



**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

September 20, 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, Widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297, R-5804, PA 18-07-0006, Mitchell County, ER 19-2687

Thank you for your August 26, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Blue Ridge Parkway and Bridge 109 (NC0001), which were determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, remain eligible under Criteria A and C. Below is a screenshot from HPOWEB showing a suggested boundary (shaded in blue) that includes not only the bridge but also the on/off ramps that were part of the original BRP design.



We concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register for the reasons and boundaries outlined in the report and under the criteria shown.

- Museum of North Carolina Minerals (ML0117) - Criterion C as an outstanding example of National Park Service-designed rustic architecture.
- Spruce Pine Court (ML0139) - Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation and under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as an excellent and intact example of a tourist court in Spruce Pine and Mitchell County.
- St. Lucien Catholic Church (ML0011) - Criterion C for its local architectural significance as an excellent and intact example of a religious building constructed of native stone by noted local stonemason David C. Greene.
- Bea Hensley & Son Forge (ML0140) - Criterion A in the area of art and industry (although not noted in the report) and under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Bea Hensley. (Please note that we have used a slightly different name for this property.)
- Woody's Chair Shop (ML0141) - Criterion A in the area of art and industry (although not noted in the report). Insufficient documentation has been provided to substantiate a claim for significance of Arval Woody, himself, under Criterion B

We agree that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register for the reasons outlined in the report.

- ML0134 (Grace and Steven Millard Cox House)
- ML0135 (Ina and Charlie Stevenson House)
- ML0136 (House, 13752 South NC 226)
- ML0138 (Grassy Creek Baptist Church)

We do not concur with the consultant's assessment that the Donna and Thomas Phillips House (ML0137) is ineligible for listing in the National Register under any criteria. Based on the available documentation, the house appears to be an outstanding and highly intact example of a Contemporary-style ranch house in rural Mitchell County. Such features as the low-pitched gable roof with deep overhanging eaves, recessed entrance, broad chimney with flanking window, and mixed exterior materials are all hallmarks of this style and form. In addition, the interior appears to be remarkably intact down to the curvilinear plan of the kitchen. That there are other examples of Modernist ranch houses in the vicinity does not necessarily mean that this property is not National Register-eligible. We believe it to be eligible for listing under Criterion C for its architectural significance. An appropriate boundary for the eligible resource is the tax parcel on which it's located, as shown below.



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: 08/30/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-2687

August 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

Due -- 9/24/19

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

H- ER Letters
9/18/19

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: R-5804: Widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297
(Summit Avenue), PA No. 18-07-0006, Mitchell 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.

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PDEA-HUMAN ENVIRONMENT SECTION
MAIL SERVICE CENTER 1598
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Fax: (919) 212-5785
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Location:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD
RALEIGH NC 27610

Website: www.ncdot.gov

**Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue)
Mitchell County, North Carolina
TIP# R-5804
WBS# 46882.1.1
PA# 18-07-0006**

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Prepared by:
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
919.368.1602

August 18, 2019

Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue)
Mitchell County, North Carolina
TIP# R-5804
WBS# 46882.1.1
PA# 18-07-0006

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Prepared by:
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.
Post Office Box 1399
Durham, NC 27702
919.368.1602

August 18, 2019

Jennifer F. Martin, Principal Investigator
MdM Historical Consultants Inc.

Date

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

Date

Historic Structures Survey Report
Widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue)
Mitchell County, North Carolina
TIP# R-5804
WBS# 46882.1.1
PA# 18-07-0006

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue) in Mitchell County, North Carolina. The project area, which is approximately 4.8 miles in length, is the main corridor between Gillespie Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway and the town of Spruce Pine. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is generally delineated as 300 feet from the centerline of the existing roadway with additional areas encompassing road intersections within the project area. The APE is delineated in the project maps section of this report starting on page 6.

NCDOT requested MdM Historical Consultants (MdM) evaluate the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of nine historic resources located within the project area and identified by the Historic Architecture Team of NCDOT. In June 2019, architectural historian Jennifer Martin conducted the fieldwork to document the nine properties. While in the field, Ms. Martin discovered through discussions with local residents two additional resources located in the project area that warranted documentation and evaluation: Ben Hensley's Forge (ML0140) and Woody's Chair Shop (ML0141). The eleven resources are included in the table below.

Ms. Martin photographed and mapped the properties and authored this report. Basic research on the project area was conducted by consulting with the Mitchell County Register of Deeds office in Bakersville, the Mitchell County Public Library, and twentieth-century newspaper articles. The project area is not covered by Sanborn maps, but USGS topographic quadrangle maps dating back to the 1930s were reviewed. Genealogical information including United States census records, death certificates, and other recorded documents were reviewed online through Ancestry.com. Ms. Martin contacted all the property owners by mail prior to the fieldwork and spoke by phone or in person to most of them.

MdM completed the required assessments and makes the following recommendations for the inventoried resources:

Property Name and Survey Site Number	Address and PIN	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation	NRHP Criteria
Blue Ridge Parkway (NC0001) and Bridge #109		Remains eligible	A and C
Museum of North Carolina Minerals (ML0117)	214 Parkway Maintenance Road Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0797-01-39-9629	Eligible	A and C
Grace and Steven Millard Cox House (ML0134)	14320 S NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0798-00-73-0535	Not eligible	N/A
Ina and Charlie Stevenson House (ML0135)	18 Tom Bell Road Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0798-00-55-5766	Not eligible	N/A
House (ML0136)	13752 S NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0798-00-66-4387	Not eligible	N/A
Donna and Thomas Phillips House (ML0137)	13528 S NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0798-00-56-6972	Not eligible	N/A
Grassy Creek Baptist Church (ML0138)	793 Old NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0798-00-49-9894	Not eligible	N/A
Spruce Pine Court (ML0139)	47 S NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 0798-12-96-9930	Eligible	Criteria A and C
St. Lucien Catholic Church (ML0011)	695 Summit Avenue Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0799-05-09-4052	Eligible	Criteria C
Bea Hensley's Forge (ML0140)	15090 S NC 226 Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0797-02-69-0860	Eligible	Criteria A and B
Woody's Chair Shop (ML0141)	34 Dale Road Spruce Pine, NC 28777 0799-03-31-3473	Eligible	Criteria A and B

This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2015). An NCDOT architectural historian established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for each project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation.

The historic architectural survey within the APE associated with the widening of NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue) in Mitchell County, North Carolina was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Secretary of the Interior’s standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; and the NCDOT document entitled *Historic Architectural Resources: Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines* (2003). This evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

In order to meet the requirements of the above laws, regulations, and guidelines, the work plan for the intensive-level survey included the following items: (1) conducting general historical and architectural background research in order to develop contexts within which to evaluate the potential National Register eligibility of the resources located within the APE; (2) an intensive-level field survey of the APE, including surveying, describing, evaluating, and proposing specific National Register boundaries for any resources believed to be eligible for the National Register; (3) specific historical and architectural research on the resources inventoried at the intensive level; and (4) preparation of a report developed pursuant to the above-referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. The report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the general public.

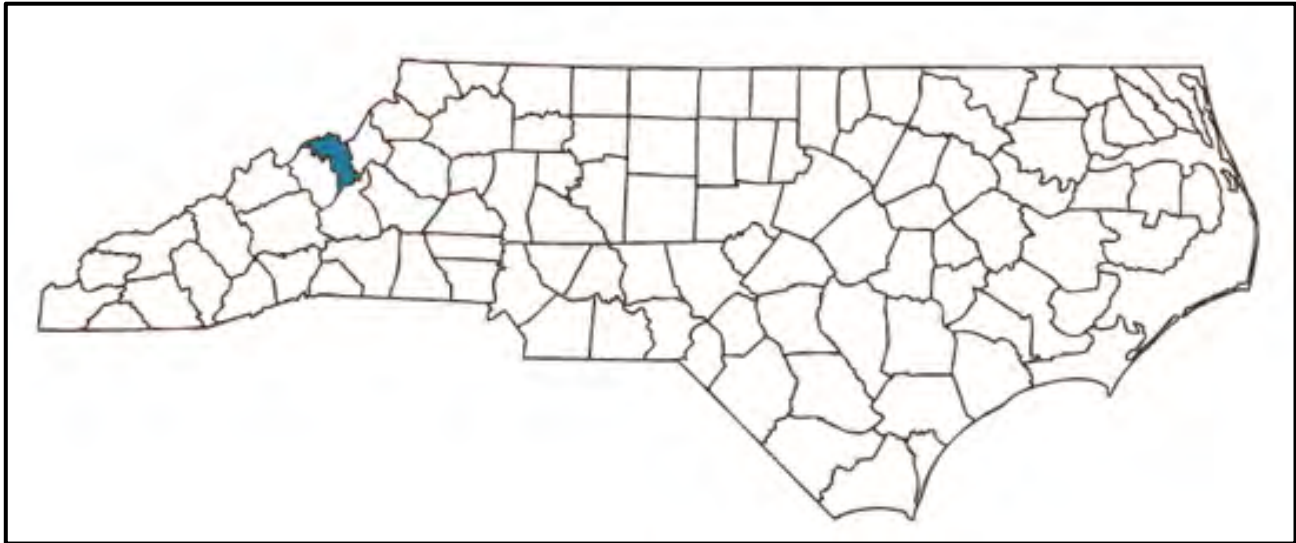


NC 226 just south of Spruce Pine, view to the northwest

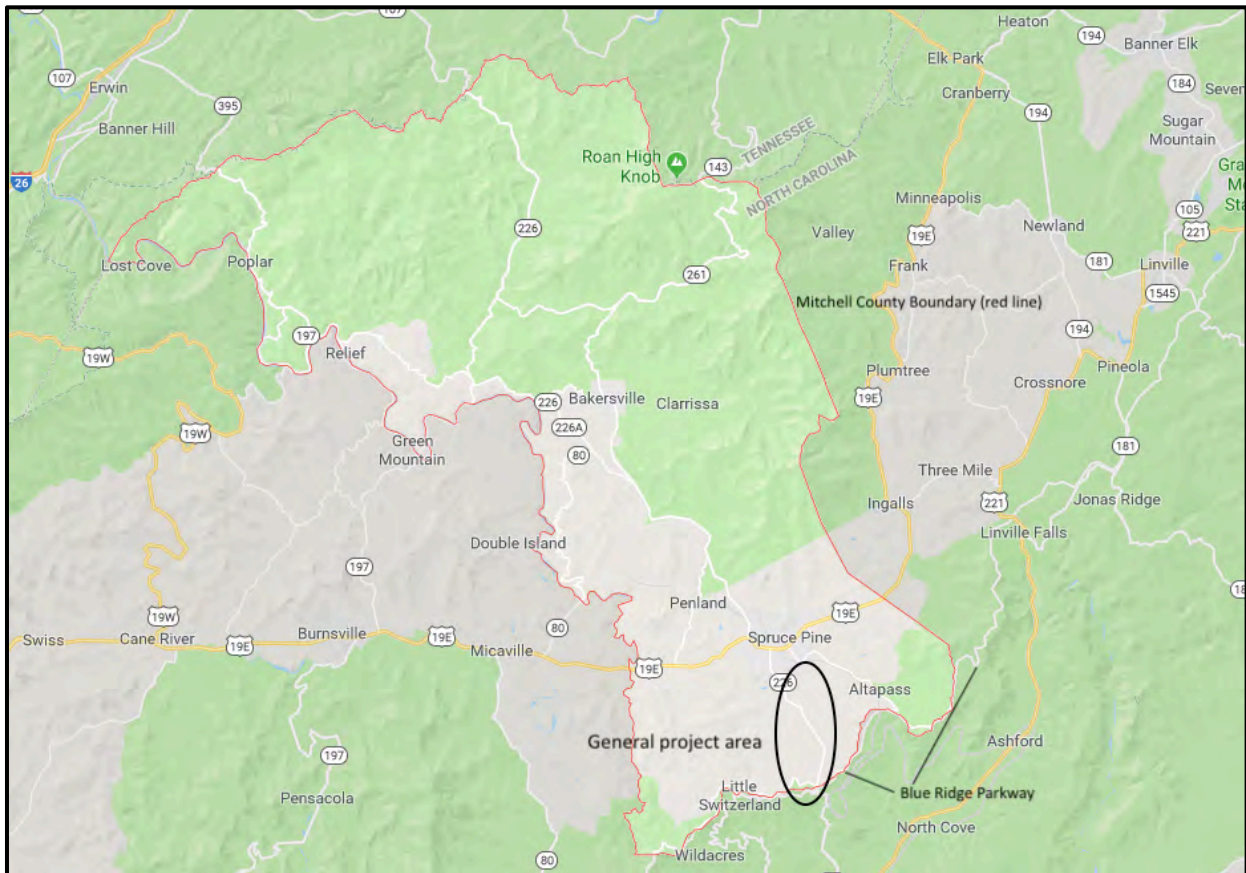
TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Project Maps	6
II.	Introduction	11
	Historic Context: A Brief History of Mitchell County	12
III.	Methodology	14
IV.	Property Description and Evaluations	15
	1. Blue Ridge Parkway	15
	2. Museum of North Carolina Minerals	18
	3. Grace and Steven Millard Cox House	32
	4. Ina and Charlie Stevenson House	40
	5. Cabin	47
	6. Donna and Thomas Phillips House	53
	7. Grassy Creek Baptist Church	60
	8. Spruce Pine Court	69
	9. St. Lucien Catholic Church	78
	10. Bea Hensley's Forge	87
	11. Woody's Chair Shop	100
V.	Bibliography	109

