

Type I and II Ground Disturbing Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	<u>B-6019</u>
WBS Element	<u>48207.1.1</u>
Federal Project No.	<u>BRZ-1341 (004)</u>

A. Project Description: (Include project scope and location, including Municipality and County. Refer to the attached project location map and photos.)

Bridge Replacement for Bridge 560311 over Roberts Branch on SR 1127 (Roberts Branch Road), Madison County, NC. The existing 26' 6" timber bridge on steel I-beams will be replaced with a single span cored slab bridge.

B. Description of Need and Purpose:

The project is needed to replace a structurally deficient bridge.

C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification: (Check one)

TYPE I

TYPE II

D. Proposed Improvements –

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

E. Special Project Information: (Provide a description of relevant project information, which may include: vicinity map, costs, alternative analysis (if any), traffic control and staging, and resource agency/public involvement).

An on-site detour will be used during construction. The new bridge will be in the same location as the existing.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

<u>Type I & II - Ground Disturbing Actions</u>			
<u>FHWA APPROVAL ACTIVITIES THRESHOLD CRITERIA</u>			
If any of questions 1-7 are marked "yes" then the CE will require FHWA approval.		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If any of questions 8 through 31 are marked "yes" then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.			
<u>Other Considerations</u>		Yes	No
8	Does the project result in a finding of "may affect not likely to adversely affect" for listed species, or designated critical habitat under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Does the project impact anadromous fish?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the NHPA effects determination other than a no effect, including archaeological remains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<u>Other Considerations (continued)</u>		Yes	No
15	Does the project involve hazardous materials and landfills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP or the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (where applicable)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT's Noise Policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F

8. The Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) is listed as a threatened species on the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of protected species in Madison County. However, the project study area is not located within a county or watershed known to contain NLEB hibernation or maternity roost sites. Therefore, the project has met the criteria required for the USFWS 4(d) Rule, and any associated take is exempt. Due to the exemption under the 4(d)

ruling, it has been determined that the proposed project “May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect” the NLEB.

The Gray bat is listed as endangered on the USFWS list of proposed species for Madison County. The bridge was surveyed for signs of bat presence/usage and no evidence of either was found. Due to the stream size, structure type (steel beams), no evidenced of bat usage, and distance from the French Broad River, the project will have “No Effect” on the gray bat.

H. Project Commitments

**Madison County
Bridge 560311
Federal Project No. BRZ-1341(004)
WBS No. 48207.1.1
TIP No. B-6019**

The project will not impact any properties or archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. NCDOT will complete Section 106 Tribal consultation following completion of the design.

All activities will follow NCDOT best management practices for erosion control.

Categorical Exclusion Approval

STIP Project No. B-6019
WBS Element 48207.1.1
Federal Project No. BRZ-1341 (004)

Prepared By:

3/18/2019
Date

DocuSigned by:
Roger D. Bryan

Roger D. Bryan
Division Environmental Officer

Prepared For:

Division 13
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Reviewed By:

3/18/2019
Date

DocuSigned by:
Christopher D. Medlin

Christopher D. Medlin, P.E.
Division Bridge Program Manager

- Approved** If all of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "no," NCDOT approves this Categorical Exclusion.
- Certified** If any of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "yes," NCDOT certifies this Categorical Exclusion.

3/18/2019
Date

DocuSigned by:
Steve Cannon

Steve Cannon, P.E.
Project Development Engineer

FHWA Approved: For Projects Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature required.

