



A review of information at the O.S.A. shows there are no previously recorded sites within or adjacent to the A.P.E. The A.P.E. has not been previously surveyed for archaeological sites. The A.P.E. is not within any areas that have been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

A visual reconnaissance of the project area was conducted by NCDOT archaeologists Scott Halvorsen and Caleb Smith on 2/25/2016. The reconnaissance found that the landforms within the A.P.E. have a low potential for archaeological sites. The A.P.E. in the northwest quadrant is occupied by a parking area, a residential yard, and then a sloped hillside (Figures 6-7). There is a collapsed structure on the north side of NC 226 approximately 120 meters (394 ft.) west of the bridge. The southwest quadrant is a narrow strip of land between NC 226 and Cane Creek (Figure 8). The southeast quadrant is a driveway next to the bridge, and then a narrow strip between NC 226 and Cane Creek (Figure 9). The northeast quadrant is a level, elevated terrace from the creek east for approximately 20 meters (66 ft.), then Cub Creek Rd. (SR 1300), and then a steep hillside (Figures 10-11). The level terrace is too narrow to have much archaeological potential, and may have been disturbed by roadside uses.

The 2023 design plans show the new bridge will be constructed along the north side of the existing bridge (see Figure 3). The new bridge and road alignment will impact approximately 8 meters (25 ft.) of new location along the north side of the existing alignment. This A.P.E. is within the larger 2016 study area and the 2016 review still applies. No further work is recommended.

*(This project falls within a North Carolina County in which the following federally recognized tribes have expressed an interest: the Cherokee Nation; the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians; the Catawba Indian Nation; the Muscogee (Creek) Indian Nation. We recommend that you ensure that this documentation is forwarded to these tribes using the process described in the current NCDOT Tribal Protocol and PA Procedures Manual.)*

***Brief Explanation of why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified historic properties in the APE:***

A No Archaeological Survey Required form for this project was submitted in April 2016. Design plans submitted in March 2023 show the bridge will be replaced along the north side of the existing bridge. The current A.P.E. for the project is within the study area reviewed in 2016. The 2016 recommendation still applies, and no further work is recommended.

**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

See attached:  Map(s)     Previous Survey Info     Photos     Correspondence  
Other:

**FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST: NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED**

Caleb Smith

3/23/2023

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

Date

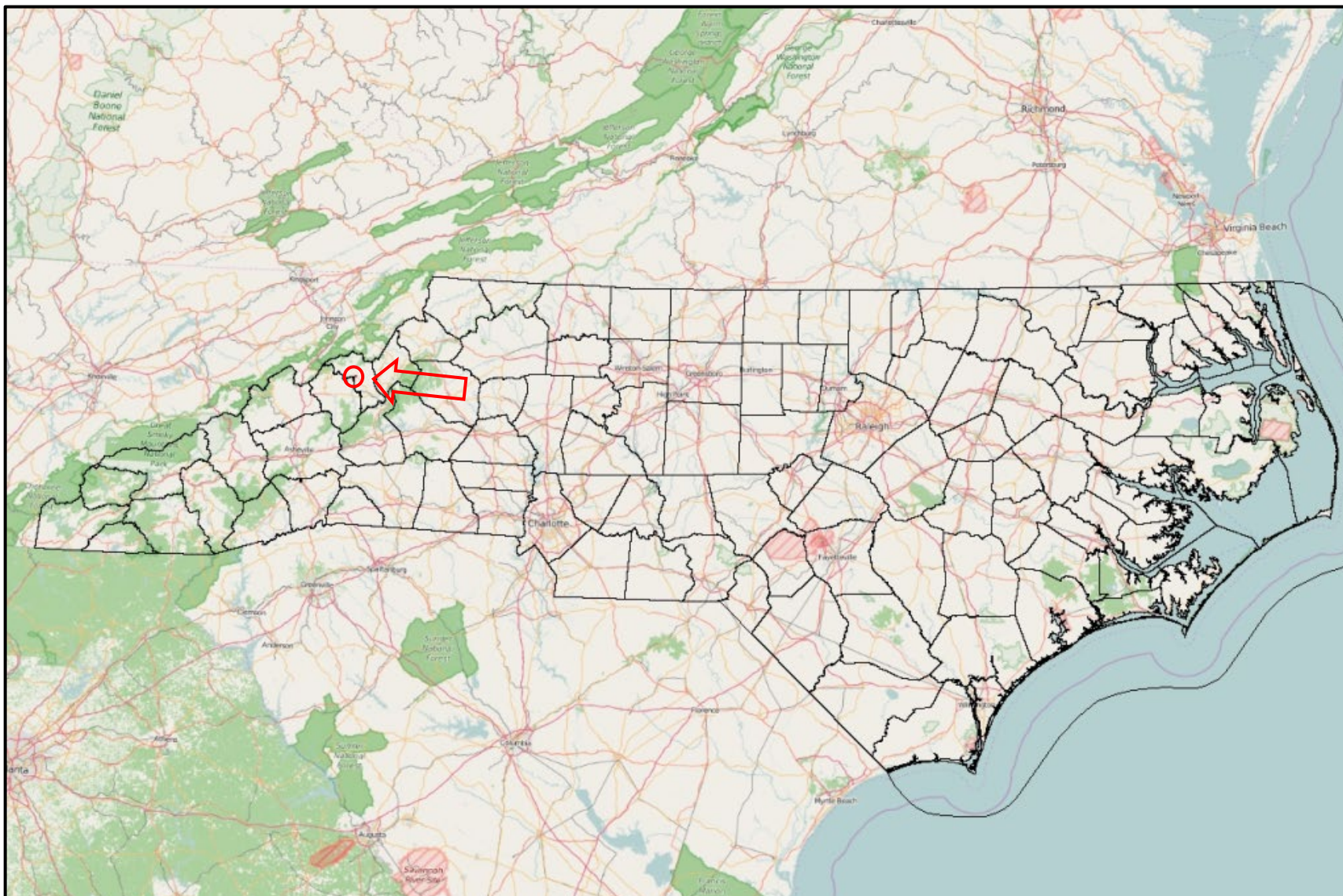


Figure 1: Location of Bridge 19 in Mitchell County, North Carolina.



