

An Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II (Abridged)

Widen US 70 from East of Catawba River Bridge
to US 70/221 Business to a Five-Lane Curb and Gutter
Facility, McDowell County, North Carolina
TIP No. R-3115
State Project No. 8.1871201
Federal Aid Project No. STP-70(17)

North Carolina Department of Transportation
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Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen US 70 to a five-lane curb and gutter facility from just east of the Catawba River Bridge to US 70/221 Business (TIP No. R-3115; State Project No. 8.1871201).

A Phase II (Abridged) survey was conducted to determine the Area of Potential Effect (APE), and to identify and evaluate all significant resources within the APE according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. McDowell County survey files were searched in the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) in Raleigh and Asheville, as were the National Register and State Study List. Background research of the architecture and history of the project area, as well as analysis of the topographic features of the area, determined the boundary of the APE (Figure 1). The APE is bounded by US 70/221 Business to the east, the Catawba River to the north and west, and topographical features on the south side of US 70. An intensive survey was then conducted by car and foot on April 27, 1994 which covered 100% of the APE to identify those properties that appeared potentially eligible for the National Register.

Five properties were surveyed within the APE: one late eighteenth-century residence, one middle twentieth-century commercial building, one middle twentieth-century residential/commercial building, one middle twentieth-century residence, and one middle twentieth-century shack. None of the properties are considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Properties Considered Potentially Eligible for the National Register

Page

None

Properties Not Considered Potentially Eligible for the National Register

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Purpose of Survey and Report

This survey was conducted and report prepared in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE. This report is prepared pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed on or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment.

Methodology

This survey was conducted and report compiled by NCDOT in accordance with the provisions 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; 36 CFR Part 60; and Phase II (Abridged) Survey Procedures for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT.

NCDOT conducted a Phase II (Abridged) survey with the following goals: 1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation.

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and historical background research of the project area. The field survey was conducted by car and on foot, and all structures over fifty years of age were photographed and keyed to a local map and an aerial composite.

The SHPO in Raleigh conducted a search of their records and found a survey file for one property within the APE, which was entered on the State Study List in March 1973. A further search of survey files in the SHPO offices in Raleigh and Asheville found no more survey files for the project area. The National Register and the State Study List were consulted and no other properties are listed in the project area. The major sources for background material of the area were a historic sites inventory of the region, field notes, and a National Register nomination, all of which are located in the survey file produced by the SHPO, and a published history of the state (North Carolina: A Guide to the Old North State, American Guide Series, 1944). McDowell County has received

only a reconnaissance survey, and there has been no comprehensive architectural survey of the project area.

Summary Results and Findings

Properties Under Fifty Years of Age

There are no properties within the APE under fifty years of age which meet Criterion Consideration G: Properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years.

Properties Considered Eligible for or Listed in the National Register

None

Properties Considered Not Eligible for the National Register

Staff members of NCDOT met with SHPO representatives on May 26, 1994 to discuss the eligibility of the following buildings. SHPO concurred that the following buildings were not eligible for the National Register.

1. Colonel Joseph McDowell House

Loss of design integrity and destruction of historic material.

2. Catawba River Produce Building

Many character-altering additions, and no special historical or architectural significance.

4. Residence

Does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it possess high artistic value. No special historical significance.

