

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report
Phase II

SR 1546 (Lovelady Road)
from SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) to SR 1608 (Shady Grove Road)
Burke County
TIP No. R-2824B
State Project No. 8.2851501
Federal Aid No. STP-1546(8)

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Clay Griffith

July 26, 1996

Burke County #512

Lovelady Road (SR 1546), from Malcolm Blvd.
(SR 1001) to Shady Grove Rd. (SR 1608)
ER 95-7888, R-2824B

SR 1546 (Lovelady Road)
from SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) to SR 1608 (Shady Grove Road)
Burke County, TIP No. R-2824B

Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to upgrade and extend SR 1546 (Lovelady Road) from SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) to SR 1608 (Shady Grove Road) near Connelly Springs in Burke County (TIP No. R-2824B). The project is defined by two sections: (1) construct a two-lane facility on new location from SR 1001 to SR 1613 (Tomilson Loop Road) and (2) improve the approximately 0.6 mile southern portion of SR 1613 to SR 1608. NCDOT proposes to acquire 100 feet of right of way for the new facility which will consist of a 24-foot pavement section with 2-foot paved shoulders and 6-foot unpaved shoulders. The existing roadway section will be upgraded to a 24-foot pavement with 2-foot paved shoulders and 6-foot unpaved shoulders. The overall length of the project is 1.8 miles.

The area of potential effect (APE) for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field. The APE includes both the A and B portions of TIP Project No. R-2824. For TIP Project No. R-2824A, NCDOT proposes to upgrade existing SR 1546 (Lovelady Road) from SR 1545 (Laurel Street) in Valdese to SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard). The APE is shown on the attached maps.

Purpose of the Survey and Report

NCDOT conducted a survey and prepared this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report has been prepared as a technical appendix to the EA and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA 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. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and compiled the report 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 Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

NCDOT conducted a Phase II 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.

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and background research. A NCDOT staff architectural historian conducted an intensive field survey of the APE in September

1995 and February 1996. All properties over fifty years of age located within the APE were photographed and keyed to an aerial mosaic. Background research was conducted at the Burke County Tax Office, the Burke County Public Library in Morganton, the Western Office of the Division of Archives and History in Asheville, and the North Carolina State Library in Raleigh. Also, several property owners and area residents were interviewed.

In a memorandum dated October 11, 1995, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) identified two (2) properties located within the general project area: Malcolm Boulevard Historic District and the R. L. Abernethy House. According to local residents the R. L. Abernethy House was destroyed several years ago by the town's fire department with permission of the property owner. The historic architectural resources of Burke County were surveyed by J. Randall Cotton in 1983-84 and the results were published in *Historic Burke: An Architectural Sites Inventory of Burke County* (1987). In addition to the two properties identified in the SHPO memorandum, the survey publication contains an entry for the Theodore Franklin House, located at the northwest corner of SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) and SR 1546 (Lovelady Road).

Summary Findings of the Survey

A NCDOT staff architectural historian conducted a survey of historic architectural resources for the subject project, and all properties over fifty years of age located within the area of potential effect (APE) were photographed and keyed to an aerial map. The APE was delineated as a roughly 400-foot wide corridor on new location from SR 1546 to SR 1613 and as a 100-foot wide corridor for the widening of existing SR 1546 and SR 1613.

Fifteen (15) properties over fifty years of age were identified in the survey of historic architectural resources for both the A and B sections of the project. No properties listed on either the National Register or the State Study List are located within the APE for the subject project. The R. L. Abernethy House was placed on the Study List in 1984, but the house was destroyed several years ago.

Of the fifteen properties surveyed, three (3) properties--Arthur T. Abernethy House, Hurst House, and the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District--are evaluated in the Property Inventory and Evaluation Section of this report. The Theodore Franklin House (Property #8) is included in the evaluation of the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District. At a meeting on October 5, 1995, representatives of the North Carolina SHPO concurred with NCDOT's determination that the other twelve (12) properties are not considered eligible for the National Register (see Appendix).

Properties listed on the National Register: None

Properties on the State Study List:

R. L. Abernethy House (destroyed) BK 0078

Properties Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Arthur T. Abernethy House

Properties Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

Malcolm Boulevard Historic District BK 0212
Hurst House
Properties Nos. 1-7 and 9-13 (see Appendix)

Historical Contexts and Background Information

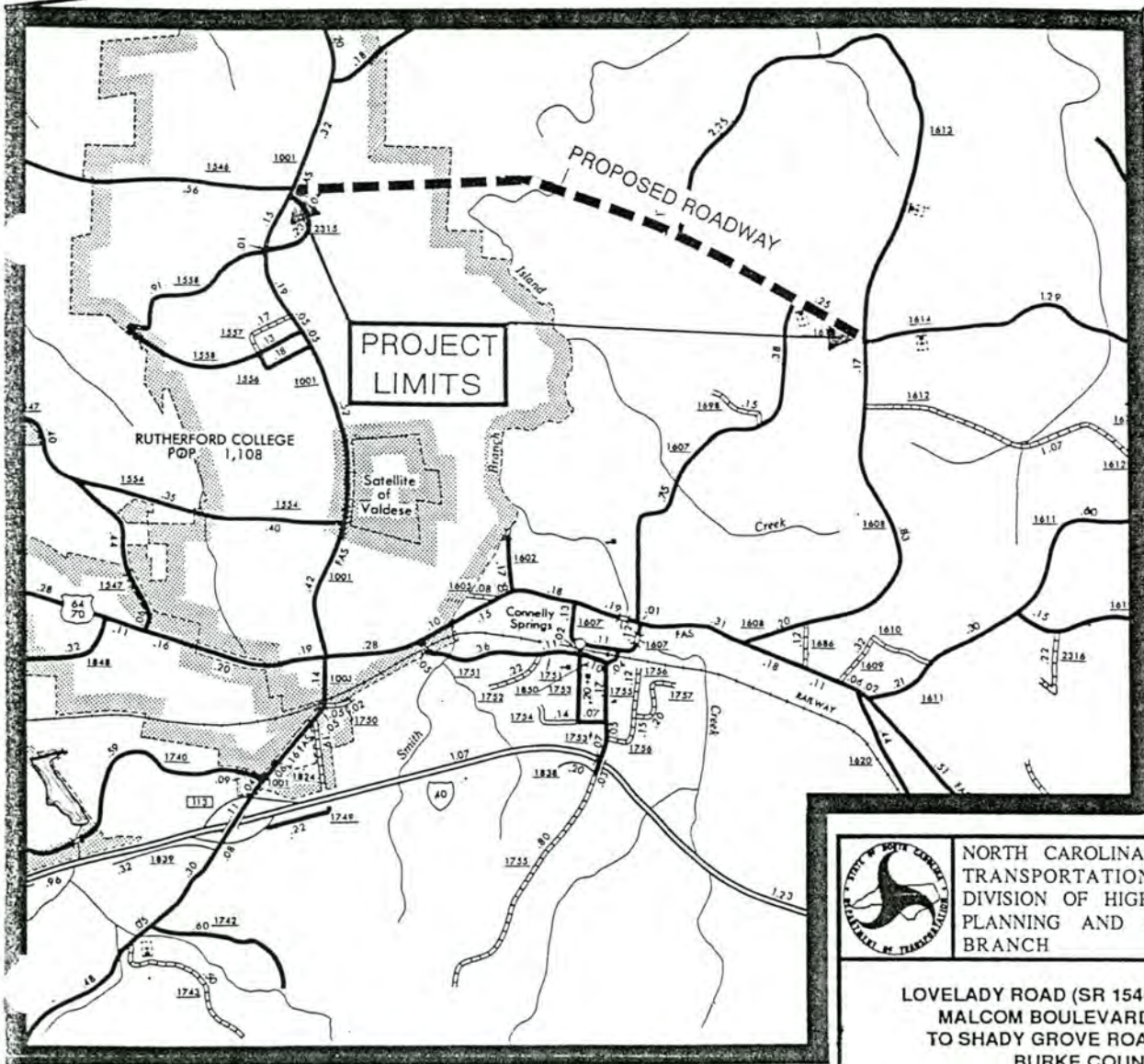
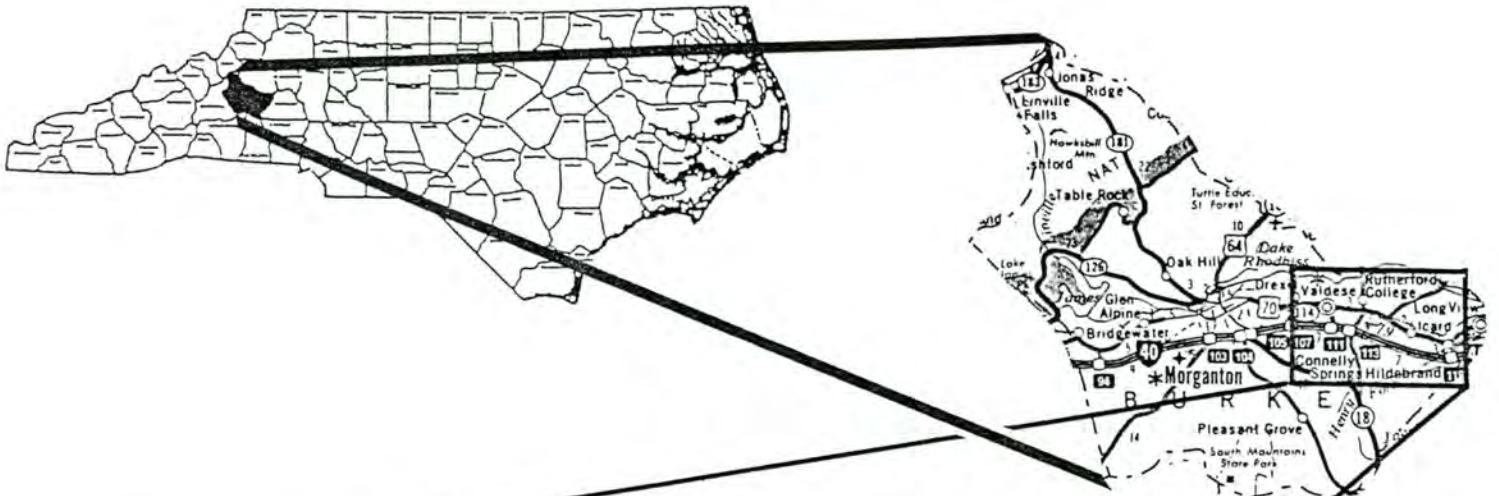
Burke County is located on a plateau between the Blue Ridge and South Mountains in the western portion of North Carolina. The broad valley of the Catawba River and its many tributaries roughly bisects the county from east to west. Early settlers began moving into the area of Burke before the Revolutionary War, settling first in the fertile Catawba River valley. Burke County was created in 1777 from Rowan and encompassed most of the western part of the state. The county seat of Morganton was incorporated in 1784 and commissioners were charged with erecting a courthouse and jail. Morganton was situated near the intersection of established routes and trails heading north and west into the Blue Ridge Mountains. The town was an important regional center throughout the nineteenth century (Sharpe, pp. 649-73, and Coulter, pp. 50-2).


Although a few large plantations were able to exist this far west, subsistence farming was widespread in Burke County and practiced primarily in the valleys. Further up into the mountains a more pioneering lifestyle of hunting and small farming persisted well into the nineteenth century. Burke County began industrializing steadily after the Western North Carolina Railroad (WNCRR) reached Morganton in 1869. The county also served as the western seat of state government in the nineteenth century with summer sessions of the supreme court held in Morganton from 1847 to 1860 and the construction of the State Hospital, begun 1877, and the School for the Deaf, begun 1891 (Sharpe, pp. 649-73, and Cotton, pp. 132-33 and 135).

Connelly Springs, in the eastern part of Burke County, had its beginning as a tavern operated by William Connelly at approximately the half-way point on the Great Western Stage Line, which ran from Salisbury to Asheville, and later as a stop on the WNCRR. According to Ellis Coulter "the first settlers who were to make the village which grew up around the tavern, had come into this region soon after the Revolution and had secured land on both sides of the Catawba River" (Coulter, p. 51). In the middle 1880s, it was discovered that the water in Connelly Springs was high in mineral content, including bicarbonate of iron, which was thought to be beneficial in the cure of diseases. In the later 1880s, the town became a popular destination for tourists taking cures at the mineral springs and a new hundred-room Connelly's Springs Hotel was constructed ca. 1886. Connelly Springs enjoyed several decades of prosperity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but in the middle 1920s, the town began a period of decline. (*Heritage*, p. 27, and Coulter, pp. 153-62).

Robert Laban Abernethy came to Burke County in the early 1850s and established the one-room Owl Hollow School House in 1855 approximately one and a half miles northwest of Connelly Springs. With the financial support of John Rutherford of Burke County, Abernethy expanded the school after the Civil War to become Rutherford Academy, and in 1871, the academy became Rutherford College with the right to confer degrees. With these changes new school buildings were erected near R. L. Abernethy's home and Jones Grove Cemetery at the north end of the present town. The site of the old campus is the present site of First Baptist Church and parsonage as bounded by SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) and SR 2315 (Carnegie Drive). In 1881, a post office was established in the village and the name of the town was changed from Excelsior to Rutherford College. R. L. Abernethy continued to direct the college until his death in 1894. Abernethy's son, Will, presided over the college in the later 1890s, but lacked his father's singular vision and authority. In 1900 the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church assumed control of the college. The campus was moved again in 1916 to the present location of the Valdese General Hospital. One four-story, brick dormitory still stands and is part of the hospital facility (Phifer 1977, pp. 93-95, and Coulter, pp. 163-74).

One unique feature of Burke County's architectural history is the presence, especially around Valdese, of Waldensian building traditions. The Waldenses were a persecuted Protestant sect and in the middle to late nineteenth century they emigrated from Italy to alleviate overcrowding in their homeland. The first Waldenses arrived in Burke County in 1893 from the Northern Italian Cottian Alps. Most of the houses in their native Italy were constructed of rock and many Waldensian men had learned the skill of rock masonry from their fathers. Waldensian masonry construction persisted in Burke County due to the abundance of rocks and stone despite assurances to these early settlers that "the American soil is without rocks" (McCall, p. 98). The first permanent Waldensian structures strongly resembled their traditional architecture with its fieldstone masonry construction and hillside siting. The 1896-99 Waldensian Church and ca. 1922 Valdese Elementary School are landmarks of the Waldensian building traditions. As the reputation of their skill spread throughout the county and beyond, the most talented of the Waldensian rock masons were able to continue the trade for their livelihood. As the Waldenses assimilated American culture, their buildings began to reflect mainstream architectural styles but retained their stone masonry traditions (Cotton, pp. 32-35, and McCall, p. 103).




