Project Tracking No.:

21-09-0010

NO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBLE OR LISTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES PRESENT 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:	**HB-0012**	*County:*	**Columbus**
WBS No:	**49871.1.1**	*Document:*	**Federal CE**
F.A. No:	**N/A**	*Funding:*	☒ State ☐ Federal

Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No *Permit Type:* **USACE (not specified)**

Project Description: NCDOT's Division 6 proposes to replace Bridge No. 32 on Dock Road (SR 1928) over Waccamaw River Overflow in Columbus County. Bridge No. 32 was built in 1959 but may be functionally obsolete and/or structurally deficient; therefore, it has been selected for replacement. Although Preliminary Design Plans have not been developed yet, a Study Area was submitted in order to facilitate the environmental review process at this stage. The Study Area measures about 100 feet to either side of the centerline and about 500 feet from either end of the bridge. Overall, the Study Area encompasses about 4.77 acres, inclusive of the existing roadway, the structure itself, and any modern development.

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 or eligible ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES present within the project's area of potential effects. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)
☐ No subsurface archaeological investigations were 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.

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

This project was accepted for review on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. A review of the databases maintained by the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) was also performed that same day. No archaeological surveys have been conducted within the vicinity of the Study Area, and no archaeological sites have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the proposed project. Digital copies of HPO's maps (Old Dock Quadrangle) as well as the HPOWEB GIS Service (http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/) were last reviewed on Thursday, October 7, 2021. There are no known historic architectural resources located within or adjacent to the Study Area for which intact archaeological deposits would be anticipated within the footprint of the proposed project. In addition, topographic maps, historic maps (NCMaps website), USDA soil survey maps, and aerial photographs were utilized and inspected to gauge environmental

factors that may have contributed to historic or prehistoric settlement within the project limits, and to assess the level of modern, slope, agricultural, hydrological, and other erosive-type disturbances within and surrounding the Study Area.

As stated in the Survey Required Form, "This is a State-funded project for which a Federal permit is anticipated. As part of the project's submittal, permanent/temporary drainage and/or utility easements will be necessary. Additional ROW will also be required. The size and shape of the Study Area, however, have been drawn in a way to capture any potential ground-disturbing activities that may occur beyond the NCDOT's existing ROW. If there were no Federal nexus for this project, please know that we would be in compliance with NC GS 121-12a, since there are no eligible (i.e. National Register-listed) archaeological resources located within the Study Area that would require our attention.

From an environmental perspective, the Study Area falls within a rather rural area in the Southern Coastal Plain and Atlantic Coast Flatwoods physiographic regions of North Carolina. The Study Area consists of four (4) soil types: Muckalee sandy loam, frequently flooded (Mk), Grifton fine sandy loam (Gt), Pender fine sandy loam (Pe), and Nakina fine sandy loam (Nk). Muckalee, Grifton, and Nakina soils are categorized as poorly drained and are located on floodplains of shallow meandering streams and on the fringes of those floodplains. Essentially, these soils fall within the swampy and marshy flood zone of the Waccamaw River. The preservation of intact archaeological resources would not be anticipated under such environmental conditions. However, the presence of moderately well-drained Pender soils, situated on what could be construed as an elevated landform within the greater Waccamaw River watershed, would convey a moderate potential for intact archaeological materials in select areas. In comparison, known archaeological sites along the Waccamaw River have a tendency of being located along the margins of the river's peripheral wetlands and flood zone region (although between 1 and 5 miles from the proposed project, see Sites 31BW122, 31BW158, and 31BW252), which corresponds with the northern terminus of the project's Study Area.

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) has reviewed only a few projects within the vicinity of the Study Area for environmental compliance, all of which look to have been USACE- or FEMA-related flood-based clearance issues along the Waccamaw River (ERs 88-8203, 84-7963, and 88-7721). In fact, all three of these projects are located directly south of Bridge No. 32 along Dock Road (SR 1928). Farther from the Study Area are mining and solar farm operations (ERs 15-1224, 15-1226, and 20-0652) as well as what was probably a transportation-related project along Crusoe Island Road (ER 83-1185). OSA did not require an archaeological survey for any of these projects, citing a low probability for significant archaeological sites to be present. Within five (5) miles of the Study Area, NCDOT's Archaeology Team has reviewed only two (2) transportation-related projects for environmental compliance under the Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO), neither of which falls within a mile of the proposed project. Although an archaeological survey was recommended for one of these projects (PA 11-05-0006), no archaeological sites were recorded as a result of those investigations. A review of various historic maps and aerials revealed that this particular road and crossing was in existence going back to at least the early 1880s, at which point, there is an indication of three (3) dwellings just to the north of the Study Area.

