

**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

July 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick
Environmental Analysis Unit
NC Department of Transportation

vepatrick@ncdot.gov

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

SUBJECT: Replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek, TIP BP 5-R089, PA 22-11-0005, Wake County, ER-23-1596

Thank you for your July 6, 2023, memorandum concerning the above-referenced undertaking.

We have reviewed the Historic Structures Survey Report (HSSR) titled **"Replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) Over Harris Creek, Wake County, North Carolina"** prepared for the NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit by Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP., and offer the following comments.

We concur with the recommendation that the Alva and Dan Benton House (WA8195) is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for the reasons cited in the report. Information about the interior may alter the National Register eligibility and we note that the property owner did not permit interior access but stated that the interior is mostly unchanged from 1963.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Please note that starting August 1, 2023, as part of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' phased email update, the HPO Environmental Review team will have a new email address, environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. Email performance should not be impacted during the email address migration.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr@ncdot.gov



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Date: July 6, 2023

Subject: *Historic Structure Survey Report for TIP No. BP5-R089, Replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek, Wake County, North Carolina. WBS No. BP5-R089.1. PA Tracking No. 22-11-0005.*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the BP5-R089, Wake County project area (one hard copy and one CD). Survey photographs, GIS data, an eligibility table, and survey database are included on the CD, and hard copies of the survey site form and photographs, as well as report title page, management summary and eligibility evaluation are also provided.

The report considers one resource – the Alva and Dan Benton House (WA8195) -- and recommends it as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at vepatrick@ncdot.gov or 919-707-6082. Thank you.



V.E.P.

Historic Structure Survey Report

Replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek

Wake County, North Carolina

June 2023



Prepared for:

Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

TIP No. BP 5-R089

WBS No. BP5.R089.1

PA Tracking No. 22-11-0005

Prepared by:

Meghan W. Sullivan
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP
8601 Six Forks Road
Forum 1, Suite 700
Raleigh, NC 27615



**Historic Structure Survey Report
Replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris
Creek**

Wake County, North Carolina

**TIP No. BP 5-R089
WBS No. BP5.R089.1
PA No. 22-11-0005**

Prepared by:
Meghan W. Sullivan

Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP
8601 Six Forks Road
Forum 1, Suite 700
Raleigh, NC 27615

Prepared for:
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583

June 2023



6/26/2023

Meghan W. Sullivan, Principal Investigator
RK&K, LLP

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Team, NCDOT

Date

Intentionally Left Blank

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek in Wake County.

NCDOT contracted with Rummel, Klepper, and Kahl, LLP (RK&K) to provide an eligibility study for the project, which is subject to review under the *Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office [NCHPO]/ Federal Highway Administration [FHWA]/ United States Army Corps of Engineers [USACE]/ United States Forest Service [USFS] 2020). NCDOT Architectural Historians defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project and conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. One resource warranted evaluation for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility—the Alva and Dan Benton House (WA8195)—and it is the subject of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other resources are not worthy of further study due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity. RK&K architectural historian Meghan W. Sullivan completed a field investigation on April 4, 2023, which consisted of photography and documentation of the identified resource and assembled this eligibility evaluation report.

The following table lists the resource evaluated and its eligibility recommendation.

Table 1: Evaluated Properties

NCHPO SURVEY SITE NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	NRHP ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	NRHP CRITERIA
WA8195	Alva and Dan Benton House	Eligible	Criterion C

RK&K conducted the architectural investigation and prepared this report in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s (SOI) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800; NCDOT’s *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products (2015)*; and NCHPO’s *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina (2022)*, and NCHPO’s *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources (2022)*. This report is on file at the NCDOT and NCHPO and is available for review by the general public.

