



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

March 30, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: William D. Gilmore, P.E., Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

From: David Brook *Penelope McMillan - Early for David Brook*
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Re: Replace Bridge No. 168 on SR 1217 over Cove Creek,
TIP No. B-3377, Watauga County, ER 01-8683

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2001, transmitting the survey report by Heather Fearnbach, NCDOT, 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 listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

- Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture and meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as it embodies distinctive characteristics of Gothic Revival style, including arched window and door architraves, brick buttresses and crenellated corner towers. We concur with the boundaries noted on page 10 of the report.
- Dr. Filmore Bingham House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture. We concur with the boundaries as noted on page 15 of the report.

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

- Bridge No. 168
 - ~~Bridge No. 1~~
 - ~~Bridge No. 2~~
 - ~~Bridge No. 3~~
- } house

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
Administration	507 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
Restoration	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4613	(919) 733-6547 • 715-4801
Survey & Planning	515 N. Blount St, Raleigh, NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh 27699-4618	(919) 733-4763 • 715-4801

Page 2
William D. Gilmore
March 30, 2001

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, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, Environmental Review Coordinator, at 919/733-4763.

DB:kgc

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT
Nicholas L. Graf, FHwA

bc: Brown/Montgomery
County
RF

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
Final Identification and Evaluation

Replace Bridge No. 168 on SR 1217 over Cove Creek
Watagua County, North Carolina
TIP No. B-3377
State Project No. 8.2751301
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1217 (3)



North Carolina Department of Transportation Report
Prepared by Heather Fearnbach

December 2000

Heather Fearnbach

Heather Fearnbach, Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

1/29/2001

Date

Mary Pope Furr

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

1/29/2001

Date

**Replace Bridge No. 168 on SR 1217 over Cove Creek
Watauga County, North Carolina
TIP No. B-3377**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 168 on SR 1217 over Cove Creek in Watauga County with a new structure (Figure 1). Bridge No. 28 is a two-lane timber, steel and reinforced concrete structure built in 1958 and has a sufficiency rating of 48.8 out of 100.

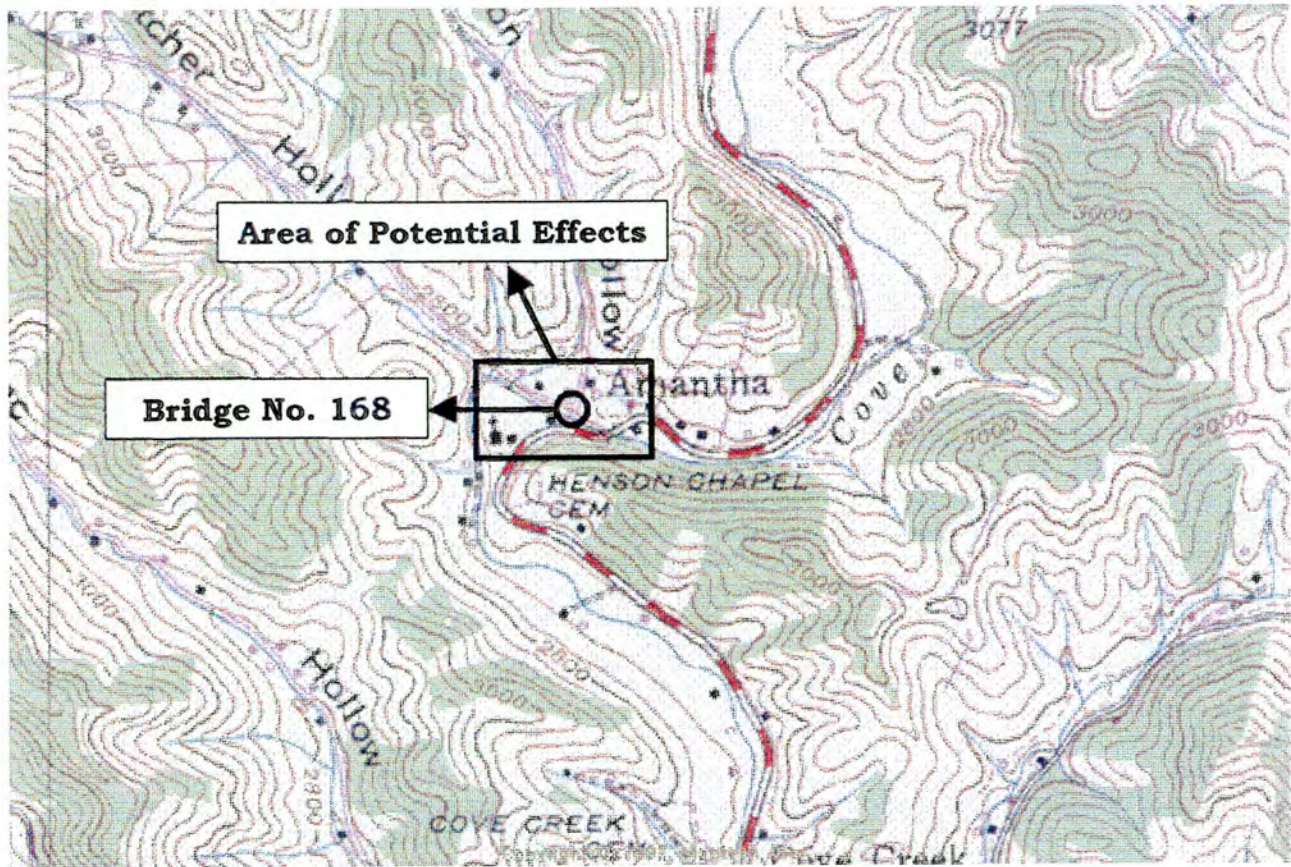
One alternative is being evaluated for replacing Bridge No. 168. The bridge will be replaced with a similar structure on a new alignment west of the existing structure.

PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the Area of Potential Effects (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 the Federal Highway Administration (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 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 the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) dated February 2, 1996.



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Project
**Replace Bridge No. 168 on SR
 1217 over Cove Creek**

Sheet Title
**Vicinity Map and Area of Potential
 Effects**

Drawn By:
Fearnbach

Issue Date:
11-28-00

TIP No.
B-3377

Scale **NTS**

Figure No.
1

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 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 1).

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and background research on the project area. Two NCDOT staff architectural historians conducted a field survey on October 25, 2000. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were photographed and keyed to an area map.

Background research was conducted at the HPO in Raleigh, the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh, and the Watauga County Courthouse in Boone.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS

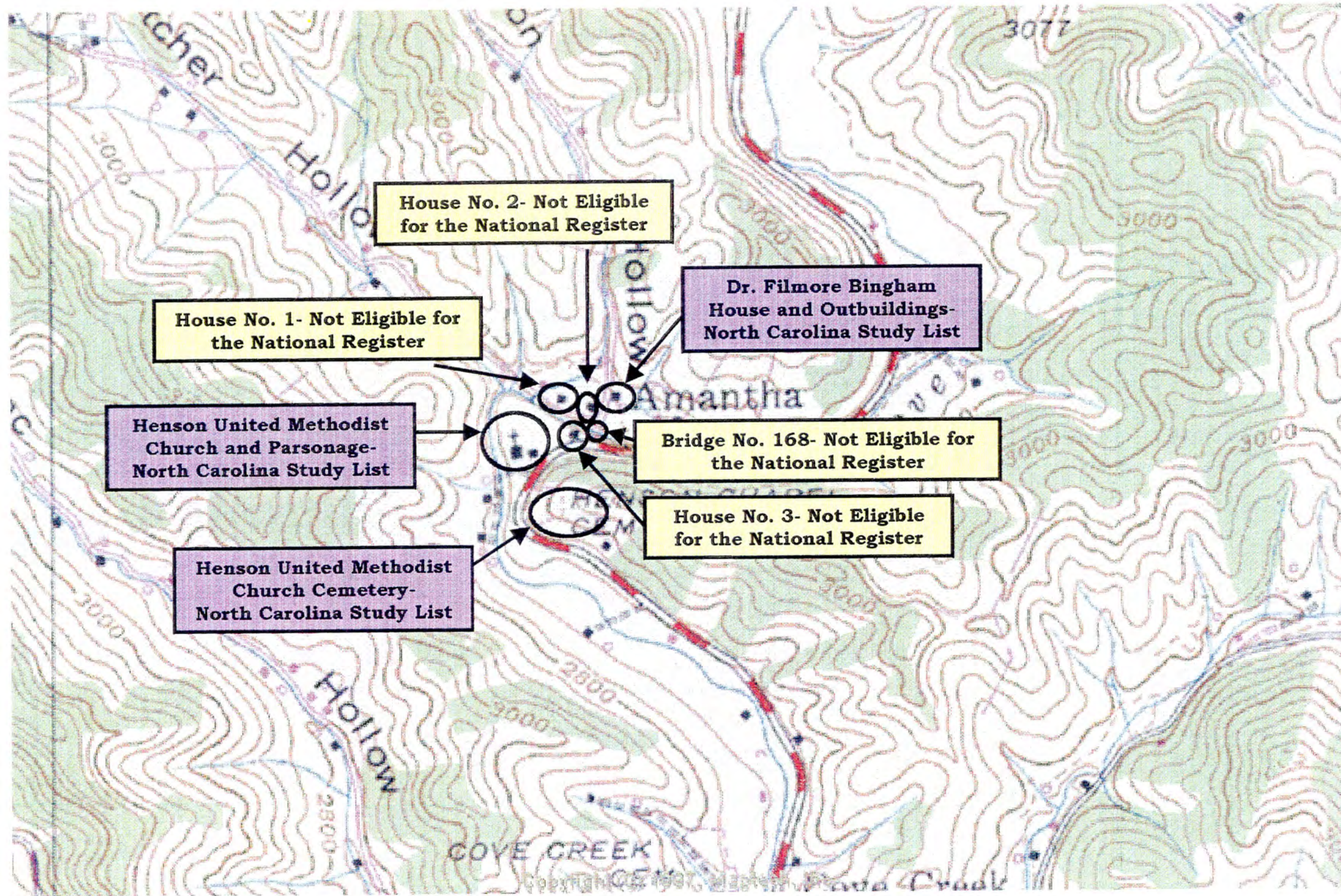
The bridge under consideration spans Cove Creek in Watauga County. Bridge No. 168 has reinforced concrete abutments, timber caps, timber posts and concrete sills. The two-lane bridge is decked with timber on salvaged I-beams. Bridge No. 168 is not individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The APE for the bridge replacement project includes two properties on the North Carolina Study List and three properties evaluated and considered not eligible for the National Register (Figure 2).



