

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II (Abridged)

New Connector, US 25 to SR 1534 (Naples Road),
Henderson County
TIP No. I-2001



North Carolina Department of Transportation
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May 3, 1994

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New connector from US 25 to SR 1534 (Naples Road),
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Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes a new connector from US 25 to SR 1534 (Naples Road) to improve access to I-26/US 25 interchange for Park Ridge Hospital. The proposed connector will be a two-lane facility on new location. The project length is 1.2 miles. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for historic architectural resources is shown on the attached map (see Illustration 1).

Several alternatives are being considered for the alignment of the proposed connector. The preferred alignment begins at US 25 north of the I-26/US 25 interchange, passes over the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks at a proposed grade separation, crosses SR 1536 at grade, and follows the Norfolk Southern track and I-26 before tying in with Twin Springs Road (SR 1535) at Naples Road (SR 1534). A second alignment varies slightly from the preferred alternative. This second alternative would begin at US 25, cross the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks at their junction with SR 1536, and tie in with Twin Springs Road north of Naples Road. The third alignment being studied would begin on US 25 just south of the I-26/US 25 interchange and head east across the Norfolk Southern tracks before tying in with Naples Road (SR 1534) near the bridge spanning I-26 (bridge #223).

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 submitted 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 in 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.

Henderson County has been comprehensively surveyed for historic architectural resources and the survey site files, located at the western office of the Division of Archives and History in Asheville, were consulted. Additional research was conducted at the Hendersonville Public Library and the North Carolina State Library in Raleigh. On March 14-15, 1994, a NCDOT staff architectural historian surveyed the APE by car and on foot. Several property owners and area residents were consulted.

Summary Findings of the Phase I Survey

The Phase I survey located eight (8) properties over fifty years of age within the APE for the subject project. No properties listed in the National Register or on the State Study List are located within the APE. The portion of the project area situated between US 25 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks is characterized by commercial development, industrial sites, and poor to moderate quality housing less than thirty years of age. The area east of the railroad tracks and north of I-26 is characterized by brick ranch houses with small cultivated plots. Properties located along Twin Springs Road (see Illustration 2) vary in character from early to late twentieth-century residences to small office buildings. The three oldest residential buildings located along Twin Springs Road within the APE--a log building (late-19th century with 1920s addition), the Jarvis House (c. 1940), and the Black House (late 1930s)--have undergone extensive remodelings.

On March 31, 1994 representatives from the State historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Historic Architectural Resources Section of NCDOT met to review photographs of the eight properties and the preliminary findings of the survey. The representatives agreed that seven of the properties identified do not appear to be eligible for the National Register and the remaining property was evaluated in the report. Photographs of the properties not considered eligible for the National Register are included as an appendix to this report.

Properties not considered eligible for the National Register:

1. Log building. Lack of historical or architectural significance.
2. Jarvis House. Numerous character-altering changes.
3. Black House. Character-altering changes.
4. House (Duraline Imaging storage). Loss of integrity.
5. Barns (2). Lack of historical or architectural significance.

6. House (Melba's Florist). Poor example of commonplace type.
7. Williamson House. Loss of integrity.

Property Inventory and Evaluation

WILLIAMSON CEMETERY

1. Location. Approximately 800 feet west of SR 1535 (Twin Springs Road) and 640 feet north of I-26. The property is owned by George M. and Mildred Jarvis.
2. Description. The Williamson Cemetery is a small family burying ground located on the crest of a knoll to the northeast of the old homeplace in the Naples vicinity, Henderson County. The burying ground includes four gravestones and four markers placed at the foot of each grave. Elijah Williamson, his wife, one of their five daughters, and a granddaughter are interred here, and their graves are aligned in an east-west direction. (Lucretia Patton's relation is uncertain but evidence suggests that she is the daughter of Minerva Patton and her husband.) The gravestones are inscribed as follows:

Sacred
To The Memory of
Elijah Williamson
Who Was Born
On the 11th February 1755
and died
29th September 1837
Aged nearly 83 years

Elijah Williamson
Pvt.
Casey's Regiment
Rev. War

Sarah R. Williamson
1764-1850

E. W.

Minerva W. Patton
1806-1880

In Memory of
Lucretia C. Patton
who died March 5, 1869
The 23rd Year

An enormous, sentinel white pine has sheltered the Williamson Cemetery, but severe storms in recent years have damaged the large tree and resulted in debris in and around the burial sites. The Williamson Cemetery is located on property owned by George and Mildred Jarvis, who had tended the graves regularly until a few years ago.

