

12-03-0023

EFFECTS DETERMINATION FORM

DSE

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: County: Durham
 WBS No: 5C.032023 Document: Minimum Criteria
 F.A. No: Funding: State Federal

Federal (USACE) Permit Required? Yes No Permit Type: Nationwide No. 3

Project Description:

Reconstruction of three-span Bridge # 151 over Flat River on SR 1614 (State Forest Rd.) in Durham County. The area of Potential Effects (APE) includes the George K. Slocum Forestry Camp including the Hill Forest Camp Houses and the project construction limits are 150 feet from each concrete end abutment and 50 feet on each side of the centerline throughout project limits.

Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:

Review of HPOweb GIS mapping, historic designations roster, and indexes was conducted on 3/13/12 and yielded no NR, DE, LL or SS properties in the APE, except for one Study-Listed resource (Hill Forest Log Houses, DH1783). Constructed in 1969, Bridge #151 has been washed out and destroyed due to high water caused by Tropical Storm Hanna in 2008 and was not previously included in the NCDOT Historic Bridge Survey. Because property boundaries for the Hill Forest Log Houses are not shown on the HPOweb GIS webpage and may not be established, a survey was conducted to establish or confirm boundaries for this study-listed property, make a determination of eligibility for listing in the NRHP, and evaluate the potential project impact to the properties.

Located on a northern Durham County forest preserve donated to North Carolina State University by George Watts Hill in 1929, three rustic revival log buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) compose the study-listed resource known as the Hill Forest Camp Houses. The Hill Forest Camp Houses are part of a larger complex of buildings including mid-twentieth century rustic cottages, a ca. 1930s frame cottage with associated barn and garage, military-type frame buildings, and more recently constructed structures that now make up the George K. Slocum Forestry Camp utilized by forestry and wildlife management students at North Carolina State University. The Slocum Forestry Camp is sited on a hillside overlooking the Flat River surrounded by woodlands and accessed by a gravel road off of North Roxboro Road (HWY 501). The Hill Forest Camp Houses (DH1783) are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for their association with the development of the North Carolina State University forestry program and the push to combine emergency employment relief with land conservation efforts during the Great Depression, and under Criterion C as a locally significant example of Depression Era rustic architecture built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Hill Forest Camp Houses serve as a tangible reminder of the early days of the George Watts Hill Demonstration Forest and the educational and conservation efforts of "Camp Slocum." The log structures retain a high degree of integrity, in their original locations serving a similar purpose to their initial use with few alterations throughout the years. (See attached Determination of Eligibility report).

During the field survey, NCDOT staff learned that the extent of the bridge reconstruction project will have very little impact to the Hill Forest Camp Houses considering that there will be no widening and

minimal concrete paving for the approaches at each end of the bridge. The construction limits of the project extend approximately 150 feet from each concrete abutment at the ends of the bridge. The National Register-eligible Hill Forest Camp Houses (DH1783) is not outside the APE but not directly impacted and will retain adequate tree cover to screen most construction activities from view and provide a buffer to protect the resource from direct project impacts. Therefore, this project to reconstruct Bridge #151 in Durham County will have no effect on the Hill Forest Camp Houses (DH1783).

EFFECTS DETERMINATION

Property/Site: Hill Forest Log Houses (SL, DH1783)

Status: Eligible, North Carolina study-list

Effects Finding: No Effect No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect


Explanation of Effects Determination:

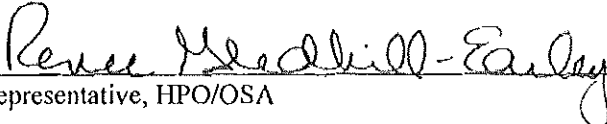
Due to the constrained design parameters of the bridge construction project and the distance between the project area and the NCSU-owned George Slocum Forestry Camp in which the Hill Forest CCC-constructed log buildings are located, the project will have no direct impact upon the eligible property. The bridge will be reconstructed with wood flooring supported by concrete bents and concrete approaches on either side (see attached plan). There will be very minimal tree clearing. Therefore, NCDOT makes a finding of No Effect on the National Register-eligible Hill Forest Camp Houses (DH1783) for this project provided that design plans do not change. If the plans or design of this project change, further cultural resources review will be required.

List Environmental Commitments (if any):

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: Design plans, Determination of Eligibility Report, maps, and photos.

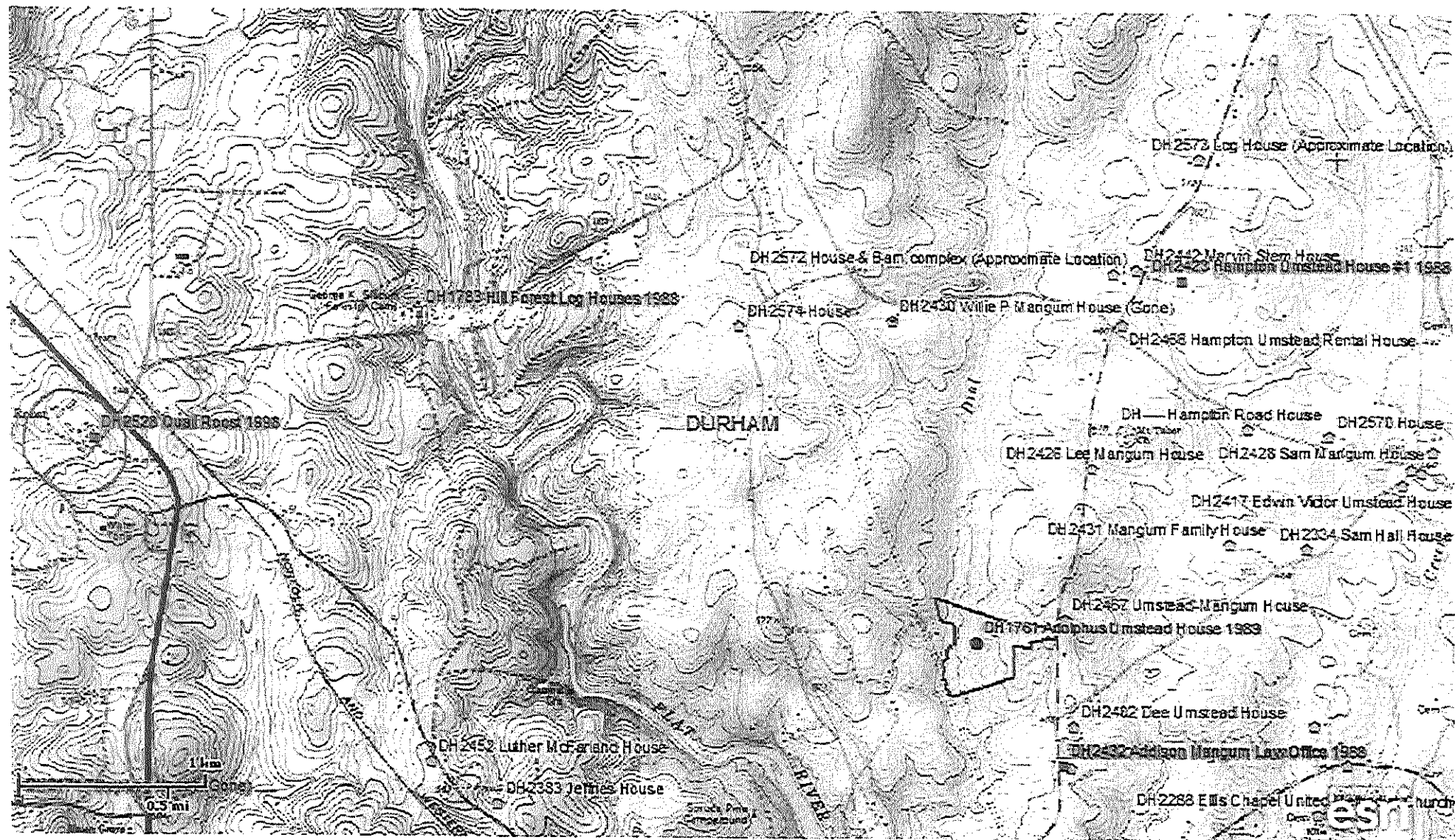

Cultural Resources Specialist, NCDOT 5/14/12
Date


Representative, HPO/OSA 5-14-12
Date

HPO/OSA Comments:

NC HPO GIS

Durham County



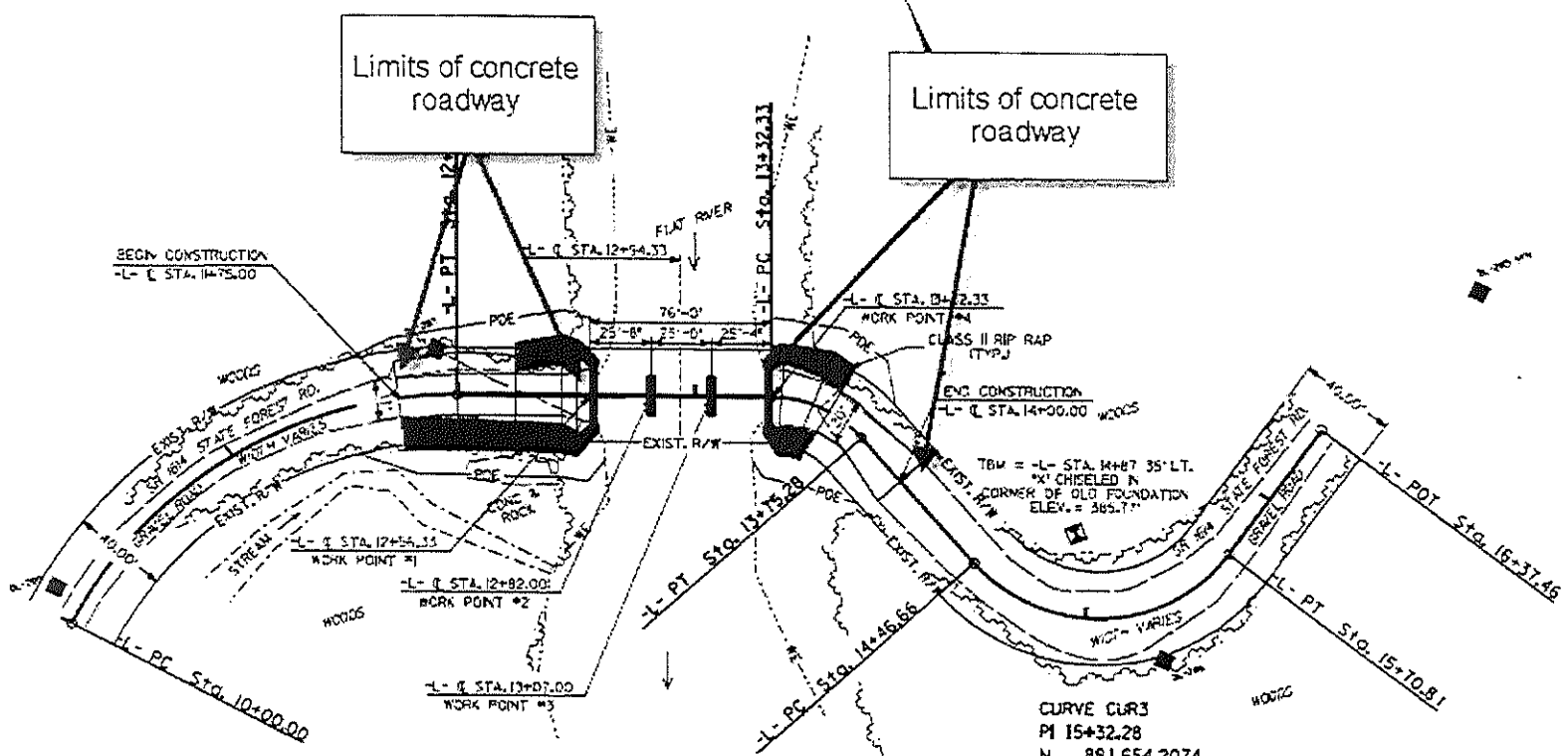
NC HPO GIS

Durham County



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 E 2,033,354.8060
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 Lc 200.03
 T 111.26

PLAN
 SCALE 1"=50'

CURVE CUR2
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 E 2,033,605.5045
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PRELIMINARY PLANS
 DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION

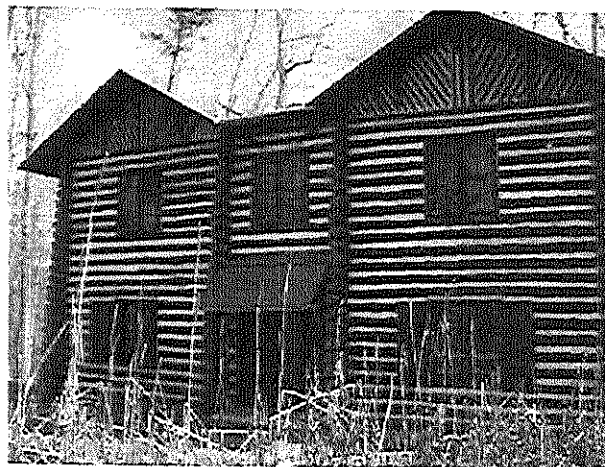
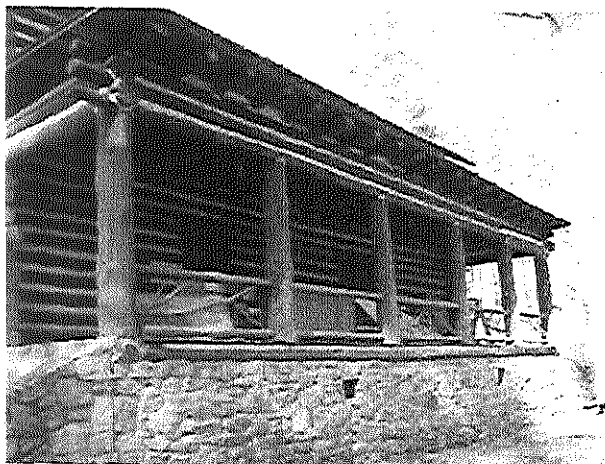
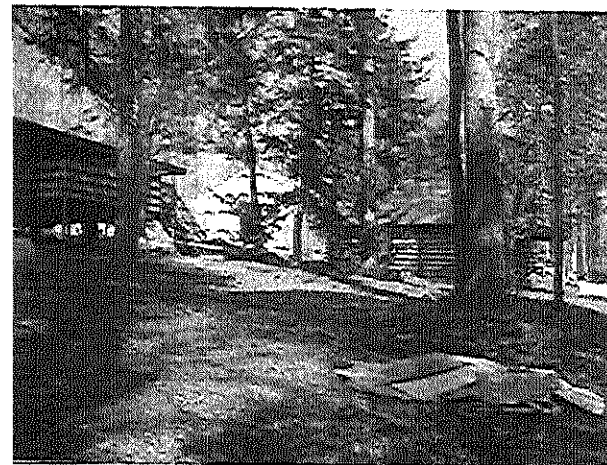
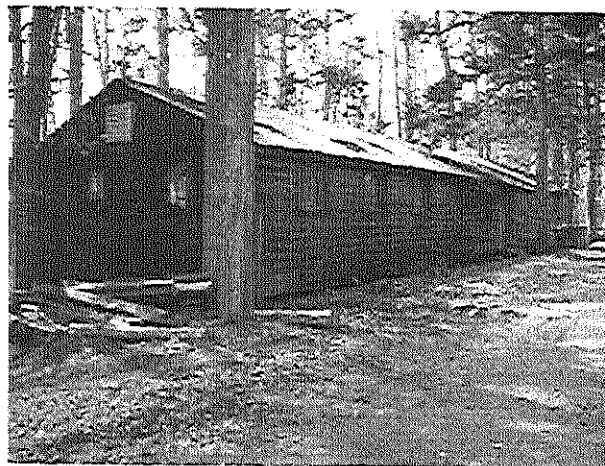
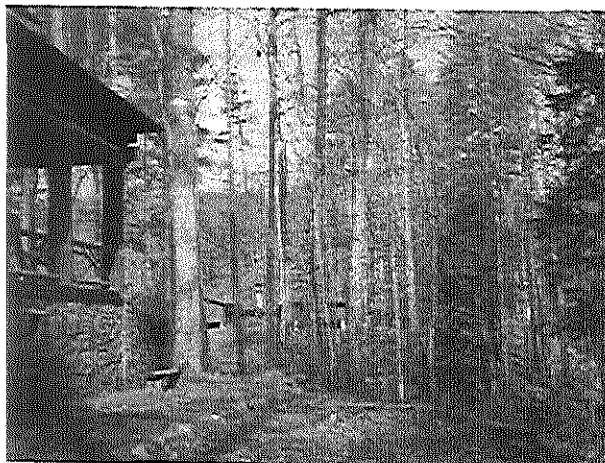
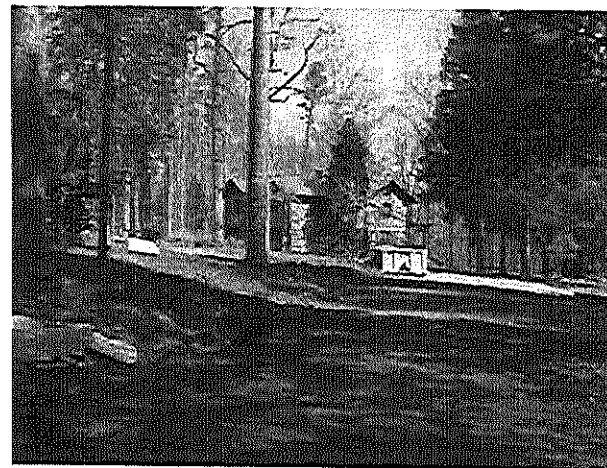
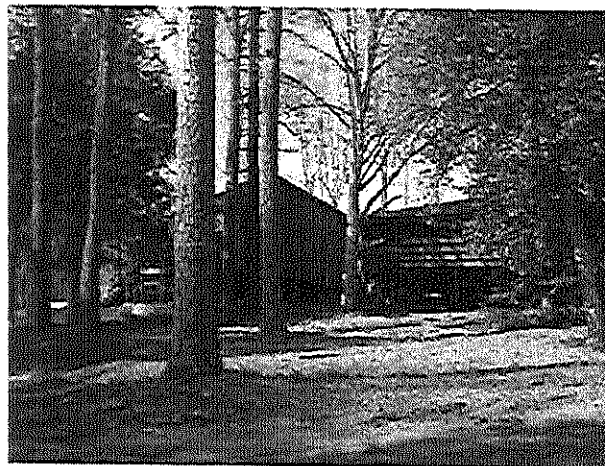
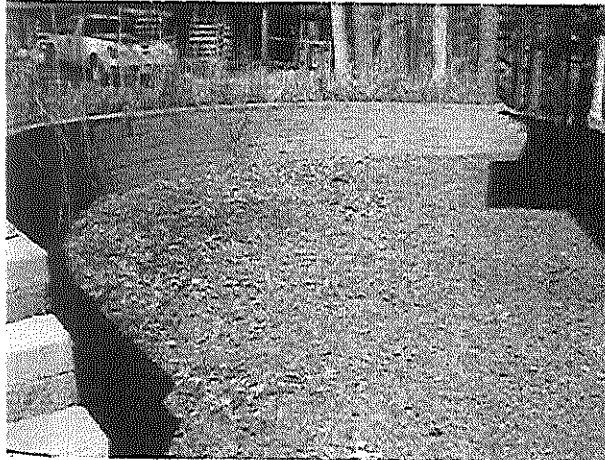
PROJECT NO. 5C.032072
 CURHAM COUNTY
 BRIDGE NO. 151

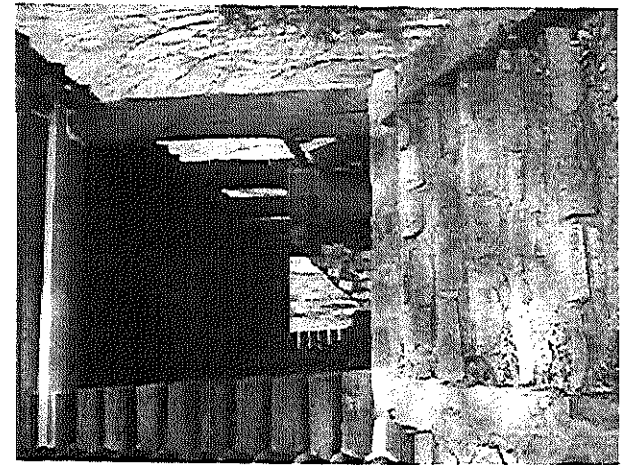
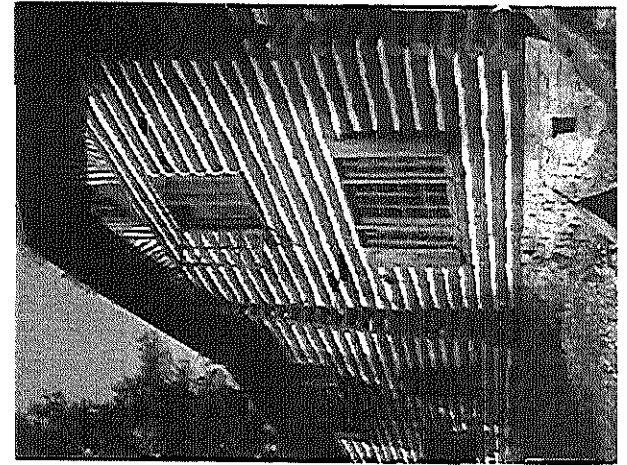
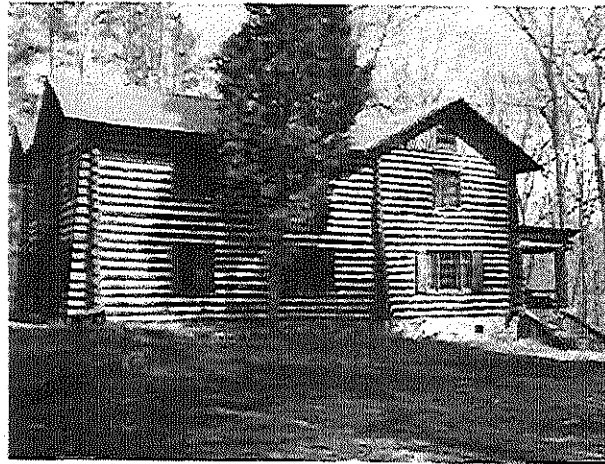
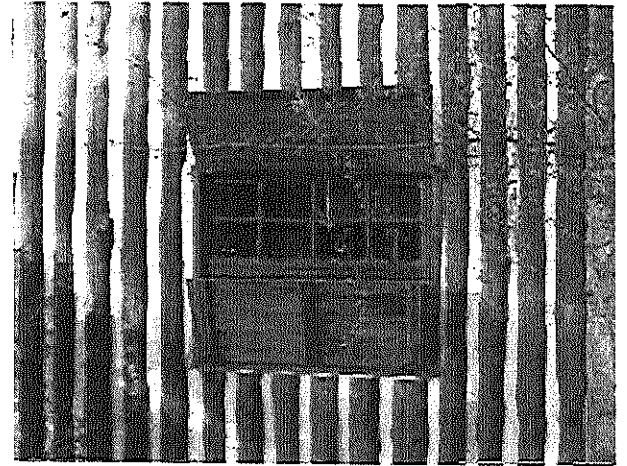
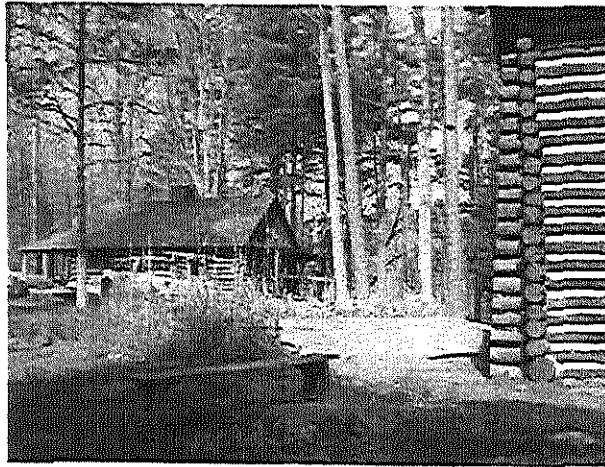
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PLAN VIEW ALONG
 & SURVEY OF BRIDGE #151
 ON SR-1614 OVER
 FLAT CREEK

