

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

March 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO:

William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

Division of Highways

Department of Transportation

FROM:

David Brook Post on Land Brook

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT:

Replace Bridge No. 28 on SR 1321 over Curtis Creek, TIP No. B-3406,

Avery County, ER 99-7910

Thank you for your recent letter transmitting the survey report by Mattson, Alexander & Associates, Inc. concerning the above project.

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

House No. 1

Spring House No. 2

House No. 3

House No. 4

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

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 28 ON S.R. 1321 OVER CURTIS CREEK AVERY COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION T.I.P. NO. B-3406 STATE PROJECT NO. 8.2721201 FEDERAL AID NO. BRZ-1321 (1)

Prepared by:

Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. 2228 Winter Street Charlotte, North Carolina 28205 (704) 569-8130 (704) 376-0985

Prepared for:

Earth Tech 701 Corporate Center Drive Suite 475 Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

1 December 1999

MATTSON, ALEXANDER AND ASSOCIATES, INC.	5 Dec. 1999
Frances P. Alexander, M.A.	Date
Richard L. Mattson, Ph.D.	Date
Project Manager	12/23/99
Project Manager) · 10 · 00
N.C.D.O.T. Historic Architectural Resources Section	Date

Replacement of Bridge No. 28 on S.R. 1321 over Curtis Creek
Avery County
T.I.P. No. B-3406
State Project No. 8.2721201
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1321(1)

Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (N.C.D.O.T.) proposes to replace Bridge No. 28 which carries S.R. 1321 over Curtis Creek in Avery County (Figure 1). The extant two-lane bridge was built in 1959 and is now classified as structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating of 33.4. Depicted in Figures 2-4, two alternatives are being considered and evaluated for the proposed project. Under Alternative No. 1, a two-lane replacement bridge would be built along the existing alignment, and a temporary detour route would be created adjacent to the existing bridge (Figures 2 and 3). As part of the detour, a portion of S.R. 1321, southeast of the existing bridge, would be realigned. Under Alternative No. 2, a section of S.R. 1321 would be realigned along a new location so that the road would turn to the northwest at roughly the junction with S.R. 1320 and would cross Curtis Creek before reconnecting with existing S.R. 1321 on the west side of the existing bridge (Figure 4).