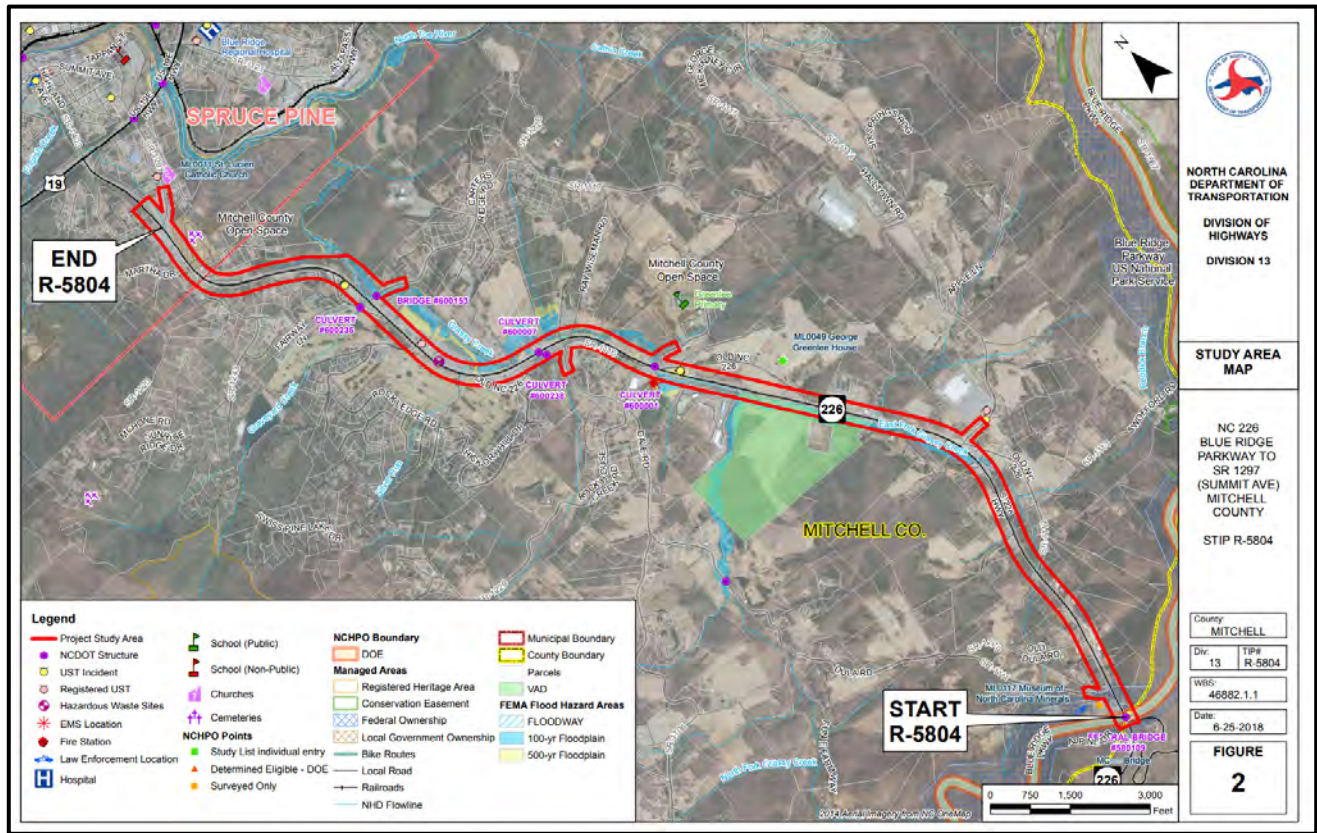
I. Project Maps



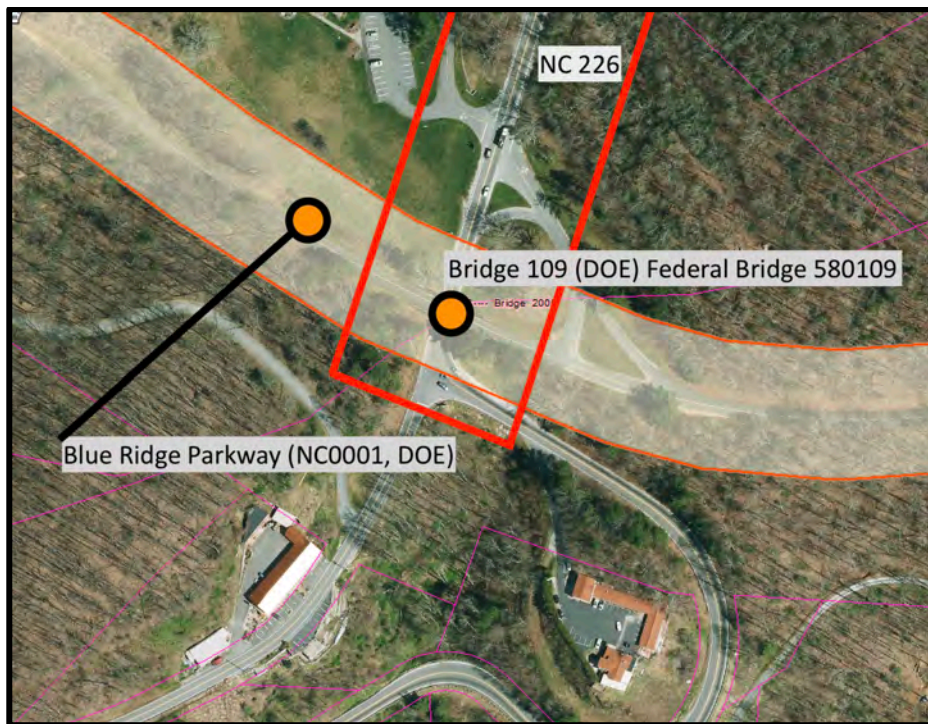
Location of Mitchell County, map from NCPedia.com



Location of project within Mitchell County, map created from Google Maps



Project Study Area Map, courtesy NCDOT



Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



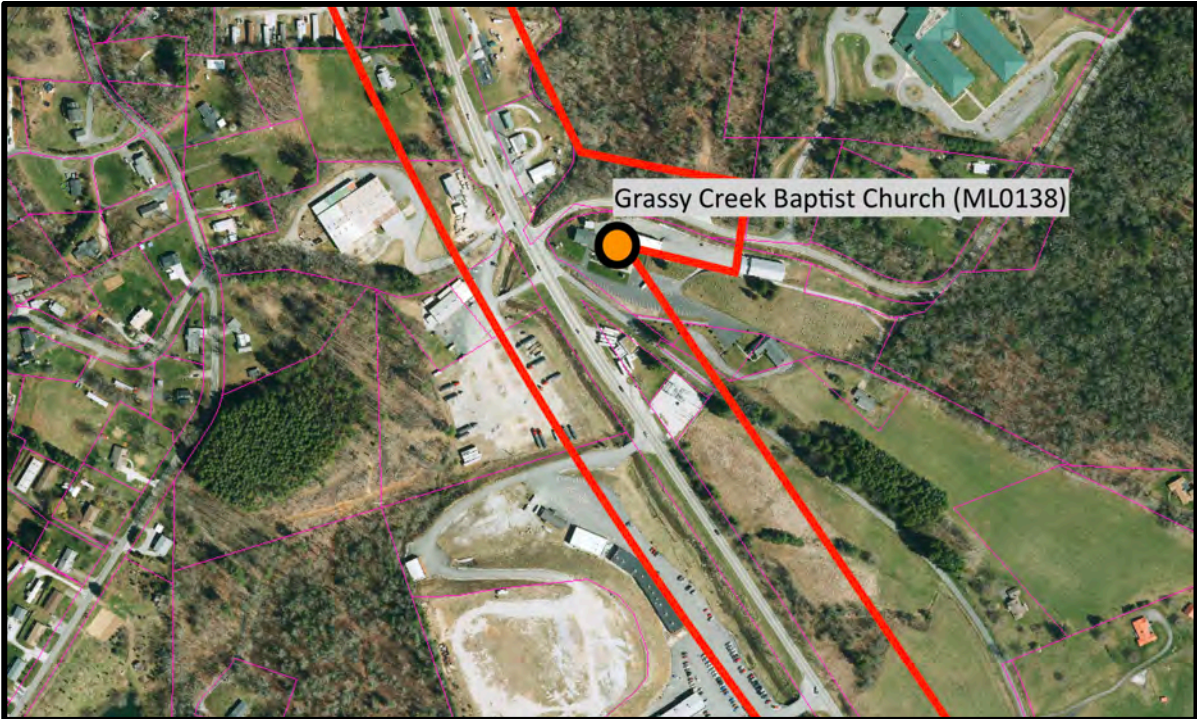
Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



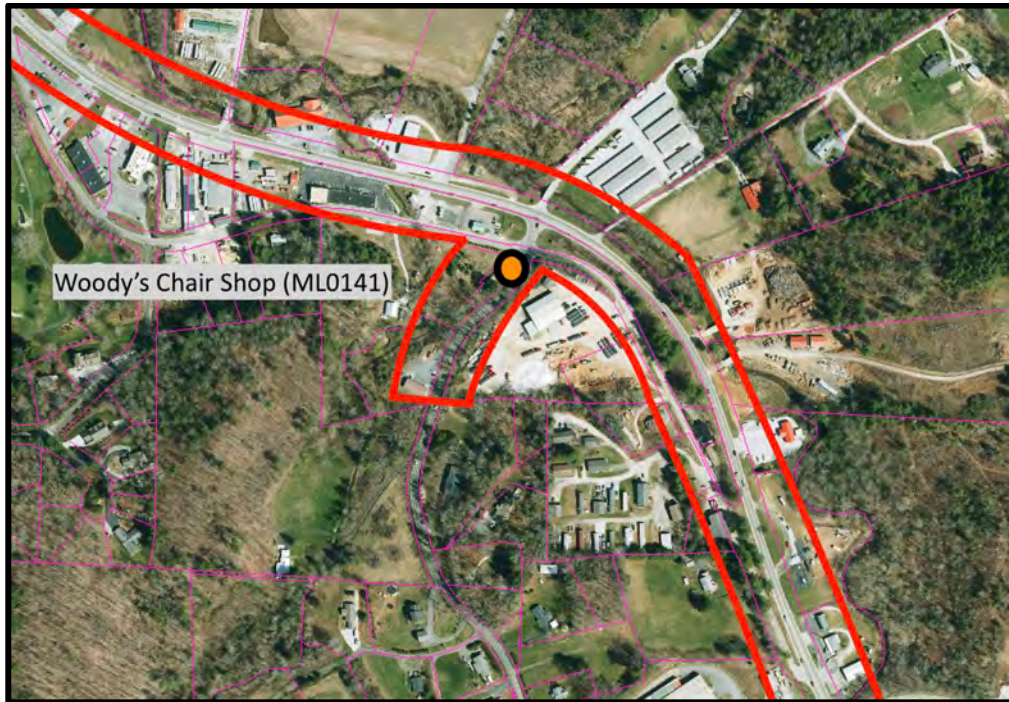
Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)



Evaluated properties map (APE shown by red line)

II. Introduction

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen NC 226 from the Blue Ridge Parkway to SR 1297 (Summit Avenue) in Mitchell County, North Carolina. The project area, which is approximately 4.8 miles in length, is the main corridor between Gillespie Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway and the town of Spruce Pine. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is generally delineated as 300 feet from the centerline of the existing roadway with additional areas encompassing road intersections within the project area. The APE is delineated on a map on page 7 of this report.

The 4.8-mile-long project area extends from the Blue Ridge Parkway (NC0001, DOE) to Summit Avenue, which is in the south portion of the Spruce Pine town limits. McDowell County Bridge 109 (DOE), a 32-foot-long reinforced concrete, rigid frame bridge built in 1938 to carry the Blue Ridge Parkway (NC0001, DOE) over NC 226, marks the south end of the project area. The bridge's piers and deck are tied together with reinforcing steel. Concrete was poured as a unit to complete the structure creating a rigid, but picturesque frame with an elliptical arched opening. Rough stones were added to the exterior walls on the north and south sides creating a rustic appearance in keeping with the National Park Service's architectural aesthetic of the 1930s through mid-1950s.¹ The bridge remains eligible for the NRHP.

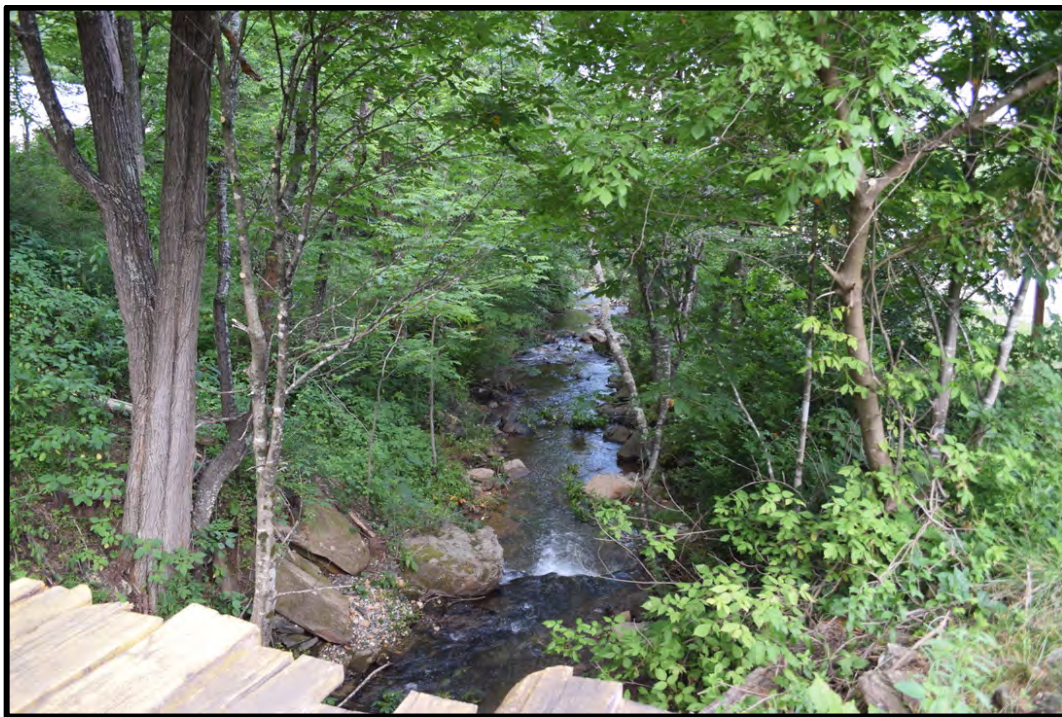


McDowell County Bridge 109 (DOE), built in 1938, carries the Blue Ridge Parkway over NC 226, view to the southwest

¹ "McDowell County Bridge 109," NCDOT website.

From Gillespie Gap, NC 226 travels north along a two-lane highway. Mostly commercial development characterizes the project area, but a few dwellings, small farms, and churches stand on either side of the route. Numerous tourist-related businesses associated with the area’s rich mineral deposits operate on this stretch of NC 226. They offer local stones and minerals for sale and opportunities to prospect for gemstones in Grassy Creek, a picturesque stream that parallels the highway the entire length of the project area.

