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HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
Phase II (Abridged)

IMPROVEMENTS TO SR 1001 BETWEEN SR 1933 AND US 321
LENOIR, CALDWELL COUNTY
TIP # U-2211. W.O. # 8.2731701.
FEDERAL AID # STP-7533(2).

North Carolina Department of Transportation
August 30, 1994

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Principal Investigator

9 SEPT. 1994
Date

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Sept. 9, 1994
Date

Proposed Improvements to SR 1001 Between SR 1933 and US 321
TIP # U-2211.
Lenoir, Caldwell County

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is proposing to widen SR 1001 in Caldwell County from two lanes to a five lane curb and gutter facility, involving new location. This project begins at SR 1933 and ends east of US 321.

Prior to the field survey, all files relative to the project vicinity were reviewed at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). All publications relating to the architectural heritage of the county were examined at the North Carolina State Library, the School of Design at North Carolina State University and the vertical files located at the Public Library in Lenoir.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) was largely determined by the lay of the land, its boundary running along topographic contours and field and tree lines. A map of the APE is attached hereinafter (following page v).

Summary Results

This survey was completed prior to NCDOT's decision to address every building over fifty years of age within the APE. On November 10, 1993, representatives from the SHPO met to review the photographic inventory of the project area. At that time it was determined that additional information was needed on the Whitnel School in order to determine eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO representatives also requested several representative photographs of additional mill housing. Subsequent to the submission of the Phase I survey report, which included these representative photographs, the SHPO (correspondence dated July 27 to Nicholas L. Graf from David Brook) additionally requested "...photographs showing views of the mill village streetscape and a photograph of each building in the mill village". Photographs of every property over fifty years of age in each mill village are included hereinafter.

In reference to the Whitnel School, the SHPO stated "We would like to clarify that the Historic Preservation Office did not request a countywide survey of school buildings". It is not possible to determine the eligibility of a former school building which has been altered, without a valid context. Normally, an area the size of a county must be considered in order to establish a valid context.

One church, one former school, two mill villages and one bridge are evaluated in this report. These include the Living Word Assembly of God, the former Whitnel School, the village Associated with the former J.L. Nelson mill and the mill village associated with the American and Efirid Textile Company.

Properties Considered Potentially Eligible for the National Register.

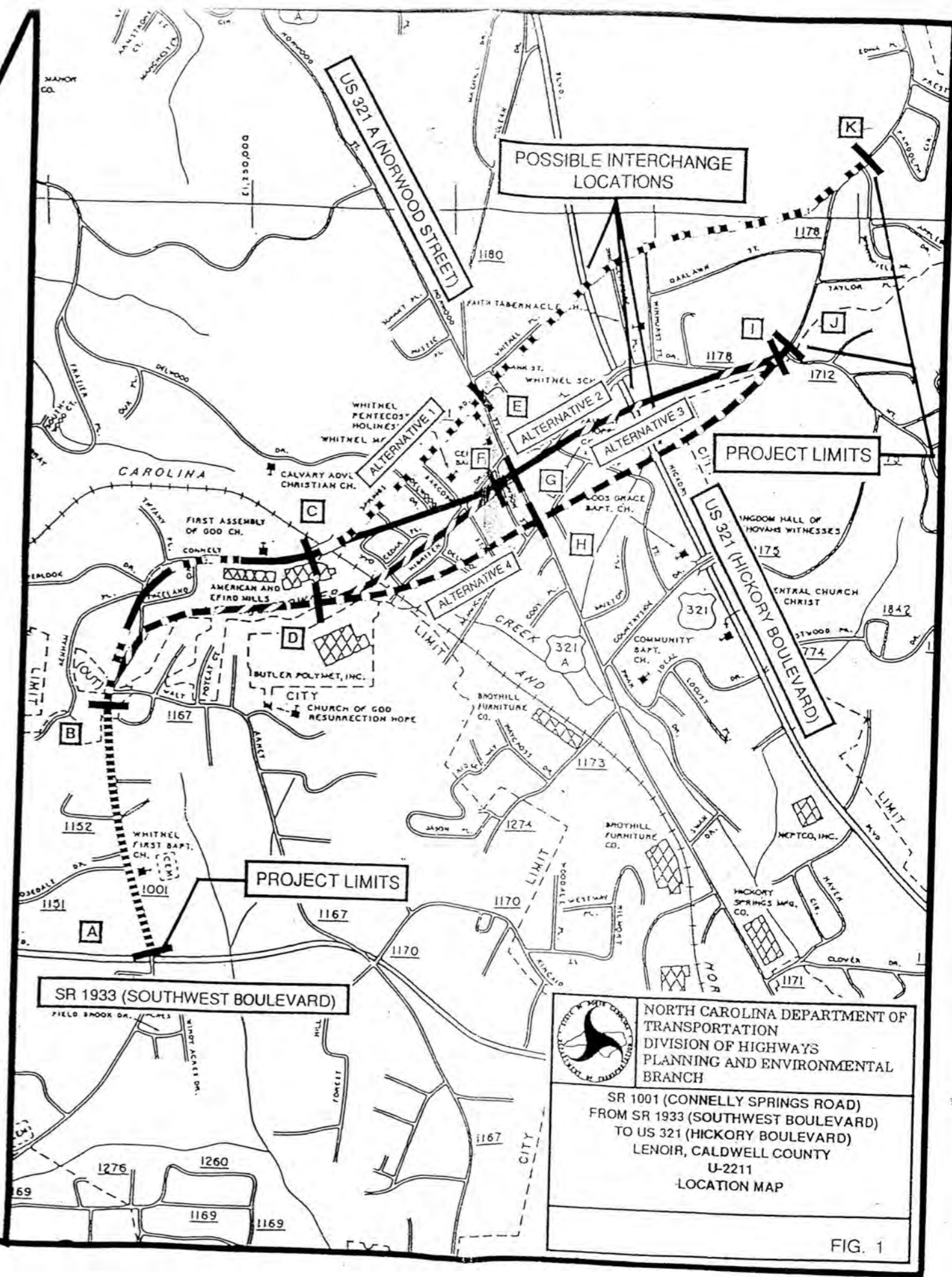
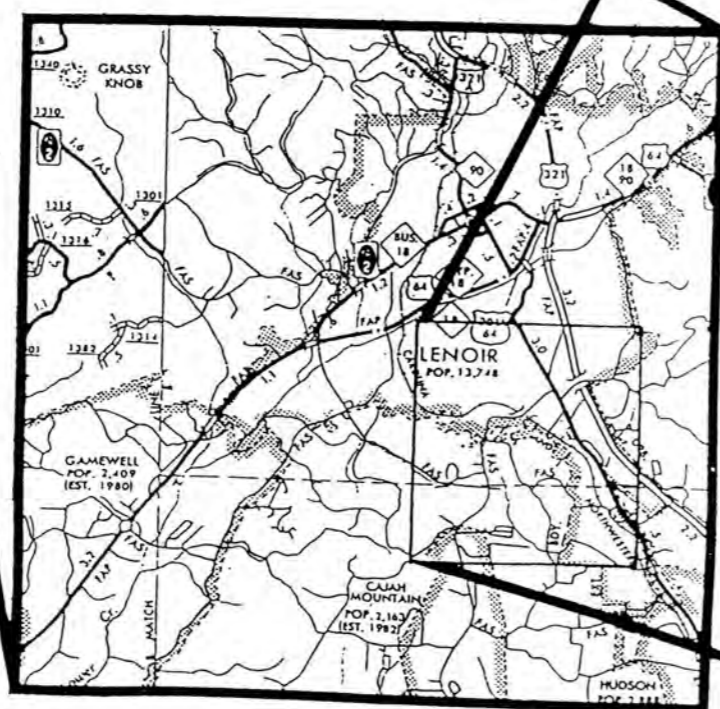
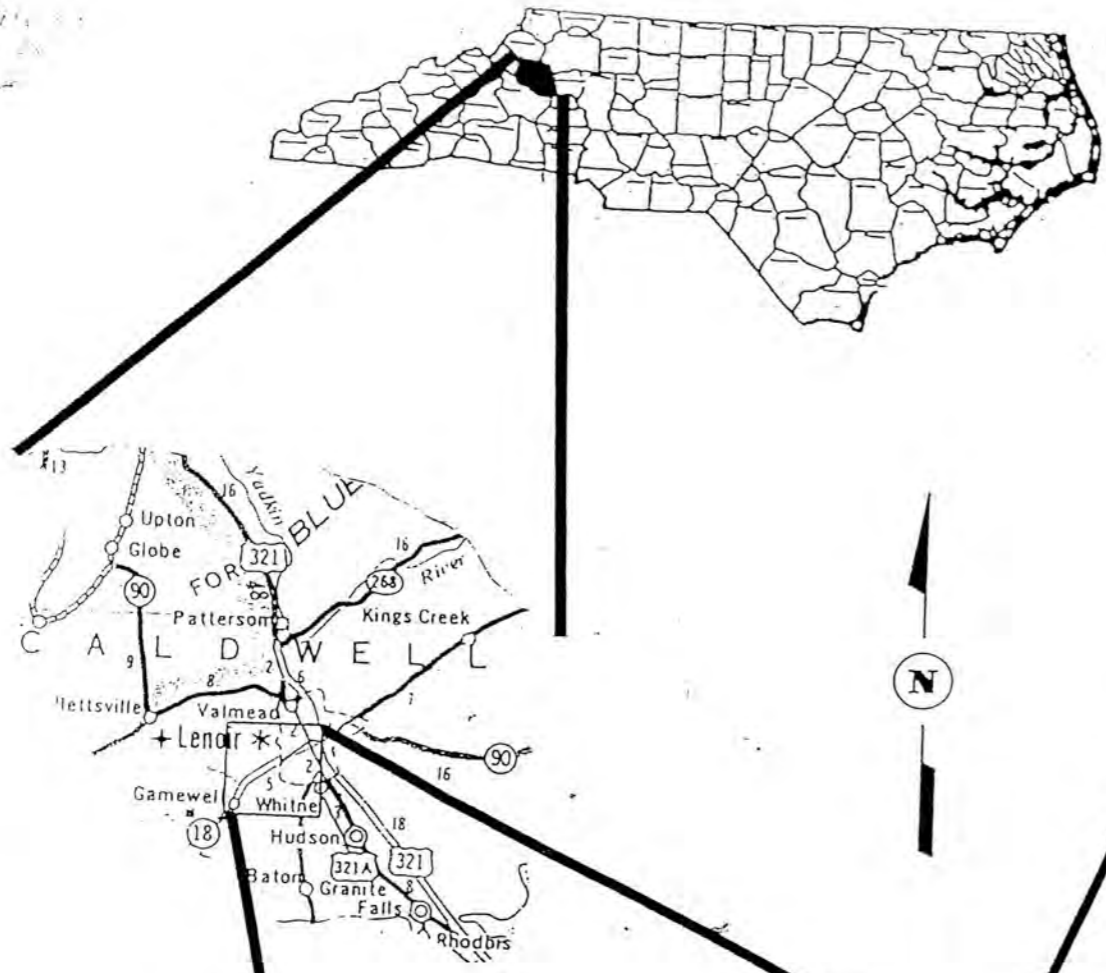
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B. American and Efird Textile Company Mill Village.....	5

