



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

March 8, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, BR-0028, Replace Bridge 23 on US 64 over Nantahala River,
PA 17-12-0039, Macon County, ER 19-0890

Thank you for your February 18, 2019, memorandum forwarding the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Charlie Slagle Lodge/Black Place (MA0249) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criteria for the reasons stated in the report.

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 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

Received: 02/26/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-0890

February 18, 2019

MEMORANDUM

Due -- 3/20/19

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

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01/5/19

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: BR-0028: Replace Bridge NO. 23 on US 64 over Nantahala River, PA No. 17-12-0039, Macon County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

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**Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 23 on US 64 Over Nantahala River
Macon County, North Carolina**

T.I.P No. BR-0028
WBS# 67028.3.1
PA No. 17-12-0039

Prepared for
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by
Cardno, Inc.
5400 Glenwood Avenue, Suite G-3
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

February 13, 2019 – Final Report

**Historic Structures Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 23 on US 64 over Nantahala River
Macon County, North Carolina**

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Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT Historic Architecture Supervisor



Kimberly D. Hinder, Cardno Principal Investigator

February 13, 2019 – Final Report

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 23 on US 64 over the Nantahala River in Macon County (T.I.P. No. BR-0028, WBS No. 67028.3.1, PA No. 17-12-0039). In August 2018, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an assessment of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of certain resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and provide this report.

Although previously surveyed, no above ground evidence of the log cabin on the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) (MA249) property remains. Field survey indicated the existence of a secondary house, a shed, and a smokehouse which remain on the property. As a result of this study, the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) (MA249) does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP. While the remaining residence appears to be in its original location and retains the overall design, its materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling have been diminished through alterations and the loss of the log cabin and outbuildings. The property appears to be of limited historical significance, and there are other, more intact, properties associated with the Slagle family. An archaeological survey was not part of this project.

Property Name	NCHPO Survey Site Number	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation	NRHP Criteria
Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place)	MA249	Not eligible	Not applicable

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace bridge No. 23 on US 64 over the Nantahala River in Macon County (T.I.P. No. BR-0028, WBS No. 67028.3.1, PA No. 17-12-0039). This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA 2015). NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying one resource warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation (Figure 1).

In August 2018, NCDOT requested that Cardno, Inc., complete an intensive-level survey and assess the NRHP eligibility of one property in the project APE (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

- Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), 12692 Murphy Road (US 64) (PARCEL: 6531499015)

On August 21 and 22, 2018, Cardno senior architectural historian Kimberly Hinder visited the property listed above assisted by Erin McKendry (archaeologist). The property was visually inspected, and the exterior, interior (when accessible), and setting were documented through written notes and digital photographs. Kimberly Hinder and Erin McKendry also conducted a pedestrian survey in the vicinity of the homestead. On October 3 and 4, 2018, Kimberly Hinder conducted site visits at comparable properties in the county.

Basic research was conducted prior to the site visit including the Macon County GIS and tax records and a search of the historic structure records. A copy of the prior survey form for the resource was obtained from the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO). Additional information came from the Macon County Public Library, the Macon County Register of Deeds, and the Macon County Clerk of Court. Attempts to the contact property owner, Myra Waldroop, were not successful.

