



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: _____ County: Avery
 WBS No: 17BP.11.R.127 Document: Minimum Criteria Checklist
 Federal Aid No: _____ Funding: ☒ State ☐ Federal
 Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No Permit Type: **NWP 3 / NWP 14**

Project Description: Replace Bridge 79 on SR 1341 (Banner Creek Rd.) over the Elk River in Avery County. The Area of Potential Effects (A.P.E.) is approximately 183 meters (600 ft.) long and 46 meters (150 ft.) wide. The A.P.E. includes the area within 92 meters (300 ft.) from each end of the bridge and 23 meters (75 ft.) from centerline on each side of the road. No design plans provided.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

NOTE: An archaeological survey of the A.P.E. was recommended on 11/30/2016. The recommendation was changed to no survey required after a reconnaissance of the project area.

The review included an examination of a topographic map, an aerial photograph, and listings of previously recorded sites, previous archaeological surveys, and previous environmental reviews at the Office of State Archaeology (O.S.A.). Also, an archaeological reconnaissance of the A.P.E. was conducted on 12/6/2016. The bridge is oriented approximately north-south.

The topographic map (Valle Crucis, N.C.) shows the A.P.E. is located in a wide valley. The landforms in all four quadrants of the A.P.E. appear to be level floodplain/terrace. The Elk River flows approximately north-south and the bridge is oriented north-south, so the northwest and southeast quadrants are narrow strips of land between NC 184 and the river (northwest quadrant) and SR 1341 and the river (southeast quadrant). The southwest quadrant is a level floodplain between Sugar Creek to the west and the Elk River. The northeast quadrant is a level floodplain or terrace along the east side of SR 1341 (and NC 184). SR 1341 joins NC 184 a short distance north of the bridge. There are two structures in the A.P.E. along the east side of NC 184.

The aerial photograph (with topography/slope lines) shows that most of the northeast quadrant is occupied by a driveway, the intersection with NC 184, and a parking lot. The north end of the A.P.E. is a residential yard. The northwest quadrant is a narrow strip of land between NC 184 and the river. The southwest quadrant is undeveloped. The slope lines show the landform is sloped in this quadrant (the topographic map depicts the landform as a floodplain/terrace between Sugar Creek and the Elk River). Most of the A.P.E. in the southeast quadrant is a narrow strip between SR 1341 and the river. SR 1341 curves to the west at the south end of the A.P.E., so there is a wider strip of level land at the south end.

A review of information at the O.S.A. shows there are several previously recorded sites near the A.P.E. Site 31AV17 is located a short distance west of the southwest quadrant. Site 31AV20 is located a short distance south of the southeast quadrant. These sites were recorded by Ayers (1977) during the survey of a proposed sewer line. (The report does not show the location of the surveyed area.) Site 31AV17 was interpreted as a Late Archaic (Savannah River phase) campsite, and also the site of a 19th and 20th century road. Site 31AV20 was interpreted a prehistoric campsite. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered. Neither site was evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A tract a short distance south of the A.P.E. has been surveyed. Moore (2004) surveyed the 28-acre tract for a proposed Lowe's retail store. The survey identified five archaeological sites along both sides of the Elk River, all recommended ineligible for the NRHP. The A.P.E. is not within the boundaries of any projects that have been previously reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

As noted above, the initial review of this project (11/30/2016) recommended an archaeological survey of the southwest and southeast quadrants. A reconnaissance of the project was conducted by NCDOT archaeologists Damon Jones and Caleb Smith on 12/6/2016. The reconnaissance found that the landforms in both of those quadrants, as well as in the northwest and northeast quadrants, have a low potential for archaeological sites.

The landform in the northwest quadrant is a narrow strip of land between NC 184 and the Elk River. The landform in the northeast quadrant is disturbed by a driveway/parking lot, the intersection with NC 184, and another parking lot.

The landform in the southeast quadrant is a narrow strip of land between SR 1341 and the river. SR 1341 curves to the west near the south end of the A.P.E., so the A.P.E. does include a small section of floodplain there. However, that floodplain appears to be a narrow one at the base of a ridge to the west. The ridgetop overlooking the floodplain appears to have some potential for archaeological sites, but it is outside of the A.P.E. There are two chimneys located outside of the A.P.E. on the ridge approximately 60 meters (200 ft.) south of the road. These are probably the remains of a house shown on the topographic map.