Properties Listed on the North Carolina Study List

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church
Dr. Filmore Bingham House

Properties Evaluated and Considered not Eligible for the National Register

Bridge No. 168
House No. 1
House No. 2
House No. 3 (Previously determined not eligible for the National Register in 1996 during TIP project B-3062)



 <p>Historic Architecture NCDOT 1 South Wilmington Street P.O. Box 25201 Raleigh, NC 27611-5201 T 919-733-7844 F 919-733-9794 www.dot.state.nc.us</p>	Project	Replace Bridge No. 168 on SR 1217 over Cove Creek	Drawn By: Fearnbach	TIP No. B-3652
	Sheet Title	Property Map	Issue Date: 12-19-00	Scale NTS
				Figure No. 2

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Properties Listed on the North Carolina Study List

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church

Location

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is located in the Amantha vicinity on the northwest side of SR 1233, approximately one-tenth of a mile east of the junction with SR 1217.

Background Information

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is the third sanctuary of the first Methodist congregation in Watauga County. The congregation began meeting in 1858 in the homes of members and then moved into a log schoolhouse northeast of the present sanctuary. The congregation grew out of the log schoolhouse into a larger one-room log church, which was subsequently replaced in 1888 with a one-room frame sanctuary built on one acre donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Henson. The new church was named after Mrs. Henson.¹

In 1926 the congregation once again felt the need to expand and commissioned a new sanctuary (Figure 3). The frame church was sold and moved across the creek. The minister, Reverend R.A. Taylor, supervised the construction, a five-year process beginning in 1926 and completed in 1931. The contractor, Mr. Hartzog of Boone, implemented the Gothic Revival plan designed by James M. McMichael of Charlotte for another church. The congregation's carpenters and masons volunteered their services during the construction of the sanctuary, which cost \$45,000.00. The church debt was paid on February 26, 1941, and the church members celebrated with a "Day of Dedication" on July 13, 1941.²

The church property grew to 2.88 acres and today includes a parsonage built in 1946 (Figure 4). One acre of an adjoining tax parcel southwest of the sanctuary encompasses the cemetery historically associated with the Methodist congregation of Amantha.

¹ John Preston Arthur, A History of Watauga County, North Carolina (Richmond: Everett Waddey Company, 1915), 108.

² Jeane O. Powell, "Henson Chapel Methodist Church," North Carolina Study List Application, HPO Office Files, Asheville, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1996.