Before the late 1950s, travelers along the stretch of NC 226 between the Blue Ridge Parkway and Spruce Pine encountered a sixteen-foot-wide “nightmare for motorists” featuring sharp curves and long stretches where passing proved impossible. In late 1958 or early 1959, after fifteen months of work, crews completed the relocation of most of the road and created “one of the best two-lane stretches of highway to be found anywhere in the Blue Ridge,” according to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. The newspaper noted that the new road “is now beginning to build up, not only with new homes but with tourist attractions.”²



East Fork Grassy Creek running along the west side of NC 226, view to the north

Historic Context: A Brief History of Mitchell County

Mitchell County was established in 1861 from parts of Yancey, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, and McDowell counties. Small farms located in narrow river valleys formed the basis of the economy until the 1870s, when commercial mining of rich mineral resources—namely feldspar, kaolin, and

² “Spruce Pine-Parkway Link Improvements Completed,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 11, 1959.

mica—began. The completion of the Clinchfield Railroad to Spruce Pine in 1903 meant that the isolated mountain county was open to commercial trade of its minerals. Mitchell County became well-known for its kaolin, a white clay used for making pottery and in 1932, locally-mined mica was processed at three plants. Feldspar shipped from the county beginning in 1911 found use as a glaze on pottery and enamelware. The opening of Robbins Knitting Mill in Spruce Pine in 1935 gave employment to around 300 residents.³ During the Great Depression, the WPA, CCC, and other New Deal relief programs helped to build and improve roads and schools and give work to many county women and men.⁴ Others found work building what was sometimes called the “Park to Park Highway” in the late 1930s. The National Park service completed the Blue Ridge Parkway through the southern part of the county by 1940.

Like other places in the southern Appalachians, Mitchell County developed a strong tradition of handcrafts. That identity as a center of mountain arts was solidified in 1920s when educator Lucy Morgan started Penland Weavers and Potters School near Penland to teach and promote local traditional handcrafts. In 1928, she helped found the Southern Mountain Handicraft Guild, which later became the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Organized by Morgan and a group of craft promoters and educators, the Guild later stimulated the craft revival in western North Carolina and helped to create a market for handmade goods. In 1938, she changed the name of the school to Penland School of Handicrafts.⁵

The late twentieth and early twenty-first century saw a decline in manufacturing but increases in mining as quartz became a valuable commodity that is shipped all over the world. Tourism provides many jobs as visitors flock to the Blue Ridge Parkway, nearby Roan Mountain, Penland School, and the mineral and gem-related attractions that line the county’s highways.

³ “Mitchell County Topic of Weekly Broadcast,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 17, 1932; “Mitchell County Land Cost Five Cents an Acre in 1790,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 26, 1969.

⁴ “Citizens of Mitchell County are Aided by Varied WPA Program,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 4, 1940.

⁵ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 233.

III. Methodology

NCDOT requested MdM to conduct historic resource evaluations of nine properties located adjacent to the proposed widening of NC 226 in Mitchell County. Architectural historian Jennifer Martin conducted the field survey in June 2019, photographing and mapping the resources. While in the field, Ms. Martin discovered through discussions with local residents two additional resources that warranted documentation and evaluation: Ben Hensley’s Forge (ML0140) and Woody’s Chair Shop (ML0141). Those properties were added to the list of historic resources to be evaluated.

Basic research on the project area was conducted by consulting with the Mitchell County Register of Deeds office in Bakersville, the Mitchell County Public Library, and twentieth-century newspaper articles. The project area is not covered by Sanborn maps, but USGS topographic quadrangle maps dating back to the 1930s were reviewed. Genealogical information including United States census records, death certificates, and other recorded documents were reviewed online through Ancestry.com. The principal investigator interviewed many property owners and county residents familiar with the history of the project area.



NC 226 just north of the Blue Ridge Parkway, view to the north

V. Property Descriptions and Evaluations

1. Blue Ridge Parkway: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Blue Ridge Parkway
HPO Survey Site Number	NC0001, DOE
Location	North Carolina and Virginia
PIN	n/a
Construction Date	1935-1987
Recommendation	Remains eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C



Blue Ridge Parkway, east of Gillespie Gap, view to the west

Description

The Blue Ridge Parkway stretches 469 miles across the central and southern Appalachians from Virginia to North Carolina connecting the Shenandoah National Park to the Great Smokies National Park. The Parkway extends across the peaks, ridges, and valleys of five mountain ranges and encompasses several geographic and vegetative areas ranging in elevation from 600 to 6,000 above sea level. The Parkway encompasses 91 historic buildings, 20 cultural landscapes, 26 road tunnels, and 176 bridges. NC 226 travels under the Parkway at milepost 330.9.



Map showing route of the Blue Ridge Parkway, from the Asheville Citizen-Times

History

The idea for the Blue Ridge Parkway came about in 1909 with intent of connecting Tallulah Falls, Georgia to Marion, Virginia with a scenic highway along the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In the 1910s, crews built one small section between Pineola and Altapass in North Carolina, but construction stopped with the onset of World War I. In 1926, Congress authorized creation of the Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks. In order to link the parks, the Parkway was authorized as a New Deal project in 1933. Construction of the Parkway began on September 11, 1935 and both national parks opened in 1936-1937. The National Park Service took over construction and administration of the Parkway in 1936. Working with the Bureau of Public Roads, which would later become the Federal Highway Administration, all of the Parkway roads were completed by 1967 except a seven-mile section around Grandfather Mountain. With the construction of the Linn Cove Viaduct around Grandfather in 1987, one of the country’s greatest public works was finally completed.⁶

Evaluation

The Blue Ridge Parkway, a linear park stretching 469 miles and with an 85,000 acre right-of-way, retains a high degree of integrity, due to the protections afforded it as historic scenic roadway under the protection of the National Park Service. The Parkway is a resource where the balance of

⁶ National Park Service, “Historical Development of the Parkway,” *Blue Ridge Parkway, Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, January 2013, 161-162.

nature and culture has been almost meticulously crafted, managed, and preserved. The Parkway retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, association, feeling, and location.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Blue Ridge Parkway retains its eligibility under Criterion A for its significance in the areas of transportation, conservation, and entertainment/recreation. Designed as a scenic recreational motorway to link two national parks and create economic opportunity from tourism for those who built and promoted it, the Parkway transformed the communities and landscapes it traversed, while helping to preserve natural areas along its way. The Blue Ridge Parkway holds national significance under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Many individuals on the local, state, and national levels played roles in the development of the Blue Ridge Parkway, including but not limited to Stanley W. Abbott, the first landscape architect and chief planner for the Parkway.⁷ The Blue Ridge Parkway is associated with many other individuals who planned, engineered, and built the road and its related elements, not only Abbott, therefore the property is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Blue Ridge Parkway holds significance for its design and construction as a scenic motorway that incorporates buildings, structures, and landscapes to create one of the most prominent transportation corridors in the country. The Parkway remains eligible under Criterion C in the areas of engineering, landscape architecture, and architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Blue Ridge Parkway is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

Boundary Description

The NRHP boundary encompasses the roadway, all associated buildings, structures, and features contained in the 85,000-acre right-of-way.

⁷ Gale Roberts, "Stanly W. Abbott: Visionary Planner of the Blue Ridge Parkway," *Magnolia: Publication of the Southern Garden Society*, Spring 2013.

2. Museum of North Carolina Minerals: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Museum of North Carolina Minerals
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0117
Location	214 Parkway Maintenance Road, Spruce Pine
PIN	0797-01-39-9629
Construction Date	1955
Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A and C



Front corner, view to the northwest

Description

The museum stands on the east end of a 184-acre linear parcel owned by the National Park Service that includes a portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the flanking right of way. Facing south toward the Parkway, the museum is located at Gillespie Gap and occupies a grass-covered lawn landscaped with native shrubs. The parcel is mostly level where the museum stands, but a steep hill climbs from just south of the museum to the roadway of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Parkway Maintenance Road runs behind and just to the north of the museum and parallel to the Parkway. It intersects with NC 226 on its east end. Two ranger offices, formerly ranger housing, and a Parkway maintenance facility are just to the west of the museum at the west end of Parkway Maintenance Road. These buildings are not visible from the museum.



Museum of North Carolina Minerals site plan, from Mitchell County GIS.

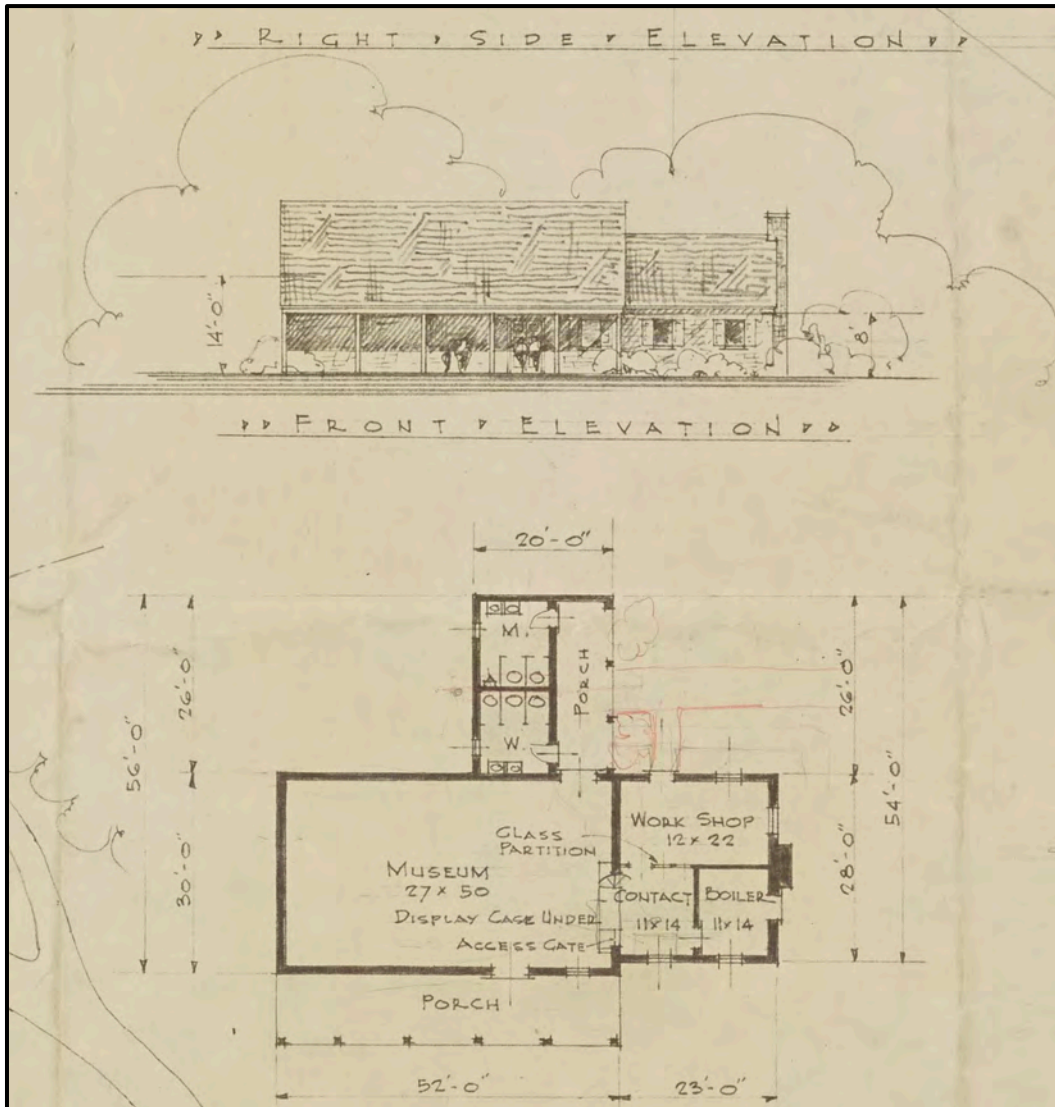
The main block of the one-story, side-gabled building was constructed with stone from Grandfather Mountain. A large stone chimney rises from the east gable end. The east side of the rear ell originally featured a recessed porch. It appears that when the ell was expanded in 2001, the wall was moved out to stand flush with the east gable end of the main block. The other elevations of the ell are sheathed in board-and-batten, applied when that part of the building was expanded by 1,000 square feet in 2001. Restrooms were remodeled and the exhibits updated at the same time.⁸

The major changes to the building have been the replacement of the original concrete roof shingles with modern asphalt roof shingles and the expansion of the rear ell. The expansion does not detract from the museum’s integrity because the rear ell maintains the stone wall on its east elevation, the elevation visible to the public. The interior has been changed to convert a workshop and boiler room on the east end of the building to public space.

A monument of native stone stands to the west of the museum. The monument includes a bronze plaque dedicated in 1927 to several military events including the passage of the Overmountain Men through Gillespie Gap on their way to fight in the Revolutionary War battle at Kings

⁸ “Mineral Museum Expansion,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 14, 2001.

Mountain, to Francis Marion and the Battle of Etchoe Pass, and to the men of the 30th Infantry Division who pierced the Hindenburg Line in World War I. The plaque is attached to a sloped rectangular granite structure. Stone benches extend from each side. The plaque was removed from a 1927 obelisk built of random rocks and placed on the current stone structure, which dates to 1955, when the Blue Ridge Parkway was built. The monument was originally located nearby in McDowell County where the Overmountain Men camped on September 29, 1780. It was relocated in 1955 during construction of the Museum of North Carolina Minerals.⁹



Museum of NC Minerals original plan, Blue Ridge Parkway Engineering Plans, dated 1953, Openparksnetwork.org

⁹ Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina, Gillespie Gap Monument, Spruce Pine, docsouth.unc.edu.



Museum facade, view to the north-northeast



Museum, southwest corner, view to the northeast



Rear corner of 2001 ell, northwest corner, view to the southeast



Rear elevation, view to the south-southwest



Museum facade, view to the west toward 1927 monument



Hill and rock display in front of Museum, view to the southeast toward the Blue Ridge Parkway



1927 Monument (altered), view to the west



Parking lot and Parkway Maintenance Road, view to the east toward NC 226



Interior of main part of museum, view to the west-northwest



Interior of rear section, view to the south

History

In the early 1950s, a group of local men and the owner of the Feldspar Corporation in Mitchell County requested that the State of North Carolina build a museum to highlight the importance of gems and minerals in this part of western North Carolina. The building was designed “through cooperation of architects and engineers of the National Park Service and the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development.” Architects for the Park Service contributed plans that complied with the agency’s design requirements for its buildings and the State completed detailed working drawings. The National Park Service provided seven acres along the Blue Ridge Parkway at Gillespie Gap south of Spruce Pine. The State took the lead on building the museum hiring Hickory Construction Company of Hickory, then turned it over to the National Park Service when completed.¹⁰ During its construction, an Asheville newspaper described it as “practically fire-proof...with [a] floor area of approximately 4,000 square feet.” The museum opened in 1955. Governor Luther Hodges and Conrad Wirth, director of the National Park Service, spoke at the dedication on June 17.¹¹

Initially, the museum’s collection included about 300 minerals donated by collectors. The museum was built in an area of the state that contained the largest commercial deposits and processing plants for mica, kaolin, and feldspar. The region near the museum also abounded with gemstones including garnets, aquamarines, and beryl. At one time, the country’s only commercial emerald mine operated nearby in Little Switzerland.¹²



Museum of North Carolina Minerals, September 19, 1955, by Leslie P. Arnberger, Courtesy National Park Service, on docsouth.unc.edu website

¹⁰ “Minerals Museum Work Bids Will Be Opened on Tuesday,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 11, 1954; “Minerals Museum Building Project Advancing in WNC,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 5, 1954.

