



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

May 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Division of Highways
Department of Transportation

FROM: David Brook (with signature)
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge no. 75 on NC 700 over Smith River. TIP No. B-3509.
Rockingham County, ER 99-7717

Thank you for your letter of April 6, 2000, transmitting the survey report by Mattson, Alexander and Associates concerning the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the criterion cited:

Spray Industrial Historic District - this district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The boundaries depicted in Figure 4 of the report are those listed in the National Register.

Proposed Expansion of Spray Industrial Historic District - the proposed expansion would include the Price-Lewis-Hawkins House, the Leaksville Township municipal Building, the Central, the Filter Plant, and the Pump House as contributing resources. Bridge No. 75 is within the proposed expansion area, but is considered a non-contributing resource. We concur with the boundaries as shown in Figure 5 of the report.

The following determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Rosemont

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

cc: B. Church

Bc: Brown/Alperin
County
RF

ADMINISTRATION
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HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

**REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 75 ON N.C. 700
OVER THE SMITH RIVER
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

T.I.P. No. B-3509

STATE PROJECT NO. 8.2860401

FEDERAL AID NO. BRZ-1001(14) BRSTP-700(1)

Prepared for:

**Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering, Inc.
559 Jones Franklin Road
Suite 164-A
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-1580**

Prepared by:

**Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
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7 March 2000

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

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7 March 2000

MATTSON, ALEXANDER AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Frances P. Alexander
Frances P. Alexander, M.A.

7 March 2000

Date

Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.

Date

Project Manager

Barbara H. Mulkey
N.C.D.O.T. Historic Architectural Resources Section

Date

3/22/00

Date

**Replacement of Bridge No. 75 on N.C. 700 over the Smith River
Rockingham County
T.I.P. No. B-3509
State Project No. 8.2860401
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1001(14)**

Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (N.C.D.O.T.) proposes to replace Bridge No. 75 which carries N.C. 700 (Meadow Road) over the Smith River in the town of Eden in Rockingham County (**Figure 1**). The extant bridge was built in 1954 and is now classified as structurally deficient. Depicted in **Figure 2**, the following alternatives are being considered and evaluated for the proposed project.

Alternative 1 includes the construction of a bridge along a new location, roughly 850 feet south of the existing structure. The new bridge would follow the proposed realignment of S.R. 3003 (Meadow Road), as depicted on the Eden Thoroughfare Plan. The new alignment would measure roughly 2,375 feet long, and the new bridge would be approximately 525 feet long. Bridge No. 75 would serve to maintain traffic during construction. The eastern project terminus would lie just east of the intersection of Meadow Road and W. Stadium Drive (S.R. 1747), and the project would terminate at the intersection of Chestnut and Early streets on the west side of Smith River.

Alternative 2 includes replacing existing Bridge No. 75 along a new location, approximately 50 feet north of the existing structure. During construction, traffic would be maintained along Bridge No. 75. Under this alternative, a portion of Meadow Road, from east of the W. Stadium Drive intersection to the Smith River, would be realigned slightly to the north. The new alignment would measure 2,200 feet long, and the new structure over the Smith River would measure 350 feet in length. The project begins east of the Meadow Road and W. Stadium Drive intersection and ends on the west bank of Smith River.

Purpose of Survey and Report

This historic resources survey was conducted, and the report prepared, to identify all historic architectural resources located within the area of potential effects (A.P.E.) (**Figure 3**). This survey and report are part of the environmental studies conducted by N.C.D.O.T. and documented by a categorical exclusion (C.E.). This report was prepared as a technical appendix to the C.E. and is part of the compliance documentation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (N.E.P.A.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (N.H.P.A.) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the N.H.P.A. states that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in, or potentially eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation should be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed undertaking. This report is on file with N.C.D.O.T. and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

The survey was conducted and the report compiled in accordance with the provisions of F.H.W.A. Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 49(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FRR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and the Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources (N.C.D.O.T.).

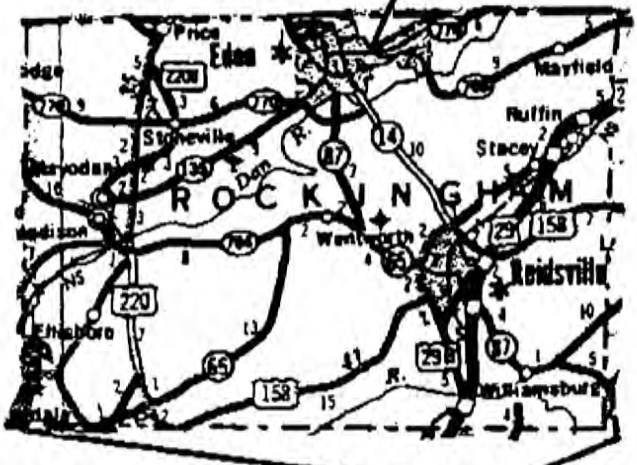
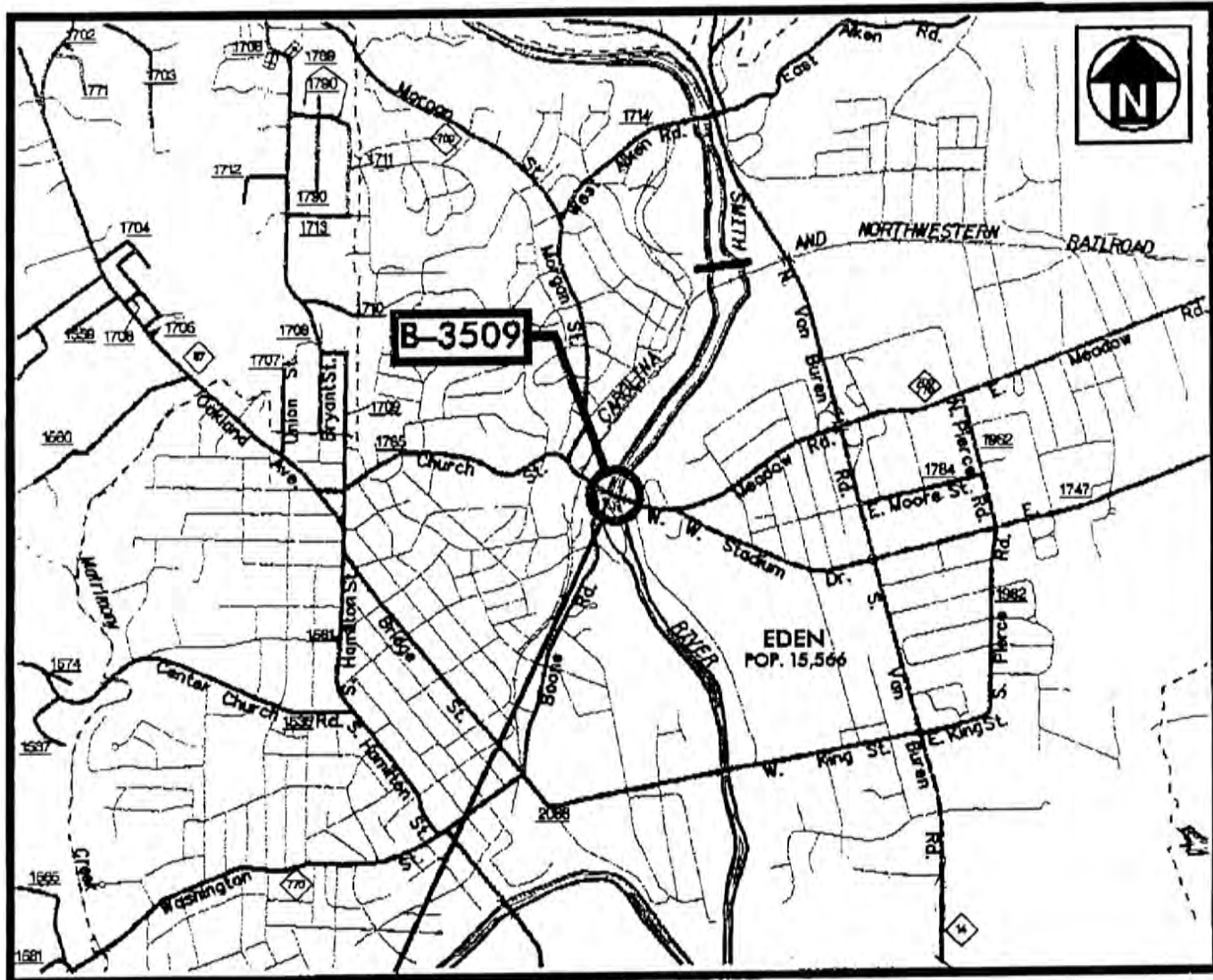

