

13-08-0020



**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 110060** County: **Burke**
 WBS No: **17BP.13.R.133** Document: **LIBR Data Sheet (PCE) or 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. 60 on SR 1240, Fish Hatchery Road, over Russell 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, and 300 feet (91.4 m) from each end 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. 60 on SR 1240 (Fish Hatchery Road) over Russell 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 23, 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 steep 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 in a narrow portion of the Russell Creek valley that is adjacent to, but just outside the Pisgah National Forest property (FIGURE 1). The project is situated at an elevation of approximately 1120 feet ASL on Russell Creek, which drains eastward into Irish Creek.

An examination of the maps and files archived at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology was conducted by NCDOT staff on August 19, 2013 and again by URS Corporation staff on October 17, 2013. No recorded sites are present within a half-mile of the project area; however, 34 sites have been recorded within 1.5 miles of the project. Thirty-one sites are relatively tightly clustered to the northwest and north of Bridge No. 60 (the other three are located to the northeast). Sites 31BK184 through 31BK198 are recorded in the uplands to the north and west of the project area. These 15 sites were recorded in 1990 by U.S. Forest Service personnel in conjunction with the Back Creek timber sale. Between a timber compartment that contains sites 31BK184 through 31BK 193 and a separate compartment containing sites 31BK194 through 31BK198 is a cluster of sites identified in 2009 by archaeologists from Southeastern Archaeological Services, Inc. on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with the Roses Creek timber sale. This survey identified 13 sites within 1.5 miles of the current project area (31BK494, 31BK497 through 31BK502, 31BK505 and 31BK506, 31BK509 through 31BK511, and 31BK513). Two more Forest Service sites—31BK514 and 31BK515—were located along Back Creek during studies related to stream bank restoration. The three sites to the northeast—31BK44, 31BK368, and 31BK369—are present just below the confluence of Back Creek with Russell Creek. The site form for 31BK44 had little data to indicate why this site was recorded. Sites 31BK368 and 31BK369, however, were recorded by the NCDOT during studies for improvements to SR 1256 (Kayga Avenue).

Soils on either side of Bridge No. 60 are mapped as Arkaqua loam, 0-2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded (AaA). The eastern and western termini of the APE are mapped as Brevard fine sandy loam, 1-6 percent slopes, rarely flooded (BvB). The AaA soil type is a floodplain soil derived from loamy alluvium. This somewhat poorly-drained soil type is occasionally flooded. A typical AaA soil profile consists of a loamy upper soil strata overlying sandy clay loam and loam subsoils. BvB soils are present on stream terraces. This soil, derived from old loamy alluvium, is well-drained. A typical BvB soil profile consists of fine sandy loam overlying clay loam and, at deeper depths, fine sandy loam and gravelly sandy loam.

A field inspection was made by URS archaeologists on October 23, 2013. Three of the four quadrants were subjected to systematic survey (FIGURE 2). The southeast quadrant consists of slope with a residence located uphill, outside the APE (FIGURE 3). No shovel testing was conducted in the southeast quadrant. The northeast quadrant was subjected to a combination of systematic surface inspection and shovel testing. Recent plowing in the northeast quadrant offered surface visibility in excess of 90% (FIGURE 4). Surface inspection of the entire plowed area within the APE failed to identify cultural materials. In addition, three shovel tests at 30 meter intervals were excavated; no cultural materials were recovered from the STPs. Soils in the northeast quadrant consisted of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy loam overlying strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) sandy clay loam. Similarly, the southwest quadrant was subjected to both surface inspection and shovel testing (FIGURE 5). Surface visibility in much of the southwest quadrant was 90% or greater; no cultural materials were observed during the inspection. Three STPs at 30 meter intervals were excavated. Proceeding away from Russell Creek, the first two STPs were located on a lower floodplain within the plowed area while the third was excavated on a slightly higher T1 terrace within an overhead utility corridor. The lower two STPs exhibited soils identical to those described above for the northeast quadrant. The higher STP on the T1 terrace consisted of strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) gravelly sand overlying strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6) silty sand with very light gravel, which was in turn underlain by light gray (10YR 7/2) clayey sand. No cultural materials were recovered from the STPs in the southwest quadrant. The northwest quadrant was covered with rows of immature trees being grown for a nursery (FIGURE 6). Three STPs at 30 meter intervals were excavated in the northwest

quadrant. No cultural materials were recovered from these STPs. Soils in all three STPs were identical to those described above for the northeast quadrant.