Date John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



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: **B-6019** County: **Madison**
 WBS No: **48214.1.1** Document: **CE**
 F.A. No: **BRZ-127(018)** Funding: State Federal

Federal Permit Required? Yes No Permit Type: **USACE**

Project Description:

The project calls for the replacement of Bridge No. 311 on SR 1127 (Roberts Branch Road) over Roberts Branch in Madison County (TIP B-6019). The archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project is defined as an approximately 600-foot (182.88 m) long corridor running 300 feet (91.44 m) north and south from the center of the bridge. The corridor is approximately 100 feet (30.48 m) wide extending 50 feet (15.24 m) from either side of the centerline.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

The proposed Bridge 311 replacement project is located southwest of Marshall in the southern portion of Madison County, North Carolina. The project area is plotted in the southwest corner of the Marshall USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

A site file search was conducted by Casey Kirby at the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) on September 13, 2018. No previously recorded archaeological sites were identified within the APE and only one site 31MD405 is found within a mile of bridge. According to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) online data base (HPOWEB 2018), 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 further 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 311 and Roberts Branch Road run north to south crossing a narrow floodplain and steep hillside slopes (Figure 2). Roberts Branch flows north into Little Pine Creek. These waterways are part of the French Broad drainage basin. The floodplain occupies portions of the northeast, northwest, and southwest quadrants, while hillsides are located south of the bridge and at the northern end of the APE. The area is mostly open with agricultural properties, but tree cover is present alongside the stream and to the southeast. Ground disturbance is minimal and consists of the road cut along the hillsides and fill for the road bed within the floodplain.

The USDA soil survey map for the county identifies French loam (FrA) along the floodplain and the Mars Hill-Walnut complex (MwE) on the slopes (USDA NRCS 2018). The French series is somewhat poorly drained with a slope of less than 3 percent. It is also subject to occasionally flooding. It is not likely for this series to contain significant archaeological deposits due to persistent wetness, which is unsuitable for early settlement activities. Although the Mars Hill-Walnut complex is well drained, it is

steeply sloped at 30 to 50 percent. Again, it is unlikely for archaeological resources to be present since steep slope of 15 percent or more is not favorable for habitation.

As mentioned above, only one archaeological site has been identified in the region due to a lack of previous investigations. 31MD405 is a prehistoric site situated on a toe slope nearly a mile to the northeast. This site was recorded by an amateur archaeologist, who was surface collecting. The site has not been formally investigated, so little is known. It is likely that additional sites are in the area and would be identified if more investigations were carried out. However, the current project area will not provide any significant data due the poor setting within the APE.

A map review also failed to provide any significant historical information. Most early maps prior to the 20th century show few details concerning the project area. The earliest maps to depict the area with any accuracy are the 1901 Asheville USGS topographic map (Figures 3). This map illustrates a road with an alignment like the current road with structures well away from the crossing. The subsequent 1936 *Soil Map for Madison County* has a similar picture (Hearn et al. 1936) (Figure 4). As a result, no significant historic archaeological deposits are likely to be encountered.

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 proposed Bridge 311 replacement project in Madison County is not likely to impact any significant archaeological resources. This is due steep hillside slopes and persistently wet soil in the floodplain, which contribute to a low probability for archaeological sites. No further archaeological work is recommended for this project. But if design plans change to affect subsurface areas beyond the defined APE, further archaeological consultation might be necessary.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

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

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED



C. Damon Jones
NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

9/25/18

Date

REFERENCES CITED

- Hearn, Edward, Eugene Goldston, William Davis, C. Croom, and Samuel Davidson
1920 *Soil Map for Madison County, North Carolina*. U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. On file at North Carolina Collections,
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
- HPOWEB
2018 North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office GIS Web Service.
<http://gisNCDCR.gov/hpoweb/>. Accessed September 25, 2018.
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA NRCS)
2018 Madison County Soil Survey. Available online at
<http://webosilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. Accessed September 25, 2018.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
1901 Asheville, North Carolina-Tennessee 30 minute quadrangle map. Reprinted in 1907.
2013 Spring Creek, North Carolina 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