¹¹ “Hodges Will Dedicate Museum of Minerals at Gillespie Gap,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 12, 1955.

¹² “Minerals Museum Building Project Advancing in WNC,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 5, 1954.



Museum of North Carolina Minerals showing original rear ell, taken October 1957, by Rector, Courtesy National Park Service, on docsouth.unc.edu website



Museum of North Carolina Minerals, taken September 19, 1955, by Leslie P. Arnberger, Courtesy National Park Service, on docsouth.unc.edu website



Museum interior, taken September 19, 1955, by Leslie P. Arnberger, Courtesy National Park Service, on docsouth.unc.edu website

Context: National Park Service Architecture along the Blue Ridge Parkway, 1935-1956

Construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway began on September 11, 1935. Building the Parkway—initially called the Appalachian Scenic Highway—occurred in forty-five separate sections with goals to create a scenic road for leisure travel and to connect the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks in Virginia and North Carolina. A congressional act on June 30, 1936, renamed the project the Blue Ridge Parkway and made it a unit of the National Park Service. The construction of the Linn Cove Viaduct around the base of Grandfather Mountain in 1987 signaled the long-awaited completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The National Park Service adopted the rustic style of architecture for the buildings and structures it constructed along the Parkway. Native stone and log visitor centers, picnic shelters, and rustic-looking signage blended with the landscape, but also reflected local architectural preferences, or at least, the perceived building styles of mountain people in the southern Appalachians. Many of the Parkway's early log buildings were moved from their original locations to areas along the route. In 1956, the National Park Service unveiled Mission 66, a ten-year initiative to complete construction of the Parkway and expand visitor services in the parks by 1966, its fifty-year anniversary. Part of the program involved building new visitor centers that reflected the influence of modernism. As a result, buildings from the period after 1955 typically follow a modernist aesthetic.

The National Park Service established several interpretive centers along the Blue Ridge Parkway to enhance the visitor experience and highlight the culture and natural resources of the southern Appalachians. Humpback Rocks on the northern end of the Parkway in Virginia includes an assemblage of farm buildings moved to the site to provide interpretation of an historic Appalachian agricultural complex. Mabry Mill, also in Virginia, provides travelers on the Parkway an opportunity to see a working grist mill.

Parkway Craft Center opened in July 1951 inside the twenty-one-room, three-story 1901 Moses Cone manor at the Moses Cone Memorial Park on the Parkway at Blowing Rock. The Asheville-based Southern Highland Handcraft Guild operated the center and sold handicrafts made by guild members and guild-approved items. Lucy Morgan, director of the Penland School, served as an advisor when the center opened.¹³ The Parkway Craft Center included a museum containing the handicraft collection of Frances L. Goodrich, a founder of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, which helped to revive the craft industry in western North Carolina in the early twentieth century.¹⁴

Advertisement from June 12, 1955 *Asheville Citizen-Times*

¹³ "Guild will operate Parkway Craft Center in Moses Cone Manor House," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 29, 1951.

¹⁴ "The People: Frances Goodrich," *Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past and Present*, Western Carolina University, Hunter Library Digital Initiatives.

Evaluation

The Museum of North Carolina Minerals is an intact stone building constructed in 1955 to interpret and display the history and importance of minerals in North Carolina. The building remains in its original location within the right-of-way of the Blue Ridge Parkway and therefore retains its integrity of setting and location. The elevations on the main block and east wall of the rear ell retain stone sheathing from Grandfather Mountain. The rear ell has been expanded, but on the side not visible from the Parkway or the museum's parking lot. The museum retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The museum's adherence to the rustic architectural idiom employed for buildings along the Parkway help it to retain its integrity of feeling and association.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Museum of North Carolina Minerals was built as an interpretive center along the Blue Ridge Parkway to advance visitors' understanding of the natural minerals found in the state. The museum's mission merged with the Parkway's goal of providing a scenic motorway that showcased the history, culture, and natural resources of the southern Appalachians. The Museum of North Carolina Minerals is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of education and entertainment/recreation.

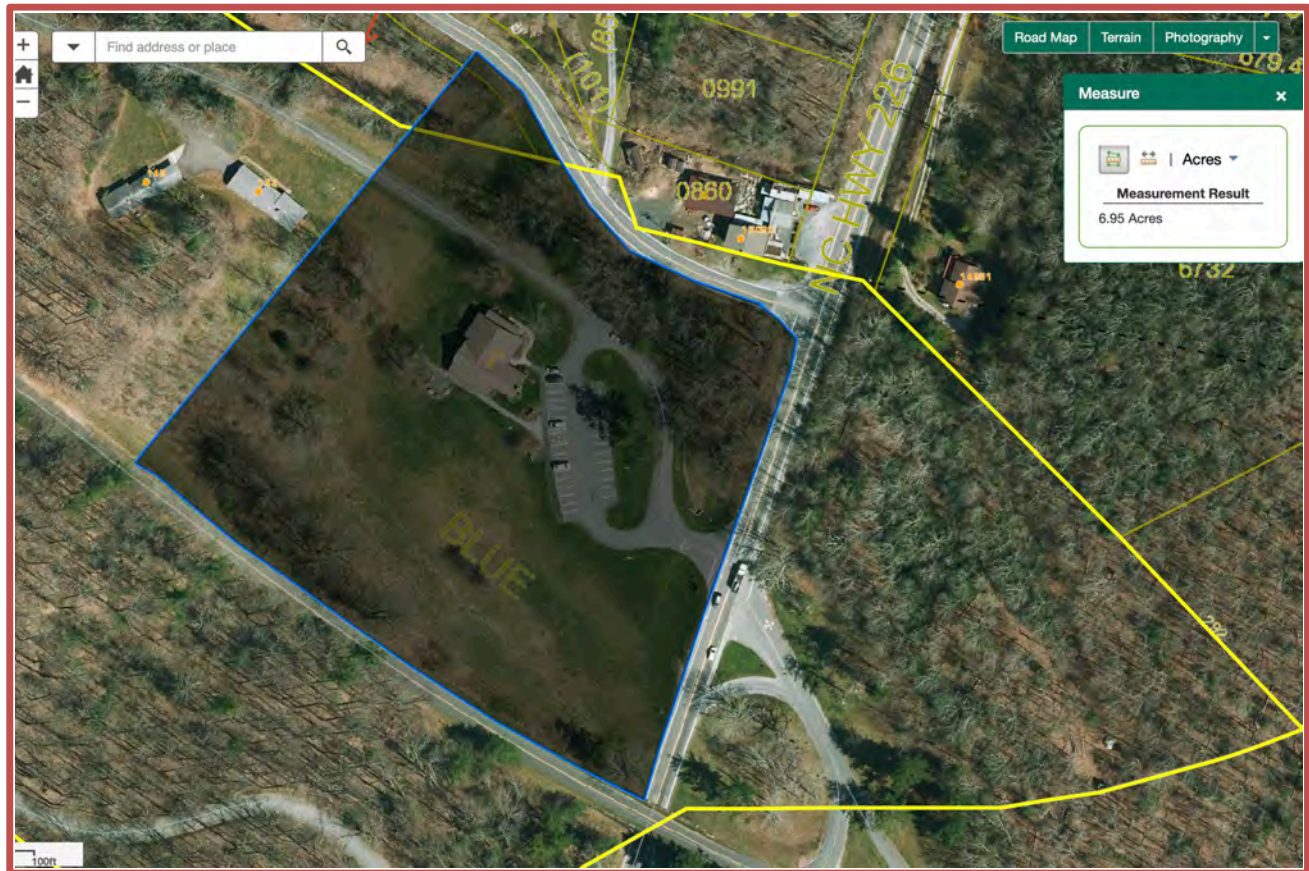
For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. No one individual associated with the Museum of North Carolina Minerals achieved demonstrable significance, therefore, the Museum of North Carolina Minerals is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Museum of North Carolina Minerals is an outstanding example of National Park Service rustic architecture, the idiom the agency employed for its buildings across the country before 1956. The Park Service constructed log and stone buildings like the museum to fit with the natural aesthetic of the parks, and in the case of the museum, to fit with the perceived aesthetic of mountain architecture. The use of stone from Grandfather Mountain further created a link between local building traditions and the scenic roadway started in 1935. The Museum of North Carolina Minerals is recommended eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Museum of North Carolina Minerals is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary

The boundary for the Museum of North Carolina Minerals includes the 1955 building and its setting on approximately seven acres, which corresponds as closely as possible to the seven acres the National Park Service donated for the construction of the building. The boundary extends to the edges of the pavement of Parkway Maintenance Road, NC 226, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The boundary does not include the two modern ranger stations to the west.



NRHP Boundary for the Museum of North Carolina Minerals, from Mitchell County GIS. The yellow line is the parcel boundary for the entire 184-acre property. Map from Mitchell County GIS.

3. Grace and Steven Millard Cox House: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Grace and Steven Millard Cox House
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0134
Location	14320 S NC 226
PIN	0798-00-73-0535
Construction Date	Circa 1945
Recommendation	Not recommended eligible under any criteria



Grace and Steven Millard Cox House, view to the west

Description

The Cox house stands on 3.92 acres on the west side of NC 226 just north of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Several large shrubs occupy the lawn in front of the house. A concrete block retaining walls extends along the front of the house halfway between it and the highway. A small storage building stands southwest of the house.

The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house on a brick foundation and with asbestos-shingle siding and a bungalow-style porch occupies the grass-covered hill overlooking the highway. Windows are a combination of three-over-one, double-hung sash and less numerous modern replacement six-over-six, double-hung sash. A brick chimney rises from the south gable end. On the south (side) elevation, the basement contains a drive-in garage with an approach lane

bordered with concrete block retaining walls. A small gabled ell extending from the rear elevation includes a porch that has been enclosed. The interior retains its original plan and finishes.



Cox House site plan. Created from Mitchell County GIS.

History

Grace Washburn (1901-1981) and Steven Millard Cox (1903-1989) married in October 1924. According to the couple's granddaughter, they lived in a log cabin before building the house on NC 226 around 1945. According to the Cox's granddaughter, the couple built the house according to a plan they obtained from a magazine or house plan service. The 1940 census lists Mr. Cox as working in trucking. His granddaughter confirms that he drove a truck for a local feldspar mine. The house remains in the Cox family.¹⁵

Architectural Context: Post World War II Dwellings in Mitchell County

Three of the houses evaluated during this project date to the 1940s: the Grace and Steven Millard Cox House (ML0134), the Ina and Charlie Stevenson House (ML0135), and the Ellis House at Spruce Pine Court (ML0139). The houses were built during a residential construction boom as county builders and residents worked to boost the supply of housing after World War II.

As in the rest of the country, construction in western North Carolina slowed significantly during the Great Depression when money and resources for building were scarce. In 1934, Congress and President Roosevelt created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which insured mortgage

¹⁵ Beverly Tiller, granddaughter of Grace and Steven Millard Cox, interview with Jennifer Martin, June 17, 2019.

loans so that Americans could borrow money to repair, build, and purchase homes. The FHA's Better Homes program created a nationwide promotional campaign to spread the word about new housing finance opportunities. Starting in 1936, the FHA began issuing standards for the types of dwellings for which consumers could obtain insured loans. The agency's *Principles of Planning Small Houses* (1936, revised 1940), included specifications for conserving interior space, placement of a house on its lot, and simple drawings that depicted livable small houses. The booklet encouraged the efficient use of space and good air flow inside a dwelling. According to the FHA, "through proper spacing and grouping of doors and windows, even a rectangular house can be given character and pleasing variations from its neighbors."¹⁶

Overwhelmingly, the FHA stressed the benefits of small houses of a simple form and plan. Along with the FHA, builders, magazines, and journals sold or featured building plans that depicted small houses in brick, wood, and concrete that conformed to FHA principles.



1948 House at 17 Highland Avenue Extension in Spruce Pine

Mitchell County contains a robust collection of houses built during the building boom from 1940 to 1960, many of them follow the design principles of the FHA. Throughout the county, simple rectangular houses from the period after World War II carry the influence of the Craftsman or Colonial Revival styles, most notable in their porches. A circa 1945 side-gabled dwelling stands at 17 Highland Avenue Extension on the outskirts of Spruce Pine. It features a front-gabled entrance porch and a pair of front gabled dormers. On South Dale Street in southern Spruce Pine, the Dale

¹⁶ Federal Housing Administration, *Principles of Planning Small Houses*, Technical Bulletin No. 4 , Revised July 1, 1940, 38.

House from 1941 features a Colonial Revival-inspired porch. The circa 1950 Glenn House at 610 Altapass Road is a one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional dwelling with a front-facing gable. Post-World War II houses can be found at the center of small farms or as part of the homesteads of citizens who worked in mining or at Spruce Pine’s hosiery mill.



Dale House (1941) on left, Glenn House (circa 1950) below

Evaluation

The Grace and Steven Millard Cox House is a post-World War II-era house located on the west side of NC 226 in rural Mitchell County. The house retains its integrity of setting and location. The house retains its original asbestos shingle siding, most of its three-over-one windows, and a bungalow-style porch. The Cox House displays integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The house—which was not part of an extensive farmstead—stands in rural Mitchell County and was built by a family in the period after World War II. The Cox House retains its integrity of feeling and association.





Cox House northwest corner, view to the southeast



Cox House south elevation, view to the north



Cox House kitchen looking into parlor, view to the east



Shed, view to the west



Cox House northeast corner, view to the southwest from NC 226



Entrance to lower level garage. The family also kept canned food in the space to preserve it. View to the north

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Grace and Steven Millard Cox House was one of many houses built during the period after World War II when returning soldiers and their families were able to obtain no or low-interest mortgage loans through the G.I. Bill of Rights and/or the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Both programs spurred a construction boom to answer the housing shortage that occurred after the war. The Cox House is one of many dwellings in Mitchell County that attest to this period in North Carolina. Because of the large number of houses built during this period, the Cox House does not hold significance in any area under Criterion A and is not recommended as eligible for the NRHP.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Neither Grace Washburn Cox nor Steven Millard Cox achieved demonstrable significance on any level, therefore the Grace and Steven Millard Cox House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Grace and Steven Millard Cox House is a common type of dwelling built following World War II. The Grace and Steven Millard Cox House is recommended not eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Grace and Steven Millard Cox House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

4. Ina and Charlie Stevenson House: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Ina and Charlie Stevenson House
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0135
Location	18 Tom Bell Road
PIN	0798-00-55-5766
Construction Date	Circa 1945
Recommendation	Not recommended eligible under any criteria



Stevenson House facade, view to the southwest

Description

The Stevenson House stands on the west side of NC 226 and the East Fork of Grassy Creek. The dwelling occupies a small portion of the east side of a mostly wooded fifty-one-acre parcel that slopes upward towards the west. Briery Mountain forms part of the parcel's western edge. A simple plank wooden bridge provides access over the East Fork of Grassy Creek and leads to the home's driveway. Large overgrown shrubs grow in front of the front-gable wing but otherwise, the immediate yard is grass-covered and dotted with small bushes and trees.

