

13-08-0044



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.# 490182** County: **Jackson**
 WBS No: **17BP.14.R.106** Document: **Minimum Criteria**
 F.A. No: **n/a** 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. 182 on SR 1747 (Johns Creek Road) over Johns Creek in Jackson County. The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as a 600-foot (182.88 m) long corridor running 300 feet (91.44 m) north and 300 feet south along Johns Creek Road from the center of Bridge No. 182. 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW: SURVEY REQUIRED

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

Bridge No. 182 is located south of Waynesville, southwest of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and northeast of the Tuckasegee River in the eastern section of Jackson County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted in the southeastern portion of the Tuckasegee 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 are reported within the APE, but two known sites (31JK271 and 31JK272) are located within a mile radius of the bridge. Also, no existing National Register (NRHP), Determined Eligible (DE), State Study Listed (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) properties are within or adjacent to the study area according to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2013). However, an unidentified Survey Site (SS) structure (JK 026-2) is found within the southeastern quadrant of the APE (Figure 2). Topographic maps, USDA soil survey maps, aerial photographs (NC One Map), historic maps (North Carolina maps website), and Google Street View application 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. 182 and Johns Creek Road cross Johns Creek roughly north to south. The creek drains south and west and is a tributary to Caney Fork. These waterways are part of the Little Tennessee drainage basin. The APE is situated primarily along mountain side slopes, but it appears a bench is present to the south (see Figure 2). A stream confluence with Johns Creek and Rich Mountain Branch is located approximately 40 m (ca. 130 ft) east of the bridge. From aerial photographs and Google Street View, the project area is made up of residential properties, small garden plots, forest, and areas of dense secondary growth. As the Street View image is unclear, the unidentified Survey Site structure is either a barn or a renovated residential property. Ground disturbance to the APE from utilities and past road improvements appears minimal except for cuts into the side slope to allow for the road.

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According to the USDA soil survey map, the Cullasaja-Turkasegee complex (CuC) covers nearly the entire project area (Figure 3). These are well drained sandy loam soils with a heavy concentration of cobbles. It is typically found along benches and toe slopes with a slope of 8 to 15 percent. However, slope appears to be greater than 15 percent along the side slopes based upon the contour intervals. More than likely the neighboring Evard-Cowee complex (EvE) or the CuD variety of the Cullasaja-Turkasegee complex occupies the steeply sloping portions of the APE. Slope in these areas can be as great as 50 percent. In general, it is unlikely for significant archaeological sites to be found on slope of 15 percent or more. As a result, no subsurface testing is required along steep slope.

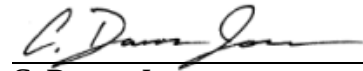
A review of the site files show that the only archaeological investigation in the area was conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in 1992. This resulted in the identification of just two sites (31JK271 and 31JK272) in the nearby vicinity. Site 31JK271 is a prehistoric lithic scatter situated on a ridge toe, while 31JK272 is a rock pile possible associated with field clearing along a stream terrace. Both sites are ineligible for the NRHP. Additional work is needed throughout the area before any firm conclusions can be drawn on site predictability based upon known sites in the area.

Finally, a historic map review was carried out. Most maps prior to the 20th centuries provide only general details concerning the region illustrating just major roads and settlements. The 1907 USGS Cowee topographic map is one of the first in which the project area could be located (Figure 4). This map depicts an unimproved road near the project area, but this road is situated further upslope from the present road. It runs north of Johns Creek having crossed the drainage further downstream. A historic structure to the north of Johns Creek is also depicted on this map, but the currently unidentified Survey Site structure is plotted south of the creek. It would appear that these are not the same structure, or this could be an error. Subsequent maps such as the 1938 North Carolina State Highway map for Jackson County continue to show the road well north of the creek along with several structures (Figure 5). All appear to be outside of the APE. It is not until the 1940s that maps are produced illustrating a road closer to the modern alignment of Johns Creek Road and showing what seems to be the Survey Site structure. Although it appears unlikely for any significant deposits associated with former structures to be encountered within the APE, the origin of the Survey Site structure is not clearly known. It is possible that it could date from the late 19th to early 20th century and produce associated archaeological deposits. An archaeological survey could provide insight.