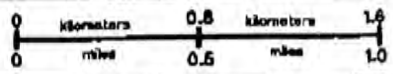
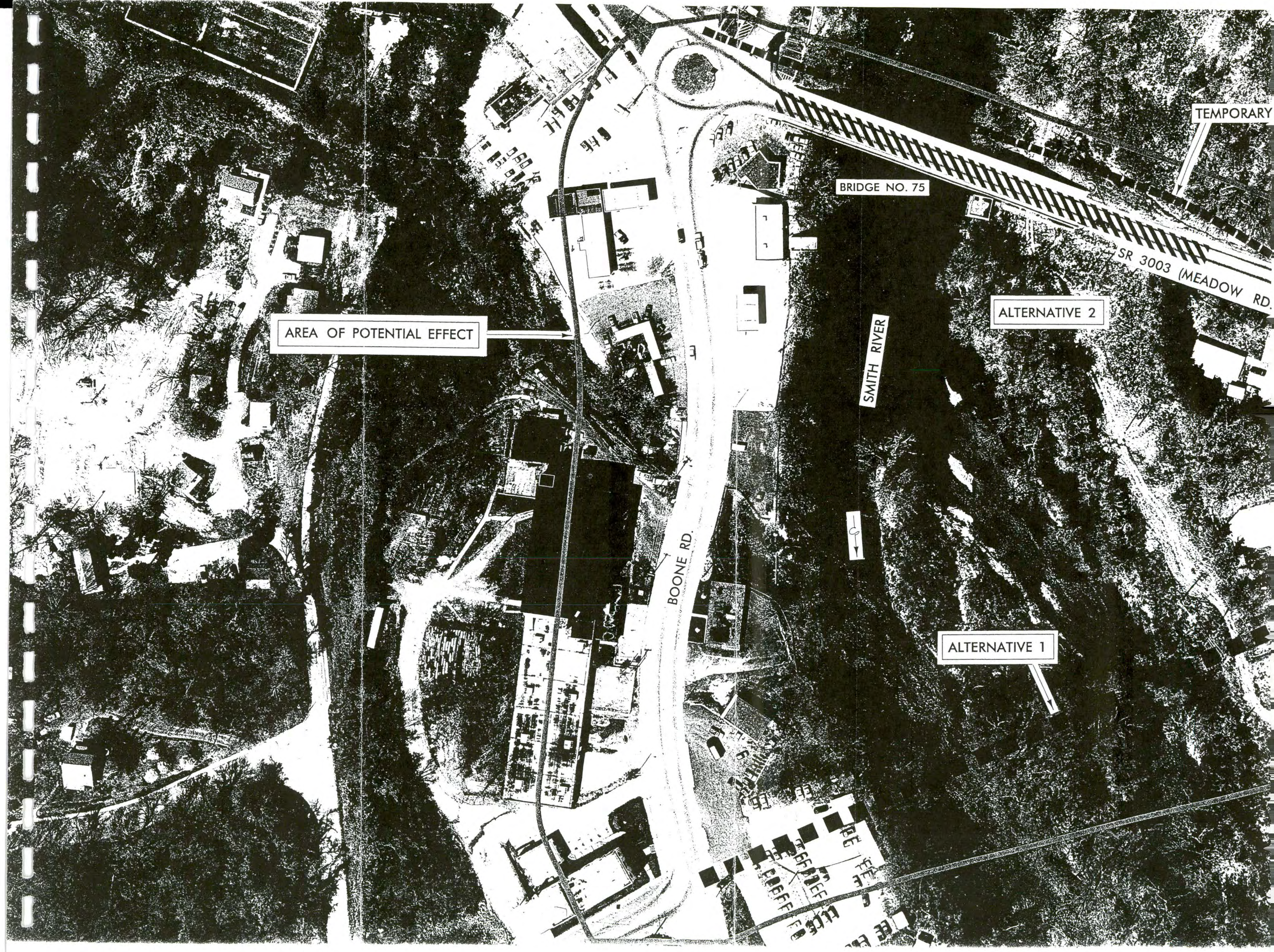


Figure 1

	North Carolina Department Of Transportation Planning & Environmental Branch	
	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 75 ON NC 700 OVER THE SMITH RIVER B-3509	
		



TEMPORARY

BRIDGE NO. 75

SR 3003 (MEADOW RD.)

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

ALTERNATIVE 2

SMITH RIVER

BOONE RD.

ALTERNATIVE 1

DETOUR

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

ALTERNATIVE 1

SR 3003 (MEADOW RD.)

SR 1747 (W. STADIUM DR.)



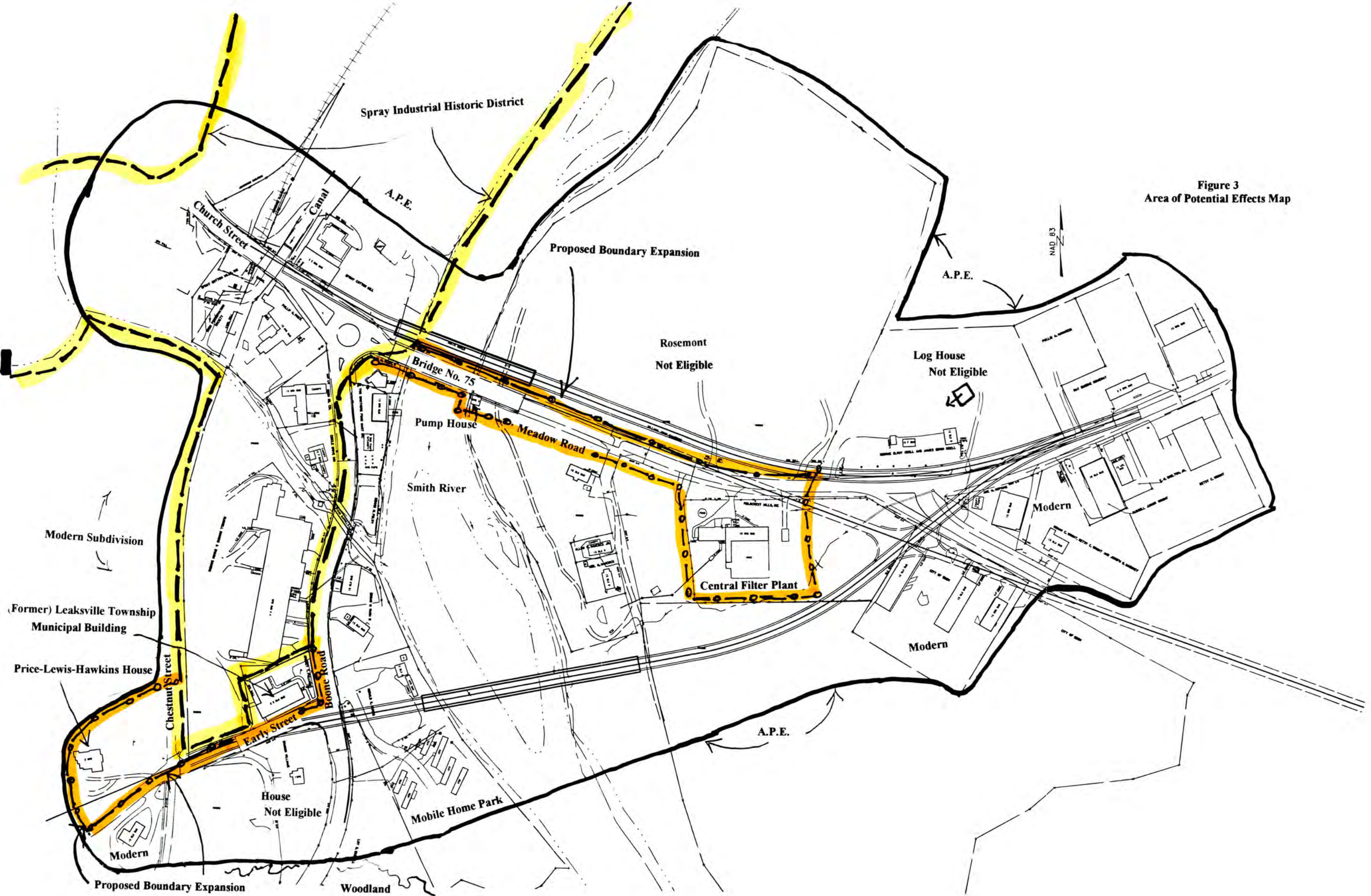
North Carolina Department of
Transportation
Project Development &
Environmental Analysis