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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
BRANCH

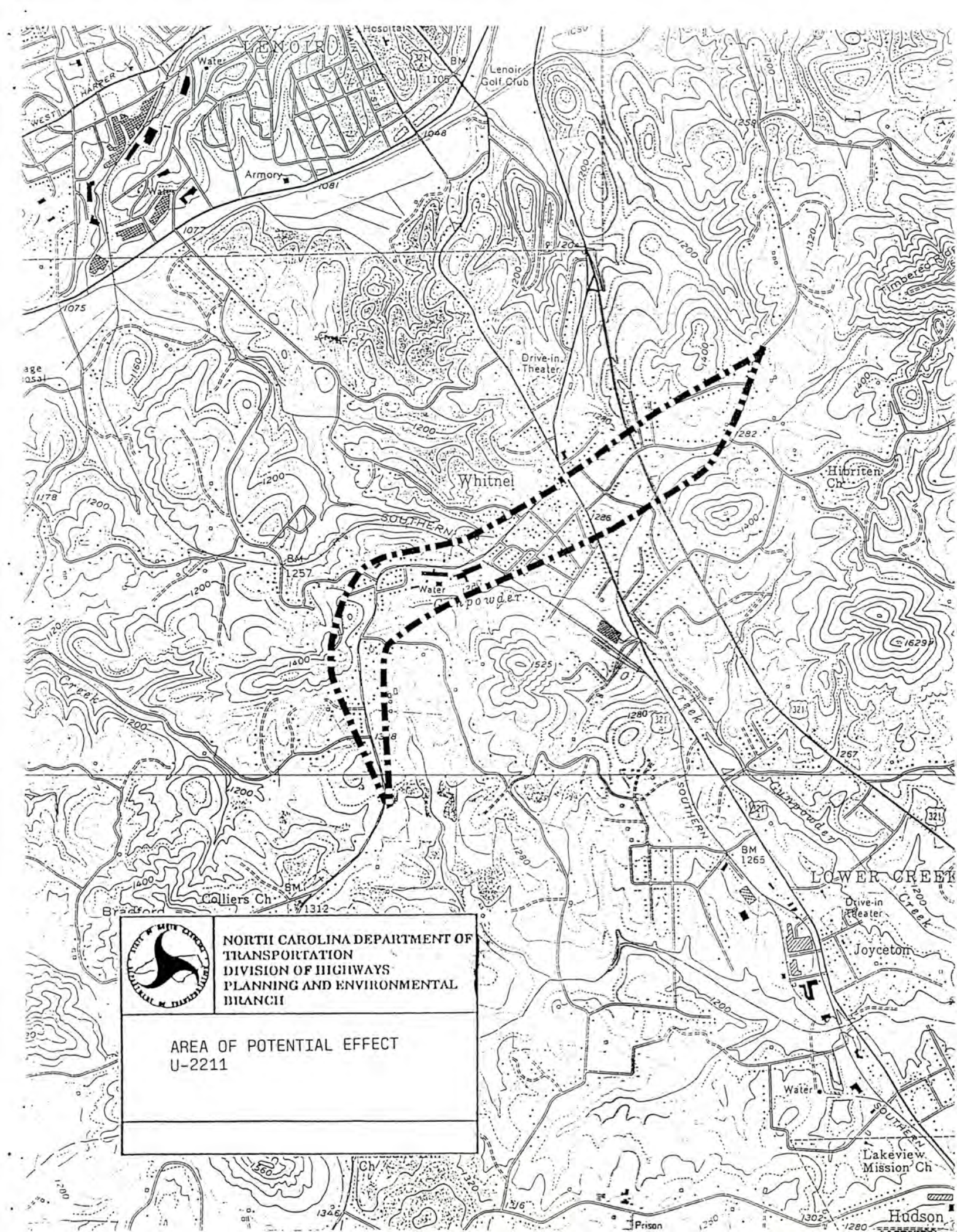
SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD)
FROM SR 1933 (SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD)
TO US 321 (HICKORY BOULEVARD)
LENOIR, CALDWELL COUNTY
U-2211
LOCATION MAP

FIG. 1



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
BRANCH**

**AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT
U-2211**



I. Purpose of the Survey and Report

The Phase I Survey was conducted in order to delineate the area of potential effect (APE) and to identify historic properties or districts located there. This report was prepared to document the findings of the survey. This report is submitted pursuant to Section 106 of the National historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 106 requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment.

II. Methodology

This survey was conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in accordance with the requirements of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A, (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; and 36 CFR Part 60.

Prior to surveying the area of potential effect (APE), the architectural historians at NCDOT researched the files at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and all available relevant materials at the North Carolina State Library and the School of Design at NC State University. The Western Office of the SHPO was contacted and all materials available for review (vertical files) were inspected at the County Library in Lenoir.

III. Summary Results and Findings

Properties Considered Eligible for the National Register

Former Whitnel School

History

The Whitnel School (marked #3 on the attached map) was constructed in 1904. It was the first "consolidated" school to be constructed in Caldwell County. The former school is located on the north side of SR 1001, .3 mile north of the intersection of SR 1280. This building was moved from its original site and remodeled in 1916. The facility served as a public school until 1959 when it was converted to a county office facility. The county abandoned this facility in 1986 and it was sold to Mr Irvin Nelson. Mr Nelson currently rents this building to the Whitnel Furniture Company.

Description

The original school, as it appeared in 1904, is a two-story seven bay masonry structure covered by a hip-roof. The upper story of the front (north) elevation consists of six double nine-over-nine sash and one single nine-over-nine sash located above the door. Symmetrically located below are single nine-over-nine windows lighting the first floor offices and classrooms. The building is accessed through a recessed arch which springs from engaged masonry pilasters.

When the building was relocated, wings were added to the east and west of the original structure. The east wing is four bays long, with identical, double, nine-over-nine sash on both levels.

The west wing, three bays wide, is composed of three double nine-over-nine sash on the upper level and two double twelve-over-twelve sash located on the lower level. An aluminum and glass door with sidelites and transom was added to the center of the west wing in 1967.

The south (rear) elevation is an asymmetrical composition with single, double and triple nine-over-nine sash located on the upper level and single nine-over-nine sash on the lower level.

The original roof material was turned-metal. This was removed in 1967 and replaced with asphalt shingles.

Integrity

The Whitnel Furniture Company has altered the structure by the addition of partition walls, surface-mounted light fixtures and, in many areas, dropped acoustical ceilings. All alterations appear to be reversible. The original sash exists. A county wide survey conducted by NCDOT reveals that school buildings of this period are rare.

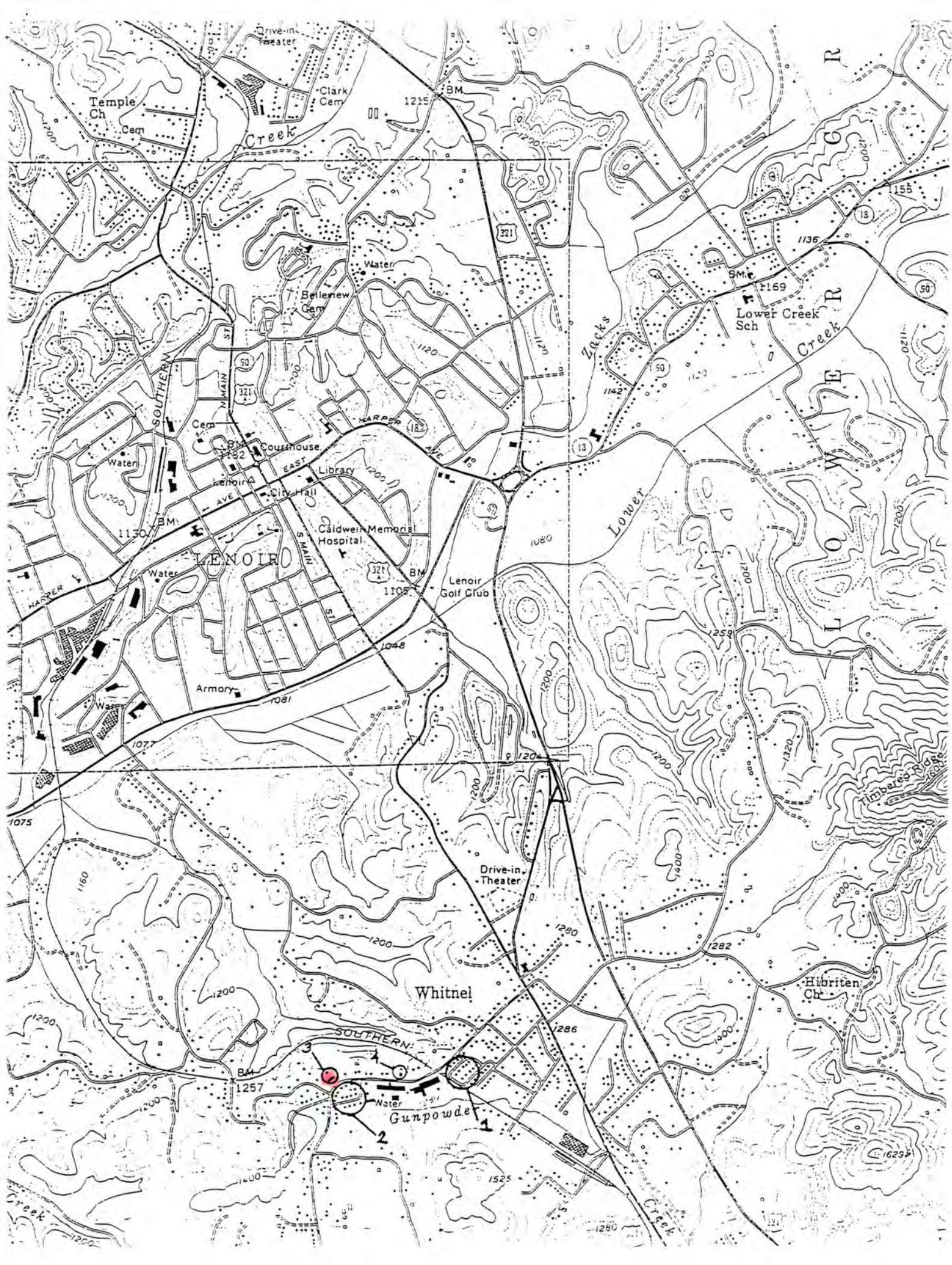
Photographs of the interior of this building were not permitted by the owner. Access to the property was not allowed by the owner after the initial visit.

