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HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT  
ADDENDUM I

SLATE ROCK HOUSE: PROPERTY EVALUATION

US 311 from I-85 to Proposed "East Belt"  
Randolph County  
TIP No. U-2538  
State Project No. 8.1571001  
Federal Aid No. F-62-1(23)

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Report Prepared by Clay Griffith

April 19, 1995

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April 24, 1995  
Date

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April 24, 1995  
Date

## SLATE ROCK HOUSE

1. Location. 9182 US 311, approximately 900 feet northwest of SR 1919 (Poole Road), Archdale vic. (See Figure 1.)
2. Description. The Slate Rock House, built 1937-38, is a one-and-one-half story Colonial Revival-style dwelling (see Illustrations 1-2). Two side-gable wings extend from the central block and accentuate the three-bay arrangement of the Cape Cod-type house. The exterior walls are constructed of stacked slate with thin, recessed mortar joints. The slate walls are backed by diagonal wood sheathing and 2x4 inch studs on approximately 16 inch centers. Four gabled dormers overlook the front elevation and are lit by small six-over-six sash windows. The rest of the house is lit with six-over-six and eight-over-eight windows, which often occur in pairs. The roof is covered with the original asbestos shingles. Two interior chimneys project from the rear slope of the roof. The house is supported by a poured-in-place concrete foundation, which encloses the full basement.

The three-bay composition of the house and wings is incongruous with the interior plan of the house. A traditional central hall plan is enclosed by the central block and east wing while the west wing contains the garage with a bedroom on the second level. (From the rear the arrangement is made clear.) The entrance door, which is not accentuated, is located on the right side of the central block and off-center in view of the overall symmetry of the facade. The entrance hall contains the simple stair to the second level and continues through the entire house (see Illustration 4). The living and dining rooms, located to either side of the stair hall at the front of the house, are entered through arched openings. The den and kitchen are located on the first floor at the rear of the house. In general, the plain interior, which is small in scale, remains largely intact with very few and minor alterations.

The house is situated approximately 120 feet from US 311 and is surrounded by a number of mature trees (see Illustration 3). Slate was also incorporated into several of the landscaping features surrounding the house including the walkway, small garden pool, patio, and raised planting bed. A preservation easement was executed by Richard and Glenna Penn, the owners, and the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. for the property, including elements of the landscaping.

3. Historical Background. The Slate Rock House was constructed by Paul Hill, a master carpenter, in 1937-38 for his brother and sister-in-law, Wade and Katherine Hill. Paul and Wade were sons of Bob and Ellen Hill of Stokes County. The elder Hills moved the family to Randolph County, near High Point, in 1919. Wade Hill (b. 1904) married Katherine Weant of Randolph County. According to a family member, the Weants moved to Randolph County from Salisbury in the second decade of the twentieth century. Wade Hill worked at a number of jobs including the brickyard in Glenola.