Figure 3 - Henson United Methodist Church



Figure 4- Henson United Methodist Church Parsonage

Description

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is an impressive red brick Gothic Revival building characterized by a steep pyramidal roof and projecting gables with pressed tin shingles, brick buttresses with concrete caps, and wings on the side and rear elevations. The central gable of the façade emphasizes the twenty-foot ceiling height of the 2,000 square foot auditorium space and features a triple gable projection at the vestibule level. A pronounced stepped corbelling delineates the gables and visually connects the central section of the church with the crenellated tower entrances at both corners of the façade. The towers are of unequal height, but both have six-panel double doors with arched stained-glass transoms and a steep concrete stair with brick treads and risers. Two grave markers have been incorporated into the western side of the eastern front stair. The taller tower houses the bell chamber and is defined by a concrete belt course and double-arched openings with wooden louvers at the upper level. Gothic arches with concrete keys surround stained-glass windows on each elevation. The building foundation and window and door architraves are concrete and have recently been painted white.

The interior of Henson Chapel United Methodist Church includes a central auditorium and vestibule on the first floor and a fellowship hall, kitchen, classrooms and bathrooms in the full basement. The high ceilings of the auditorium are covered with pressed tin panels. Other dominant features of the space include three sections of curved oak pews obtained from Piney Flats, Tennessee, and the curved chancel rail with turned oak balusters.³

Statement of Significance

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is an outstanding example of rural Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The church is the focal point of the surrounding agricultural landscape and an impressive statement of the dedication of the Methodist congregation to the construction of a local landmark.

Evaluation

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event). *To be eligible 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*

³ Ibid.

*be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*⁴

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated 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; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/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.*⁵

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction) for its architectural significance. *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 lack individual distinction.*⁶

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church embodies distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, including arched window and door architraves, brick buttresses and crenellated corner towers. Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) applies in this case, as Henson Chapel United Methodist Church derives its primary significance from architectural distinction.

Henson Chapel United Methodist Church is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *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.*⁷

⁴ National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), 12.

⁵ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*, 15.

⁶ Ibid.

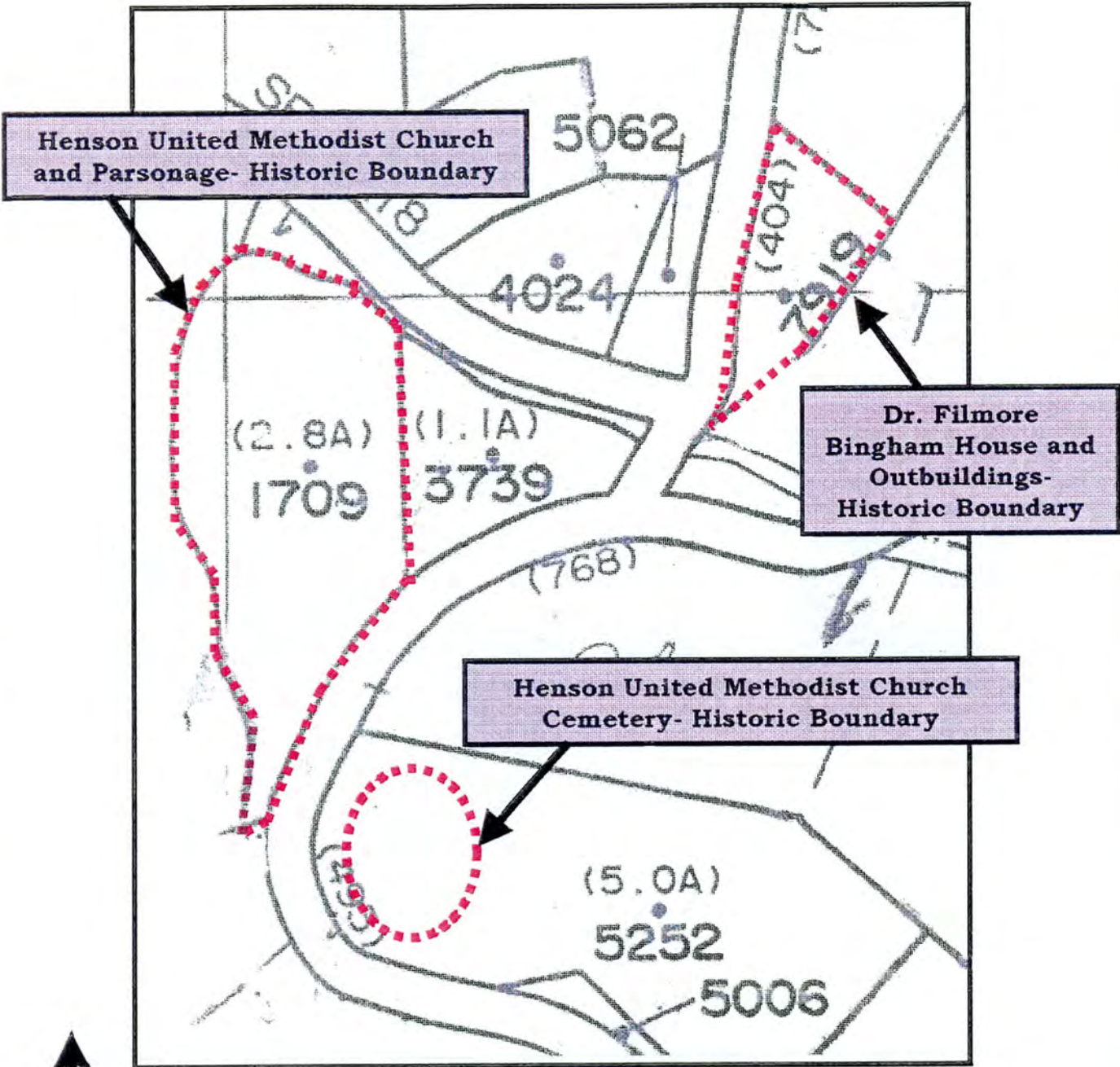
⁷ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*.