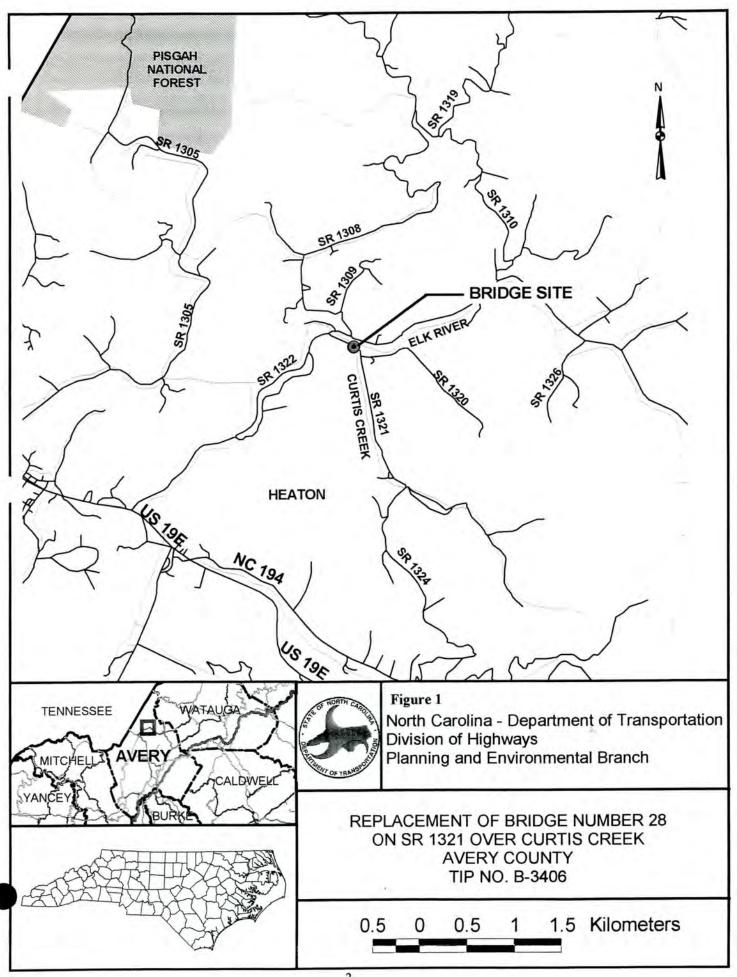
Purpose of Survey and Report

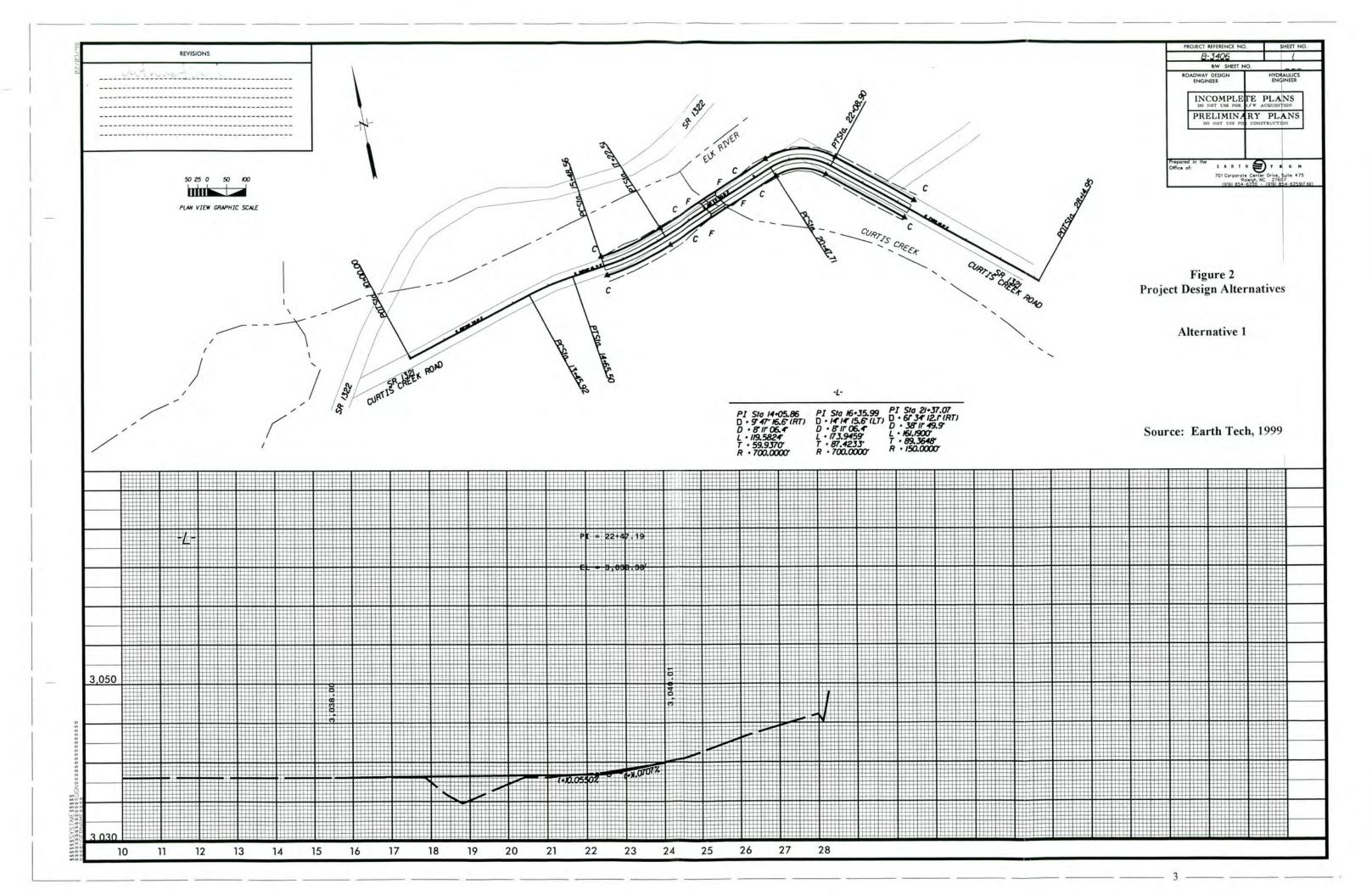
The historic resources survey was conducted to identify all historic architectural resources located within the area of potential effects (A.P.E.) (Figure 5). This survey and report are part of the environmental studies conducted by N.C.D.O.T. and documented by a categorical exclusion (C.E.). This report 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.