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

LOVELADY ROAD (SR 1546) EXTENSION,
 MALCOM BOULEVARD (SR 1001)
 TO SHADY GROVE ROAD (SR 1608)
 BURKE COUNTY
 T. I. P. NO. R - 2824

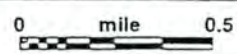
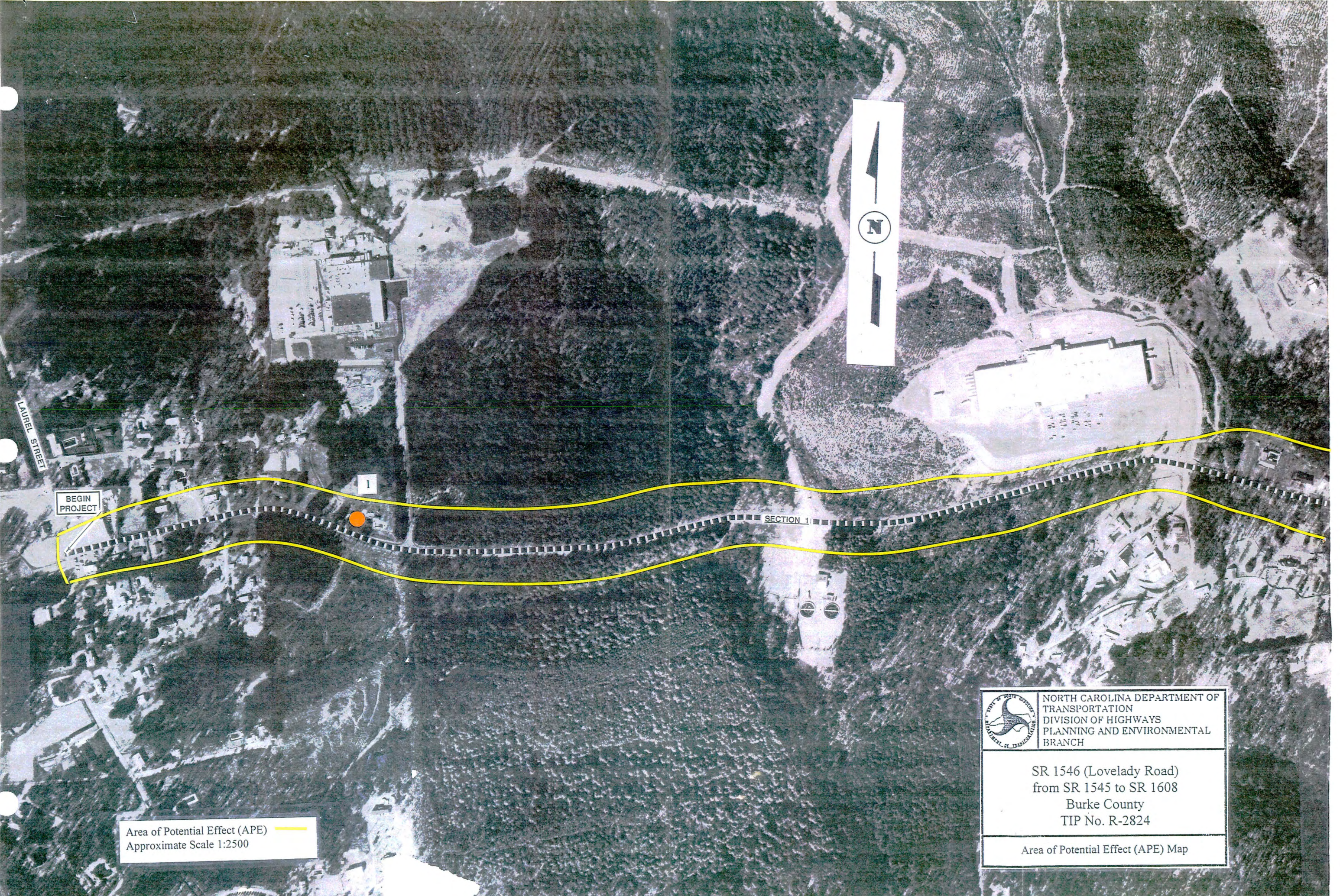


FIG. 1




LAUREL STREET


BEGIN PROJECT

1

SECTION 1



Area of Potential Effect (APE) 
Approximate Scale 1:2500

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SR 1546 (Lovely Road)
from SR 1545 to SR 1608
Burke County
TIP No. R-2824

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Map




LOVELADY ROAD (SR 1546)

MALCOLM BOULEVARD (SR 1001)

LAUDER ROAD (SR 1558)

CARNEGIE STREET (SR 2315)

Section 2

Area of Potential Effect (APE) 
Approximate Scale 1:2500

2

3

4

5

6

7

9

8

10

A. T. Abernethy House and Study

R. L. Abernethy House (SL) (destroyed)

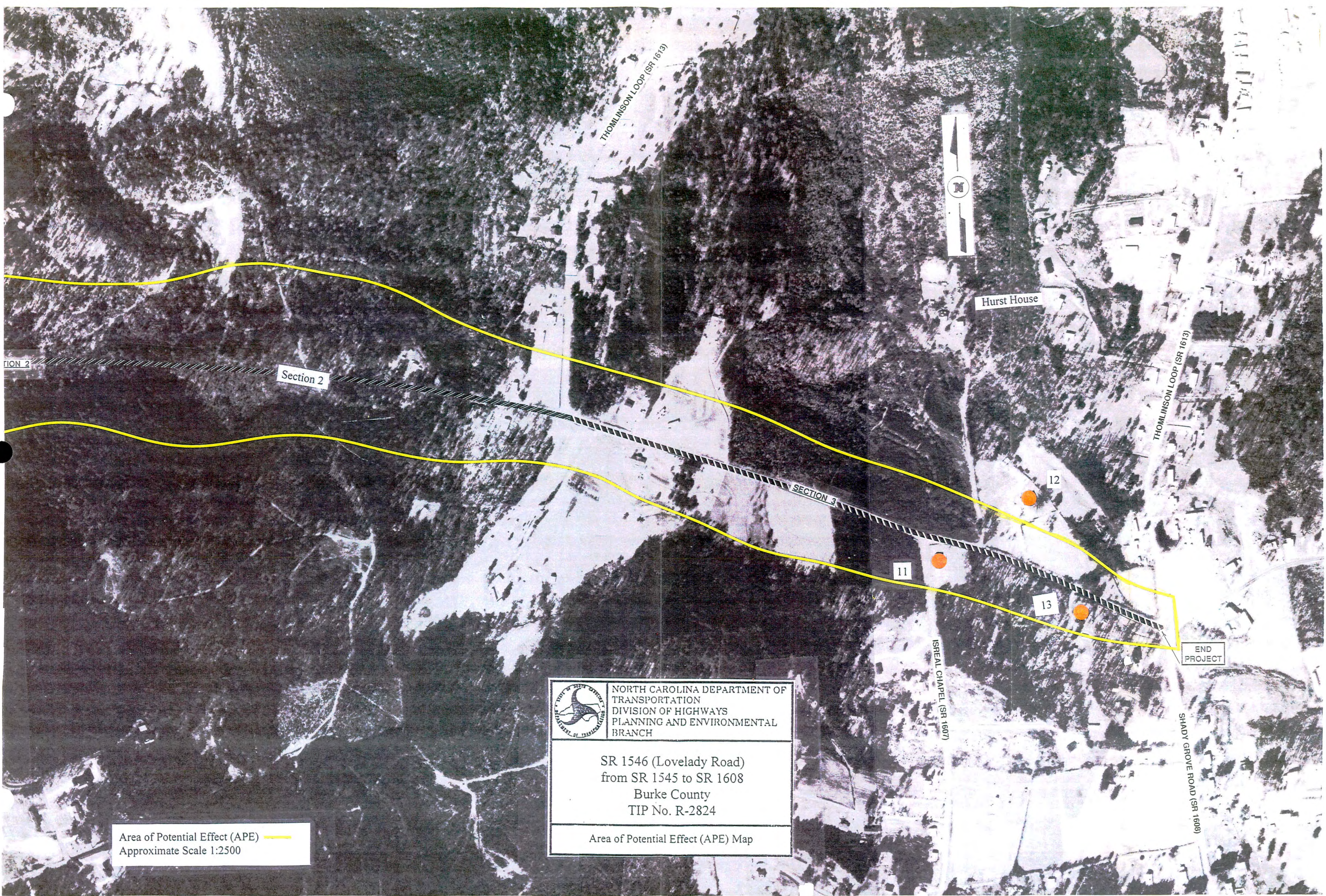
Malcolm Boulevard District (see enlargement)



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SR 1546 (Lovelady Road)
from SR 1545 to SR 1608
Burke County
TIP No. R-2824

Area of Potential Effect (APE) Map



THOMLINSON LOOP (SR 1613)



Hurst House

SECTION 2

Section 2

SECTION 3

THOMLINSON LOOP (SR 1613)

12

11

13

END PROJECT

ISRAEL CHAPEL (SR 1607)

SHADY GROVE ROAD (SR 1608)

	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH
SR 1546 (Lovely Road) from SR 1545 to SR 1608 Burke County TIP No. R-2824	
Area of Potential Effect (APE) Map	

Area of Potential Effect (APE)
 Approximate Scale 1:2500

Property Inventory and Evaluations

Properties Considered Eligible for the National Register:

ARTHUR T. ABERNETHY HOUSE AND STUDY

Location. East side of SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) at intersection with SR 1546 (Lovelady Road), Rutherford College.

Description. The Arthur T. Abernethy House is a boxy, two-story, double-pile, frame dwelling located directly opposite SR 1546 (Lovelady Road) where it intersects SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard). A mortared stone foundation supports the plainly finished house. The exterior retains its original weatherboard siding, four-over-four double-hung sash, and exposed rafters. A plain, interior brick chimney barely projects above the ridge line of the expansive side-gable roof which is covered with asphalt shingles. A single, central entry door is flanked by sidelights and sheltered by a gable-roof entry porch, which is supported by two square posts and is embellished by exposed rafter ends and octagonal wood shingles in the gable end. A one-story, shed-roof porch running the full width of the south side of the house is similar in treatment to the entry porch but lacks the wood shingles. The house is unoccupied and the interior is inaccessible.

The house sits on small lot with a loop driveway and several mature evergreen trees buffering the house from Malcolm Boulevard. Both driveway entrances are marked by stone pillars that Abernethy described in an article appearing in the *Charlotte Observer* (July 15, 1928): "I hired skilled Italians to erect inspiring pillars, four tall stately columns in my front yard, solely for ornament." On the south and southeast sides the yard slopes sharply away from the house. Two small outbuildings--a frame, gable-roof shed and a stone and frame, gable-roof spring house--stand to the northeast of the house.

Abernethy's "Italian-built rock study" stands beyond the spring house to the east. The character of the stone work suggests that the structure was built by Waldensian stonemasons from nearby Valdese. The one-story, two-room study has been enlarged with an addition to the eastern end of the building and an extension of the gable roof and with a shed-roof, screened-in porch. The addition and porch, both concrete block, were constructed in 1953. According to the owner of the study, the interior remains largely intact despite the obvious exterior additions (Wagoner interview). A photograph of the study appeared in Abernethy's interview with himself in the *Charlotte Observer* (December 30, 1934).

Background Information. Arthur Talmage Abernethy (1872-1956), author, minister, and educator, was born in Excelsior (now the town of Rutherford College) in Burke County, one of fourteen children of Robert Laban and Mary Ann Hayes Abernethy, and raised in the R. L. Abernethy House (destroyed). A. T. Abernethy attended Rutherford College and received a degree at the age of fourteen. After pursuing graduate studies at Trinity College, he returned to Rutherford College at age eighteen as a professor of Greek and Latin, purportedly the youngest professor in the nation at that time. He received a doctorate degree from Johns Hopkins University. Desiring a break from teaching, Abernethy began working for the *Philadelphia Record* newspaper. He also contributed to the *Pittsburgh Post*, *New York Tribune*, and *Milwaukee Sentinel*, and later wrote a regular column for the *Charlotte Observer*. He was married to his seventh wife, Edna V. Beatty Lachot, a young widow from Philadelphia with two children, for over thirty years. A. T.

Abernethy "retired" with his bride to Rutherford College in the 1920s (*Heritage*, p. 63, and Powell, p. 4). In one of his columns for the *Charlotte Observer* (July 15, 1928), Abernethy summed up his return: "Here, around 2,000 feet above sea level, too low for heart trouble and too high for mosquitos, a mile from the raucous railroad, I landed on the very spot where I was born."

Abernethy is perhaps best known for his writings, "which ranged from novels and poems to collections of sermons and factual works of a speculative nature" (Powell, p. 4). He authored more than fifty books, many of which strongly reflect his sense of humor and southern heritage. Through the personal efforts of Abernethy a library, with funds donated by the Carnegie Foundation, was built in Rutherford College in 1907 adjoining the college campus. The Rutherford College Library was the only free public library in the county until 1923, when the Morganton Public Library was established. Abernethy was poet laureate of North Carolina, 1948-1953, under Governors R. Gregg Cherry and W. Kerr Scott. In 1938, the colorful Abernethy received correspondence from President Franklin D. Roosevelt naming him "American Ambassador of Sunshine." In the same year Governor Clyde Hoey named Abernethy the "Ambassador of Sunshine" for North Carolina (*Heritage*, p. 63; Phifer 1977, pp. 302-3, 305; and Powell, p. 4).

While residing in Rutherford College from the 1920s until his death in 1956, Abernethy continued to write, serve as minister at various churches, and even held public office. Abernethy served as magistrate, justice of the peace, and mayor. Of the latter office, Abernethy wrote that "one term was enough for me and more than enough for the citizens." In a number of his articles for the *Charlotte Observer*, Abernethy frequently wrote of his experiences in Rutherford College. The following passage was excerpted from an article in which Abernethy reflects on his decision to "retire" to Rutherford College:

I think I have merited my quantum of the simple life....Now, at age fifty-seven, I feel that I have as much right to go out in the open and discover all those comforts, quietudes, sombre shades, and other things offered by the world's gardens, as any man in this over-taxed and under-governed republic.

