

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

Replace Bridge No. 42 on SR 1314 over the Uwharrie River
Randolph County, North Carolina
TIP No. B-3364
State Project No. 8.2572001
Federal Aid No. MABRZ-1314(2)



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Richard L. Silverman

July 1999

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 42 on SR 1314 over the Uwharrie River in Randolph County with a new structure on a new location a short distance downstream (south) of the existing bridge (Figure 1). Traffic will be maintained on the existing bridge during the new bridge construction. Bridge No. 42 was built in 1924 and remains in use as of July, 1999. It maintains a sufficiency rating of XX out of 100.

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 boundary is shown on the attached map (Figure 2).

PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the CE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 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 available for review by the public.

METHODOLOGY

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this 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. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and SHPO dated February 2, 1996.

NCDOT conducted an intensive 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 on the project area. A NCDOT staff architectural historian conducted a field survey on July 2, 1999, by car and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were photographed and keyed to an area map.

Background research was conducted at the Randolph County Courthouse in Asheboro, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina State Library in Raleigh.

SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

The project is situated along SR 1314 west of the intersection of SR 1314 and 1317. A scoping meeting for project B-3364 was held on April 7, 1998, with officials from NCDOT and SHPO (Debbie Bevin) in attendance. In their letter dated April 28, 1998, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office recommended that (1) Bridge No.42 be evaluated for National Register eligibility; (2) No additional historic architecture survey should be conducted for this project; (3) The archeological site of Parker's Mill and Dam, located at the bridge east of the Uwharrie River, should be evaluated for National Register eligibility; (4) The remainder of the area of potential affect should also be surveyed for as yet unrecorded archeological sites.

Properties Listed on the National Register or North Carolina State Study List:

None

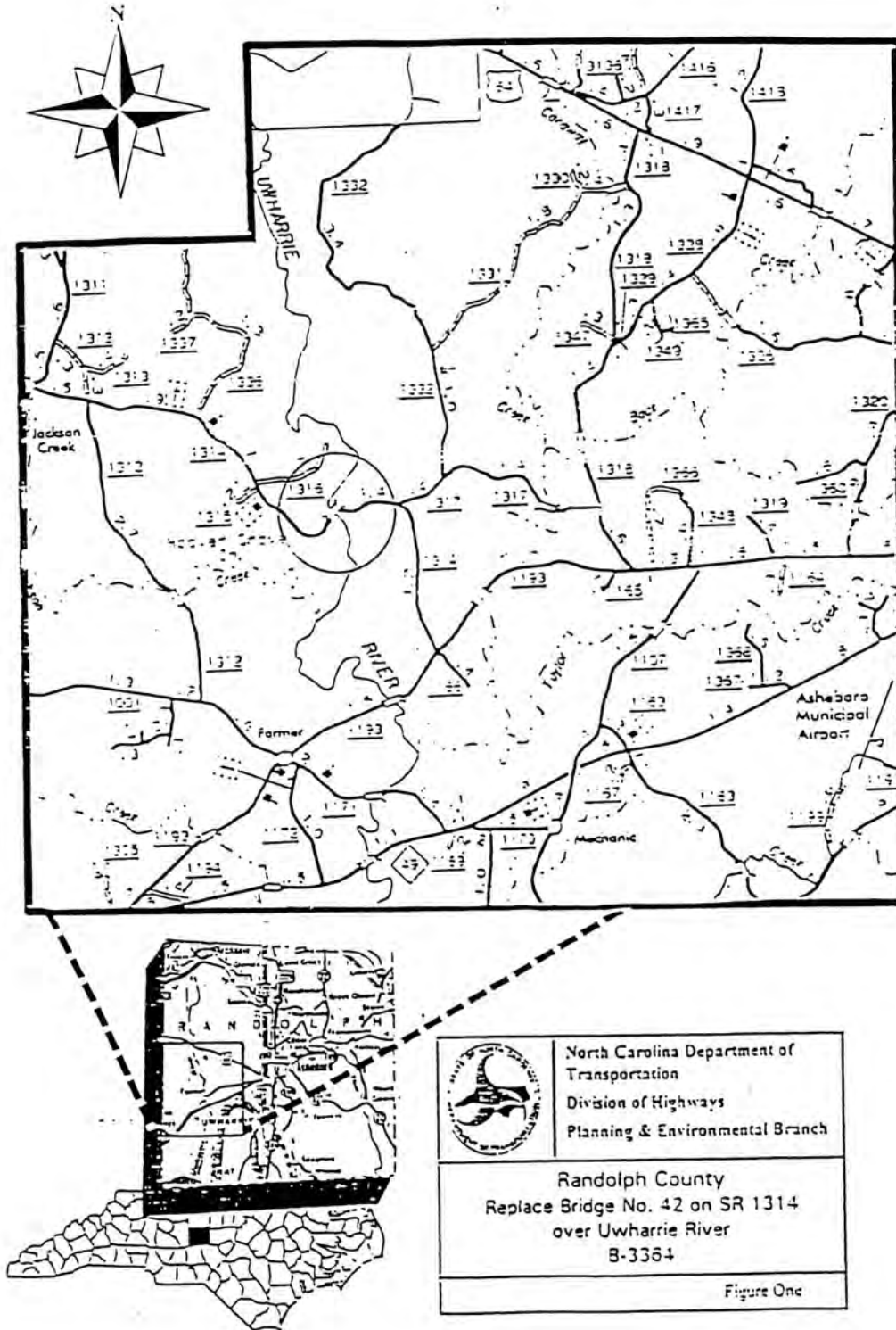
Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Property #1: Bridge #42