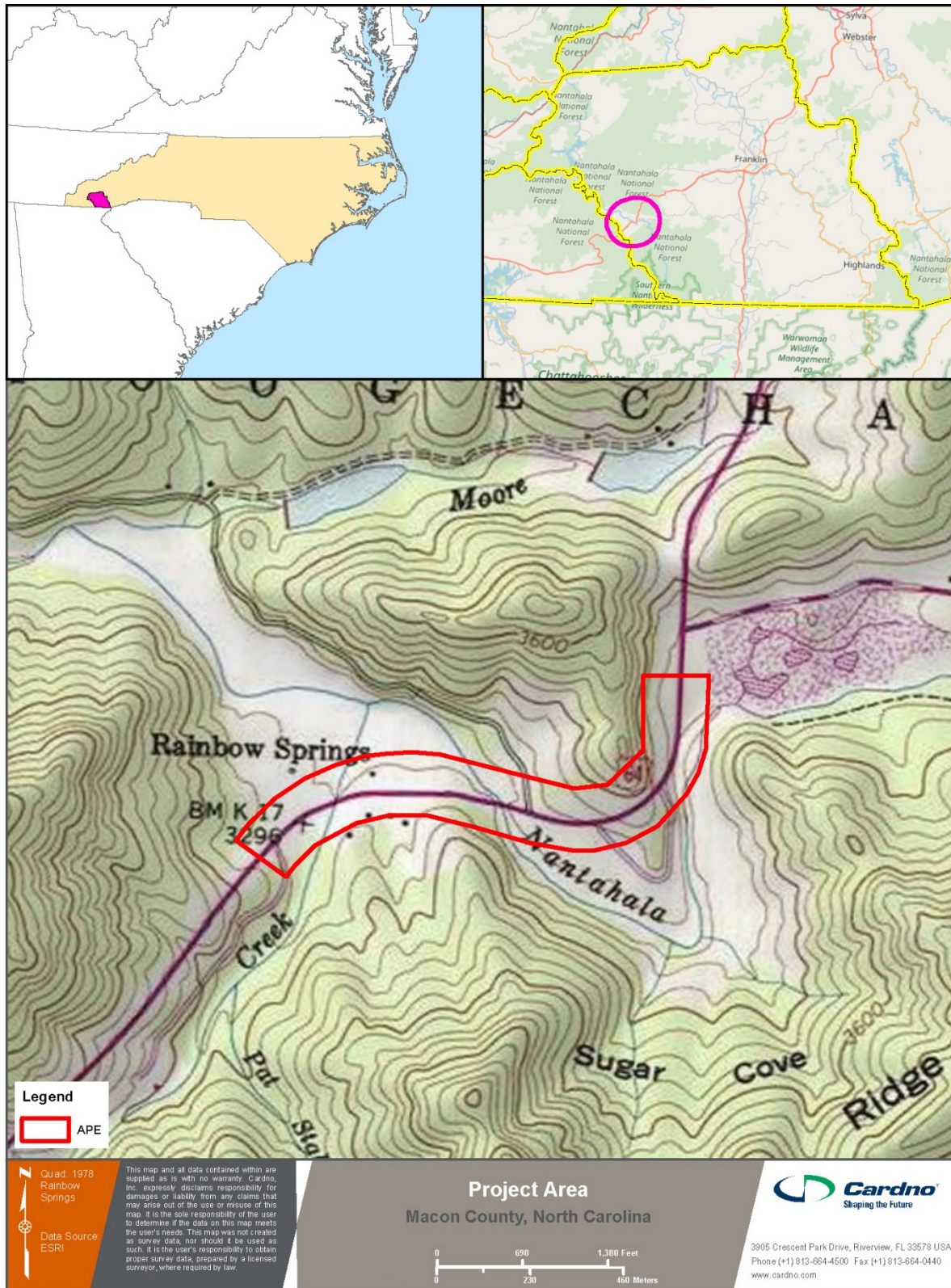


Figure 1. Project location map, Macon County, North Carolina.

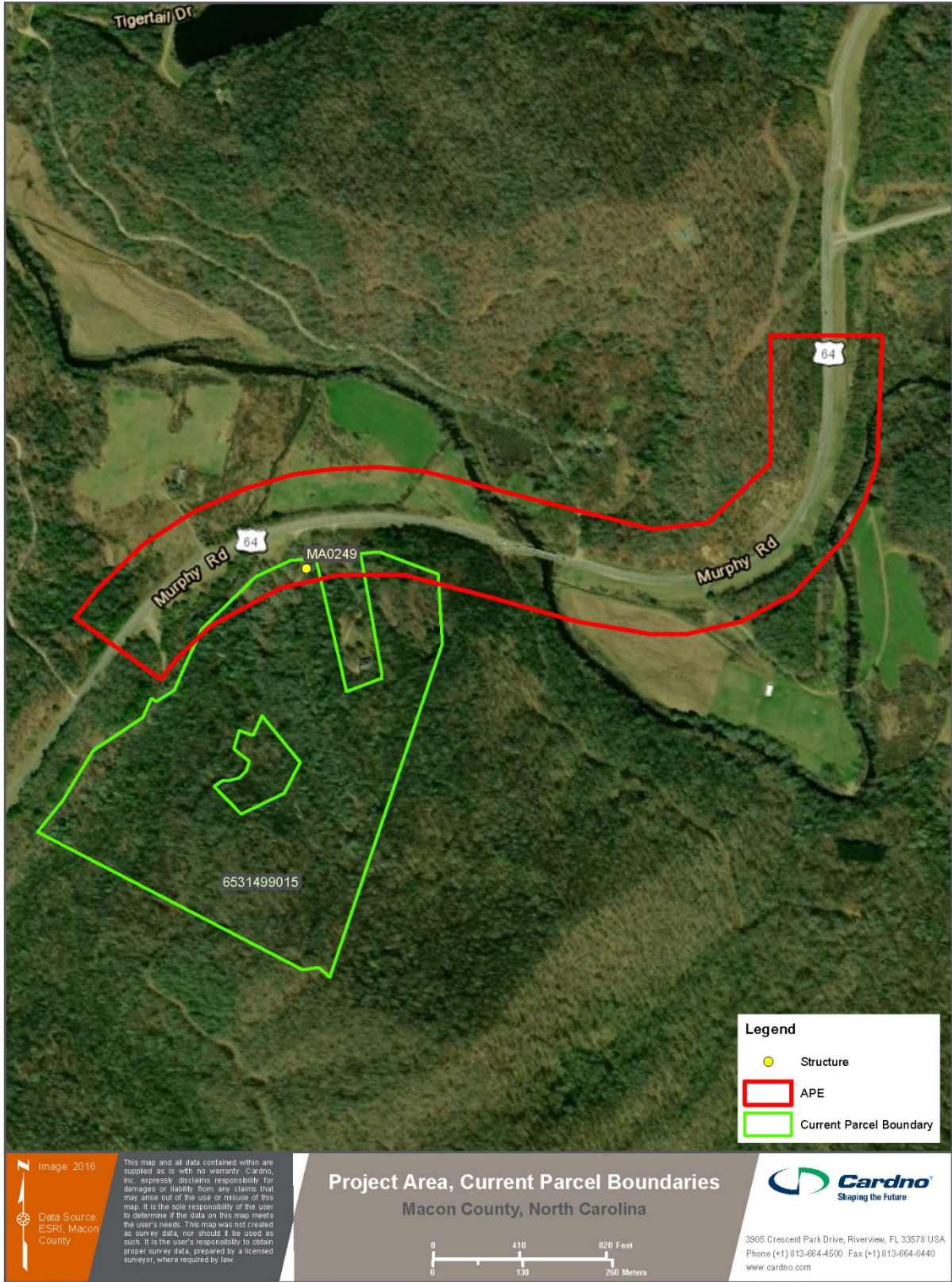


Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing APE and historic resources.



Figure 3. Aerial showing parcel and historic resources.

II. PROPERTY EVALUATION

Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place)

Resource Name	Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place; Figure 4)
HPO Survey Site Number	MA249
Location	12692 Murphy Road (US 64), Macon County
PARCEL	6531499015
Date of Construction	ca. 1923
Recommendation	Not eligible for the NRHP



Figure 4. Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, front (north) and east elevations.