And here is what happened:

Finding that I had around \$10,000 or \$15,000 I could do as I merry pleased with, I drew it out of a bank and decided that I would put it into a home. The minute I mentioned home, pictures came to me of ease, comfort, open fireplaces, looking towards the hills, sighing spruces, lolling, lowering clouds, cattle grazing on green summits hard by. And nights for sleep....

So I found a spot in the mountains just remote enough from the clash and clang of the city to make life, as I was told, one sweet song. Here I erected my castle, costing me, incidentally, far more than the contractors had figured on, and leaving me fistbusted in a fine mansion... ("Not Truly Rural," n.p.).

In the later years of his life, Abernethy was a regular presence about town and always ready with a story. Abernethy sold the study in 1953 to James McKeenan, who enlarged the structure. The study was sold to Richard Wagoner, whose property adjoins the Abernethy House on the north, in 1967. Following Abernethy's death, the house eventually passed to Willis H. Lachot, the son of Abernethy's widow, and ultimately, the house was sold out of the family in the

1970s or 1980s. The house is unoccupied at present (Rutherford, Wagoner, and White interviews).

Evaluation. For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, NCDOT considers the Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for its association with Arthur T. Abernethy, an individual important in the history of Rutherford College, both the college and the town. According to the guidelines in *National Register Bulletin 32* for evaluating properties under Criterion B, significant individuals "are those whose activities have been important to the communities in which they are located..." (*Bulletin 32*, p. 4). A. T. Abernethy, a native of Rutherford College, spent the last thirty or more years of his illustrious and colorful life in the small town centered around the college founded by his father. He had been both a student and professor at the college, gaining notoriety as the youngest professor in the nation at age eighteen. After a time working outside North Carolina and traveling widely, Abernethy returned to Rutherford College and built his house and study at the north end of town. Abernethy's primary occupation was writing, which he continued to practice in Rutherford College, and built the study as a place to work. In addition Abernethy served as a minister to various churches and held public office in Rutherford College. Through his personal efforts, the first free public library in Burke County was built at Rutherford College in 1907 with funds from the Carnegie Foundation. In sum the Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study represent the productive life of A. T. Abernethy, and as such the property is considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion B.

The Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study are not distinguished examples of a particular style or type of domestic architecture and as such the property is not eligible under Criterion C. The house is a plain two-story, frame dwelling with simple Craftsman style details and Colonial Revival style massing, and lacks architectural significance. The study, with its additions and alterations, no longer retains sufficient integrity to be eligible as an example of Waldensian rock masonry construction, which is prevalent in the county. Better examples of both the house type and Waldensian rock masonry buildings are found throughout Burke County. For these reasons the property is considered not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

The Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study is not considered eligible under any other criteria. The property is not eligible under Criterion A because the property is not associated with any events or broad patterns significant in our history. The architectural component of the property is not likely to yield information in the history of building technology, and therefore is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Boundaries. The proposed eligible boundaries for the A. T. Abernethy House and Study are drawn to include the house, study, and outbuildings, and an appropriate setting. The proposed boundaries encompass the entire 1.0 acre parcel containing the A. T. Abernethy House and a portion of the parcel containing the study. The boundaries are extended beyond the property line to the back of the sidewalk on Malcolm Boulevard to contain all the major landscape features in front of the house including several trees and the four stone pillars. The southern and eastern boundaries encompass some of the wooded areas and a portion of the clearing to the side and rear of the house and study that define the setting of the property. To the north there is a fairly clear distinction between the Abernethy House and Study property and the Wagoner House property to the north.

The proposed eligible boundaries begin at the northwest corner of the 1.0 acre parcel owned by Bertha Strait and extend approximately two meters west to the back of the sidewalk on the east side of SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard). The boundaries follow the back of the sidewalk south for approximately 55 meters and then turn east to join a corner of the property lines. The boundary continues 20 meters to the southeast along the property line to a corner. The boundary turns northeast and continues 65 meters to a point where the 369-meter topographic contour crosses the property line. The boundary follows this contour approximately 60 meters before turning north and continuing another 36 meters to the northern property line of the parcel owned by Gary J. Donnelly Jr and Richard L. Wagoner and containing the study. The proposed eligible boundary then follows this property line approximately 47 meters west to a corner and turns south for two meters. The proposed eligible boundaries then return to the beginning along the northern property line of the Strait parcel, approximately 49 meters.



A. T. Abernethy House.



A. T. Abernethy House.



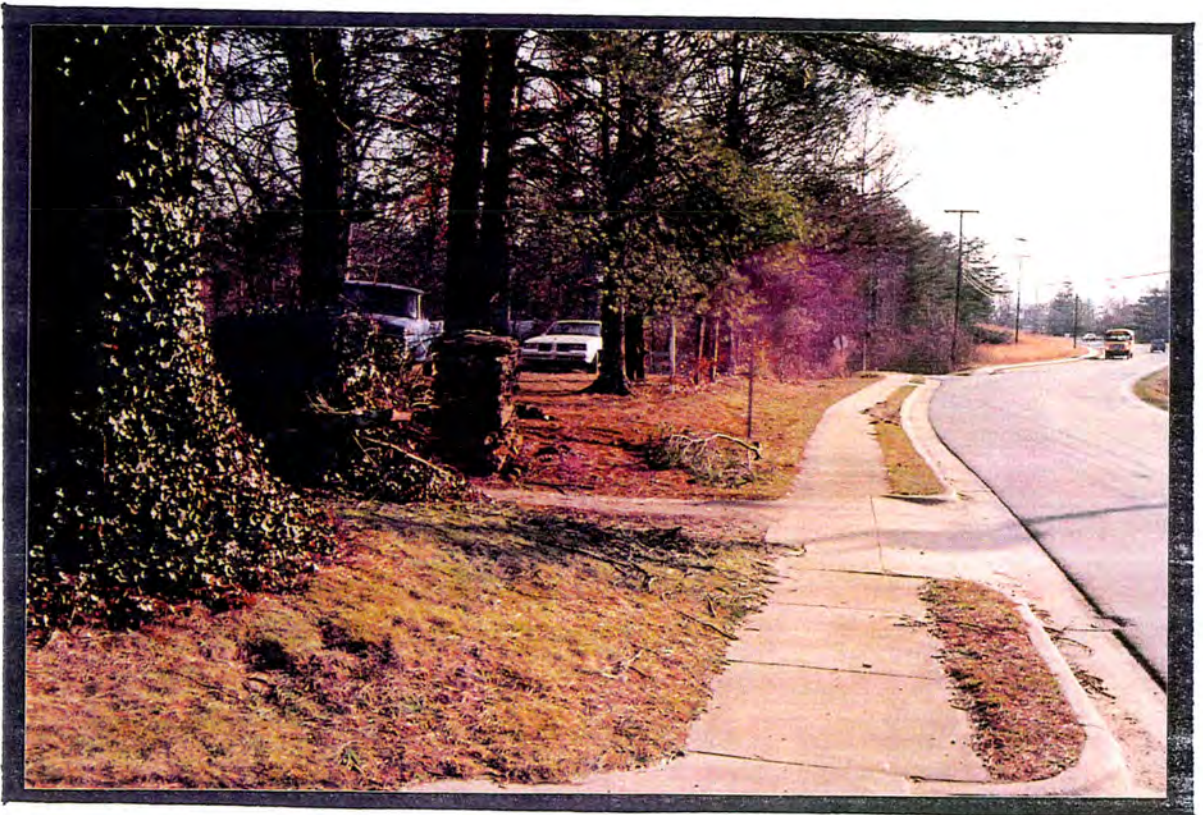
A. T. Abernethy House.



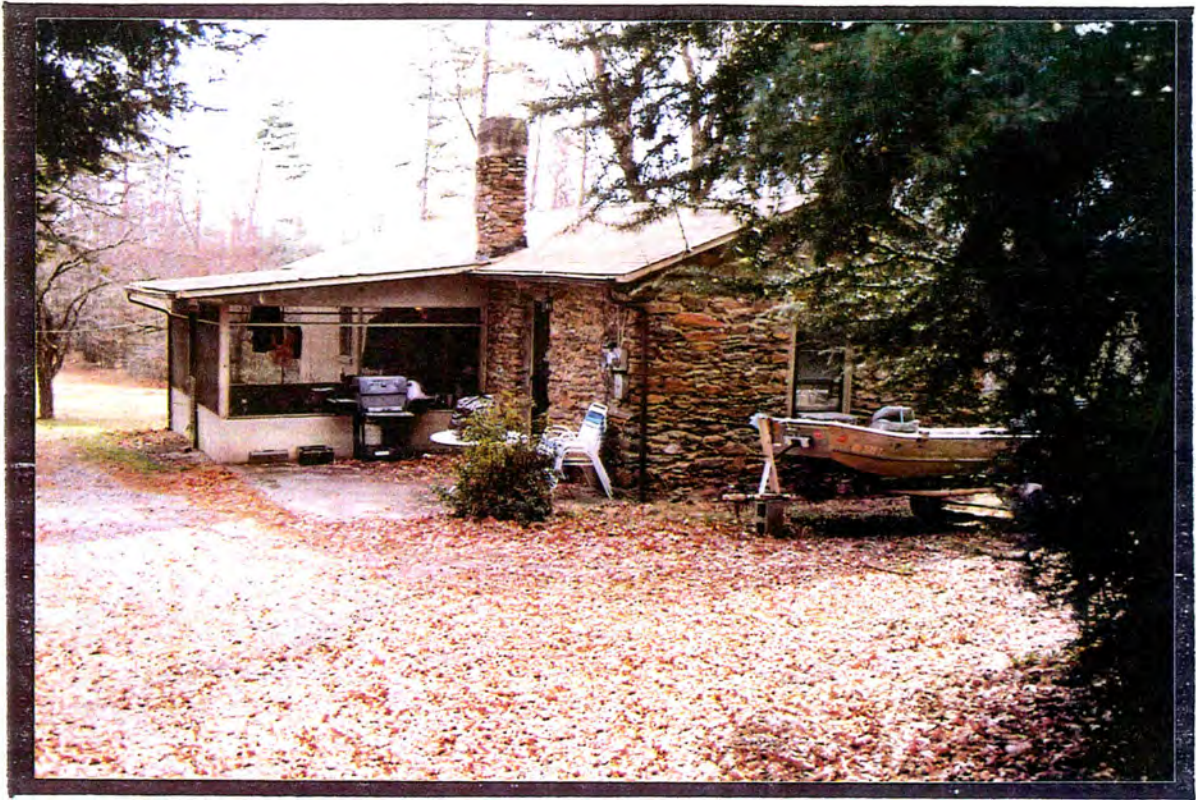
A. T. Abernethy House, spring house.



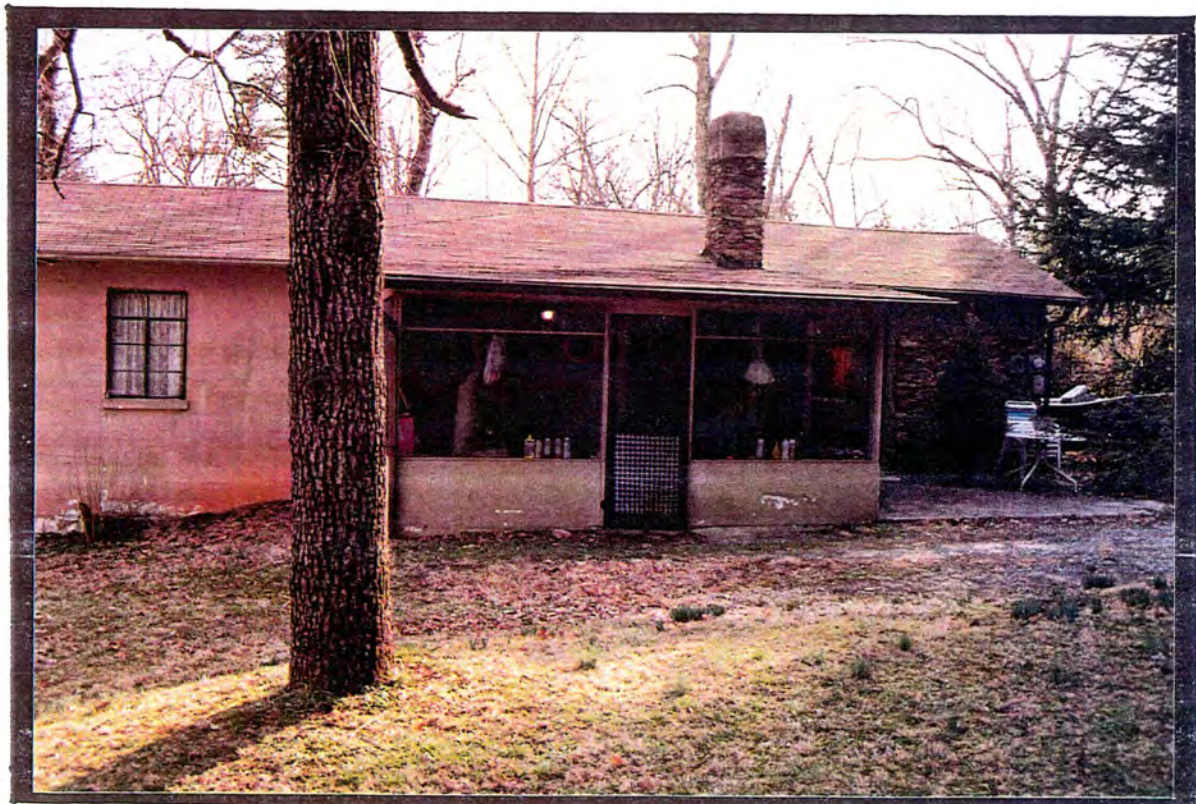
A. T. Abernethy House, entrance drive and stone pillars.