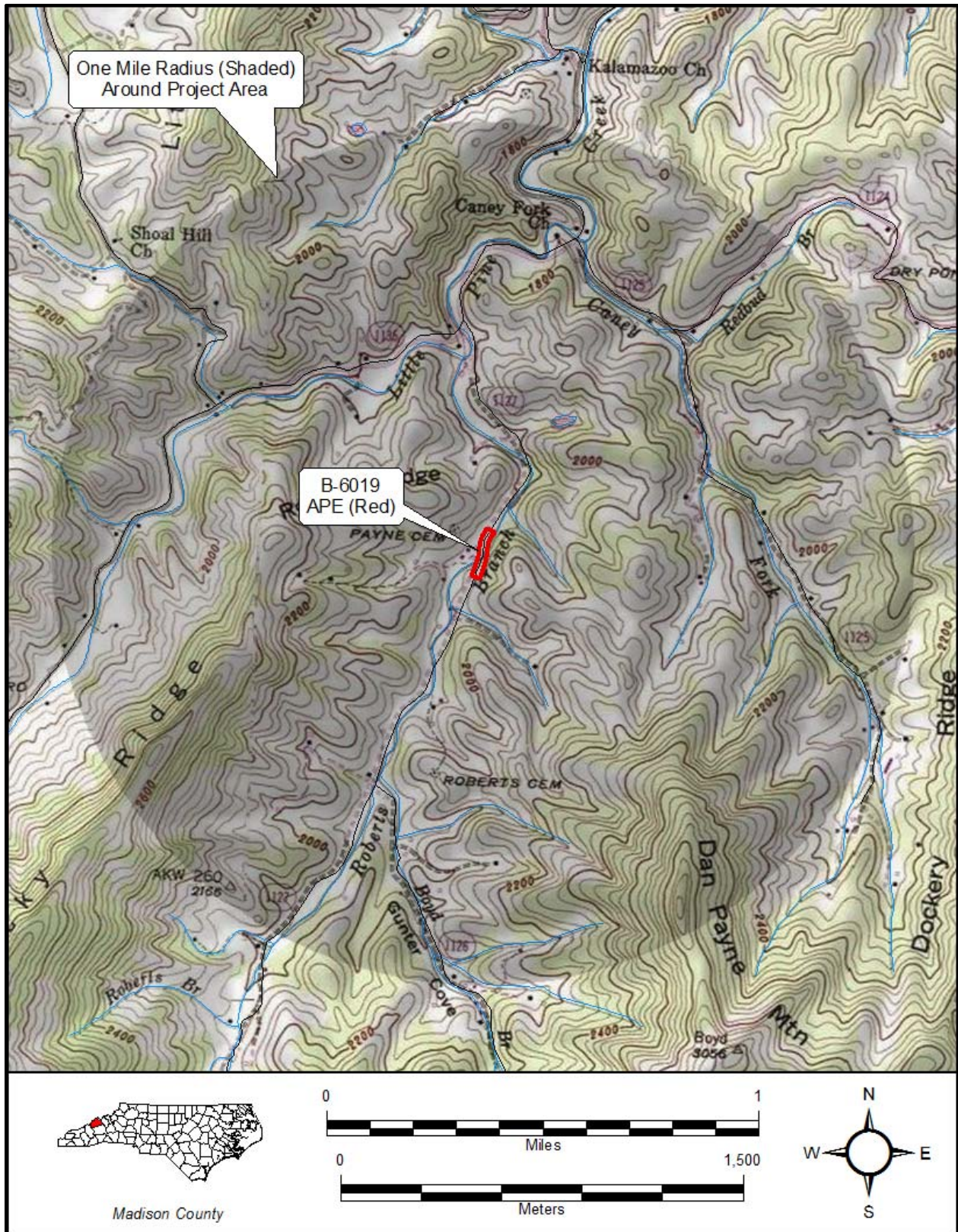


Figure 1. Topographic Setting of the Project Area, Marshall (2013), NC USGS 7.5 Topographic Quadrangle.

