

26-04-0007



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: **Br. No. 0239** County: **Rutherford**
 WBS No: **BP13.R052.1** Document: **CE**
 F.A. No: **tbd** Funding: ☐ State ☒ Federal

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

Project Description:

NCDOT proposes replacement of Bridge No. 0239 along SR 1325 (Nannytown Road) over Cathey's Creek, in a rural setting of northern Rutherford County. The studied project length is 900 feet with a width of 60-100 feet and includes 120 feet of the creek in either direction. The bridge is expected to be wider than the existing 20 feet and may accommodate a bike lane. An offsite detour is expected. This is a federally funded project (FHwA) that also requires federal permitting (USACE). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act applies to this federal undertaking. The Study Area described above is adopted as the archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE), and proposed alternatives and their construction, ROW, and easement limits.

This project falls within a North Carolina County in which the following federally recognized Tribes have expressed an interest: the Catawba Indian Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We recommend that you ensure that this documentation is forwarded to the Tribe using the process described in the current NCDOT Tribal Protocol and PA Procedures Manual.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

This is a federally funded undertaking, as such, Section 106 applies for archaeological review. The scale and scope of the project is relatively small. The APE is highlighted in this document on USGS mapping (see Figure 1) and is detailed on aerial imagery (see Figure 2). While any new impact from construction may be limited, the total APE about 1.25 acres.

Virtual street-side views using Google Maps aided this review. The location is undeveloped, rural land with open fields on all quadrants. The bridge APE is situated within wooded ROW and the wooded creek bed. LiDAR based elevation mapping showed no special ground level features.

Historic maps and middle to late 20th century aerial photography was examined. Earlier maps show no defined road, community, or industry along Cathey's Creek at this location on the 1877 Watkin's Map of Rutherford County (MC.086.1877w). Similarly, Lynch's 1923 Complete Map of Rutherford County (MC.086.1923l) names nearby Union Mills to the east and Cuba to the south or southwest, and illustrates nearby roads similar to SR 1321 and SR 1327, but this west to east portion of Nannytown Road is not yet present. The approximate route is depicted on the detailed 1924 Soil Survey Map of Rutherford County (MC.086.1924u). The old road followed south of the modern roadway from Horn Mill Road (SR 1327) as it approaches Cathey's Creek, curving south 200-400 feet in the vicinity of Morgan Ammons Drive and Halls Farm Drive. The Carpenter's 1927 Map of Rutherford County shows only a little more information of that road; the bridge is drawn but no structures are nearby (MC.086.197c). The old creek crossing was probably adjacent to or overlapping the current bridge location. The road is present on later county highway mapping

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from the 1930s with no structures. The 1962 version is the first highway map of the county that depicts the current alignment, removing the southern dip west of the APE. This corresponds to 1950s aerial photography which shows two bridges adjacent, presumably associated with the c. 1951 construction date for Br. No. 0239. The old roadbed is immediately adjacent to the existing bridge.

There are no known cemeteries in the nearby vicinity of the APE. The closest is 0.9 miles away to the southeast, Liberty Mill Cemetery. There are five other cemeteries between one and two miles away, all in the Union Mills community to the east. No cemeteries are expected at this creek-side bridge location.

Several archaeological studies and environmental reviews have occurred in this portion of Rutherford County. There are at least eight archaeology reports (Bib# 270, 271, 1176, 1943, 2027, 2202, 3623, 5329) and forty archaeological sites within a 2-mile radius of the project, with additional sites a short distance beyond that large circular boundary. These include site numbers RF33, RF45-47, RF49-55, RF57-59, RF61, RF71, RF72, RF98, RF113, RF141-144, RF149, RF160, RF168-170, RF172, RF179, RF180-190. There are no known sites within 0.15 miles of the project.

The archaeological study of twelve potential reservoir locations for the Second Broad River Watershed identified many of the listed sites near the project (Bib# 270), including 31RF50 and 31RF54 which are mapped 800 feet north and northwest of the bridge. The methodology used to discover and record sites was a combination of surface inspection survey and working with local informant citizens. About a third of the sites from the initial report were not directly within the anticipated impacts of impoundment, that is, areas beyond the necessary coverage, including upland landforms, were identified. Site 31RF50 is described as having Native American cultural materials, lithics, east of Cathey's Creek, including a Morrow Mountain chipped stone projectile point (cspp). The report suggests that this site may continue towards the north, but that area had been in pasture at the time of survey. Site 31RF54 is described as "cultural material is thinly scattered over an extremely large area of the slope." One Guilford cspp was observed. Grading for a house built at the mapped location more than two decades ago is visible in LiDAR elevation mapping, though artifacts were distributed more broadly by the description. Both nearby sites were identified from surface inspections and suspected to potentially extend further northward, but not to the south. In contrast, no sites were recorded in the plowed fields south towards the bridge.