The landform in the southwest quadrant is a steep slope uphill to the west. The ridge top is located outside of the A.P.E. There is a circa early 20th-century (?) house located on this ridge approximately 90 meters (300 ft.) west of the bridge.

Ayers, Harvard G.

1977 Preliminary Archaeological Test Excavations of Four Sites Located Within the Limits of the Proposed Sewage Project of the Town of Banner Elk, North Carolina. Report submitted to Moore, Gardner and Associates, Asheboro, North Carolina. Harvard G. Ayers, Archaeological Consultant.

Moore, David G.

2004 Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Banner Elk Lowe's, Banner Elk, Avery County, North Carolina. Submitted to Fish and Wildlife Associates, Inc., Whittier, North Carolina. Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina.

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 landforms within the A.P.E. have a low potential for archaeological sites. Landforms with a higher archaeological potential are located outside of the A.P.E.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

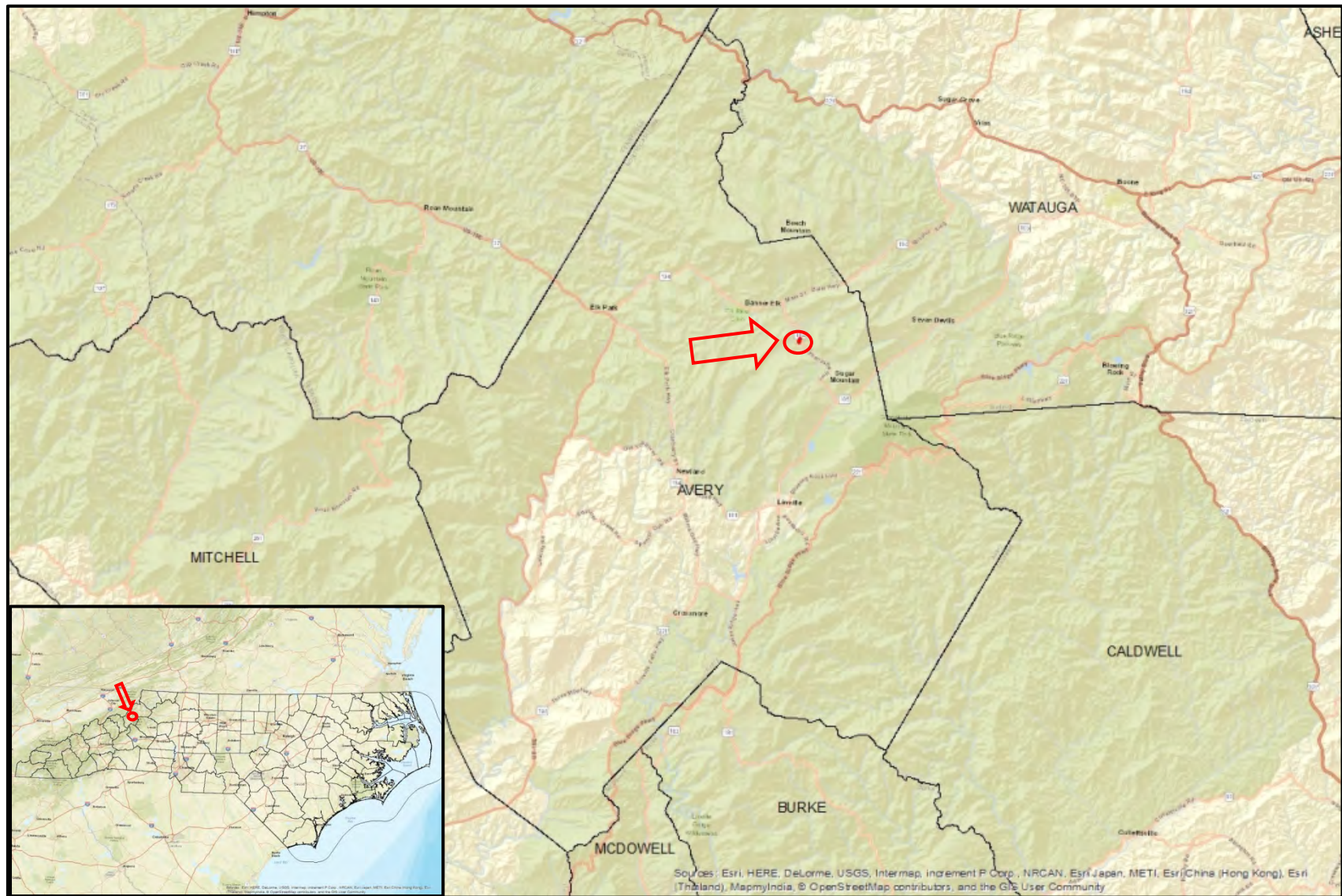
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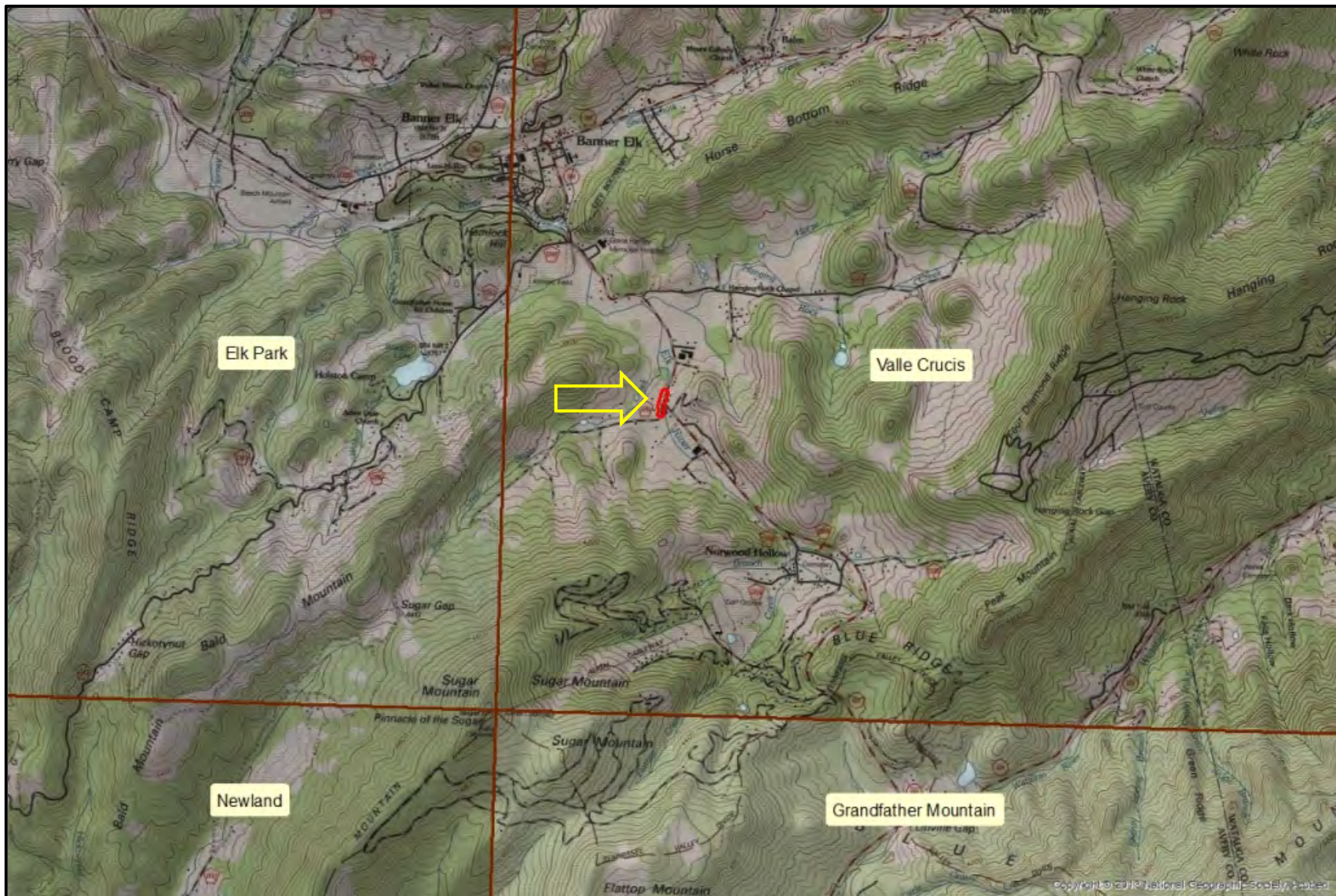
Caleb Smith

