



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

October 21, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, U-5972, Access Management Improvements to NC 63/New
Leicester Highway, PA 18-01-0047, Buncombe County, ER 19-2787

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2019, transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criteria for the reasons stated in the report

- Log Structure (BN6391)
- Green Hills Cemetery (BN6392)

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.

Received: 09/13/2019
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

September 10, 2019

ER 19-2787

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Due -- 10/7/19

Dear Renee:

RE: Access Management Improvements to NC 63/New Leicester Highway,
Buncombe County, TIP# U-5972, WBS# 45960.1.1, PA# 18-01-0047

H- ER 19-2787
10-14-19

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached two copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. This report concludes that there are no properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are listed on or eligible for the National Register:

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact Ms. Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Team, (919) 707-6068.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Pope Furr".

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Team

Attachments

Cc: Mike Clark, NCDOT Division 13

**Historic Structures Survey Report
Access Management
Improvements to
NC 63, Buncombe County,
North Carolina**

T.I.P. # U-5972
WBS# 45960.1.1
PA# 18-01-0047



Prepared for:

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

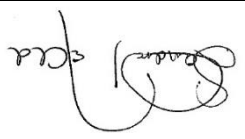
Prepared by:

Sandra DeChard
Senior Architectural Historian


Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
1011 Boulder Springs Drive, Suite 225
Richmond, VA 23325
(804) 267-3474

August 29, 2019

This document entitled *Historic Structures Survey Report Access Management Improvements to NC 63, Buncombe County, North Carolina* was prepared by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. ("Stantec") for the account of North Carolina Department of Transportation (the "Client"). Any reliance on this document by any third party is strictly prohibited. The material in it reflects Stantec's professional judgment in light of the scope, schedule and other limitations stated in the document and in the contract between Stantec and the Client. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the document was published and do not take into account any subsequent changes. Any use which a third party makes of this document is the responsibility of such third party. Such third party agrees that Stantec shall not be responsible for costs or damages of any kind, if any, suffered by it or any other third party as a result of decisions made or actions taken based on this document.

Prepared by _____

(signature)

Sandra DeChard, Senior Architectural Historian

Reviewed by _____

(signature)

Ellen Brady, Senior Principal Investigator

Approved by _____
(signature)

Christa Greene, Senior Principal, Transportation Planning & Traffic Engineering

Approved by _____
(signature)

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor, Historic Architecture Team, NCDOT

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to make access improvements to NC 63/New Leicester Highway between Newfound Road on the northwestern end of the project area and US 19/23/Patton Road on the project's southern end. The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Only two resources warranted an intensive National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation, and they are the subjects of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. NCDOT requested Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) to conduct National Register eligibility evaluations for the two resources within the APE: Log Structure (BN6391), located at 495 New Leicester Highway, and the Green Hills Cemetery (BN6392) located at 25 New Leicester Highway. Neither resource has been previously surveyed.

The evaluation of each property, at an intensive level, utilized established NRHP criteria to determine each resource's eligibility for listing. One resource, the Log Structure (BN6391), based on the research, interview with a former owner of the property, and fieldwork has been recommended as not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D. The resource was built on the property circa 1983 according to previous owners; however, it is likely the building is older and was moved to the property in the early 1980s. The resource also does not retain its architectural integrity to meet Criteria Consideration B for properties that have been moved.

The second resource, the Green Hills Cemetery, based on the fieldwork and subsequent research and evaluation, has also been recommended as not individually eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As the resource did not meet the level of significance under the four NRHP criteria, the resource also does not meet the criteria for listing under Criteria Consideration D.

Resource Name	HPO Survey #	Location	PIN	Date(s) of Construction	Recommendation
Log Structure	BN6391	495 New Leicester Highway	962916991700000	Pre-1940/ c. 1983	Not Eligible
Green Hills Cemetery	BN6392	25 New Leicester Highway	963809237700000	1901	Not Eligible

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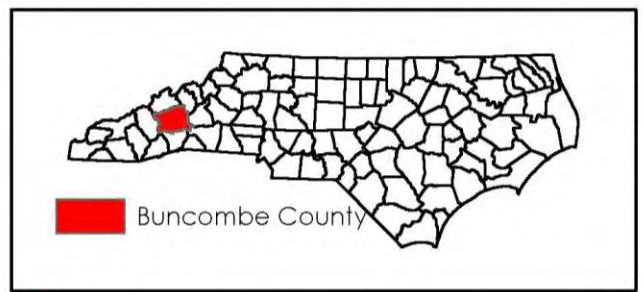
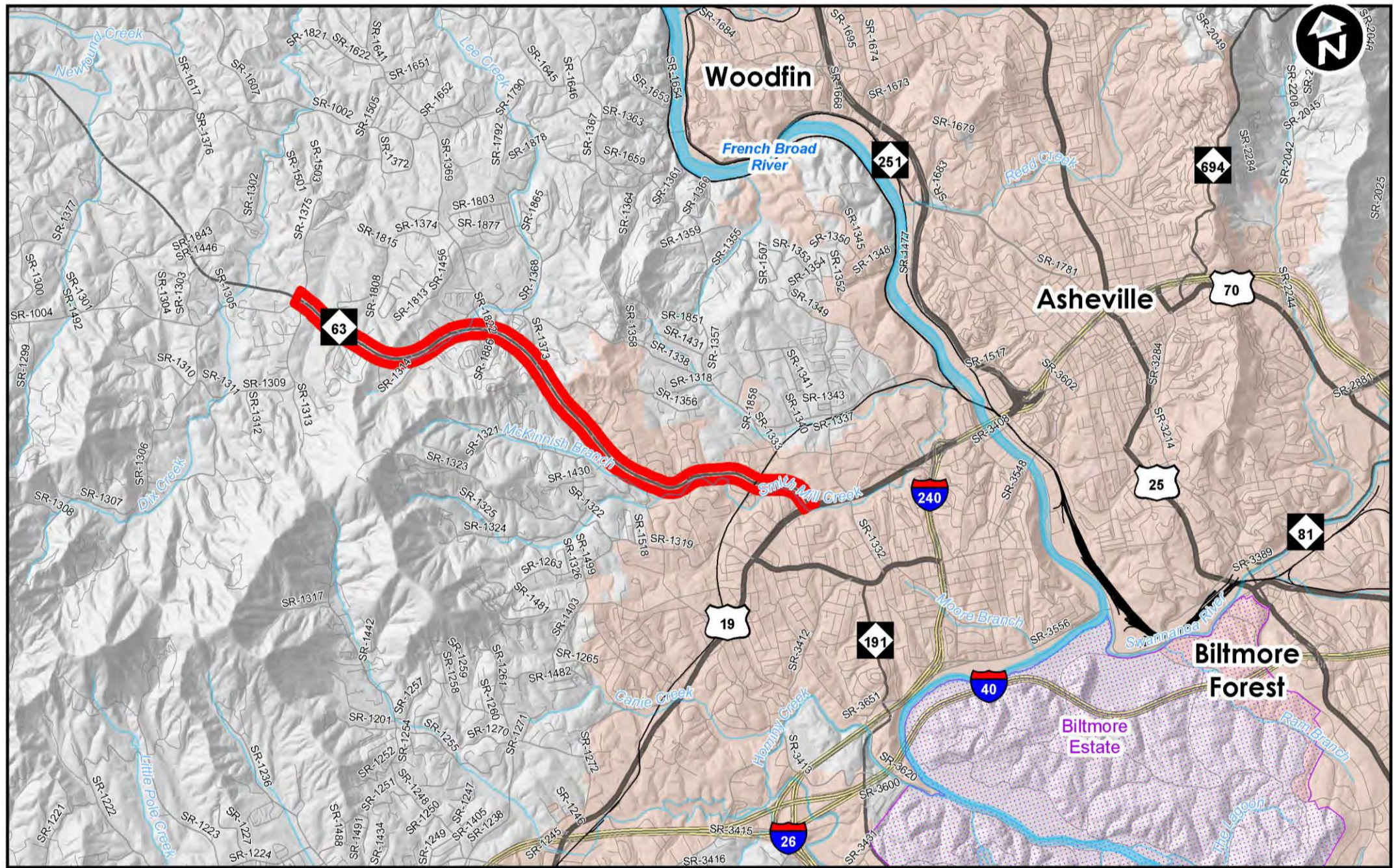
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1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND METHODOLOGY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to make access improvements to NC 63/New Leicester Highway in Buncombe County between Newfound Road on the northwestern end of the project area and US 19/23/Patton Road on the project's southern end. The project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). An NCDOT architectural historian defined an Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources approximately 50 years of age or more within the APE. Only two resources warranted an intensive National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation, and they are the subjects of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other properties and districts are not worthy of further study, and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. NCDOT requested Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) to conduct National Register eligibility evaluations for the two resources within the APE: Log House (BN6391) located at 495 New Leicester Highway, and the Green Hills Cemetery (BN6392) located at 25 New Leicester Highway. Neither resource has been previously surveyed (Figure 1).