Despite some of the information presented here, an archaeological survey is recommended based on the topographical setting (i.e., slightly elevated landform similar to where archaeological sites have been recorded), environmental conditions (i.e., moderately well drained soils), and the presence of late-19th century dwellings in proximity to the Study Area. Therefore, a visual inspection of the Study Area should be conducted, followed then by systematic archaeological excavations within areas of moderate to high archaeological probability. All cemeteries (if any) should also be properly recorded and delineated if any occur within or adjacent to the Study Area. None of the property within the Study Area that would require further investigation is owned by the State of North Carolina so a State Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit should not be necessary. Should the description of this project change or design plans be made available prior to construction, additional consultation regarding archaeology will be required."

Field investigations for the proposed project occurred on Thursday, November 4, 2021, and were comprised of a pedestrian reconnaissance and intensive survey to locate and assess potentially significant archaeological resources that could be damaged or destroyed by the proposed project as described above. The entire extent of the Study Area was visually inspected in order to determine the need for and placement of any excavations. Based on the environmental setting and current soil conditions, limited excavations took place on either side of Dock Road in the Northwest and Northeast Quadrants of the Study Area, just beyond the fringe of the flood hazard zone and positioned on a slightly elevated landform. Both agricultural fields are currently in soybean and waiting to be harvested. The rest of the Study Area consisted of marshy conditions with abundant cypress knees and cabbage palms strewn throughout the corridor. Excavations did not take place in beyond the elevated farm fields.

Shovel tests (n=6) were positioned on either side of Dock Road in order to investigate this moderate to high probability landform located along the edge of the Waccamaw River floodplain. Unfortunately, no archaeological materials were recovered from any of the excavated shovel tests. Shovel tests fell within an area mapped as consisting of either Pender fine sandy loam (Pe) or Grifton fine sandy loam (Gt). According to the Soil Survey for Columbus County, shovel tests in the Northwest Quadrant of the Study Area encountered revealed a stratigraphic profile showing clear signs of soil deflation. The typical profile for Pender soils starts with a 6-inch Ap-horizon of sandy loam, followed by a 7-inch E-horizon of sandy loam. At a depth of 13 inches, layers of sandy clay loam become apparent. Within STPs 1 through 3, however, no signs of a sandy loam layer over top of subsoil were present. On the other hand, STPs 4 through 6 did reveal soil profiles that were seen as relatively consistent with what has been documented for the soil types in the project area. An individual (he wishes to remain anonymous) who farms these fields talked with us during the investigations and shared that he has never found anything of interest within the fields. He also offered that the water does get pretty high in the area and covers the fields every so often, which is why the neighboring house is built on stilts much like one would see at the beach.

Shovel Tests:

STP 1: 0-8cmbs, 10YR 4/4, clay loam; 8-28cmbs, 10YR 3/4, clay loam plowzone; 28-38cmbs, mottled 10YR 6/8 and 10YR 5/3, clay; no cultural material (modern bottle glass was observed but not kept)

STP 2: 0-12cmbs, 10YR 4/4, clay loam; 12-16cmbs, 10YR 3/4, clay loam plowzone; 16-30cmbs, mottled 10YR 6/8 and 10YR 5/3, clay; no cultural material

STP 3: 0-13cmbs, 10YR 4/4, clay loam; 13-21cmbs, 10YR 3/4, clay loam plowzone; 21-25cmbs, 10YR 6/6, sandy silt; 25-38cmbs, mottled 10YR 6/8 and 10YR 5/3, clay; no cultural material

STP 4: 0-16cmbs, 10YR 2/2, silty loam plowzone; 16-21cmbs, mottled 10YR 2/2 and 10YR 6/3, silty loam; 21-29cmbs, mottled 10YR 7/4 and 10YR 6/8, silty clay loam; no cultural material

STP 5: 0-18cmbs, 10YR 2/2, silty loam plowzone; 18-24cmbs, mottled 10YR 2/2 and 10YR 6/3, silty loam; 24-35cmbs, mottled 10YR 7/4 and 10YR 6/8, silty clay loam; no cultural material

STP 6: 0-20cmbs, 10YR 2/2, silty loam plowzone; 20-29cmbs, 10YR 3/4, silty loam; 29-34cmbs, mottled 10YR 5/4 and 10YR 5/8, clay; no cultural material