The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled dwelling features an off-center front-gabled wing. Covered with asbestos shingle siding, the house includes a front-gabled dormer, a gable-end narrow brick

flue, and a concrete block flue on the façade. Three-over-one sash and triangular knee braces are original features. A turned post supports the partial-façade porch.

The property owner was not available to allow the principal investigator to view the interior.

The property includes two outbuildings. A modern vinyl and stucco garage is attached to the rear of the dwelling by an open breezeway. A front-gabled stucco garage with a concrete block flue is south-southwest of the house.



Ina and Stevenson House Site Plan. From Mitchell County GIS.

History

According to their son, carpenter Charlie Stevenson built the house for his wife, Ida Washburn Stevenson, and himself around 1945 after his service in World War II. Ina's parents, Ida Hollifield Washburn (1878-1951) and James Dula Washburn (1875-1947) likely gave or sold the Stevensons the land for their house. Ida Washburn Stevenson was one of eight daughters.¹⁷ The house remains in the Stevenson Family.

¹⁷ "Washburn Improving," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 22, 1938; Obituary of James Dula Washburn, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 5, 1947.

Architectural Context: Post World War II Dwellings in Mitchell County

Three of the houses evaluated during this project date to the 1940s: the Grace and Steven Millard Cox House (ML0134), the Ina and Charlie Stevenson House (ML0135), and the Ellis House at Spruce Pine Court (ML0139). The houses were built during a residential construction boom as county builders and residents worked to boost the supply of housing after World War II.

As in the rest of the country, construction in western North Carolina slowed significantly during the Great Depression when money and resources for building were scarce. In 1934, Congress and President Roosevelt created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which insured mortgage loans so that Americans could borrow money to repair, build, and purchase homes. The FHA's Better Homes program created a nationwide promotional campaign to spread the word about new housing finance opportunities. Beginning in 1936, the FHA began issuing standards for the types of dwellings for which consumers could obtain loans. The agency's *Principles of Planning Small Houses* (1936, revised 1940), included specifications for conserving interior space, placement of a house on its lot, and simple drawings that depicted livable small houses. The booklet encouraged the efficient use of space and good air flow inside a dwelling. According to the FHA, "through proper spacing and grouping of doors and windows, even a rectangular house can be given character and pleasing variations from its neighbors."¹⁸

Overwhelmingly, the FHA stressed the benefits of small houses of a simple form and plan. Along with the FHA, builders, magazines, and journals sold or featured building plans that depicted small houses in brick, wood, and concrete that conformed to FHA principles.



1948 House at 17 Highland Avenue Extension in Spruce Pine

¹⁸ Federal Housing Administration, *Principles of Planning Small Houses*, Technical Bulletin No. 4, Revised July 1, 1940, 38.

Mitchell County contains a robust collection of houses built during the building boom from 1940 to 1960, many of them follow the design principles of the FHA. Throughout the county, simple rectangular houses from the period after World War II carry the influence of the Craftsman or Colonial Revival styles, most notable in their porches. A circa 1945 side-gabled dwelling stands at 17 Highland Avenue Extension on the outskirts of Spruce Pine. It features a front-gabled entrance porch and a pair of front gabled dormers. On South Dale Street in southern Spruce Pine, the Dale House from 1941 features a Colonial Revival-inspired porch. The circa 1950 Glenn House at 610 Altapass Road is a one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional dwelling with a front-facing gable. Post-World War II houses can be found at the center of small farms or as part of the homesteads of citizens who worked in mining or at Spruce Pine’s hosiery mill.



Dale House (1941) on left, Glenn House (circa 1950) on right

The Lee and Maude Green House at 5085 NC 226 between Bakersville and Spruce Pine is a one-story front-gabled dwelling with a bungalow porch. Built in 1955, the house stands on a fifteen-acre former dairy farm.



Green House (1955) demonstrates the popularity of the bungalow porch into the mid-twentieth century

Evaluation

The Ina and Charlie Stevenson House is a post-World War II-era house located on the west side of NC 226 in rural Mitchell County. The house retains its integrity of setting and location. The house retains its original asbestos shingle siding and its three-over-one windows. The Stevenson House displays integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The house—which was not part of an extensive farmstead—stands in rural Mitchell County and was built by a family in the period after World War II. The Stevenson House retains its integrity of feeling and association.



Ina and Charlie Stevenson House southwest corner, view to the northeast



Modern garage, view to the northwest



Garage, view to the southwest



Driveway to house, view to the northwest

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Ina and Charlie Stevenson House was one of many houses built during the period after World War II when returning soldiers and their families were able to obtain no or low-interest mortgage loans through the G.I. Bill of Rights and/or the Federal Housing Administration. Both programs spurred a construction boom to answer the housing shortage that occurred after the war. The Stevenson House is one of many dwellings in Mitchell County that attest to this period in North Carolina. Because of the large number of houses built during this period, the Stevenson House does not hold significance in any area under Criterion A and is not recommended as eligible for the NRHP.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Neither Ina Washburn Stevenson nor Charlie Stevenson achieved demonstrable significance on any level, therefore the Ina and Charlie Stevenson House is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Ina and Charlie Stevenson House is a common type of dwelling built following World War II. The Ina and Charlie Stevenson House is recommended not eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Therefore, the Ina and Charlie Stevenson House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

5. Cabin: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Cabin
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0136
Location	13752 S 226, Spruce Pine
PIN	0798-00-66-4387
Construction Date	Circa 1890, circa 1970 (moved)
Recommendation	Not recommended eligible under any criteria



House, view to the west

Description

The log cabin stands on the west bank of East Fork Creek and the west side of NC 226. It occupies a level grassy yard with a steep hillside behind. The cabin shares a two-acre parcel with a modern house just behind it and a retail store that fronts NC 226. The cabin is constructed with a combination of half-dovetail notching and with logs butted against vertical posts at the dwelling’s rear corners. Cement has been used for chinking. Doors on the front and back consist of vertical wood with diagonal and horizontal bracing. The property owner would not allow interior access but reported to the principal investigator that the interior walls are exposed log.



House (ML0136) site plan. Created from Mitchell County GIS.



South elevation of house and foot bridge, view to the north



South elevation, view to the north



Northwest corner, view to the southeast

History

The house was built in West Virginia and moved to its current site around 1970.

Architectural Context: Nineteenth Log Houses in Mitchell County

The earliest dwellings in Mitchell County were built of logs felled in the area's rich forests. According to principal investigator Ted Alexander, who conducted the Mitchell County survey in 1985, only three log houses built during the period from 1870-1890 stood in the county. One of those, the Henry Willis House (NR 1988) near Penland, began in 1880 as a single-pen chestnut log house with half-dovetail notching. The well-preserved house features a stone, gable-end chimney and weatherboard gable ends. In 1890, a log pen was added to the gable end and a porch was built across the façade to serve both sections. Later additions include a log ell and kitchen room.¹⁹ The Willis House remains in excellent condition in an isolated part of the county near the Penland School. An earlier log house, the George Silver House (ML0065, Study List) in the Kona community is a two-story log house. Built from 1803-1809, it also remains in excellent condition.

Two other log houses Alexander documented—the Adam Buchanan House and the Will Mosely House—could not be located and their fates remain unknown.



Henry Willis House (NR) view to the southwest

¹⁹ Carolyn A. Humphries, National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Henry Willis House, 1988.



George Silver House (ML0065, Study List), view to the northeast

Evaluation

The log house was moved around 1970 and lacks integrity of setting and location. The house retains its original logs, but has been chinked with cement, which is an inappropriate material for historic log houses. The log house lacks integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The relocated house possesses no integrity of feeling or association since it has been moved from its original location and placed near a major state highway.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The log house lacks integrity and therefore is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. The log house lacks integrity and therefore is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The log house lacks integrity and is not recommended eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. The log house is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

6. Donna and Thomas Phillips House: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Donna and Thomas Phillips House
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0137
Location	13528 S NC 226, Spruce Pine
PIN	0798-00-56-6972
Construction Date	1963
Recommendation	Not recommended eligible under any criteria



Front (northeast) corner of house, view to the southwest

Description

The Phillips House occupies a five-acre parcel in the middle of an eighty-four-acre farm on the west side of NC 226 south of Spruce Pine. The house, standing on a level part of the parcel near the crest of a hill, overlooks the state highway located approximately 200 yards to the east. The surrounding acreage consists of mostly fields and some forest land.

The Phillips House is a horizontally-massed, modernist Ranch-style house with a redwood and white-brick exterior. The house displays a long side-gable roof interrupted on the façade by an intersecting front gable dominated by an immense off-center, white-brick chimney rising through the projecting gable overhang. The front gable extends on its south side to shelter a recessed entrance marked by a single classical column. A modern deck has been added to the façade on the

north side of the front gable projection. The area immediately to the north of the chimney originally contained an open breezeway that connected the garage and house. The owners enclosed the breezeway to create interior space. Windows throughout are original.

The interior remains mostly intact and features a living room with exposed wooden trusses. The kitchen floor plan is circular and includes cabinets and countertops that conform to that floorplan.

The farm includes three barns—two built in the 1970s and a feed barn constructed around 2008.



Phillips House site plan. Created from Mitchell County GIS.

History

Donna and Tom Phillips had their house built in 1963 according to an image, and possibly plan, Donna Phillips found in a magazine in the early 1960s. The Phillipses hired carpenter and cabinet maker Lionel Hugh Worthen (1903-1988) and brickmason George Beauford Smith (1928-2005) to build the house. The Phillipses bought white brick from a yard in Johnson City, Tennessee. Mr. Phillips continues to live in the house. Until recently he raised angus cattle on the farm.

Architectural Context: Modernist Ranch Houses from the 1950s and 1960s in Mitchell County

Despite its somewhat isolated location, modernism found its way to Mitchell County in the 1950s and 1960s in the form of Ranch houses with contemporary features. Nationally-distributed magazines were a major influence in the appearance of the modernist Ranch houses in rural North

Carolina. A resident could find a style or plan he or she liked in a publication like *Better Homes and Gardens*, which published and sold house plans or featured up-to-date dwellings in every issue in the 1950s and 1960s, and hire a local builder to construct it. A low-pitched gable roof and horizontal massing characterize the low-slung modernist Ranch houses found in the county.



House (1959) at 1487 NC 197, view to the east

Built in 1959, the house at 1487 NC 197 near Bakersville is a long, horizontal Ranch house with simulated masonry siding and a façade chimney. The side-gable roof is interrupted by a front-facing gable with horizontal wood or vinyl siding. The house retains its original windows.



House (1967) at 467 Leah Drive, view to the northwest

The house at 467 Leah Drive near Penland dates to 1967 and is a brick, simulated masonry, and cedar-sided Ranch house with original windows and an interior wide, stone chimney.

Evaluation

The Donna and Tom Phillips House retains its integrity of setting and location. The Phillips House is mostly intact but was altered with the enclosure of a breezeway and addition of front deck. Overall it retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The house displays integrity of feeling and association as a modernist Ranch house built at the center of a cattle farm in 1963.



Phillips House, view to the northwest



Phillips House rear elevation, view to the east



Phillips House entrance, view to the west



Living room, view to the east



Kitchen with rounded cabinets and countertops, view to the west

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. The Phillips House was built at the center of a cattle farm that is no longer operational. The Phillips House is not significant for its agricultural history and not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Neither Donna Phillips nor Thomas Phillips holds significance in any area. The house is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Phillips House is a mostly intact modernist Ranch house displaying characteristics of the form, including wide overhanging eaves, a horizontal orientation, and a massive façade chimney. The Phillips House is among several modernist Ranch houses in the county and therefore is not recommended eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. The Donna and Thomas Phillips House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.



1970s barn northwest of the house, view to the north



1970s barn southeast of the house, view to the southeast

7. Grassy Creek Baptist Church: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Grassy Creek Baptist Church
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0138
Location	793 NC 226, Spruce Pine
PIN	0798-00-49-9894
Construction Date	1966 (church), 1957 (education wing), circa 1945 (office), 2006 (family life center)
Recommendation	Not recommended eligible under any criteria



Church (1966) and education building (1957), view to the northwest

Description

Grassy Creek Baptist Church occupies a five-acre elongated parcel on the east side of NC 226. Carters Ridge Road forms the northern border of the church property, while Old NC 226 and Greenlee Road extend along the southern edge of the parcel. Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church stands immediately to the south.

The church property includes the 1966 church, a 1957 education building, a circa 1945 office (formerly the parsonage), a 2006 family life center, and a two-acre cemetery bordered by stone and concrete block retaining walls. The only trees on the parcel shade a small portion of the cemetery.



Grassy Creek Baptist Church site plan. Created from Mitchell County GIS.

The 1966 front-gable brick building features a front-gabled, vinyl-sheathed portico supported by synthetic classical columns. Dalle de Verre windows are visible on the front and side elevations. The interior features exposed wood ceilings, exposed trusses, and a modern balcony.

A two-story-on-basement, flat-roofed, brick building built in 1957 contains classrooms. It rests on a hillside so that the south elevation is two stories and the rear is three stories. The congregation replaced the windows in 1996.

The office—formerly the parsonage—stands just west of the 1966 church. The one-story, side-gabled house includes a vinyl-sided, side-gabled garage, and modern handicap ramp on the façade. All windows have been replaced. A modern, open-sided carport stands just behind the house.

The 2006 family life center, a metal, brick, and vinyl building with a front-gabled roof, stands northeast on the parcel. The cemetery contains over 800 markers, predominantly from the twentieth century. The oldest burial is for Thomas Knight (1742-1792), which is marked by a stone structure and a modern tablet.