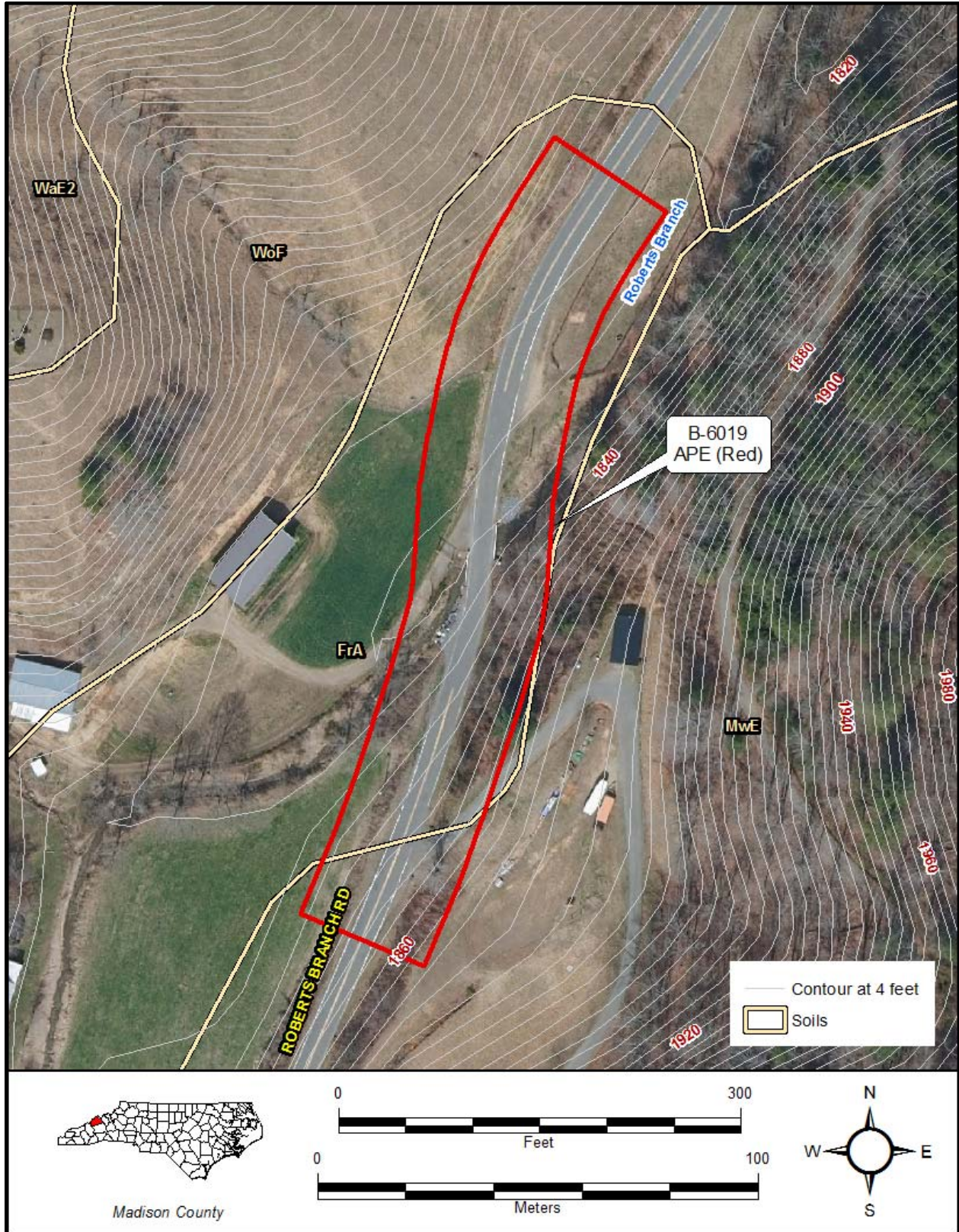


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the APE showing development, contours, and soils.