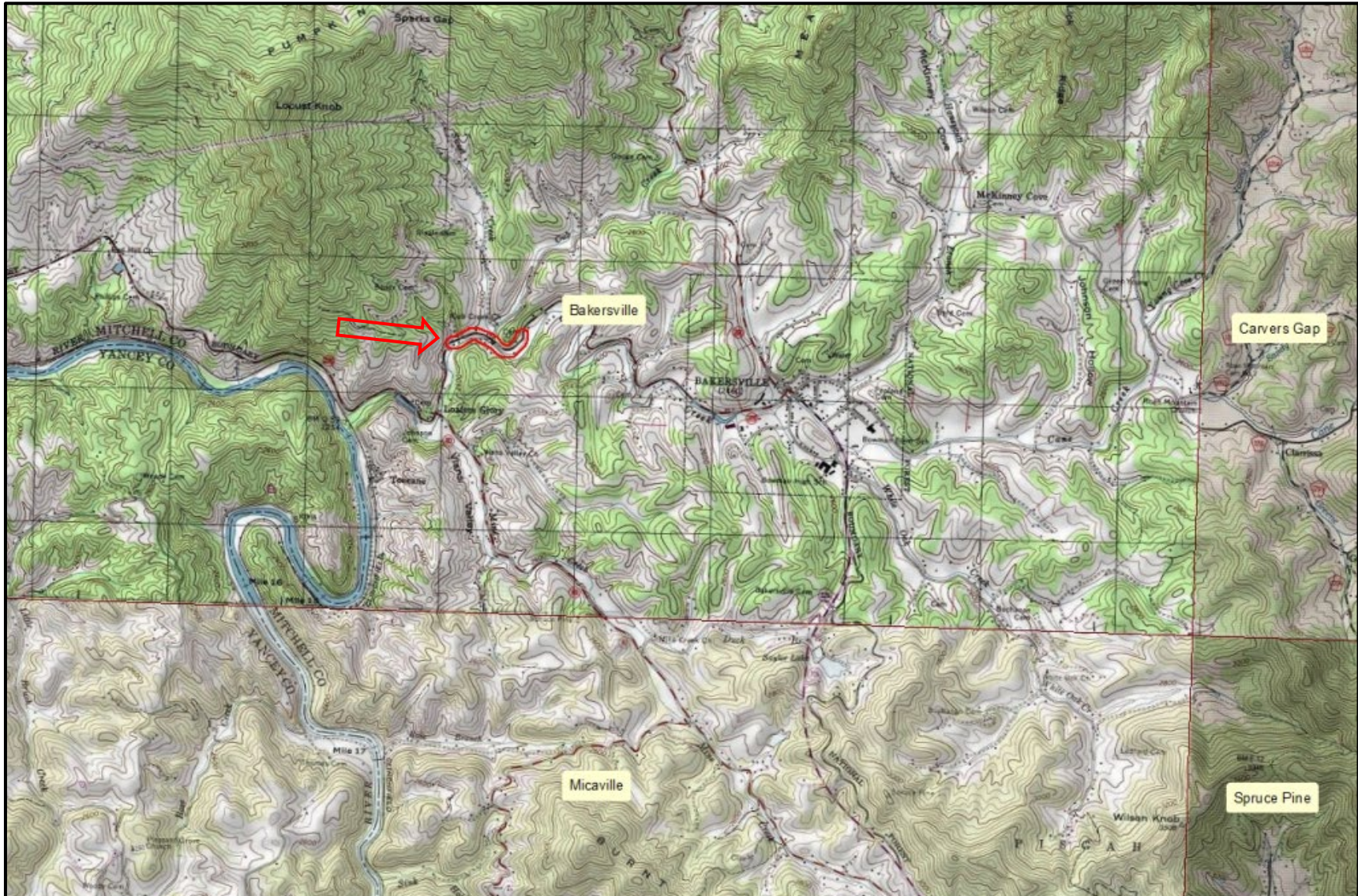


Figure 2: Location of Bridge 19 on the *Bakersville, N.C.* 1:24,000-scale topographic map.



