

13-08-0018



**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: **Structure 110034** County: **Burke**
LIBR Data Sheet (PCE) or
WBS No: **17BP.13.R.143** Document: **Minimum Criteria Checklist**
F.A. No: **N/A** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal
Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3 / NWP 14 TVA**

Project Description: NCDOT intends to replace Bridge No. 34 on SR 1907, Rhoney Road, over Rock Creek. The bridge will be replaced on the existing alignment and in the same location; an off-site detour will be utilized during construction. The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as extending 75 feet (22.9 m) from the existing centerline of the road, and 300 feet (91.4 m) from both ends of the existing bridge.

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*)

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

An archaeological investigation of Bridge No. 34 on SR 1907 (Rhoney Road) over Rock Creek in Burke County was conducted in October 2013 by URS Corporation (URS). This included site file research, collection of background environmental data, and a field inspection. Field inspection was carried out on October 21, 2013. Systematic field survey was performed in three of the four quadrants of the APE; the fourth quadrant was not subjected to subsurface testing due to slope. No cultural materials were recovered from the APE.

Based on the results presented, no further archaeological investigations are required for this bridge replacement project. A finding of "no historic properties" is considered appropriate in association with this bridge replacement project. I concur with this recommendation since the proposed bridge replacement will not impact significant archaeological resources. Should the description of this project or design plans change prior to construction, then additional consultation regarding archaeology will be required.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

Other: **Cultural Review provided by URS Corporation**

Signed:



November 6, 2013

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

Date

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

The project area is located on Rock Creek at an elevation of approximately 1060 feet ASL. The APE is located just a short distance to the west of where NC Highway 18 crosses into Catawba County. Bridge 34 crosses Rock Creek just below its confluence with Whitener Creek (FIGURE 1). Rock Creek flows southeast into Jacob Fork.

An examination of the maps and files archived at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology was conducted by NCDOT staff on August 20, 2013 and again by URS Corporation staff on October 17, 2013. The closest recorded archaeological resources are two sites located over a mile to the southeast of the project area, in Catawba County. Site 31CT144, approximately 6400 feet southeast of the project area, was recorded by Novick of the NCDOT in 1988; investigations at the site determined it was the result of cultural materials in transported fill used for a bridge berm that had subsequently washed out into an adjacent agricultural field. 31CT145/145** was also recorded by Novick in 1988. The site was determined not eligible for the NRHP. Early to mid-20th century maps were examined. A 1926 soil map does not depict any nearby structures; however, a 1938 State Highway and Public Works Commission highway map depicts structures to the northeast and northwest of the bridge, with a third structure slightly further away to the southwest. It is likely the depicted structures are in the same approximate location as extant structures, all of which are well outside the current APE.

In the APE, soils are mapped as Colvard sandy loam, 0-3 percent slopes, occasionally flooded (CvA). The CvA soil type is described as present on floodplains, and derived from loamy and sandy alluvium. CvA is prime farmland that is well-drained; flooding frequency is occasional to none. A typical CvA soil profile consists of fine sandy loam overlying gravelly sand subsoil.

A field inspection was made by URS archaeologists on October 21, 2013. Three of the four quadrants warranted subsurface shovel testing (FIGURE 2). The northeast quadrant of the APE consisted of steep slope and so was not shovel tested (FIGURE 3). The northwest quadrant exhibited slope at the terminus of the APE, a freshly plowed field in the central part, and light woods adjacent to Rock Creek (FIGURE 4). One STP was excavated in the wooded area and the plowed portion of the APE was surface inspected; no cultural materials were recovered. Soils in the northwest quadrant consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy loam overlying yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam and then strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay loam. The southeast and southwest quadrants consisted of relatively level ground covered in fallow fields (FIGURE 5, FIGURE 6). Both were shovel tested with three STPs in each. No cultural materials were recovered from the two southern quadrants. Soils in the southwest quadrant exhibited a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy loam overlying strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay loam. In the southeast quadrant, soils were similar, but missing the upper stratum. Strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay loam was at the surface, underlain by yellowish red (5YR 5/6) sandy clay loam.

Based on the field inspection, it was determined that the northwest quadrant of the APE was steeply sloped; this portion was not subjected to systematic subsurface testing. Systematic archaeological survey was performed on the remaining three quadrants of the APE. No cultural materials were recovered. No significant archaeological sites are situated within the APE.

