



## 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: **Bridge 142** County: **Alleghany**  
 WBS No: **17BP.11.R.133** Document: **Minimum Criteria**  
 F.A. No: **na** Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal

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

### Project Description:

The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 142 on SR 1319 (Piney Post Office Road) over Potato Creek in Alleghany 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) northwest and 300 feet southeast along Piney Post Office Road from the center of Bridge No. 142. 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. 142 is located northwest of Sparta and just south of the Virginia border in the northwest corner of Alleghany County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted at the eastern edge of the Mouth of Wilson USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

A site file search was conducted at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on October 31, 2016. No previously recorded archaeological sites have been identified within the APE, but four sites (31AL22–31AL24 and ALL-511) are reported within a mile radius of bridge. According to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office online data base (HPOWEB 2016), there are no known historic architectural resources within the APE that may yield intact archaeological deposits. 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. 142 and Piney Post Office Road cross Potato Creek from northwest to the southeast. Potato Creek drains north into the New River. The APE resides within the Potato Creek floodplain with hillsides to the north and south (Figure 2). The aerial image suggests that the APE is forested north and east of Piney Post Office Road, while open agricultural property is to the south and west. Ground disturbance is minimal is from ditches alongside the road and maybe past timber harvesting.

The USDA soil survey map for the area displays three soil types within the APE (Figure 3). The floodplain is composed of the Codorus complex (Cx). This silt loam is somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained, nearly level, and subject to frequent floods. Adequate drainage is needed before the soil is suited for settlement activities. As a result, it is unlikely for significant archaeological site to be found due to persistent wetness within the floodplain. The hillside to the east of Potato Creek consists of Chandler silt loam (CaF). Although this soil type is well drained, it is steep with a slope of 25 to 45 percent. Typically, slope of 15 percent or more is unlikely to contain significant archaeological resources.

Lastly, the hillside west of the creek is reported to be Tate loam (TaC), but this is likely a mistake. The Tate series is identified as having a slope of 6 to 10 percent; however the hillside appears to be much steeper according to the LIDAR contour image (see Figure 2). More than likely, the Tate series has been misplotted and does not extend this far south. The neighboring Watauga loam (WaE) is a more probably soil types found along this section of the hillside. This series is well drained with a slope of 10 to 25 percent. As with the Chandler series, it is unlikely significant cultural resources will be present due to the steep slope.

A review of the site files shows few investigations within the vicinity of the project area. These have mostly occurred to the south and have resulted in the identification of four (31AL22–31AL24 and ALL-511) nearby archaeological sites. Sites 31AL22–31AL24 were recorded during NCDOT's investigations for the replacement of Bridge No. 12 over Potato Creek (TIP B-1011) in 1992. Site 31AL22 is a prehistoric isolated find consisting of a lithic flake, while Sites 31AL23 and 31AL24 are historic sites associated with structures. Sites 31AL22 and 31AL24 were determined ineligible for the National Register, and site 31AL23 remains unassessed. The last site (ALL-511) is reported by a local artifact collector and has not yet received a proper site number. No additional information other than is supposed location is known. Overall, all four sites are situated on gentle sloping ridges or ridge toes unlikely the setting for the current project area. The lack of known sites along floodplains and side slopes in the region suggests that it is unlikely for archaeological resources to be within the APE.

A historic map review was also conducted. Most early maps from the 18th and 19th centuries provide only general details concerning the region illustrating just major roads and settlements. The 1892 USGS Wytheville topographic map is likely one of the first to give an approximate location for the project area (Figure 3). This map depicts Potato Creek, but no road is illustrated in the vicinity. The subsequent 1915 *Soil Survey Map for Alleghany County*, however, does show road to the west of the current road (Figure 4). Although this road follows a similar alignment as Piney Post Office Road, it does not cross Potato Creek at the current bridge but further to the south. Also, no historic structures are shown in the area. From this map review, it is unlikely that deposits associated with former 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. 142 is located within the Prather Creek floodplain and along neighboring hillsides. It is unlikely intact and significant archaeological deposits will be present within the project area. This is due to poorly drained and persistently wet soils within the floodplain and steep slopes along the hillsides. Also, the historic maps suggest that no former historic structures and/or features are in the area. As long as impacts to the subsurface occur within the defined APE, no further archaeological work is recommended for the replacement of Bridge No. 142 in Alleghany County. If construction should affect subsurface areas beyond the defined APE, further archaeological consultation might be necessary.