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

None

Figure 1 -- Project vicinity map





NCDOT Survey Report for B-3364
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Figure 2 -- Project area map



North Carolina Department of
Transportation
Division of Highways
Planning & Environmental Branch

Randolph County
Replace Bridge No. 42 on SR 1314
over Uwharrie River
B-3364

Scale 1:1200

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Bridge No. 42 (Figures 1-8)

Location.

Bridge No. 42 is located on SR 1314 over the Uwharrie River west of the intersection of SR 1314 and SR 1317.

Description.

Bridge No. 42 is a reinforced concrete bridge composed of two arches topped by a deck which accommodates two lanes of traffic. The superstructure is an open spandrel arch deck with the two arches supported mid-span by a tapered concrete pier. The bridge has a simple, undecorated reinforced concrete post and horizontal rail system that has the appearance of wooden fence construction. The rails terminate at classically-inspired pedestals with recessed panels, caps, and bases. These bases also appear at center span. There is no pedestrian walkway serving this bridge. The bridge plate, set into the northeast pedestal, notes a construction date of 1924.

Historic Context & Background Information.

Bridge No. 42, also known as Parker's Mill Bridge, was designed by engineer Grady L. Bash, and built by the firm of Steel and Leiby of Knoxville, Tennessee. The bridge is located in a part of Randolph County known as Concord Township. Farmer is the only village in Concord Township, located to the south of Bridge No. 42.¹ The Uwharrie River, which Bridge No. 42 spans, is part of the Yadkin River watershed, which empties into the Atlantic Ocean near Georgetown, South Carolina. In Randolph County, the Uwharrie rises near Trinity and leaves the county near Eleazer.²

Due to its advantageous proximity to the Uwharrie River, this property has also been the site for several mills during the past two hundred years. According to Whatley's *History of Randolph County*, Herman Miller built a mill on the site in ca. 1779 which later came into the possession of Stephen Henley.³ A historical map produced by Fred Hughes in 1977 confirms this location as the site of Miller's Mill and Henley's Mill. Unfortunately, it is not known what types of products these mills produced. A 1938 State Highway and Public Works Commission map shows three unidentified structures near the bridge site, while a 1969 county road map illustrates one mill structure on this site.⁴ One source suggests that in Randolph County prior to 1800, there were more than forty mills of various types in operation.⁵ A more recent history of Randolph County notes that the first mill to be established, according to court records, was for Samuel Walker's mill on Sandy Creek in 1756. Into the eighteenth-

¹ Cheryl Lynn Martin, ed., *The Heritage of Randolph County, North Carolina, Volume I - 1993*, (Charlotte, NC: Delmar Printing, 1993) 55.

² Randolph County Historical Society and Randolph Arts Guild, *Randolph County 1779-1979*, (Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Publishing Co., 1980) 9.

³ J.A. Blair, *Reminiscences of Randolph County*, (Greensboro, NC: Reece and Elam, Book and Job Printers, 1890) 33.