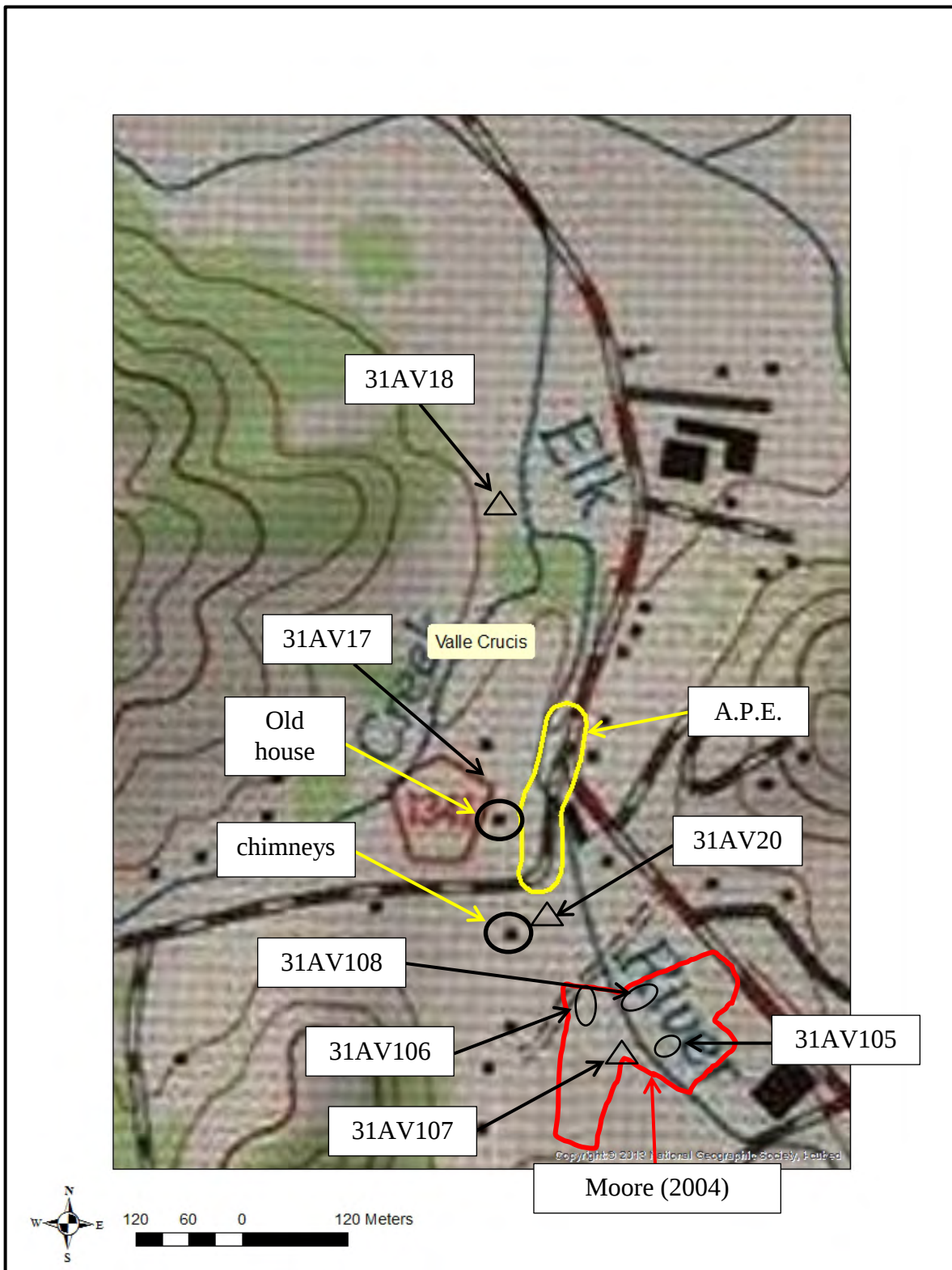
12/7/2016

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

Date







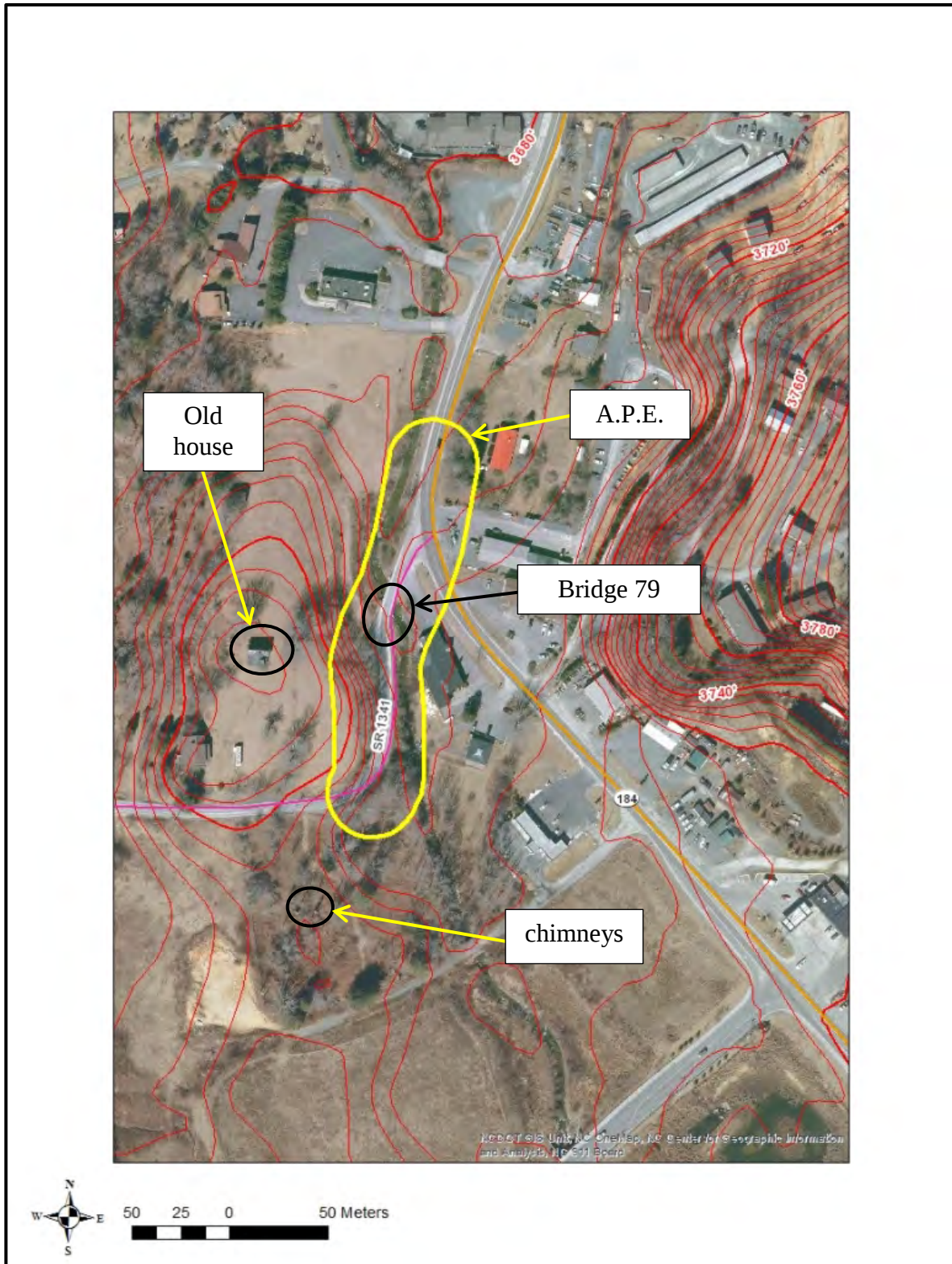




Figure 1: North view of Bridge 79



Figure 2: North view of the northwest quadrant.



Figure 3: South view of the southwest quadrant.



Figure 4: South view of the southeast quadrant.



Figure 5: North view of the southwest and southeast quadrants.



Figure 6: Northeast view of the south end of the southwest quadrant.



Figure 7: North view of the old house located west of the bridge.