During the time period of October 15 to 18, 2018 Tracey McDonald, Research Coordinator for Stantec, field investigated the Log House and Green Hills Cemetery under the supervision of Stantec's Senior Architectural Historian Sandra DeChard. The documentation of the Log House included a visual inspection, as well as exterior photographs of the primary resource and an interview with Wallace and Molly Braswell, recent owners of the property. During the interview, the owners stated the log structure was constructed on the property in the early 1980s, which concurs with the circa 1983 date from the Buncombe County Tax Assessment data; however, the dwelling appears to have been moved to the site from an unknown location and reconstructed on the parcel. The interior of the resource was not accessible therefore, the resource description and evaluation are based on exterior features only. The field investigation of the Green Hills Cemetery consisted of photographing overviews of the resource as well as atypical markers or those more ornate or artistic, examples of mausoleums present within the cemetery bounds, and the former residence, now cemetery office. A sketch map was drawn to depict the relationship of the cemetery roads within the boundary as well as the location of the building on the property.

The results of the National Register eligibility evaluation, based on the fieldwork, subsequent historical research, and architectural and cultural context, are presented in the following report. The eligibility evaluation of the resources was based on established NRHP criteria. The report complies with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, Executive Order 11593, relevant sections of 36CFR60 and 36CFR800, NCDOT's *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (2015), the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*, National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (USDI 1997), and North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determination of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*.



- Legend**
- █ U-5972 Study Area
 - Railroad
 - Municipal Boundaries
 - Streams
 - Interstate
 - US Route
 - NC Route
 - Secondary Routes
 - Local



Project Location Map

NC 63 (New Leicester Hwy)
 US 19/23 (Patton Avenue) to Newfound Road
 NCDOT Project No. U-5972

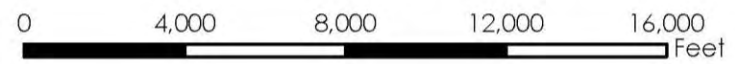


Figure 1. Project Location Map

2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the late nineteenth century, Buncombe County, with the exception of Asheville, remained rural and agrarian. The coming of the railroad to Buncombe County spurred population and economic growth county-wide, particularly in Asheville and other areas accessible by rail. With the increase in population, expansion of public cemeteries within Buncombe County became a necessity, although two of the earliest date to before the influx of population in the later part of the nineteenth century. One of the oldest, the South Asheville Cemetery, began as a slave cemetery for the James McConnell Smith property in the early to mid-nineteenth century. The Newton Cemetery, adjacent to the South Asheville Cemetery, was designated for white landowners (Jones 2000; HPO site files).

During the time of Asheville's expansion several cemeteries opened including the Riverside Cemetery in 1885 and in 1901, the Green Hills Cemetery (see below). Cemeteries established during the early decades of the twentieth century also included the Lewis Memorial Park, circa 1916, and Woodlawn Cemetery, circa 1936. While both cemeteries contain a number of earlier graves dating from the first half of the twentieth century, a majority of the graves appear to date to the late twentieth century up until the present day (www.findagrave.com). Contemporary in date to Woodlawn is the Violet Hill Cemetery, located to the northwest of the Green Hills Cemetery, which was opened in 1935 for black residents (Jones 2000; see Figure 35).

Although the population of Asheville continued to increase during the early twentieth century, the area surrounding the city remained rural through the mid-century with agriculture as the main source of employment (United States Federal Census Records 1900, 1920, and 1930; Figure 2). A majority of the project area consisted mainly of rural residences accessed by dirt roads. Although few in number, the area also included the Eliada Orphans Home and several churches with small associated cemeteries (Figure 3). The Eliada Orphans Home was established through the efforts of Reverend Lucius B. Compton, who opened the residence in 1906. Though small in the beginning, the home grew through donations which allowed new buildings and land to be purchased. The Orphans Home also was partially supported by the efforts of staff and the children, who worked on the Home's farm and sold its produce and milk. The Eliada Home is still in operation and now focuses on residential care for families (Eliada Home Archives, 2019). The area at the southern end of the project area, to the south of the Green Hill Cemetery, was historically more populated and included West Asheville, which continues to be a densely populated area (Figure 3).

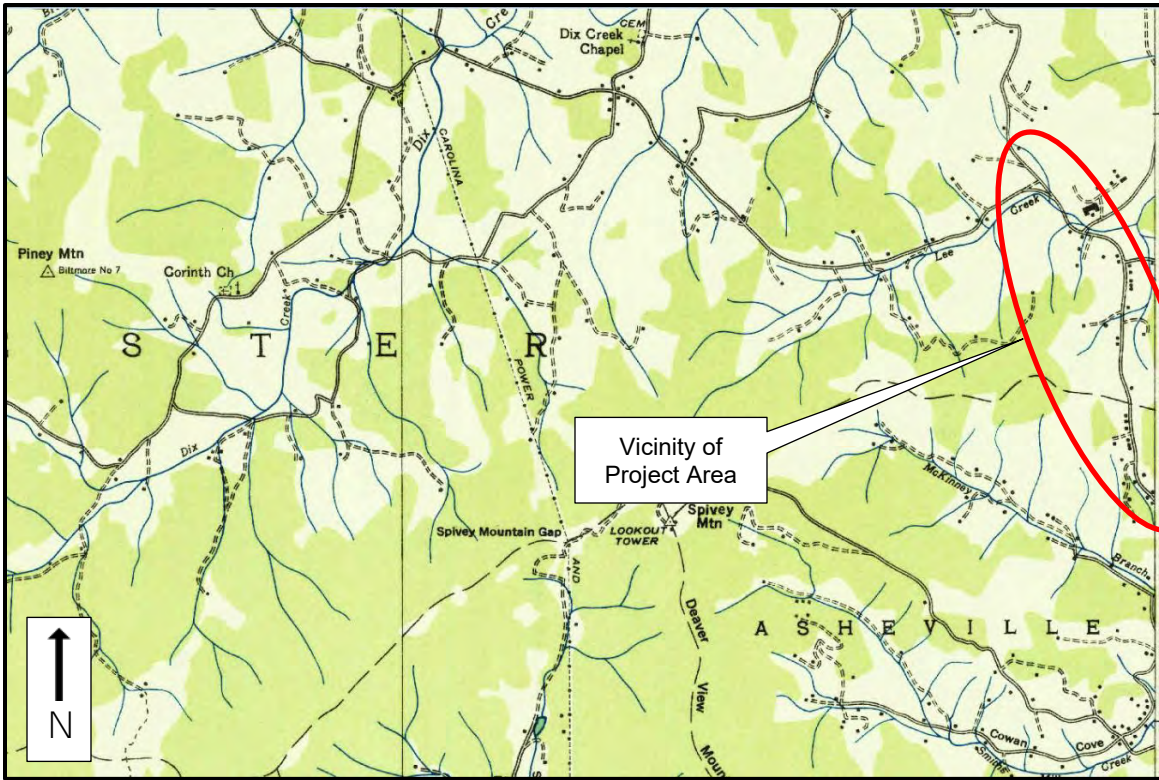


Figure 2. Detail of *Enka, NC* USGS 1:24000 Topographic Map (1936) (<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>).