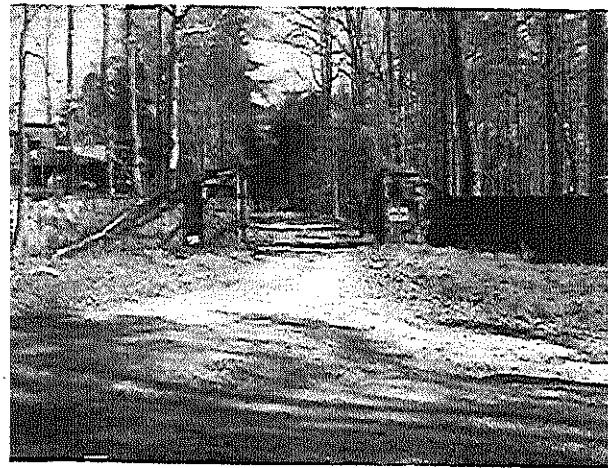
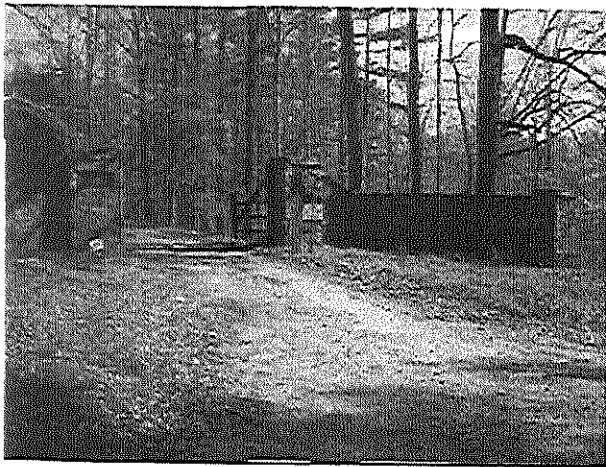
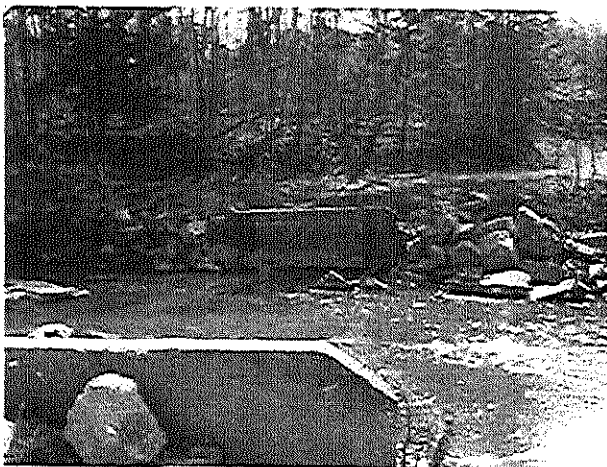
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2						9

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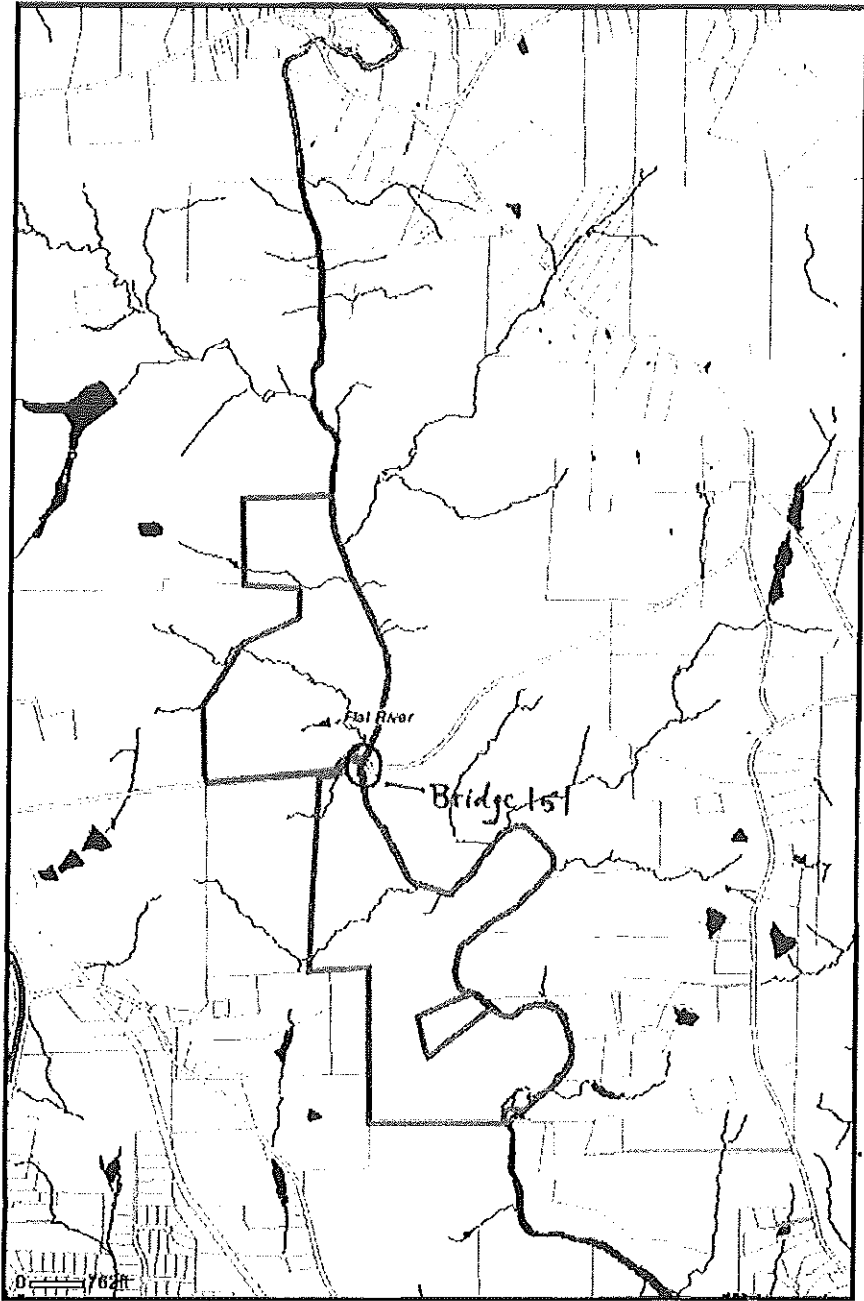




VA 1187, Hill Forest Camp HOUSES



GoMAPS - Durham County NC Public Access




LEGEND

- Durham_County
- Streams_and_Ditches
 - DITCH
 - RIVER
 - STREAM
 - UNKNOWN
- Highways
- Parcels
- Surface_Water_Polygons
- Municipal_Boundaries
 - Chapel Hill
 - Durham
 - Morrisville
 - Raleigh

Tuesday, March 13 2012



	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH
	DURHAM COUNTY REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 151 ON SR 1614 OVER FLAT RIVER

Hill Forest Camp Houses (DH1783)

Determination of Eligibility

NC Department of Transportation

Megan Privett

Architectural Historian

27 March 2012

Located on a northern Durham County forest preserve donated to North Carolina State College by George Watts Hill in 1929, three Rustic log buildings constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) ca. 1933-35 compose the study-listed resource known as the Hill Forest Camp Houses. The Hill Forest Camp Houses are part of a larger complex of buildings including mid-twentieth century rustic and frame cottages, a ca. 1930s frame cottage with associated barn and garage, WWII-era temporary frame military buildings which may have been remnants of a CCC camp, and more recently constructed structures that now make up the George K. Slocum Forestry Camp utilized by forestry and wildlife management students at North Carolina State University (NCSU). The Slocum Forestry Camp is sited on a hillside overlooking the Flat River surrounded by woodlands and accessed by a gravel road off of North Roxboro Road (US 501). The complex is located within the larger 2,450-acre George Watts Hill Demonstration Forest, which lies east of the local area known as Quail Roost and southeast of Rougemont.