1966 Church, view to the north-northwest



Church interior, view to the north



Office (former parsonage), view to the north



Education building, view to the north



Family Life Center (2006), view to the east



Cemetery with church and education building in background, view to the west



Stonewall-line driveway from main parking lot to Family Life Center, view to the northeast

History and Architecture Context

Grassy Creek Baptist Church began May 27, 1822 as a mission of Caney River Baptist Church in Yancey County. The forty-four-member congregation became independent in 1849 with Rev. S. M. Collis as its first pastor. Early members met for services in a log cabin. In 1928, the congregation built a Colonial Revival brick church. The current 1966 church replaced that building.²⁰

Many churches built in the 1960s occupy Mitchell County. Typically, these buildings are brick and topped with a front gable roof and exhibit Colonial Revival or modernist elements. Spruce Pine United Methodist Church at 11090 NC 226 south of Spruce Pine is a large gable-front brick building with an attached rear education wing. Built in 1966 after a fire destroyed the 1923 building, Spruce Hill Methodist Church stands on a verdant hill overlooking NC 266 just north of Grassy Creek Baptist Church. The congregation of First Presbyterian Church Spruce Pine built their sanctuary in 1967. Located at 970 Greenwood Road, the front-gabled brick building features a stained-glass façade.

²⁰ David Biddix and Chris Hollifield, *Spruce Pine*, (Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 81.



Spruce Pine United Methodist Church (1966), view to the southwest



First Presbyterian Church Spruce from 1967, view to the north

Evaluation

Grassy Creek Baptist Church retains its integrity of setting and location. Two of the buildings that make up Grassy Creek Baptist Church are historic. The office built as a parsonage dates to the mid-1940s and the education building dates to 1957. Both have been altered. Overall, the property does not retain the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship of a historic church complex. Grassy Creek Baptist Church lacks integrity of feeling and association of a historic church because of modern buildings and alterations to its two historic buildings.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Grassy Creek Baptist Church began in the nineteenth century as a mission of Caney River Baptist Church. While the church is important in the history of religion in this part of western North Carolina, the current buildings do not chronicle that history because of the dates of their construction or alterations to the historic resources on the church campus. Grassy Creek Baptist Church is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. No one associated with Grassy Creek Baptist Church holds significance in any area, therefore Grassy Creek Baptist Church is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Grassy Creek Baptist Church is a complex of two modern and two altered historic buildings and a cemetery. The 1966 church is one of many 1960s churches in the county and does not possess exceptional significance. No other resources associated with the church display any architectural significance. Grassy Creek Baptist Church is not recommended eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Grassy Creek Baptist Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.



Rear of education building looking toward Family Life Center, view to the east

8. Spruce Pine Court: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Spruce Pine Court
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0139
Location	47 NC 226, Spruce Pine
PIN	0789-12-96-9930
Construction Date	Circa 1943, 1953
Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A and C



Daisy and Pete Ellis House with motor cabins in the background, view to the north

Description

Spruce Pine Court occupies a five-acre parcel on the east side of NC 226 about one mile south of downtown Spruce Pine. Topography on the lot varies from nearly level to gently sloping. Some large trees dot the parcel on its east side, while a clump of trees stands at the northwest corner. The parcel contains a circa 1943 bungalow, the 1953 motor court, thirteen mobile homes, a network of small, narrow lanes to connect the buildings, and a remnant of the former NC 26 highway that extended along the front of the house and motor court.

The circa 1943 bungalow stands one-and-a-half stories and features a side-gabled roof, asbestos shingle siding, and intact three-over-one windows. A stone chimney rises from the south gable end. The same stone constitutes the foundation and the piers supporting the battered wood posts at the front-gabled porch. A small brick flue rises from the rear roof ridge.

The motor court is about forty-five yards northwest of the bungalow facing NC 226. The five units are connected at the gable ends and stepped down slightly from north to south to accommodate a gradual slope in the topography. Each stucco-sheathed unit is identical with a side gable roof and two front doors flanked by a pair of windows. Some windows and doors have been replaced. The interiors of the motor court remain intact with wood paneling on the walls and synthetic tile ceilings. Although the principal investigator made several attempts to see the interior of the Ellis House, it was not accessible. The thirteen mobile homes are located behind and beside the house and motor court.



Ellis House facade, view to the east

History

In April 1943, Daisy Mae Long Ellis (1912-2004) and her husband, Lonnie Geter “Pete” Ellis (1913-1981) purchased five acres on the east side of what is now NC 226 from E. E. and Annie Mendenhall.²¹ The couple built the bungalow on the south end of the parcel soon after. In 1953, the couple constructed a “modern building containing six units with kitchenettes” next to their home to serve as a tourist court for travelers.²² The Ellises operated the Spruce Pine Court for seventeen years. Natives of Orange County, the couple married in Durham in 1934 before moving to Mitchell County.²³

²¹ Mitchell County Deed Book 101, page 589, dated April 19, 1943.

²² “Mitchell has Tourist Facilities,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 31, 1953.

²³ Obituary for Daisy Ellis, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, April 10, 2004.



The motor court at Spruce Pine Court, view to the northwest



From *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 17, 1960



Unit number 2 in motor court, view to the east



Interior of one of the motor court units, view to the northeast

Context: Tourist courts and Motels in Spruce Pine in the Mid-Twentieth Century

In the early 1930s as more Americans purchased automobiles, the allure of travel beckoned thousands to hit the roads in search of adventure and leisure. The building and improvement of roads greatly boosted the nascent industry of holiday car travel. Investors and entrepreneurs saw the opportunity that this new form of tourism could bring and established tourist camps in the southern Appalachians. As one writer poetically espoused in 1932, “Western North Carolina is a haven for tourist campers. Here among shaggy peaks when evening comes, the weary motorist may rest before a well-appointed cabin while he watches the purple shadows on the mountains deepen into black and the gold in the western sky change to the silver cool stars against the blue velvet cloak of night.”²⁴

Western North Carolina experienced a resurgence in automobile tourism in the 1940s, thanks in large part to the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1934 and the Blue Ridge Parkway, started in 1935. Improved roads and the expansion of tourism as an industry boosted and promoted travel by car throughout the post-World War II era.

In 1952, Spruce Pine had one hotel and several tourist courts that could accommodate a total of 150 visitors.²⁵ Into the early 1950s, the number of motels and tourist homes and courts grew as the National Park Service completed more sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway, located only five miles to the south of Spruce Pine.

Native Alabamian Martha Armstrong opened Woodland Cottages tourist camp off Greenwood Avenue in northwest Spruce Pine. Initially in the late 1930s, Ms. Armstrong offered five cottages, each holding four or more guests. Several additional cottages were added in the 1940s and 1950s. When Ms. Armstrong announced her plan to build the cottages, the Asheville newspaper remarked that “each cottage will be completely furnished including bath, and will be well built so that they may be occupied comfortably at any season of the year.”²⁶ Approximately thirteen small weatherboard and saddle-notched-log houses from the late 1930s through 1950s remain on the 5.43-acre wooded parcel.

In the 1950s, Carrie Ellis operated Ellis Cottages, which included eight units with eight bathrooms, while Ed Vance ran Vance Tourist Home. Arnold Cottages included ten small dwellings, while Country Club Court contained eight rooms “in a lovely setting.”²⁷ Just inside the Avery County border, Beam’s Court and Motel Resort on US 19 had thirty rooms, each with a bathroom. Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Beam operated the establishment “in sight of Blue Ridge Highway,” presumably meaning the Blue Ridge Parkway. The motor court offered Beautyrest Mattresses and a grade A health rating.²⁸ The Beams also operated a Chinese restaurant known for its outstanding food. The brick

²⁴ “W.N.C. Tourist Camps Draw Large Patronage from Restless Motorists,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 31, 1932.

²⁵ “Spruce Pine Makes Living from Minerals,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 9, 1952.

²⁶ “Several Small Cottages to be Erected,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 33, 1936.

²⁷ “Spruce Pine Prepares for Fine Tourist Season,” *Asheville Citizen Times*, June 6, 1954.

²⁸ Advertisement in *Asheville Citizen Times*, June 17, 1956.

office and U-shaped motel building stand in poor condition. The county seat of Bakersville had the McKinney Inn, Mrs. Washburn Sparks' Tourist Home next to the courthouse, and Ms. Claude Young's Tourist Home on Highway 26.²⁹



Two of the cabins at Woodland Cottages in Spruce Pine



Beam's Court and Motel Resort is in Avery County, just over the Mitchell County border in Avery County

²⁹ 1940 Census of the Population, ancestry.com; "Mitchell has Tourist Facilities," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 31, 1953.



Sign on US 19 for the now-closed Beams Restaurant and Motor Lodge

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Baker opened the Baker Motel on Oak Avenue in downtown Spruce Pine in January 1956 on Oak Street. The motel boasted twenty-seven rooms, televisions in the lobby, and second floor rooms with wall-to-wall carpet.³⁰ The building now houses the Spruce Pine Motel.



Original Baker Motel (1956) on Oak Street, view to the north

³⁰ "Open—for Winter Comfort," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 2, 1956.

Evaluation

Located on the east side of NC 226, the primary road between the Spruce Pine and the Blue Ridge Parkway, Spruce Pine Court retains its integrity of setting and location, and association. Although slightly deteriorated, the complex retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Spruce Pine Court, with its separate owner's house and motor court, retains the integrity of feeling and association of a mid-twentieth-century tourist-related historic property.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Spruce Pine Court is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as an intact representation of a motor court established during the post-war boom years of automobile tourism in western North Carolina. Although numerous such establishments operated during the post-World War II era, Spruce Pine Court is one of the only surviving complexes of its type where the motor court stands separate and distinct from the owner's house. Spruce Pine Court is significant on the local level.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Neither Daisy Mae Ellis nor her husband, Lonnie Geter "Pete" Ellis made specific contributions to local, state, or national history related to their involvement in Spruce Pine Court. Therefore, Spruce Pine Court is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Spruce Pine Court is a rare surviving example of tourist court architecture. Spruce Pine Court is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Spruce Pine Court is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary

The boundary for Spruce Pine Court includes the little over two acres containing the circa 1943 Daisy and Pete Ellis House, the motor court they built in 1953 and operated until 1970, and three mobile homes standing close to the motor court. The boundary also includes a portion of the former NC 26 highway that runs in front of the establishment. On its west side, the NRHP boundary extends to the east edge of the pavement of NC 226. The boundary excludes the remainder of the five-acre parcel containing most of the mobile home park. That portion of the parcel is eliminated because it detracts from the Spruce Pine Court's significance and integrity.



NRHP map for Spruce Pine Court, created from Mitchell County GIS

9. St. Lucien Catholic Church: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	St. Lucien Catholic Church
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0011
Location	695 Summit Avenue, Spruce Pine
PIN	0799-05-09-4052
Construction Date	1935, 1990
Recommendation	Eligible under Criterion C



Facade of St. Lucien Catholic Church, view to the east-southeast

Description

St. Lucien Catholic Church stands on a well-landscaped rise overlooking Summit Avenue. A pair of stone retaining walls lead from Summit Avenue to the main parking lot. The church is a small, stone-clad, front-gabled building with a front parapet topped by a simple cross. In 1990, the church was enlarged with a stone-clad, one-story, hip-roofed wing on the north and east (rear) sides. A small stone garage attaches to the rear.

A stone projecting entrance at the center of the façade contains recessed double wood doors and is topped by a small statue of Jesus nestled in a niche. Smaller statues flank the entrance and rest on pedestals. The side elevations display colorful stained glass. Synthetic faux-slate tiles sheathe the roof.



Southwest (rear) corner of the church, view to the northeast



Interior looking toward sanctuary, view to the east



1990 wing on north side, view to the east



Northeast (rear) corner of 1990 wing, view to the southwest

The interior consists of the nave, wooden pews, and a slightly elevated sanctuary where the altar, ambo, credence table, and tabernacle are located. Wood sheathes the ceilings. The 1990 addition containing additional pews extends at a right angle from near the sanctuary. The remainder of the church interior was not accessible.

A stone veneer and vinyl-sided parish house dating to around 1980 stands just north of the church. The side-gabled building is partially clad in stone and features a stone chimney on its façade.



St. Lucien Catholic Church Site Plan, created from Mitchell County GIS

History

St. Lucien's Catholic Church began in 1928 at the Topliff Hotel (not extant) in Spruce Pine. The first priest came from Johnson City to Spruce Pine each Saturday to celebrate mass. In 1935, Bakersville native Ella Clapp Thompson (1870-1944) donated the land where the church stands in memory of her brother, Furman F. Clapp.³¹ David Carpenter Greene (1902-1978) served as stonemason for the building. His work included area homes, churches, and commercial buildings. He built the First Baptist Church in Spruce Pine, Central Baptist Church, and the original 1927 Overmountain Men monument at Gillespie Gap, a portion of which now stands at the North Carolina Museum of Minerals.³² Greene and fellow stonemason Charlie Mitchell also built the Gunter Building of river rock in 1941 in downtown Spruce Pine.

³¹ Information from an undated postcard of St. Lucien Catholic Church.

³² David Biddix and Chris Hollifield, *Spruce Pine*, (Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 85-86.

Ella Clapp Thompson was a district attorney in New York state, actively worked in the suffragette movement, and sat on the board of the Penland School. While her father, J.G. Clapp, is credited with starting the mica mine industry in the region, she owned several mica mines in Mitchell County in the early twentieth century.³³ The church for which Thompson donated the land remains an active congregation.



Ella Clapp Thompson by Edmonston, Washington, D.C., ca. 1910. [to 1920] <https://www.loc.gov/item/mnwp000057/>.

Architectural Context: Stone Churches in Mitchell County

Several stone churches from the first half of the twentieth century stand in and around Spruce Pine. Builders found stone in plentiful quantities in the mountains throughout Mitchell County and the surrounding area. Because of the extensive local mica industry, micaceous stone, also called gneiss, a dark gray to nearly black rock, was used extensively in the area. Stonemasons like David Greene and Charlie Mitchell built many of the stone buildings found throughout the county in this period including the 1940 former Spruce Pine Town Hall at 286 Oak Avenue and the Crystal Palace (ML0017) at 29 Crystal Street in Spruce Pine, dating to 1937.

Founded in 1900, Spruce Pine First Baptist Church (ML0010) at 125 Tappan Street is a gable-front stone church dating to circa 1940 and built by stonemason David Greene. The square stone posts

³³ "Mrs. Thompson, Owner of Mica Mines, Dies," *Asheville Citizen*, December 18, 1944; Anna Carrick, Biographical Sketch of Ella Clapp (Mrs. Ella St. Clair Thompson), Included in *Online Biographical Dictionary of Militant Woman Suffragists, 1913-1920*, www.documents.alexanderstreet.com.

and front-gabled portico were added in the 1950s and a steeple was added in 1970. A large educational wing and fellowship hall dates to 1990. A recent remodeling added brick to the front of the sanctuary greatly altering the building.



Spruce Pine First Baptist Church, view to the northeast

Built in 1945, Central Baptist Church (ML0045) on Oak Avenue in Spruce Pine is a mostly intact front-gabled stone church with a front-gabled stone porch. A 1951 stone education wing extends from the west elevation while a newer stone addition is to the northeast. David Greene completed the stonework on the church.