A preliminary background investigation suggests that further work is needed within the proposed project area along the bench if slope is less than 15 percent. It is possible that archaeological deposits could be found in this setting on well drained soils with a stream confluence nearby. In addition, the Survey Site structure could yield associated archaeological deposits that might provide new information on the historic settlement of the region. Archaeological investigations in the form of a reconnaissance survey and subsurface testing is recommended within the APE in order to record possible significant resources that might be impacted by the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 182 in Jackson County. However, no subsurface testing is needed along the side slope if slope exceeds 15 percent.

13-08-0044**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info ☒ Photos ☐ Correspondence
☐ Photocopy of County Survey Notes Other: **Images from historic maps**

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST – SURVEY REQUIRED

C. Damon Jones
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

8/30/13

Date

1/31/14

Proposed fieldwork completion date

13-08-0044

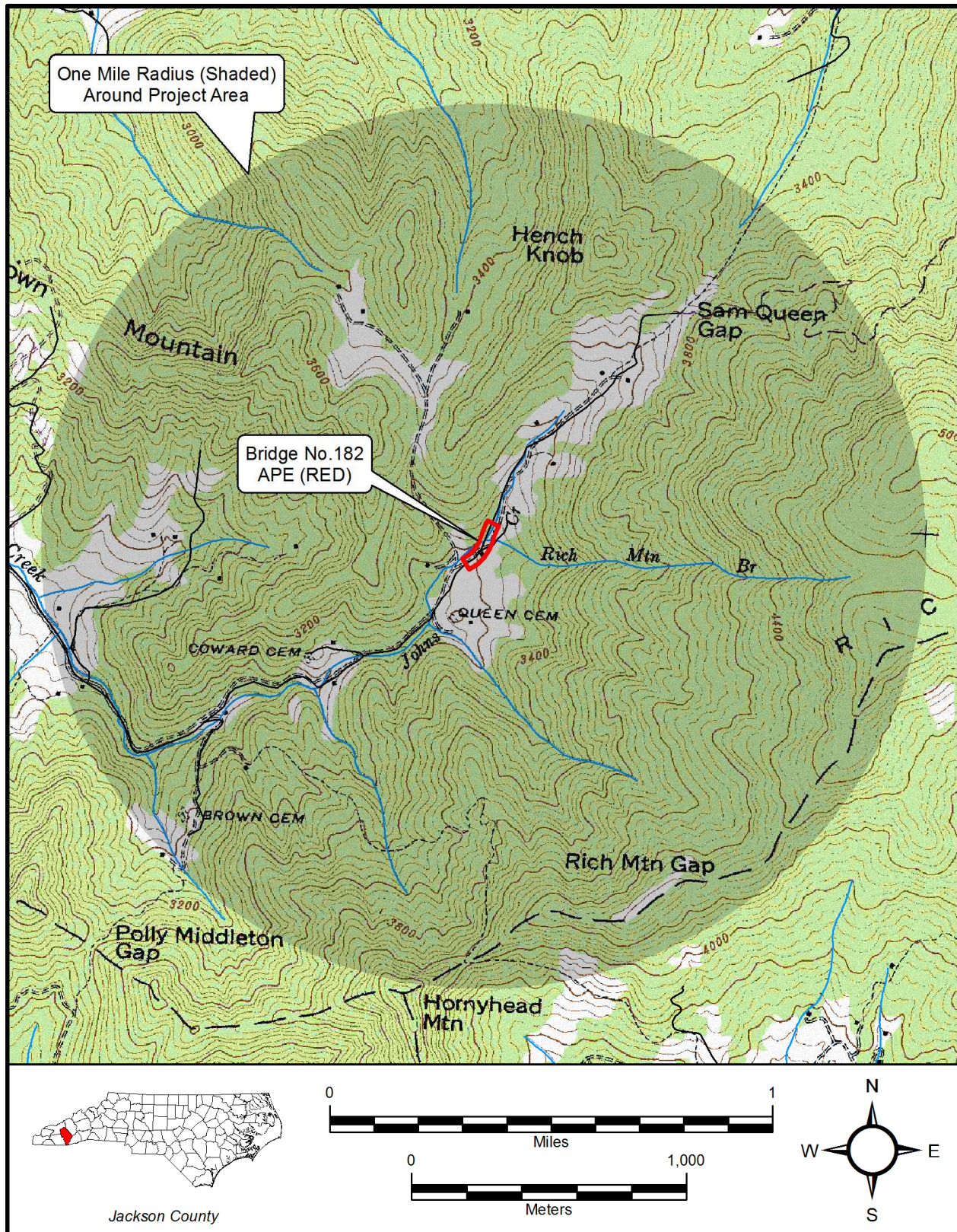


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Tuckasee (1946; photorevised 1978; photoinspected 1987), NC, USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.

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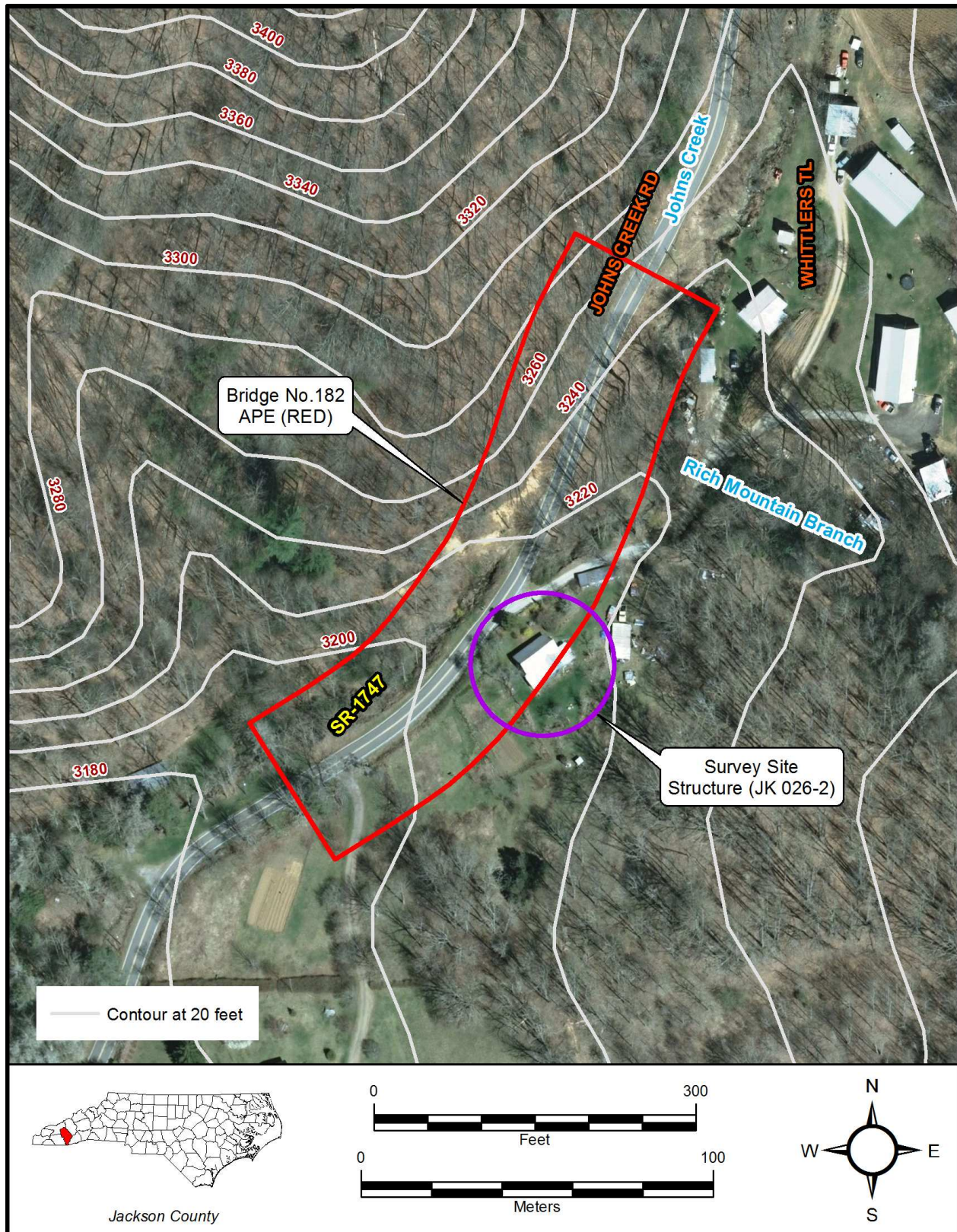