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
BRIDGE NO. 75 ON SR 3003 (MEADOW RD.)
OVER SMITH RIVER
B-3509

SCALE: 1:1200

FIGURE 2

Figure 3
Area of Potential Effects Map



The Phase II survey was conducted with the following goals: 1) to determine the A.P.E., which is defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes to the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the A.P.E.; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The methodology for this investigation included background research into the historical and architectural development of the areas and a field survey of the A.P.E. The field survey was conducted in October 1999, by automobile and on foot, to delineate the A.P.E. and to identify all properties within the A.P.E. that appear to have been built before 1951. Every property at least fifty years of age was photographed, mapped, and evaluated. Those considered worthy of further analysis were intensively surveyed and evaluated for National Register eligibility. For resources considered eligible for the National Register, National Register boundaries were determined.

The boundaries of the A.P.E. are shown on a map supplied by Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering, Inc. (see **Figure 3**). The A.P.E. is defined by modern construction, topographical features, and sight lines. One hundred per cent of the A.P.E. was surveyed.

Background research was undertaken at the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh. An examination of National Register nominations, survey files, and other historical studies revealed that one resource, the Spray Industrial Historic District, had been listed in the National Register (1986). Two other resources, the Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (No. 1) and the Log House (No. 6), had been examined during an architectural survey of Eden in 1984 and 1985 and are included in the publication, *A Tale of Three Cities. Eden's Heritage: A Pictorial Survey of Leaksville, Spray, and Draper* (Brown 1986).

Summary of Survey Findings

The bridge under consideration spans the Smith River on the east side of Eden in Rockingham County. Bridge No. 75 was built in 1954 as a multiple span, reinforced concrete deck girder structure with reinforced concrete piers and abutments. The bridge is notable for its arched balustrade and stepped end portals, inspired by the Art Deco designs of the interwar period. On the west side, the bridge provides access along Church Street to the commercial and industrial district of Spray, one of three communities merged in 1967 to form the town of Eden. This area of Spray lies within the boundaries of the Spray Industrial Historic District (No. 4), listed in the National Register in 1986. At the east end of the bridge is an area known as the Central Area which lies between the historic towns of Leaksville and Spray on the west side of the river and Draper which lies three and one-half miles to the east. Meadow Road, which runs through the Central Area, is carried by Bridge No. 75 over the Smith River, and is one of the main routes between Spray and Draper. The Central Area remained largely undeveloped until the early to mid-twentieth century when the Spray Water Power and Land Company began to purchase the land for development. Located within this area are the Log House (No. 6), situated on the north side of Meadow Road at the intersection with West Stadium Drive, the Central Filter Plant (No. 7), which was built by Fieldcrest Mills between 1930 and 1954 to supply water to the town and the mills, a small pump house (No. 8) that was erected in conjunction with the filter plant, and Rosemont (No. 5), an imposing Colonial Revival house built in 1941 on a landscaped hill overlooking the Smith River (see **Figure 3**, A.P.E. Map).

The Spray Industrial Historic District is listed in the National Register (1986). No other properties within the A.P.E. have been listed in either the National Register or the North Carolina Study List. The existing National Register boundaries of the historic district are shown in **Figure 4**. As a result of this survey, an expansion of the Spray Industrial Historic District is recommended. The amended boundaries would include the (Former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building (No. 2), sited at the intersection of Boone Road and Early Street adjacent to the existing historic district boundary, and the Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (No. 1) which was built ca. 1910 for executive personnel of the Spray Water Power and Land Company and later occupied by Leaksville Woolen Mill superintendent, John F. Lewis. The boundaries would also be extended east across the Smith River to encompass the Central Filter Plant (No. 7) and the associated pump house (No. 8) as additional contributing resources. Rosemont (No. 5), which is also

located on the east side of the river, is not recommended for National Register eligibility, either as a contributing resource to the expanded historic district or individually. Although Bridge No. 75 does not meet the fifty year age guideline needed for National Register eligibility, the structure is recommended for inclusion in the Spray Industrial Historic District as a non-contributing resource because the bridge would be encompassed by the expanded boundaries.

Two other resources were identified during the survey, but neither is recommended for National Register eligibility. Because of extensive alterations, the Log House (No. 6), which sits on the north side of Meadow Road, is not recommended for the National Register. An altered, frame bungalow (No. 3) sits on the south side of Early Street at Boone Road, and this property is not considered eligible because of its marginal integrity and lack of architectural or historical significance.

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

- No. 4 Spray Industrial Historic District (N.R., 1986)

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

- No. 1 Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (within an expanded Spray Industrial Historic District)
- No. 2 (Former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building (within an expanded Spray Industrial Historic District)
- No. 7 Central Filter Plant (within an expanded Spray Industrial Historic District)
- No. 8 Pump House (within an expanded Spray Industrial Historic District)

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

- No. 5 Rosemont

**Other Properties Evaluated and Determined Not To Be Eligible for the National Register
(see Appendix)**

- No. 3 House
- No. 6 Log House

Background Information and Industry Context

The project area is located in the town of Eden, situated in the North Carolina Piedmont along the Virginia border. Eden was formed in 1967 with the merger of three towns, Leaksville, Spray, and Draper, which had developed along the Smith River, one of the principal tributaries of the Dan River. The oldest of the three communities, Leaksville had its origins in the eighteenth century after settlers migrated into the Dan River valley and the need for a market town arose with the growth of area farms. In 1795, local resident, John Leak, selected a 204 acre site, granted to him by the state, as the location of Rockingham County's second town. The site occupied a high bluff, just west of the confluence of the Smith and Dan rivers and south of the Petersburg-Salem Road. In 1797, the North Carolina General Assembly granted a charter to the newly established Leaksville, and the town was platted (Brown, *Spray Industrial Historic District* 1986: 8-2).

Although Leaksville was the site of earliest town development in the county, the town of Spray (and the project area) emerged in the early nineteenth century on an adjoining tract of 26,000 acres that had originally been purchased from the British crown by Virginia planter, William Byrd II, in the 1720s. In 1803, the land was subdivided, and the largest of these subdivided parcels (2,912 acres) was bought by James Barnett. Barnett's tract bounded Leaksville to the east, extending north on both sides of the Smith River from its confluence with the Dan.

Barnett soon began improvements, the most important of which were the construction of a wooden dam and the 4,600 foot long Spray Power Canal. The canal extended from the dam south to Barnett's grist mill, a five story, frame building. Although James Barnett's plan for a town called Jamestown never materialized, his mill demonstrated the potential of these waterways for industry, and marked the beginnings of Spray as an important manufacturing center. With the development of bateau shipping along the Dan and strong international demand for American agricultural products during the post-War of 1812 period, business grew dramatically, and real estate prices in Leaksville surged. Prosperity was short-lived, however, and during the Panic of 1819, real estate values fell, and many, including James Barnett, left to seek new fortunes in the expanding west (Brown 1986: 8-3).