A. T. Abernethy House, view along Malcolm Boulevard looking south.



A. T. Abernethy House, study.



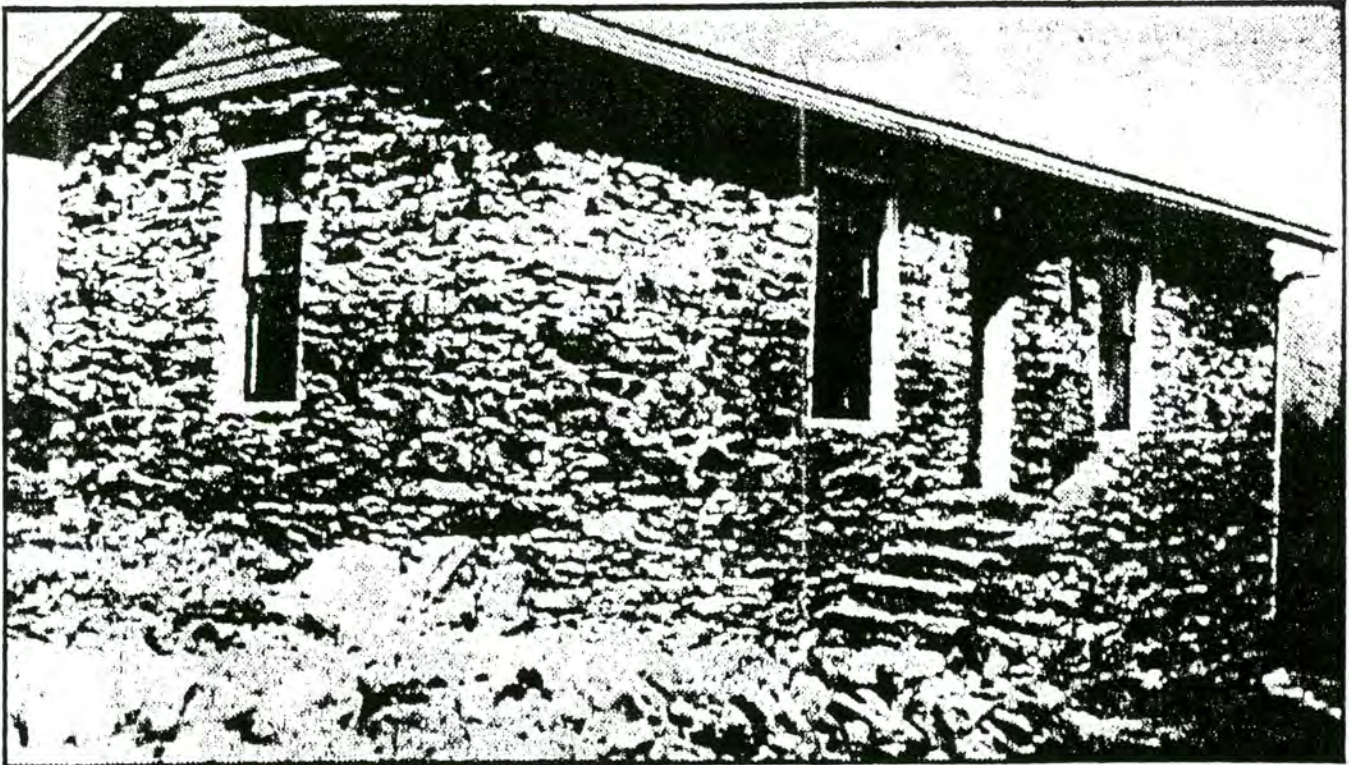
A. T. Abernethy House, study.



A. T. Abernethy House, study.

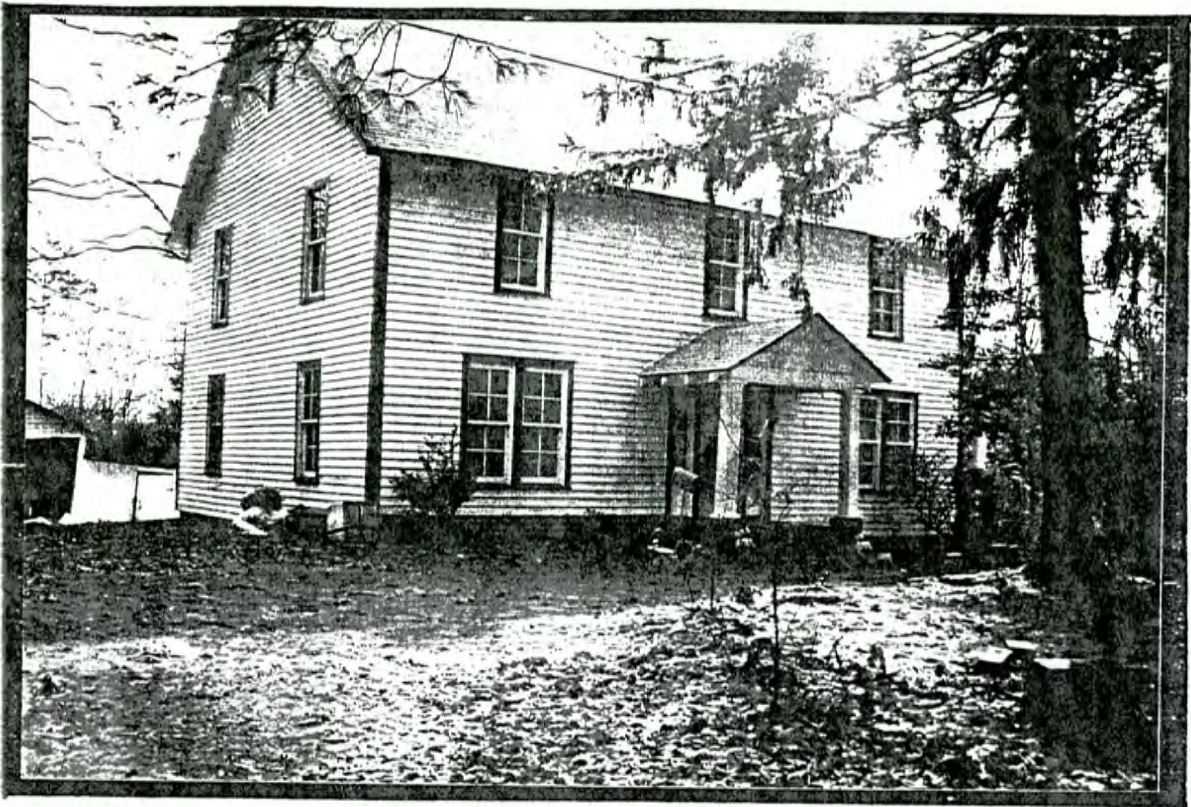


A. T. Abernethy House, study.



*Above: Italian-built
rock study in which Mr.
Abernethy consults his
psychic controls. He oft-
en emerges wan (or two)
and sadly in need of a
shave.*

Source: Arthur T. Abernethy, "The Sage of Rutherford College, An Interview With Himself," Charlotte Observer, December 30, 1934.



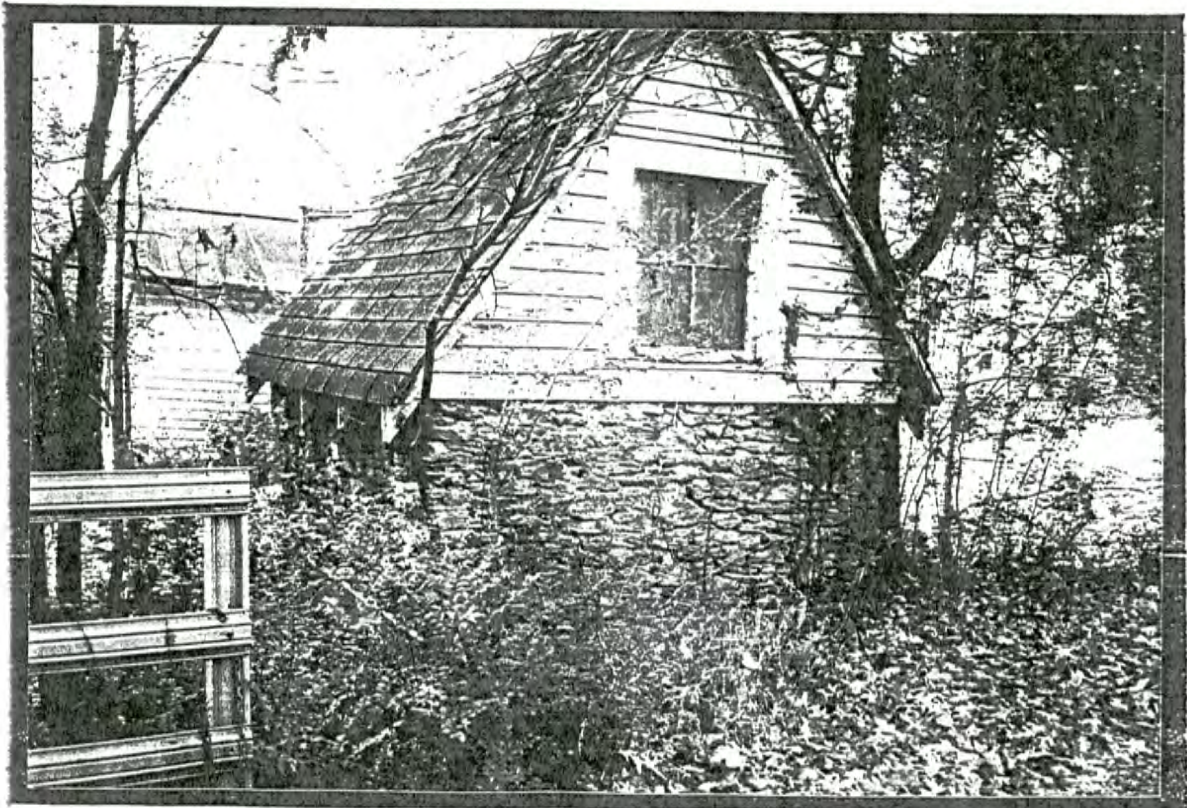
A. T. Abernethy House.



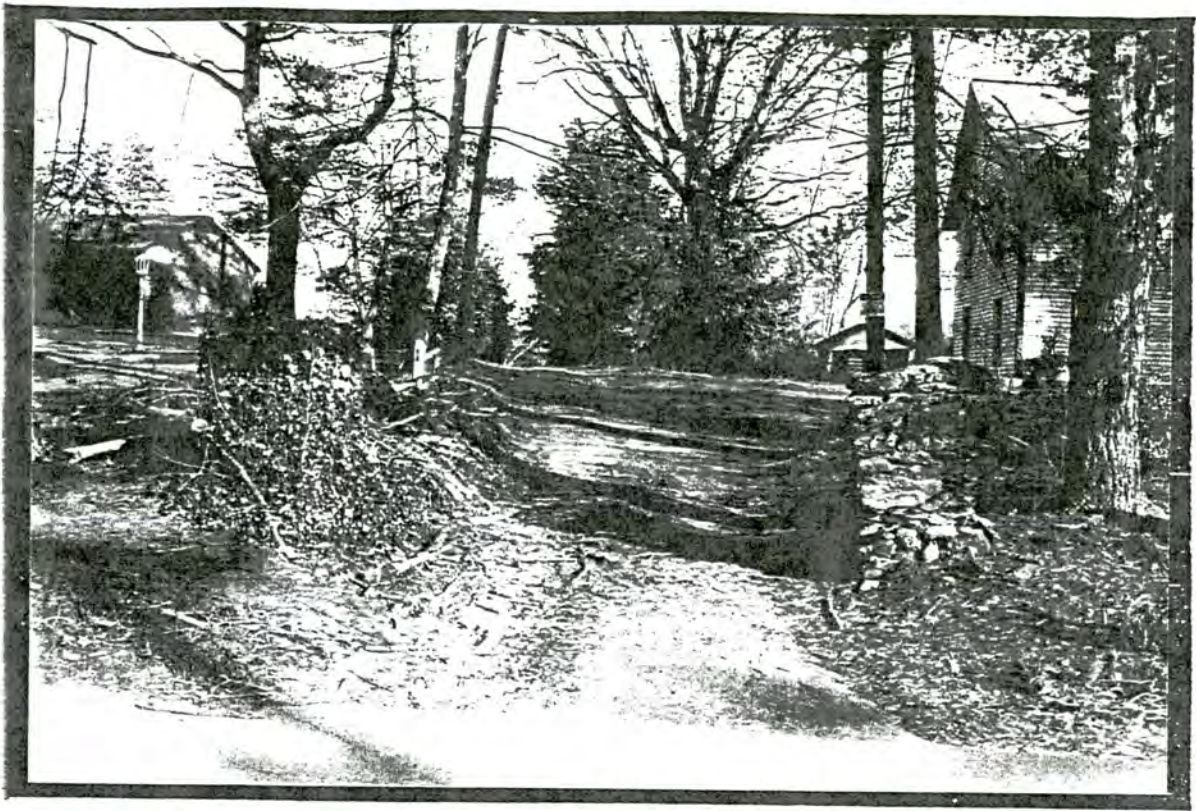
A. T. Abernethy House.



A. T. Abernethy House.



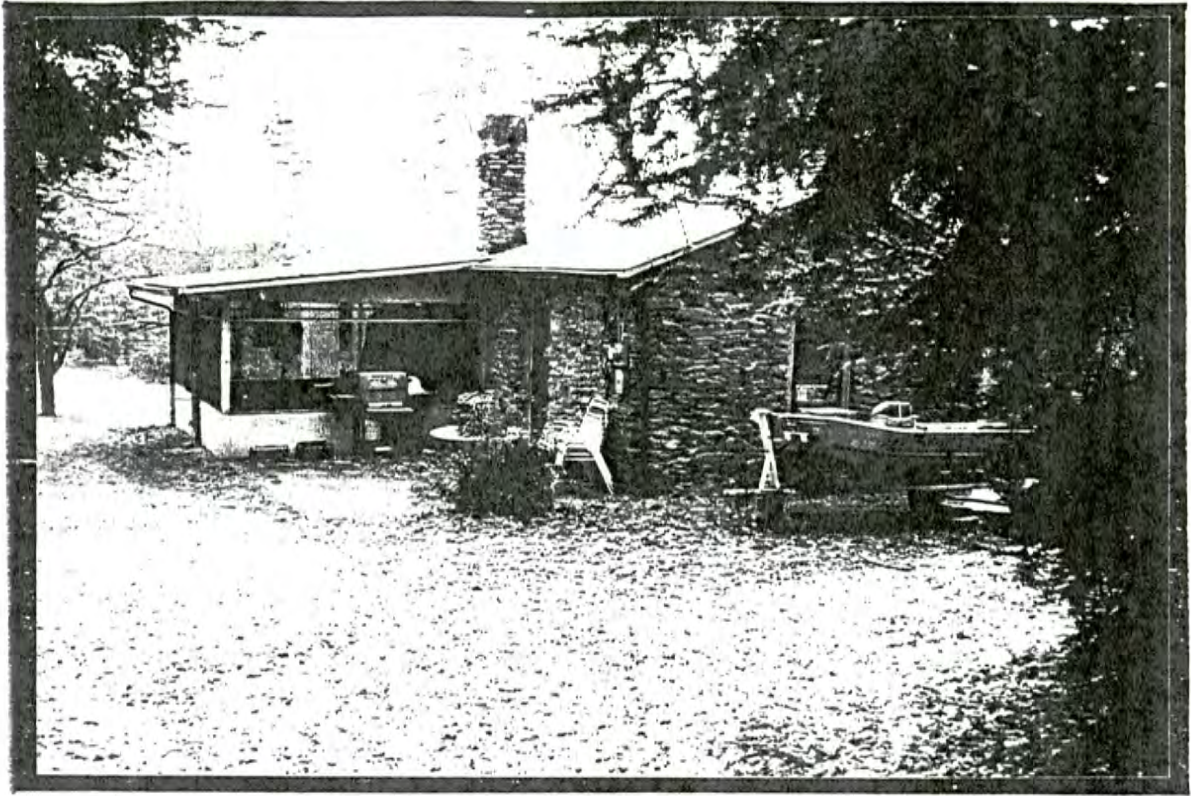
A. T. Abernethy House, spring house.