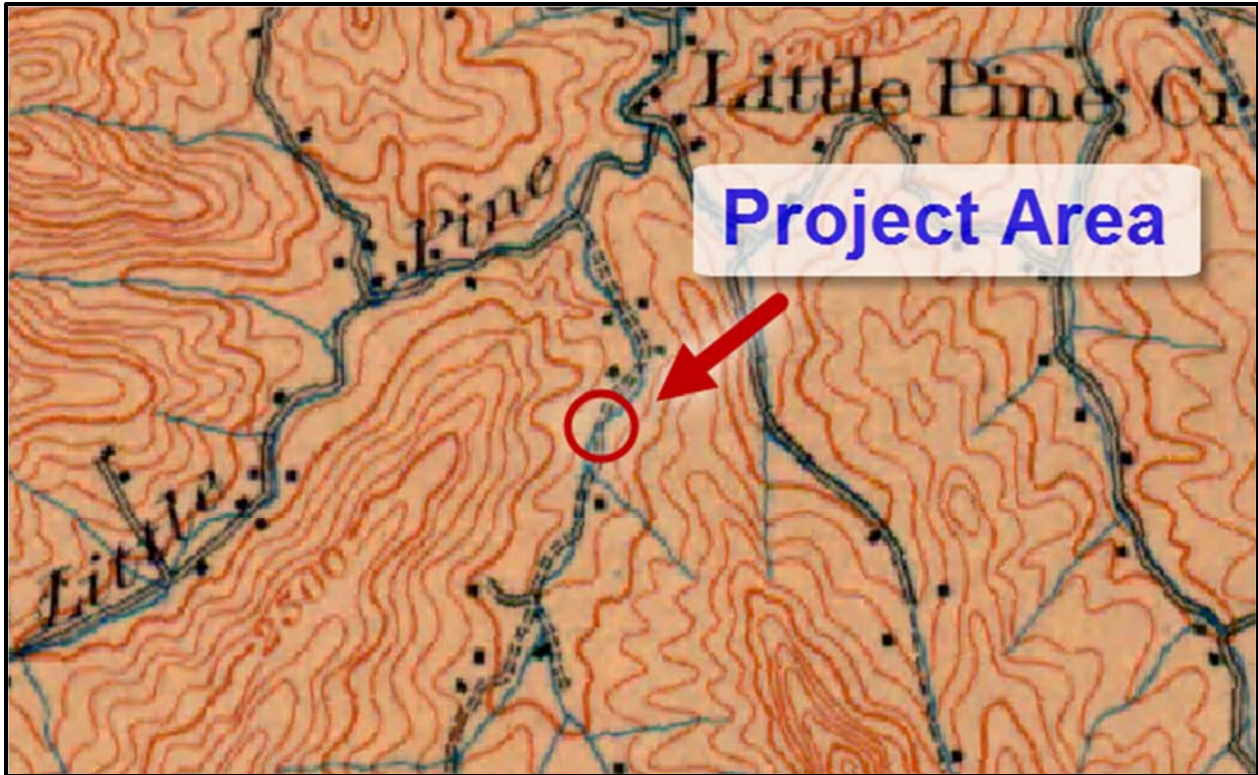


Figure 3. The 1901 USGS Asheville topographic map showing the location of the project area.



Figure 4. The 1936 Soil Map for Madison County showing the location of the project area.

18-09-0017



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES NO SURVEY REQUIRED FORM

This form only pertains to Historic Architecture and Landscapes for this project. It is not valid for Archaeological Resources. You must consult separately with the Archaeology Group.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No:	B-6019	County:	Madison
WBS No.:	48214.1.1	Document Type:	MCC
Fed. Aid No:	BRZ-1127(018)	Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal
Federal Permit(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Permit Type(s):	USACE
<u>Project Description:</u> Replace Bridge No 311 on SR 1127 (Robert's Branch Rd) over Robert's Branch.			

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES REVIEW

<p><u>Description of review activities, results, and conclusions:</u> Review of HPO quad maps, relevant background reports, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on October 10, 2018. Based on this review there are no NR, DE, LL, SL, or SS in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). There are no properties over 50 years of age in the APE. The houses near the bridge are recently constructed. No survey required.</p>
<p><u>Why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified significant historic architectural or landscape resources in the project area:</u> Using HPO GIS website and county tax data provides reliable information regarding the structures in the APE. These combined utilities are considered valid for the purposes of determining the likelihood of historic resources being present.</p>

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

Map(s)
 Previous Survey Info.
 Photos
 Correspondence
 Design Plans

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Historic Architecture and Landscapes -- NO SURVEY REQUIRED

Shelby Reap

NCDOT Architectural Historian

10/10/18

Date