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development, landforms, and the location of the Survey Site Structure within and near the project area.

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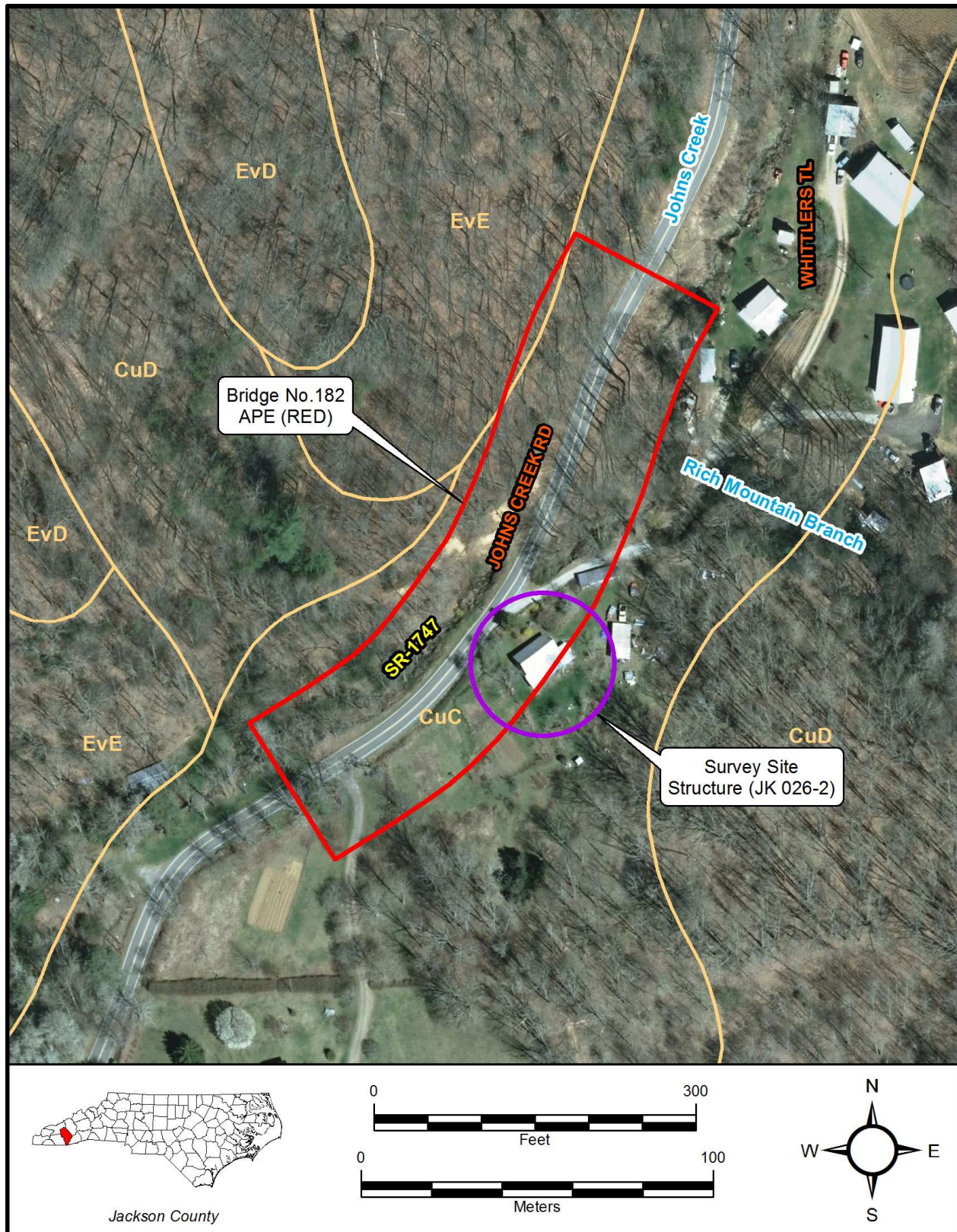


Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development, soils, and the location of the Survey Site Structure within and near the project area.

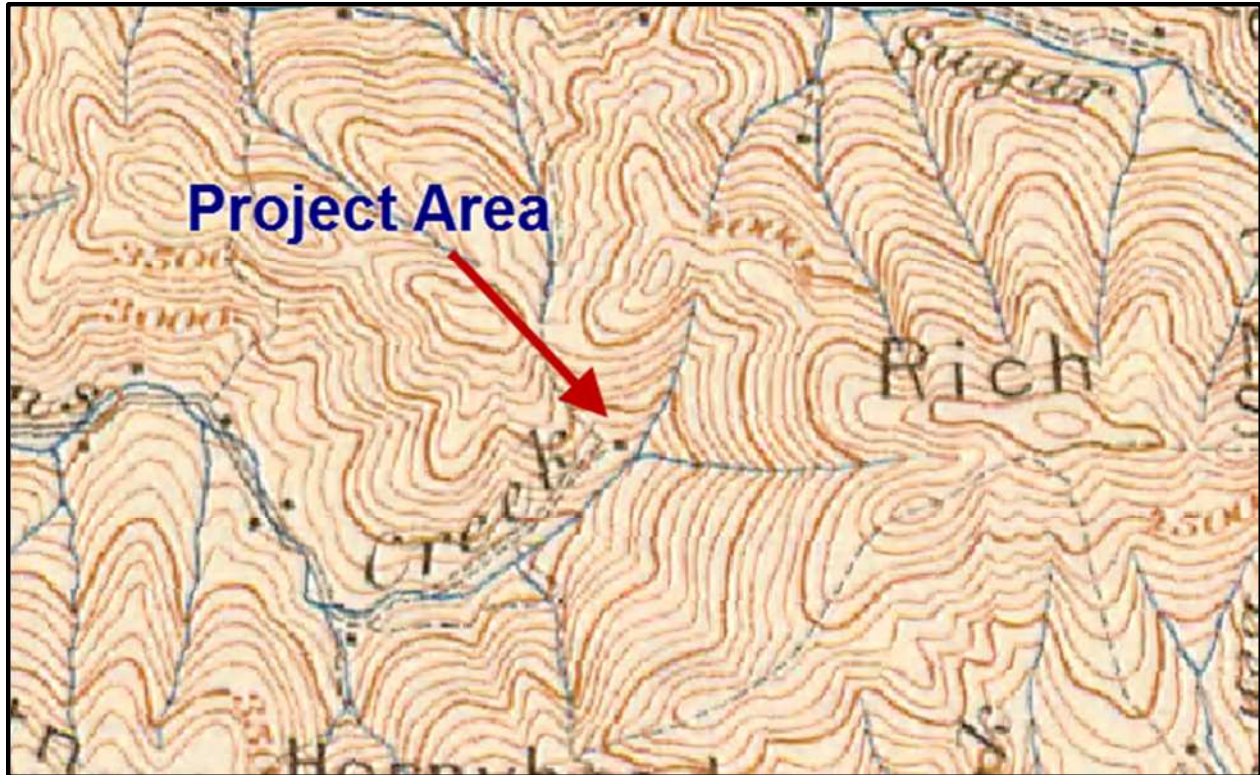