16-10-0025

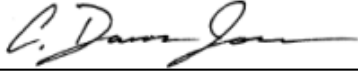
**SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION**

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

☐ Photos ☐ Correspondence  
Other: **images of historic maps**

**FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST**

NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED



**10/31/16**

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C. Damon Jones  
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

Date

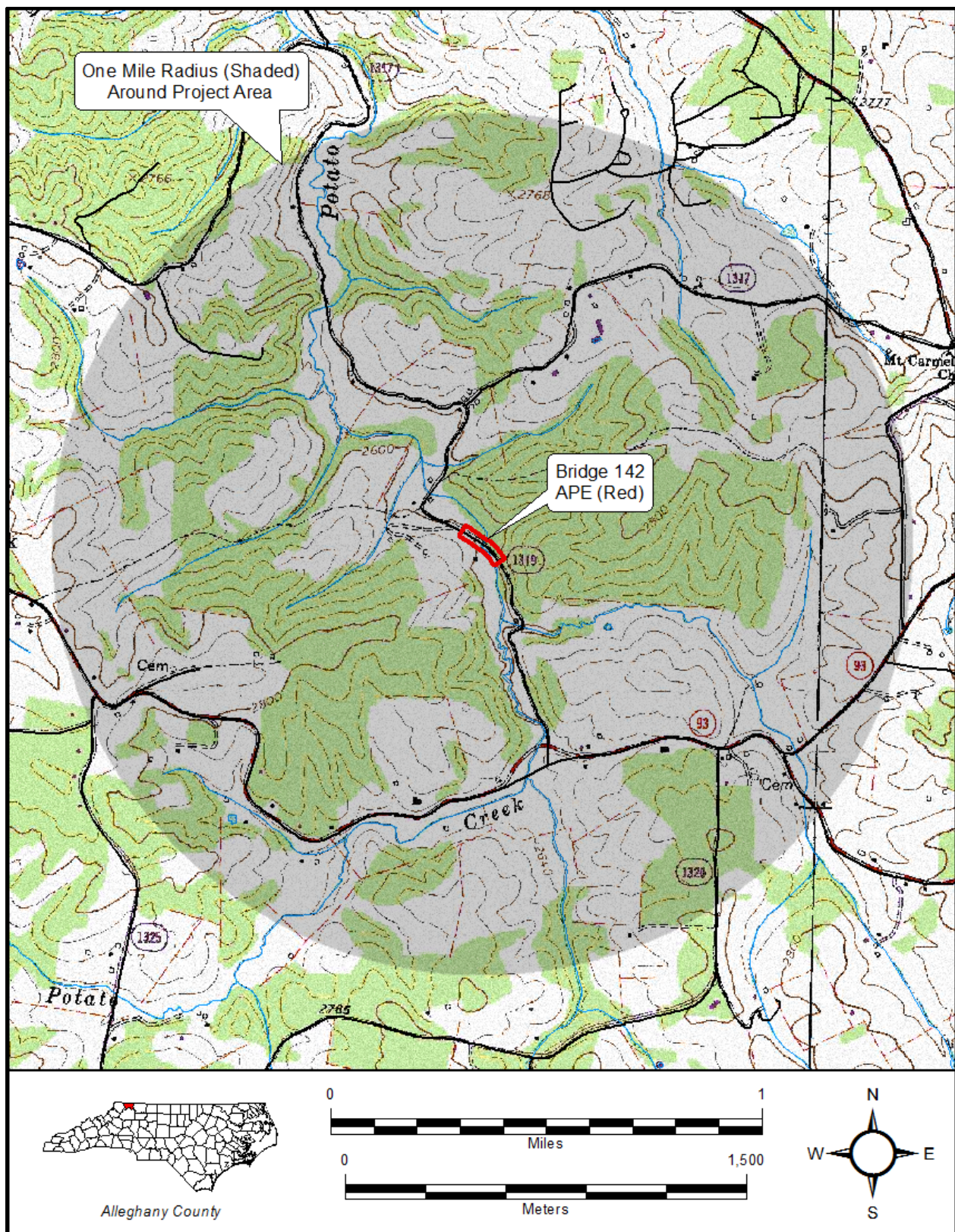


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Mouth of Wilson (1966; photorevised 1991), NC USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle.