The alterations to the former Whitnel School are largely cosmetic and appear to be reversible. As the first consolidated education building in Caldwell County, the former Whitnel School is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C.

There are no historical events or persons of any significance associated with this property, and as such it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B. The architectural components of this property is not likely to yield information important in history (building technology); and, therefore, it is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D in this respect. For consideration of the eligibility of the archaeological component of this property, see the archaeology report.

Boundaries

The boundaries of the proposed historic property are attached hereinafter. The proposed boundary follows the existing property line.





Former Whitnel School
Front Elevation



Former Whitnel School
Rear Elevation

The American and Efird Textile Mill and Village

History

The town of Whitnel was formerly referred to as "Treeland". The name of the town was changed in 1911 to Whitnel to reflect the names of the owners of two local mills, J.O. White and J.L. Nelson. These mills were established in 1907, however the mill village (marked #2 on the attached map) associated with J.L. Nelson's mill was not constructed until approximately ten years later. The village is located .6 mile south of the intersection of SR 1286 on SR 1001.

At the time of construction, Caldwell County had over 25 cotton mills and 7 hosiery mills. Mill villages existed at Cherryville, Rhodhiss, Lenoir, Granite Falls and Hudson. It should also be noted that these mill villages are currently largely intact. As may be evidenced in the attached illustrations, the houses comprising the second (American and Efird Textile Mill) village remain largely intact. The village was constructed between 1920 and 1922.

Description

The houses are uniform in their design. They are all of frame construction, three bays wide and two bays deep. A recessed front porch is covered by the single hip roof and single shed dormer. The sash located in the dormer are two-over-two and each dormer was originally composed of two sash each. The original sash were six-over-six. Two masonry chimney stacks are symmetrically located on each building.

Integrity

As may be evidenced in the attached photographs, numerous cosmetic and physical changes have altered the appearance of the individual buildings, however the repetition of a discernible house form, the scale, and the consistent setbacks of each house underscore the basic integrity of the village.

Evaluation

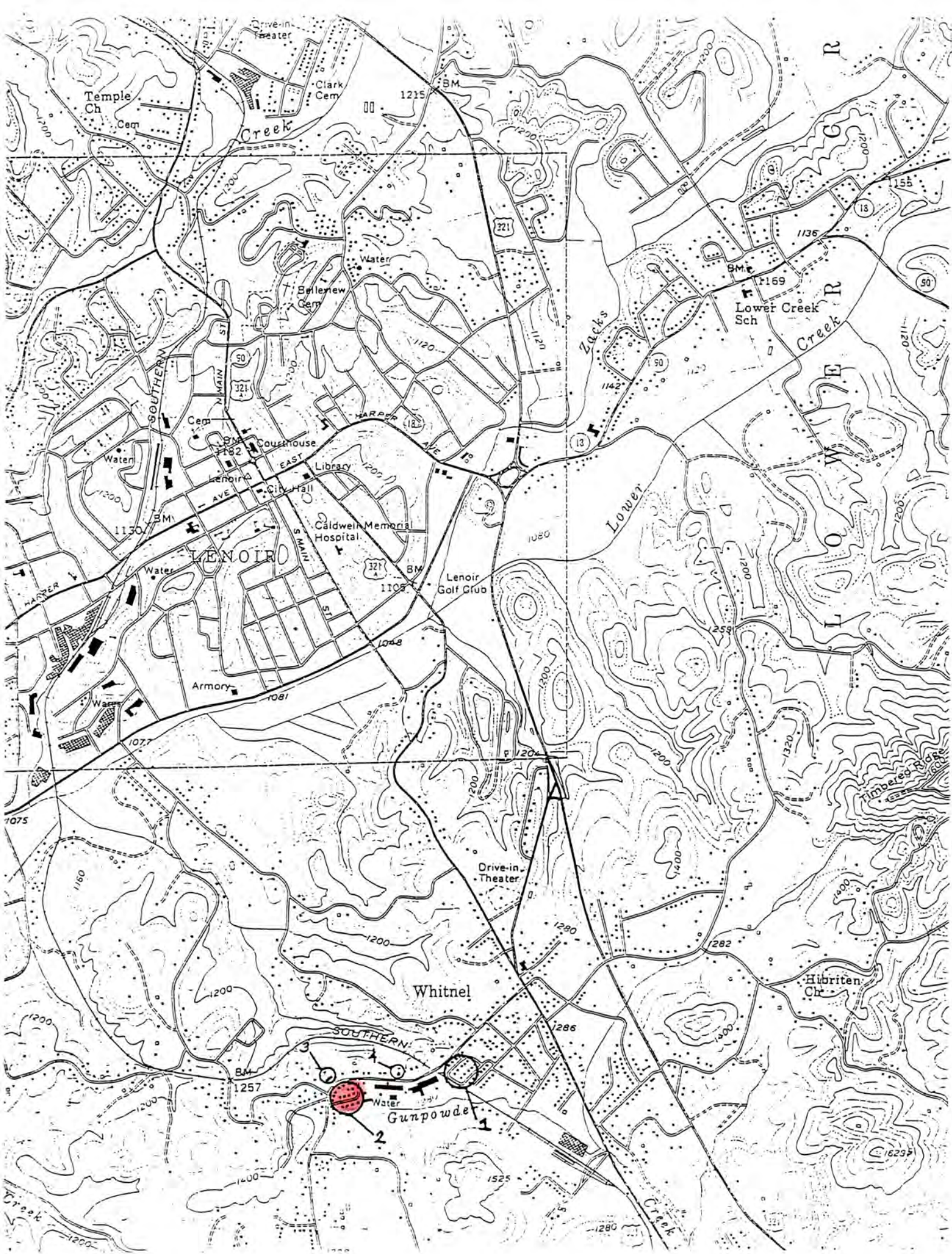
It appears that the mill village associated with the American and Efird Textile Company may be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for Industry and under Criterion C as a historic district. There are no persons of significance associated with this property, and as such it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B.

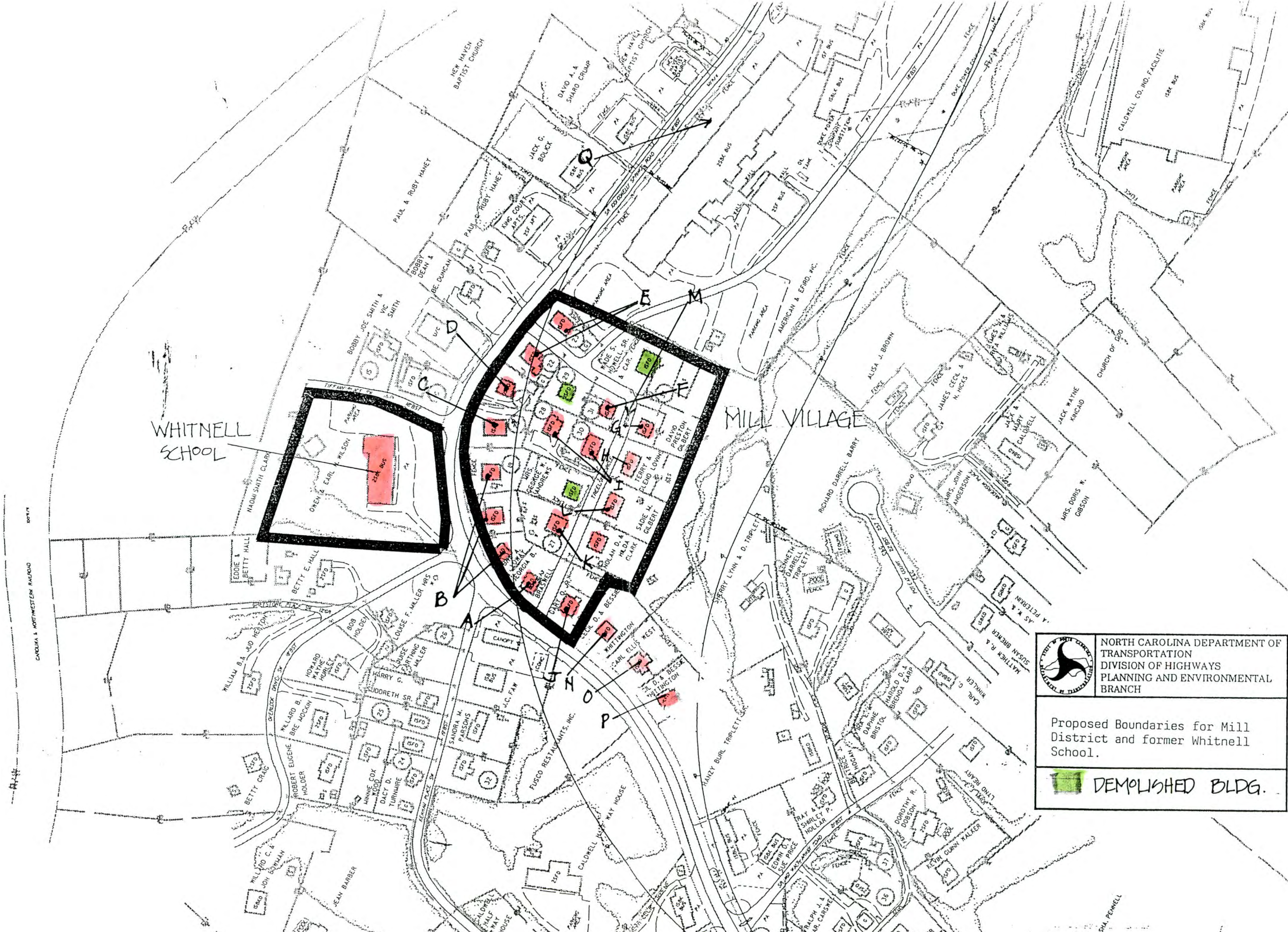
For consideration of the eligibility of the archaeological component of this property, see the archaeology report.