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 bridge replacement project will ultimately have a construction footprint within the APE that overlaps the existing facility. The elevated roadway approach and the bridge represent a disturbed context with mixed and displaced soils. A previous bridge and approaching roadway were adjacent and parallel to the current crossing, another source of disturbance of the natural stratigraphy. Intact archaeological remains are unlikely within modified ground surrounding the bridge. Previous investigations considered portions or all of the adjacent fields overlapping the APE. There are no known archaeological sites or cemeteries within, adjacent to, or in very close proximity to the project area.

It is unlikely that significant archaeological remains would be present and impacted during the bridge replacement activities. No archaeological survey is recommended. For archaeological review, this federally funded undertaking should be considered compliant with Section 106 of the NHPA.

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



NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

4/30/2026

Date

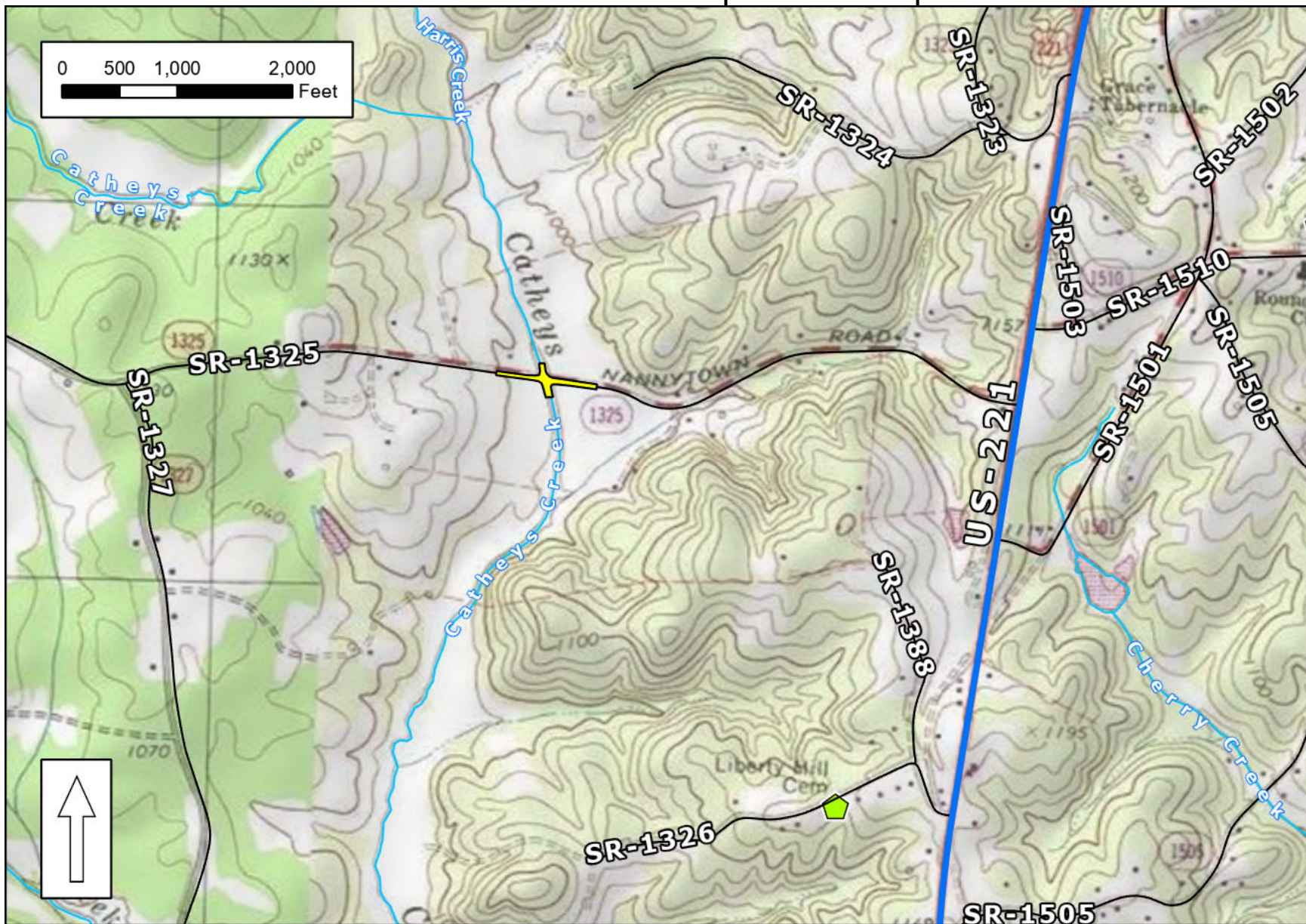


Figure 1. Vicinity of the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 0239 on SSR 1325 over Cathey's Creek in Rutherford County. The Area of Potential Effects is shaded yellow with a black outline.