Leaksville, including Barnett's manufacturing area, survived because of local interests held by John Motley Morehead, industrialist, railroad capitalist, and North Carolina governor (1841-1845). Although a Virginia native, Morehead was reared in Rockingham County, and he established a considerable industrial empire in present-day Eden. In the late 1820s, Morehead became co-owner of a store in Leaksville, and in 1831, he and partner William Barnett, Jr., a cousin of James Barnett, formed several industrial operations on Island Creek (situated at the confluence of the Smith and the Dan) that included a sawmill, oil mill, carding mill, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, and a general store, as well as the original Barnett grist mill. In 1836, Morehead bought out Barnett's share in the business and became the sole owner of 1,065 acres on the Smith River. Like many pioneering textile manufacturers, Morehead understood the importance of the river and canal for these pre-steam powered mills, and he quickly built a cotton factory next to the grist mill. The mill, a three story, fieldstone building, a dye house, and several frame and brick auxiliary buildings were all constructed in 1839. When the Leaksville Factory, as Spray was initially known, opened in 1840, the complex was the county's first textile mill. The mill grew, and by 1857, was processing 270,000 yards of cloth. In the 1850s, Morehead also opened a wooden mill that eventually produced blankets (Brown 1986: 8-4)

On the eve of the Civil War, the mill continued to be the sole cotton mill in the county, and the complex remained in operation during the war as suppliers to the Confederacy. Morehead died in 1866, and his heirs, particularly son, Major J. Turner Morehead, became an enthusiastic proponent of the New South doctrine of the postwar period, expanding his family industrial operations, improving river navigation, building railroads, and constructing power plants. Under the new corporate name of J. Turner Morehead and Company, Major Morehead focused his attentions on Leaksville Factory, which consisted of approximately 300 residents, the cotton and woolen mills, the company store, and company housing. The woolen mill evolved into a separate entity by 1881 with its own substantial, three story, brick factory. During this period, Morehead was also indefatigable in lobbying for a rail line through Leaksville, and in

1883, the railroad was completed. With his growing business, Morehead created the Spray Water Power and Land Company in 1889 to manage his family property. The name of the new company testified to the emergence of a distinct community. The small settlement of workers that had grown up around the mills had been known locally as Leaksville Factory, but with the establishment of its own post office in the 1880s, the town was named Spray. At first, Morehead called the new community Splashy, as a reference to the water wheels at the cotton mill, but local residents protested, and after a few months, the town was renamed Spray (Brown 1986: 8-5).

The Spray Water Power and Land Company was commissioned with overseeing the Leaksville Cotton Mills, extensive real estate holdings, the canal, and even a section of Smith River. In the 1890s and 1900s, the company began rapid development in the new town. By the early 1890s, the Spray Water Power and Land Company began digging a new canal, parallel to the one of the 1810s, thereby greatly increasing its water power. Further changes came in 1892 when the Morehead family businesses were reorganized, dividing these varied interests into two companies, the Leaksville Cotton and Woolen Mills and the Spray Water Power and Land Company, both under the leadership of B. Frank Mebane, husband of Lily Morehead, and W.R. Walker, Morehead's nephew. In the following year, Mebane began an aggressive twelve-year expansion campaign, during which most of the buildings found within the historic district were constructed. This vast building program was spurred, in part, by a devastating fire which destroyed the original stone mill. The mill was rebuilt in brick on the original stone foundations, and new factories, approximately one per year, were built. In 1896, a yarn operation, the Spray Cotton Mill, was under construction, followed by the Nantucket Mill of 1898 for production of gingham and outings, the American Warehouse in 1899 for finishing, packing, and shipping all cotton and woolen goods, the Lily Mill in 1900 for fine dress gingham, the Spray Woolen Mill for blankets and the Morehead Cotton Mill for warps and skein yarn, both in 1902, and the Rhode Island Mill of 1903 for making yarn and cotton blankets. The campaign ended in 1905 with the German-American Mill in Draper for making warp and hosiery yarns. All this industrial expansion drew workers, and by 1903, the village of Spray counted 3,300 citizens, which astonishingly more than doubled the following year to 6,750 (Edmisten 1988: 8-4).

During this era, J. Turner Morehead, in conjunction with Canadian chemist, Thomas Willson, began experimenting with aluminum manufacturing. Inadvertently, some of their experimentation, which was conducted in Spray, produced acetylene gas, and further tests yielded iron alloys used in processing steel for armorplate. In 1894, Morehead moved to New York to raise capital for his new venture, founding the Electro-Gas Company to manufacture acetylene. When the U.S. Navy began expanding its fleet of armorplated ships, Morehead's innovations in steel production rescued him from the bankruptcy he had experienced during the Depression of 1893, and made him one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. Furthermore, his discoveries eventually gave birth to the Union Carbide Corporation (Brown 1986: 8-5).

The explosive growth in Spray and its industrial base during this period was paralleled throughout the Piedmont as expanding capitalization, completion of the rail network, available raw materials and fuel, and inexpensive labor fostered the growth of the textile industry. The new mills in Spray were controlled by the Spray Water Power and Land Company and the Mebane interests, which had organized the American Warehouse Company as the parent company for its emerging chain of textile factories. At the same time that the mills were under construction, the Spray Mercantile Company was erected between 1890 and 1904 to house company stores, professional offices, and several other businesses, becoming the *de facto* commercial and social center of Spray (Brown, *A Tale of Three Cities* 1986: 144).

The mills were all substantial, multiple story, brick factories with heavy timber mill construction, segmental arched windows, staircase towers, and ornamentation influenced by the Romanesque Revival movement. Industrial expansion also created a need for worker housing, and during the 1890s and 1900s, numerous one and two story, frame dwellings were constructed in the vicinity of the mill district. Because of Spray's exponential growth and the absence of a municipal structure (Mebane had successfully resisted incorporation) to provide such services as fire and police protection, a paternalistic organization created by the mills, the Spray Civic Association, was formed in 1906 to oversee village infrastructure and community affairs (Edmisten 1988: 8-4).

This period of phenomenal expansion proved to be short-lived. Mebane's aggressive construction campaigns left the company badly overextended, and during the recession of 1911, five of the mills went into bankruptcy. The Chicago mercantile firm of Marshall Field and Company, which had been a long-time investor in Mebane's businesses, took control of the five bankrupt mills: American Warehouse, Lily, Rhode Island, Spray Woolen, and the German-American. In addition, Marshall Field purchased the outstanding stock of Nantucket Mill. By 1912, Marshall Field controlled six of the Spray mills, employing more than 1,500 workers, and in subsequent years, the Chicago company expanded its local operations. The Marshall Field interests were managed as the Carolina Cotton and Woolen Mills, part of the wholesale division of the parent company. Four mills remained outside Marshall Field control. Morehead Cotton Mill, Leaksville Cotton Mill, and Leaksville Woolen Mill all remained under Mebane's management, while the Spray Cotton Mills was owned by a Canadian, whose nephew, Karl Bishopric, managed the factory (Brown 1986: 8-9, 8-10).

With prosperity and expansion, first under Mebane's guidance and later under Marshall Field ownership, Spray had developed into a sizable town by the early twentieth century, the largest of the three that later merged as Eden. The trading center of the town had been the Spray Mercantile Building, within the historic district, which housed the mercantile company as well as a post office, the local court, barber shop, specialty shops, professional offices, civic offices, and a community recreational center. However, in 1912, the Imperial Trust and Savings Company built its own Neoclassical Revival building across Church Street from the mercantile building, and during the 1910s and 1920s, brick commercial buildings were added south of the bank (near the earlier Barnett grist mill). Other commercial nodes were developed to serve the surrounding neighborhoods, notably along the Boulevard in southwest Spray and in north Spray at the intersection of Morgan and West Aiken roads (Brown, *A Tale of Three Cities* 1986: 127).