SETTING

When originally surveyed in 1994, the historic resources recorded on the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) property included a ca. 1870 log cabin, ca. 1935 house which was moved to the site, a smokehouse, and a shed. When visited in August 2018, the log cabin was no longer on site, but

the other three buildings remained approximately 175 ft. south of Murphy Road (US 64) (Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4). This tax parcel incorporates 40.67 acres in Cartoogechaye Township of Macon County. The landscaping around the house is modest with large trees and mature bushes in the yard, and a dirt driveway along the west side of the house. To the east of the parcel is the 1998 residence located at 12660 Murphy Road, which is set approximately 660 ft. south of Murphy Road amongst heavy tree canopy. Owned by the same family, the two houses are not visible from each other. The surrounding topography is a heavily wooded, rural, mountainous area. The expanse extending from the subject property east to the Nantahala River is forested with agricultural fields east of the river (Figure 5). A few additional fields are north of Murphy Road across the highway from the project area but are not visible due to topography (Figure 6). Black Creek and Black Creek Drive border the property on the west (Figure 7), while additional wooded acreage extends to the south. Once the site of an active logging industry, the surrounding community of Rainbow Springs now consists of a few scattered residences and farms. Much of this portion of Macon County is part of the Nantahala National Forest.



Figure 5. Murphy Road (US 64), looking east from the Charlie Slagle Lodge property.



Figure 6. Murphy Road (US 64), looking north from the Charlie Slagle Lodge property.



Figure 7. Murphy Road (US 64), looking west from the Charlie Slagle Lodge property.

DESCRIPTION

When initially surveyed in 1994, the primary building on the property was a ca. 1870 log cabin. Unoccupied and in a deteriorated condition, it was described as a two-room structure with saddle-notched corners, a hall and parlor plan, a full-width front porch, and a large stone chimney at the southwest gable end of the house. A 2018 pedestrian survey in the vicinity of the remaining house did not reveal any evidence of a log cabin. Based on topography and historic aerials, a cleared area southwest of the existing buildings appears to have been the site of the log cabin, but no construction materials were evident in the locale (Figure 3; Figure 8).



Figure 8 View from existing house to the cleared area believed to be the former location of the log cabin.

The house which remains on the property was described in 1994 as a ca. 1935 building which was moved to the site. However, family member Mary Pittman in the “Rainbow Springs Community” description in *The Heritage of Macon County, North Carolina, Volume II*, reported that “In the early 1920s, C.W. [Slagle] tore down an old Episcopal Church and used the material to build the house on what was known as the Black Place. This house still stands today” (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998:36). It appears that this is the residence which remains on the property. Interestingly, two wooden pews provide additional seating on the front porch.

This structure was built as a modest, two-story, rectangular farm house (Figure 9). A room and shed addition on the rear have created an irregular U-shape (Figure 10). The original portion of the building is five bays long by two bays wide. Topped by a hipped roof surfaced with composition shingles, the wood frame building is clad with asbestos shingles and rests on a combination concrete block pier and continuous foundation. The asbestos shingle siding was likely applied ca. 1940. A hipped roof front porch extends the width of the front façade and rests

on a continuous concrete block foundation (Figure 11). Square wood posts support the porch roof and exposed rafter ends are evident in the eaves of both the porch and the main house. Windows are original wood frame, six-over-six, double-hung sash placed independently; some openings have storm windows on the exterior. The windows on the front façade are symmetrical with two on each side of the centrally located front entrance which has a six-panel wood door set behind a screened door.

A one-story open, shed-roofed porch addition is situated at the southeast corner of the house (Figure 12). It is supported by square wood posts set on a poured concrete foundation. T1-11 siding is evident on the side elevations of the roof structure, while exposed rafter ends are visible at the roofline on the south. An entrance with a six-panel wood door is set within this porch. A room addition at the southwest corner of the house is connected to the porch by an extension of the shed roof (Figure 13). This addition also has a shed roof with exposed rafter ends; all of the shed roofs along the rear of the building are surfaced with 5V crimp. The bottom portion of the walls are constructed of concrete block while the top have T-111 siding with four- and six-light wood windows set in a ribbon around the room. A six-light wood door is located on the west elevation of this addition. A large, uncoursed field stone exterior chimney anchors the center of the rear elevation (Figure 14).

The interior of the residence was not able to be accessed as the owner was unreachable. However, in a view from the front windows, the first floor of the interior appeared to be largely open with simple wood moldings and a modest wood mantle. This may indicate some interior renovation as most houses of this age would be subdivided into smaller rooms.

This residence's low, rectangular profile, shallow-pitched hip roof, exposed rafter ends and a rustic chimney connate elements of the Prairie or Craftsman styles. However, the overall massing, symmetrical front façade, windows and doors indicate a Colonial Revival inspiration. In general, this house is a vernacular interpretation of regional construction traditions.

Situated immediately southeast of the house, the smokehouse has a gable roof surfaced with corrugated metal and walls built of concrete block along the bottom and vertical plank above (Figure 15). A vertical wood door is located on the north façade. Exposed rafter ends and knee braces are evident with the open eaves indicative of the smokehouse structure. The structure appears to rest on a poured concrete foundation. Two rectangular openings covered with wire mesh have been cut in the rear elevation. Considering the partial concrete block construction, this building appears to date from the late 1940s or 1950s. An open shed is located west of the smokehouse and southwest of the house (Figure 16). It has a foundation of parged stone with wood frame and timber construction. A gable roof clad with 5V crimp and exposed rafter ends in the eaves tops the structure. Access is from the west end, although the only solid wall as at the southeast corner. It is believed this structure was rebuilt ca. 1940 using materials from an earlier barn.



Figure 9. Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, front façade, looking south.



Figure 10 Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, south elevation, looking north.



Figure 11. Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, porch deail, looking southwest.



Figure 12. Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, southeast corner, looking northwest.



Figure 13. Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place), ca. 1923 house, southwest corner, looking northeast.



Figure 14. Chimney detail, south elevation, looking north.



Figure 15. Smokehouse, looking southwest.



Figure 16. Shed, looking south.