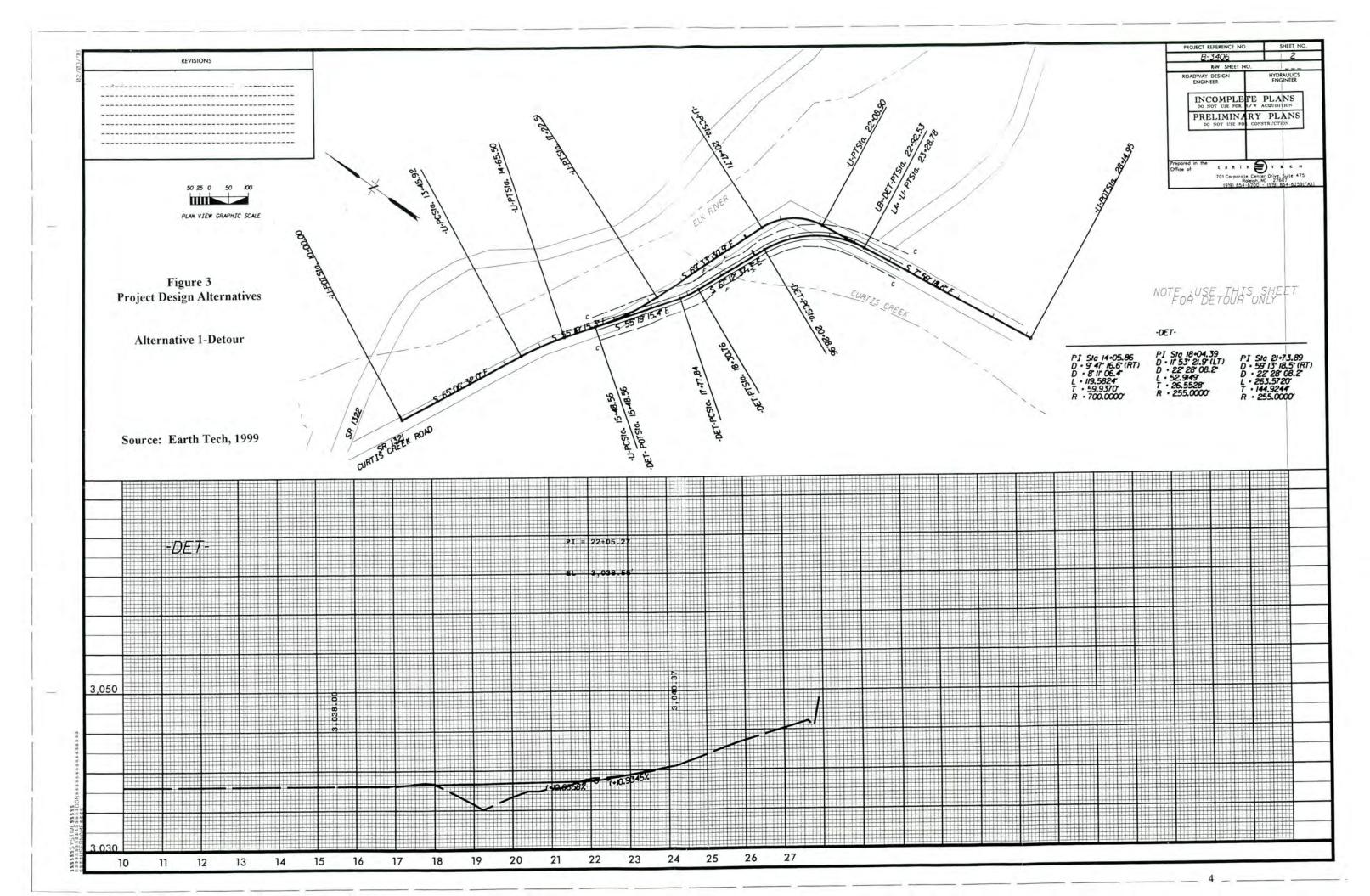
Methodology

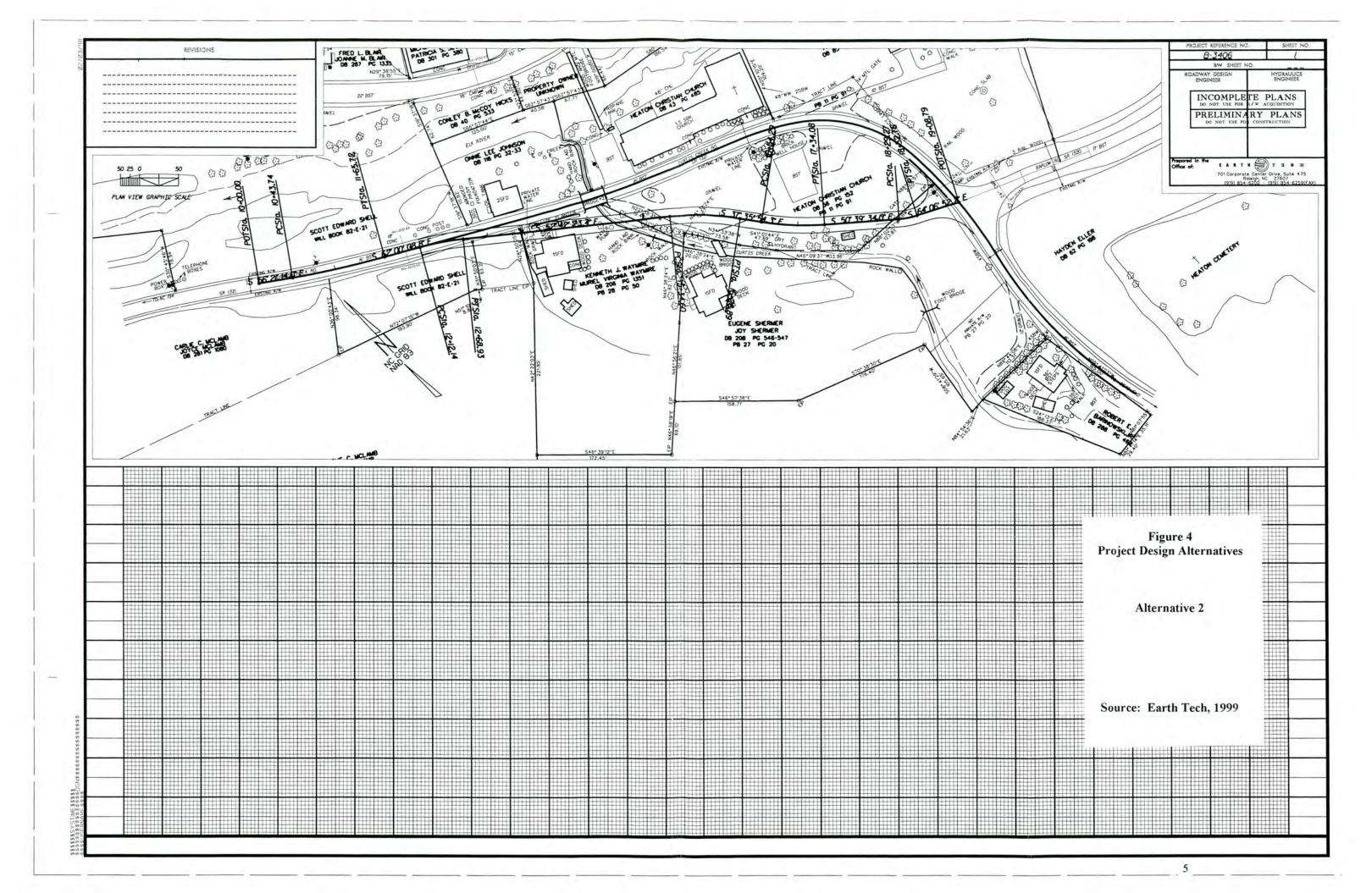
The survey was conducted and the report compiled in accordance with the provisions of F.H.W.A. Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (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.).