Marshall Field had added to the established mill villages surrounding the factories, but in 1941, the company began to divest itself of housing, giving worker-occupants the right of first refusal, a progressive move prompted by then Fieldcrest executive and later North Carolina governor, Luther Hodges. The mills continued to exercise much control over the village, but by the mid-twentieth century, Spray, as well as Leaksville and Draper, had become large enough that a public infrastructure began to appear despite the absence of incorporation which did not come until 1952. A number of these functions were overseen by the township, and in 1942, the Leaksville Township Municipal Building was constructed to house divisions of the county courthouse and county health department (Sharpe 1954: 432-433; Sanborn Map Company 1930-1954).

Soon after the Marshall Field acquisitions, the Morehead family had reorganized its remaining mill, the Leaksville Cotton and Woolen Mills, into two separate units. The cotton mill came under the aegis of the Spray Water Power and Land Company, and John Lindsay Morehead assumed control of the woolen mill. The Leaksville Woolen Mills remained an independent company until 1960 when it merged with Chatham Manufacturing Company, which manufactured blankets in Eden until 1971. Morehead Cotton Mill continued to produce unfinished yarn until 1973 when the plant was sold to Carolina Research Corporation of Shelby. Well into the 1980s, the property was leased to various businesses. Spray Cotton Mills, owned first by Dr. Karl Von Ruck and later his nephew, Karl Bishopric, continued to operate into the mid-1980s, having acquired rights to the Spray Canal in 1977. Although the manufacturing interests of the Spray Water Power and Land Company have diminished throughout the twentieth century, the company, which has remained family-owned, has continued to be important to the local economy because of its real estate holdings and development (Brown 1986: 8-12).

In the early 1930s, Marshall Field was reorganized, and in 1935, many of its far-flung mills were sold, leaving its Eden complex as well as mills in Fieldale, Virginia, and Zion, Illinois, as the sole manufacturing centers for the company. In 1947, the manufacturing division was renamed Fieldcrest Mills, and in 1953, Fieldcrest was sold to Amoskeag Company, a Boston investment firm. Still in operation, Fieldcrest Mills is one of the largest manufacturers in the U.S. (Brown 1986: 8-13).

The town of Spray remains a substantially intact and picturesque industrial town, with substantial masonry textile mills, public works related to the river and canal, commercial nodes, and clusters of houses built for

both workers and mill managers. The town exemplifies the riverside manufacturing enclaves that emerged in the North Carolina Piedmont during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Property Inventory and Evaluations

National Register Properties

Spray Industrial Historic District (No. 4)

Roughly bounded by Aiken Road, Smith River, Early Street, Carroll Street, Warehouse Street, and Riverside Drive
Rockingham County

Summary Statement of Significance

In 1986, the extensive industrial district of Spray, once a separate town but now part of Eden, was nominated to the National Register. The Spray Industrial Historic District was listed under Criterion A for commerce, exploration/settlement, industry, and invention. Under Criterion B, the district has significance for its associations with several prominent North Carolina industrialists, including James Barnett, one of the founding fathers of Eden, textile pioneer and governor, John Motley Morehead, and his descendants, James Turner Morehead and B. Frank Mebane. Finally, the historic district was nominated under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance dates from the 1810s, when the canal was constructed, to the 1930s, which was the fifty year cut-off date for eligibility at the time the nomination was prepared.

Ninety-four resources (eighty contributing and fourteen non-contributing) were included in the Spray Industrial Historic District, which as the nomination states, "...contains one of the greatest concentrations of intact and continuously operating late nineteenth and early twentieth century textile mill complexes in the North Carolina Piedmont and the entire Southeast" (Brown 1986: 8-1). The industrial historic district also has significance for its associations with several prominent industrialists, James Barnett, one of the founders of Eden, John Motley Morehead, James Turner Morehead, and B. Frank Mebane, all of whom were pivotal to the economic development of Eden and the state. The historic district is significant architecturally for its factory complexes, which in their construction techniques and designs, exemplify late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial architecture.

The compact district of approximately 150 acres, is perched on the west side of the Smith River and is crossed by a curvilinear street pattern that is determined by the river and the hilly topography of this upper Piedmont town. The undulating terrain also visually breaks the concentration of massive, brick factory buildings and gives a variety to the rows of tree-shaded mill houses. The historic district contains a number of multiple story, brick textile mills built either along the early nineteenth century canal or the rail lines. Almost half the resources within the district are industrial in nature, while thirty-four are houses for workers and mill managers (almost exclusively built of frame construction), and seven are masonry commercial buildings. The period of significance begins with the construction of the Smith River Dam and Spray Power Canal in 1813, which triggered the earliest period of industrialization in the area. The canal, dam, a portion of the Smith River, tail race, two pump houses, reservoirs, and filter houses all contribute to the significance of the historic district.

Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plates 1-5)(Figure 4)

The Spray Industrial Historic District remains a remarkably well-preserved industrial town of the North Carolina Piedmont. Despite changes within the textile industry, Spray has undergone little alteration since its listing in the National Register. The most notable alteration has been the loss of the Leaksville Cotton and Woolen Mills at 422 Church Street, just west of the project terminus. This 1893 factory complex has been razed for a city park since the 1986 nomination. Nonetheless, the Spray Industrial Historic District remains eligible for the National Register, and the existing boundaries of this National Register historic district are depicted in **Figure 4**.



Plate 1. Spray Industrial Historic District, Looking North along Boone Road, Spray Cotton Mills in Background.



Plate 2. Spray Industrial Historic District, Looking North along Spray Canal from Church Street.



Plate 3. Spray Industrial Historic District, Spray Mercantile Building, Looking Northeast across Church Street.



Plate 4. Spray Industrial Historic District, Church Street Commercial Strip, Looking Southwest.



Plate 5. Spray Industrial Historic District, Spray Cotton Mills, Looking North from Church Street.

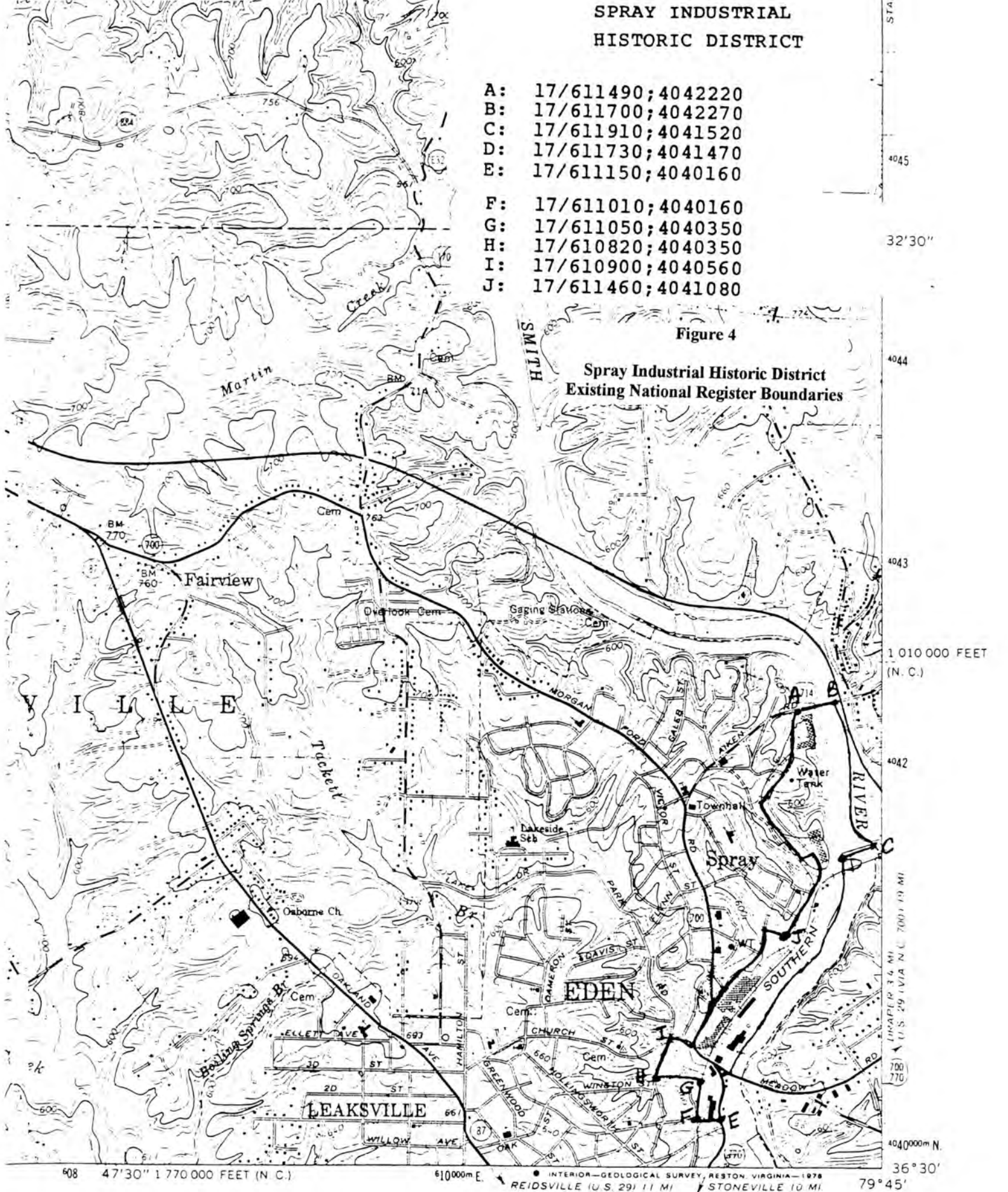
SPRAY INDUSTRIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