Central Baptist Church, view to the north

Chestnut Grove Baptist Church at 1029 Chestnut Grove Road in southwest Mitchell County is an intact Gothic Revival stone church. Built in 1945, the gable-front church features Gothic arch windows and a front-gabled synthetic wood portico.



Southwest corner of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, view to the northeast

Evaluation

Located on the east side of Summit Avenue in the southern part of Spruce Pine, St. Lucien Catholic Church is a small chapel built of native stone in 1935. Because it remains in a mainly residential area, the church retains its integrity of setting and location. An addition in 1990 greatly enlarged the church but was built of native stone similar to the original church's stone and stands mostly to the rear of the historic building. The historic interior remains mostly intact. Altogether, the church retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. St. Lucien Catholic Church continues to function as a religious building and retains its integrity of feeling and association.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. St. Lucien Catholic Church is one of many historic churches that convey the history of religion in Mitchell County. The church is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. No one associated with St. Lucien Catholic Church achieved significance on any level. Therefore, the church is not recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. St. Lucien Catholic Church is an example of a religious building constructed of native stone by noted local stonemason David C. Greene. The 1990s addition, also in stone, is set back from the church façade so that it neither overwhelms nor detracts from the craftsmanship of the original building. The building exemplifies the tradition of native stone building in Mitchell County and is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. St. Lucien Catholic Church is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary

The NRHP Boundary for St. Lucien Catholic Church encompasses the entire 1.06-acre parcel containing the church and parish house plus approximately .08 additional acres to include a small sliver of land east of the church in order to carry the boundary to the west edge of South Dale Street. The NRHP boundary also extends beyond the parcel at the southwest corner to include stone walls that mark the entrance to the church parking lot on the south of the building. The boundary along Summit Avenue follows the east edge of the roadway in order to include the church signage with a stone base, all of the hillside upon which the church stands, and the stone walls that extend from along Summit Avenue to the west edge of the parking lot south of the historic building. Altogether, the eligible parcel contains approximately 1.14 acres. The parking lot to the south of the NRHP parcel is not included because it occupies separate acreage and does not contribute to the significance of the St. Lucien Catholic Church.



The boundary includes stone walls along Summit Avenue marking the entrance to the church parking lot, view to the northeast



NRHP Boundary shown as the shaded area, map created from HPO Web

10. Bea Hensley’s Forge (Bea Hensley and Son Forge): Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Bea Hensley’s Forge (Bea Hensley and Son Forge)
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0140
Location	15090 NC 226, Spruce Pine
PIN	0797-02-69-0860
Construction Date	1954, 1969, 1972
Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A and B



1954 Bea Hensley Forge in foreground with 1972 addition to the left, view to the west

Description

Bea Hensley’s Forge includes three principal buildings that occupy a roughly rectangular parcel at the northwest corner of NC 226 and Dula Road just north of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The .41-acre parcel slopes downward from front to back or east to west. A small unpaved parking area extends in front of the buildings that face the highway.

Buildings at Bea Hensley’s Forge are utilitarian and lack any architectural style. They were built for creating metalwork and selling the goods to travelers and clients around the world. The earliest building dates to 1954 and is a concrete block forge building with a front gable roof and sixteen-lite, metal casement windows. Bea Hensley used the 1954 building as his showroom after he built the 1969 forge that stands to the rear. A wooden batten door is centered on the façade. The 1954 forge is below road level so that steps lead from the parking area down to the front door. Michael

Hensley, son of Bea Hensley, explains that the building ended up in that position during the time the highway department was reconfiguring NC 226 in the mid-1950s. Apparently, the road workers built up the road bed so much that the forge was left in a position below the level of the new highway.³⁴ The main interior room is sheathed in wood paneling and features a large stone hearth. A small wooden addition with a flat roof attaches to the north elevation. Its front door features the oversized metal hinges made by Bea Hensley.



1954 Forge, view to the west

A stucco-covered, low-pitched, side-gabled, concrete block building constructed in 1972 stands just to the south of the forge. The façade is sheathed in later board-and-batten. Because of the parcel's sloping topography, it is one story on the highway side and two stories on the rear. On the rear elevation, the lower level features modern double wood doors with Hensley ironwork hinges and latches. A concrete block flue rises from the south gable end. The lower level workshop also functions as storage for steel for blacksmithing.

Facing south toward Dula Road, a side-gabled concrete block forge building behind the original showroom dates to 1969. A metal roof tops the building with twenty-five-light windows. Two large brick chimneys rise from the roof slope. The interior contains blacksmithing equipment including Daniel Boone VI's steel anvil, which is inscribed with the date it was made, February 2, 1884.

³⁴ Michael Hensley, interview with Jennifer Martin, July 16, 2019.

Michael Hensley's anvil, which dates to 1887, also remains on the interior. In 1991, Bill Friday taped an interview inside this building with Bea and Mike Hensley during which they demonstrated their blacksmithing skills and musical abilities on the Boone anvil. Noted contractor George Beauford Smith built the 1969 forge building.

Other structures on the parcel include a collapsing wooden shed with vertical wood siding originally used to store steel. Two small prefabricated buildings on the site are used for storage. A table topped with a shelter is south of the 1969 forge and is used when the blacksmiths prefer to work outside the shop.



Interior of 1954 forge with hearth visible to the right, view to the west



Site plan, created from HPO Web



Temporary addition on north side of forge, view to the west (to be removed in 2019)



1972 building, view to the west-southwest



Rear of the 1972 building and front of 1969 forge (on the left), view to the east



1969 forge, view to the north



Interior of 1969 shop, view to the northwest. Daniel Boone VI's anvil is seen in front of the fireplace where Bea Hensley worked



Michael Hensley's workspace, view to the northeast



Steel storage shed, view to the northeast



Storage buildings, view to the north



Outdoor work area with including Bea Hensley's original work tabletop, view to the south toward Dula Road

History

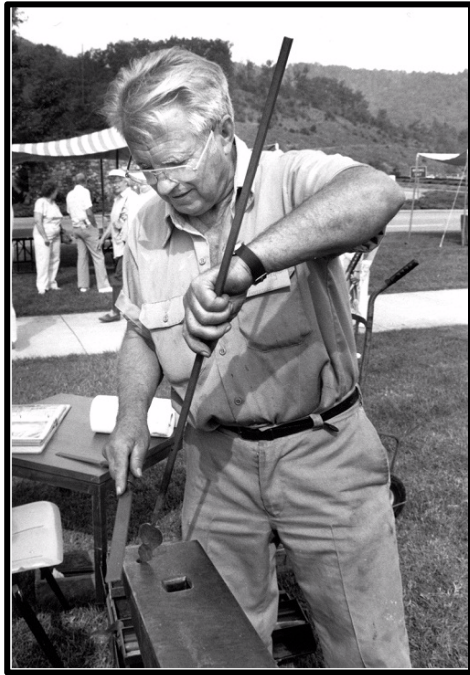
The son of a Baptist minister, Bea Hensley (1919-2013) grew up near Burnsville where he apprenticed with famed blacksmith, Daniel Nelson Boone VI (1902-1970), a descendant of the pioneer frontiersman Daniel Boone (1734-1820). After finishing school, Hensley worked for Daniel Boone and his brother, Wade, who opened the Boone Forge on Beaver Creek in Spruce Pine in 1937 after receiving the contract to supply Colonial Williamsburg with ironwork for the site's restoration. While working for Boone, Hensley produced hinges, andirons, firesets, candleholders, and cooking utensils for Colonial Williamsburg. Hensley was the last of five blacksmiths to provide ironwork for the restoration at Williamsburg. In 2010, Hensley recalled his time working with Daniel Boone, "I kindly grew up in his shop." He later purchased the forge from Boone and finished the project for Colonial Williamsburg.³⁵ According to Bea Hensley's son, Michael, the Boone forge is no longer standing.



Portion of catalog of Bea Hensley's work (left) and advertisement in *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 27, 1965 (right)

³⁵ Kristin G. Congdon and Kara Kelley Hallmark, *American Folk Art: A Regional Reference, Volume 1* (Santa Barbara, California) ABC-CLIO, 2012), 258; Michael Joslin, "Daniel Boone VI Cottage," *The Pinnacles*, Winter Spring 2010-2011, 20.

In 1953, Bea Hensley bought property along NC 226 from Clay Hollifield and built the forge in 1954. As an independent blacksmith, Hensley produced work for clients all over the world, including for the Naval Hall in Great Lakes, Michigan.³⁶ In 1961, the International Agricultural



Undated photo of Bea Hensley from
calebandlindapirtle.com

Exhibition selected Hensley to submit work to its event in Cairo, Egypt. He sent a fireplace set consisting of a poker, shovel, and hanger.³⁷ He regularly exhibited his metal works at the Village of Yesteryear at the North Carolina State Fair in the 1950s and 1960s.

Bea's son, Michael Hensley (b. 1947), became his partner in 1965 and they renamed the shop the Bea Hensley and Son Forge. The father and son became known for communicating with the melodic sound of pounding hammers on steel anvils, following a long tradition carried out by blacksmiths called "the hammer language."³⁸

Bea Hensley was named a North Carolina living treasure by the University of North Carolina in 1990.³⁹ In 1993, Hensley received a North Carolina Folk Heritage Award for preserving the blacksmithing tradition. In 1995, the National Endowment for the Arts gave him a National Heritage Fellowship Award.⁴⁰

Bea Hensley built a new blacksmith forge behind the original shop in 1969. The *Asheville Citizen-Times* described the new forge as "relatively modern with new bright red hearths with electric blowers in the fire boxes to heat the pulverized blacksmith coal to iron melting temperatures." Despite some new equipment, the newspaper declared that "the bulk of the work is still done from fire to anvil just as it has been done for centuries."⁴¹

In 1972, the Hensleys built a two-story concrete block building south of the original forge. For a period, he rented the 1972 building to W. Thayer Francis, who operated a marquetry shop. Francis cut tiny slivers of wood and arranged them in inlaid patterns to create pictures or designs. The 1972 building now houses a jewelry store selling native stone pieces.

Bea Hensley died in 2003. His son, Michael, continues the family tradition and has become a well-known blacksmith who produces work for clients all over the world.

³⁶ "Bea Hensley, Expert Metal Worker, Now Has Own Forge," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 12, 1955.

³⁷ "Exhibition to Feature Area Crafts," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 28, 1960.

³⁸ Mike Hensley Interview, Spruce Pine, North Carolina, October 16, 2003, interview by Ted Coyle, cbn.lib.unc.edu.

³⁹ North Carolina Living Treasures, library.uncw.edu.

⁴⁰ "Historic Artist Bea Hensley," blueridgeheritage.com.

⁴¹ "Mountain Craftsmen Turn out Future Heirlooms," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 1, 1973.



Michael Hensley at the 1969 forge, July 16, 2019

Context: Blacksmithing in Western North Carolina

The abundance of iron ore and timber in the region enabled early settlers in western North Carolina to create tools, weapons, building material, and household objects out of metal. In order to serve isolated pockets of settlers, blacksmiths typically lived in small communities throughout the southern Appalachians during the settlement period of the nineteenth century.

Into the twentieth century, blacksmithing became somewhat obsolete as modern methods of creating utility objects from iron and metal emerged. As a result, blacksmiths began making decorative and ornamental ironwork—pieces such as hinges, latches, and candlesticks. American taste for traditional handcrafted objects during the craft revival of the early twentieth century provided a ready market for blacksmiths in western North Carolina. Many joined the Southern Highland Craft Guild in order to demonstrate their skill and market their work. Penland School of Crafts and John C. Campbell Folk School hosted blacksmithing classes to pass the trade to subsequent generations. Daniel Boone VI emerged as one of the first blacksmiths in the twentieth century who went from making plow points, horseshoes, and other work pieces to art objects such as ornamental gates, fire sets, and other decorative pieces.⁴²

⁴² "Smithing Subject of Mountain Heritage Exhibit," *Smoky Mountain Neighbors*, September 19-20, 1990.

During the period when Bea Hensley was honing his craft at Daniel Boone VI's forge, several blacksmiths lived and worked in and around Spruce Pine. In 1940, George Silvers and Cecil Sparks offered their services to clients in the Grassy Creek section of southern Mitchell County. Joe Sparks had a forge north of the Toe River near Spruce Pine. In Bakersville, Wilson Smith Jones (1875-1958) made his living as a blacksmith, later working for the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal.⁴³ It remains unknown what type of work these craftsmen did during the 1940s and 1950s, but Bea Hensley emerged as the prominent blacksmith in Mitchell County in the middle decades of the twentieth century. He gained national attention for his decorative work and was heralded for carrying on the tradition of blacksmithing in the southern Appalachians.

Evaluation

Located on the west side of NC 226 near the Blue Ridge Parkway, Bea Hensley's Forge is a complex of buildings dating from 1954 to 1972. The forge remains in the place where Bea Hensley and later his son, Mike Hensley, operated their metal forge and therefore retains its integrity of setting and location. The forge began in one concrete block building and was expanded over time with the construction of additional concrete block buildings as Bea Hensley's work became more well-known and his pieces more in demand. The additions to the original forge chronicle the evolution of the Hensley operation and do not detract from its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The utilitarian buildings contain the tools and equipment associated with Bea Hensley's tenure at the site, therefore contributing to its integrity of feeling and association.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Bea Hensley's Forge represents the history of blacksmithing and the continuation of traditional mountain handcrafts in Mitchell County in the mid twentieth century. Bea Hensley and other craftspeople in the southern Appalachians garnered newfound attention to their work as part of the southern Appalachian craft revival that spanned the period from the late nineteenth century into the mid-twentieth century. The property is recommended eligible for the NRHP in the area of Art under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Bea Hensley's Forge is significant for its association with Bea Hensley, one of North Carolina's most prominent blacksmiths of the twentieth century. After learning the skill from Daniel Boone VI, Hensley went on to establish himself as a craftsman who produced an array of ornamental ironwork that became highly sought after across the world. Because of his contributions to the art of blacksmithing, Hensley received many accolades including the North Carolina Living Treasures Award in 1990, the 1993 Folk Heritage Award, and the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship in 1995. His work appeared at the Pasadena Museum of Fine Arts, the North Carolina Museum of History, the Governor's Palace at Colonial

⁴³ 1940 Federal Census of the Population, ancestry.com.