⁴ The earliest maps, such as the 1873 Map of Randolph County by J.W. Bean is more schematic in nature, and thus locations of structures cannot be accurately determined.

⁵ Randolph County Historical Society, 22.

century, numerous mills were constructed along waterways throughout the area, and Lowell Whatley Jr. argues that an accurate accounting of them is no longer possible.⁶ Nevertheless, the types of mill operations known or common to Randolph County in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are: grist mills, saw mills, mills incorporating cotton and wood-carding machinery, flaxseed oil mills, and merchant mills.

Parker's Mill, constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth-century, was situated on SR 1314 on the Uwharrie River at the eastern end of the current bridge site. It is not known what types of product this mill produced, but it is likely that the structure was a grist mill based on an examination of photographs. The mill takes its name from Victor Parker who owned the structure until the time of its closing in 1943.⁷ Parker's Mill was a two-story structure of wood frame construction, weatherboard siding, and four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. Operating into the early 1940's, Parker's Mill was powered by a turbine water wheel. In 1980 the mill and its stone dam were demolished when construction of a concrete dam was begun by the City of Asheboro. Completed in 1984, the dam led to the formation of Lake Reese, a city water reservoir.⁸

Evaluation.

Bridge No. 42, Randolph County, North Carolina, is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (event). To be eligible for significance under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.⁹ The historic significance of Bridge No. 42 is based on its design and engineering features and not its contribution to the development of a community.

Bridge No. 42 is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B (person) for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with persons individually significant within the historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.¹⁰ There are no persons of national, state, or local significance associated with Bridge No. 42.

⁶ Lowell McKay Whatley, Jr., *The Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina*, (Durham, NC: Fisher-Harrison Corp., 1985) 5.

⁷ Ibid, 12.

⁸ Ibid, 5.

⁹ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), 12.

¹⁰ Ibid, 15.

Bridge No. 42 is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.¹¹ Bridge No. 42 is a rare example of a reinforced concrete open-spandrel bridge in North Carolina. In fact, as of July, 1999, the time of this report, there are only five surviving examples of this bridge type in the state. Despite the fact that this bridge must be closed to vehicular traffic, the principal architectural features of the bridge remain intact and in good condition. In addition, the previous repairs of the bridge have not led to the concealment of any of the character-defining features of the structure. Finally, Bridge No. 42 is a good example of reinforced concrete bridge architecture of the period.

Bridge No. 42 is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D (Information Potential). For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.¹² The architectural component of the bridge is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology; therefore Bridge No. 42 is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion D.

Boundary.

The National Register boundary for Bridge No. 42 has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties." The boundary is limited to the footprint of the bridge and excludes the roadway approaches.

A site map and the historic boundary is delineated on the aerial photograph found at the end of this report (Figure 11).

National Register Boundary Justification.

The National Register boundary for Bridge No. 42 has been drawn to include all of the contributing resources and excludes the modern 1980's dam and its support structures. The mill site is an archeological resource and will not be included within the bridge's boundary.

¹¹ Ibid., 17.

¹² Ibid., 21.