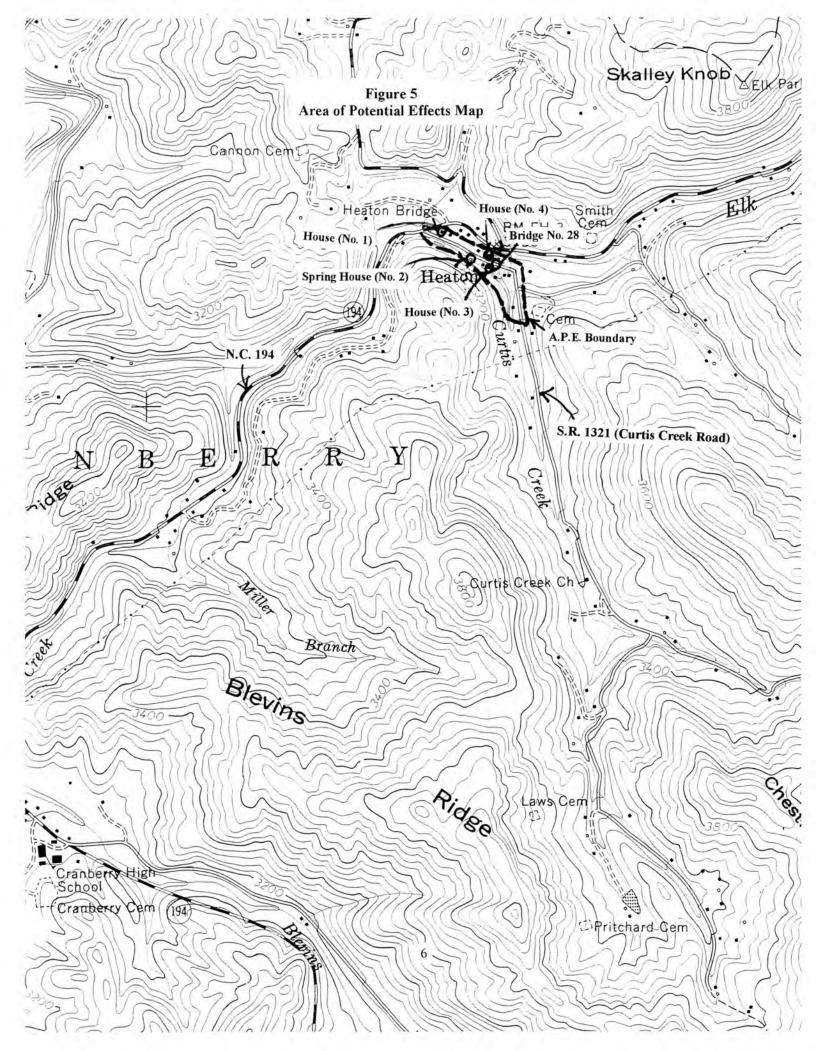
The Phase II survey was conducted with the following goals: 1) to determine the area of potential effects, which is defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes to the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all











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 September 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 1950. 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. National Register boundaries were determined for those resources recommended as eligible.

The boundaries of the A.P.E. are shown on a U.S. Geological Survey topographical map (see Figure 5). 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 western office of the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Asheville. An examination of National Register nominations, survey files, and other historical studies revealed that a reconnaissance level architectural survey had been conducted of Avery County in 1986. However, none of the properties within the A.P.E. was included in the survey. Furthermore, there are no resources within the A.P.E. that have been listed either in the National Register or in the North Carolina Study List.

Summary of Survey Findings

The bridge under consideration spans Curtis Creek in a rural community, west of Banner Elk and north of Linville, in mountainous Avery County. The bridge carries S.R. 1321 over Curtis Creek, a feeder stream of the Elk River, in the community of Heaton. S.R. 1321 parallels east-west N.C. 194 to the south, before turning due south along the east side of Curtis Creek. Historically, settlement in Avery County has been sparse and confined primarily to the narrow valleys flanking these mountain waterways, and now large areas north of N.C. 194 lie within Pisgah National Forest. Although some houses and farms dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries remain in the area, ski and golf resorts, as well as other types of vacation properties, have been built in this part of northern Avery County during the past forty years.