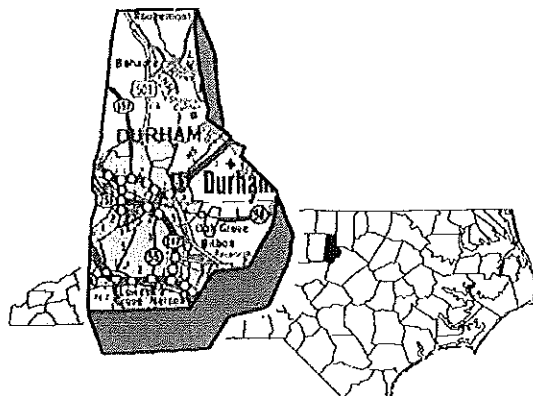


Figure 1: Durham County, North Carolina

Visitors to the Slocum-Forestry Camp are greeted by two large fieldstone entrance gates. Besides acting as an instructional campus and research laboratory for NCSU Forestry students, the nearby hiking and horseback riding trails are enjoyed by locals with permission and permit only.¹

The George Watts Hill Demonstration Forest was the first land acquisition for the newly organized Forestry program at North Carolina State University. In 1928, a four-year curriculum was approved with Dr. Julius V. Hofmann heading the program. One of Hofmann's chief goals was to acquire land for the training of forestry students and to demonstrate forestry as a business practice. To help meet this goal, the North Carolina Forestry Foundation, a nonprofit corporation

¹ Gohdes-Baten, Betsy. "Hill Forest Camp Houses" Study-List Application, (Raleigh: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office), 1998.

with the authority to purchase, lease and obtain land for the use of the university's forestry department, was organized under the leadership of Dr. Clarence Poe, Daniel Allen, T. L. Bland, R. H. Merritt and Dr. Hofmann. The acreage gifted from George Watts Hill granted North Carolina State University the stimulus it needed develop a forestry department that would become an early leader in the field of forestry education and research.²

Durham County

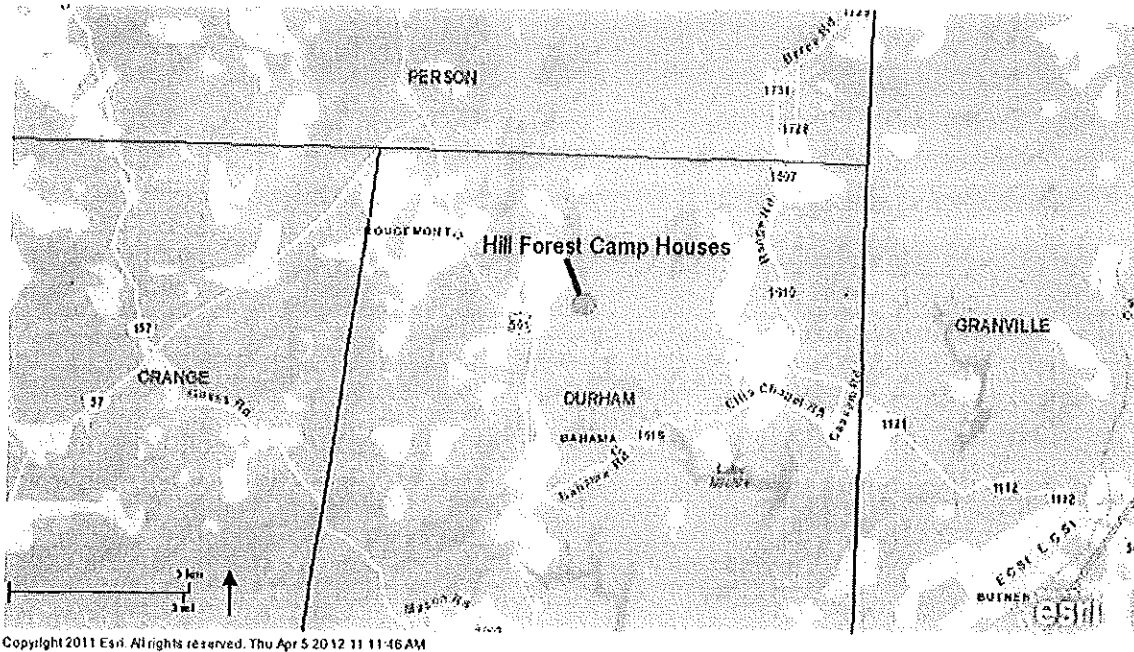


Figure 2: Durham County vicinity map identifying the Hill Forest Camp Houses by the red circle (DH1783). Map created from NC HPOweb GIS, <http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpweb/>.

Consisting of two cottage residences and one large meeting hall built ca. 1933-35, the Rustic Style log buildings are reminiscent of mountain Adirondack resorts and are characteristic of other CCC-constructed demonstration and recreational facilities of the Depression Era funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Built of round, peeled, saddle-notched logs with projecting ends that ascend in length and are chinked with light-colored cement, the buildings feature gable ends with deep eaves supported by brackets sheltering thin, stripped, diagonally placed logs. Interior stone chimneys rise from green metal standing-seam roofs. Each structure rests on a fieldstone foundation and also features a porch made of tree trunks and free form branch railings sheltering the main entrance and window bays. The large two-story meeting hall with classroom and office space physically embodies the center of the camp and takes the form of an I-house with a pair of front-gabled ell projecting eastward and connected by a narrow block to form the west elevation. Elevations are pierced

² Miller, William D. "A History: School of Forest Resources, 1929-1979," North Carolina State University, http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/dept/documents/FER_History29-79.pdf

with wooden casement windows with board-and-batten shutters and six-over-six wood sash double-hung window bays. The west elevation's double-leaf primary entrance bay is sheltered by a small wooden shed awning supported by wooden brackets. The one-story log cottages serve as residences and feature steeply pitched front-gable roofs with overhanging eaves sheltering the log walls and six-over-six wood sash double-hung window bays with board-and-batten shutters. The building's façade contains two entrances and one window bay sheltered by a shed porch. Notable interior elements include finely crafted fieldstone fireplaces, wooden planked floors supported by log joists and in the large meeting hall, an impressive stringer stair with log risers and a free-form naturalistic stair and balcony railing. The log buildings at Hill Forest are clearly distinguishable from their log predecessors built by the early settlers of the North Carolina backcountry in that they feature stylized details and craftsmanship that are unique to the Rustic Style and thoughtfully designed. In contrast, the method of building log structures with mud daubing focused on the objective of building a suitable and practical shelter took rather than the structure's design qualities; the size and form of the building often being of smaller scale with few window bays. The design for the Hill Forest Camp Houses was likely well-planned out by architects to be aesthetically pleasing while capturing the naturalistic feel of its surroundings.



Figure 3: At left: Hill Forest Meeting Hall, west elevation.

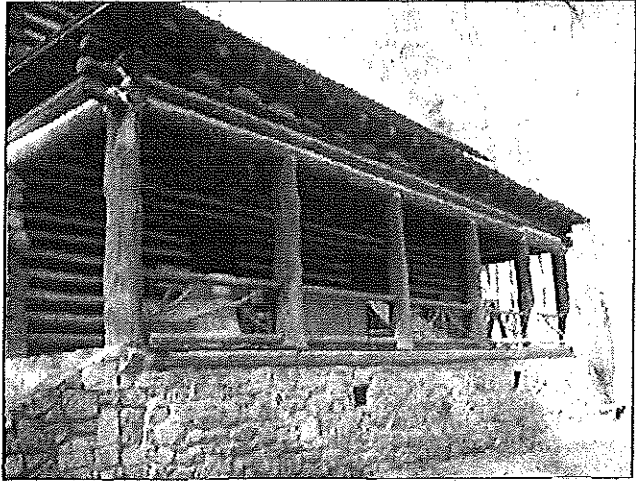


Figure 4: At left: Hill Forest Meeting Hall, east elevation.