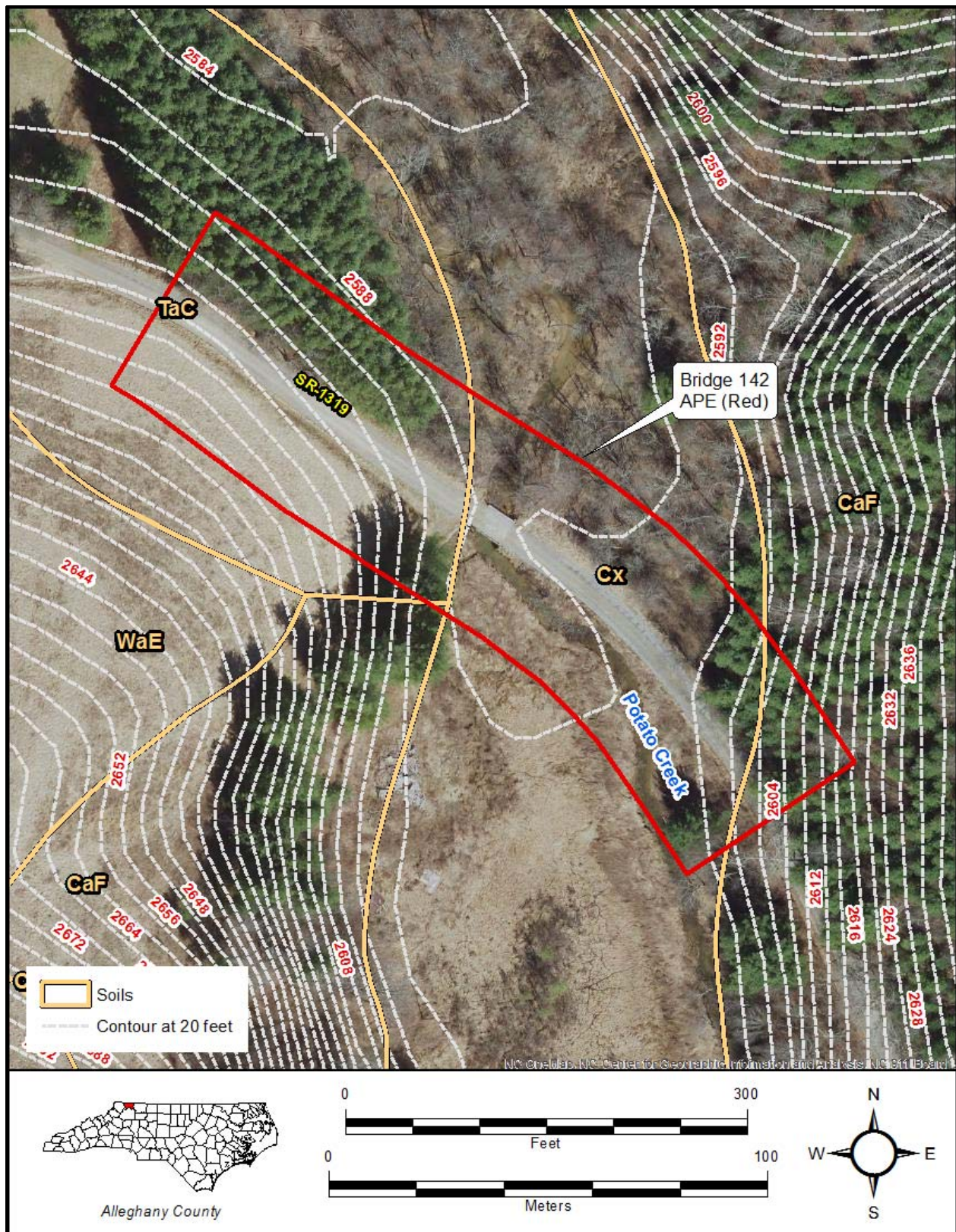


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development, contours, and soils within and near the project area.