HISTORY

When surveyed in 1994, Siler Slagle, Myra S. Waldroop, and Helen Patton indicated that this property, known as “Black Place” likely for Black Creek running adjacent to the property, was the fishing cabin and lodge of their grandfather, Charlie “C.W.” Slagle, during the mid- and late-nineteenth century (Figure 17). In 1998, his grandchildren, Siler and Myra, recalled, “C.W. being so anxious to start to the Black Place that he would start walking before the rest of the family was ready to leave. He would say ‘Bye the Bye, I believe I will walk on’” (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 36). According to the 1994 survey of the property, the log cabin was built ca. 1870, while the house was constructed ca. 1935 and moved to the property. The Macon County Tax Department indicates that only one residence is currently on the property; it was built in 1870, with an effective year built of 1940. However, these dates likely reflect the original log cabin and a date for alterations to the existing house. Based on its style and the history of the property, it appears to have been constructed ca. 1923.

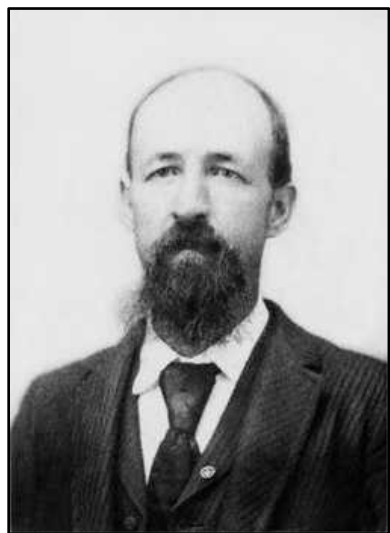


Figure 17 Charles Weimer Slagle, ca. 1881 (Ancestry.com).

Charles Weimer Slagle, known as either “Charlie” or “C.W.,” was born in 1847 to Alfred Slagle and Harriet Elizabeth Siler, the daughter of Macon County pioneer Jacob Siler (see Figure 18 for the Slagle family tree). C.W. lived in the Cartoogechaye community in Macon County having purchased a farm from the heirs of his great-uncle, William Siler, in 1869 and married Myra Dickey in 1881. C.W. Slagle initially bought land in Rainbow Springs, known locally as “Black Place,” in the late 1800s. According to the 1870 federal census, he owned real estate valued at \$600, while his personal estate was valued at \$400. He was still included as part of his father’s household at the time. According to Mary Pittman, his first purchase in the Rainbow Springs area incorporated 400 acres acquired from M.C. Toms, as the assignee of the bankrupt estate of Joab L. Moore. In 1872, he filed a claim for 149 acres along the Nantahala River, although it was not officially granted until 1882 (Ancestry.com 2016: Warrant No. 12460). In 1884, North Carolina granted C.W. Slagle’s claim on 640 acres located at the “Nantyhala [sic] River on Black Creek [beginning] at a birch” which likely incorporated the subject property (Ancestry.com 2016: Warrant No. 12891). He ultimately owned about 3,600 acres in the area (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 35-36; Tinsley in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: Section 401; Ancestry.com 2009,

2015, 2016). By the early twentieth century, a scattered population lived adjacent to the main road through Rainbow Springs as is evident on a map of the rural mail routes from the period (Figure 19; United States Post Office Department ca.1910-1919).

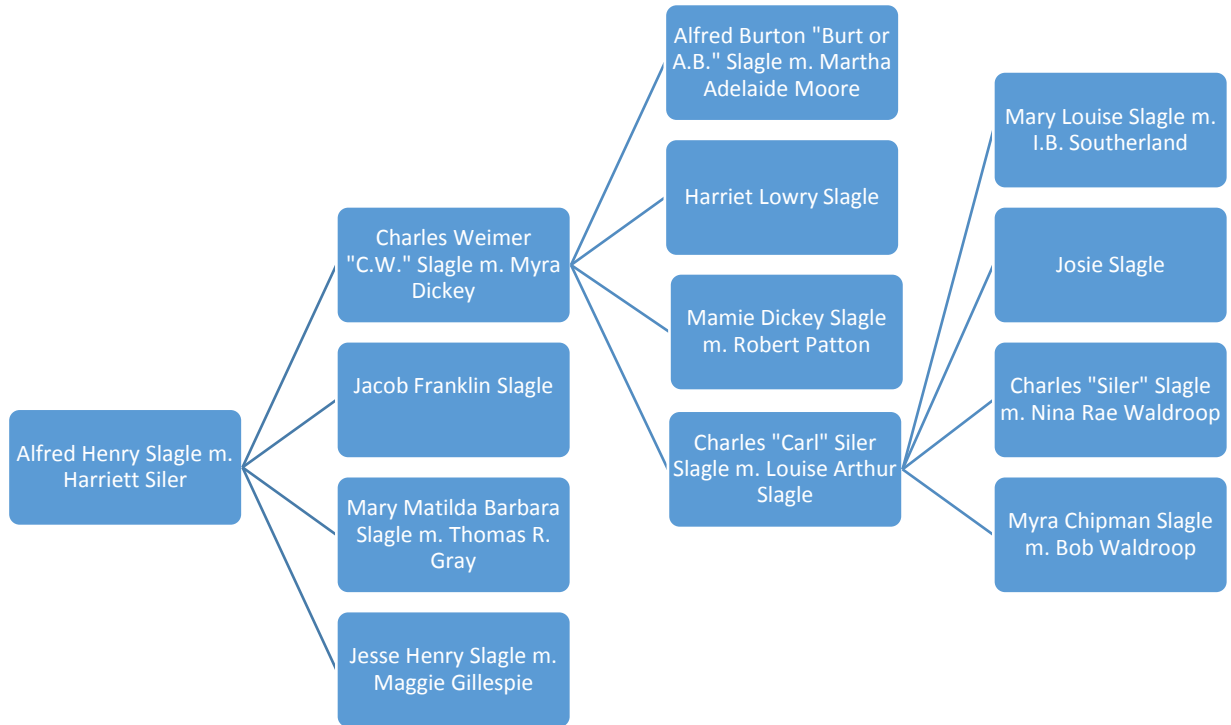


Figure 18 Slagle family tree.

