

13-08-0043



NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REQUIRED 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.# 490164** County: **Jackson**
 WBS No: **17BP.14.R.105** Document: **Minimum Criteria Sheet**
 F.A. No: **NA** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal
 Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3, NWP 14, & TVA**

Project Description:

The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 164 on SR 1462 (Woodfin Road) over the Woodfin Creek in Jackson County. The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as a 640-foot (195.07 m) long corridor running 320 feet (97.54 m) east and 320 feet west along Woodfin Road from the center of Bridge No. 164. The corridor is approximately 150 feet (45.72 m) wide extending 75 feet (22.86 m) on either side of the road from its present center.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

Bridge No. 64 is located northeast of Sylva, south of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and just west of Balsam in the northeastern section of Jackson County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted in the western half of the Hazelwood USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

A map review and site file search was conducted at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on August 20, 2013. No previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified within the APE or within a mile radius of bridge. In addition, no existing National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Locally Designated (LD), Determined Eligible (DE), State Study Listed (SL), or Surveyed Site (SS) properties are within or adjacent to the archaeological APE according to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2013). Topographic maps, USDA soil survey maps, aerial photographs (NC One Map), and historic maps (North Carolina maps website) were examined for information on environmental and cultural variables that may have contributed to prehistoric or historic settlement within the project limits and to assess the level of ground disturbance.

Bridge No. 64 and Woodfin Road cross Woodfin Creek roughly east to west. Woodfin Creek flows south and is a tributary to Scott Creek. These waterways are part of the Little Tennessee drainage basin. The APE is situated within the drainageway with narrow benches and mountain side slopes on either side (Figure 2). A stream confluence within Woodfin Creek and an unnamed tributary is north of the bridge. The surrounding area is mostly forested, but residential properties are present in the northwest quadrant along the bench. Ground disturbance appears to consist of utilities, past road improvements, and landscaping on the residential properties.

The review of the USDA soil survey map shows that the majority of the APE is composed of the Cullasaja-Tuckasegee complex (CuC; CuD) with the Evard-Cowee complex (EvE) occupying a small area to the east (see Figure 3). The Cullasaja-Tukasegee complex consists of well drained sandy loam

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soils with a heavy concentration of cobbles. Slope along the CuC variety is between 8 and 15 percent, while the CuD is much steeper at 15 to 30 percent. Although the soil map depicts CuC as covering most of the APE, the contour map indicates that slope is greater than the reported 15 percent. This suggests that the area described as CuC is exaggerated. More than likely the mountain side slopes within the APE are composed of the neighboring Evard-Cowee complex. This series is typical found along the sides of mountains, hills, or ridges. It consists of well drained loamy soils with a steep slope of 30 to 50 percent. Landforms with a slope of 15 percent or more rarely yield significant archaeological sites. As a result, it is unlikely a subsurface investigation will provide positive results for archaeological sites and is not recommended.

The site file review identified only a few archaeological investigations in the nearby area. These investigations have yielded negative results for archaeological sites within a mile of the bridge. More work is needed throughout the area before any firm conclusions can be drawn on site predictability based upon known sites, but the current project will not provide the data needed as the soils are strongly sloping within the APE.

Finally, a historic map review was carried out. Most maps prior to the 20th century provide few details illustrating just major routes and settlements. The USGS 1907 Cowee topographic map is one of the earliest to show the project area with any accuracy (Figure 4). This map illustrates a road alignment similar to Woodfin Road, but it appears to be west of Woodfin Creek having crossed the waterway further downstream. Historic structures depicted on the map also seem to be well outside the project limits. Later maps from the early 20th century provide no additional or useful information due to their scale and/or schematic nature. Overall, it appears unlikely any deposits associated with former historic structures will be encountered within the APE