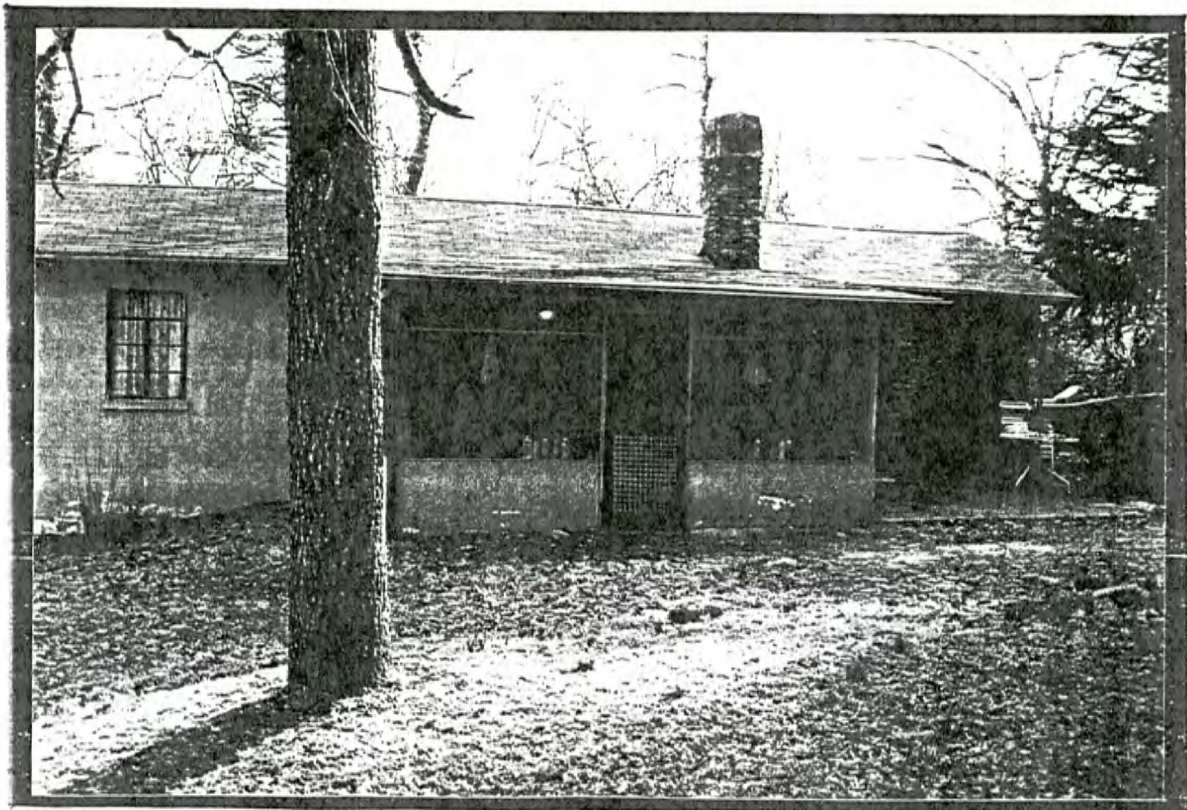
A. T. Abernethy House, entrance drive and stone pillars.



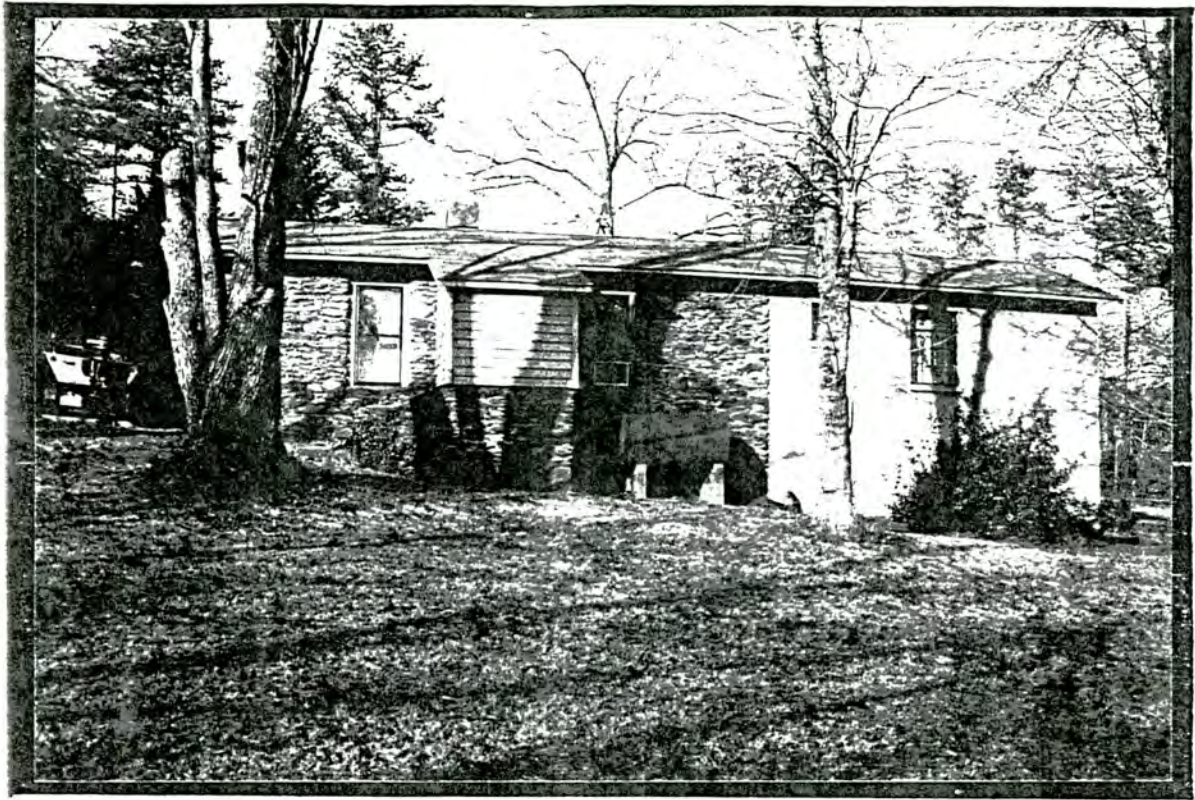
A. T. Abernethy House, view along Malcolm Boulevard looking south.



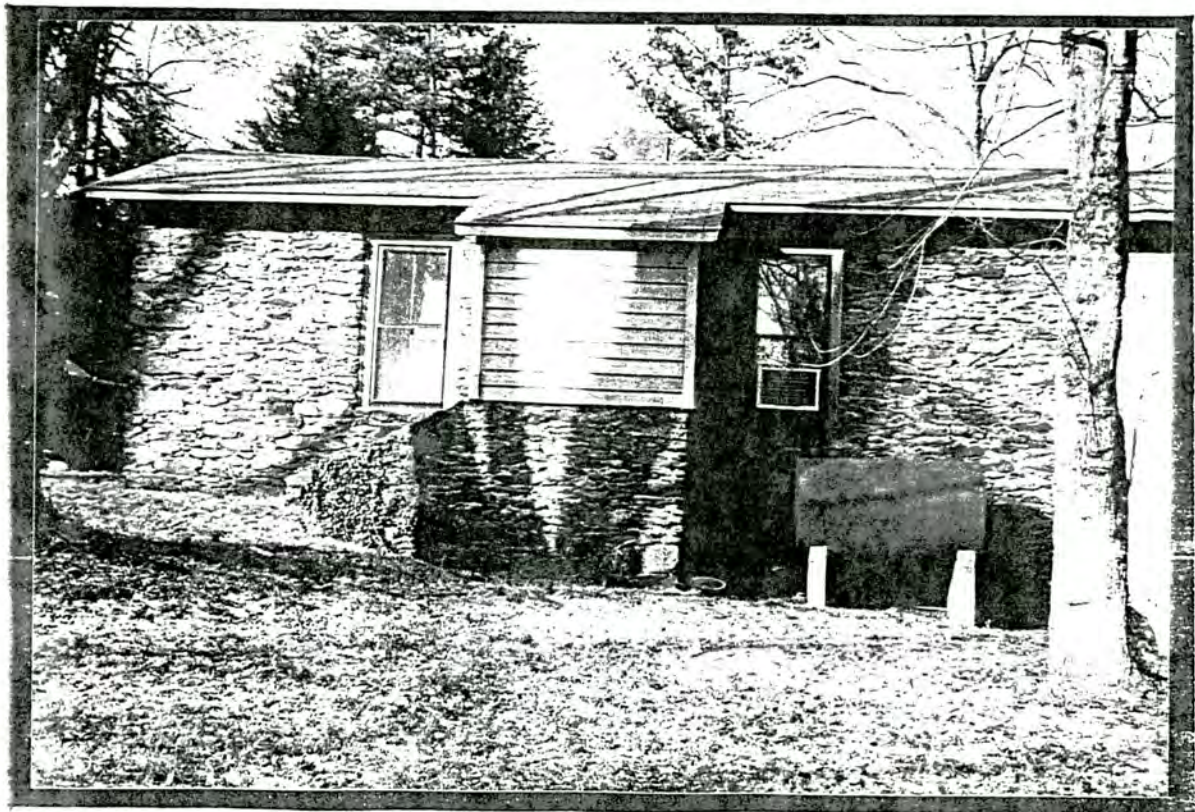
A. T. Abernethy House, study.



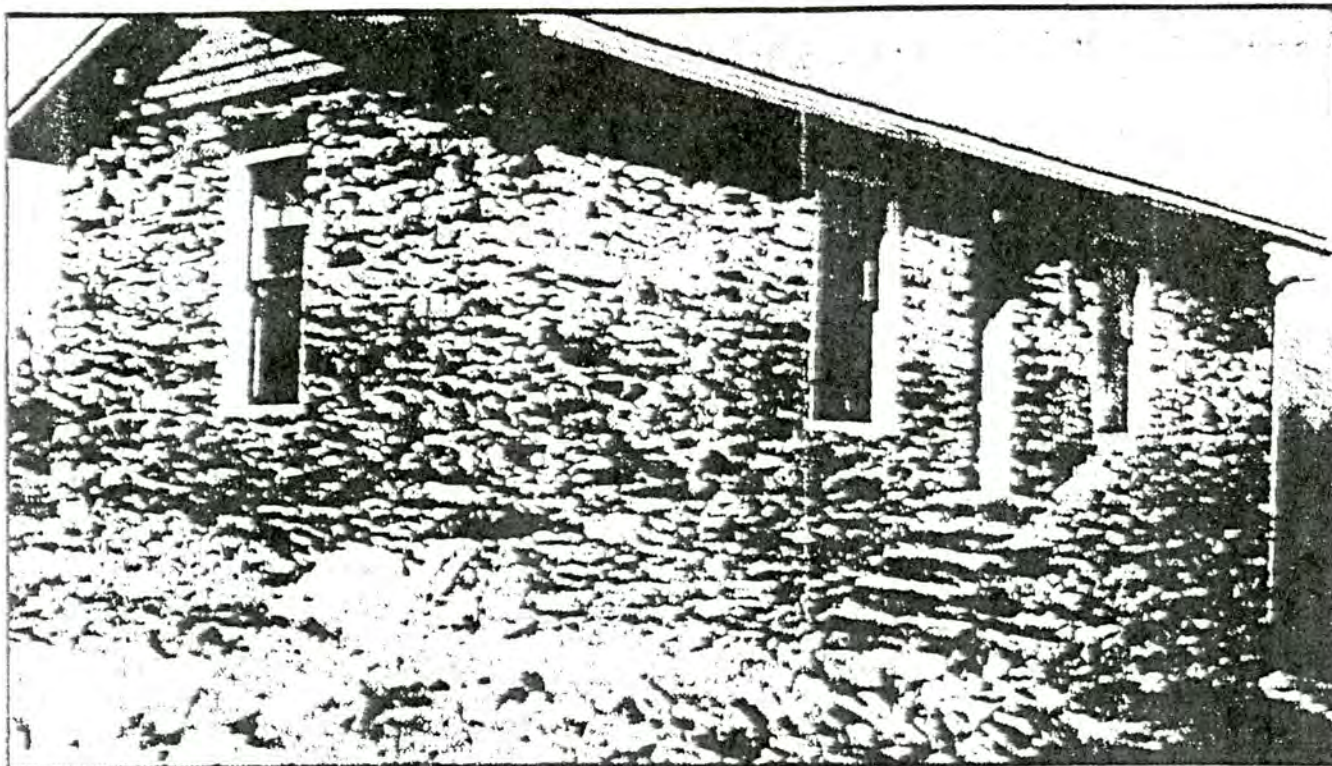
A. T. Abernethy House, study.