Figure 4. The 1907 USGS Cowee topographic map showing the location of the project area.

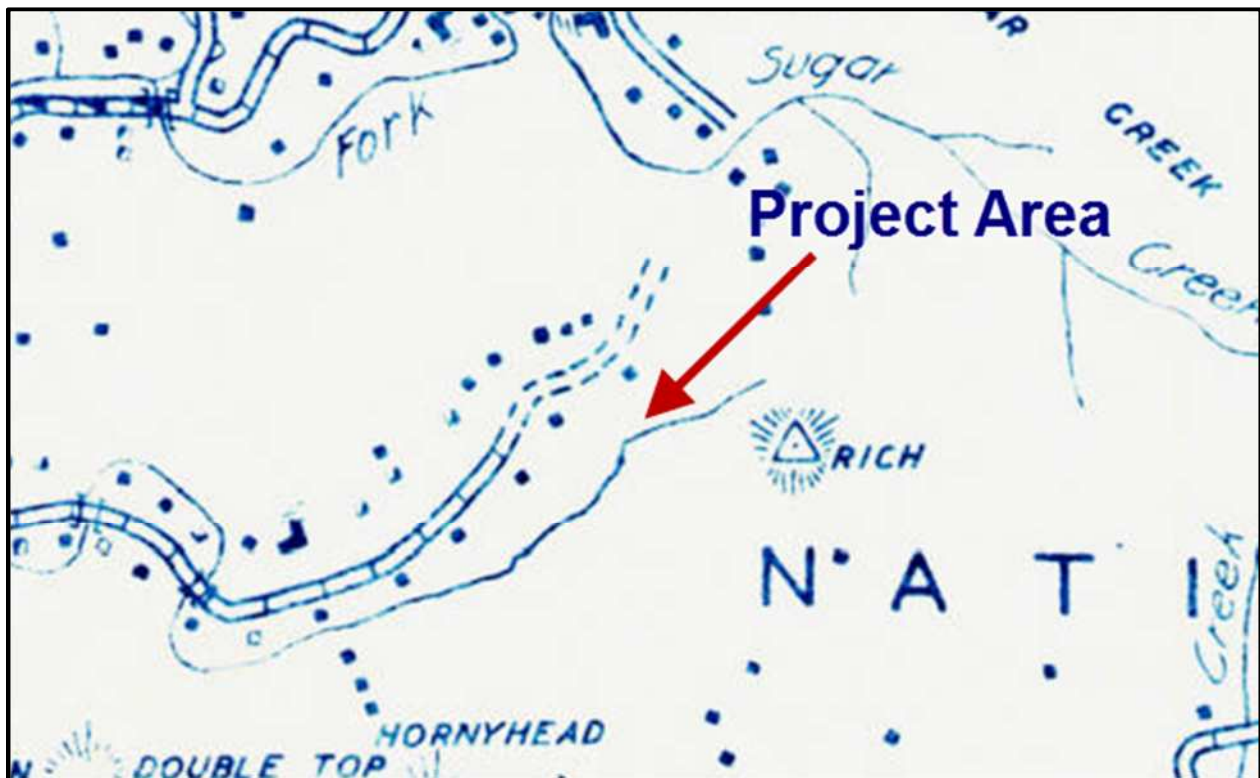


Figure 5. The 1938 North Carolina State Highway map of Jackson County showing the location of the project area.