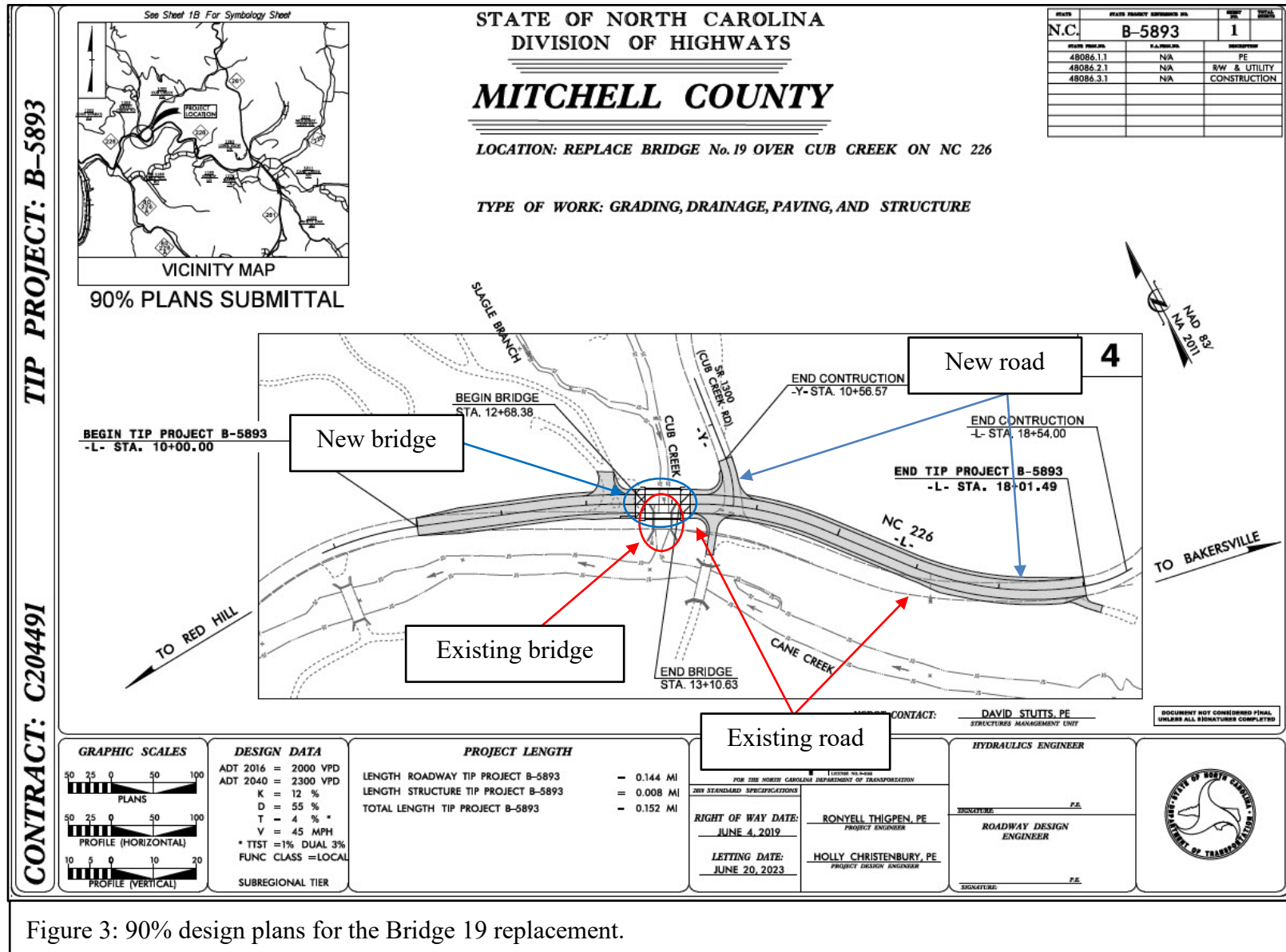


Figure 3: 90% design plans for the Bridge 19 replacement.

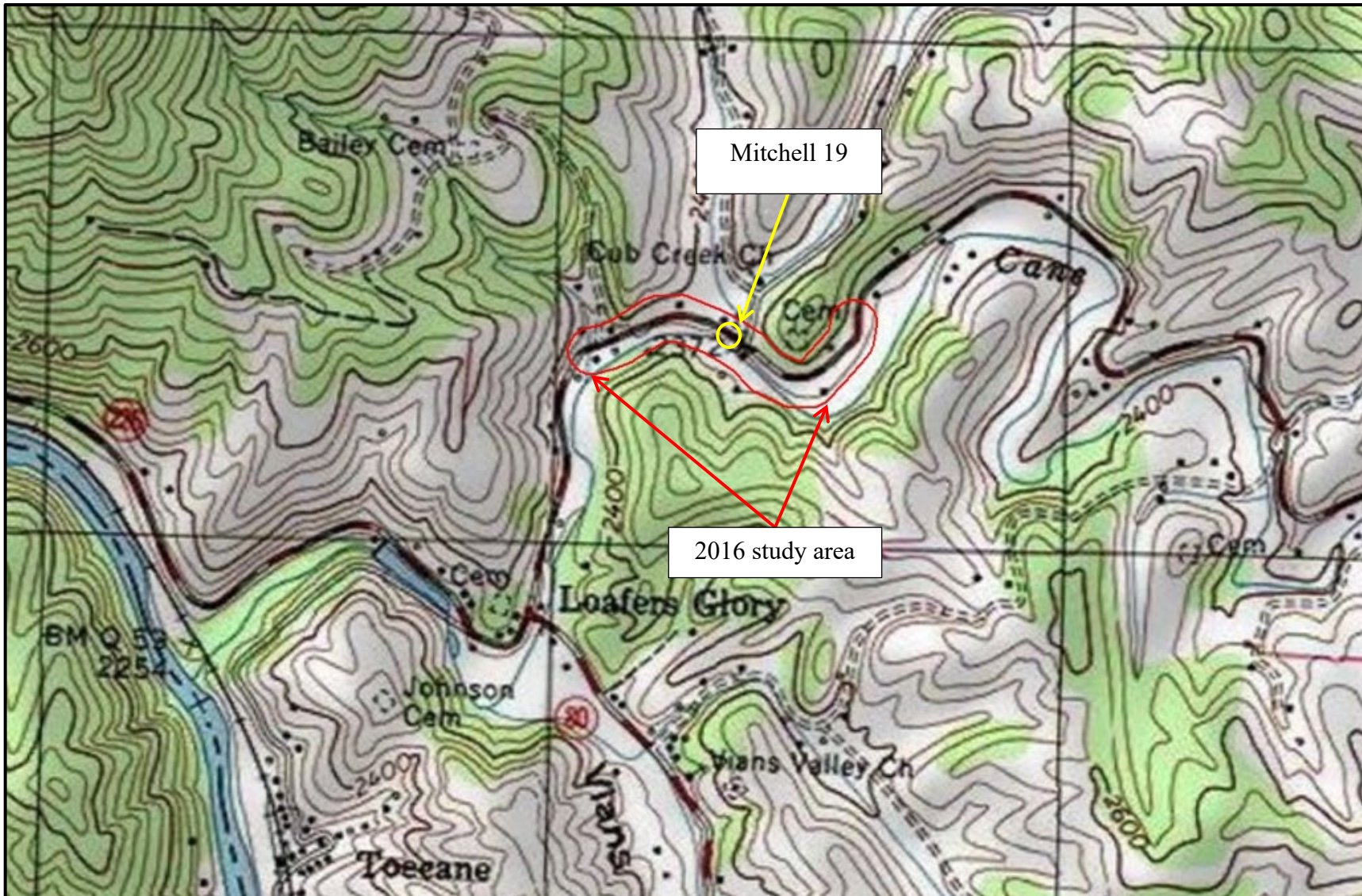


Figure 4: Topographic map of Bridge 19 (Bakersville, N.C. 1:24,000-scale topographic map).