Based on the field inspection, it was determined that the northeast quadrant of the APE was heavily 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.

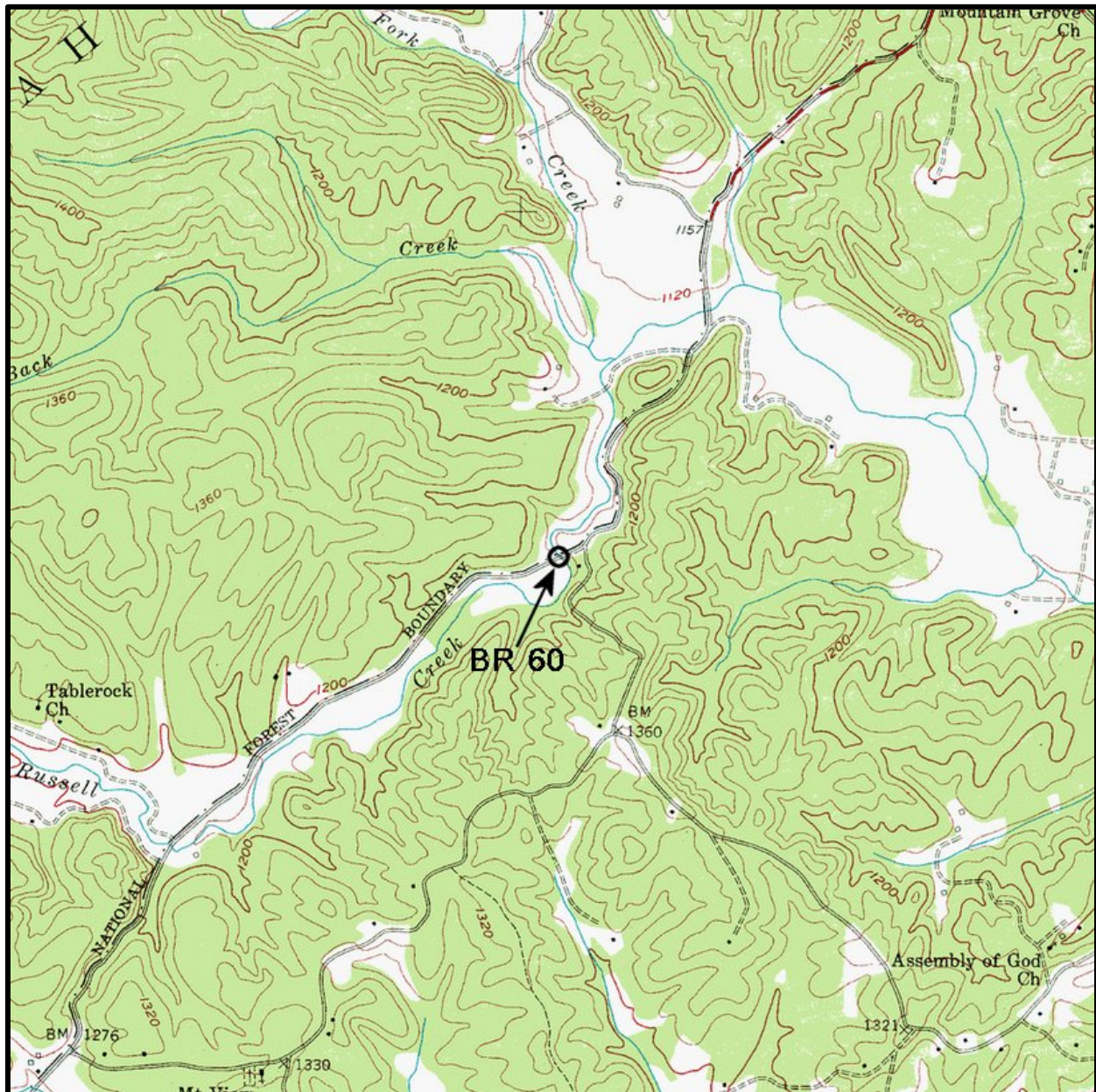


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area (Oak Hill Quad Map [USGS 1993]).



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



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



Figure 4. Northeast quadrant of APE, View East.



Figure 5. Southwest quadrant of APE, View East toward Russell Creek.



Figure 6. Northwest quadrant of APE, View East.