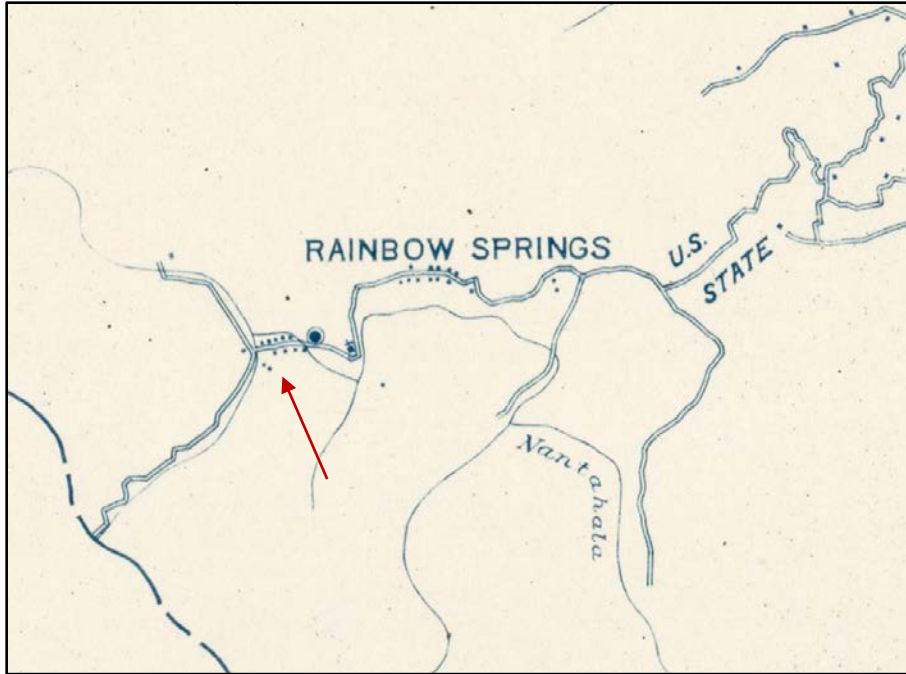


Figure 19 Rural Delivery Routes, ca. 1910-1919. Portion of map showing Rainbow Springs with arrow denoting Slagle's Black Place property (United States Post Office Department ca.1910-1919).

C.W. Slagle served as the County Surveyor who traveled throughout the area. He was knowledgeable about local history and learned the Cherokee language. In the early 1920s, he demolished an Episcopal Church and used the material to build a house on "Black Place." It appears that this is the house that remains on the property. With the opening of new roads into western Macon County in the 1920s, the area underwent a transition from farming livestock to wide scale harvesting of timber which had started in other, more accessible, areas of the county in the late 1800s (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 35-36; Tinsley in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: Section 401; *Asheville Democrat* 1890).

The 1911 establishment of a National Forest in part of Macon County and portions of Georgia and South Carolina initiated a slow transformation from over harvesting of trees to conservation and controlled cutting of timber. In the late 1930s, the forest boundaries changed and the portion in western North Carolina became known as the Nantahala National Forest. It was an amalgamation of lands purchased from farmers and small landowners as well as the previously harvested areas purchased from timber companies. The Nantahala National Forest now covers thousands of acres in Macon, Jackson, Transylvania, Graham, and Swain counties. Approximately 7,000 acres of that land along the Nantahala River were purchased from the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company. Organized in West Virginia in 1890, the W.M. Ritter Lumber Company grew into the largest timber company in the southern Appalachians. In the 1920s, the company purchased a 70,000 acre tract straddling Macon and Clay counties. The enterprise built a 37-mile railroad line from the Southern Railway in Cherokee County to Rainbow Springs, opened a large sawmill and log dam in 1927, and built a company town. The surrounding community included a hotel, a school, a commissary, and a post office established under the name of Rainbow Springs. C.W. Slagle sold rights to the timber on his land to the lumber company in December 1926. For approximately

three years, the company provided full time employment to 150 to 175 men working in the woods, at the mill, and on the railroad. A number of houses were built in Rainbow Springs to accommodate the labor force. Operating around 10 hours per day, the mill cut approximately 40,000 feet of lumber per day (*Asheville Citizen-Times* 1932; Martin 1998 Section E, Page 71).

C.W. and Myra Slagle had four children: Burt, Mamie, Carl, and Harriett (who died at age 15). Following the death of his wife, Myra, in 1922, his son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Louise Slagle, moved into C.W.'s Cartoogechaye Creek farm with him. Frank and Ethel Phillips moved into the log cabin on "Black Place" in 1925, from which Frank managed the property. In 1998, C.W.'s grandson, Siler Slagle, recalled driving 20 to 25 head of cattle from their farm in Cartoogechaye to Rainbow Springs to turn them loose in the mountains for the summer. According to family member Mary Pittman, "on May 10th, if the corn was planted, they would leave early in the morning, getting to Rainbow about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Siler says one of his fondest memories is going with Frank Phillips to salt the cattle and check on them while they ranged in the mountains" (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998:37). With the boom around the sawmill, the Slagle family opened their "Black Place" house to board workers, while Ethel Phillips cooked and maintained the house for them (Ancestry.com 2002, 2004, 2006, 2014; *Asheville Citizen-Times* 1922; Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 35-36; Patton in Sutton 1987:472-73; Tinsley in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: Section 401).