SUMMARY

As a result of these investigations, no archaeological sites were documented within or immediately adjacent to the Study Area. It is recommended that the proposed project be allowed to proceed without any concerns for impacts to significant archaeological resources. Additional fieldwork within the Study Area is unlikely to provide any significant or substantial amount of archaeological data. Therefore, it is recommended that additional archaeological work should not be required. Based on the results of the survey, a finding of "No NRHP-Eligible or -Listed Archaeological Sites Present" within the Study Area is considered appropriate for the proposed project. However, should the description of this project or design plans change prior to construction, then additional consultation regarding archaeology may be required. If archaeological materials are uncovered during project activities, then such resources will be dealt with

according to the procedures set forth for "unanticipated discoveries," to include notification of NCDOT's Archaeology Team.

(This project falls within a North Carolina County in which the following federally recognized tribes have expressed an interest: 1) Catawba Indian Nation. We recommend that you ensure that this documentation is forwarded to these tribes using the process described in the current NCDOT Tribal Protocol and PA Procedures Manual. Please know that the State-recognized Waccamaw Siouan Tribe has also expressed interest in this county.)

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info ☒ Photos ☐ Correspondence

Signed:

Paul J Mohler

November 5, 2021

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST **Date**

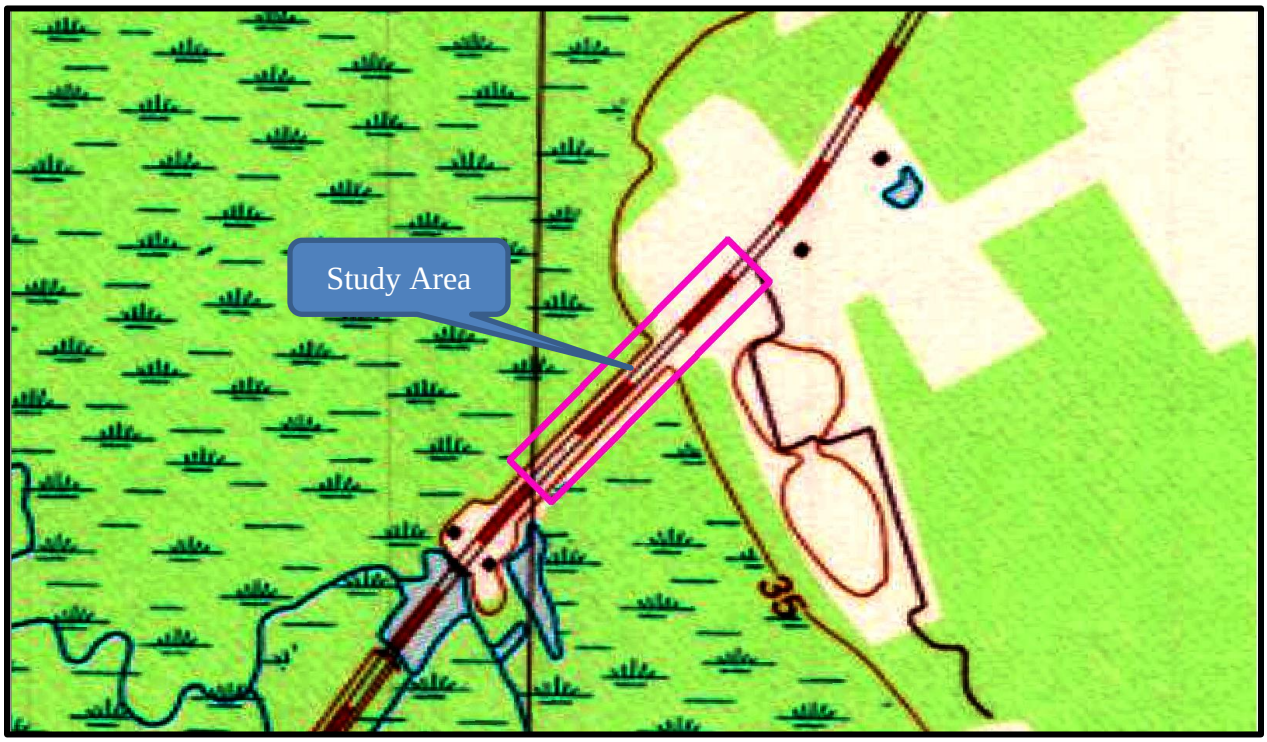


Figure 1: Old Dock, NC (USGS 1990).



Photo 1: Northwest Quadrant, looking South toward Dock Road.