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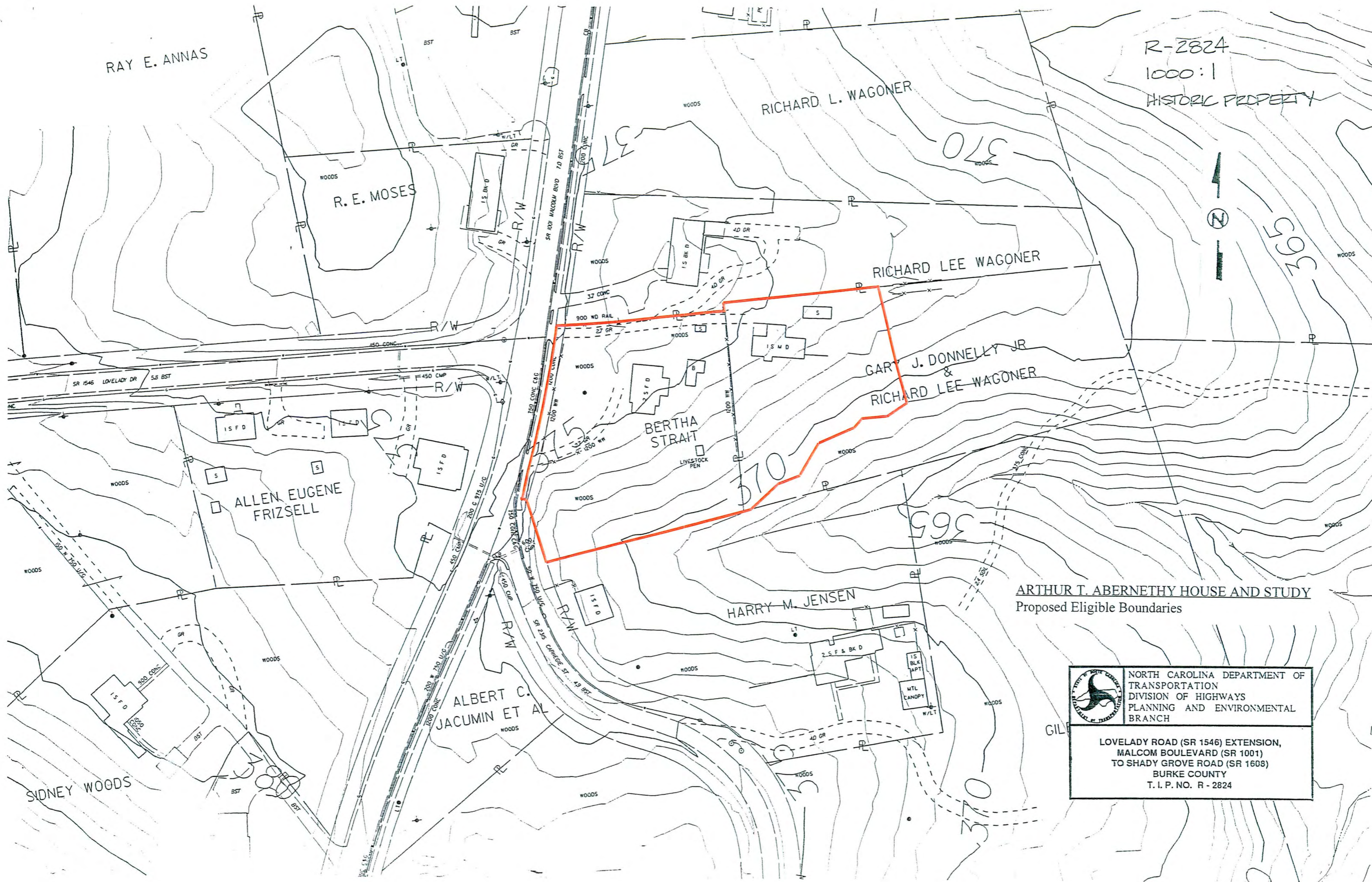
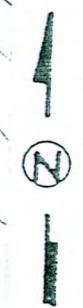
A. T. Abernethy House. study.



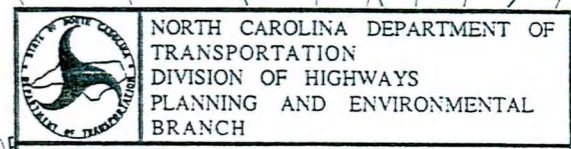
*Above: Italian-built
rock study in which Mr.
Abernethy consults his
psychic controls. He oft-
en emerges wan (or two)
and sadly in need of a
shave.*

Source: Arthur T. Abernethy, "The Sage of Rutherford College. An Interview with
Himself," Charlotte Observer, December 30, 1934.

R-2824
1000:1
HISTORIC PROPERTY



ARTHUR T. ABERNETHY HOUSE AND STUDY
Proposed Eligible Boundaries



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

LOVELADY ROAD (SR 1546) EXTENSION,
MALCOM BOULEVARD (SR 1001)
TO SHADY GROVE ROAD (SR 1608)
BURKE COUNTY
T.I.P. NO. R - 2824

Properties Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

MALCOLM BOULEVARD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Location. East and west sides of SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard) from SR 1603 (Honeycutt Drive) to SR 1600 (Talmon Street), Rutherford College

Description. According to J. Randall Cotton, the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District in Rutherford College is comprised of thirteen residences and one site along Malcolm Boulevard from north of Lovelady Road (SR 1546) to just south of Honeycutt Drive (SR 1603). One of the residences is located one block east of Malcolm Boulevard and is not described below. In addition, two residences within the area were individually recorded in the survey by Cotton: the Theodore Franklin House and the R. L. Abernethy House, which was placed on the North Carolina State Study List in 1984 (Cotton, p. 88). With the exception of the R. L. Abernethy House, all of these structures remain standing. (N.B. The property numbers used in the evaluation of the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District are distinct from those used to identify properties in the APE during the survey.)

The Malcolm Boulevard Historic District properties range in date from ca. 1895 to ca. 1930 and are related to the development of Rutherford College. Several of the houses were owned by Methodist ministers or college faculty and operated as boarding houses for students of the college. The houses are characterized by frame construction, simple detail, and traditional three-by-one bay or four-square massing. A few of the houses, such as the Luck (14) and Stover (25), or A. T. Abernethy (8), display late-Victorian or Craftsman style details. Approximately half of these residences have been altered with the addition of artificial siding, and a few have been altered extensively.

Cotton also included the Jones Grove Cemetery and site of the former college campus in his consideration of the district. The First Baptist Church, begun in 1949, stands where the main building of the college once was located. The Carnegie Library, built in 1907, was located on Malcolm Boulevard just west of the present church parsonage. The cupola of the library was saved when the building was demolished. The cupola now stands behind the town hall. The home of R. L. Abernethy, founder of the Rutherford College, stood to the east of Carnegie Drive (SR 2315) before it was destroyed. There are no college structures remaining from this north campus site.

For the present evaluation, the principal investigator surveyed all properties along Malcolm Boulevard from Talmon Street (SR 1600) to just south of Honeycutt Drive (SR 1603). The properties are color-coded and keyed to an aerial photograph to demonstrate their quantities and locations. Properties marked with red are structures over fifty years of age and those marked with yellow are less than fifty years. Properties marked with blue are structures and sites recorded in the county survey by Cotton. Representative photographs and streetscape views are included in this report. For the area surveyed, roughly half of the properties are over fifty years of age, and these structures are evenly dispersed with only a slight concentration around Liberty Street. The structures over fifty years of age not identified in the county survey vary in age and type from those that Cotton noted as comprising the district. The properties over fifty years of age are described briefly below and those marked with asterisks indicate the structures that were included in the district by Cotton.

- 1. *NC* This one-story, side-gable, Craftsman-style dwelling has been greatly altered and does not date from the period of significance for the district.
- 2. *NC* This one-and-one-half story, frame, side-gable Craftsman-style dwelling with a prominent central gabled dormer has been greatly altered.
- 3. This one-story frame dwelling is a typical front-gable bungalow with a front gable porch.
- 4.* *Out of APE individually* (Tirrell House.) The ca. 1900 Tirrell House is a two-story, T-shaped, frame dwelling. The house features gabled wall dormers, two-over-two sash, and a boxed cornice with returns. The porch and doors have been changed. The house was once a boardinghouse run by a Methodist minister.
- 5.* (Weeden House.) The ca. 1900 Weeden House is a three-by-one bay, two-story frame dwelling with single-shouldered brick chimneys above stone bases. A two-story ell and one-story shed-roof addition extend from the rear of the structure. The house features six-over-one sash, a one-story entry porch supported by square posts, and a central hall plan.
- 6. *NC* If this property is over fifty years of age, which it is according to a local resident, then this two-story, double-pile house has been substantially remodeled and altered.
- 7. *Not ind. elig. individually.* (Theodore Franklin House.) Theodore Franklin (1854-1904), a member of the prominent Franklin family of Linville Falls, moved to Rutherford College in 1893 and erected this house some time after his arrival. The ca. 1895 house is an imposing two-and-one-half story, side-gable, double-pile, frame dwelling with a full-width, two-tiered porch capped by three gabled dormers. Both the main and porch gable ends display sawtooth and straight-edged wood shingles. Franklin ran a grocery store nearby.

The Theodore Franklin House has been converted to a restaurant in recent years and the interior has been altered to accommodate this new function. The wall between the two southern rooms has been removed and the fireplace and chimney have been left freestanding. The one-story rear ell now serves as the restaurant kitchen.
- 8.* *elig.* (A. T. Abernethy House.) See the evaluation of the Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study in the preceding section.
- 9. *elig.* (A. T. Abernethy Study.) See the evaluation of the Arthur T. Abernethy House and Study in preceding section.
- 10. *Not ind. elig.* (Jensen House.) The ca. 1938 Jensen House does not date from the period of significance for the district. (See Appendix, Property #10)
- 11. *NC, not ind. elig. NC.* This one-story, side-gable frame house has been greatly altered. (See Appendix, Property #9)
- 12. *NC* This side-gable frame house with a front gable porch and Craftsman-style details has been greatly altered.

NC

out of APE
individually

NC
date

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- 13. This front gable, frame garage is associated with Property 12, described above.
- 14.* (Luck House.) The ca. 1895 Luck House is a one-and-one-half story, side-gable, frame cottage. The full-width, shed-roof porch is supported by turned posts with Victorian-era brackets. The house features a central hall plan and Greek Revival-style door surround.
- 15. This ca. 1940, brick, Tudor Revival-style house is a typical example of its type and does not date from the period of significance for the district.
- 16.* This ca. 1910, two-story, frame foursquare dwelling with a projecting corner bay is sheathed with synthetic siding and capped by a hip roof. The house features twin interior chimneys, two-over-two sash, and a wraparound porch supported on square posts. Several additions extend from the rear of the house.
- 17.* This ca. 1915, one-and-one-half story, frame dwelling displays Queen Anne-style massing with its high hip roof, lower cross gables, and projecting bays. The pedimented porch is supported on paired, tapered columns. The house is sheathed with modern synthetic siding.
- 18.* This ca. 1900, two-story, three-by-one bay, frame house has been altered and sheathed in synthetic siding. The house features a central hall plan, four-over-one sash, and single-shouldered, brick end chimneys. A two-story, shed-roof addition extends across the rear of the structure. The two-tier porch supported by slender, tapered posts has been enclosed at the second level.
- 19.* This ca. 1915, gable-front, frame structure was once a general store. The building presently serves as a residence and is sheathed in synthetic siding. The front-gable porch supported by metal pipe columns appears to have been added later.
- 20.* This ca. 1900, one-story, frame, L-shaped cottage is perhaps the best preserved of all the structures in the potential district. The house is plainly detailed and retains its original weatherboard siding, porch supported by turned posts, and exterior chimneys. A one-story ell extends to the rear.
- 21. This hip-roof cottage has been completely remodeled with the addition of brick veneer.
- 22.* This ca. 1900, one-and-one-half story, L-shaped cottage is embellished by gabled wall dormers and scalloped bargeboards in the gable ends. The wraparound porch is supported by boxed posts on brick piers.
- 23. This ca. 1920, one-and-one-half story, side-gable, frame, Craftsman-style dwelling remains largely intact. The house features German siding, a central shed-roof wall dormer, paired four-over-one sash, exposed rafter ends, and a one-story gabled entry portico supported by tapered posts on brick piers. A full-width, hip-roof porch supported by boxed posts is located on the southern end of the house and a one-story ell extends from the rear.

- 24.* (Lauder House.) The ca. 1920 Lauder House is a two-story, L-shaped, frame house that has been altered with the addition of modern synthetic siding. The house features four-over-one sash and a wraparound porch supported by boxed posts on brick piers. The Lauder House was owned by a Methodist minister and operated as a boarding house for Rutherford College students.
- 25.* (Stover House.) The ca. 1900 Stover House is a plain two-story, frame, L-shaped dwelling. The house has been altered with the addition of modern synthetic siding, a new porch, and new windows.

Background Information. The development of the town of Rutherford College is closely related to that of the college itself. In 1853, R. L. Abernethy, who was recovering from illness at the home of his wife's parents in Caldwell County, was asked by a committee headed by Daniel Johnson if Abernethy would consider heading a school across the Catawba River in Burke County. Abernethy began teaching at the Owl Hollow School House in 1855 and his family moved into a cabin built for them. After a few years the fame of the school spread, "people moved into hurriedly built houses in Excelsior," and Mr. Johnson had a larger two-room school house built nearer to the Abernethy home (Rutherford, June 14, 1967, n.p.).

The village of Excelsior became more settled in the years immediately preceding the Civil War. According to Mrs. P. M. Rutherford, "homes were built to accommodate boarding pupils; saw mills hummed on all sides, and life began to assume a social aspect" (Rutherford, June 14, 1967, n.p.). Again Mr. Johnson oversaw building a larger and more comfortable school house while Abernethy's family moved into the vacated structure. In the uncertain years following the Civil War, Abernethy took a teaching post at a school in western Burke County, but in 1868, a committee, headed by Daniel Johnson, implored Abernethy to return to teaching in Excelsior. Abernethy was assured a permanent position, a larger school building, and that the community would be advertised and promoted.

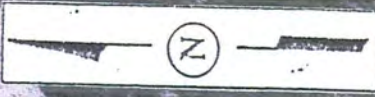
After the Civil War, the school benefited from the generosity of John Rutherford of Bridgewater in Burke County and a new campus was built near Abernethy's home and Jones Grove Cemetery on land purchased with money given by Rutherford. The school, now called Rutherford Academy, expanded both its educational mission and its facilities. When classes began again in 1869, two upstairs classrooms were added to the school building and two teachers were added to the faculty. With the right to confer degrees, the name of the school was changed to Rutherford College in 1871. The village of Excelsior, where the college was located, was incorporated as the town of Rutherford College in 1881, and a post office was established. Johnson and the trustees kept their promise to advertise and promote the community. Rutherford College, according to Mrs. Rutherford, "grew more thickly settled, until the immediate vicinity of the school became a prosperous little village. Students came, bought their half acre, or small lot, cut the trees, built small two room cottages, stayed in them, living two together...for four years.... Dozens of these small cottages dotted the woods, and of course there were built larger homes to accommodate boarding pupils" (Rutherford, June 21, 1967, n.p.).