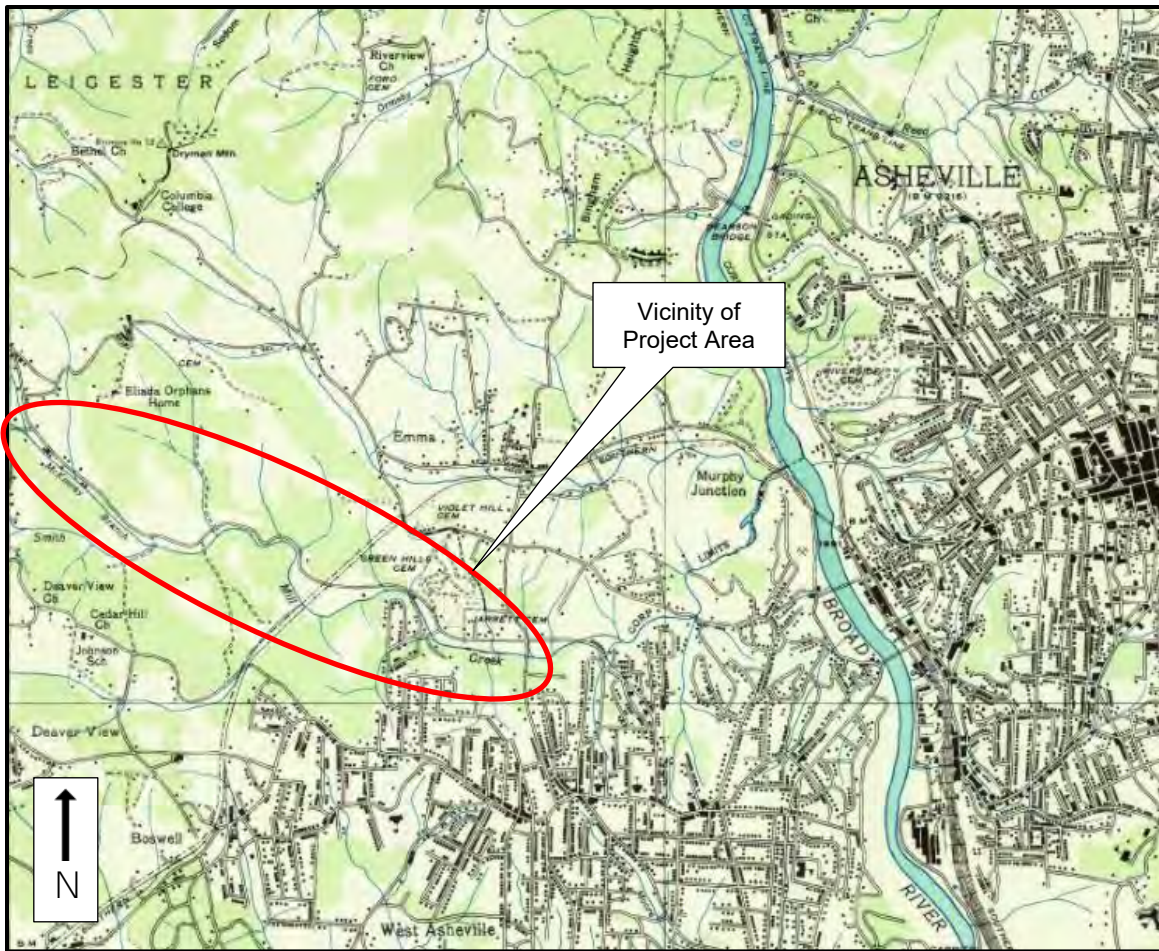


Figure 3. Detail of Asheville, NC USGS 1:24000 Topographic Map (1936) (<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>).

However, during the early to mid-twentieth century, as the automobile's popularity increased, Asheville expanded beyond its city limits and into the surrounding rural area (Griffith 2017a:31). Road improvements continued during the mid-twentieth century with the construction and improvement of New Leicester Road, sections of which follow the Old County Home Road within the study area. The section of the road between the current intersection of Old County Home Road, southeast of Toad Drive, and Muse Drive was built between 1942 and 1961 (*Enka, NC USGS Topographic Maps, 1942 and 1961*).

In the late twentieth century, the suburbanization of Asheville into Buncombe County had a resurgence. During the last decades of the century and into the early twenty-first century, new residential developments as well as commercial developments were constructed in many areas of the county, including along New Leicester Road. The once rural landscape was replaced by a number of strip malls, including the Erwin Hills Plaza (the location of the BN6391), as well as chain stores and businesses.

3.0 NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATIONS

Log House (BN6391)

Resource Name	Log House	
HPO Survey Site #	BN6391	
Location	495 New Leicester Highway	
PIN	9629-16-9917-00000	
Date(s) of Construction	c. 1983	
Recommendation	Not Eligible	

DESCRIPTION

Setting

The log house sits back from the road on a level lot with a lawn immediately surrounding the former dwelling. Just beyond the narrow strip of lawn to the northwest of the resource is a large commercial building which houses multiple retail shops. To the southwest is a large paved parking lot. A paved access road leads from the lot, along the southeast side of the house lot, and runs behind the commercial building to provide access to the rear of each business. Tree lines are located to the northeast of the house along the northeastern side of the access road, and to the south and southwest, the latter at the edge of the parking lot. Modern commercial buildings are located across the street and to the south beyond the tree line on the northeastern side of New Leicester Highway (Figures 4-6).



Figure 4. Aerial Depicting Landscape Surrounding the Log Structure (BN6391) (Bing Maps 2018).



Figure 5. View from the Log Structure, Looking Northwest.



Figure 6. View from the Log Structure, Looking Southeast.

Structures

Log House (Pre-1940; c. 1983)

The house is a one-story, three-bay log structure with side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The building is supported by a continuous parged concrete block foundation; the rear foundation wall, however, is not parged. The logs of the first floor are joined together using half dovetails, a common joint type for log structures (Bishir et al., 1999:24). The attic story, with a large shed-roofed rear dormer, is clad in waney-edge weatherboards. The building also features a full-width, three-bay, shed-roofed porch supported by modern square wood posts. A one-story porch with shed roof was located across the rear elevation of the building; however, the porch has been removed since the tax parcel photograph was taken (date unknown). Fenestration includes one-over-one vinyl sash windows with modern plain board surrounds as well as wood six-over-six sash windows with original plain board surrounds in the shed-roofed dormer. Entry doors are modern metal or wood with nine-lights. Additional features include an exterior chimney clad in waney-edge weatherboards on the northwestern gable end and a modern fire escape off the building's southeastern gable end (Figures 5-9). The interior was not accessible, but is appears to be a single large room, currently used as an office, and a bathroom. Since the building was either moved or constructed in 1983, the interior finishes are most likely modern materials.