Intentionally Left Blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
I. INTRODUCTION	7
II. METHODOLOGY	7
A. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS	7
B. BACKGROUND RESEARCH	10
C. ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION	10
III. PROPERTY EVALUATION	13
D. ALVA AND DAN BENTON HOUSE (WA8195)	13
IV. REFERENCES	26

Intentionally Left Blank

I. INTRODUCTION

NCDOT proposes to replace Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek in Wake County (**Figure 1**). This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USACE/USFS 2020). NCDOT architectural historians defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and conducted preliminary documentary research and a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. One resource warranted evaluation for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility and is the subject of this report. NCDOT architectural historians determined that all other properties are not worthy of further study due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

II. METHODOLOGY

RK&K conducted the architectural investigation and evaluation and prepared this report in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800; NCDOT's *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products*; the NCHPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (2022), and NCHPO's *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources* (2022). All work was conducted by staff that meet or exceed the SOI Professional Standards for history and/or architectural history, as specified in 36 CFR Part 61.

A. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The APE is defined as the “geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist” (36 CFR Part 800.16). The architectural APE was established by the Historic Architecture staff of NCDOT's Environmental Analysis Unit (EAU) based on the nature, size, and scale of the undertaking, and includes consideration for both direct and indirect effects. It equates with the study area defined for the project. The project APE is depicted in **Figure 2**.