In 1926, the State Highway Commission started construction of a road to link Hayesville and Franklin as part of a 1921 program to connect all county seats. The road between Hayesville and Franklin, designated as NC 28 and US 64, was completed and paved in the early 1930s utilizing federal funds (Padgett 1976:47). With the "Black Place" more easily accessible, C.W. Slagle invited his family for the 79th annual Siler family reunion to be held at his property on the Nantahala River in 1929 (Patton in Sutton 1987:464). In anticipation of the event, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* advertised the upcoming reunion and described the "Black Place" as "one of the most beautiful home sites in Western North Carolina. It is located on a grassy knoll overlooking the river and Uncle Charlie Slagle has long been known for the extreme cordiality of his welcome" (*Asheville-Citizen-Times* 1929a). Afterwards, the paper provided the following description of the event, "The long tables were set under the immense oak trees on the lawn. Approximately 200 members of the family and friends were present to enjoy Mr. Slagle's hospitality. The Black place is located on highway No. 28 about 18 miles west of Franklin. After the excellent dinner was eaten the family assembled in front of the Slagle home and heard reports..." (*Asheville Citizen-Times* 1929b).

C.W. Slagle died in 1931 leaving his property to his three surviving children who married and raised their families in the Cartoogechaye and Rainbow Springs area. A tribute by Elizabeth Kelly entitled "The Knight of the Nantahalas" was published in the *Franklin Press* following his death. She provided the following account of him: "One who has missed a talk with C.W. Slagle somewhere in God's great out-doors has missed a most satisfying experience. Mr. Slagle was at his best in later years at his camp under the spreading trees out on Nantahala. There, one who was privileged to call him friend, found him a philosopher with a keen sense of humor – a rare and delightful combination" (Patton in Sutton 1987:472-73; Find-a-Grave.com; Ancestry.com 2007).

C.W.'s children, Carl, Burt (also known as "A.B."), and Mamie, granted another timber deed to the Ritter Lumber Company in 1933. The Soil Survey of Macon County from this period depicts the school and residences in the area at the time (Figure 20). In 1933, Camp Nathaniel Greene, a Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp employing only African American workers, opened in the Rainbow Springs area, boosting the population. In 1939, the Federal Writers' Project provided the following description of the community, "Rainbow Springs...(250 pop.) is a village built by a lumber company to serve a large band mill here" (Federal Writers' Project 1939:509). However, in 1939, the Ritter Lumber Company ceased operations at their mill due to the depression, leaving a number of local residents without jobs. Most relocated to other communities to find work. In 1940, Mamie Slagle Patton's heirs conveyed their property interest to her brothers, Carl and Burt, and the brothers split the land between themselves. Carl Slagle started a small dairy farm on his property which included the home site along Cartoogechaye Creek. Burt sold a large portion of his land to the Rainbow Springs Hunting and Fishing Club, but retained approximately 150 acres for his own use. In the summer of 1940, Siler (Carl's son) and Charlie (Burt's son) Slagle lived at Rainbow Springs with Frank and Ethel Phillips in order to tear down the old barn, remove the old nails, and clean the timber to use it to construct a new barn (which was still standing in 1998). Frank and Ethel Phillips remained on the property until 1945 (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 35-36; Tinsley in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: Section 401).

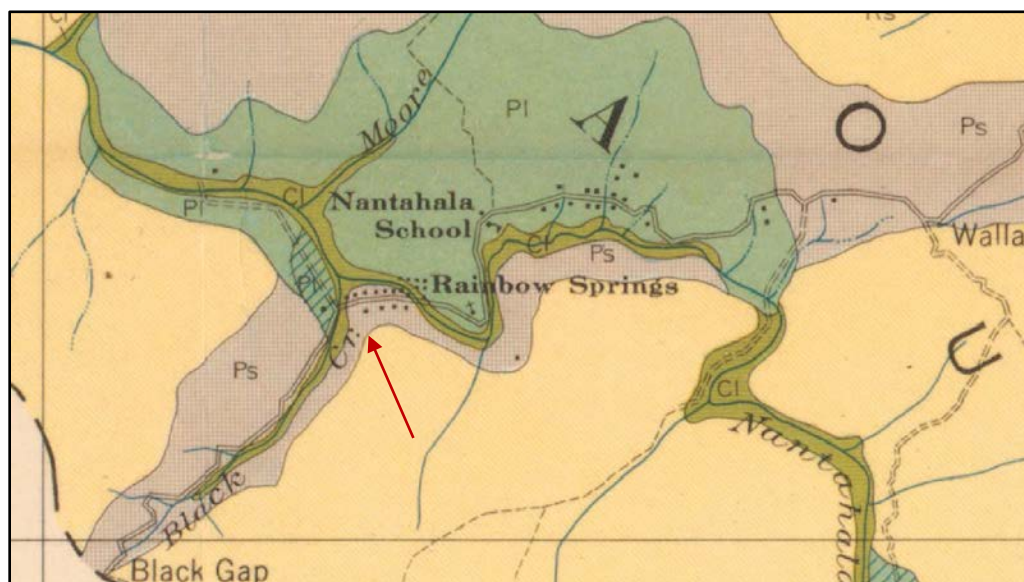


Figure 20 1933 Soil Survey of Macon County, NC. Vicinity of Charlie Slager Lodge (Black Place) noted with arrow (Devereux, Davis, and Goldston 1939).

In 1948, Carl Slagle and his family moved into "Black Place" in Rainbow Springs to farm cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats. He was elected to serve in the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1948, where he held office for one term. His son, Siler, enlarged the dairy business. After Carl died in 1955, his widow moved to Franklin and his daughters, Mary Southerland and Myra Waldroop, inherited the "Black Place" property, while his son, Siler, received the farm on Cartoogechaye Creek. Mary Southerland and her family lived in Winston-Salem, but Myra Waldroop and her family lived in Cartoogechaye and continued to use the house at Rainbow Springs as a retreat. An aerial from 1967 shows the location of the remaining house as well as the log cabin. Additional outbuildings were situated behind and to the east of these two structures.