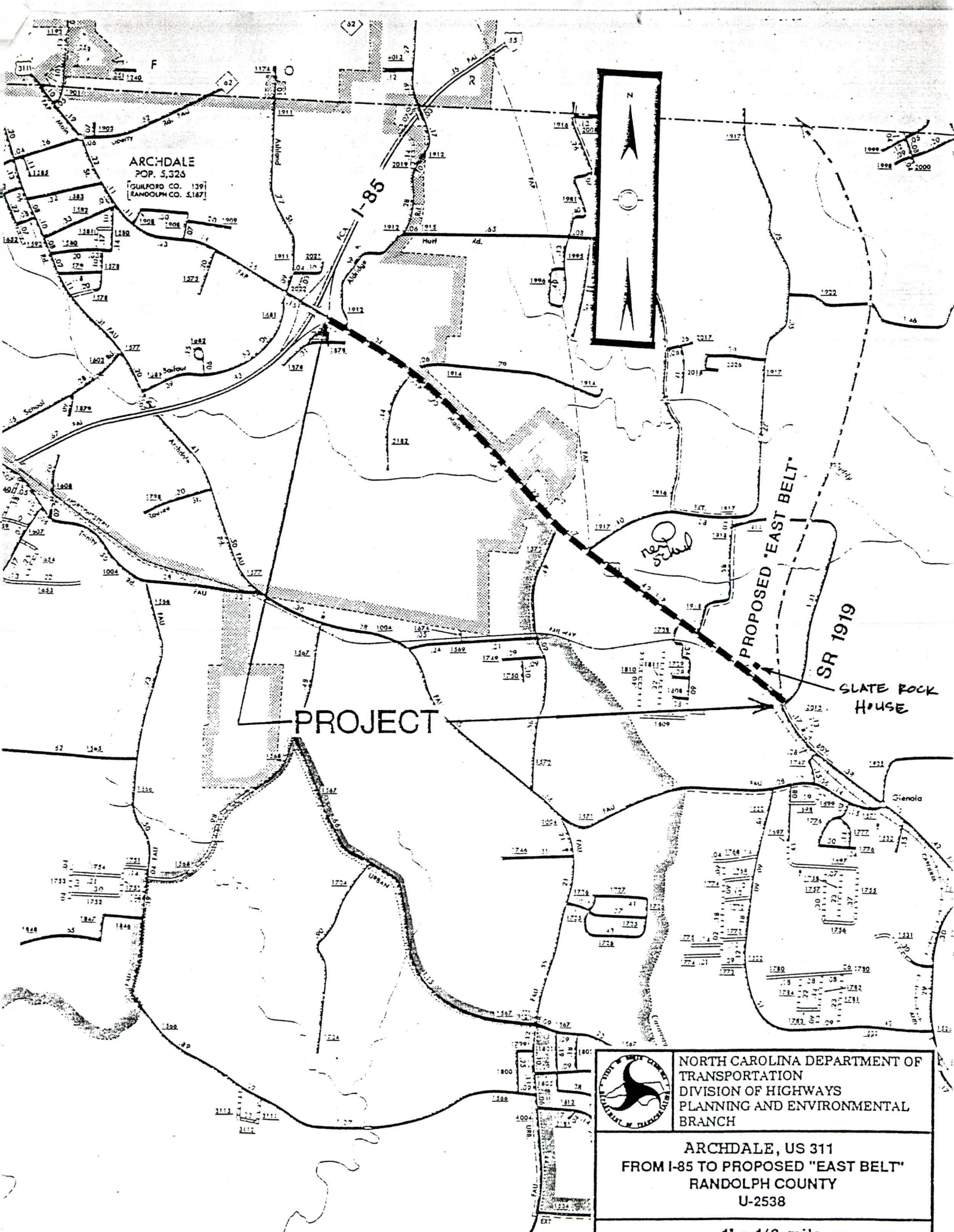
The slate for the house was gathered in Randolph County and reportedly was laid by stonemasons who had previously worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the New Deal era. Two of the possible stonemasons include Thomas Bynum of High Point and Arthur "Dink" Cheek of Franklinville. Mr. Cheek is remembered as having worked on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in Pennsylvania. Mr. Cheek is also recognized as the stonemason for several buildings in Randolph County including his own house in Franklinville and the Rollins Rock Store, a grocery built in 1934, in Central Falls (see Whatley, p. 255).

Katherine Hill continued to live in the Slate Rock House until 1990. Carolyn Hill Bulla, one of the Hill's three daughters, contacted the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina to establish the preservation easement for the property. The present owners, Richard and Glenna Penn, purchased the house in 1993. The owners and the Historic Preservation Foundation executed an agreement in May 1994 outlining the preservation covenants placed on the property.

4. Evaluation. The Slate Rock House is not considered eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The house is a typical example of a common Colonial Revival style house type and lacks architectural significance. The use of an unusual building material in this common house type does not justify eligibility for the National Register. Several other structures of the same period in Randolph County constitute better examples of the use of this native stone: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (1937) in Asheboro (see Whatley, p. 247); a two-and-one-half story Colonial Revival style dwelling with Georgian details located at 928 Sunset Avenue in Asheboro; and the Tudor Revival style J. Frank McCrary House (c. 1933) also in Asheboro (see Illustration 5 and Whatley, p. 204).

The Slate Rock House is not considered eligible for the National Register under Criteria A or B as there are no persons or events of historical significance associated with the property. The fact that individual stonemasons formerly employed with the WPA may have worked on the house does not justify a significant association with that important New Deal program. The house is not eligible under Criterion D as the architectural component of this property is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

The property owners submitted a Study List application to the SHPO for the Slate Rock House for review by the National Register Advisory Committee at their meeting on April 13, 1995. The Advisory Committee voted to accept the staff recommendation that the Slate Rock House did not appear potentially eligible for the National Register and denied the property listing on the Study List.



ARCHDALE  
POP. 5,326  
[GUILFORD CO. 139]  
[RANDOLPH CO. 5,187]

PROJECT

PROPOSED "EAST BELT"

SR 1919

SLATE ROCK HOUSE



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

ARCHDALE, US 311  
FROM I-85 TO PROPOSED "EAST BELT"  
RANDOLPH COUNTY  
U-2538

1" = 1/2 mile

FIG. 1



Illustration 1. Slate Rock House, front elevation.



Illustration 2. Slate Rock House, rear elevation.


	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH
	ARCHDALE, US 311 FROM I-85 TO PROPOSED "EAST BELT" RANDOLPH COUNTY U-2538



Illustration 3. Slate Rock House, view from US 311.



Illustration 4. Slate Rock House, stair hall.



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Illustration 5. J. Frank McCrary House. 232 Worth Street, Asheboro.  
c. 1933. W. C. Holleman, architect.



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