Bridge No. 28 was built in 1959 as a narrow two-lane span, with a steel, deck girder substructure measuring thirty-one feet in length. The bridge has timber piers, a wooden deck, and wooden railings (Plates 1-2). The bridge is not recommended for National Register eligibility because the structure does not meet the fifty year age requirement of the National Register and does not meet Criterion Consideration G. In addition to the bridge, the A.P.E. includes three houses and one spring house which date to the pre-1951 period, but none of these resources is recommended for National Register eligibility.

Properties Listed in the National Register or the North Carolina State Study List: None

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

None

Properties Evaluated and Considered Not Eligible for the National Register:

House (No. 1)

Spring House (No. 2) House (No. 3)

House (No. 4)



Plate 1. Bridge No. 28, Looking Southwest (House No. 3 in Background).

Historical Background

The project area is located in northern Avery County, which lies along the Tennessee border in northwestern North Carolina. Avery County has been largely shaped by its particularly rugged mountainous topography and relative isolation. With a sparse population cut off from much of the state, Avery was one of the state's newest counties, created in 1911 and named for prominent Revolutionary War veteran, Waightsill Avery. The town of Newland, on the North Toe River, was designated as the county seat (Bishir et al. 1999: 223).

Although pioneers had begun migrating into the area during the late colonial period, settlement was slow, impeded by the rugged terrain, dense forests, deep gorges, and three large rivers, the North Toe, Elk, and Linville. The county remained sparsely settled through most of the nineteenth century and was characterized by small, subsistence farms lining the narrow river valleys. Its remote location and the paucity of slave owners spurred Unionist sympathies during the Civil War, and the area was a uniquely Republican stronghold in the aftermath of the conflict. Although subsistence agriculture was the predominant way of life, rich veins of iron ore had been discovered near Cranberry (outside the project area) in the 1820s, and mines and forges had begun operation during the antebellum period. Production remained small-scale, however, because of poor transportation until the narrow gauge East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad was extended from Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1882. Other minerals, including mica, kaolin, and feldspar, were discovered after the Civil War, and mining operations in the county were expanded (Sharpe 1958: 554-555).

The new railroad also drew lumber companies and outside industrialists to the area, and in 1894, the Linville River Railway, a second narrow gauge line, was built to tap the virgin old-growth forests. As throughout much of western North Carolina, the natural beauty of the region, better transportation, and the attention of wealthy businessmen all fostered the growth of tourism and the development of summer resorts by the late nineteenth century. In the 1880s, a group of investors, headed by the MacRaes of Wilmington, purchased 16,000 acres (including Grandfather Mountain) along a plateau near the iron deposits with plans to build an industrial town. Because of legal complications and a disagreement within the consortium, their plans were redirected towards resort development. Construction of Linville soon began, and in 1892, the Yonahlossee Road, linking Linville and Blowing Rock, was built to improve access to the remote location. Located south of the project area, Linville became renowned for its sophisticated architecture, and the large, Shingle Style cottages, many constructed with chestnut bark shingles, set the tone for many other mountain retreats (Bishir et al. 1999: 223-225).

During the early twentieth century, ongoing transportation improvements, including the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway in the 1930s, helped end some of the isolation imposed by topography. Golf resorts, summer camps, and other tourist destinations were created although away from the new resort centers of the county, the insular mountain culture continued to hold sway. Subsistence farming persisted as the predominant economic activity although with rail service, some farmers began cultivating a variety of nursery plants to supply florists, greenhouses, and nurseries in urban markets. Farms remained small, but improved methods increased the potato, bean, and cabbage yields, while livestock and forest products continued to be major income producers (Sharpe 1958: 556; Bishir et al. 1999: 226-227).

With its small, rural population, Avery County supports few sizable towns. As late as the 1950s, there was no community in the county that counted more than 500 residents. Plumtree and Cranberry emerged as trading villages near the minefields while other crossroads communities,

such as Heaton (within the A.P.E.), developed around general stores and churches which served nearby farms. This small crossroads community in the Elk River valley was named for James Madison Heaton who established a general store here in 1893. In addition to his commercial operations, Heaton was a minister of the Independent Christian church, and he had a church built to serve the hamlet. The modern building associated with this historic congregation sits on the east side of Bridge No. 28. Heaton also owned a sawmill and hotel in Heaton, and had several houses built in the vicinity. The hotel and sawmill are no longer extant, and it is not known whether any of the houses built by Heaton survive. (No house associated with Heaton was identified in 1986 during the county-wide architectural survey.) Although now somewhat altered, a later Heaton store (built 1907) survives on the north side of N.C. 194 outside the A.P.E. for this project (Avery County Survey 1986). Banner Elk (located east of the project area) and Crossnore grew with the Presbyterian missionary efforts of the early twentieth century. Presbyterian minister, Rev. Edgar Tufts, established Lees-McRae Junior College, Grace Hospital, and Grandfather Orphanage in Banner Elk, while in Crossnore, south of Banner Elk and Newland, Dr. Mary Sloop, and her husband, Dr. Eustace Sloop, founded a boarding school and hospital in 1911 (Sharpe 1958: 557-559; Bishir et al. 1999: 227-228, 229-230).

Tourism has grown in importance to the local economy since World War II. In 1952, Hugh Morton, descendant of Linville founder, Hugh McRae, began development of Grandfather Mountain as a tourist attraction, and in recent years, winter sports and the creation of ski resorts have made recreation and tourism a year-round sector of the economy. Despite an expanding tourism industry and the growth of retirement and summer communities, which have transformed the county in recent decades, much of the rugged, rural landscape of Avery County survives (Bishir 1999: 247).