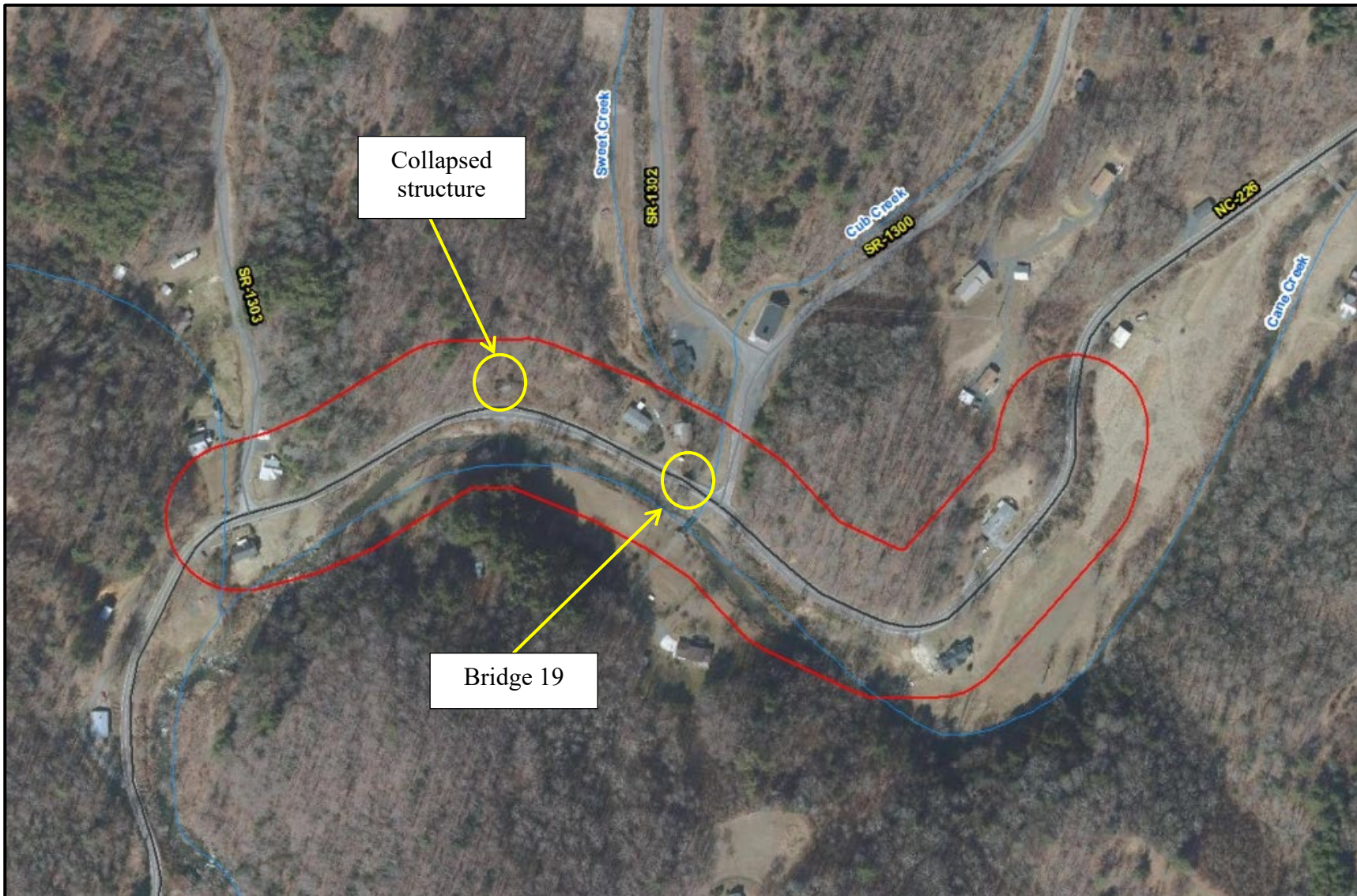


Figure 5: Aerial photograph of the Bridge 19 study area.





Figure 6: West view of Bridge 19.



Figure 7: West view of the northwest quadrant.





Figure 8: West view of the southwest quadrant.



Figure 9: Southeast view of the southeast quadrant.





Figure 10: North view of the level terrace in the northeast quadrant.



Figure 11: Southeast view of the northeast quadrant.