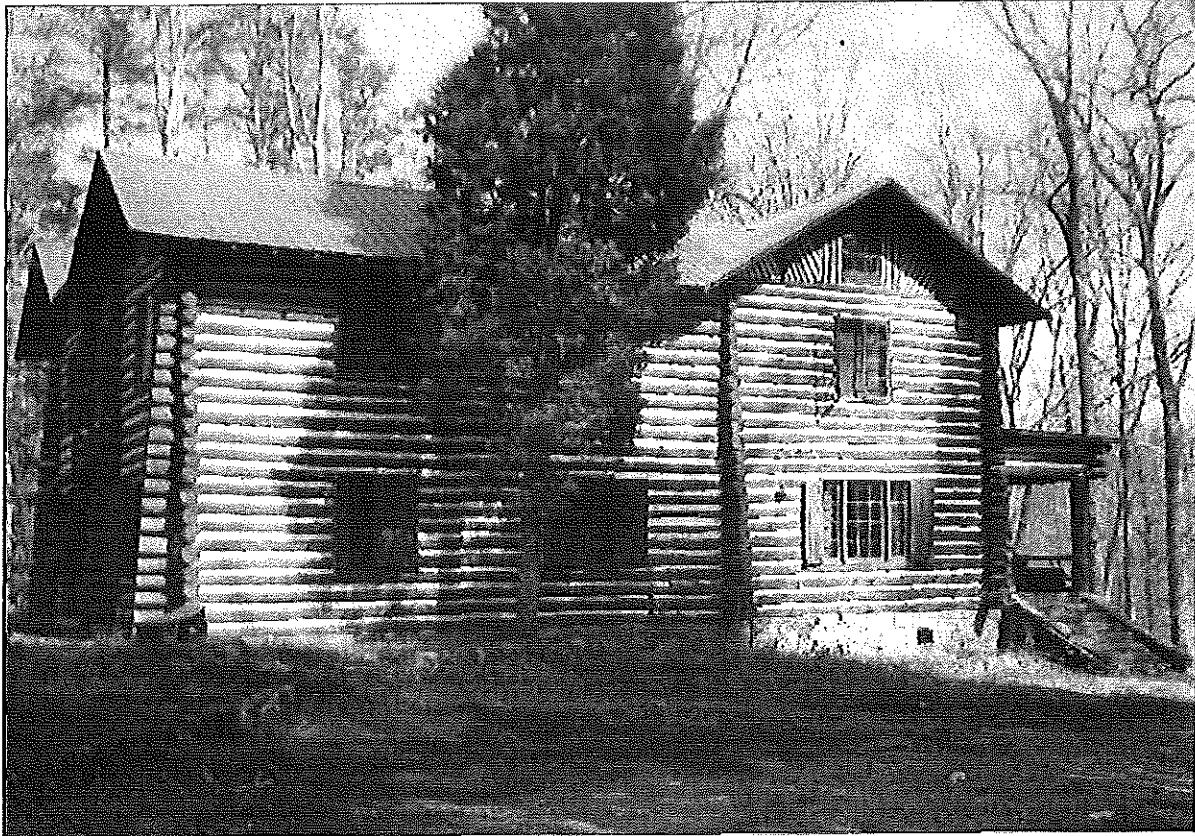


Figure 5: above: Hill Forest Meeting Hall, south elevation.

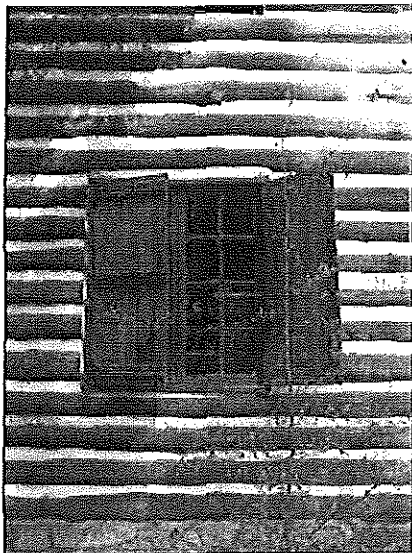


Figure 6: above: Hill Forest Meeting Hall, window detail.



Figure 7: above: Hill Forest residence cottage no. 1, south and east elevations.



Figure 8: Hill Forest Residence Cottage no. 2, south and east elevations



Figure 9: Hill Forest stone entrance gates, State Forest Road.

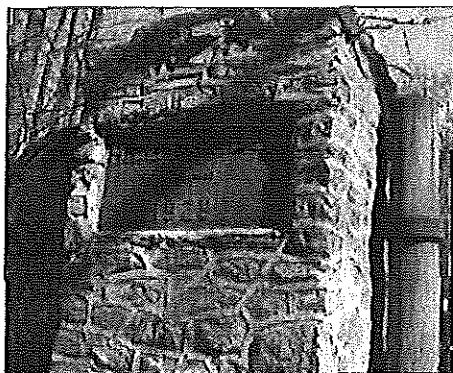


Figure 10: Detail of Hill Forest stone entrance gates, State Forest Road.

The Hill Forest Camp Houses retain a high degree of integrity with six of the seven National Register aspects: location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The only aspect lacking, integrity of design, has been compromised slightly by a few alterations since their construction, revealed through period photography (see Figure 8). It appears that the largest of the buildings, the meeting hall, does not retain its gabled dormer windows and also no longer retains its second story porch balcony railing located on the east elevation.

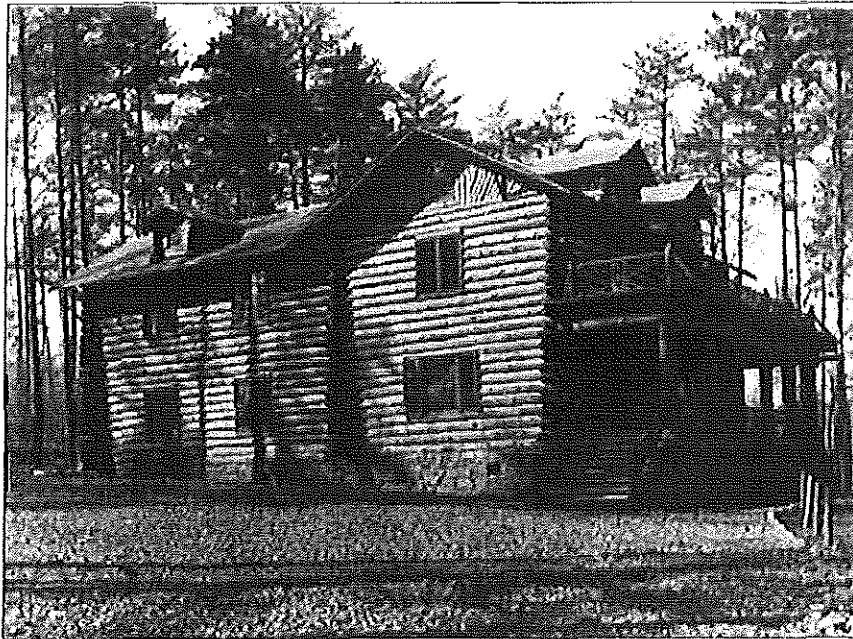


Figure 11: Hill Forest Meeting Hall/Forestry School ca. 1934-1945. Emergency Relief Administration, NCERA Photographs, 1934-1936, Box 142. Accessed through http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/exhibits/wpa/buildings_forestryschool.htm

Historic Context

Utilized as hunting grounds for the Quail Roost Hunting Lodge in the late nineteenth century, the acreage in northern Durham County now known as Hill Forest was bought by John Sprunt Hill in the 1920s and by 1926 had been bequeathed to his son, George Watts Hill. A well-known philanthropist, activist, and distinguished community leader, George Watts Hill and his wife Ann acquired several thousand acres adjacent to their property where they bred dairy cattle and trained horses. In 1930, Hill deeded 378 acres of his property at Quail Roost to North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University) to serve as a demonstration forest and preserve.³ In the early to mid- 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) erected three log buildings to serve a similar purpose to the federally funded recreational demonstration areas being built across the nation as

³ Miller, William D. "A History: School of Forest Resources, 1929-1979," North Carolina State University, http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/dept/documents/FER_History29-79.pdf , p. 4. "History-Friends of Hill Forest," <http://friendsofhillforest.org/about/history.htm> , (accessed 3/13/12).

a program of the National Park Service.⁴ The construction projects of the CCC provided employment and skills to a desperate labor force during the Great Depression as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal federal relief programs. At the same time, these recreational areas, national parks, and preserved landscapes survive as an enduring legacy and visible testament to the New Deal Era.