Property Inventory and Evaluations

House (No. 1)

North side, S.R. 1321, at junction with N.C. 194, Heaton Avery County

Date of Construction ca. 1910

Associated Outbuildings Modern well

Site Description (Figure 6)

The house occupies a small site on the north side of S.R. 1321 just east of the intersection with N.C. 194 in the small community of Heaton. The tree-lined Elk River runs behind the house, and a gravel driveway leads to the property from the state highway. The south side of S.R. 1321, opposite the property, slopes up sharply and is covered in dense woodland. A well, covered by a gable roofed shelter, sits on the east side of the house.

Physical Description

The house appears to have been constructed in the early twentieth century as a one and one-half story, frame dwelling with a side gable roof, front porch, and rear shed. The house retains its weatherboard siding, but the six-over-six windows may be mid-twentieth century replacements. The porch, with its steeply pitched hip roof and replacement piers and balustrade, is a postwar modification. The exterior chimney, or flue, is constructed of permastone, and the rear shed was extended to form a hip roofed side wing with two-over-two, horizontal sash windows. The house has a concrete block foundation, suggesting that the foundation may have been rebuilt or that the dwelling may have been moved to the site. The interior was inaccessible.

Historical Background and Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plates 2-3)

Little is known about this house which may have been moved to its present site in Heaton, and House No. 1 is not recommended for National Register eligibility. The property has lost most of its architectural integrity through alterations and additions, and the house does not possess sufficient integrity to merit eligibility under any National Register criterion.



Plate 2. House (No. 1), Looking Northwest from S.R. 1321.



Plate 3. House (No. 1), Looking Northeast from S.R. 1321.

Figure 6 Site Plan - House (No. 1) House (No. 1) Elk River N.C. 194 Curtis Creek S.R. 1321 Steep Woodland 14 Heaton Christian Church (Modern) Bridge No. 28 S.R. 1320

Spring House (No. 2)

South side, S.R. 1321, 0.1 mile east of junction with N.C. 194, Heaton Avery County

Date of Construction

ca. 1910

Associated Outbuildings

None

Site Description (Figure 7)

This spring house sits within the S.R. 1321 right-of-way on the south side of the road. The building is somewhat overgrown and is framed by the hillside woodland to the rear. This spring house is no longer associated with a farm or residence.

Physical Description

This deteriorated spring house appears to have been constructed in the early twentieth century, but is no longer part of an intact farm or residential property. Built into an embankment, the spring house has a tall, fieldstone base with weatherboard siding and a shed roof. The single entrance is no longer in place.

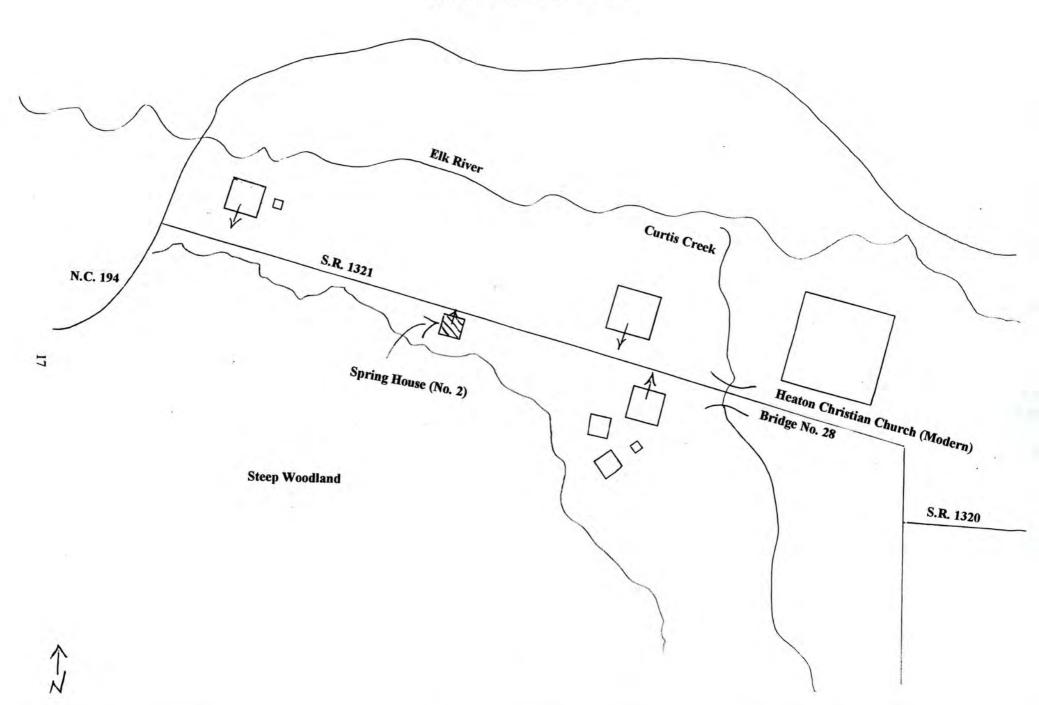
Historical Background and Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plate 4)

Not much is known about this isolated spring house which was evidently built for storing perishable meat and dairy products on a larger farm or residential property within Heaton, a crossroads community in the Elk River valley. The spring house is not recommended for National Register eligibility. Although the building probably still rests above a flowing spring, the property is now in deteriorated condition and has lost much of its architectural integrity as well as its farm or residential context. Numerous better preserved examples of this type of outbuilding, which were sited to capture mountain springs and creeks to cool perishable food, survive in the county. The spring house does not possess sufficient integrity to merit eligibility under any National Register criterion.