The college prospered in the 1870s and 80s, and Abernethy purchased the school from the trustees in 1879 after a storm severely damaged the classroom building. A large new frame building was erected in 1879, which contained a chemical laboratory and a 10,000-volume library. A fire in 1891 destroyed the college

buildings. Abernethy rebuilt the school within a year, but tragedy struck again in 1894 when Abernethy died from a horseback riding injury. (Phifer 1977, pp. 93-5, and Coulter, pp. 163-65.)

The college continued its operations throughout the 1890s, but struggled under the financial burdens of the loans needed to rebuild after the 1891 fire. At the close of the century, Rutherford College was purchased by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. In the first decades of the twentieth century the school was led by an excellent faculty and regained something of its earlier usefulness. In 1907, through the personal influence of Arthur T. Abernethy, funds were donated by the Carnegie Foundation to establish a library adjacent to the campus. In the same year eleven boarding houses to accommodate students were located in the town. Unable to acquire additional land and expand the campus, school officials began erecting new buildings in 1916, including two dormitories, on a new site to the south (the present location of Valdese General Hospital). In that same year eight boarding houses remained. The school closed its doors in the middle 1930s and the Conference merged Rutherford College with two other institutions (*Heritage*, p. 50; Rutherford, July 26, 1967, n.p.; and Coulter, p. 165).

Evaluation. NCDOT does not consider the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District to be eligible for the National Register. The district does not possess “a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development” (*Bulletin 15*, p. 5). Due to the number of modern and non-contributing resources interspersed with the contributing resources, the district is unable to “convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment...” (p. 5). Furthermore, too few structures remain to convey not only a sense of the historic environment, but also the significant aspects of the development of the college and town. As a result the better preserved contributing resources appear isolated and unrelated to one another. For these reasons the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District lacks sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register as a district.



Talmon St. (SR 1600)

1

2

Malcolm Blvd. (SR 1001)

4

5

3

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7

9

10

Carnegie Dr.

8

First Baptist Church

11

12

13

12

15

16

17

Estes Dr.

14

18

19

20

22

Frank St.

24

23

Mill St.

Excelsior St.

Malcolm Blvd. (SR 1001)

25

Honeycutt Dr. (SR 1003)

Rutherford College School

Abernethy Memorial Church (SL)

R. L. Abernethy House (SL) (destroyed)

Jones Grove Cemetery

Red - 750
Yellow < 50
Blue - surveyed by Cotton



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

SR 1546 (Lovelady Road)
from SR 1545 to SR 1608
Burke County
TIP No. R-2824



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Tirrell House.



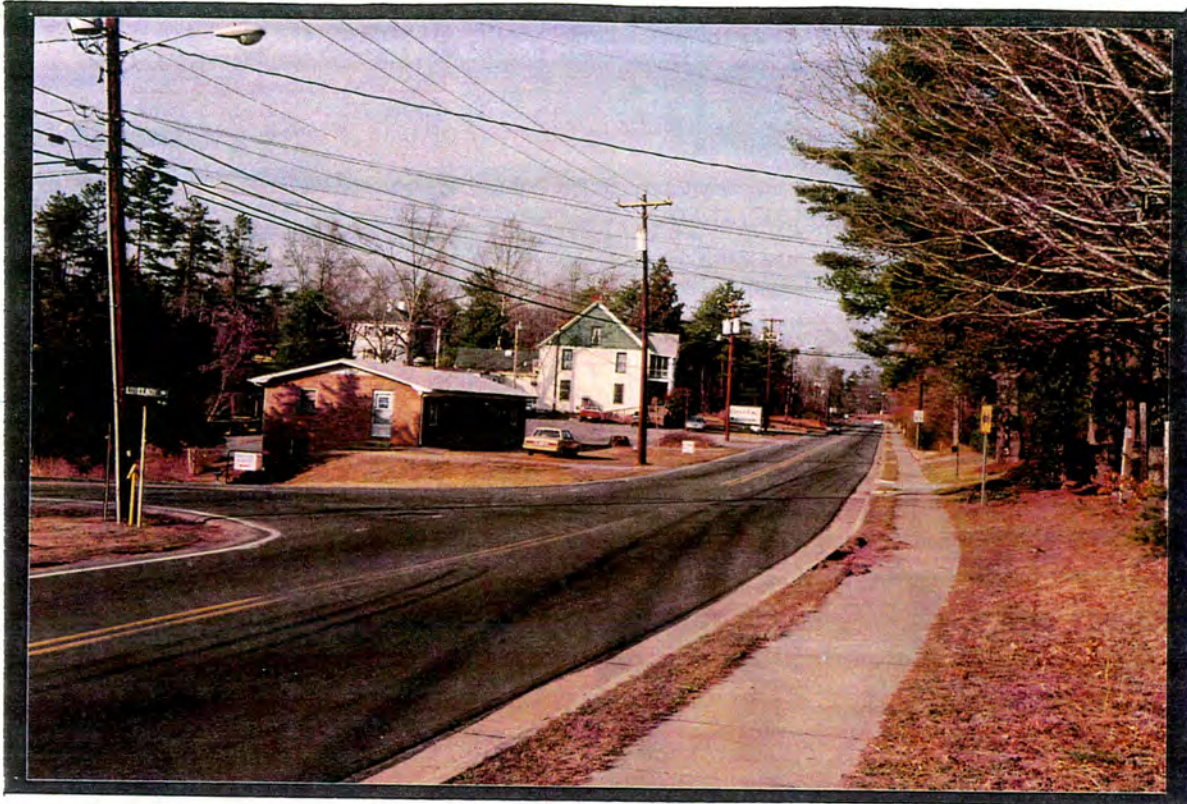
Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Tirrell House.



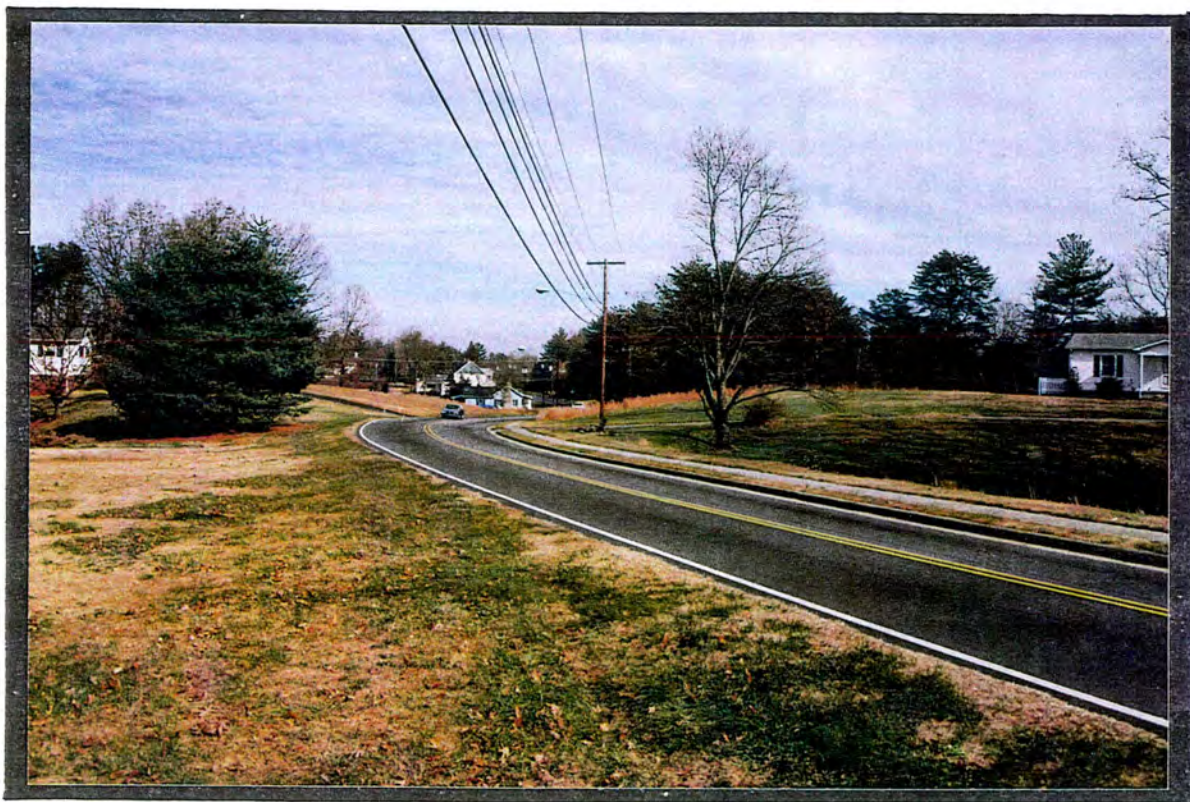
Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #6.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #7 (Theodore Franklin House).



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: View along Malcolm Boulevard looking north from Lovelady Road.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: View along Malcolm Boulevard looking north from Estes Drive. First Baptist Church parsonage is pictured at far right.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #14 (Luck House).



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: First Baptist Church. Site of former Rutherford College north campus.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Properties #16 (right) and #17 (left), view looking north along Malcolm Boulevard.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #18.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Properties #19 (right) and #20 (left), view looking south along Malcolm Boulevard.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #22.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: View along Malcolm Boulevard looking north from south of Liberty Street. Property #21 is pictured at far left.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: View along Malcolm Boulevard looking north from Mill Street.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #23.



Malcolm Boulevard Historic District: Property #24.

HURST HOUSE

Location. 1082 Tomilson Loop Road (SR 1613), north side of the road at junction with SR 1607 (Israel Chapel Road), Connelly Springs vicinity

Description. The one-and-one-half story, frame, Craftsman-style Hurst House sits well back from the road and is approached along a narrow drive. The house is dominated by its high side-gable roof, front gable projection, and gabled dormer with a trio of windows. The engaged front porch extends across three-fifths of the facade of the house, adjoins the front projection, and is supported by tapered posts on brick piers. The small rear porch, located between two shed-roof additions, has been enclosed. The exterior of the house is sheathed with asbestos shingles, and the windows are two-over-two double-hung sash except on the enclosed rear porch. The interior of the house remains spatially intact but is materially altered.

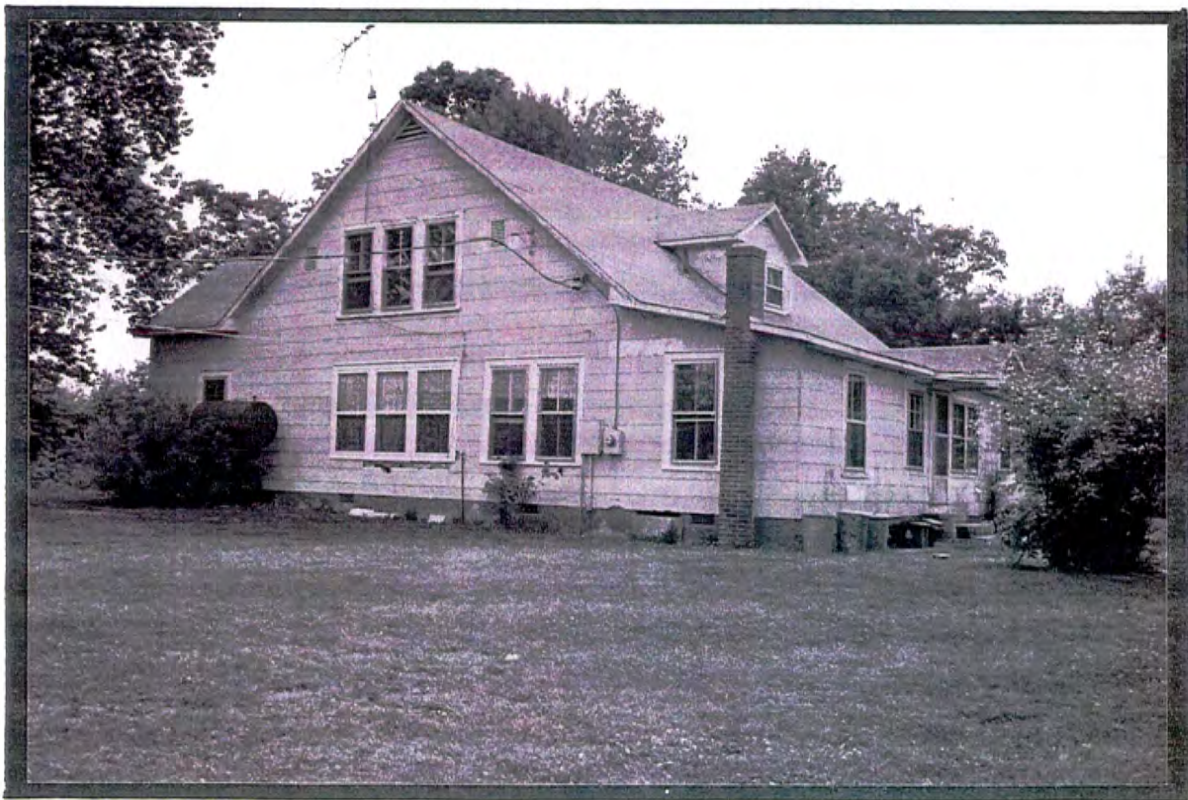
The property is associated historically with an approximately sixty-seven acre tract, but the house presently stands on an isolated one acre parcel with a right-of-way easement for the driveway to SR 1613. In addition to the dwelling, the house lot includes a loop drive in front of the house, several mature trees, and four or five modern outbuildings. The property surrounding the one acre parcel is wooded.

Background Information. Background research on the property yielded little information regarding the history of the house. According to the present owners, the house was built for the Hurst family, who also owned the land surrounding the dwelling. Neither the Hurst family nor its individual members are known to be recorded in any published county histories. Tax records indicate that the house was built in 1920.

Evaluation. NCDOT does not consider the Hurst House to be eligible for the National Register. The property is not eligible under Criteria A or B since it is not associated with significant events or the broad patterns of history, or with the lives of historically significant individuals. The house is an undistinguished and altered example of Craftsman-style residential architecture and therefore is not eligible under Criterion C. The architectural component of the house is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology and therefore is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.



Hurst House.



Hurst House.