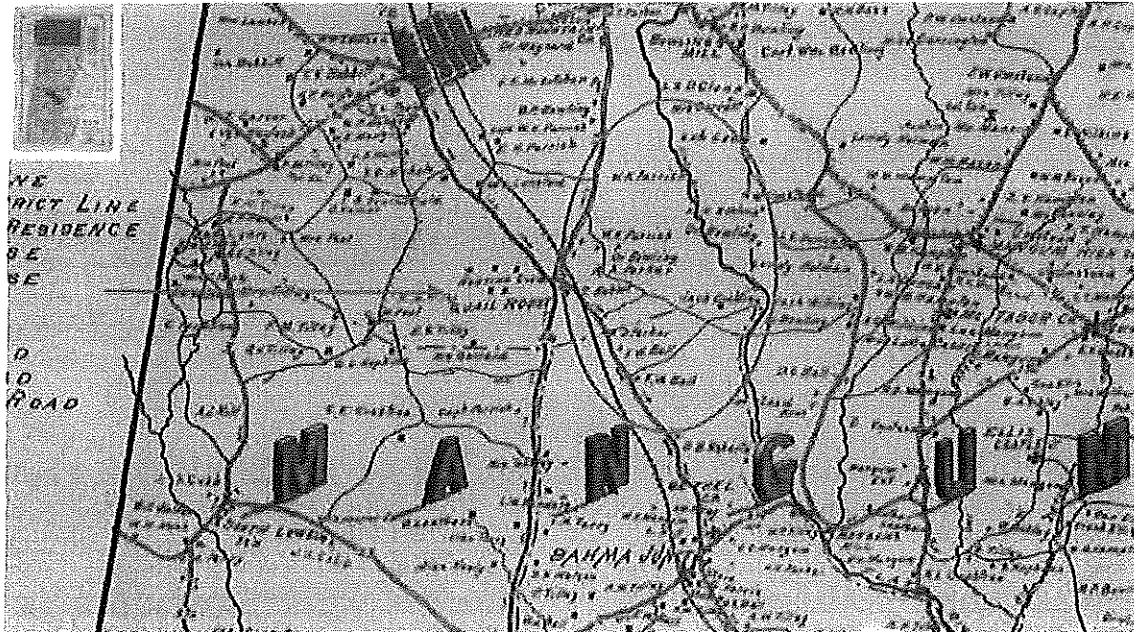


Figure 12: Map of Durham County, North Carolina, circa 1910-1919 by C.M. Miller, North Carolina Collection. The area that was to become Hill Forest is circled and marked in red. Accessed via UNC Libraries North Carolina Maps Collection, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u7/ncmaps.897>.

Like many areas throughout the nation during the Great Depression, North Carolina faced economic hardship, although less so than some other southern states. Bank failures, the decline of various industries such as textiles and furniture, the widespread debt of farmers, and the general lack of employment thereby preventing families from basic sustenance were among the sufferings North Carolinians faced during the early 1930s. Congress established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in April of 1935 to take over the relief programs of the Public Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. This agency provided funding for employment projects such as the construction of roads, municipal buildings, parks and recreational areas, the beautification of cities and towns, and the improvement of infrastructure and the natural environment throughout the state. Author Anthony Badger notes that "From 1935 to 1942 the WPA spent \$173.7 million in

⁴ Sources differ on the years when the three CCC-constructed log buildings were built. According to a listing of CCC camps in North Carolina, one camp of laborers working in a private forest near Durham arrived in June of 1933. This camp, Company 436, may likely have constructed the buildings at Hill Forest. Additionally, the publication on the history of NCSU's School of Forest Resources states that the buildings were completed in 1935.

North Carolina.”⁵ Both the WPA in addition to another agency, the Public Works Administration, strove to stimulate the general economy with industrial production and the employment of skilled labor.

One of the more successful programs created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal,” supplying relief to desperate families, was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC offered employment to young men who, with assistance from the army, were organized into camps and given a variety of physical tasks that often benefited the state such as erosion control, forest management and land conservation efforts. The Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933 authorized the President to use CCC labor on state and municipal lands. Roosevelt hoped the work would encourage the development of state and county park systems. The National Park Service, initiated in 1916, was sometimes designated to supervise these projects and as a result employed CCC labor to construct thousands of rustic buildings throughout the country within state and national parks.⁶ The Rustic Style heavily influenced architectural choices for state and national parks as well as recreational and local demonstration areas such as Hill Forest. So often was this style synonymous with public park buildings that sometimes it was known as “parkitecture” or “government architecture.” Structures chosen for these venues were designed to harmonize with their surroundings and utilize native, natural materials. Often constructed of logs, the buildings romantically harkened back to elements of early American building traditions. The Rustic Style of architecture was most certainly employed in the private market as well, but large concentrations of surviving examples of the style are Depression-Era public park buildings built by the CCC. An early proponent of blending architecture with its native landscape during the nineteenth century was Andrew Jackson Downing, one of the nation’s most prolific landscape architects, who advocated that buildings inspired by nature were most complimentary to landscape design.⁷ In 1935 the National Park Service compiled a textbook of park architecture by Albert H. Good called *Park Structures and Facilities*, which outlined architectural standards for constructing buildings in America’s state and national parks.⁸

Often the CCC camps were instructed to work on Recreational Demonstration Areas, such as the 5,337 acre Crabtree Creek Recreational Demonstration Area in Wake County. After a land acquisition in 1934 for reclamation and reforestation, the CCC and WPA funded laborers to construct rustic camps, bridges, trails, and recreational areas in addition to conservation efforts in Wake County. This effort resulted in North Carolina’s finest collection of New Deal-era rustic architecture and landscape architecture. One source lists a CCC camp in Durham County, Company 436, conducting work in a private forest with an arrival date of June 27, 1933. This

⁵ Badger, Anthony. *North Carolina and the New Deal*. (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1981), p. 41.

⁶ Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere and Henry G. Law, “Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942,” National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977. http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/rusticarch/part5.htm (accessed 3/27/12).

⁷ Poppellers, John C. and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style Is It: A Guide to American Architecture*, rev. ed. (New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), 2003, p. 84-89.