Plate 4. Spring House (No. 2), Looking West from S.R. 1321.

Figure 7
Site Plan - Spring House (No. 2)



House (No. 3)

South side, S.R. 1321, roughly 0.2 mile east of junction with N.C. 194, Heaton Avery County

Date of Construction ca. 1920

Associated Outbuildings

Barn (ca. 1920); Sheds (ca. 1930)

Site Description (Figure 8)

This house sits on the south side of S.R. 1321 next to Bridge No. 28 in the community of Heaton. Behind the house are a barn and sheds beyond which the land rises dramatically into a steep, wooded hillside. The modern Heaton Christian Church is sited diagonally across S.R. 1321 and Curtis Creek from the house. The creek defines the east side of the property. Another house of the same period (No. 4) faces this dwelling from the north side of the road.

Physical Description

The one story, side gable dwelling was built ca. 1920, but has been extensively altered since World War II. The house was built with a two-room plan, but wings have been added to either side. A modern deck extends across the east and rear elevations. The house has replacement vinyl and permastone siding, and the porch has replacement wrought iron posts. There are both original two-over-two and replacement one-over-one windows. The interior was inaccessible.

Behind the house are two small, frame sheds (ca. 1930) and a gable roofed barn (ca. 1910). The storage buildings have shed roofs, vertical board siding, and metal sash windows. The barn is built on a tall, fieldstone foundation with vertical board siding, a side shed, and a boarded over window.

Historical Background and Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plates 5-6)

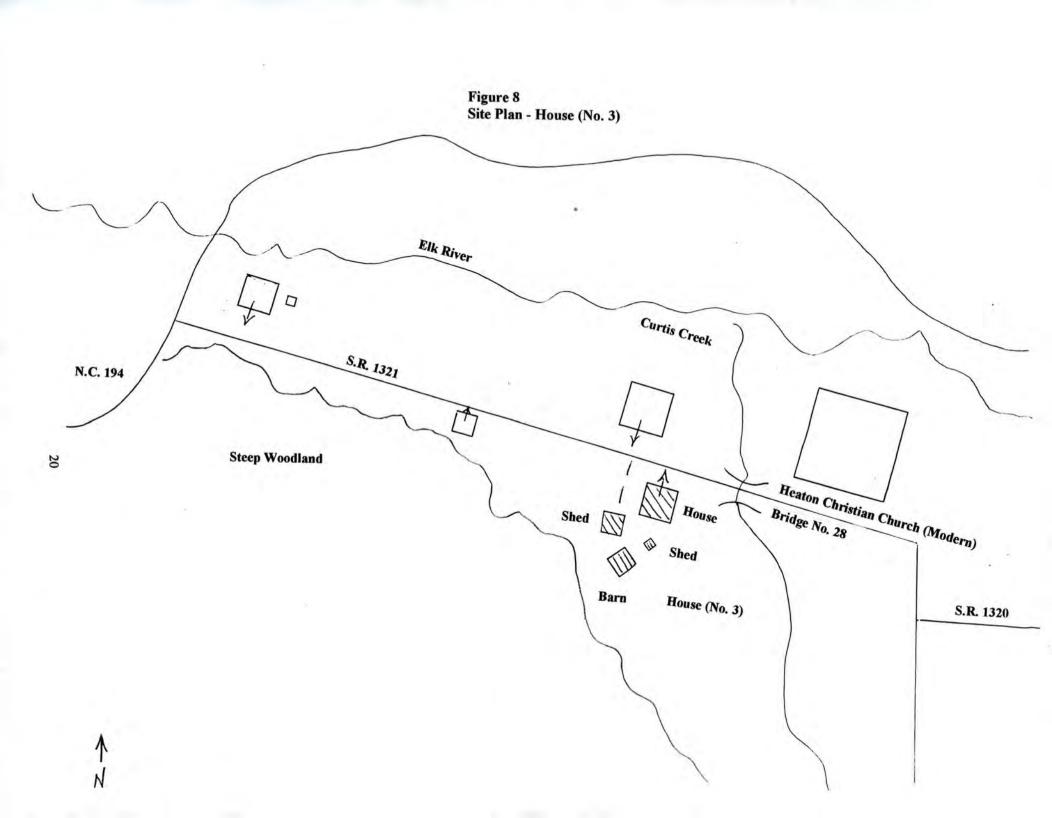
Not much is known about this small farm property which is located within Heaton, a crossroads community in the Elk River valley. The house is not recommended for National Register eligibility. The property has lost its architectural integrity because of extensive alterations and additions, and numerous better preserved examples of this common domestic design survive in Avery County. Although intact, the outbuildings also illustrate common types of farm support buildings and do not merit individual eligibility. The property does not possess sufficient integrity or significance to merit eligibility under any National Register criterion.



Plate 5. House (No. 3), Looking Southeast from S.R. 1321.



Plate 6. House (No. 3), Barn and Shed, Looking Southwest.