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

The defined archaeological APE for the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 164 is located along mountain side slope and benches found along the Woodfin Creek. It is unlikely intact and significant archaeological deposits will be present within the APE. This is due to slope of 15 percent or more within the APE and former disturbance associated with the residential properties along the bench in the northwest quadrant. Also, the historic maps suggest that no former historic structures or features are within the APE. As long as impacts to the subsurface occur within the defined APE, no further archaeological work is recommended for the replacement of Bridge No. 164 in Jackson County. If construction should affect subsurface areas beyond the defined APE, further archaeological consultation might be necessary.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info
☐ Photocopy of County Survey Notes

☒ Photos ☐ Correspondence
 Other: **Images from historic maps**

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

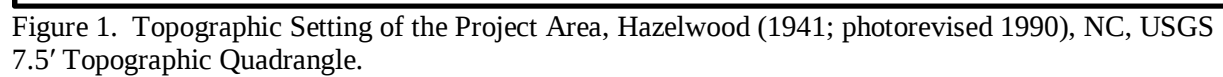
NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED



C. Damon Jones
 NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

8/29/13

Date



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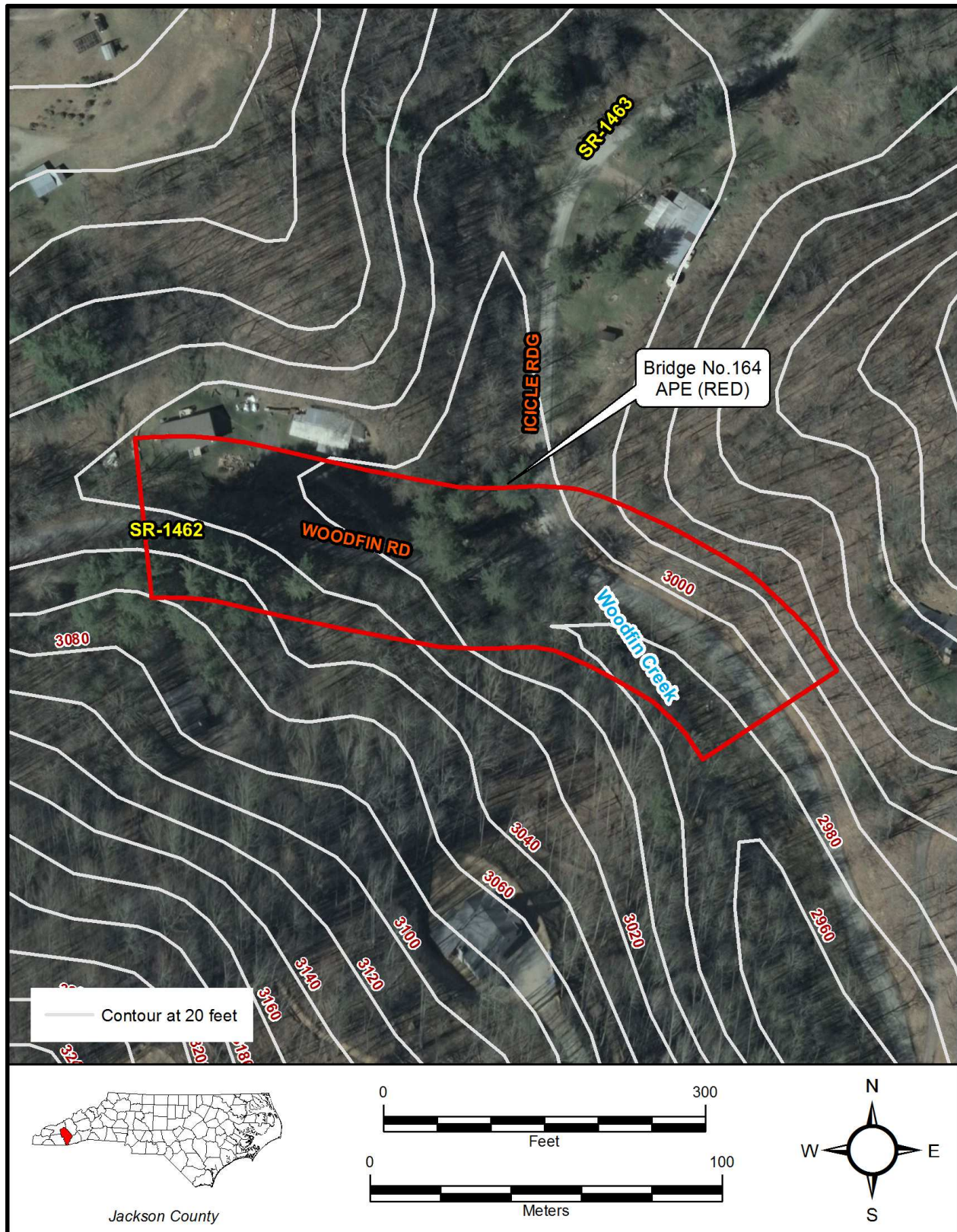


