

13-08-0008



**NO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ELIGIBLE OR LISTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
PRESENT OR AFFECTED FORM**



This form only pertains to ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES for this project. It is not valid for Historic Architecture and Landscapes. You must consult separately with the Historic Architecture and Landscapes Group.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: **Str. #010081** County: **Alexander**
 WBS No: **17BP.12.R.41** Document: **PCE or MCC**
 F.A. No: **NA** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal

Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3, NWP 14, TVA**

Project Description: NCDOT intends to replace Bridge No. 81 on SR 1332, Shew Road, over the Lower Little River. The proposal calls for the replacement of the bridge in its existing location and at the existing alignment with minor changes to right-of-way (ROW). For the purposes of the current review, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is considered to extend 300 feet (91.44 meters) from either end of the bridge and 75 feet (22.86 meters) out from centerline. Thus, the APE encompasses more than 1.03 acres (approximately 0.42 hectares).

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Archaeology Group reviewed the subject project and determined:

- ☒ **There are no National Register listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES within the project's area of potential effects.**
- ☐ No subsurface archaeological investigations are required for this project.
- ☒ **Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources.**
- ☒ **Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources considered eligible for the National Register.**
- ☐ All identified archaeological sites located within the APE have been considered and all compliance for archaeological resources with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- ☒ **There are no National Register Eligible or Listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES present or affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)**

13-08-0008

Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:

A review of the archaeological site files housed at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology was conducted on September 9, 2013, by personnel from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Resources Unit, Archaeology Group. The review resulted in a finding that no previously identified archaeological resources are recorded in the APE, as defined above, and no archaeological investigations have been performed in the project's immediate vicinity. In addition, it was determined that the APE consists of both moderately eroded upland and frequently flooded alluvial soils. These include Cordorus loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded; Fairview sandy clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, moderately eroded; and Fairview sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes. Further archaeological investigation was recommended to determine if archaeological artifacts and/or deposits are present in the APE.

Archaeologists from The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (Louis Berger), completed an intensive archaeological survey of the entire APE on November 14 and 15, 2013. The survey was conducted by archaeologists Lee Tippet, MA (principal investigator) and Lucas Richardson. The entire APE was surveyed by a combination of pedestrian inspection and judgmental shovel tests. In general, upland wooded areas were visually inspected for abandoned historic cemeteries, historic house foundations, ornamental plants, and topographic anomalies indicative of wells, cellars, and privies. The pedestrian survey was also conducted to identify prehistoric upland resources, such as lithic quarry and petroglyph sites. During the pedestrian survey disturbed and graded terrain was identified surrounding the United Energy Russell Gap Substation.

Louis Berger excavated a total of seven shovel tests in the APE, located at intervals of from 10 to 30 meters depending on the local topographic circumstances. Shovel testing was mainly conducted in floodplain contexts likely to contain buried and preserved archaeological deposits. Alluvial conditions in the APE were investigated by five shovel tests, of which Shovel Tests J2 and J7 are typical. Shovel Tests J3 and J4, as well as numerous surface exposures, confirmed the eroded nature of the upland soils.

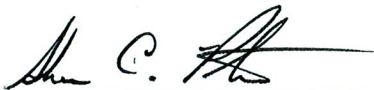
No archaeological sites, isolated artifacts, or buried cultural deposits were identified in the APE. Louis Berger recommends no further archaeological investigation at the site of this proposed bridge replacement.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