Figure 7. Log House, Looking Northeast.



Figure 8. Log House, Looking Northwest.



Figure 9. Log House, Looking Southwest.



Figure 10. Log House, Looking South.



Figure 11. Detail of Corner Notching, Looking Northeast.

Retail Commercial Building (c. 1970)

The commercial building located on the parcel to the northwest of the log structure is one-story and consists of approximately eight stores of varying square footage. The building is concrete block construction with a brick veneer façade. Fenestration includes single-light commercial style, metal-framed fixed windows and paired metal and glass commercial-style entry doors (Figure 10).



Figure 12. Retail Commercial Building, 507 New Leicester Highway, Looking North.

Service Garage (c. 1988)

The service garage is one-story with two garage bays, a single-light fixed window, and a single-leaf metal and glass commercial style entry door on the façade. The building is also concrete block construction and features a flat roof with narrow boxed overhang (Figure 11).



Figure 13. Service Garage, 507 New Leicester Highway, Looking North.

HISTORY

The original 12-acre parcel on which the log structure is located was owned by John and Sarah Brookshire McKinnish prior to 1899. In 1880, John McKinnish, age 19, along with his two brothers, was working as a farmhand for his father, James. Since the McKinnish family were farmers, the parcel was likely utilized for agricultural crops during their ownership. In October 1899, McKinnish sold the parcel to Fannie Bryant, although he continued to farm (United States Federal Census 1880 and 1900; Buncombe County Registry of Deeds Book 127:333; www.ancestry.com).

Fannie Bryant [nee Kullim] married Rubin H. Bryant, physician, in December 1897. The couple did not reside on the parcel. Since Rubin was a physician, it is unknown if the property was rented for farming or became fallow fields. Fannie Bryant retained ownership of the property until June of 1933 when she sold the parcel to H. A. and Grace Redmond (United States Federal Census 1900 and 1930; www.ancestry.com; Buncombe County Registry of Deeds Book 469:267).

In November 1944, the Redmonds sold the property to Ray Kennerly (also spelled Kennerley) and Clifford Redmond. Approximately two years later, the Kennerley family sold the parcel to Fred H. and Nannie Meadows Thomas. The large retail commercial building on the property was constructed, circa 1970, during the time the Thomas family owned the parcel and reflects the expansion of Asheville's commercial development during the late twentieth century. In March 1977, the western half of the parcel, containing approximately 5.21 acres, was sold to Terry and Molly Kate Thomas Braswell (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 570:316-318, 617:362, and 1161:544). Under the ownership of the Braswells, the log structure was built, most likely relocated to the property (original location unknown), and a smaller commercial building, which functions as a service garage, was constructed. The current owner, Erwin Hills Plaza LLC, who purchased the property in 2014 (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 5207:302) maintains the two commercial buildings on the property as well as the log house, which is currently used as an office.

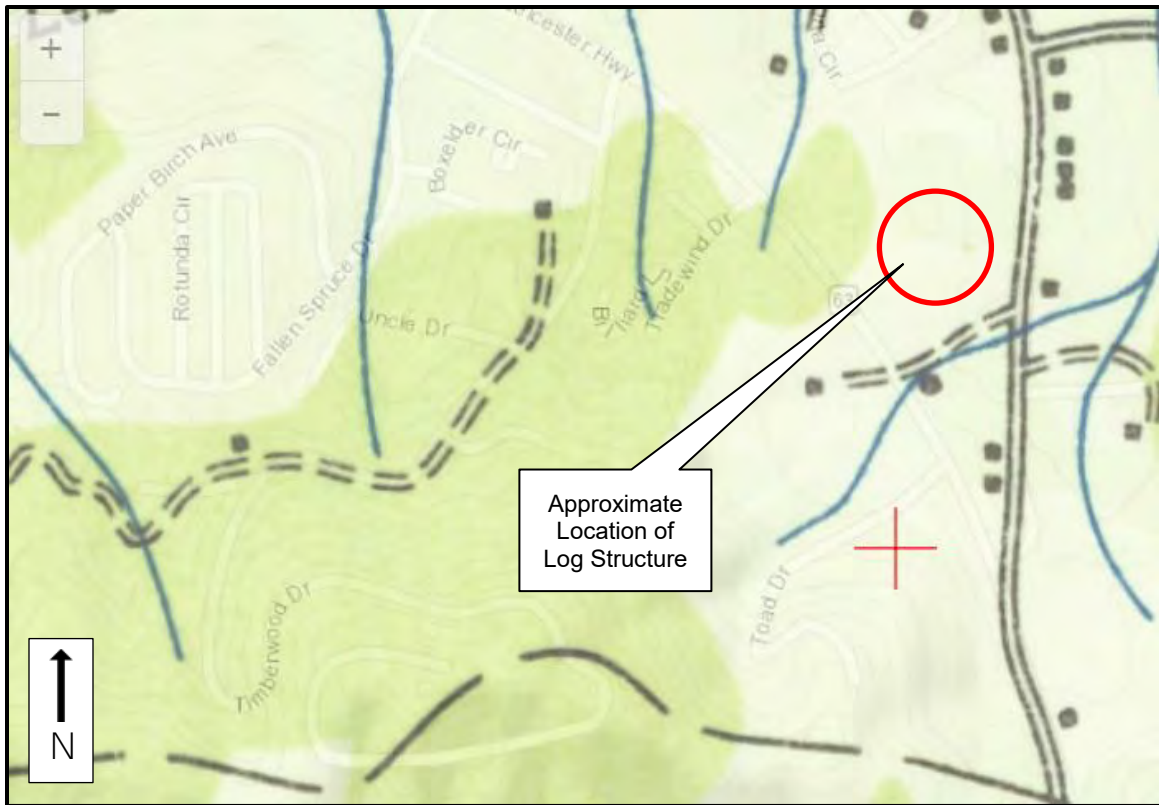


Figure 14. Detail of *Enka, NC* USGS 1:24000 Topographic Map (1936) Depicting the Absence of Route 63 within the Area of the Log House (<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Log construction was a common building technique during the nineteenth and into the twentieth century in North Carolina, particularly in more rural areas. This type of house was often the first building on a newly acquired property. This type of construction was also utilized for barns and other agrarian buildings, as well as early churches and governmental buildings. Construction quality varied depending on the temporary or permanent nature of the structure. Buildings considered ‘cabins’ were often constructed with unhewn logs with straw and mud chinking. Permanent dwellings were often constructed of hewn logs with dovetail or half dovetail joints with stone and plaster chinking. Stone exterior chimneys were often incorporated into the building’s design as well (Bishir et. al. 1999:22-24). Log houses, such as BN6391, were often moved from their original location during the twentieth century (McDonald 2019).

During the early twentieth century, the popularity of rustic cabins for resorts and motor courts, to complement the picturesque mountain setting of the area, increased. This type of structure was used to provide an ‘authentic’ experience for tourists who came in increasing numbers in the early to mid-twentieth century to experience western North Carolina. Examples of rustic-style log cabins used in the design of road-side motor courts, inspired in part by National Park Service (NPS) buildings, include Foster’s Log Cabin Court (BN1406) and the Pines Cottages (BN6188) (Griffith 2017a:137-142 and 151-152; Griffith and Wichman 2016; Bishir et. al. 1999:50). In contrast, regional single-family examples of log dwellings from the early to mid-twentieth century, similar to the log structure located at 495 New Leicester

Highway, include the dwelling (BN6308) located at 3665 Sweeten Creek Road and the log house located along N. Turkey Creek Road in Sandymush and appear to be revivals of the Appalachian log building tradition (Nester 2011).