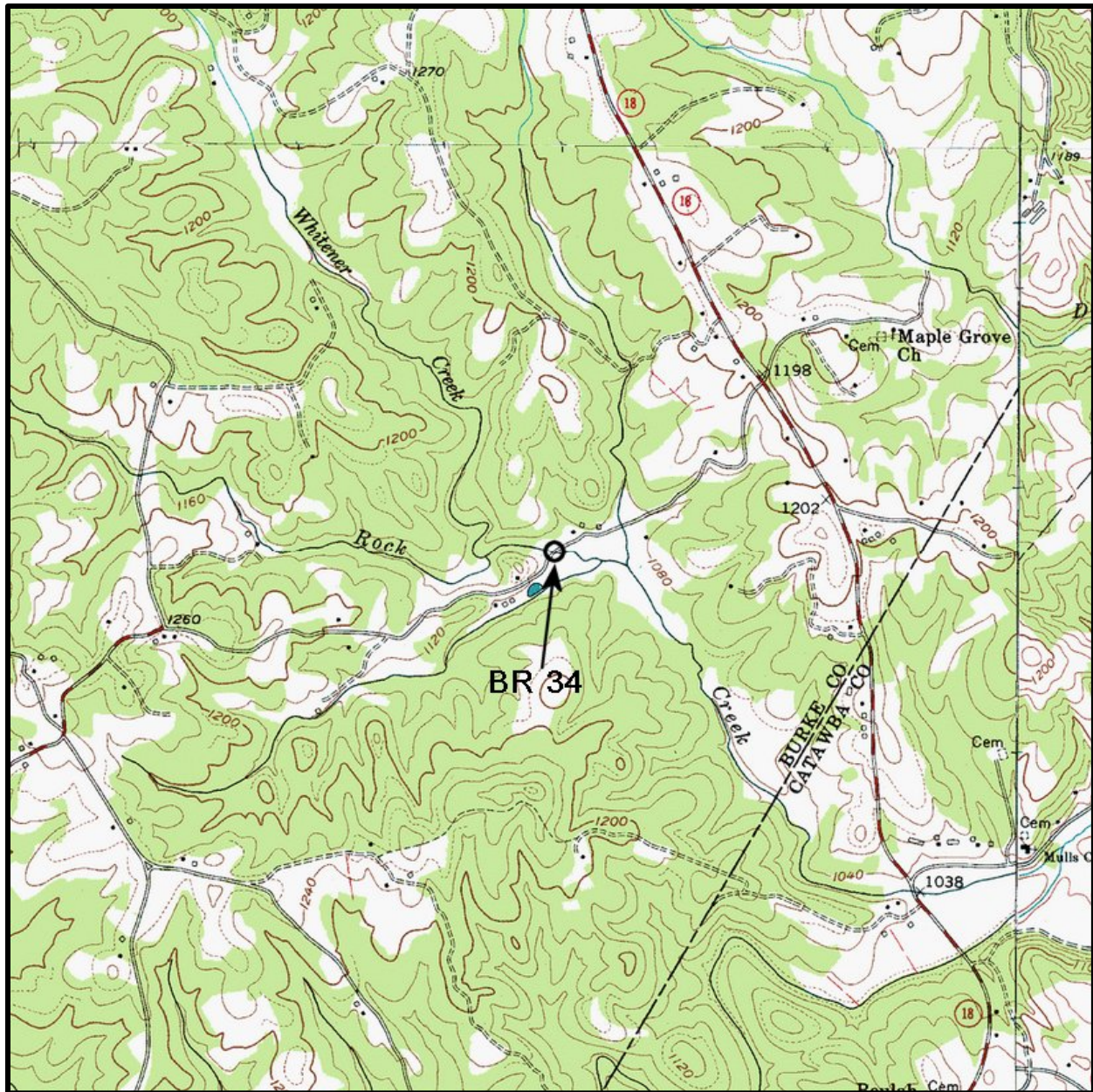


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area (Casar Quad Map [USGS 1956]).



Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of Project Area Depicting Area of Potential Effects (Source: Google Earth 2013).



Figure 3. Northeast quadrant of APE, View North from Southeast Quadrant.



Figure 4. Northwest quadrant of APE, View Southwest.



Figure 5. Southeast quadrant of APE, View Northeast.



Figure 6. Southwest quadrant of APE, View Southwest.