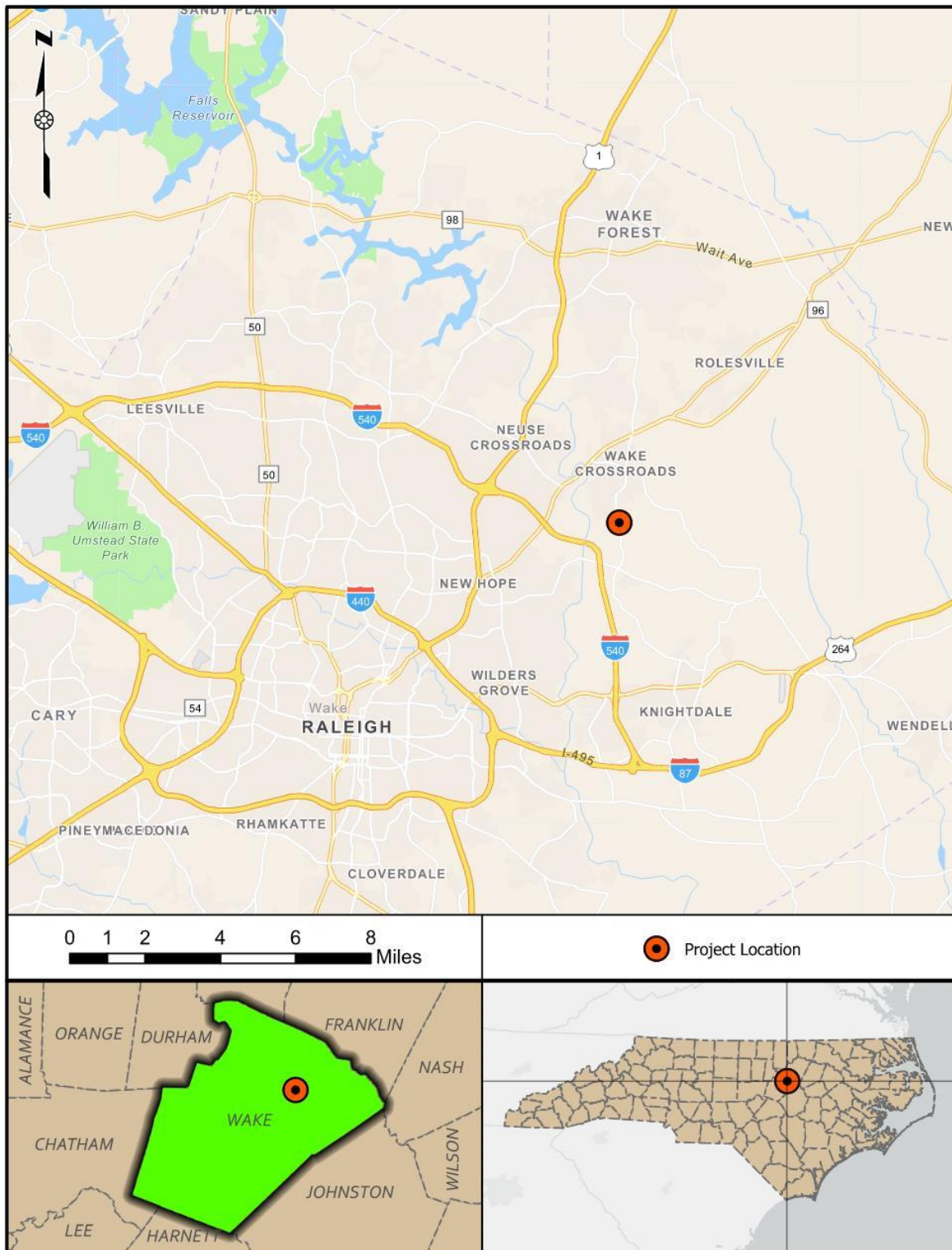


Figure 1: Project Location Map depicting the site of Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek.