The Log House (BN6308) on Sweeten Creek Road is similar in construction methods and materials as the log structure at 495 New Leicester Highway (BN6391). Like BN6391, the log structure features waney-edge weatherboards in the gable ends, half dovetail joints, six-over-six wood sash windows, and a shed-roofed porch (Figure 13). This house, however, is banked into the landscape and features a raised concrete block foundation. The chimney is clad in un-coursed stone. The building was also moved to its current site in 1945, previous location unknown (Griffith 2017b:93). The dwelling was determined not eligible in 2018 (HPO Site Files).

The Log House located along N. Turkey Creek Road is a one-story, multiple bay dwelling with side gable roof and exterior end brick chimneys. The corner notches are full dovetail. The house also features an engaged front, shed-roofed porch with wood post supports, exposed rafter ends, and a small gable roof entry porch added to the existing engaged porch (Figure 14). The house, although it appears to retain its integrity of location, setting, materials, and workmanship, is a common building type. The house is currently vacant and surrounded by overgrowth. The resource was mis-plotted in the HPO database as BN0802, surveyed in 1978; however, the building on the property does not match the photograph from the survey form. The log house originally surveyed as BN0802 was not located.



Figure 15. Log House (BN6308), 3665 Sweeten Creek Road.



Figure 16. Log House, N. Turkey Creek Road

INTEGRITY

The Log House, reconstructed on the property circa 1983, is an example of a traditional log house and uses common design elements of the nineteenth and early twentieth century such as half dovetails. The building, which currently functions as an office, retains some integrity of materials and workmanship; however, the location, setting, feeling, and association has been compromised as the building appears to have been relocated to its current site and by the construction of modern commercial development immediately adjacent to the structure and across the street. The rear porch has also been removed and a modern fire escape and entry doors have been added, which has compromised the resource's integrity of design.

EVALUATION

Criterion A: Under Criterion A, a property can be eligible for listing on the NRHP if there is an association with a significant event or broad pattern in history at a local, state, or national level. The Log House, under NRHP Criterion A, reflects the tradition of moving log houses and the era of commercial development of the area during the mid-to late twentieth century. However, the resource is not associated with any event or pattern of history, outside of the general growth of the county, that would meet the level of significance required under Criterion A. Therefore, it is recommended that the Log Structure, under Criterion A, is not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Criterion B: Under Criterion B, the Log Structure can be considered eligible if it is associated with a person or persons of significance within the context of the community, state, or nation. Although the owners of the Log Structure were members of the local community, none appear to have reached the

level of transcendent importance on a local, state, or national level required to meet criteria for listing on the NRHP under Criterion B.


Criterion C: The Log Structure, to be eligible under Criterion C, must “embody distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value” (NRHP 1997:21). Although the resource retains original architectural features, such as its split weatherboards in the gable ends, the windows are replacement vinyl sashes, the rear porch has been removed, and modern doors and a fire escape have been added. As a result of these alterations, the building has lost much of its architectural integrity and character-defining features. It is therefore recommended that the property does not meet the criteria necessary for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C.

Criterion D: Criterion D, according to NRHP Bulletin 15, addresses those properties that can only answer questions important to “human history that can only be answered by the physical material of cultural resources.” Resources considered for evaluation under Criterion D are typically “properties that have the potential to answer, in whole or in part, those types of research questions” (NRHP 1997:21). The Log Structure is unlikely to yield information not available from primary sources and therefore is not recommended as eligible for listing under Criterion D.

Criterion Consideration B: A property, to be eligible under Criteria Consideration B “must retain enough historic features to convey its architectural values and retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association” (NRHP 1997:29). The Log Structure does not retain its integrity of feeling and association as the resource is surrounded by modern commercial development. The resource also has diminished integrity of design and materials. The foundation is modern, the windows have been replaced, the porch removed, and modern doors installed. Since the Log Structure does not retain the level integrity necessary to meet the Criterion Consideration, the resource is also not eligible under Criterion Consideration B for listing in the NRHP.

The Log Structure, constructed or reconstructed on the property circa 1983, does not have the level of significance or architectural integrity to meet the NRHP criteria for listing. The building also does not meet the level necessary for listing under Criterion Consideration B. As such, it is recommended that the resource is not individually eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D, as well as Criteria Consideration B. The two modern commercial buildings on the property do not meet the age criteria for evaluation and are considered non-contributing to the property.

Green Hills Cemetery (BN6392)

Resource Name	Green Hills Cemetery	
HPO Survey Site #	BN6392	
Location	25 New Leicester Highway	
PIN	9638-09-2377-00000	
Date(s) of Construction	c. 1901; 1956	
Recommendation	Not Eligible	

DESCRIPTION

Setting

The Green Hills Cemetery, located on the northeast side of New Leicester Highway, is surrounded by tree lines to the southwest, west, northwest, east, southeast, and south with a residential area to the north. Beyond the tree lines to the south and southeast as well as to the east is modern commercial development (Figures 15-17). The area within the cemetery gates consists of curvilinear streets set within a rolling landscape. Dotting the landscape are pine and deciduous trees. Near the front entry of the cemetery is a cremation garden, which features a shallow pond lined with rip rap, and a low concrete paver wall, two courses high (Figure 23). Near the eastern edge of the cemetery is a “Natural Burial” area (Figure 24).



Figure 17. Aerial Depicting Boundary of Green Hills Cemetery (Bing Maps 2018).



Figure 18. View from the Green Hills Cemetery, Looking Northwest.



Figure 19. View from the Green Hills Cemetery, Looking Southeast.

Structures

Green Hills Cemetery (1901)

The Green Hills Cemetery is entered through iron gates attached to stone pillars with a short stone wall (Figure 18). The grave markers throughout the cemetery are mainly granite and are either headstones or markers which are flush with the ground surface. Some earlier grave markers, dating to the early twentieth century, are marble as are several of the graves associated with military interments (Figures 19-22). Several mausoleums were also noted, including the heavy, rusticated tomb of the Bulis family which appears to have been constructed in the 1930s (Figure 25). The tomb features a fluted surround, iron doors with the initial "B", and on the entablature, carved acroteria. Although most of the grave markers are relatively simple in style, several more ornate markers are present including the grave of David McLellan, born in 1842 in Scotland, member of Company C of the 37th Tennessee Infantry, and died at age 79 in 1921 (Figure 26). This marker features an angel standing on an orb. Other stones of note include the grave, with an arch joining the two markers, of H. L. Herren (b. 9 December 1844; d. 25 March 1906) and his wife, Sarah E. Brooks Herren (b. 15 February 1846; d. 18 October 1930; Figure 27), and the grave of Norma Byerly Brank (b. 16 March 1909; d. 21 May 1955). The latter grave comprises a cross with a woman kneeling and hanging onto the cross (Figure 28).

A building, which dates to the early twentieth century, currently appears to function as the cemetery office (Figure 29). The building is banked into the landscape and is constructed with a concrete block foundation with a section of brick adjacent to a garage bay. Stone veneer has been added to the east and north elevations to create a naturalistic appearance reminiscent of NPS buildings. The exterior walls are vinyl sided and the windows replaced with one-over-one vinyl sashes. Several windows have had security bars added.



Figure 20. Detail of Cemetery Gates, Looking Northeast.