Other: Representative Shovel Test Data Table

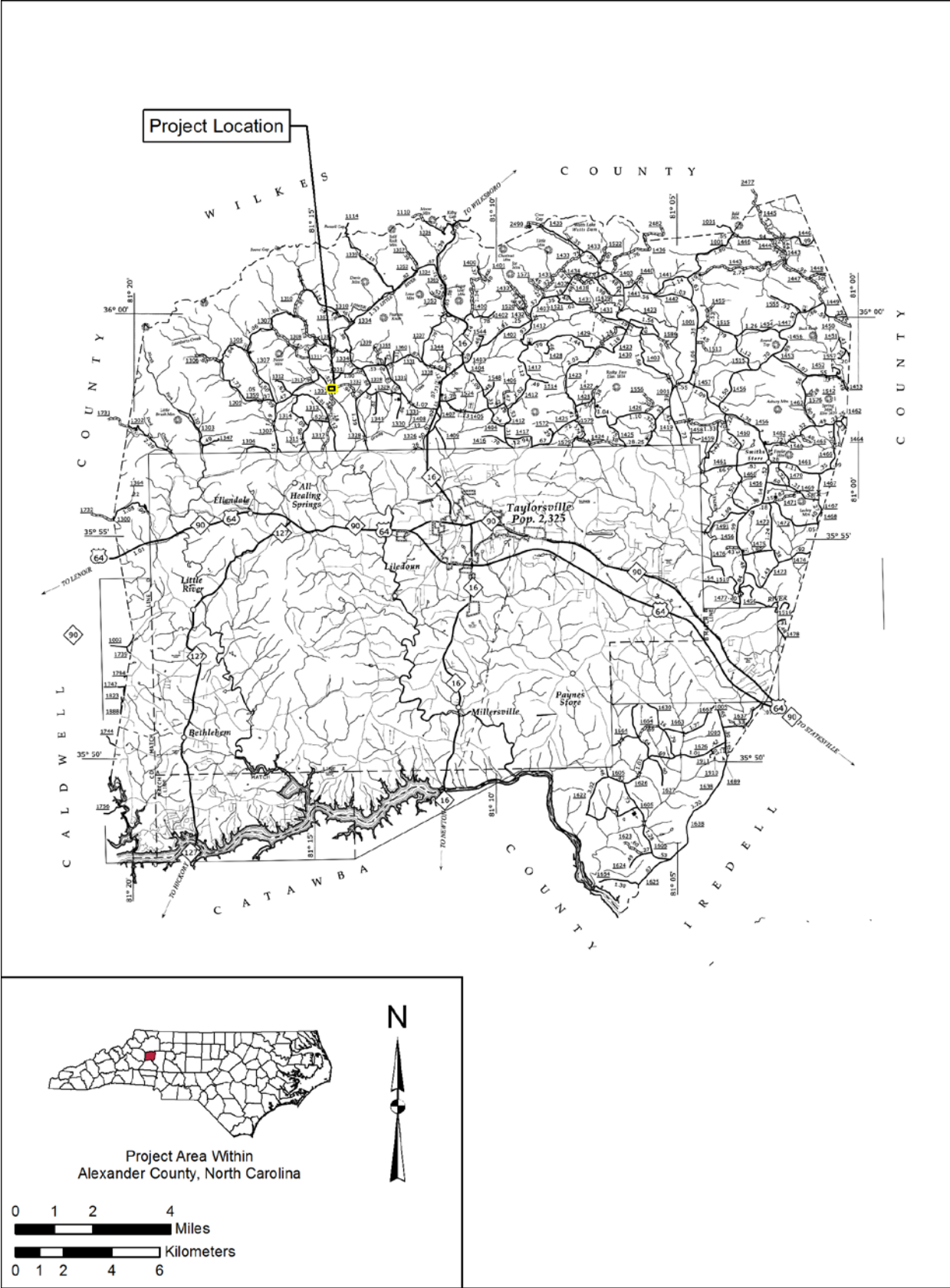
Signed:



NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

12-13-13

Date



Bridge No. 81 Project Location, Alexander County, North Carolina

SOURCE: NCDOT 2013



Aerial Photograph of Project Showing Judgmental Shovel Test Locations

SOURCE: ESRI 2013



Photograph of Northeastern End of the Project Area Showing Sloped and Eroded Terrain at Energy United, Russell Gap Substation, Looking Southwest



Photograph of southwestern end of the project area showing floodplain and Louis Berger archaeologist excavating Shovel Test J2 (looking northeast)

Representative Shovel Test Data from Upland and Floodplain Contexts in the APE

Shovel Test No.	Stratum	Depth Top cm.	Depth Bottom cm.	Munsell	Color	Texture	Artifacts
J3	A	0	25	5YR4/6	yellowish red	sandy clay loam	No
J4	A	0	18	7.5YR4/4	brown	sandy clay loam	No
J4	B	18	40	5YR4/6	yellowish red	sandy clay loam	No
J2	A	0	33	7.5YR4/4	brown	silty clay loam	No
J2	B	33	97	7.5YR4/6	strong brown	sandy loam	No
J7	A	0	63	2.5YR4/4	reddish brown	sandy clay loam	No
J7	B	63	94	7.5YR4/4	brown	silt loam	No