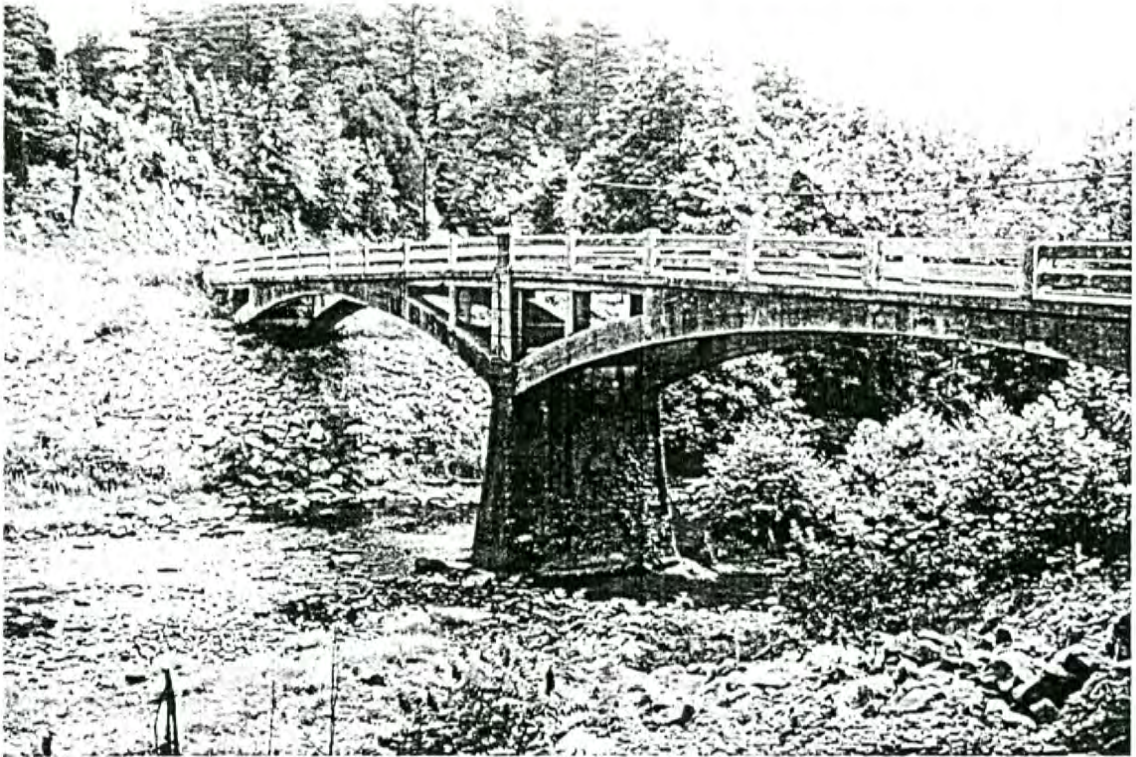


Figure 1 – View of Bridge No. 42



Figure 2 – View of Bridge No. 42



Figure 3 – View of Bridge No. 42



Figure 4 – View of Bridge No. 42

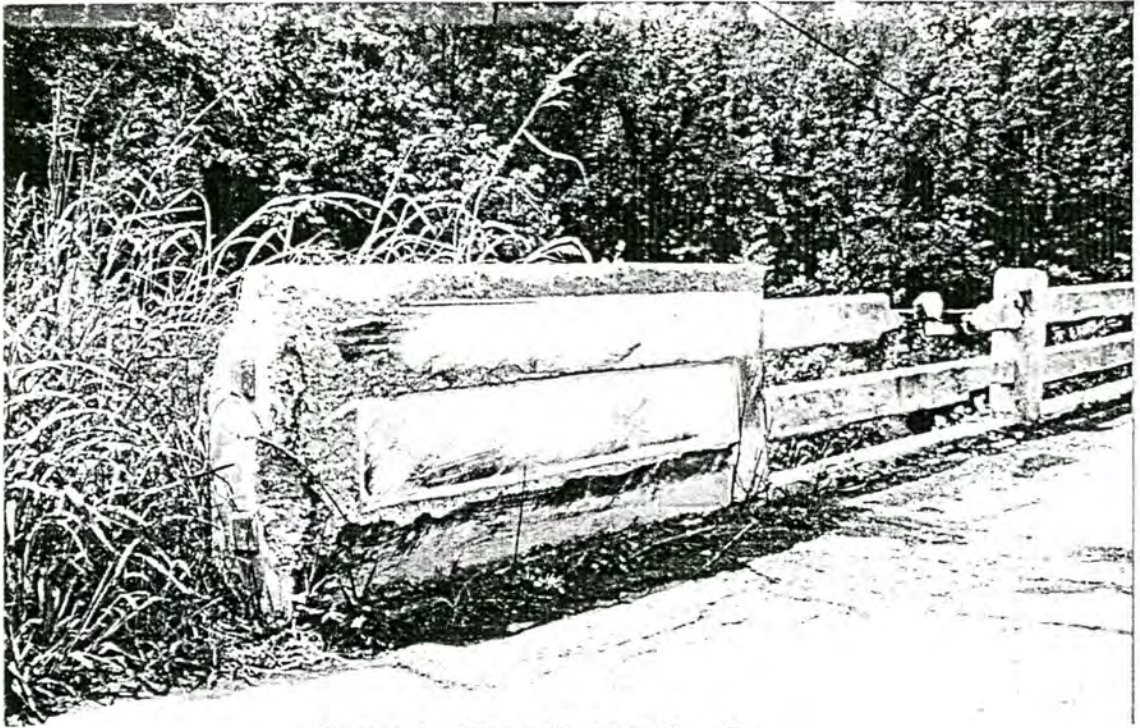


Figure 5 – Pier of Bridge No. 42