Figure 21. Overview of Cemetery, Looking Northeast.



Figure 22. Overview of Cemetery, Looking West.



Figure 23. Overview of Cemetery, Looking South.



Figure 24. Section of Military Interments, Looking North.



Figure 25. Cremation Garden, Looking East.



Figure 26. Green Burial Area Near the Eastern Edge of the Cemetery, Looking East.



Figure 27. Example of a Mausoleum with the Cemetery, Looking Southeast.

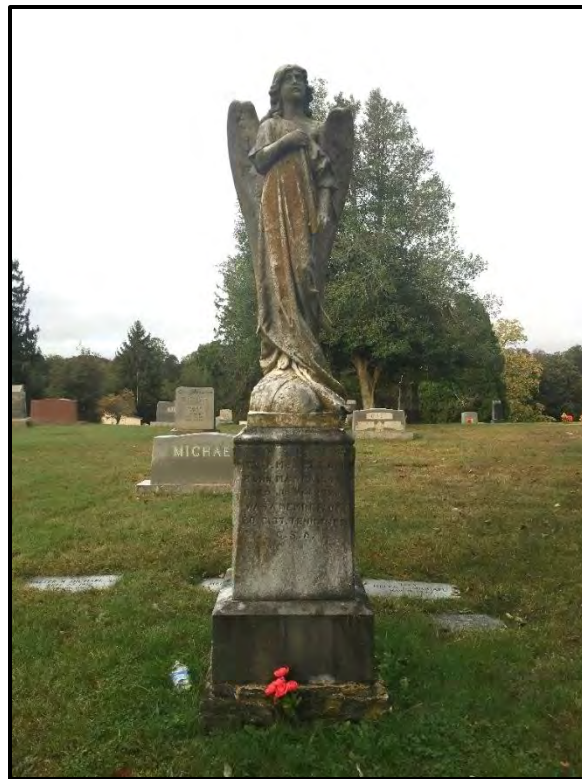


Figure 28. Grave Marker of David McLellan, Looking West.



Figure 29. Herren Family Grave Marker, Looking West.



Figure 30. Grave of Norma Byerly Brank, Looking East.



Figure 31. Green Hills Cemetery Office, Looking Northeast.



Figure 32. Green Hills Cemetery Office, Looking West.



Figure 33. Green Hills Cemetery Office, Looking Southwest.

HISTORY

The land on which the cemetery is located appears to have been rural, possibly agricultural land outside the town of Emma. Several buildings are depicted on the 1901 USGS topographic map and appear to have been located adjacent to or within the current boundary of the Green Hills Cemetery grounds including the present-day former dwelling which functions as the cemetery office/maintenance building (Figures 28 and 30).

The Greens Hills Cemetery, even from its early incorporation, was a private cemetery and not associated with any church or other religious institution. Originally named the West Asheville Cemetery, the cemetery was incorporated in 1901. The North Carolina General Assembly ratified the incorporation of the West Asheville Cemetery Association on March 14 of that year. Seven names are listed as the original incorporators; J. F. Hayes, A. E. Brown, H. A. Brown, W. E. Howard, W. E. Logan, A. S. Nicolson, and J. G. Farrell. Originally the corporation could purchase or hold up to 25 acres for the purpose of the cemetery (North Carolina 1901:1037-1038). The corporate name of West Asheville Cemetery Association was changed to Green Hills Cemetery Association on February 28, 1923 by act of the General Assembly and the land the association could hold or purchase was increased up to 100 acres (North Carolina 1923:355).

The cemetery parcel was mainly acquired by the transfer of small parcels through the first half of the twentieth century. One of the earliest expansion parcels purchased by the West Asheville Cemetery Association was a 0.86-acre lot owned by J. W. Duckett and his wife, Donnie. The parcel was located adjacent to one of the original parcels purchased earlier by the Association (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 217:170). In 1932, one of the largest parcels to be purchased by the Green Hills Association

was an approximately 3.35-acre lot from the heirs of W. F. Millsaps (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 499:579). In 1947, a 12.66-acre parcel, and what is now the western-most section of the cemetery, was purchased from J. A. Baker. The parcel abuts the Southern Railroad right-of-way and forms a triangular lot (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 644:468; Plat Book 21:74). In 1956, the Green Hills Cemetery Association purchased 4.22 acres from J. Harmon Duckett and his wife located adjacent to the south side of Hazel Mill Road (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds 773:164), which expanded the cemetery to the northeast (Figure 23). The addition of the 4.22 acres appears to have brought the cemetery up to its approximately present-day acreage.

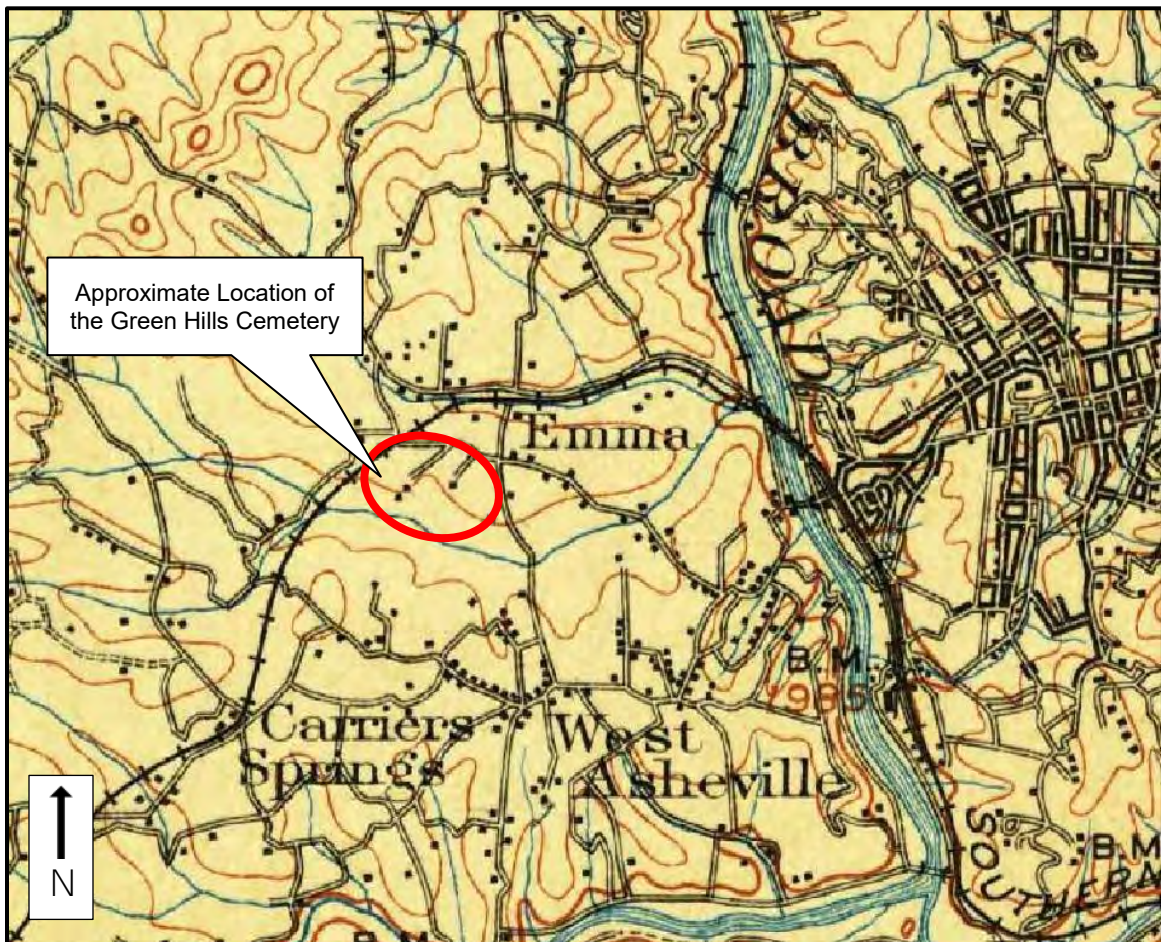


Figure 34. Detail of Asheville, NC 1:125000 Scale USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1901) (<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>).