The American and Efird Textile Mill is located just to the west of the village. The mill has undergone numerous character altering changes, including seven modern additions and a modern brick veneer which completely obscures any original materials. NCDOT has inspected the interior and can find none of the original building intact. The mill does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places since it lacks integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Boundaries and Justification


The boundaries for the proposed mill district reflect the period of significance (1920 - 1922). Three houses (see map and attached photographs labeled Building #'s N, O and P) which appear to be part of the proposed district in plan, but were actually constructed later and were never associated with the American and Efird Textile Mill or the attached village.






WHITNELL SCHOOL

MILL VILLAGE

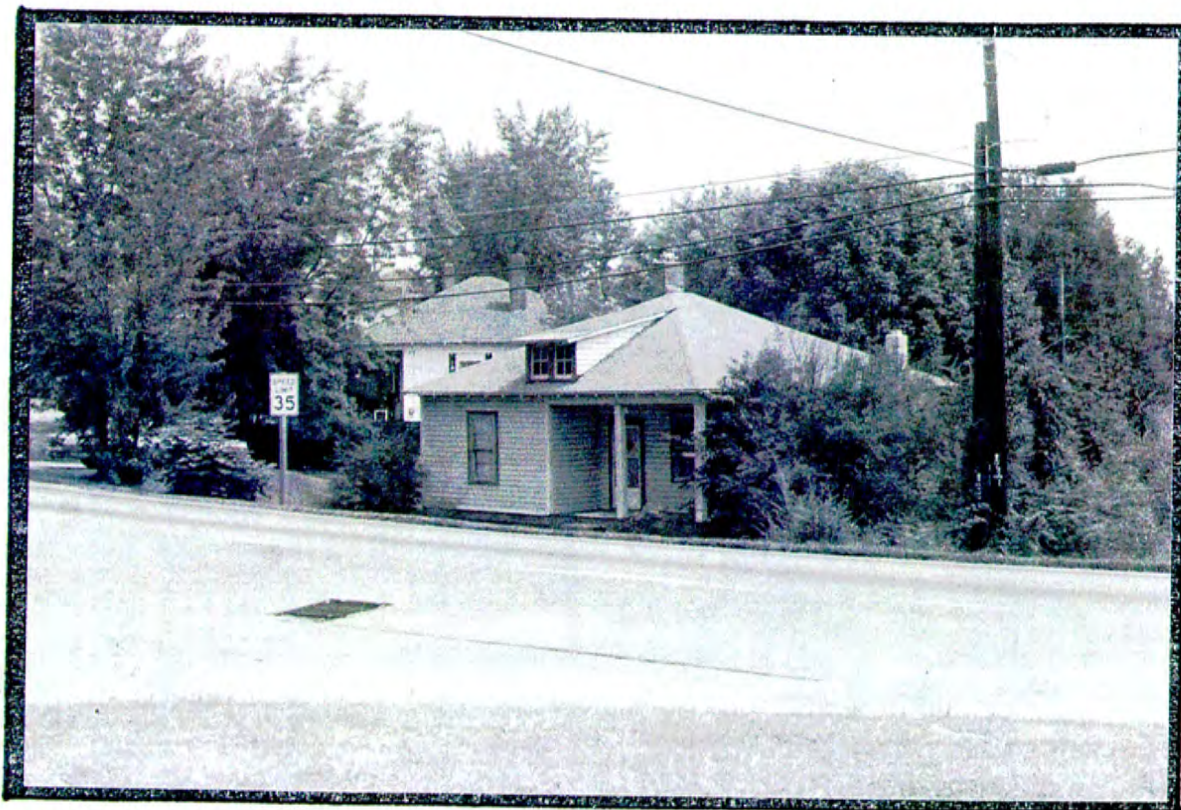

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 BRANCH

Proposed Boundaries for Mill District and former Whitnell School.

 DEMOLISHED BLDG.