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Henson Chapel United Methodist Church property are outlined in Figure 5. The boundary includes Watauga County tax parcel 1709 (2.88 acres) and one acre of adjacent Watauga County tax parcel 5252.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Henson Chapel United Methodist Church property encompass the land traditionally associated with the Methodist congregation in Amantha, including the church sanctuary, parsonage and cemetery across the street.



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Project
**Replace Bridge No. 168 on
 SR 1217 over Cove Creek**

Sheet Title

Historic Boundaries

Drawn By:
Fearnbach

Issue Date:
 11-28-00

TIP No.
B-3377

Scale **NTS**

Figure No.

5

Dr. Filmore Bingham House

Location

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is located at the northwest side of SR 1233 at the intersection of SR 1233 and SR 1217.

Background Information

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House, said to be one of the oldest frame houses in Watauga County, was built by A.J. McBride around 1860. The community of Amantha was originally known as McBride's Mill after A.J. McBride, who was the first postmaster as well as the sheriff. The name of the small community was later changed to honor Amantha Combs, a local resident. Dr. Bingham, a graduate of the medical school at the University of Tennessee and the first such qualified physician to practice in Watauga County, purchased McBride's house and one hundred acres in 1909. Dr. Bingham lived in the house and traveled throughout the county practicing medicine until his death in 1928. His wife and daughters inherited the property and gradually sold off parcels of land.⁸ Gerald Merschdoff purchased the Bingham house and outbuilding on a one acre tract in 1991.

Description

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is a two-story, three-bay center hall frame house with white weatherboards, a green pressed tin roof and exterior end chimneys (Figure 6). The single-shouldered, running bond chimney on the western elevation has a metal hood, while the single-shouldered, fieldstone chimney on the eastern elevation has a stone hood. A vernacular two-story portico repeats the scalloped fascia board motif of the rest of the façade at the gable and enlarges the motif as decorative bargeboard at the story separation. An open diamond lattice serves as the railing on both levels of the portico, and the gable features an octagonal vent. A two-story ell projects from the eastern side of the rear elevation. A porch along the western elevation of the ell has been enclosed to form shed rooms, while the porch along the rear elevation of the original section of the building remains open. The majority of the windows appear to be replacement six-over-six wood sash windows fitted with storm windows and screens, although a few older four-over-four wood sash windows remain intact. Green wood shutters with flat upper panels and louvered lower panels are on the windows of the façade.

⁸ Rupert Gillett, "Last of the Mountain Practitioners: Doctor Bingham First Medical Graduate to Practice in Watauga," The Charlotte Observer, April 15, 1928; William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 9.

The property includes two frame outbuildings, a storage shed and a carriage house from the second half of the nineteenth century (Figures 7 and 8). The original section of the carriage house is sided with weatherboards, while the shed addition on the southern elevation has horizontal wood slat walls. Both sections have vertical wood slats in the gables and a standing seam metal roof covers the entire building. The storage shed is also weatherboarded and painted white with a green pressed tin roof.