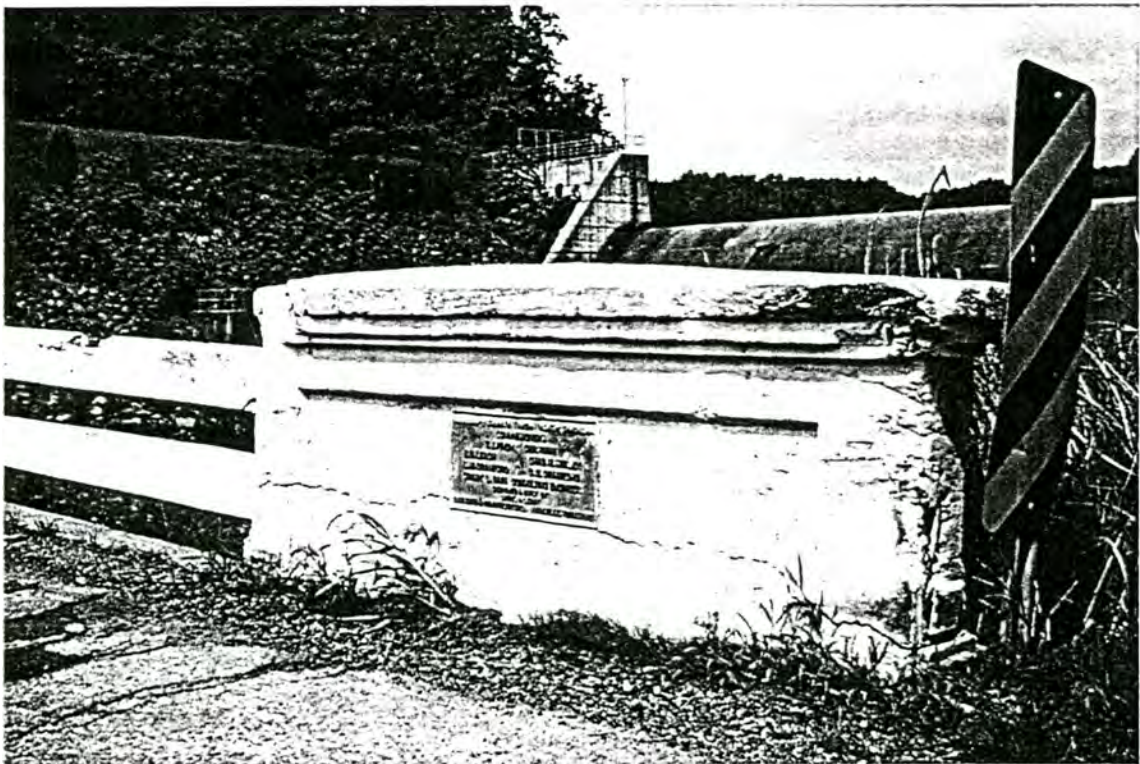


Figure 6 – Pier and Bridge Plate

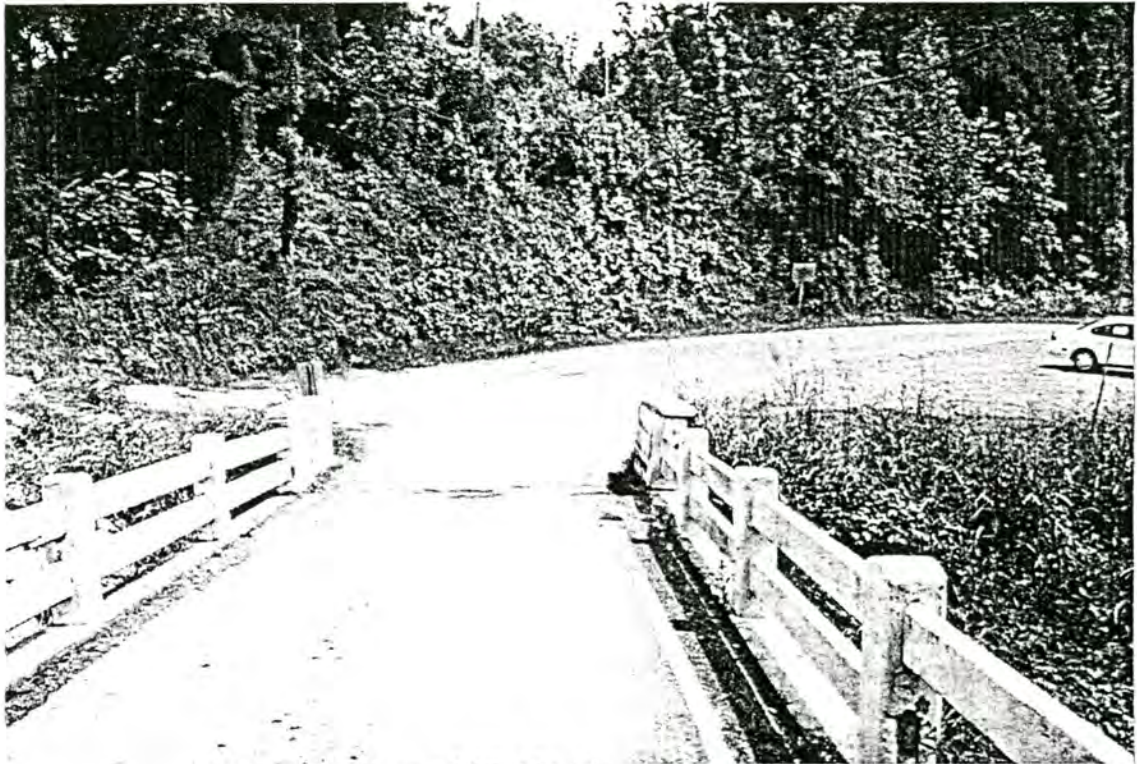


Figure 7 – View of SR 1314 from Bridge No. 42



Figure 8 – View of Bridge Plate

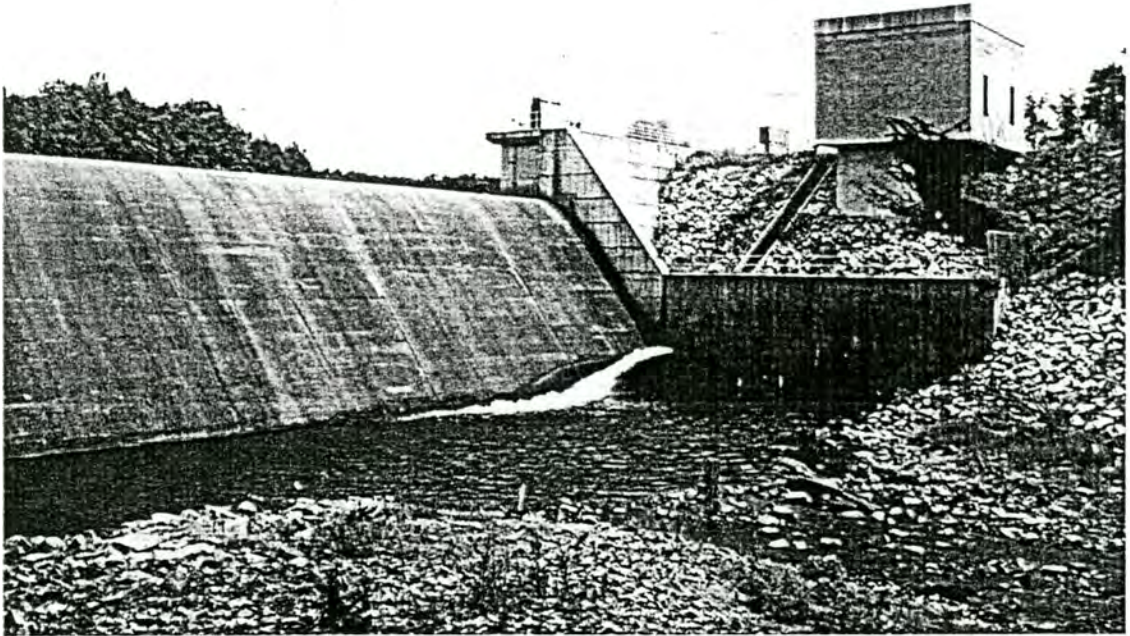
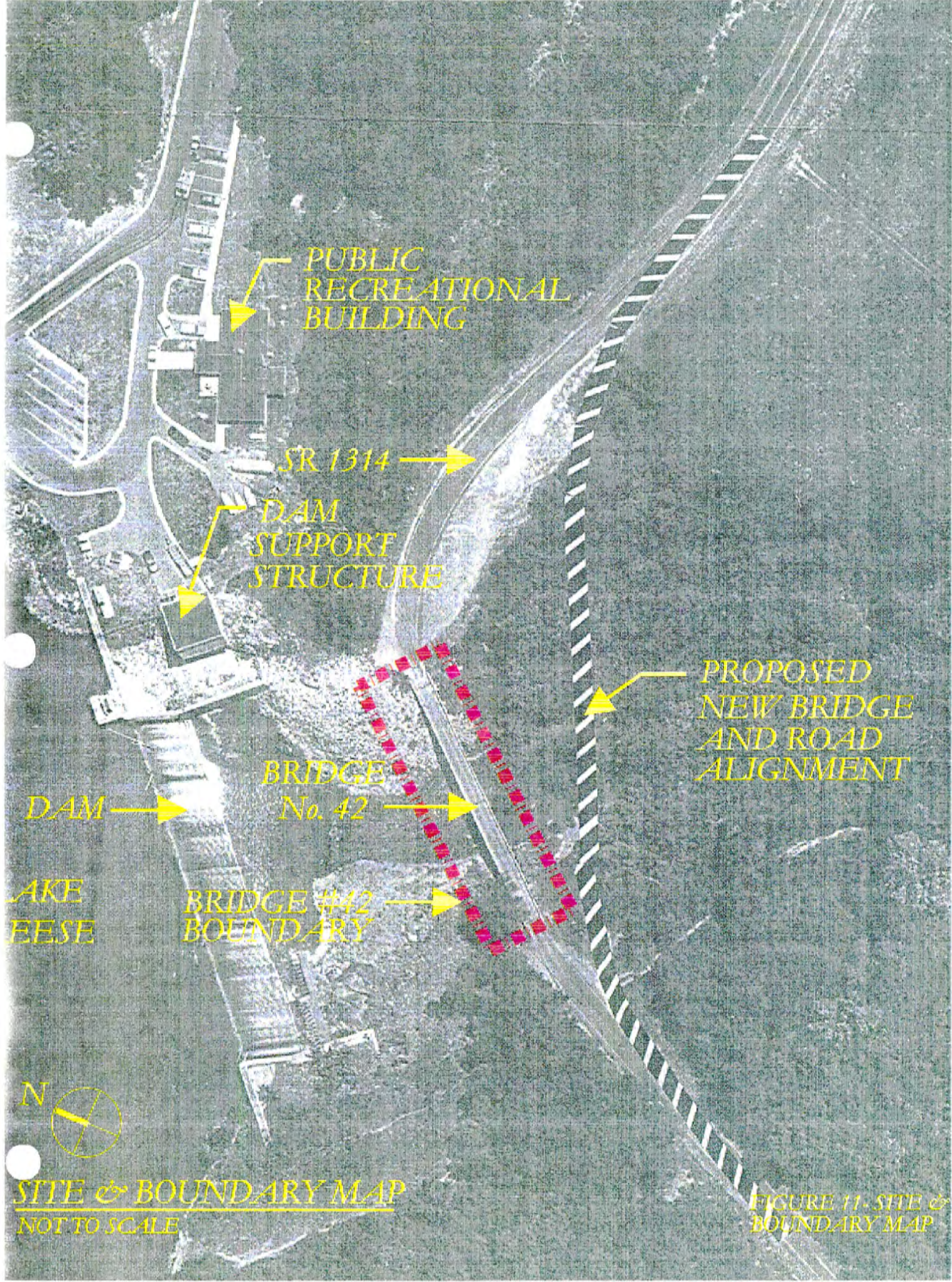


Figure 9 – View of Dam from Bridge No. 42



Figure 10 – View of Lake Reese



PUBLIC
RECREATIONAL
BUILDING

SR 1314

DAM
SUPPORT
STRUCTURE

PROPOSED
NEW BRIDGE
AND ROAD
ALIGNMENT

BRIDGE
No. 42

DAM

BRIDGE #42
BOUNDARY

LAKE
EISE



SITE & BOUNDARY MAP
NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 11. SITE & BOUNDARY MAP

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register.

None

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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