Building #A



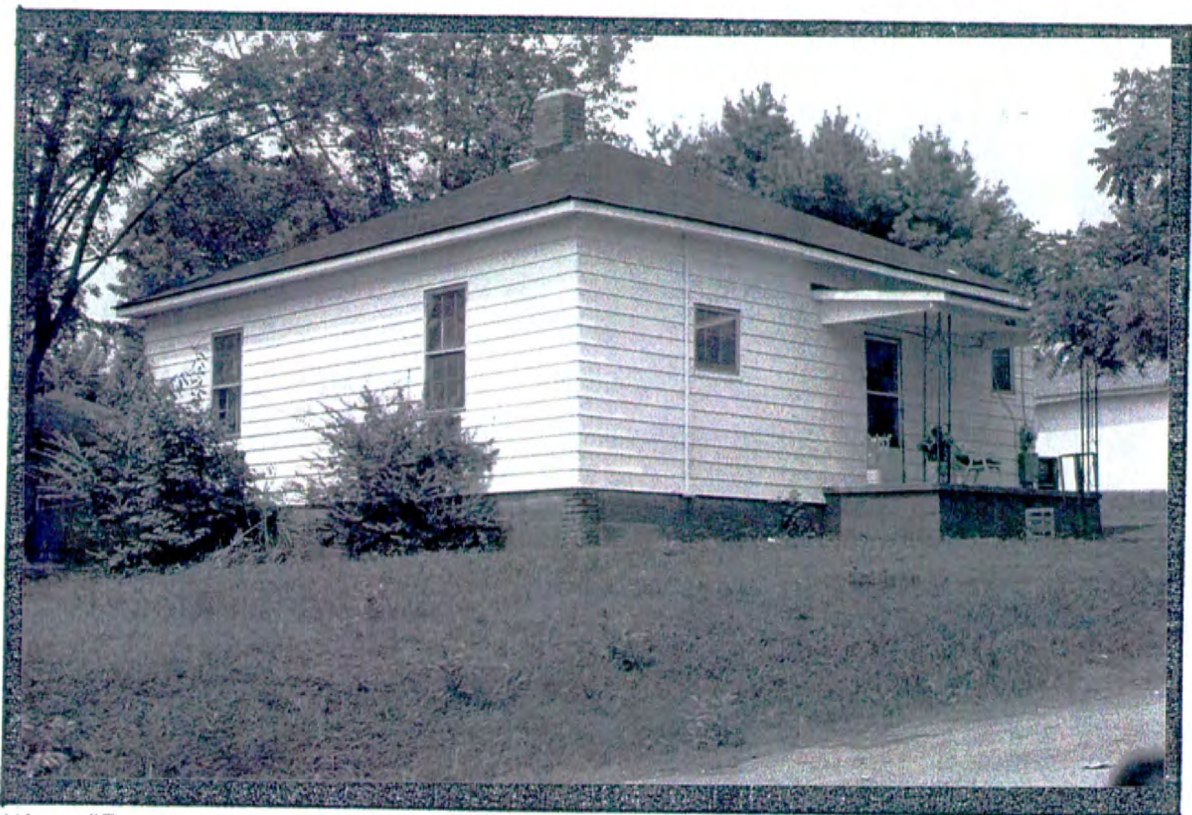
View #B



Building #C



Building #D



View #E



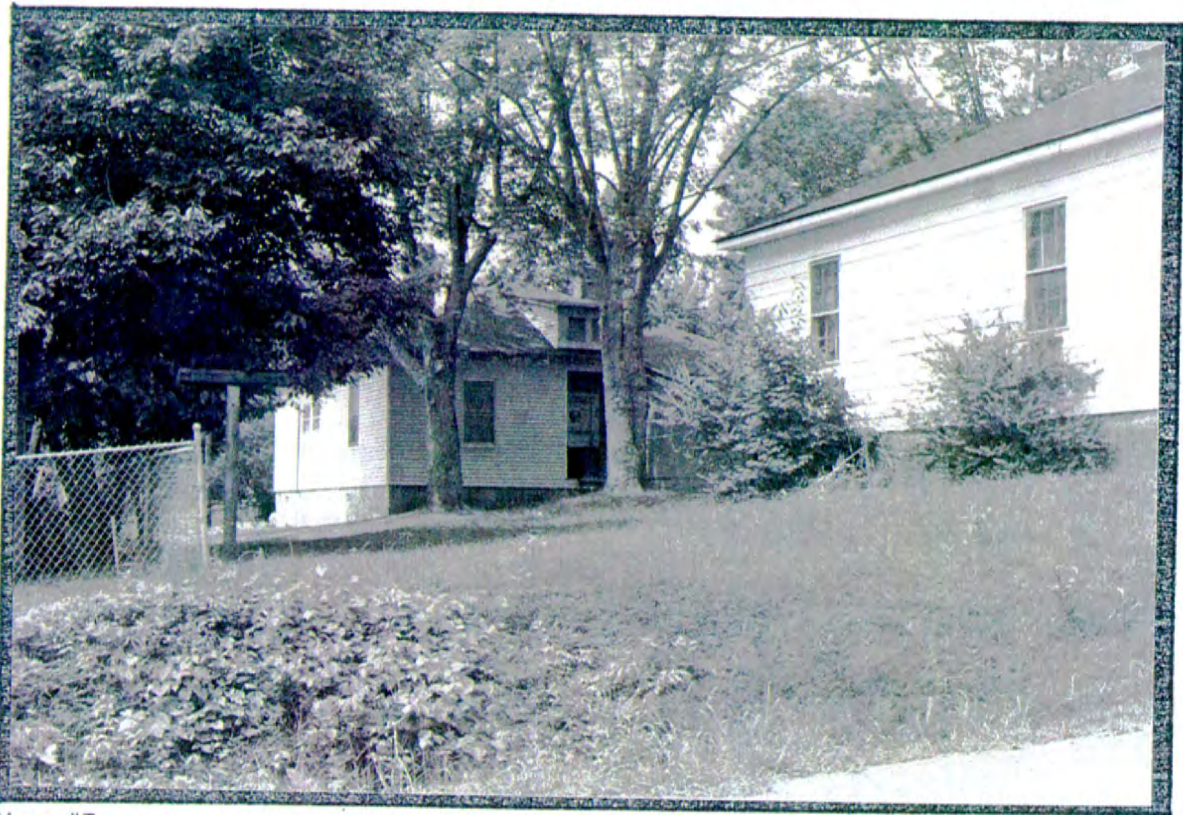
Building #F

Building #



Building #6





View #I



Building #J



Building #K



Building #L



View #M



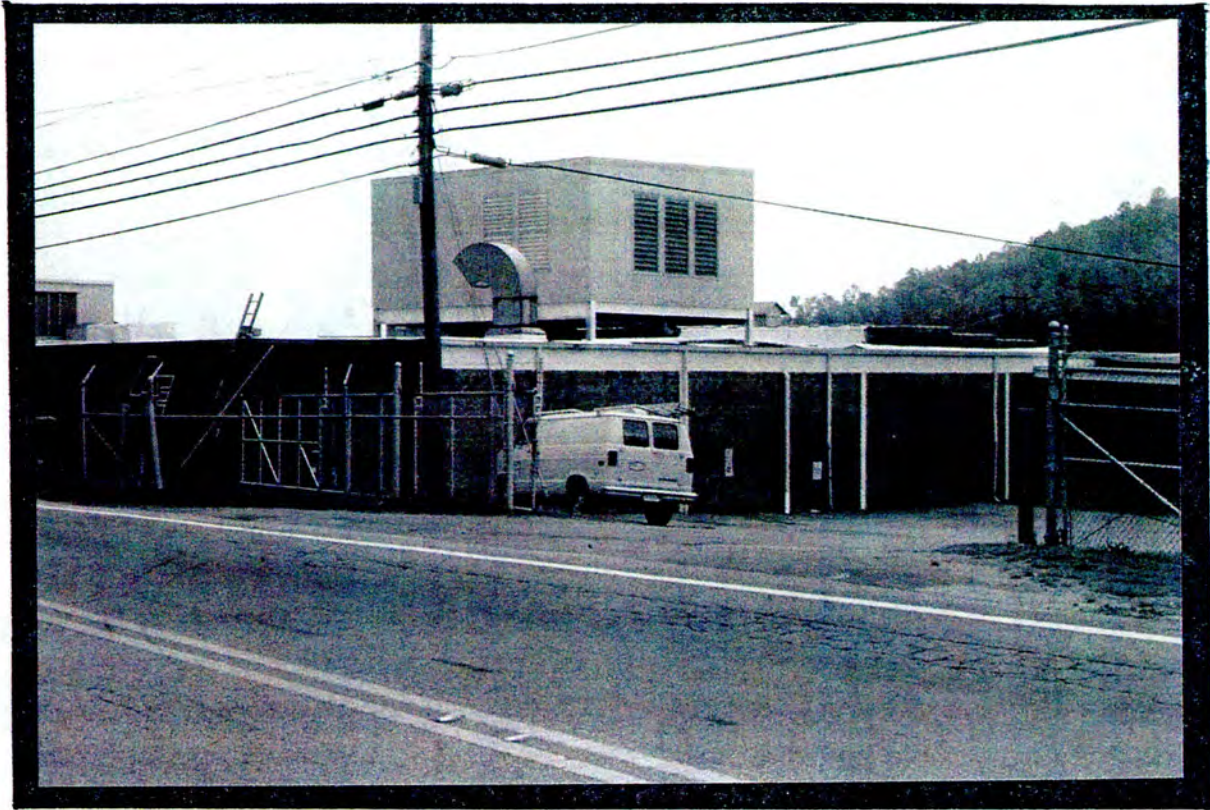
Building #N



Building #0



Building #P



View #Q
American and Efird Mill

Properties Not Considered Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

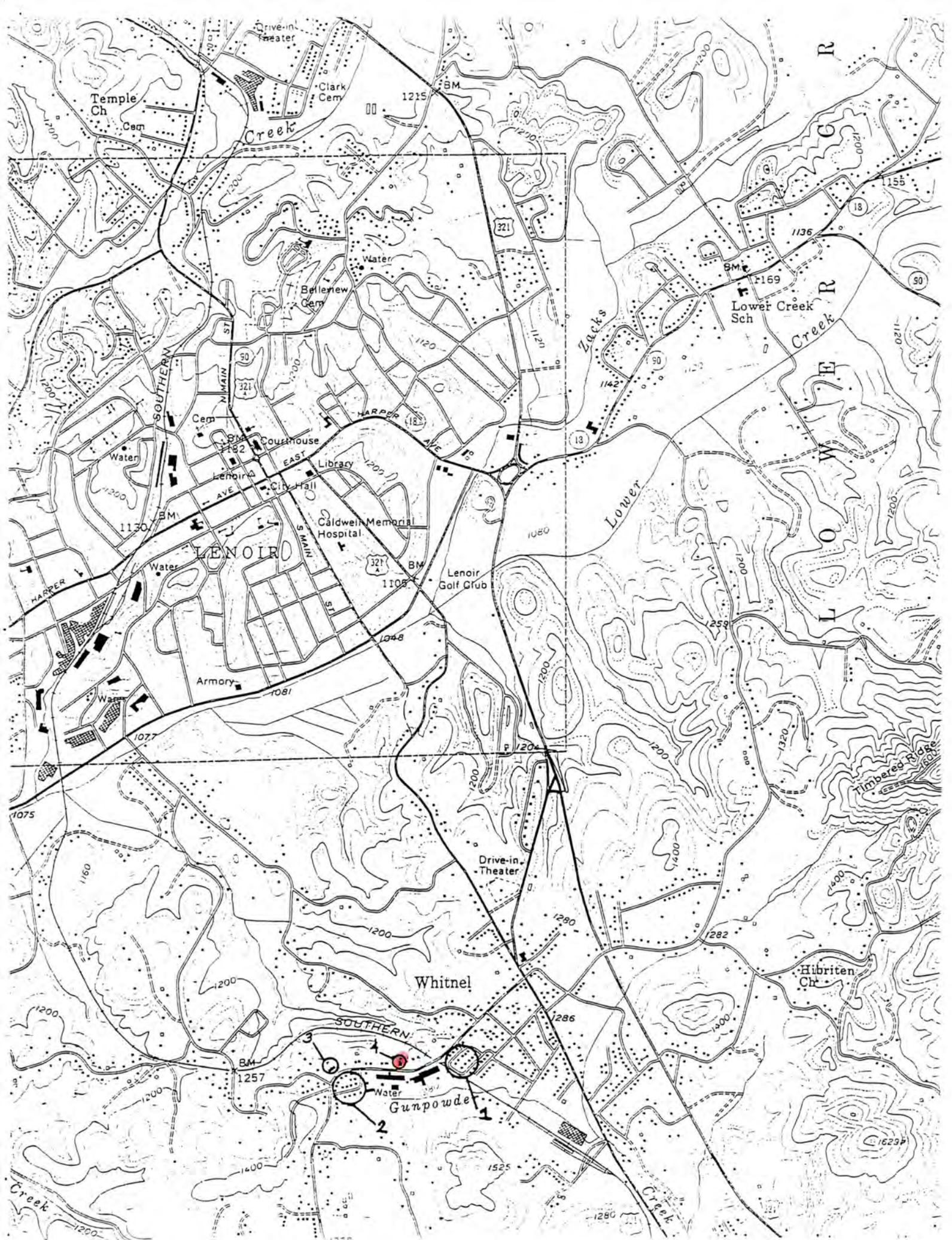
Living Word Assembly of God

Description

The Living Word Assembly of God is located on the north side of SR 1001 approximately .4 mile from the Southern Railway Bridge -- #183> The Building (labeled #4 on the attached map) was constructed in 1927. The building is three bays wide and four bays deep. The gable-front porch is supported by wooden box columns (sheathed in vinyl) resting upon brick piers. The roof is surmounted by a belfry with a bellcast roof and square ventilators. The belfry has also been sheathed with vinyl. The interior of the church has been recently altered. The original walls and furnishings have been covered or removed and a dropped acoustical ceiling has been added.

Evaluation

A religious property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places if it is a significant illustration of an architectural style, the work of a master, or if it exhibits artistic value in its design or detailing. The Living Word Assembly of God meets none of these criteria. The building is not considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register.





The Living Word Assembly of God

J.L. Nelson Mill Village

Context

At the time of construction of the J.L. Nelson Mill and Villate, Caldwell County had over 25 cotton mills and 7 hosiery mills. Mill villages exist at Cherryville, Rhodhiss, Lenoir, Granite Falls and Hudson. These mill villages are largely intact (with their respective mills). By the year the first house was under construction (1917) North Carolina had over 200 mill villages. These villages ranged in size from tiny hamlets of twenty or thirty houses to large, sprawling communities like Kannapolis in Cabarrus County, whose population reached over 30,000 people.

Description

The first mill village associated with the town currently known at Whitnel was under construction in 1917 and completed in 1919. The village (marked #1 on attached map) associated with the J.L. Nelson Mill has undergone severe character altering changes. These changes include the destruction of 40% of the original houses, additions and alterations which have changed the scale of the village and the continued infill of "mobile homes" whose placement does not recognize established setbacks or street patterns.