Statement of Significance

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is purported to be one of the oldest frame residences in Watauga County. The house and associated outbuildings remain in a protected rural setting, and the structure has retained architectural integrity through a series of additions and renovations. The Dr. Filmore Bingham House currently functions as the Old Cobblestone Chimney Inn.

Evaluation

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event). *To be eligible 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 Dr. Filmore Bingham House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated 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; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/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

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

¹⁰ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*, 15.



Figure 6 - Dr. Filmore Bingham House and Shed



Figure 7- Dr. Filmore Bingham House- Carriage House

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction) for its architectural significance. *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 lack individual distinction.*¹¹ The Bingham House is purported to be one of the oldest frame houses in Watauga County, and its vernacular portico lends the building added interest. The house and associated outbuildings retain architectural integrity and integrity of setting.

The Dr. Filmore Bingham House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *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

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Dr. Fillmore Bingham House property are outlined in Figure 5. The boundary includes Watauga County tax parcel 7919 (one acre).

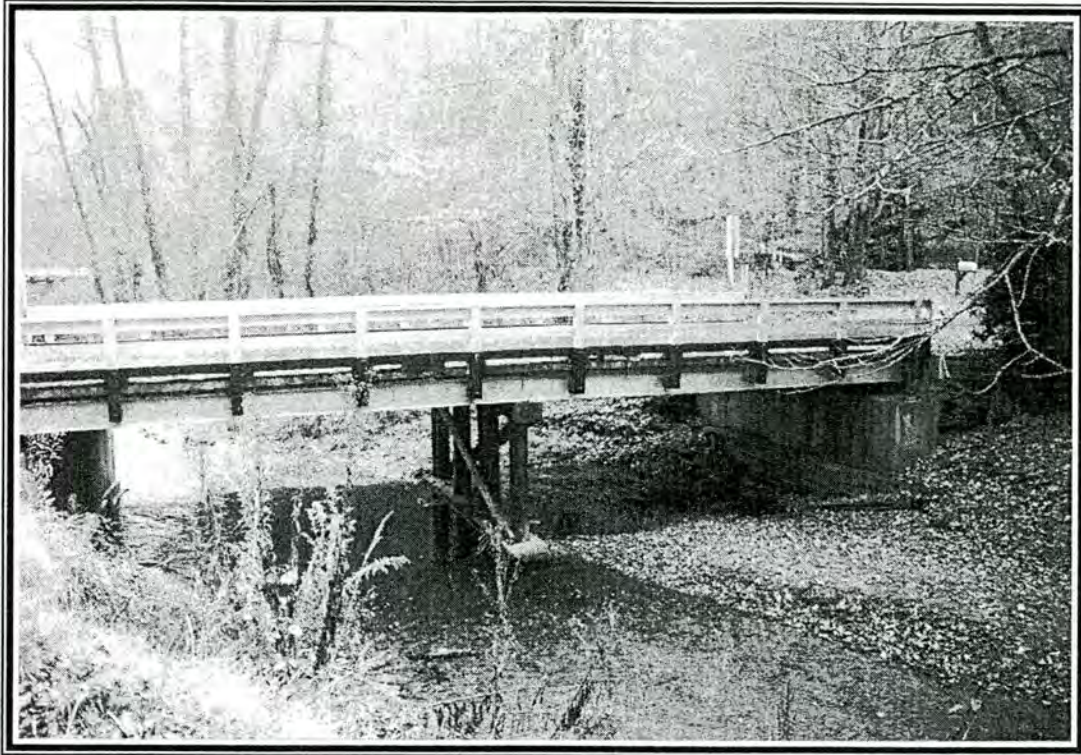
Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Dr. Fillmore Bingham House property include the original site of the house and associated outbuildings and provide a historically appropriate setting for the complex of buildings.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*.

**Properties Evaluated and Considered not Eligible for the
National Register of Historic Places**



**Figure 9 - Bridge No. 168- Lacks historical or
engineering significance**



**Figure 10- House No. 1- Lacks historical or
architectural significance**

**Properties Evaluated and Considered not Eligible for the
National Register of Historic Places**



**Figure 11 - House No. 2- Lacks historical or
architectural significance**



**Figure 12- House No. 3- Lacks historical or
architectural significance**

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