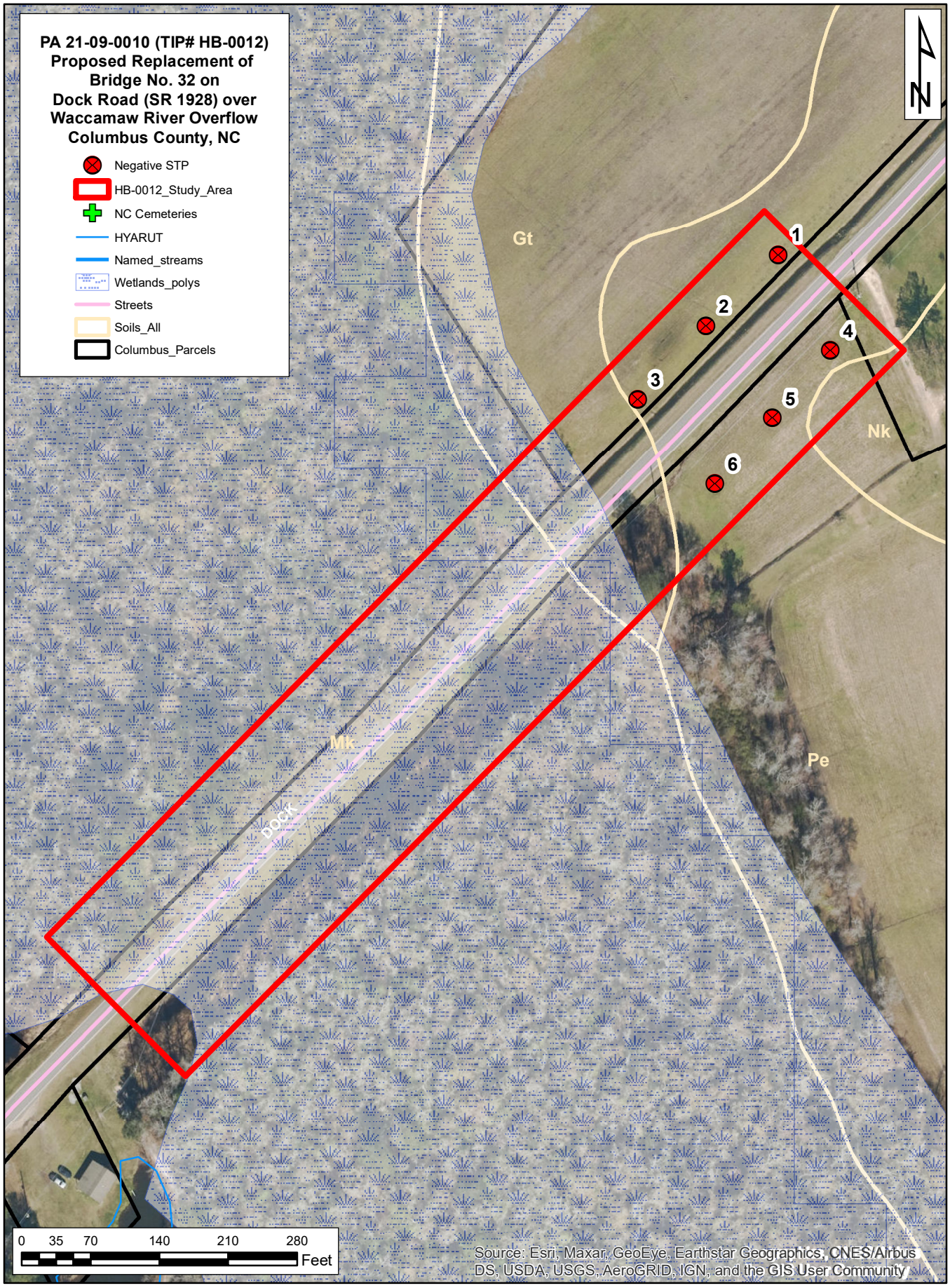
Photo 2: House at 319 Dock Road, looking Southeast (NB – House is constructed on stilts).