3. **Historical Background.** While residing in Ninety Six District of South Carolina, Elijah Williamson, a native of Bertie County, North Carolina, enlisted with the American forces under Capt. John Rogers at the outset of the Revolutionary War. He was stationed on the Indian frontier of the Saluda River and later near the present city of Greenville, South Carolina. The American forces were defending the border against the Cherokee nation. Beginning in the fall of 1781, Williamson served in Capt. James Dillard's Company of Col. Levi Casey's South Carolina Regiment of Mounted Rangers and defended the frontier of upper South Carolina against Tories and Indians. In 1782, Williamson married Sarah Reed of Laurens District, South Carolina, shortly after his discharge from active service.

Elijah and Sarah Williamson probably settled on lands granted to him in present Henderson County sometime in the late 1880s. William Mills, generally considered the earliest settler of Henderson County, received a land grant in 1787 for 640 acres in the Fruitland and Mills River vicinity. The Williamsons settled on Mud Creek near its confluence with the French Broad River in what was then Rutherford County. Sadie Patton in The Story of Henderson County suggests that Williamson was familiar with the region where he settled through his military service (p. 36). The formation of Henderson County did not occur until 1838 with land from Buncombe County (formed in 1792 from portions of Rutherford).

At the first county court of Buncombe held in April 1792, Elijah Williamson and Nicholas Woodfin, "residents of the Henderson portion," were to be summoned as jurors for the next session (Fain, p.8). Elijah Williamson was named in the January 1794 term to a committee charged with the laying off of a road between the ford of Cane Creek and "the flat rock near the blue ridge...a small distance above William Fletchers..." (Sondley, p. 494). As described, the road corresponds roughly to present US 25 from Fletcher through Hendersonville to Flat Rock, passing near (if not through) Williamson's property.

The Williamson tract would have included much of the present community of Naples and the land now occupied by the I-26/US 25 interchange. The old homeplace (see "Williamson House," property 7) still stands in the southeast quadrant of the interchange but suffered serious fire damage at some time in the past twenty-five years. The house remained in family ownership well into the twentieth century. Elijah Williamson planted a circle of five sycamore trees around the spring in front of the house, one for each of his daughters. The trees were still standing in 1947 but had been removed by 1970. Minerva Patton served as postmaster from 1860-66 and operated the Mud Creek post office out of the Williamson House. Presently I-26 separates the Williamson Cemetery from the old homeplace.

4. Evaluation. While Elijah Williamson's position as a Revolutionary War veteran and early settler of Henderson County deserves recognition, the activities, accomplishments, and contributions of his productive life in North Carolina do not possess any special significance. National Register Bulletin #32, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons," emphasizes the distinguishable characteristics of the significant person's productive life as central for eligibility under National Register criterion B for association with significant persons. Elijah Williamson earned any and all military distinction while serving in South Carolina regiments. As an early settler of Henderson County, Williamson headed a prosperous family and led an active civic and religious life, but he did not distinguish himself in these activities. For these reasons the Williamson Cemetery does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria B for its association with Elijah Williamson.

The modest character and scale of the gravestones in the Williamson Cemetery, which date from the mid- to late-nineteenth century, also lack distinctive features in the area of design and craftsmanship. For these and the aforementioned reasons the Williamson Cemetery does not appear to meet criteria consideration D for cemeteries or to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria C for its design.



Williamson Cemetery. General view to southeast.



Williamson Cemetery. General view to southeast.