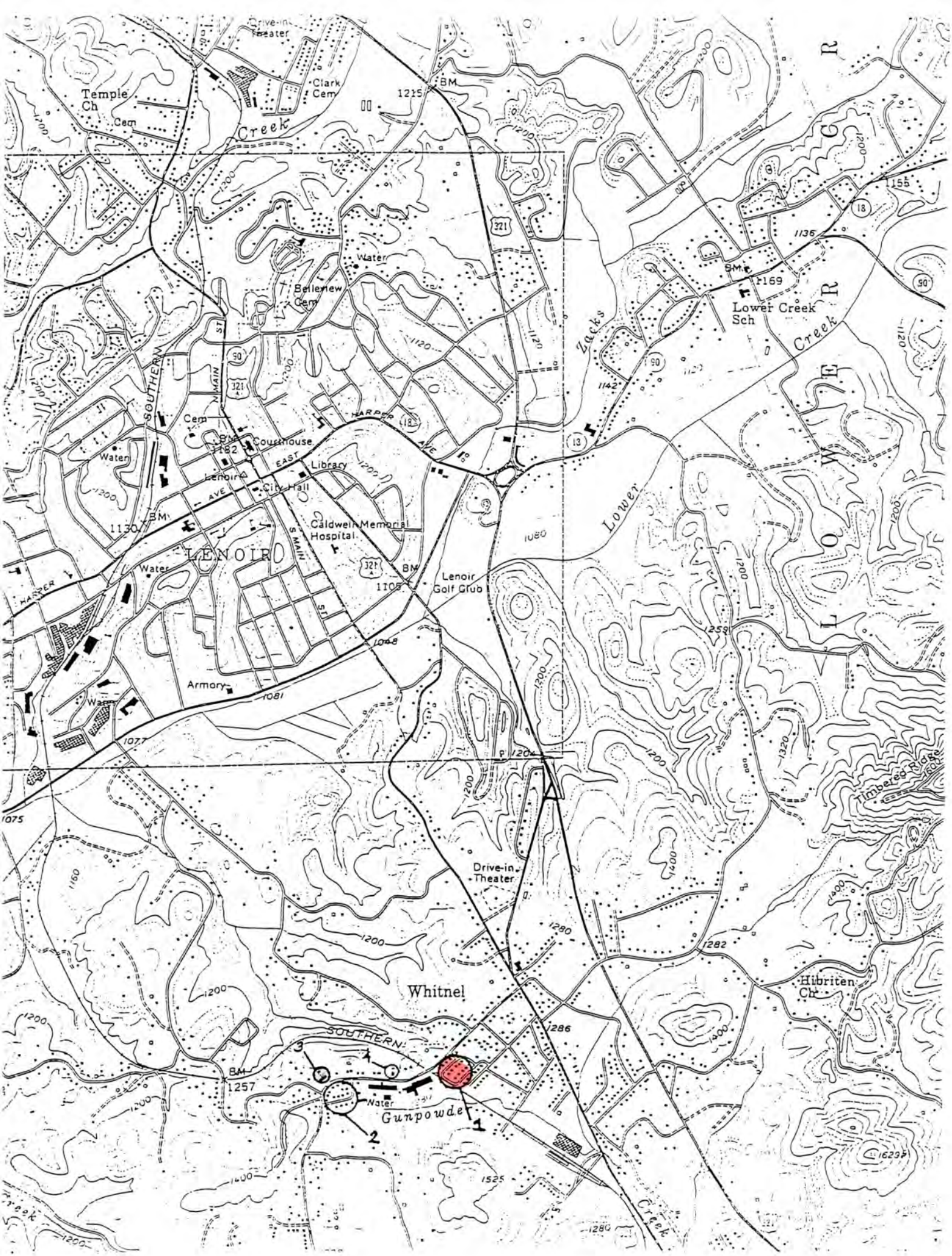
In addition to the severe character altering changes which have and are currently taking place in the mill village, the mill itself has been destroyed and replaced with a water treatment facility.

Caldwell County possesses many mill villages which are still intact and which still have the adjoining mill. J.L. Nelson's mill (one of a chain of five mills with attached villages all located in Caldwell County) does not survive at Whitnel. Because of numerous character altering changes, the destruction of approximately 40% of the original structures, additions which obscure the original appearance of this assemblage of mill housing, the integration of many (6) mobile homes which do not recognize established scale and street patterns and, because the mill associated with this mill village no longer exists. The mill village associated with J.L. Nelson Mills is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Evaluation

There are no significant historical events or persons of any significance associated with these properties. As such, they are not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B. These buildings are individually common house-types.

They do not embody any distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do they possess high artistic value. They are, therefore, not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The architectural components of these properties are not likely to yield information important in history; they are, therefore, not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D in that respect. For consideration of the eligibility of the archaeological component of this property, see the archaeology report.





Drive-in Theater

Whitnell

Gum powder

DEMOLISHED BLDG.