⁸ Ross, Helen P. *Crabtree Creek Recreational Demonstration Area National Register Nomination*, (Raleigh: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office), 1995.

may well have been the camp laborers working on the buildings at Hill Forest, and the former building thought to be a WWII-era barracks building was more likely a camp building erected for the CCC during their stay.⁹

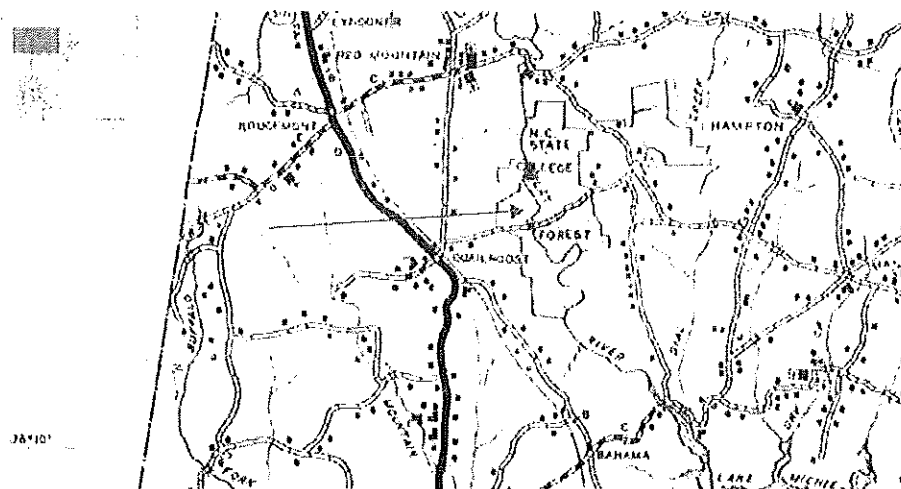


Figure 13: Map of Durham County, North Carolina, 1938. (State Highway and Public Works Commission), North Carolina State Archives, accessed via UNC Libraries North Carolina Maps Collection, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u?/ncmaps,475>

In Durham County, the Hill Forest Camp Houses were likely erected by the CCC for the recently created demonstration and research forest being utilized by North Carolina State University. Since 1936 the log structures have served the annual summer forestry camp for students at Hill Forest. In a 1979 publication

commemorating the 50th anniversary of the School of Forest Resources at North Carolina State University, it

was noted of the meeting hall, “The two-story building of Virginia pine logs which was completed in 1935 is still in sound condition, and used extensively.”¹⁰ George K. Slocum directed the annual summer camp until his death in 1959, at which time the camp at Hill Forest was dedicated and renamed as the George K. Slocum Forestry Camp. A granite boulder with plaque overlooking the lake memorializes Slocum’s contribution to the forestry program and scholarships were established for students in his honor. The tradition of Hill Forest continues today for forestry students at North Carolina State University as the camp has grown and continues to expand the number of its facilities.

National Register Eligibility Evaluation:

To merit eligibility under Criterion A, a property or district must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history, or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to agriculture and social history. The property or district must have existed at the time of the period of significance.¹¹ The Hill Forest Camp Houses are eligible for the National Register of Historic

⁹ Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, http://www.ccclegacy.org/camps_north_carolina.htm

¹⁰ Miller, William D. “A History: School of Forest Resources, 1929-1979,” North Carolina State University, http://cnr.ncsu.edu/fer/dept/documents/FER_History29-79.pdf , p. 4.

¹¹ *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, DC, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

Places under Criterion A for their association with the development of the North Carolina State University forestry program and the push to combine emergency employment relief with land conservation efforts during the Great Depression. It is also eligible under Criterion C (architecture) as a locally significant example of Depression Era rustic architecture built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. To be considered eligible for significance under Criterion C, a property must retain integrity and embody characteristics distinctive of a particular type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.¹² The Hill Forest Camp Houses serve as a tangible reminder of the early days of the George Watts Hill Demonstration Forest and the educational and conservation efforts of "Camp Slocum." The log structures retain a high degree of integrity, in their original locations serving a similar purpose to their initial use with few alterations throughout the years. The period of significance for the Hill Forest Camp Houses is 1933 to 1962, signifying the time from which the log buildings were first constructed and used until the time when much of the mid-twentieth century development of Camp Slocum began transforming the built environment of Hill Forest.

The Hill Forest Camp Houses are *not* eligible under Criterion B (association with a significant person). To be considered eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and possess an association with the lives of persons significant in our past either in a local, state, or national context.¹³ The Hill Forest Camp Houses, although directly linked with George Watts Hill, noted community leader and philanthropist who donated the forest lands to North Carolina State University, do not embody a strong enough connection to Hill other than his ownership of the land to present the best collection of buildings associated with this individual. Furthermore, other than Hill, research does not indicate any one person whose specific contributions to history can be identified solely with this property. The property does not illustrate the activities of any single person significant on the local, state, or national context. Therefore, the property is recommended not eligible under Criterion B.

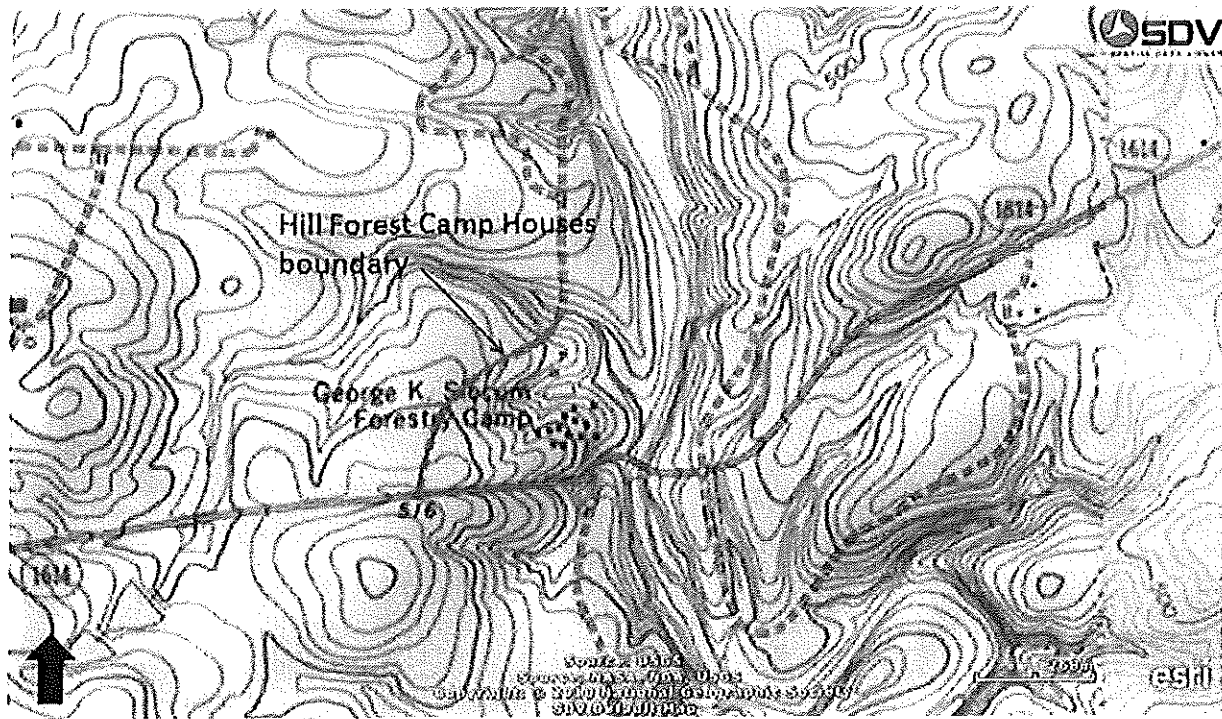
The Hill Forest Camp Houses are *not* eligible under Criterion D (potential to yield information). For a property to be considered eligible for significance under Criterion D, it must contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and the information must be considered important.¹⁴ The Hill Forest Camp Houses do not appear to have the potential to yield significant information such as architectural and building technology. Therefore, they are not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

¹² Ibid, p. 17-20.

¹³ Ibid, p. 14-16.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 21-24.

Hill Forest Camp Houses Boundary:



Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the Hill Forest Camp Houses encompasses the heart of Camp Slocum, running east along State Forest Road (SR1614) following the existing right-of-way and then turning north to run along the east side of Camp Slocum, following topography lines, turning west onto an unnamed dirt road and following it along the existing right-of-way to meet with State Forest Road, completing the boundary for the historic resource. The stone entrance gates to the George K. Slocum Forestry Camp on State Forest Road are included within the resource boundary. Also included in this boundary are additional Camp Slocum buildings: a 1930s cottage with barn and garage, mid-century frame cottages, a frame building thought to be a relocated WWII-era military structure but is likely the remnants of a former CCC camp, and other educational buildings constructed in the latter half of the twentieth century.

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