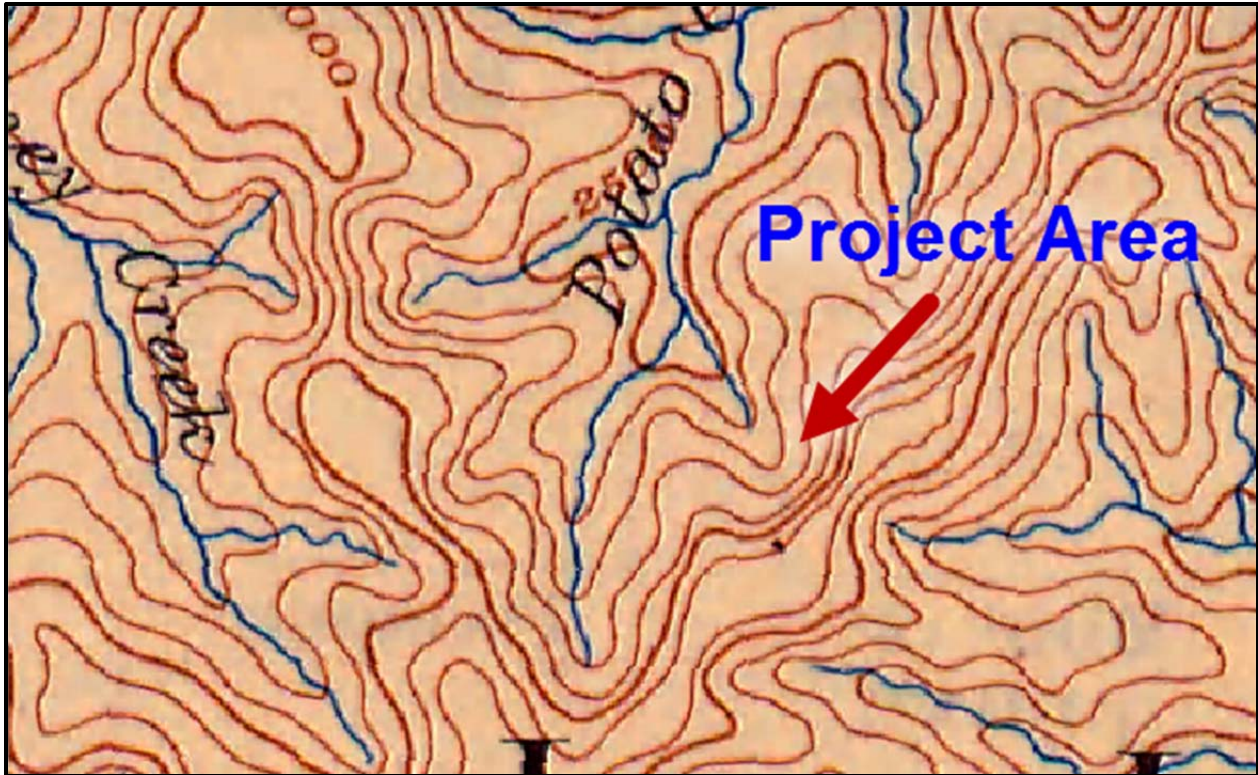


Figure 3. The 1892 USGS Wytheville topographic map showing the location of the project area.

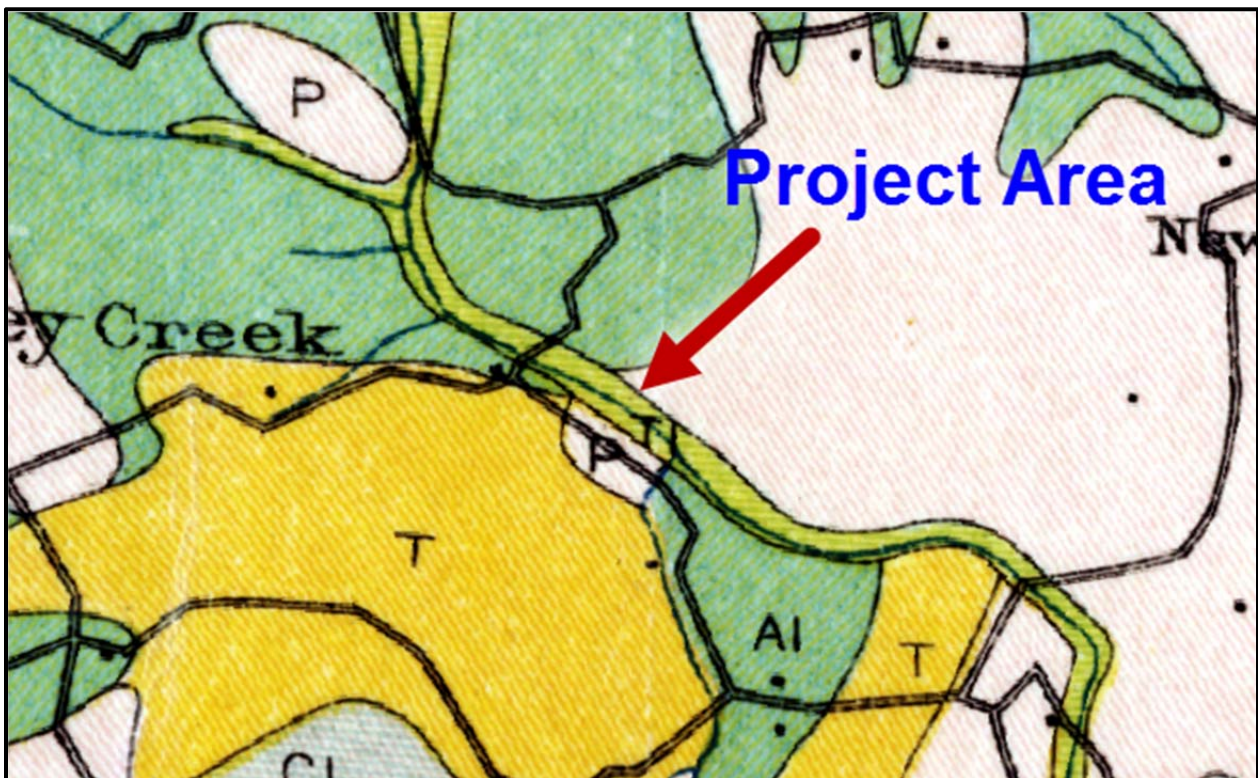


Figure 4. The 1915 Soil Survey Map for Allegheny County showing the location of the project area.