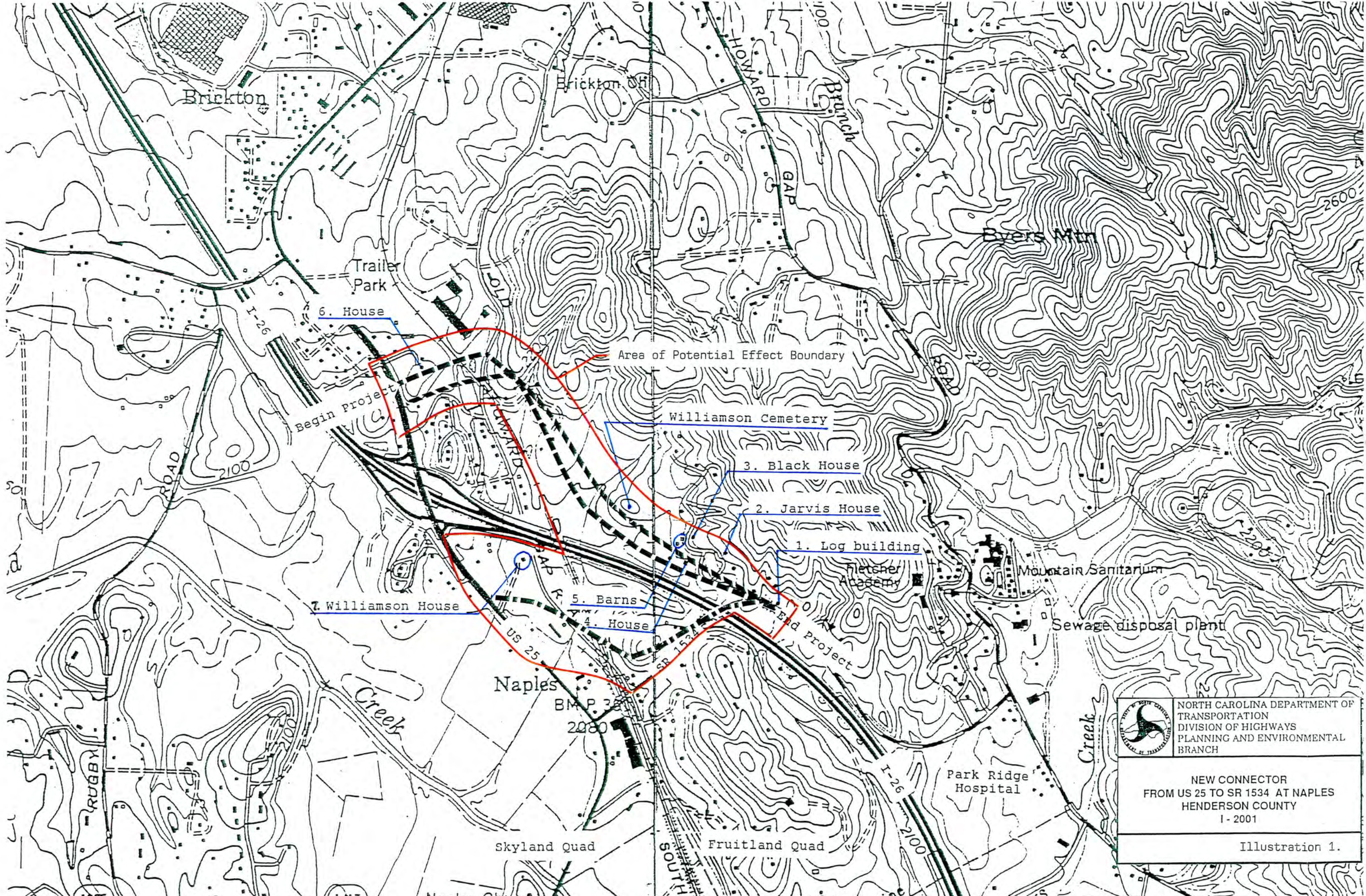
Williamson Cemetery. Elijah Williamson gravestone.




Williamson Cemetery. Minerva W. Patton gravestone.

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

NEW CONNECTOR
 FROM US 25 TO SR 1534 AT NAPLES
 HENDERSON COUNTY
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Illustration 1.

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TWIN SPRINGS ROAD (SR 1535)

2. Jarvis House.

1. Log building.

END PROJECT

3. Black House.

iamson Cemetery.

5. Barns.

4. House.

I-26

S ROAD (SR 1534)

Area of Potential Effect Boundary



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Illustration 2.



1. Log building.



1. Log building.



2. Jarvis House.



3. Black House.



4. House (Duraline Imaging storage).



5. Barns (1 of 2).



5. Barns (2 of 2).



6. House (Melba's Florist).



7. Williamson House. Located in southeast quadrant of I-26/US 25 interchange, Henderson County.