

Valle Crucis Historic District Property Map

Large Scanning



## VI. PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS (CONT'D.)

### A. PROPERTIES EVALUATED AND DETERMINED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER EVALUATION

**TABLE II: PROPERTY INVENTORY**

NCDOT PROPERTY ID	IDENTIFICATION	EVALUATION	NOTES
1	House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
<b>2</b>	<b>Barn</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>See Evaluation</b>
3	House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
4	House & Barn	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
5	House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
6	Rominger House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
7	Matney Mall	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
<b>8</b>	<b>Lee Carender Farm</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>See Evaluation</b>
9	Barn	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
10	Matney General Store	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
11	Nooney House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
12	House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
13	House	Not Eligible	See Concurrence Form
<b>14-VCHD</b>	<b>Valle Crucis Historic District (Includes Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission – NR)</b>	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>See Evaluation See Valle Crucis Episcopal Mission NR Nomination; Also forthcoming Valle Crucis Historic District NR Nomination</b>



**PROPERTY # 1**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

View from NC 194

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

FIGURE

**1.1**



**PROPERTY # 1**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

Typical frame mountain house with standing-seam metal roofing; rebuilt stone chimney; 1-over-1 sashes, shed-roofed porch with wood shingle roofing; plain square posts.

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

FIGURE

**1.2**





**PROPERTY # 3**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

ca. 1940s minimal/Traditional eave-front gable house with 3-over-1 sashes; central interior chimney; decorative scroll sawn shutters; single-bay front porch;

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

FIGURE  
3.1



**PROPERTY # 4**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

Significantly altered craftsman cottage;

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

FIGURE  
4.1





**PROPERTY # 4**

**Not Eligible for National Register**

**Barn**

**Gambrel roof, chevron siding; shed addition on gambrel-end; similar to other barns in the vicinity;**

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

**FIGURE**

**4.2**



**PROPERTY # 4**

**Not Eligible for National Register**

**Barn**

**See above**

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

**FIGURE**

**4.3**





**PROPERTY # 5**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

Frame eave-front bungalow with shed dormer; full engaged porch with plain square posts; 1-over-1 sashes; one frame outbuilding; house appears unoccupied;

Not Historically or Architecturally Significant

FIGURE  
5.1



**PROPERTY # 6**

**Not Eligible for National Register Fred & Oakie Rominger House**

Stone bungalow with eave-front gable and shed dormer; three-arched openings serving the porch.

Stone for the house quarried locally.

Source: SHPO files

Not Historically or Architecturally Significant

FIGURE  
6.1





**PROPERTY # 7**

**Not Eligible for National Register**

**Matney Mall**

**2-story commercial auto repair service of CMU construction; projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails;**

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

**FIGURE**

**7.1**



**PROPERTY #9**

**Not Eligible for National Register**

**Circa 1930s small gambrel roof barn; window glass missing; some siding and doors missing/in bad repair; site is being re-graded for some construction work; similar to other barns in the vicinity;**

**Not Historically or Architecturally Significant**

**FIGURE**

**9.1**





**PROPERTY # 10**

**Not Eligible for National Register**  
**Former Matney General Store**

Served the greater Matney area;  
the only stop between Valle Crucis  
and Banner Elk; built of local  
granite.

Source: SHPO files

Not Historically or Architecturally  
Significant

**FIGURE**  
**10.1**



**PROPERTY # 11**

**Not Eligible for National Register**  
**Nooney House**

Ca. 1929; house likely occupied by  
owners of the former Matney Store  
located immediately next door; front-  
gable Craftsman cottage with knee  
braces under the eaves; three-over-  
one sashes;

Source: SHPO files

Not Historically or Architecturally  
Significant

**FIGURE**  
**11.1**





**PROPERTY # 12**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

Another example of a stone bungalow in the Matney community; original windows remain; vinyl siding on gable ends; house being remodeled;

Source: SHPO files

Not Historically or Architecturally Significant

FIGURE

**12.1**



**PROPERTY # 13**

**Not Eligible for National Register House**

Typical, unadorned, early twentieth century Craftsman cottage. Intersecting gable-roof forms, metal roof, plain square posts. This house recently renovated and repainted.

Not Historically or Architecturally Significant

FIGURE

**13.1**





**PROPERTY # 13**

**Not Eligible for National Register  
Garage & Shed**

**Wood frame garage and shed with  
board and batten sheathing.**

**Not Historically or Architecturally  
Significant**

**FIGURE  
13.2**

# VII. Bibliography

## VII. Bibliography

### Principal Sources Consulted



## VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# VIII. Project Record Documents

## VII. Project Record Documents

A. HPO County Survey Map

B. HPO Scoping Comments

C. NCDOT-HPO Concurrence Form - Eligibility



**VIII. PROJECT RECORD DOCUMENTS**  
**HPO Scoping Letter**

**NONE RECEIVED**

**VIII. PROJECT RECORD DOCUMENTS**

**HPO Survey Map**

**HPO WATAUGA  
COUNTY SURVEY MAP  
NOT AVAILABLE**



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

Project Description: Improvements to NC 194, Valle Crucis

On April 1, 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

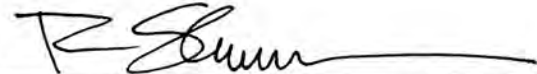
- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

#2,8 evaluate  
#14.1-14.19-VCHD  
eval as part of  
hist list.

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 properties identified as 1, 3-7, 9-13 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them 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:



1 APRIL 2003

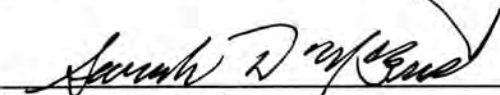
Representative, NCDOT

Date

- SIGNATURE PENDING -

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

Date



4/1/03

Representative, HPO

Date

- SIGNATURE PENDING -

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date