Between 1975 and 1978, Murphy Road (US 64) was rerouted through the Cartoogechaye area making access to the property easier, although the road location did not change in front of Black Place. Upon the death of Mary Southerland in 2006, her heirs passed their property interest to Myra Waldroop, who continues to own the land with her daughter, Elizabeth Louise Waldroop (Pittman in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: 35-36; Tinsley in Hall, McRae, and Hall 1998: Section 401; Myra Slagle Waldroop in Sutton 1987:471; NETR, USGS Rainbow Springs, 1975, 1978; Ancestry.com 2007; NCDOT 1967:Aerial m0670_2109_t; Macon County, North Carolina, Clerk of Court, Will Book 6, Page 124; Deed Book Y-12, Page 54, Official Record Book E-31, Page 991, Book H-38, Page 1085, and Book J-33, Page 1996).

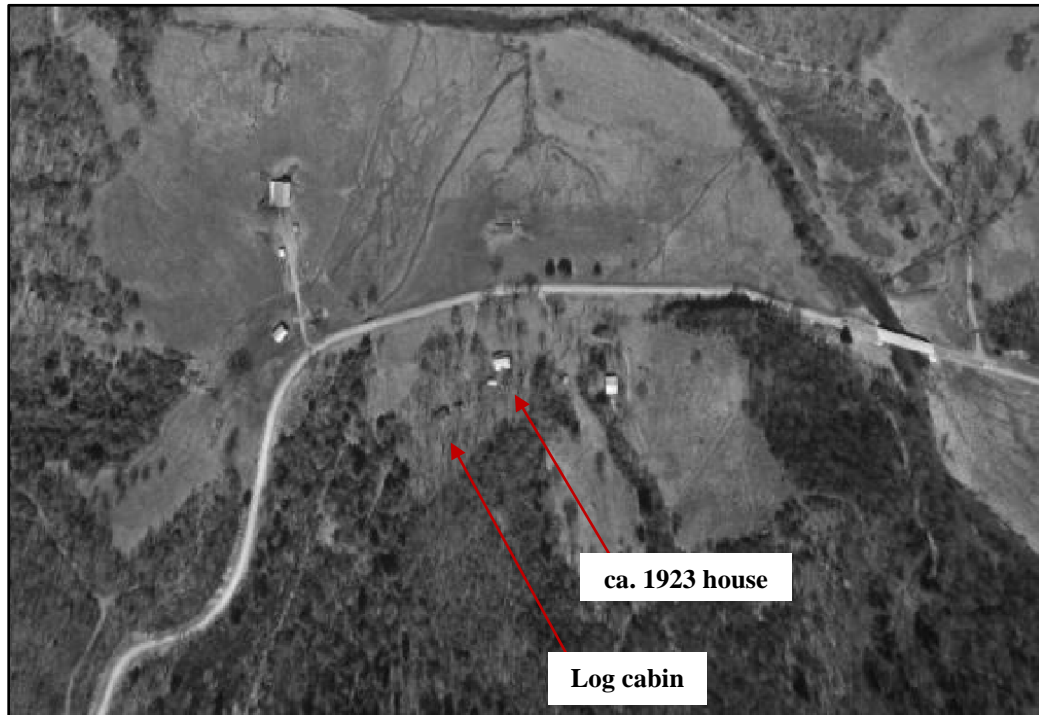


Figure 21 1967 Aerial of Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place; NCDOT 1967: Aerial m0670_2109_t).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

When initially surveyed in 1994, the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) was a good example of a ca. 1870 log cabin. However, as no above-ground evidence of the log cabin remains, no comparative examples were identified.

The remaining residence served as a residential retreat for the family and briefly boarded workers from the sawmill. The house exhibits a simple, two-story massed form with a hipped roof. Inspired by the Craftsman, Prairie, and Colonial Revival styles, this structure is a vernacular interpretation of regional construction traditions. The property was also a functioning farm. Between 1925 and 1945, Frank and Ethel Phillips lived in the log cabin on “Black Place,” from

which Frank managed the property. From 1948 until his death in 1955, Carl Slagle lived in the existing residence and farmed cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats. The 1967 aerial reveals at least seven outbuildings on the property in addition to the log cabin and the remaining residence (Figure 21). Of these, only a smokehouse and shed remain. As the significance of this property rests more on its association with the Slagle family and its use as their retreat and farm, four comparable farms were selected for comparison, two of which were associated with the Slagle family.

The North Carolina state survey inventory maintained by the HPO includes 53 farms in Macon County. Of these, the Slagle Farm (MA226), the A.B. Slagle Dairy Farm (MA210), the Bell-Bryson Farm (MA123), and the James Bryson Farm (MA58) were analyzed for comparison. All four were profiled in the 1998 NRHP Multiple Property Submission (MPS) for the *Historic and Architectural Resources of Macon County, North Carolina* (Martin 1998).

Located in the Cartoogechaye community west of Franklin, the Slagle Farm (MA226) was the farm operated by C.W. Slagle in the late nineteenth century (Figure 22). It was added to the Study List in 1994 and a formal determination of eligibility (DOE) was made in 1999. When recorded in 1999, the farm incorporated approximately 195 acres and included the ca. 1875 C.W. Slagle House. A ca. 1965 house built by Siler Slagle was immediately south of the original residence, while a modern, ca. 1980 house was built by a family member to the north. Domestic outbuildings, such as the woodshed, canning house, and chicken house, were situated east of the original house, while agricultural structures were west of the farmhouse. These encompassed a ruinous ca. 1900 barn, a 1954 gambrel-roofed barn, a corn crib, milking parlor, feed mill, and workshop. Although the historic house and some of the outbuildings were in deteriorated condition, the property maintained its traditional arrangement of farm buildings, a variety of building types related to both agricultural and domestic uses, and intact fields typifying farms in the County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was recommended NRHP eligible under Criterion A for agriculture (Mattson, Alexander & Associates, Inc.:6-23). Research and an October 2018 site visit revealed that the ca. 1875 C.W. Slagle House collapsed between October 2015 and November 2017 (Figure 23 and Figure 24). The loss of this key resource of the site has adversely impacted its integrity, although archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the former house may reveal that the property still warrants NRHP eligibility.



Figure 22. Slagle Farm (MA226), 151 Slagle Farm Road, Franklin, looking northeast.