House (No. 4)

North side, S.R. 1321, roughly 0.2 mile east of junction with N.C. 194, Heaton Avery County

Date of Construction

ca. 1910

Associated Outbuildings

None

Site Description (Figure 9)

This house sits on the north side of S.R. 1321 next to Bridge No. 28 in the community of Heaton. The tree-lined Elk River runs behind the house, and a pedestrian bridge to the east provides access to N.C. 194 on the north side of the Elk River. The modern Heaton Christian Church is separated from this property by Curtis Creek, which defines the east side of the property. Another house (No. 3), dating to the same period, faces this dwelling from the south side of the road. The house site has no distinctive landscape features.

Physical Description

The two story, single pile, frame dwelling was built ca. 1910. The side gable dwelling has a shed roofed porch and a two story rear ell with an L-shaped porch. The house retains its weatherboard siding, but has undergone significant alteration in recent years. The porch has new wooden posts, balustrade, and deck, and the front door is a modern metal replacement. A few of the original two-over-two windows remain, but others are one-over-one replacements, some of which are set within altered window openings. The foundation has been rebuilt or stabilized with concrete block piers, and the house has a rebuilt concrete block flue. The interior was inaccessible. The property includes no outbuildings.

Historical Background and Evaluation of Integrity and Eligibility (Plates 7-11)

Not much is known about this house which is located along Curtis Creek within Heaton, a crossroads community in the Elk River valley. Although local storekeeper, James Heaton, built a hotel, sawmill, and several houses in the vicinity, none of these properties appears to have survived. This house was not included in the 1986 county-wide architectural survey that identified Heaton's store located to the north outside the A.P.E.

The house is not recommended for National Register eligibility. The property has lost much of its architectural integrity through alterations, and although the house retains its traditional two story, single pile form, numerous better preserved examples of this common residential design still survive in Avery County. The property does not possess sufficient integrity or significance to merit eligibility under any National Register criterion.



Plate 7. House (No. 4), Looking Northwest across Bridge No. 28 and S.R. 1321.



Plate 8. House (No. 4), Looking Northeast from S.R. 1321.



Plate 9. House (No. 4), Looking Northwest.

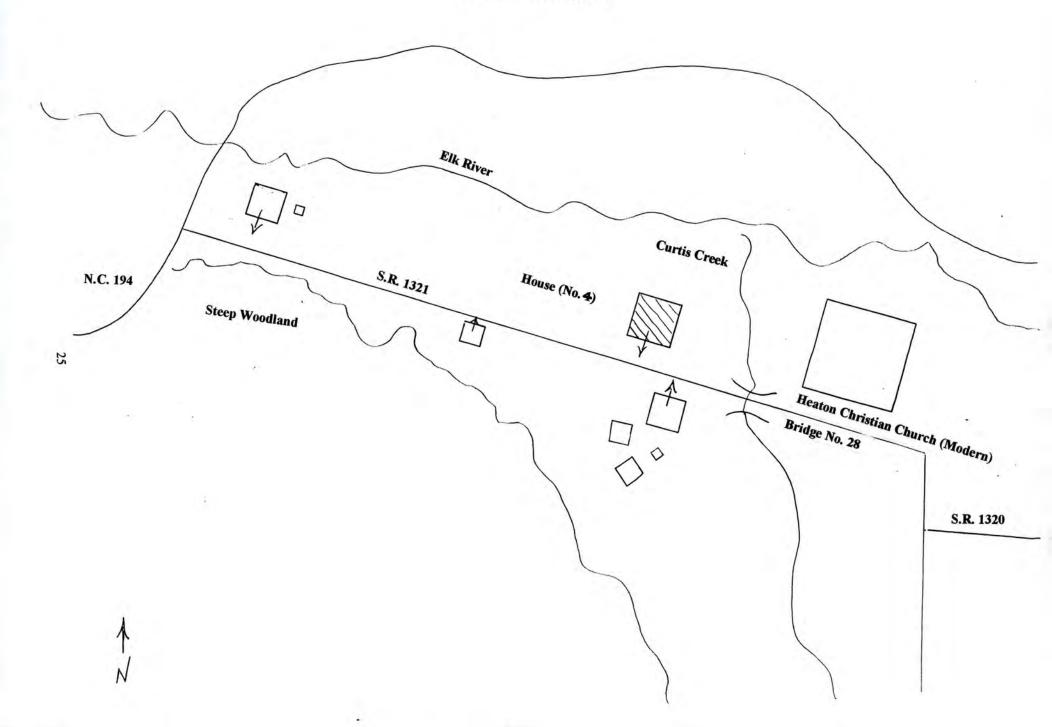


Plate 10. House (No. 4), East Elevation and Rear Ell, Looking West.



Plate 11. House (No. 4), West Elevation and Rear Ell, Looking Southeast from across the Elk River.

Figure 9 Site Plan - House (No. 4)



Bibliography

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- Bishir, Catherine W., et al. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.
- Covington, Howard E. Linville. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1992.
- Lefler, Hugh Talmadge, and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1973.
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Architectural Survey Files, Avery County, 1986.
- Sharpe, Bill. A New Geography of North Carolina, Vol. 2. Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1958.

APPENDIX

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

Ed	uc	ati	on

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,

Raleigh, North Carolina

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