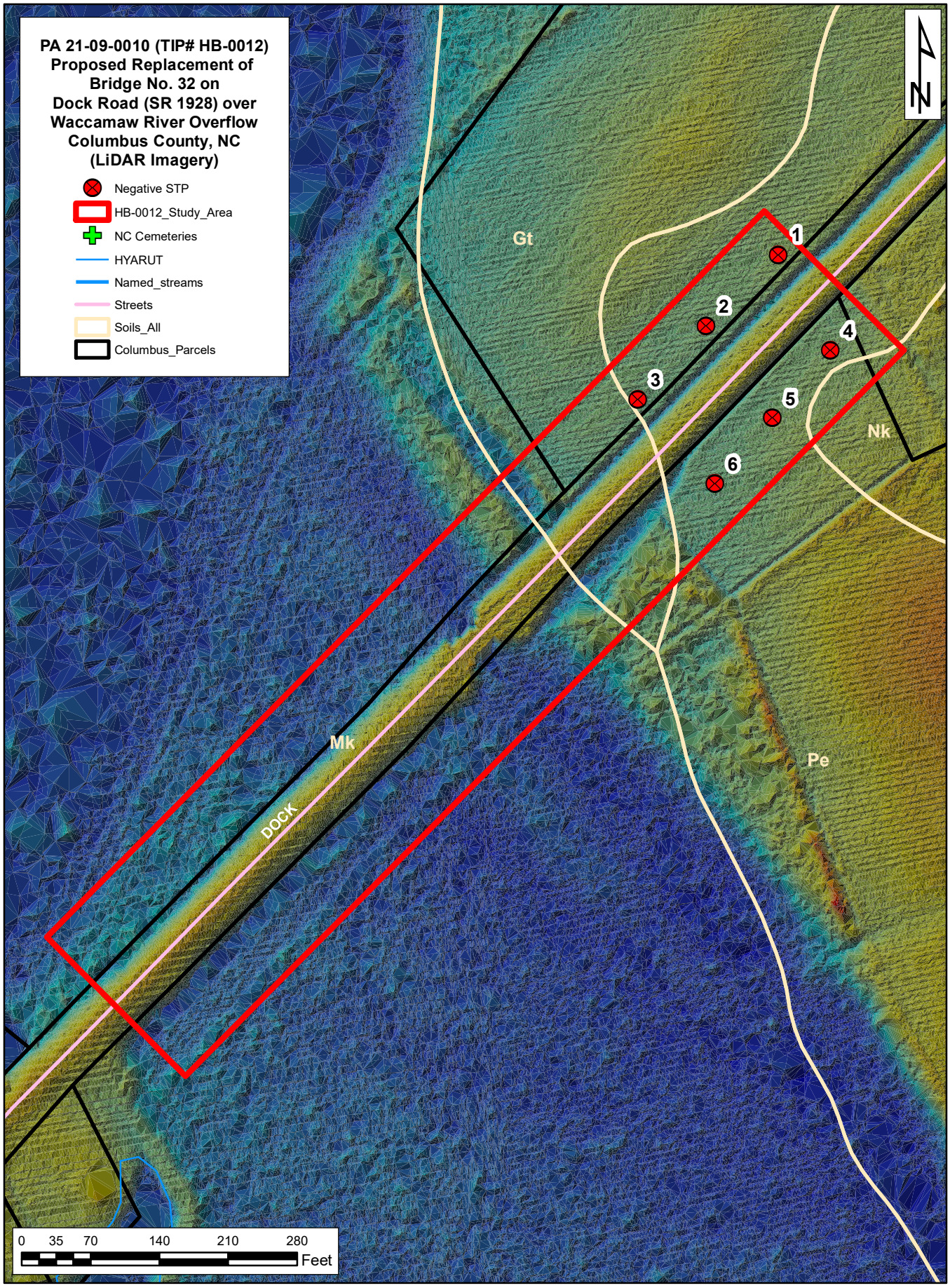


Photo 3: Northeast Quadrant, looking Southwest toward Bridge No. 32.



Photo 4: Dock Road, looking Southwest toward Bridge No. 32.


PA 21-09-0010 (TIP# HB-0012)
Proposed Replacement of
Bridge No. 32 on
Dock Road (SR 1928) over
Waccamaw River Overflow
Columbus County, NC
Negative STP
HB-0012_Study_Area
NC Cemeteries
HYARUT
Named_streams
Wetlands_polys
Streets
Soils_All
Columbus_Parcels
N
1
2
3
4
5
6
Gt
Nk
Mk
Pe
Boak
0 35 70 140 210 280
Feet
Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community


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Bridge No. 32 on
Dock Road (SR 1928) over
Waccamaw River Overflow
Columbus County, NC
(LiDAR Imagery)
Negative STP
HB-0012_Study_Area
NC Cemeteries
HYARUT
Named_streams
Streets
Soils_All
Columbus_Parcels
N
Gt
Nk
Mk
Pe
DOCK
1
2
3
4
5
6
0 35 70 140 210 280
Feet