Figure 23 Slagle Farm (MA226), 151 Slagle Farm Road, Franklin, aerial 2015 (Google Earth 2015).



Figure 24 Slagle Farm (MA226), 151 Slagle Farm Road, Franklin, aerial 2017 (Google Earth 2017).

Located west of Franklin, the one-and-one-half-story Craftsman bungalow on the A.B. Slagle Dairy Farm (MA210) was built by Alfred Burton Slagle in 1916 (Figure 25). It was added to the Study List in 1994. After studying civil engineering and serving as both county commissioner and sheriff, Slagle purchased the Nantahala Creamery in 1927. In 1935, he expanded the butter plant to include the distribution of milk. The dairy grew and Slagle became well-known for his Guernsey dairy cows. When recorded in 1994, the property still had large dairy barns as well as a smokehouse behind the primary residence (Maxwell 1994a). During an October 2018 site visit, the house retained excellent integrity although the outbuildings were not evident from the right-of-way. A review of a November 2017 aerial indicated that the outbuildings remain in a stand of trees behind the house although their condition appears deteriorated (Google Earth 2017). The residence, the fields of open pasture, and the site overall retain good integrity and likely remain eligible for NRHP listing.



Figure 25. A.B. Slagle Dairy Farm (MA210), 760 Wayah Road, Franklin, looking southeast.

Located east of Franklin, the Bell-Bryson Farm (MA123) served as an extensive working farm in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was added to the Study List in 1994. The original one-and-one-half-story farmhouse was built in the late nineteenth century by Samuel Bell and enlarged with a two-and-one-half-story double-pile addition around 1900 by farmer William Marion Bryson, Sr. (Figure 26). Extant outbuildings included a large, gambrel roofed barn, a corn crib, a sugar cane shop used for extracting sugar, a saw mill, a chicken house, and a workshop when it was recorded in 1994 (Maxwell 1994b). During an October 2018 site visit, the house retained excellent integrity. The workshop behind the house was evident, but the privy was not visible from the right-of-way. The gambrel roofed barn is in deteriorating condition, but extant.

The corn crib, chicken house, and sugar cane shop were not visible due to heavy vegetation, but evidence of them was visible in a March 2017 aerial (Google Earth 2017). Portions of the sawmill, which was partially collapsed in 1994, and its foundation may remain. Although some of the outbuildings have been lost, the residence and the site overall retain good integrity and likely remain eligible for NRHP listing.



Figure 26. Bell-Bryson Farm (MA123), 489 Nickajack Road, Franklin, looking northwest.

James Bryson acquired property in the Cowee community northwest of Franklin in 1856 where he established a farm. The James Bryson Farm (MA58) consists of an 1863 two-story, single-pile residence with a one-story rear ell (Figure 27). The existing outbuildings date to the early twentieth century which included a burley tobacco barn, a wash house, a spring house, a privy, a shed, a barn, and a garage when it was recorded in 1994. It appears that the tobacco barn has been removed, but the remaining outbuildings are extant. The property was added to the Study List in 1994, and is a contributing resource in the NRHP-listed Cowee-West's Mill Historic District (MA56; Maxwell 1994c).



Figure 27. James Bryson Farm (MA58), 875 Cowee Creek Road, Cowee, looking southeast.

SIGNIFICANCE

Integrity

Absent any above-ground evidence of the ca. 1870 log cabin, the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) property lacks architectural integrity and is not considered eligible for the NRHP. Archaeological survey was not part of this project.

The ca. 1923 house and outbuildings which remain on the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) property do not retain sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the NRHP. Although noted as a relocated structure when originally surveyed, the historic research indicated the building was assembled on site in the early 1920s using materials from an older church. As such, the residence appears to be in its original location and retains some of the design and materials indicative of a traditional early twentieth-century house. The application of asbestos shingle siding, the replacement of some of the foundation, and the two rear additions have adversely impacted its design. Still owned by descendants of the Slagle family, it retains its historical association although it no longer appears to be used as a retreat. Its immediate setting and feeling have been diminished through the loss of the log cabin and the associated historic outbuildings. The agricultural landscape has been altered by the removal of the original outbuildings. While recognizable as a typical rural residence, it does not have sufficient integrity to convey the sense of a farmhouse or the resource's likely historic appearance during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Evaluation Criteria

The Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of Macon County's rural history. The original log cabin, which served as a retreat, has been removed. While the remaining house is associated with early-twentieth-century agriculture, the house and the farm once surrounding it did not play a significant role within that context.

Likely built in the early 1920s, C.W. Slagle probably had the remaining house built to provide more comfortable accommodations at his retreat. However, with the opening of the sawmill, it was used as a boarding house for area workers. After the closure of the mill, it reverted back to family use as a farm. There are other, more intact, properties in the area associated with C.W. Slagle and the Slagle family. The Slagle Farm (MA 226), also known as Westview, is the farm in the Cartoogechaye community built by Slagle ca. 1875 prior to his marriage to Myra Dickey. It served as the family's main residence and was described as "one of the county's most intact farm complexes" (Martin 1998: Section E, Page 55). In spite of the loss of the main residence, the outbuildings remain on site and the property may remain eligible if further archaeological investigations are conducted. The A.B. Slagle Dairy Farm (MA210), built by C.W. Slagle's son in 1916, retains excellent integrity and the majority of its outbuildings associated with the dairy farm. Therefore, the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with individuals significant in history.

Although the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) remains identifiable as a historic farmhouse in Macon County, it does not possess high artistic merit. With the existing alterations, it is not indicative of 1920s construction. The property was once part of a retreat and then a farm, but the original log cabin and most of the historic outbuildings have been lost altering the historic landscape. Other, more intact, examples of this farm landscape exist in the county. Therefore, it is not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for its physical design and construction.

As an altered example of a common style and type of construction, the Charlie Slagle Lodge (Black Place) is not recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important in the history of the state.

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