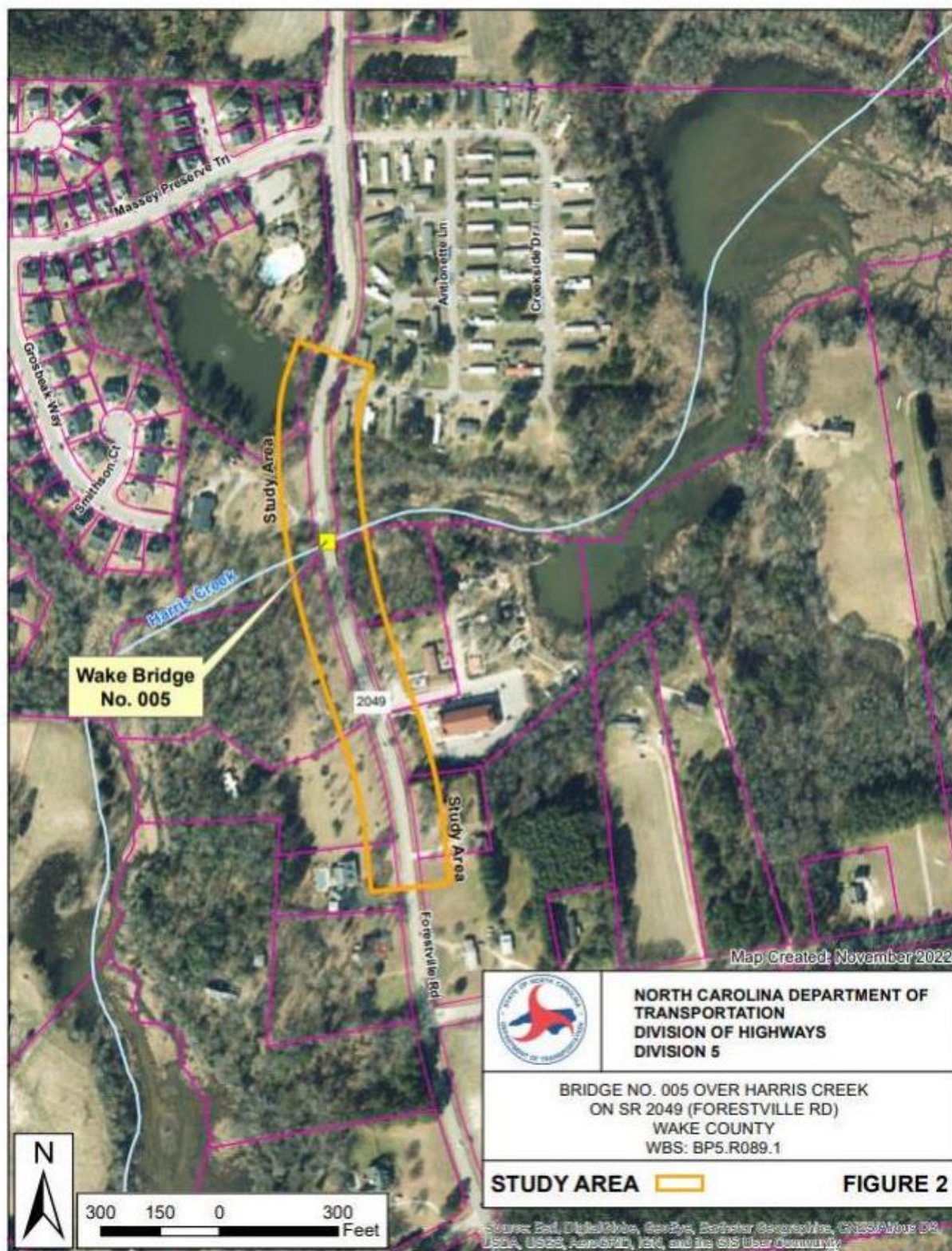


Figure 2: Project location map showing the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for Bridge No. 5 on SR 2049 (Forestville Road) over Harris Creek as defined by NCDOT.

B. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

To contextualize architectural resources within the APE, RK&K architectural historians reviewed existing documentation, including Raleigh Surveys I, II, III, and the Raleigh Survey Update, the NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form *Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina*, and existing compliance and survey reports in Wake and neighboring counties available on the NCHPO website. Architectural historians also consulted general local histories, newspapers, maps, census records, property records, and selected secondary sources.

C. ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION

RK&K architectural historian Meghan W. Sullivan conducted fieldwork on April 4, 2023. Ms. Sullivan accomplished exterior photography of the primary resource and each secondary resource; a description of the property with information needed for survey site file documentation; and a site plan showing the primary resource and its relationship to secondary resources and roadways. The report author reached out to the property owners via a mailed letter and voicemail messages prior to the fieldwork, but did not receive a response. The author interviewed the owner, Dan Benton, in person during fieldwork on April 4, 2023, but was not granted interior access to the building.

The location of the evaluated resource is shown in **Figure 3**.



Imagery: NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis

Figure 3: Location of Evaluated Resource.

Intentionally Left Blank

III. PROPERTY EVALUATION

Resource Name	Alva and Dan Benton House	
NCHPO Survey Site #	WA8195	
Street Address	4325 Forestville Road	
PIN	1746493382	
Construction Date(s)	1963	
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criterion C	

D. ALVA AND DAN BENTON HOUSE (WA8195)

Property Description

The Alva and Dan Benton House is located on the east side of Forestville Road, north of Old Watkins Road and less than one mile east of Interstate 540, which forms the Raleigh Outer Loop. The house sits on an irregularly shaped, 5.28-acre parcel. Most of the parcel contains pine trees, though the southern part of the property where the dwelling is located has a flat lawn. The 1963 Modernist Ranch faces west toward Forestville Road and is accessed by a dirt and grass driveway that leads to the integral carport on the north side of the house. A dirt and gravel drive from Old Watkins Road is east of the house and leads northwest to two outbuildings on the property.

A low-pitched, metal-clad, side-gable roof with deep eaves and an asymmetrical front-gable shelters the one-story dwelling, which is primarily covered in running bond brick veneer. The north and south gable ends of the roof have a slight prow profile. The façade consists of a carport on the north side, a massive brick chimney and entry in the center, and bedroom wing on the south. The entrance is centrally positioned on the façade and is accessed by a short flight of brick steps. It consists of a single door covered with a storm door, under the gable peak. Also beneath the gable peak, north of the door, are three vertical, single-light windows with fixed panes. The door and windows are set in an area of vertical wood board siding. A substantial slab chimney broken into five vertical segments partially breaks into the gable north of the entrance. South of the entrance, the lower three-quarters of the façade is covered in brick veneer; the upper one-quarter is clad in vertical wood board siding. One single and two paired high horizontally oriented windows are within the wood-board section. The high brick veneer on this section of the façade extends off the southern end of the house to form a projecting wall.