Figure 35. Detail of Asheville, NC 1:24000 Scale USGS Topographic Quadrangle (1936)
(<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>).

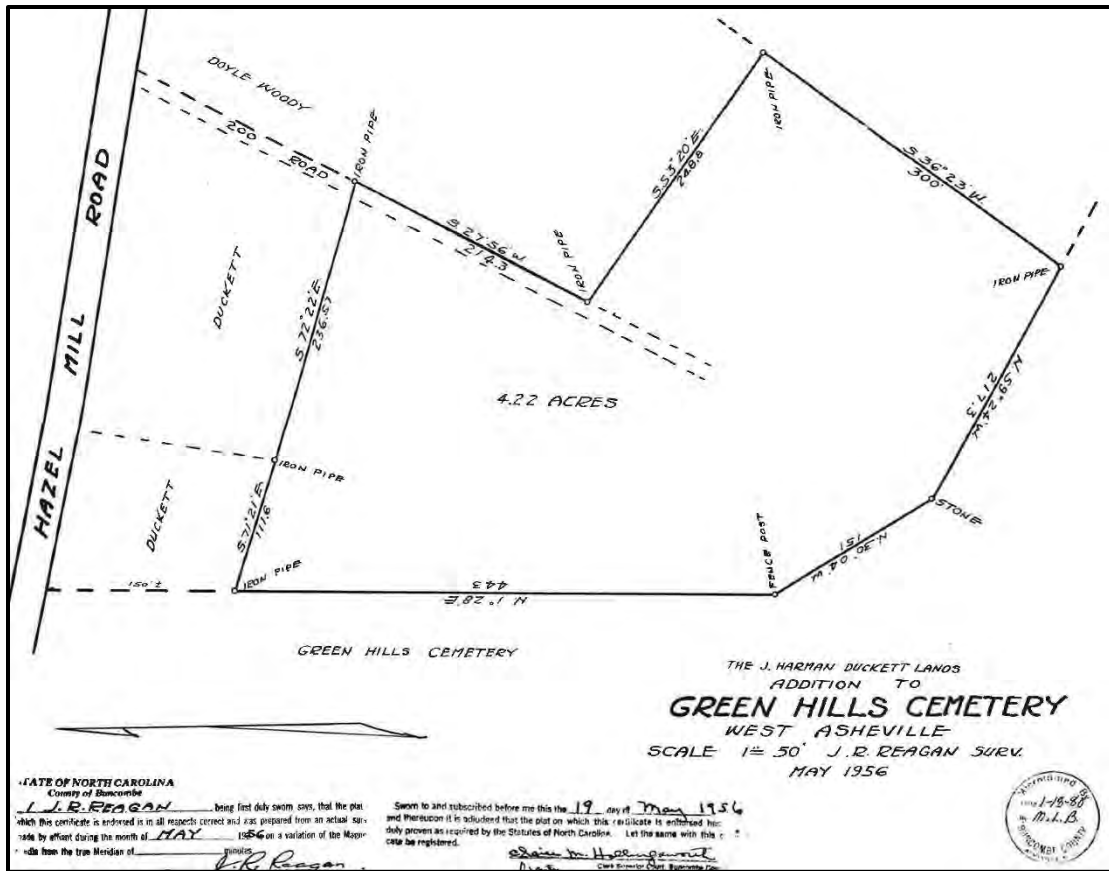


Figure 36. Plat of J. Harmon Duckett Property (1956) (Buncombe County Registry of Deeds, Plat 29:77).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The picturesque, landscaped cemetery had its roots in the early to mid-nineteenth century with the creation of the National Historic Landmark (NHL)-listed Mount Auburn Cemetery (circa 1831) located in the outskirts of Boston, Massachusetts, and the NHL-listed Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia (circa 1848). The cemeteries were designed as romantic landscape parks within gently rolling hills with winding roads shaded with trees (Mount Auburn Cemetery 2019a; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1969). These picturesque cemeteries were not associated with a specific church. The cemeteries stand out for the designs of their monuments as well as the notable persons buried on the grounds including Architect Charles Bulfinch, Felix Frankfurter, US Supreme Court Justice, Winslow Homer, artist, and the poet Henry Longfellow at Mount Auburn and Presidents John Tyler and James Monroe, and Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart at Hollywood Cemetery (Mount Auburn Cemetery 2019b; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1969).

Landscaped cemeteries influenced by the Picturesque movement of the nineteenth century within Buncombe County includes the Riverside Cemetery (BN0057) at 53 Birch Street in Asheville (the cemetery is located within the NRHP-listed Montford Area Historic District). The cemetery, like the Green

Hills Cemetery, is a community cemetery. Similar cemeteries include the NRHP-listed Oakdale Cemetery located in Henderson County and the NRHP-listed Green Hill Cemetery in Haywood County.

The Riverside Cemetery (BN0057) was established in 1885 by the Asheville Cemetery Company, 16 years before the West Asheville/Green Hills Cemetery. Shareholders of the company were some of Asheville's and Montford's most prominent families including Venable, Sawyer, Rankin, and Pearson, among others. The cemetery contains a number of notable persons in history including the author Thomas Wolfe, who used the cemetery in his book *Look Homeward Angel*; Locke Craig, governor of North Carolina from 1913 to 1917; Jeter C. Pritchard, US Senator and judge; and George T. Winston, past president of the University of North Carolina, among many others (HPO Site Files). The cemetery, similar to the landscape within the Montford area, comprises picturesque rolling hills with large mature trees and curvilinear roads (Figures 33 and 34). The cemetery is located within the NRHP-listed Montford Area Historic District and considered a contributing resource (Upchurch and Smith 1977).



Figure 37. Riverside Cemetery (BN0057), 53 Birch Street, Looking East.



Figure 38. Riverside Cemetery (BN0057), 53 Birch Street, Looking East.

The Oakdale Cemetery (HN0114), which is city owned, was opened in 1885 and comprised segregated sections whites and African Americans. During the twentieth century, the cemetery was expanded including a section for World War I memorial area, a section for Jewish burials, and a pauper's area. The cemetery also contains a section for Yellow Fever victims. The original sections and the early expansion areas are set within a relatively level parcel with a number of trees. Many of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century grave markers are sculptural and/or have decorative motifs including tree stumps, angels, floral motifs, pulpits, and pedestal tombs, among others. The angel, the most artistic in the cemetery, marks the grave of Margaret E. Johnson. The marker is Italian marble made in the shop of W. O. Wolfe. The angels in Wolfe's shop reportedly was the influence for Thomas Wolfe's book *Look Homeward Angel* (Harpe 2013; Pezzoni n.d.; Seapker 2016). The cemetery was listed on the NRHP in 2014 under Criteria A and C for its significance in Art, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage.