Williamsburg, and the Smithsonian Institution. Bea Hensley's Forge is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Bea Hensley. The forge he started in 1954 best represents the work of the prominent blacksmith whose career spanned over seventy years.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Bea Hensley's Forge is a small complex of concrete block buildings built in the period from 1954 to 1972. The buildings are not distinctive for their form or style but were constructed to house the blacksmithing business of Bea Hensley. The forge is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. St. Bea Hensley's Forge is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary

The NRHP boundary for Bea Hensley's Forge includes .61 acres, which embraces the full extent of the .41-acre parcel that has been associated with the blacksmithing shop established by Hensley since 1954. The remaining .20 acres included in the NRHP boundary takes in a portion of the parking lot on the east side and extends to the west edge of NC 226. It also extends to the north edge of Dula Road on the south side to include all support structures associated with the forge.



NRHP boundary indicated by the shading outlined in black. Map created from HPO Web

11. Woody's Chair Shop: Property Description and Evaluation

Resource Name	Woody's Chair Shop
HPO Survey Site Number	ML0141
Location	34 Dale Road, Spruce Pine
PIN	0799-03-31-3473
Construction Date	1946
Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A and B



Facade, view to the southwest

Description

Woody's Chair Shop occupies a quarter-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Dale Road and Old NC 226 just south of Spruce Pine. The shop stands in a light industrial/commercial area with a trucking company located just to the south and an auto repair shop to the west. The building sits at the lower part of the lot that slopes upward toward the south so that the southeast side of the building is below the grade of Dale Road.

The 1946, one-story, concrete block building sheathed in stucco between 1946 and 1964 is topped by a corrugated metal front gable roof with overhanging eaves supported by oversized triangular knee braces on the façade. The roof extends on the west side to create a drive-in bay. A pair of pivoting metal windows pierces the wood shingles that sheathe the front gable. Original metal

windows remain throughout the building, including the oversized display windows flanking the original recessed entrance with original double-leaf wood doors. A Woody's Chair Shop roof sign occupies the roof ridge. Two cement-sheathed flues rise from the roof. The original concrete pad that held gas pumps remains in front of the building.



Woody's Chair Shop site plan. Created from Mitchell County GIS

The interior remains mostly intact. The workshop on the rear has a floor made of locust blocks and contains the Woody family woodworking equipment, included a machine built in 1882 that creates the mortises for chairs. The shop also contains machines Arval Woody made, including one to center blocks of wood before they are turned on a lathe, another to level chair legs, and a sander.⁴⁴ The original wood stove remains in the showroom. The only change to the interior has been the updating of the showroom floor with laminate wood.

The saw mill built by Arval Woody stands behind the shop.

⁴⁴ "Appalachian Culture: Preserving the Legacy of a Man who Makes Chairs," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 21, 2007.



Southeast corner, view to the north



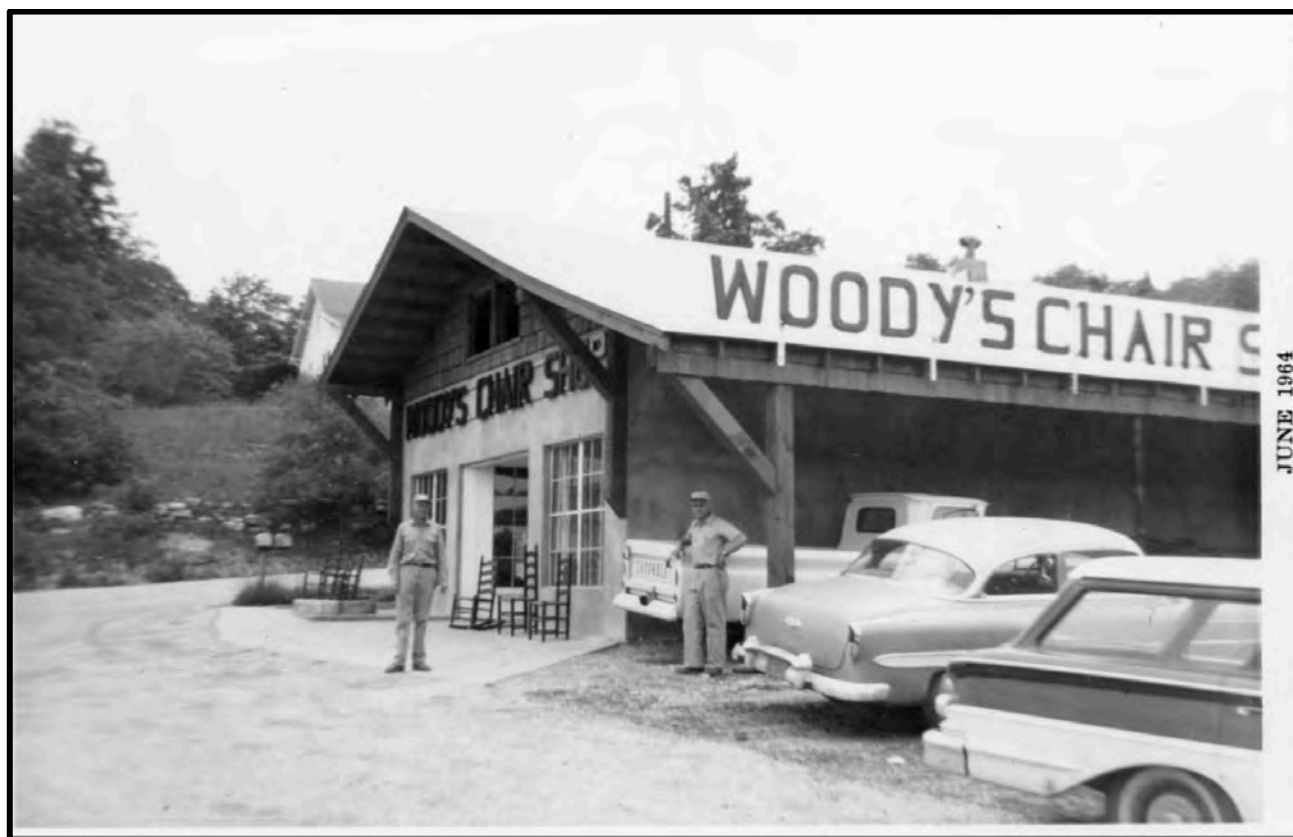
West side of shop and saw mill, view to the south



Showroom, view to the south



The shop, view to the southwest



Arval and Walter Woody at their shop in 1964, from "200 Years of Chairs" on the HighCountryNC.com

History

Five generations of the Woody family built wooden chairs. The first of the family to make chairs, Henry Woody and his son, Wyatt Woody (1829-1903), who settled in the area in the early nineteenth century, produced mule-eared, cherry and walnut chairs with bottoms made of white hickory.⁴⁵

Wyatt's son, Arthur Anderson Woody (1855-1952), and successive generations of the family including Arthur's daughter, Decie, made chairs with no glue or nails and crafted chair posts from air-dried wood turned on a lathe to simulate years of waxing and polishing. The chair backs and rounds were kiln dried and the builder hand-rubbed the finish to avoid chipping. Each generation of the master woodworkers followed the phases of the moon to determine the best time to harvest wood, a long-held tradition among Appalachian craftspeople.⁴⁶ Lucy Morgan, who founded the Penland School of Handicrafts in 1928, invited Arthur and Decie Woody to teach chair-making classes at the school during the Depression.⁴⁷ In her 1935 book, *Cabins in the Laurel*, Muriel Earley

⁴⁵ "Woodys Top Chairmakers," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 15, 1961.

⁴⁶ "The Woodwise Craftsmen Watched the Moon," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 17, 1970.

⁴⁷ Lucy Morgan, "Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past and Present," wcu.edu.

Sheppard described the Woody's chairs as "fashioned in simple mountain style with comfortably curved two-slat backs."⁴⁸



Chairmaker Arthur Woody (1855-1952) and Emily Caledonia Woody (1852-1933), grandparents of Arval Woody, undated photo, from Ancestry.com

Arval James Woody (1920-2012), the last direct descendant to make chairs, knew the craft when he entered World War II and learned to build machines while in the service working in a European equipment warehouse. In 1946, after returning from the war, Arval and his brother Walter built the shop on NC 226 south of Spruce Pine from concrete blocks they made. The business began as a general store and service station with a roped-off area to showcase the chairs they built. Soon after opening the store, the chair shop became their sole business.⁴⁹ In 1951, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* described the shop: "Here with electric power, they follow in a modern manner, the traditions of careful chair-making that go all the way back to their great-great-grandfather."⁵⁰

In 1952, at the request of Gov. Terry Sanford, Arval Woody made two small rockers for Caroline and John Kennedy Jr. while their father, John F. Kennedy, served as president.⁵¹ In a letter on White House letterhead dated July 24, 1963 to Arval Woody acknowledging the gift, the president remarked, "it was indeed thoughtful of you to remember my children in such a nice way." Just

⁴⁸ Muriel Earley Sheppard, *Cabins in the Laurel* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1991; reprinted from 1935 edition), 238.

⁴⁹ Narrative History of Woody's Chair Shop, author unknown, on shop letterhead, Arval Woody Papers, University of North Carolina Asheville Special Collections.

⁵⁰ "Growth of Chair-Making Industry in WNC Recalled by A. Woody, 95," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 14, 1951.

⁵¹ "Chairmaker Arval Woody fashions wooden heirlooms," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 16, 2004.

before he passed away, John Kennedy Jr. gave the chair the Woodys made for him to a charity, which auctioned it for \$10,000.⁵²

Walter Woody retired in 1980 and sold his part of the business to Arval's wife, Nora. In 1995, the University of North Carolina named Arval Woody a North Carolina Living Treasure. The American Craft Museum in New York and the Smithsonian Institute have displayed Arval Woody's chairs.⁵³ After Charles Kuralt profiled him for a television segment, orders for the chairs flooded the little shop.⁵⁴

Arval Woody and his wife, Nora, had no children to whom to pass the chair-making craft. His nieces and nephews showed little interest in the craft, even though their fathers made chairs alongside Arval. One nephew, Jimmy Woody, owns the shop and employs Ricky Hollifield, a local craftsman who makes chairs in much the same way the Woodys did and with the same equipment.⁵⁵ Arval Woody's four brothers and two sisters predeceased him. He died in 2012 and was buried alongside his wife, Nora, at Greenlee Cemetery in Spruce Pine.⁵⁶ Woody's Chair Shop still operates and is owned by a Woody descendant.



Members of the Woody family in front of the building in the 1940s. Photo from Woody's Chair Shop

⁵² Letter on display at Woody's Chair Shop, Spruce Pine, North Carolina; Appalachian Culture: Preserving the Legacy of a Man who Makes Chairs," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 21, 2007.

⁵³ North Carolina Living Treasure, library.uncw.edu.

⁵⁴ "Five Generations of Crafting Tradition," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 13, 2005.

⁵⁵ "Five Generations of Crafting Tradition," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 13, 2005.

⁵⁶ Obituary for Arval J. Woody, *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 28, 2012.

Evaluation

Located on the west side of NC 226 about four miles north of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Woody's Chair Shop is a 1946 stucco-covered concrete block building where Arval and Walter Woody made chairs according to their family's tradition. The shop remains in the place the Woodys built it in 1946 and retains its integrity of setting and location. The application of stucco to the exterior occurred before 1964 during Arval and Walter Woody's tenure in the building and does not detract from its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The continuation of traditional building ways using historic equipment inside the shop contributes to its integrity of feeling and association.

Properties can be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A if they retain integrity and are associated with a significant event or pattern of events that have made contributions to history at the local, state, or national level. Woody's Chair Shop is significant in the area of Art for its association with established southern Appalachian craft traditions in Mitchell County. The Woody's work gained worldwide attention during the Appalachian craft revival of the late nineteenth and twentieth century. Woody's Chair Shop is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and be associated with individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. Woody's Chair Shop is significant for its association with Arval James Woody, the last member of the Woody family in Mitchell County to make chairs at Woody's Chair Shop in the tradition established by his ancestors who settled in this part of North Carolina in the nineteenth century. Arval Woody exhibited his chairs at the North Carolina State Fair in the 1960s and was named a North Carolina Living Treasure in 1995. Woody's Chair Shop is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Arval Woody. The building he and his brother, Walter, built in 1946 best represents the work of the prominent chairmaker.

For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion C, it must retain integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Woody's Chair Shop is not distinctive for its form or style but was built as a store and gas station with a back room where the Woody brothers made chairs. The building soon transitioned to solely a workshop and chair store. Woody's Chair Shop is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

It is unlikely that additional study of this property would yield any unretrieved data not discoverable through informant interviews, building technology, and documentary sources. Woody's Chair Shop is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

NRHP Boundary

The NRHP Boundary encompasses approximately .32 acres, which includes the .26-acre legal parcel. The eligible boundary follows the south edge of Old NC 226 on the north side and the west edge of Dale Road on the east side.



NRHP map with boundary indicated by shading outlined with a black line. Map created from HPO Web

Bibliography

Ancestry.com

Asheville Citizen-Times

Biddix, David and Chris Hollifield. *Spruce Pine*. Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Carrick, Anna. Biographical Sketch of Ella Clapp (Mrs. Ella St. Clair Thompson). Included in *Online Biographical Dictionary of Militant Woman Suffragists, 1913-1920*, documents.alexanderstreet.com

Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina. Gillespie Gap Monument, Spruce Pine. docsouth.unc.edu.

Congdon, Kristin G. and Kara Kelley Hallmark. *American Folk Art: A Regional Reference, Volume 1*. Santa Barbara, California" ABC-CLIO, 2012.

"Historic Artist Bea Hensley." Blueridgeheritage.com

Joslin, Michael. "Daniel Boone VI Cottage." *The Pinnacles*. Winter Spring 2010-2011, 20.

Lucy Morgan. "Craft Revival: Shaping Western North Carolina Past and Present." wcu.edu.

Michael Hensley. Interview with Jennifer Martin, July 16, 2019.

Michael Hensley. Interview with Ted Coyle, October 16, 2003, cdn.lib.unc.edu/blue-ridge-parkway/media/Hensley/20031016_Hensley.pdf.

Mitchell County Register of Deeds

Narrative History of Woody's Chair Shop, author unknown, on shop letterhead. Arval Woody Papers, University of North Carolina Asheville Special Collections.

National Park Service. "Historical Development of the Parkway." *Blue Ridge Parkway, Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, January 2013.

North Carolina Living Treasures. Library.uncw.edu.

Roberts, Gale. "Stanly W. Abbott: Visionary Planner of the Blue Ridge Parkway." *Magnolia: Publication of the Southern Garden Society*, Spring 2013.

Sheppard, Muriel Earley. *Cabins in the Laurel*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1991; reprinted from 1935 edition.

“Smithing Subject of Mountain Heritage Exhibit.” *Smoky Mountain Neighbors*, September 19-20, 1990.

Tiller, Beverly. Granddaughter of Grace and Steven Millard Cox. Interview with Jennifer Martin, June 17, 2019.