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development and landforms within and near the project area.

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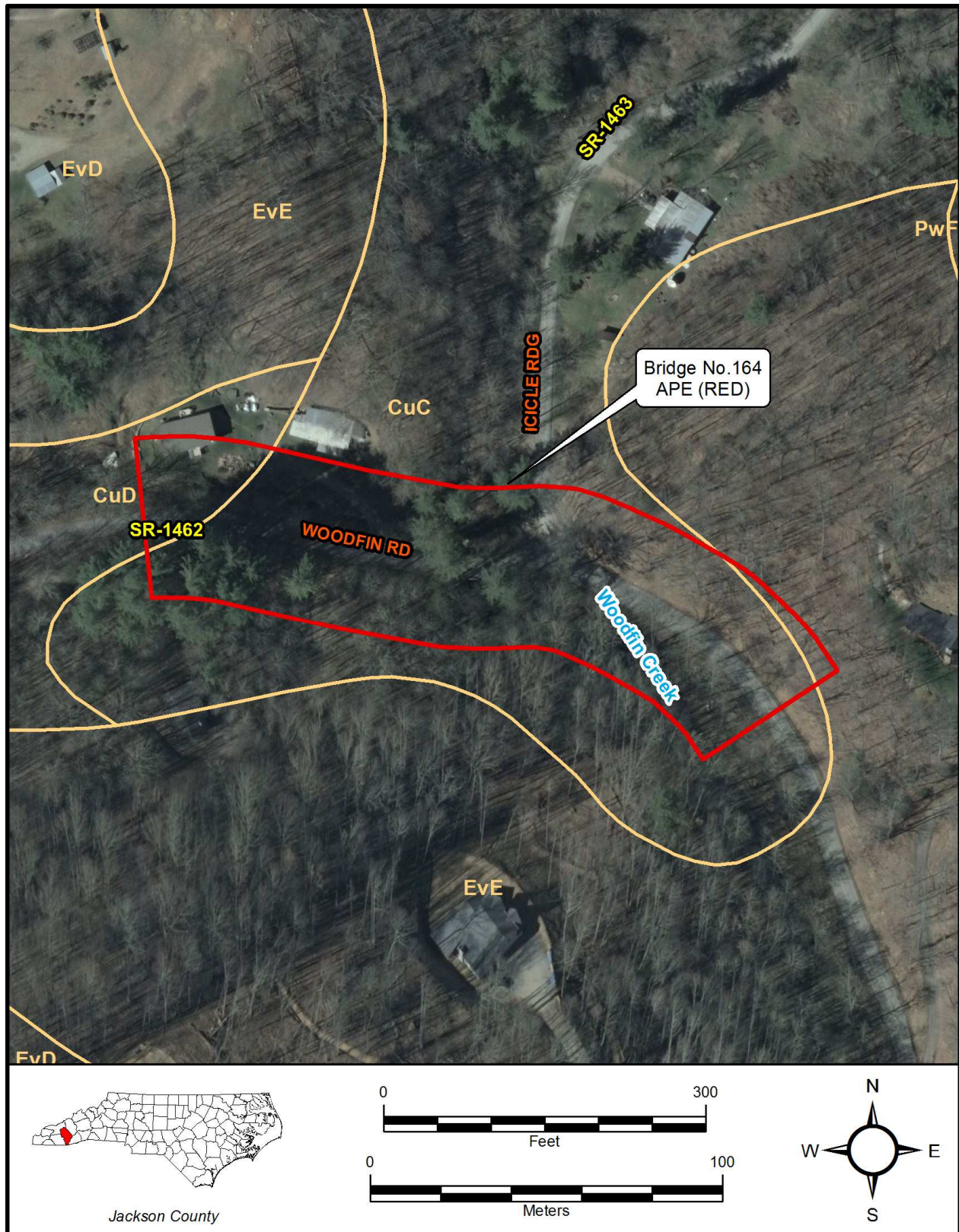


Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development and soils within and near the project area.

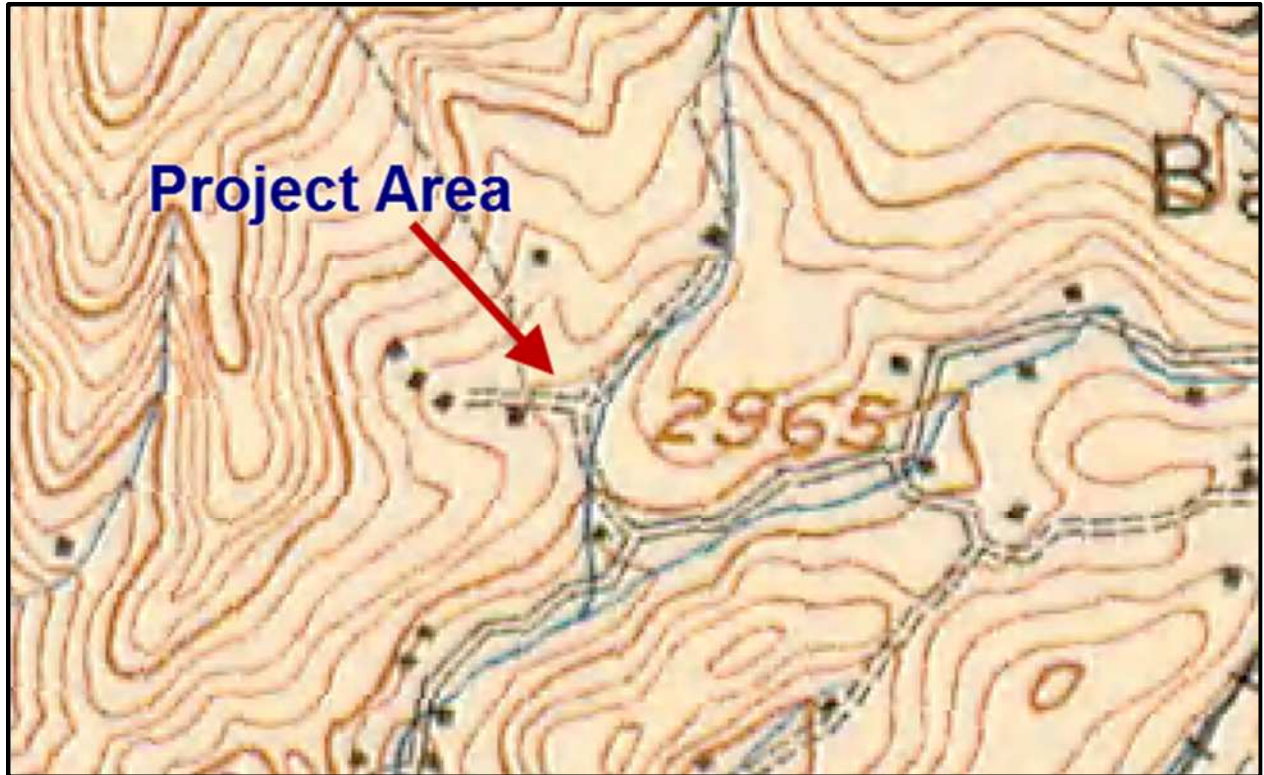


Figure 4. The 1907 USGS Cowee topographic map showing the location of the project area.