- A: 17/611490;4042220
- B: 17/611700;4042270
- C: 17/611910;4041520
- D: 17/611730;4041470
- E: 17/611150;4040160

- F: 17/611010;4040160
- G: 17/611050;4040350
- H: 17/610820;4040350
- I: 17/610900;4040560
- J: 17/611460;4041080

Figure 4

Spray Industrial Historic District
Existing National Register Boundaries



1 MILE
FEET

Northwest Eden quad

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978
REIDSVILLE (U.S. 29) 11 MI STONEVILLE 10 MI

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt
	○	U S Route	○
	○	State Route	○

STAY
4045
32'30"
4044
4043
1 010 000 FEET
(N. C.)
4042
700
770
4040000m N.
36°30'
79°45'
PAPER # 4 MI
U.S. 29 (VIA N.C. 700) 13 MI

(SOUTHEAST EDEN)
5986 1 NE

Proposed Spray Industrial Historic District Expansion (Plates 6-12) (Figure 5)

As a result of this Phase II architectural investigation, an expansion of the Spray Industrial Historic District is recommended. The amended boundaries would add five resources (four contributing, one non-contributing) to the historic district. At the time of the National Register nomination, three of the properties now proposed as contributing did not meet the fifty-year guideline for eligibility, but all these contributing resources are now fifty years of age and contribute to the historical or architectural significance of Spray. The expanded boundaries would include the Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (No. 1), the (Former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building (No. 2), the Central 4Filter Plant (No. 7), and the Pump House (No. 8) as contributing resources to an enlarged Spray historic district. Because Bridge No. 75, which carries Meadow Road over Smith River, is located between the existing district and one area of proposed expansion, the bridge (built in 1954) would be added as a non-contributing element. The proposed boundary expansion is shown in **Figure 5**.

The 1986 National Register historic district nomination had emphasized the industrial character of the town, but the historic district also encompassed a variety of resource types within the historic town core. The nomination included not only textile mills and other industry-related resources, but also commercial and residential areas, the canal and other public works features, and the Spray Mercantile Building which housed a number of commercial, social, and governmental functions. The local court met in the mercantile building until the Leaksville Township Municipal building was completed in 1942.

Although a larger Spray historic district could probably include areas west of the current National Register boundaries, the proposed boundary expansion found within this report is limited to those areas which would be affected by the current bridge replacement project. Within this area of boundary extension are residential properties, public works resources, and one governmental building. The original period of significance ended in the 1930s (which was the fifty-year cut-off at the time of the nomination), and the expanded district would be amended to cover the period between the 1930s and 1950.

One of the proposed additions is the Price-Lewis-Hawkins House, a two story, vernacular picturesque dwelling, one of several houses erected circa 1910 by the Spray Water Power and Land Company for its executive personnel. Located at 215 Chestnut Street, the two story, single pile house, with a decorative center gable and wraparound porch, was home to a company accountant, a woolen mill superintendent, and lastly by an employee of the Spray Cotton Mills. Although covered in asbestos shingles, the house survives intact on its large, tree-shaded lot (Brown 1986: 132). Like other mill company-built houses in the historic district, the Price-Lewis-Hawkins house contributes to the district under Criterion A for industry and community planning and under Criterion C for architecture.

The second resource recommended for inclusion in the historic district is the (former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building. Constructed in 1942 at the corner of Boone Road and Early Avenue, the building housed a branch of the county courthouse and the county health department as well as other local governmental offices (Sanborn Map Company 1930-1954; Odell interview). With the creation of Eden in the 1960s, governmental offices were consolidated, and the building was vacated and is now used by a church. Influenced by the International Style, the two story, concrete block building has a smooth, stuccoed exterior, steep casement windows, a flat parapet roof, and a cornice detailed with geometric ornamentation. The building has a replacement metal and glass entrance, but otherwise survives intact.

This governmental building was constructed in the early 1940s after a period of tremendous population growth and the Great Depression taxed the capacity of the textile mills to provide community services to this unincorporated village. Like many such mill towns, Spray had been a creation of the textile companies, which in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, had provided housing, community and quasi-governmental services, and amenities for its workers. However, by the twentieth century many of these industrial villages were growing beyond easy company control, and the depression of the 1930s furthered strained the paternalistic system that had characterized the infrastructure of such towns. Numerous textile companies were reorganized or were passed to absentee corporate control, and the companies began divesting themselves of housing and other tangential forms of real estate as well as many of their community functions. In the absence of incorporation, which in Spray did not occur until 1952,

the townships and counties began to take on what would have been municipal roles. In Spray, community and governmental offices, including the local court, had been housed in the company-owned Spray Mercantile Building (built 1890; addition ca. 1900), but with the increasing need for governmental services and changes in corporate ownership, the Leaksville Township Municipal Building was constructed to house a branch of the county court, the jail, and the health department. Illustrating the changing relationship between the company and the town, the municipal building contributes to the historic district under Criterion A for politics/government and industry, and with its International Style design, under Criterion C for architecture. The parcel on which the former municipal building sits abuts the existing historic district boundary.

The Central Filter Plant, and its associated riverside pump house, would also be added to the historic district. Located on the south side of Meadow Road on the east side of Smith River, the water filtration plant was built by Fieldcrest Mills (a division of Marshall Field and Company) to supply clean water both to the textile mills and to the town of Spray. Just as the canal and dam had been key to the operation of the Spray mills in the nineteenth century, the centralized water filtration plant and pump house formed integral parts of these twentieth century textile plants. Unlike urban factories, which usually drew water from municipal systems, in small mill communities, like Spray, the textile companies often built the water systems and the filtration plants, as well as other features of the local infrastructure. This public works system was not only a vital part of the vast industrial complex of Spray, but also underscores the continued interconnection between mill and town. The simple, one story, brick building has a raised, concrete basement, a flat roof, and glass block windows. The brick pump house is a small structure built on the riverbanks next to Bridge No. 75. The pump house rests on a tall, concrete foundation. According to local resident, Jack Odell, the filtration plant and pump house was built circa 1940, and the facility appears on the 1930-1954 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map. The filtration plant and pump house were built as part of the public works/industrial infrastructure of the mills and the town and contribute under Criterion A for industry.

The existing historic district roughly forms a long spine, primarily along the west bank of the Smith River. The proposed boundary amendment would extend the southern border to Early Street, to incorporate the Leaksville Township Municipal Building, and turn west along Early to include the Price-Hawkins-Lewis House at the corner of Chestnut and Early streets. A small portion of the eastern boundary would also be extended across the river to include Bridge No. 75, built in 1954 and added as a non-contributing resource, the adjacent pump house, and the filtration plant, which is located on the south side of Meadow Road.