5. Shack

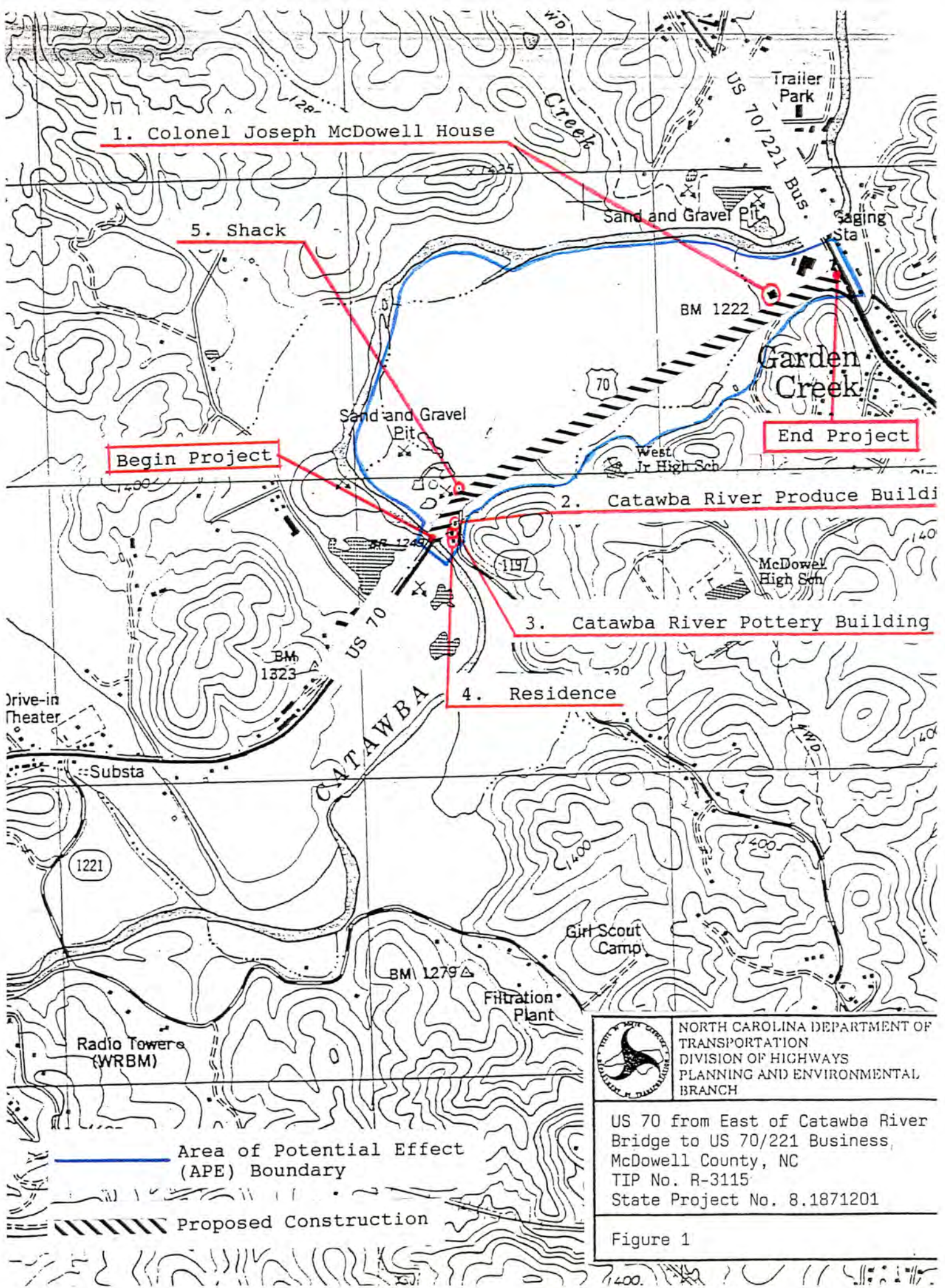
A shed of undetermined use, possibly associated with the gravel pit located behind the property. It does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it possess high artistic value. No special historical significance.



3. Catawba River Pottery Building

- A. Location: North side of US 70, 0.1 miles east of Catawba River
- B. Date: 1934
- C. Style: Vernacular residence
- D. Integrity: A residential/commercial building dating from 1934, built of poured concrete, cinder block, and field stone veneer. Additions have been made since the original construction.
- E. Evaluation: This building was evaluated at the request of the SHPO office in Raleigh. Additional information was requested; further research and evaluation revealed no other information. Background research of this and all other properties in the APE enabled their consideration within the context of the history of the area. 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 under Criteria A or B. This property was also considered within the architectural context of the county, and was found to have no special architectural significance. This building has received many character-altering additions over the years which have lessened its integrity of design; it is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The architectural component of this property is not likely to yield information important in history; it is 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.



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

US 70 from East of Catawba River
Bridge to US 70/221 Business,
McDowell County, NC
TIP No. R-3115
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Figure 1