TIP # R-2024

Federal Aid # STP-1546(B)

County BURKE

CONCURRENCE FORM
FOR
PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Brief Project Description
SR 1546 (LOVELADY ROAD) FROM SR 1545 (LAUREL STREET) TO SR 1608 (SHADY GROVE ROAD)

On OCTOBER 5, 1995, representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Other _____

reviewed the subject project at

- A scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other _____

All parties present agreed

- there are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effect.
- there are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criterion Consideration G within the project's area of potential effect.
- there are properties over fifty years old (list attached) within the project's area of potential effect, but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, properties identified as PROPERTIES # 1-7, #9-13 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary.
- there are no National Register-listed properties within the project's area of potential effect.

Signed:

Clay P. Smith Oct. 5, 1995
 Representative, NCDOT Date

Roy C. Shotton 10/10/95
 FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency Date

Debra K. Bewin 10/5/95
 Representative, SHPO Date

David Noel Wynne 10/30/95
 State Historic Preservation Officer/ Date

Appendix

At a meeting on October 5, 1995, representatives from the North Carolina SHPO reviewed photographs of thirteen properties over fifty years of age within the APE and concurred with NCDOT's determination that twelve of these properties are not eligible for the National Register. Although it did not appear to be individually eligible due to numerous alterations, the Theodore Franklin House (#8) was included in the evaluation of the Malcolm Boulevard Historic District as possibly a contributing resource. A copy of the signed concurrence form and photographs of properties #1-7 and #9-13 are included in this appendix.

The twelve properties determined not eligible were surveyed and evaluated within the historic and architectural contexts of Burke County. There are no significant events or persons associated with these properties, and therefore, they are not eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and B. These properties are undistinguished examples of common residential and rural church architecture, and as such are not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for design. The architectural component of these properties is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology, and therefore the properties are not eligible under Criterion D in that respect. The twelve properties are described briefly below.

Properties over fifty years of age not eligible for the National Register:

- BK0400** Property #1. This large, one-and-one-half story, gable-front, frame bungalow has a remodeled porch, synthetic siding, and replacement windows. The property does not possess special historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity of design and materials.
- BK0401** Property #2. This one-story, gable-front bungalow has a replaced porch and modern siding. The property is a poor example of a typical bungalow-style dwelling and does not possess any special historical significance.
- BK0402** Property #3. This simple, one-story, side-gable Colonial Revival style house features a projecting, gable-roof entrance canopy supported by plain, boxed posts. The property is a undistinguished example of a common Colonial Revival style dwelling and does not possess any special historical significance.
- BK0403** Property #4. This one-and-one-half story, side-gable, brick house with a dominant cross-gable and projecting gable-roof entrance canopy supported by boxed posts dates from the early 1940s. The property does not possess any special historical or architectural significance.
- BK0404** Property #5. This typical, two-story, three-by-one bay, frame dwelling is compromised by the replaced porch. The property does not possess any special historical significance and lacks architectural integrity.

BK0405 Property #6. This two-story, hip-roof, frame foursquare house features basic Craftsman-style details and is sheathed with asbestos siding. A hip-roof dormer with louvered vents surmounts the roof and a hip-roof porch supported by boxed posts extends across the front of the house. The property is a typical example of a common foursquare dwelling and does not possess any special historical significance.

BK0406 Property #7. This one-story, frame, gable-front bungalow retains its three-over-one double-hung sash, gable-end brackets, and gabled porch supported by tapered posts but has been sheathed with modern synthetic siding. The property is a typical example of a bungalow and does not possess any special historical significance.

BK0407 Property #9. This small one-story, side-gable frame dwelling has been completely remodeled. The property does not possess any special historical significance and lacks architectural integrity.

BK0408 Property #10 (Jensen House). The Jensen House is a brick, two-story, Colonial Revival-style dwelling built in 1938. The house is dominated by the full-height porch supported by boxed posts and is marked by simple Colonial Revival details. Harry Jensen Sr. married the youngest daughter of R. L. Abernethy, Jane Maude, and the house was built on part of the Abernethy property by Harry Jensen Jr. and his wife. The house does not possess any special historical significance and is a typical example of a Colonial Revival style dwelling.

BK0409 Property #11 (Israel Chapel A.M.E. Church). This small one-story, gable-front church has been compromised by the addition of a cumbersome entrance vestibule and modern synthetic siding. The cemetery includes only a few gravestones dating from the early twentieth century. The church does not possess any special historical significance and lacks architectural integrity.

BK0410 Property #12. This one-story, side-gable dwelling with several concrete block additions may encompass an older log house. The property does not possess any special historical or architectural significance and lacks architectural integrity.

BK0411 Property #13. This frame one-story, side-gable dwelling probably dates from the early 1940s and features board-and-batten siding and stone chimneys. The property does not possess any special historical or architectural significance.



Property #1 (#309 Lovelady Road) BK0400



Property #2 200 Lovelady BK0401



Property #3 240 Lovelady BK0402



Property #4 (#200 Lovelady Road) BK0403



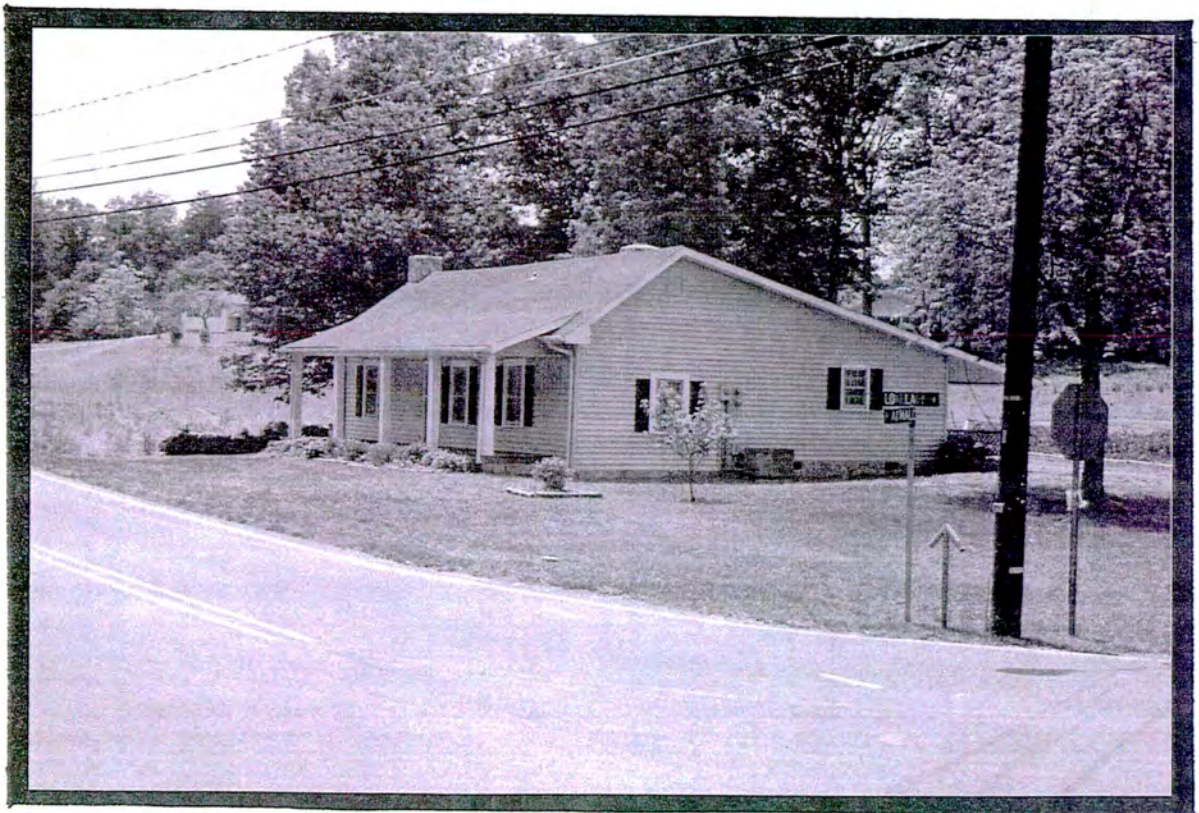
Property #5 120 Lovelady BK0404



Property #6 (#109 Lovelady Road) BK0405



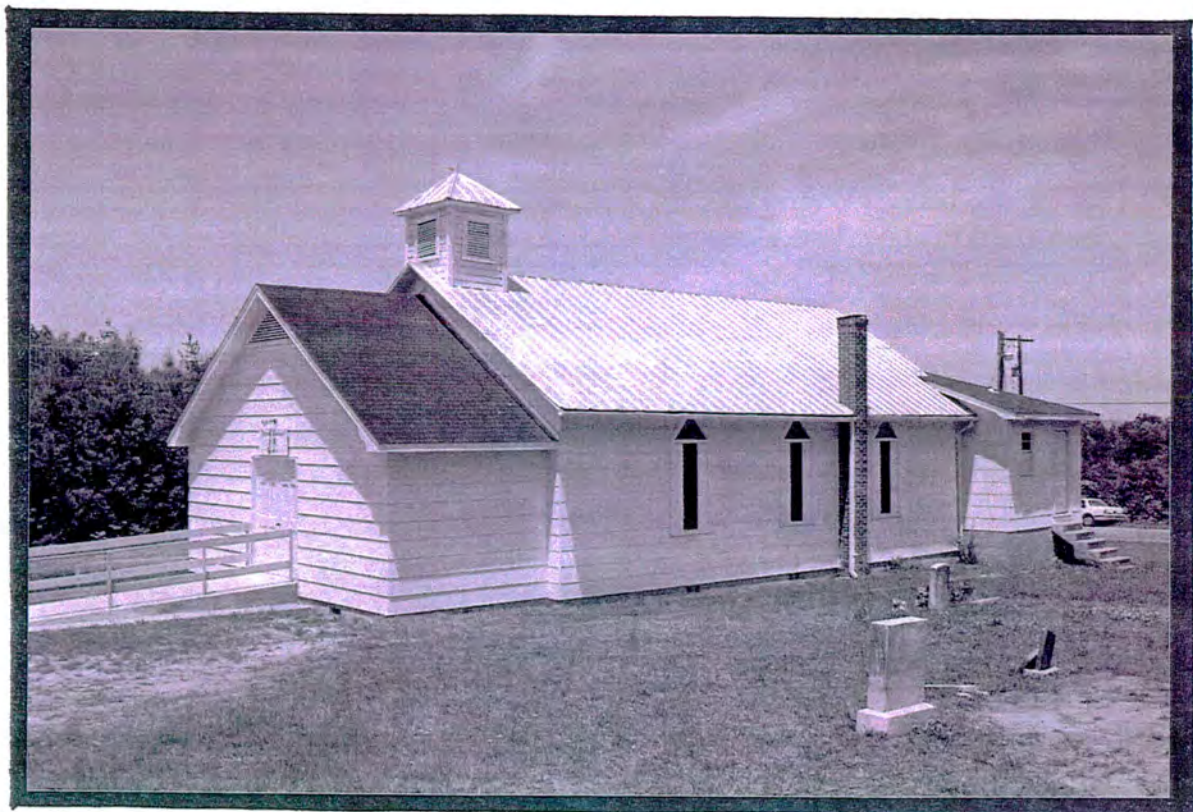
Property #7 (#104 Lovelady Road) BK0406



Property #9 1231 Malcolm Blvd BK0407



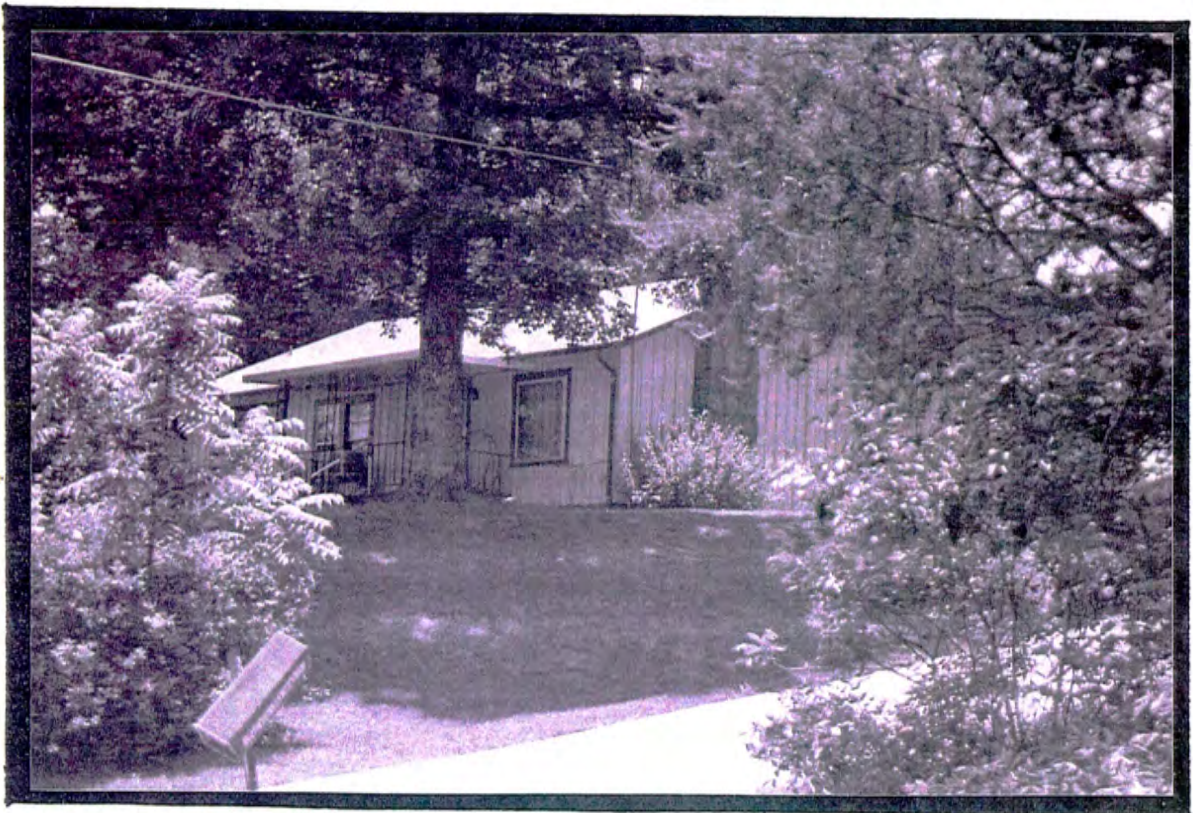
Property #10 (Jensen House) 141 Carnegie St BK0408



Property #11 (Israel Chapel A.M.E. Church) 2317 Israel Chapel Rd BK0409



Property #12 1086 Tomlinson Loop Rd BK0410



Property #13 1041 Tomlinson Loop Rd BK0411

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