Plate 6. Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (No. 1), Looking Southwest from Chestnut Street.



Plate 7. Price-Lewis-Hawkins House (No. 1), Facade (Northeast Elevation).



Plate 8. (Former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building (No. 2), Looking West from Boone Road.



Plate 9. (Former) Leaksville Township Municipal Building (No. 2), Looking Southwest from Boone Road.



Plate 10. Bridge No. 75, Looking East from Boone Road.



Plate 11. Bridge No. 75 and Pump House (No. 8), Looking Northeast across the Smith River.

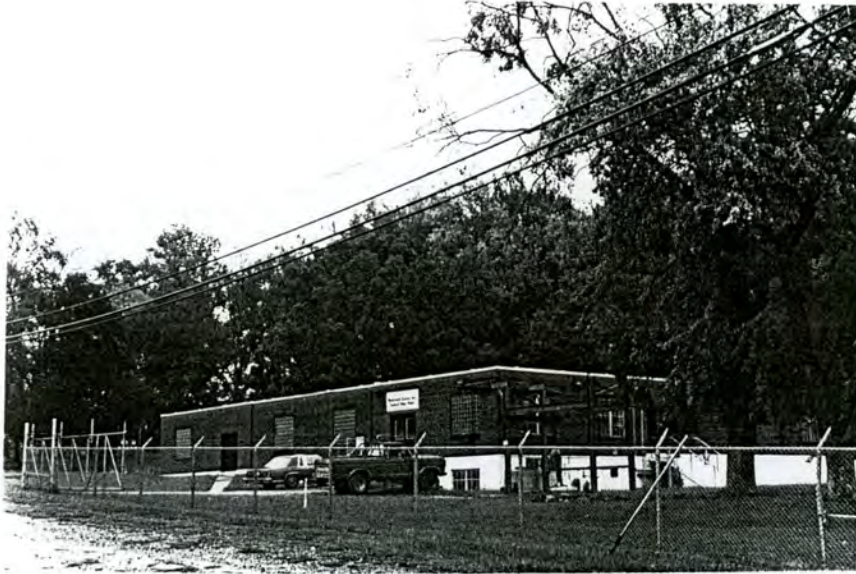
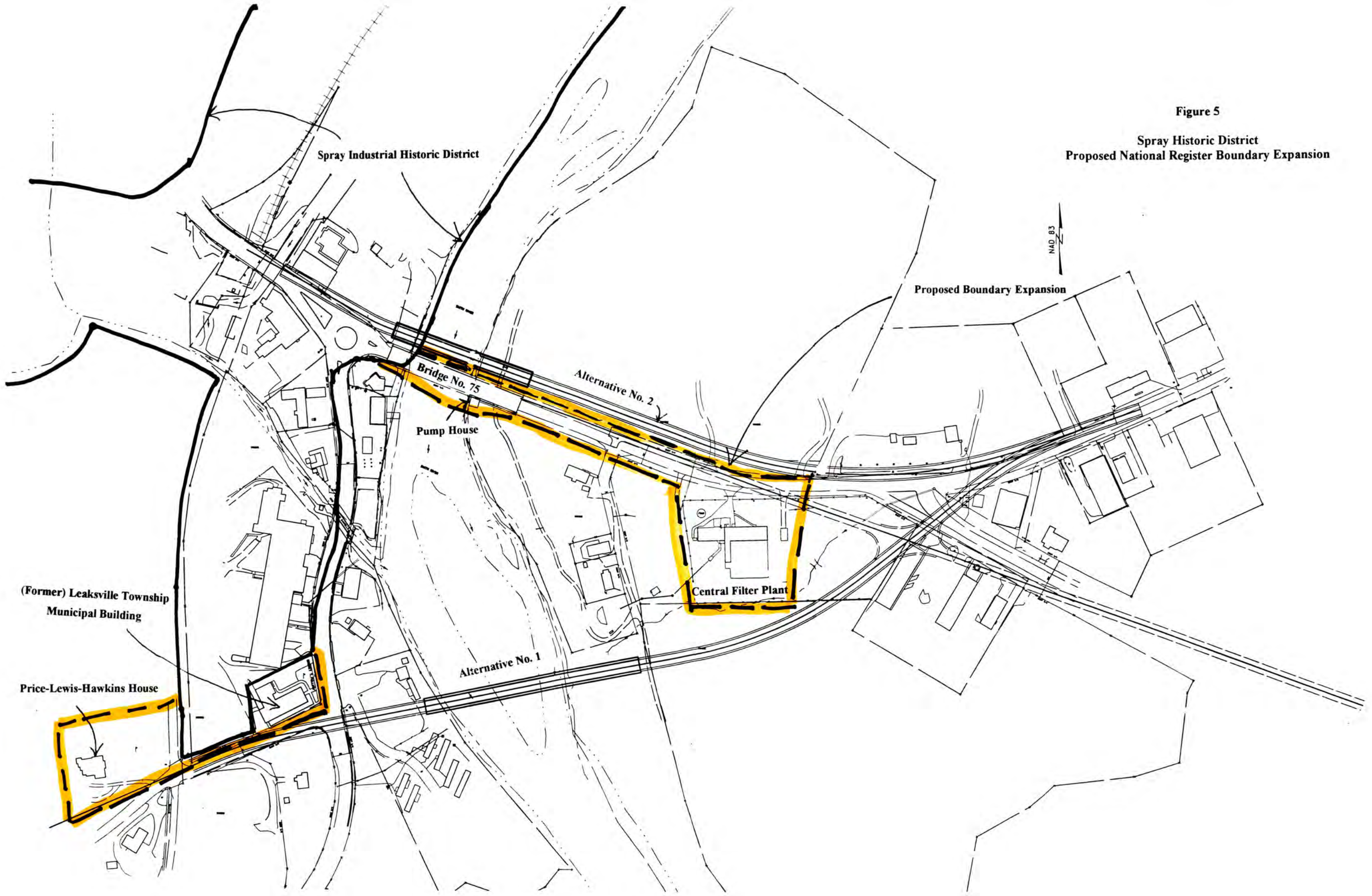


Plate 12. Central Filter Plant (No. 7), Looking Southeast from Meadow Road.

Figure 5
Spray Historic District
Proposed National Register Boundary Expansion



Rosemont (No. 5)

North side, Meadow Road at the Smith River, Eden, Rockingham County

Date of Construction

1941

Associated Outbuildings

None

Site Description (Figure 6)

Rosemont is a large estate occupying a hilltop setting overlooking the Smith River. Facing south towards Meadow Road, the house sits within a tree-shaded, park-like setting with a semi-circular driveway leading up the hill from Meadow Road. The drive is lined with boxwood bushes, and the grassy lawn is punctuated by mature shade trees. Woodland lines the property to the north and east, giving the property an air of seclusion.

Physical Description

The imposing, two story, brick dwelling has a two story portico, supported by box piers and capped by a wooden balustrade. The house has a side gable roof, covered in slate shingles, interior end chimneys, and eight-over-eight windows. Flanking the main block of the house are one story, side gable dependencies; the east wing houses the garage. The five bay facade has a central entrance, with a six panel door flanked by side lights and a transom. The interior was inaccessible.

Historical Background

Rosemont is a substantial, Colonial Revival dwelling built in 1941 by local businessman, Frank Eggleston. Eggleston owned a chain of gasoline stations in Leaksville and Spray as well as a franchise of the U.S. Royal Tire Company (Brown, *A Tale of Three Cities* 1986: 138, 249). One of his gasoline stations, located east of the project area on Meadow Road, was surveyed in the 1984-1985 Eden architectural survey. Eggleston and his family lived above the Meadow Road gasoline station until Rosemont could be completed. According to neighbor, Jack Odell, the Rosemont property was the site of an early country club. After Eggleston's death, his daughter inherited the property, and in the mid-1980s Rosemont was sold outside the family and reputedly remodeled on the interior (Brown 1986: 249; Odell interview).

Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plates 13-14)

Rosemont is not recommended as eligible for the National Register either individually or as a contributing resource to an expanded Spray Industrial Historic District. Although built by a local businessman who had evidently prospered because of the strong local economy, Rosemont has no direct connection to the manufacturing activities of this mill town or its leading industrial families. Therefore, the property, which lacks significance under Criterion A for industry, commerce, exploration/settlement, or invention, does not contribute to the Spray Industrial Historic District. Furthermore, the property is not recommended for individual eligibility under Criterion C because the house lacks architectural significance. Rosemont is one of numerous examples of the Colonial Revival style to survive in the North Carolina Piedmont where it became a popular choice during the early twentieth century both for the middle class and for the new class of wealthy industrialists and businessmen. Despite its evocative setting, Rosemont is not striking example of the style, and more illustrative Colonial Revival dwellings survive throughout the state.

Rosemont is not eligible under any other criterion. The house is not eligible under Criterion B because the property is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Furthermore, Rosemont is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural component is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

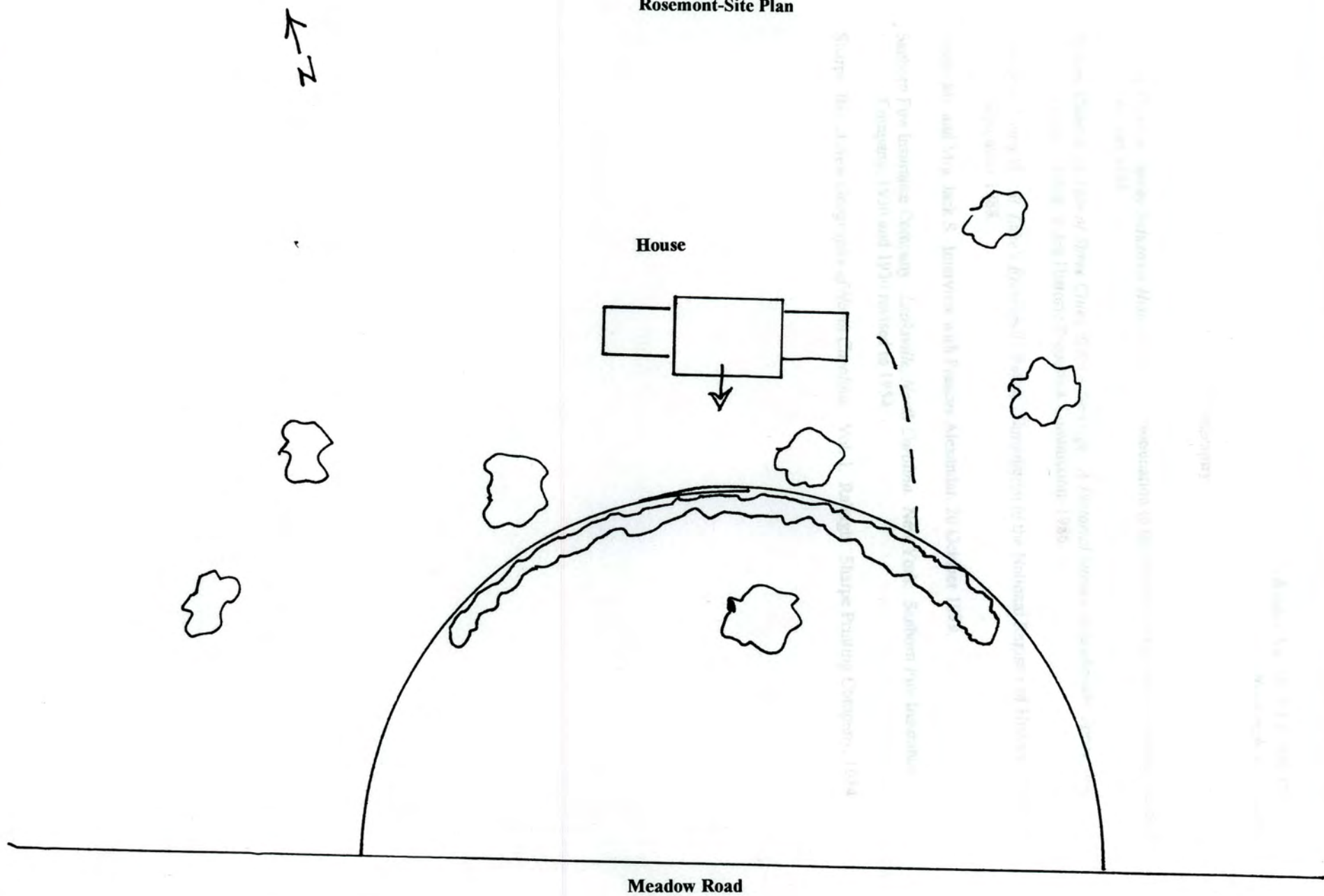


Plate 13. Rosemont (No. 5), House and Grounds, Looking Northeast from Entrance along Meadow Road.



Plate 14. Rosemont (No. 5), House Facade and Lawn, Looking East.

Figure 6
Rosemont-Site Plan



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- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. *Leaksville, North Carolina*. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1930 and 1930 revised to 1954.
- Sharpe, Bill. *A New Geography of North Carolina*. Vol. 1. Raleigh: Sharpe Printing Company, 1954.

APPENDIX

**BRIDGE NO. 75
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
(T.I.P. No. B-3509)**

**PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
AND THEREFORE NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER EVALUATION
(Keyed to A.P.E. Map)**

Number	Name	Reason Not Eligible
3.	House	One story, frame, side gable bungalow (ca. 1940) with German siding, side and rear porches, and replacement windows; side porch has modern balustrade; house is in fair condition but lacks architectural or historical significance.
6.	Log House	Gable roofed, log dwelling with square notching, modern front porch (replaced after hurricane damage in 1989), and rear shed; house has a two room plan, a loft, and a half-raised basement; a small shed on the south elevation provides access to the basement; portions of the fieldstone and brick chimney are missing, and the windows and door are replacements; now situated in the yard of a modern ranch house, this log dwelling no longer retains sufficient architectural integrity to warrant National Register eligibility.

No. 6



No. 3



No. 6



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Frances P. Alexander
Architectural Historian

Education

- 1991 M.A. American Civilization-Architectural History
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.
- 1981 B.A. History with High Honors
Guilford College
Greensboro, North Carolina

Relevant Work Experience

- 1991-date Architectural Historian, Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1988-1991 Department Head, Architectural History Department
Engineering-Science, Inc., Washington, D.C.
- Directed all architectural history projects for the Cultural Resource Division. Supervised a staff of three architectural historians, one photographer, and graphics personnel. Responsibilities included project management, technical direction, research design and implementation, scheduling, budget management, client and subcontractor liaison, and regulatory compliance with both state and federal agencies. Responsibilities also included marketing, proposal writing, and public presentations.
- 1987-1988 Architectural Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1986-1987 Historian, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1986 Historian, Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Chicago, Illinois
- Conducted inventory of historic industrial and engineering resources along the Illinois and Michigan Canal in Chicago, Illinois.

Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.
Historical Geographer

Education

- 1988 Ph.D. Geography
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1980 M.A. Geography
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1976 B.A. History, Phi Beta Kappa
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois

Relevant Work Experience

- 1991-date Historical Geographer, Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1991 Visiting Professor, History Department, Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Developed and taught course on the architectural history of the North Carolina Piedmont, focusing on African-American architecture, textile-mill housing, and other types of vernacular landscapes.
- 1989-1991 Mattson and Associates, Historic Preservation Consulting
Charlotte, North Carolina
- 1988 Visiting Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning,
University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- Taught historic preservation planning workshop, developed and taught course on the history of African-American neighborhoods. The latter course was cross-listed in African-American Studies.
- 1984-1989 Private Historic Preservation Consultant,
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- 1981-1984 Academic Advisor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of
Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1981 Instructor, Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
- 1978-1980 Private Historic Preservation Consultant, Champaign, Illinois