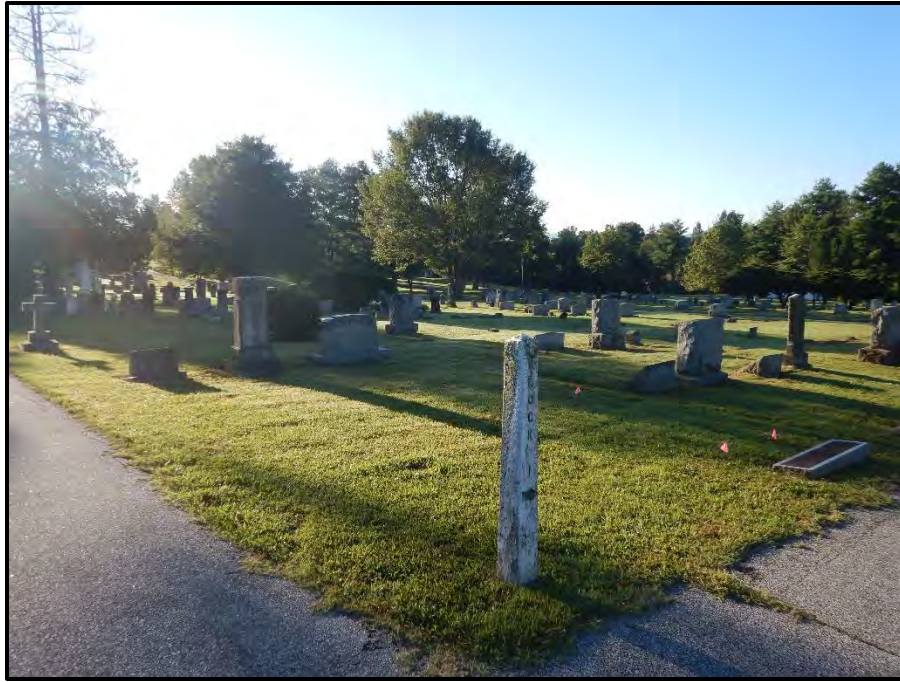


Figure 39. Oakview Cemetery (HN0114), 6th Avenue West, View Looking Southeast.

The Green Hills Cemetery (HW0634), although established in 1826, is set within a rolling, purposely designed landscape, characteristic of the Picturesque Movement during the early- to mid-nineteenth century. The oldest inscribed grave markers date to around 1850, many crafted by the shop of W. O. Wolfe (see Oakdale Cemetery above; Harpe 2013; Pezzoni n.d.). The cemetery contains 51 contributing objects (grave markers) which feature a range of notable artistic and sculptural designs. Several graves are marked with classically inspired women with winged children or holding wreaths. Other graves are marked by obelisks (some draped), columns, and segmental arch monuments. The cemetery, with its notable monuments, has a high degree of artistic merit and was listed on the NRHP in 2018 under Criterion C (Pezzoni n.d.).

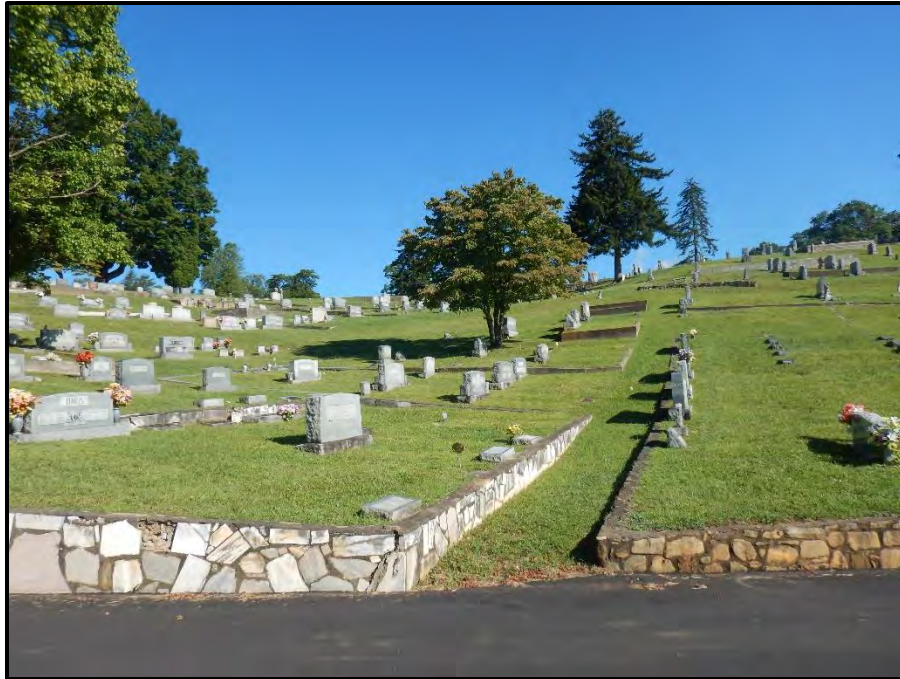


Figure 40. Green Hills Cemetery (HW0634), Veterans Circle, View Looking Northwest.

INTEGRITY

The Green Hills Cemetery retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association as well as materials, workmanship, and overall design and is the result of a number of land purchases. Although influenced by the earlier Picturesque cemetery movement that characterized Mount Auburn and Hollywood cemeteries, the landscape within Green Hills Cemetery does not portray the same qualities and appears to have utilized the existing landscape. Additionally, the majority of the grave markers within the cemetery are not of high artistic merit and appear relatively modern.

EVALUATION

Criterion A: Under Criterion A, a property can be eligible for listing on the NRHP if there is an association with a significant event or broad pattern in history at a local, state, or national level. The Green Hills Cemetery, under NRHP Criterion A, reflects a private commercial enterprise, in this case a cemetery, established during the early twentieth century; however, the resource is not associated with any event or pattern of history, outside of the general growth of the county, that would meet the level of significance required under Criterion A. Therefore, it is recommended that the Green Hills Cemetery, under Criterion A, is not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Criterion B: Under Criterion B, the Green Hills Cemetery can be considered eligible if it is associated with a person or persons of significance within the context of the community, state, or nation. The original members of the West Asheville Cemetery Association or the subsequent Green Hills Cemetery Association do not appear to reach the level of transcendent importance on a local, state, or national level required to meet criteria for listing on the NRHP under Criterion B. Additionally, it does not appear that any persons interred within the cemetery meet the criteria necessary for listing under Criterion B.

Criterion C: The Green Hills Cemetery, to be eligible under Criterion C, must “embody distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value.” Although the cemetery contains several grave markers possessing high artistic qualities, although done by unknown sculptors, a majority of the markers are typical in design and materials. As a result, it is recommended that the cemetery does not meet the criteria necessary for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C.

Criterion D: Criterion D, according to NRHP Bulletin 15, addresses those properties that can only answer questions important to “human history that can only be answered by the physical material of cultural resources.” Resources considered for evaluation under Criterion D are typically “properties that have the potential to answer, in whole or in part, those types of research questions” (NRHP 1997:21). The Green Hills Cemetery is unlikely to yield information not available from primary sources and therefore is not recommended as eligible for listing under Criterion D.

Criterion Consideration D:

A cemetery, to be considered eligible under Criterion Consideration D, must be eligible for listing under Criterion A, B, or C. It also must “derive its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events” (NRHP 1997:34). The Green Hills Cemetery is not recommended for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C, or D and therefore the cemetery is not eligible under Criterion Consideration D of the NRHP.

The Green Hills Cemetery, although generally reflective of the early twentieth century development of public cemeteries in Buncombe County, lacks direct and/or important associations under Criteria A, B, C, and D. The cemetery also does not meet the threshold of significance for consideration under Criteria Consideration D necessary for listing on the NRHP. As such, it is recommended that the resource is not individually eligible for listing on the NRHP.

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