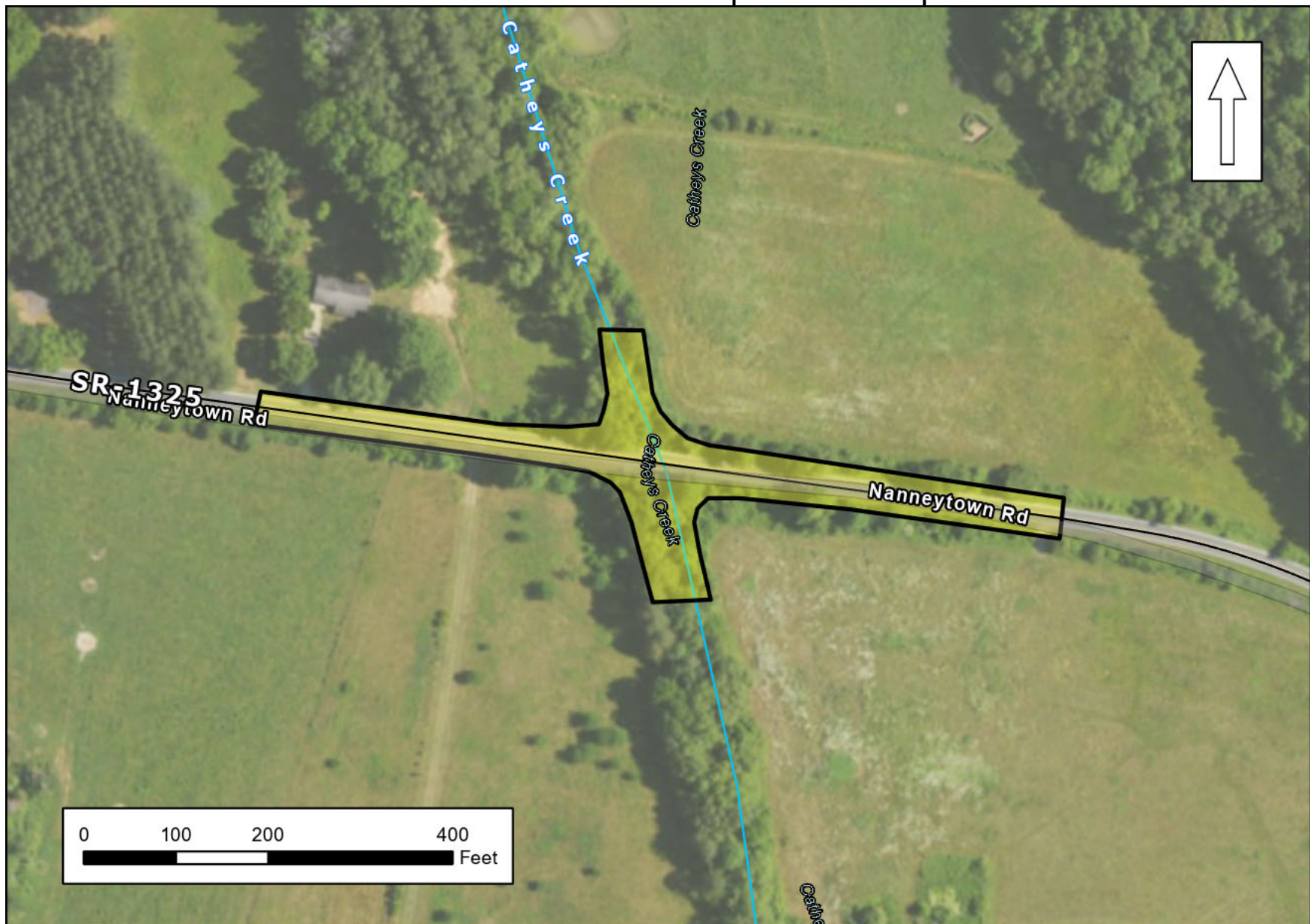


Figure 2. Aerial photography of Bridge No. 0239 on SSR 1325 over Cathey's Creek in Rutherford County. The Area of Potential Effects is shaded yellow with a black outline. Much of the APE is confined to the margins of the existing roadway.