Water

NORTHERN

1525

1200

1286

1280

1280

1280

1280

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

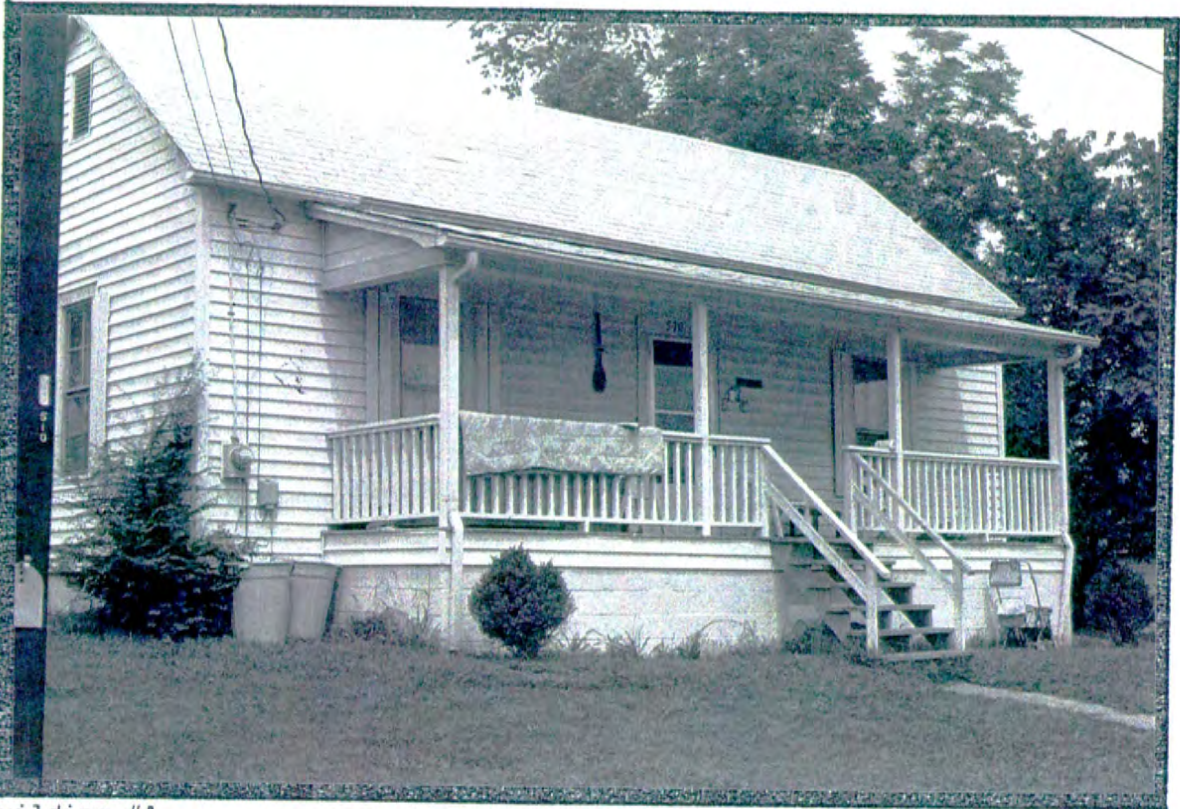
H

I

J

K

L



Building #A



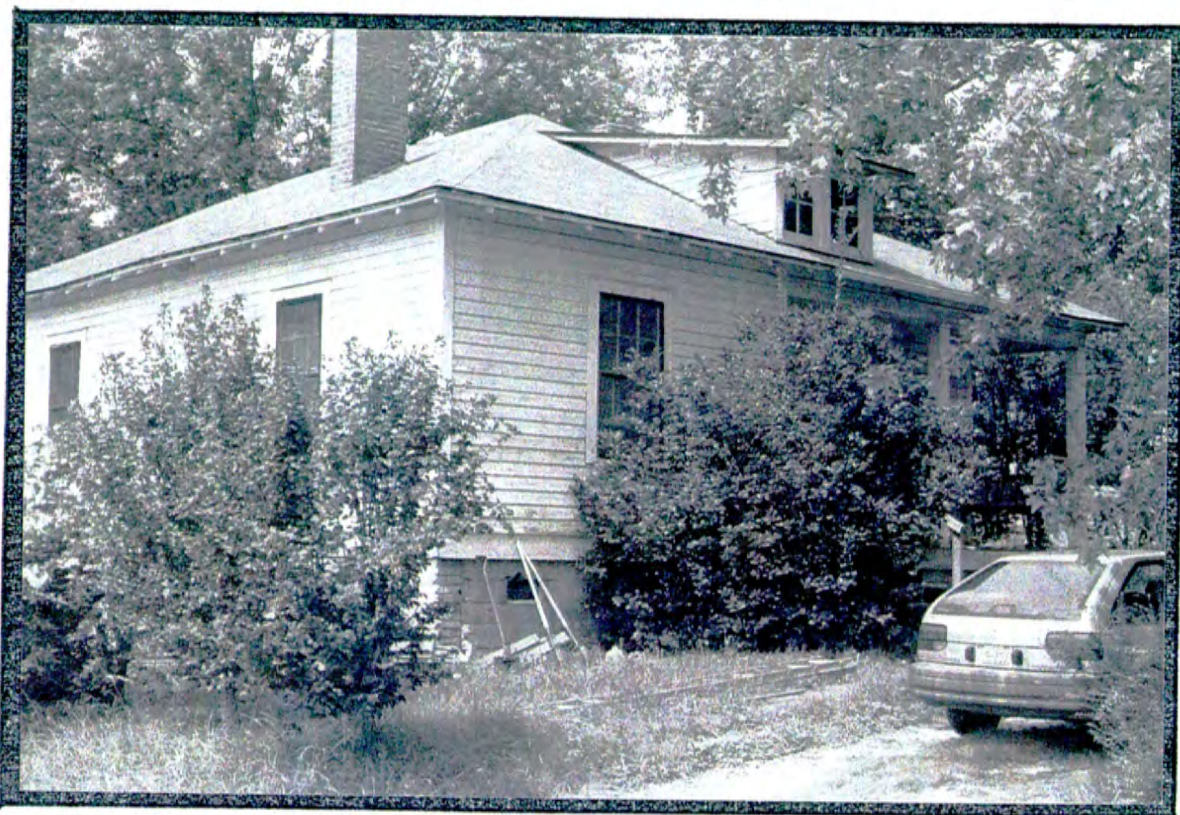
Building #B



Building #C



Building #D



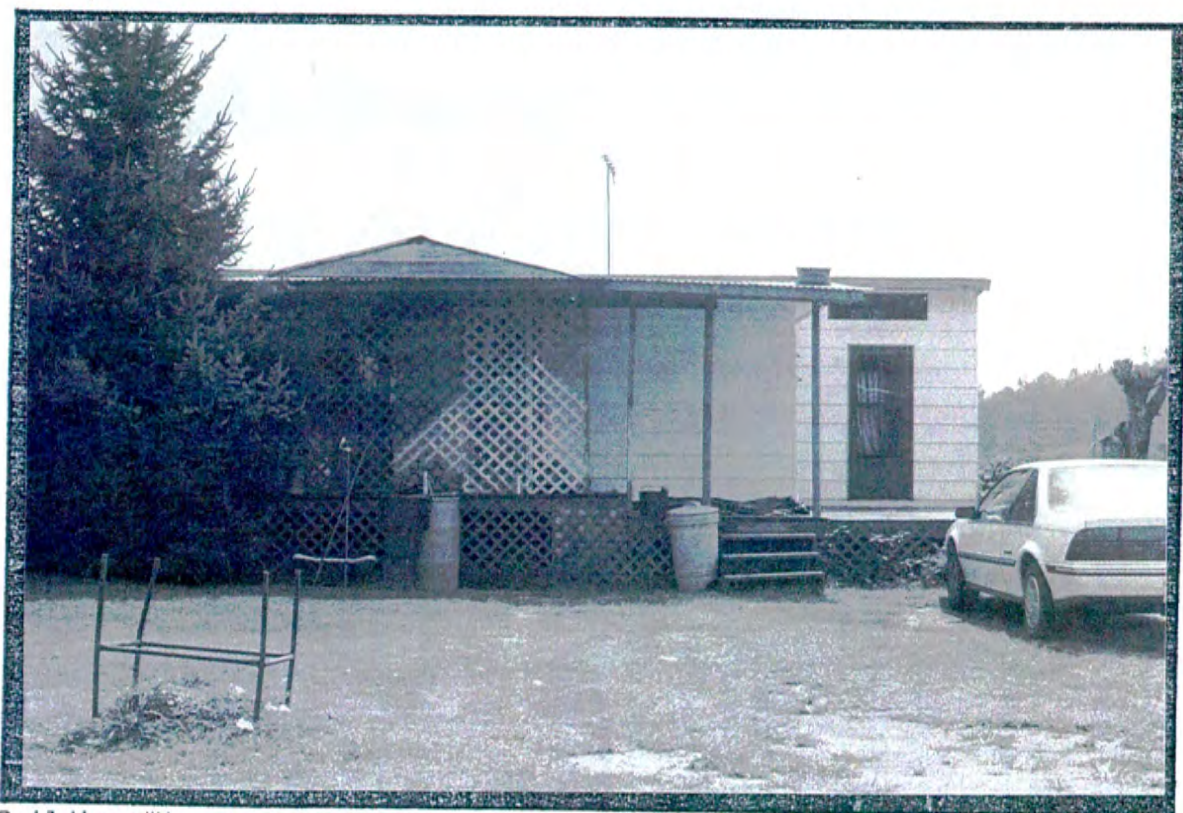
Building #E



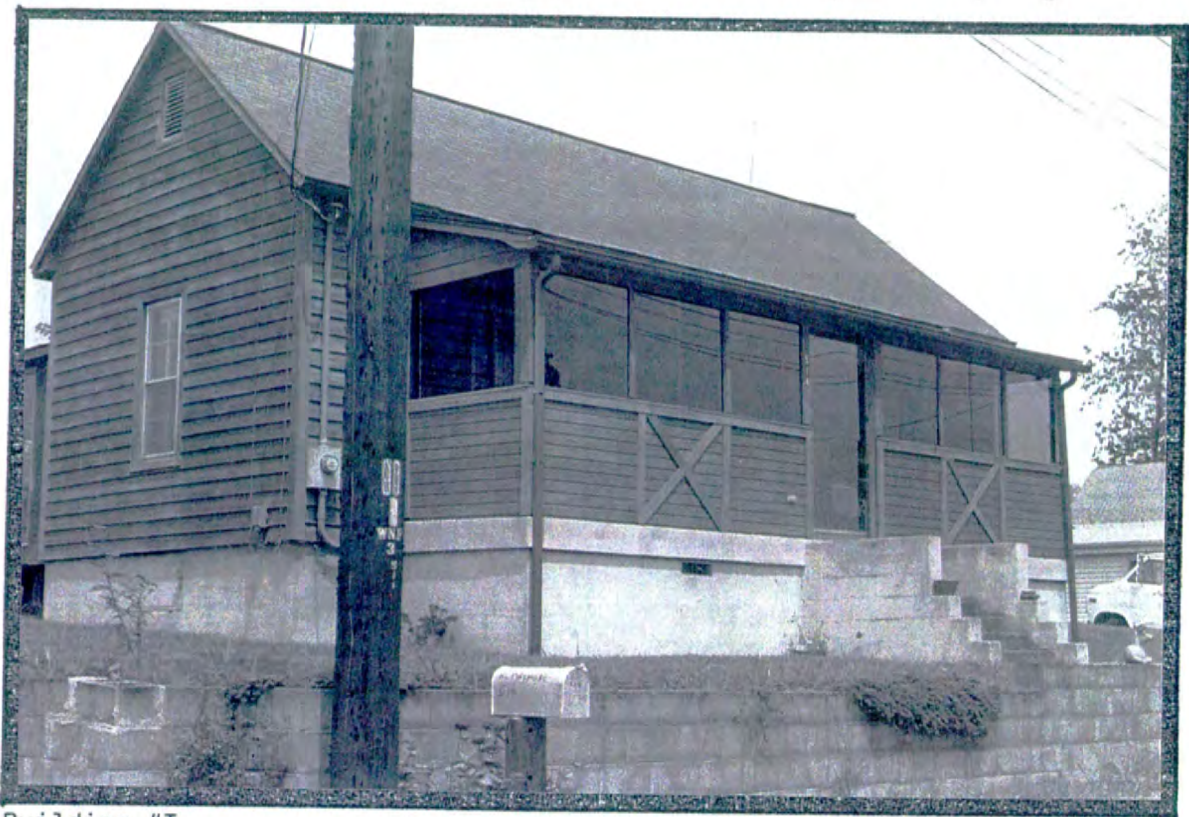
Building #F



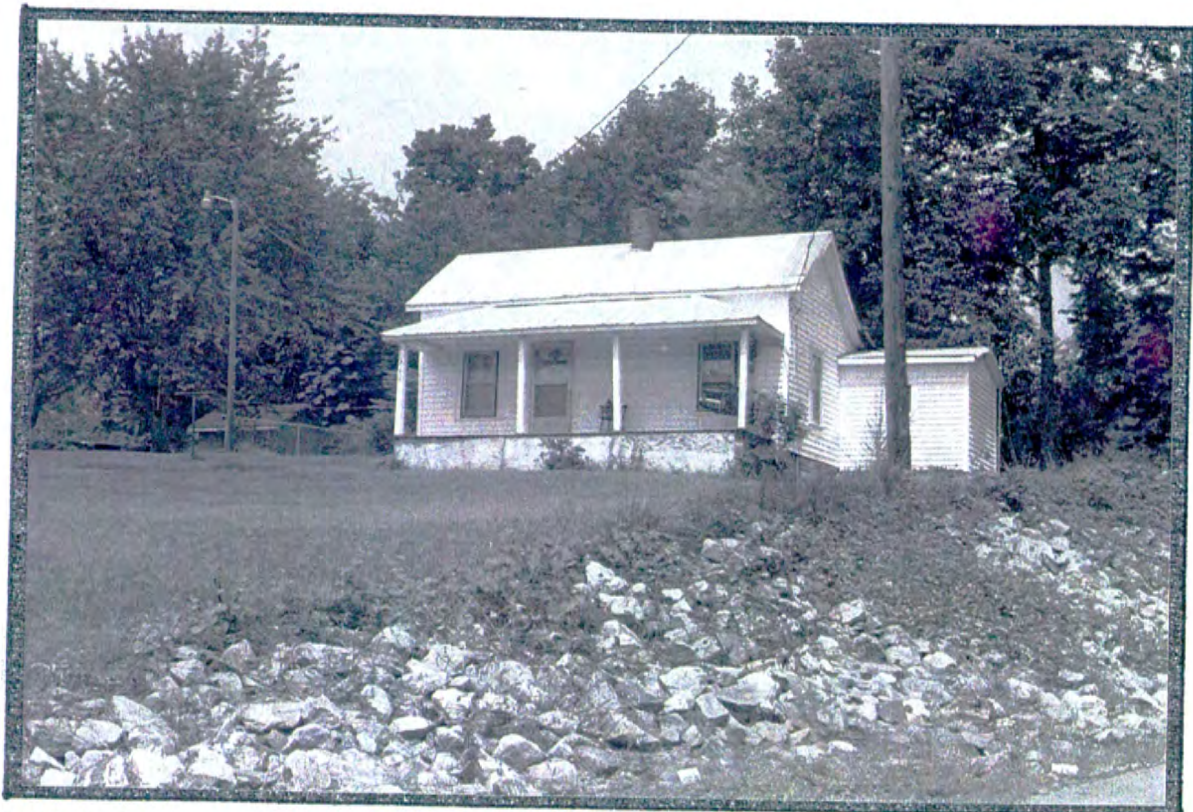
Building #G



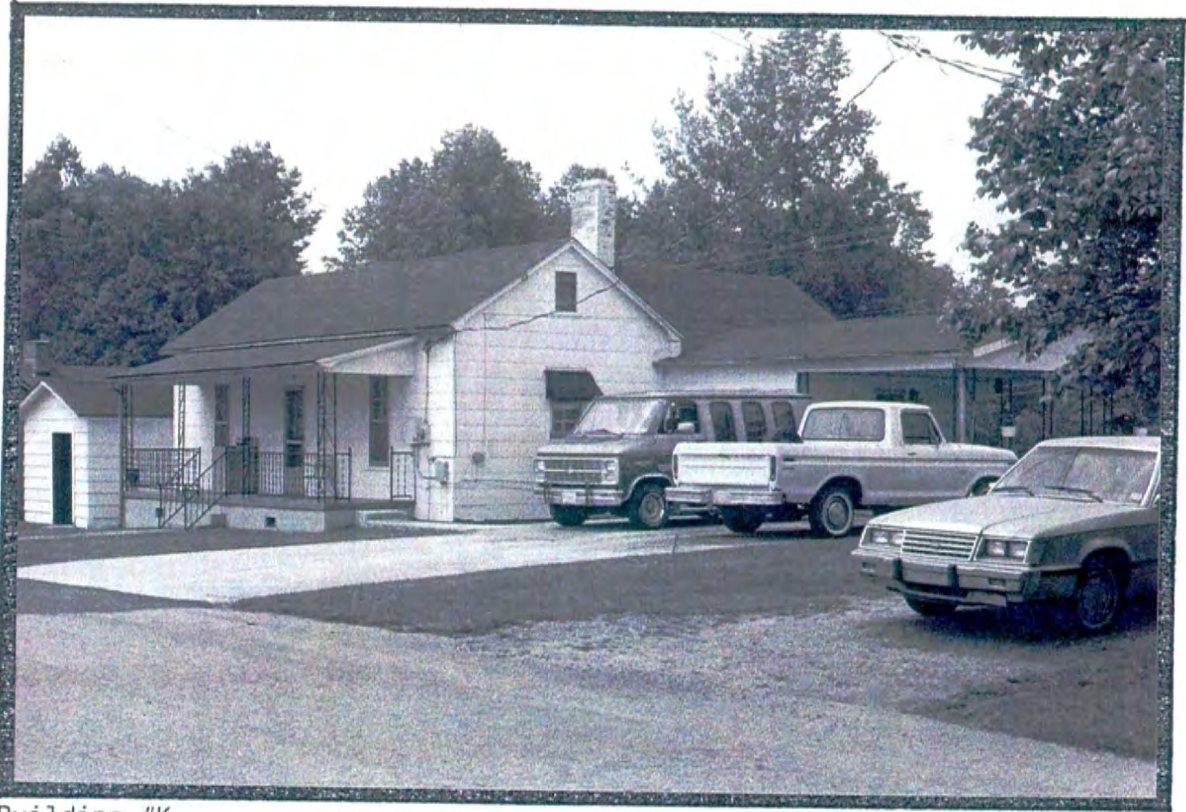
Building #H



Building #I



Building #J



Building #K



View #L

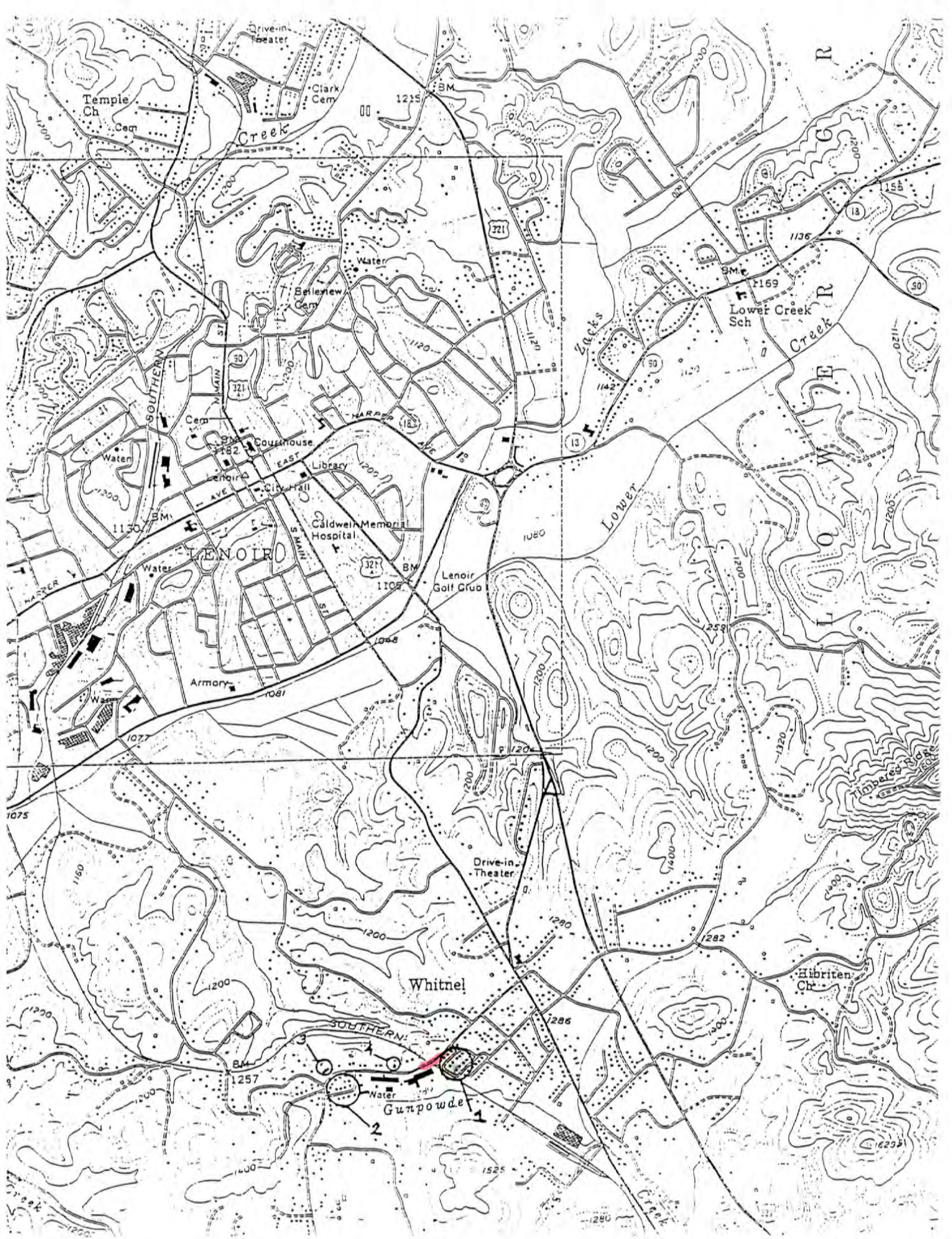


View #L

Bridge # 183

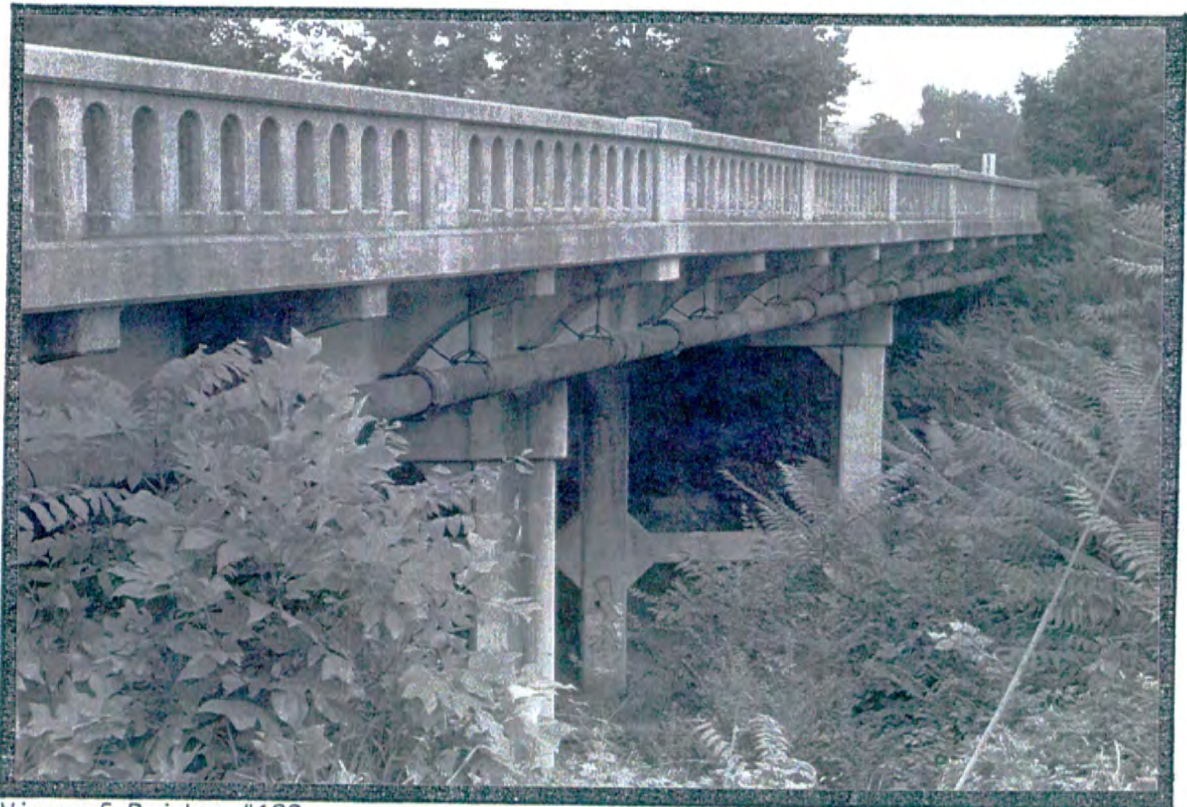
Bridge #183, which falls within the APE, was constructed in 1937. It is a concrete T-Beam Bridge (bridge type 104). This is one of over 500 such bridges remaining in the state. The bridge was surveyed in 1990 and, at the time of the survey, given a five year "estimated remaining life-span". The bridge has been damaged by collisions occurring on both the east and west sides. The bridge has been altered by the integration of utility lines which penetrate the bridge on the east elevation.

Bridge # 183 is an altered and damaged example of a common bridge type. Because its structural integrity, as well as its integrity of design, has been compromised, this structure is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register.





View of Bridge # 183



View of Bridge #183

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Mason, Vicky. "Historical Development of Caldwell County", Unpublished research paper available at Caldwell County Planning Department.

Professional Qualifications of Principal Investigator

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