On the north side of the house, the chimney separates the living area from the integral carport, which is supported on the north side by a brick enclosure containing two storage closets with paired doors accessed from the interior of the carport. The southern interior wall of the carport contains a single entrance accessed via a short flight of brick steps. A two-over-two, double-hung wood sash window with horizontal lights is immediately west of the entrance. The chimney extends north into the carport, and the east facing wall of the chimney in the carport contains a recessed charcoal grill.

The north elevation features no fenestration. The deep eaves of the roof on the east elevation shelter two small rectangular wood windows set high into the wall on the south end; an off-centered wood-

and-glass door and matching window in the middle; and a two-over-two, double-hung wood sash window with horizontal panes on the north end. The south elevation contains two small rectangular wood windows set high into the wall.

Around 1967, the property owners built a one-story frame storage building on the property north of the dwelling. The gable-roofed structure, oriented north-south, is covered in T1-11 siding with battens, and contains a single, off-centered, wood roll-up door on the south elevation and a single pedestrian entrance on the west elevation. An open-sided, shed-roof addition supported by wood poles extends off the north elevation. Corrugated metal sheets clad the north elevation of the structure, which contains two two-over-two wood windows. The east elevation has no fenestration.

In the 1990s the property owners built a second storage structure north of the circa-1967 storage building. The small, one-story, gable-roof frame structure contains a sliding window and single door on the west elevation, a window covered with plywood on the south elevation, and no fenestration on the north and east elevations.

The property owner, Dan Benton, did not permit interior access, but stated that the interior is mostly unchanged from 1963. The house contains three bedrooms, which are on the south side of the house. The chimney opens into the living room, which is lighted by the three, vertical fixed windows. The kitchen is likely in the northeast corner of the building.



Figure 4: Alva and Dan Benton House (WA8195) site plan.



Figure 5: Alva and Dan Benton House, façade, 2023.



Figure 6: Alva and Dan Benton House, façade and south elevation, 2023.



Figure 7: Alva and Dan Benton House, east elevation, 2023.



Figure 8: North elevation, façade, and carport interior, 2023.



Figure 9: View of the Alva and Dan Benton House property, looking northwest from Old Watkins Road, 2023.



Figure 10: Circa 1967 storage shed, south and east elevations, 2023.



Figure 11: 1990s storage shed, west and south elevations, 2023.



Figure 12: Alva and Dan Benton House property, looking north from house toward Forestville Road, 2023.

Historical Background and Architectural Context

In the mid-twentieth century, Horace M. Poole and his wife, Syrana J. Poole, owned an approximately 34-acre farm on the west and east sides of SR 2049 (Forestville Road). Poole slowly parceled off portions of his property to his six children before his death in the 1970s.¹

Poole's daughter, Alva Poole Benton, married Dan Benton in September 1961. After their marriage they moved into a dwelling on Lansing Street in downtown Raleigh.² Two years later, in September 1963, Poole carved out a parcel at the southern end of his property between Forestville and Old Watkins Roads for his daughter and son-in-law.³ A tenant farmer had been cultivating tobacco on the property, which totaled approximately 1.5 acres at the time. Construction began on the house in September 1963 and finished two months later, when the Bentons moved in. At that time, tobacco cultivation ceased, and all tobacco fields were covered with grass. A few years after moving in, the Bentons acquired more land, and the property increased to its current size of 5.28 acres. Dan Benton planted a small forest of pine trees on the extra acreage with the intention of establishing a Christmas tree farm, although the plans were never realized.⁴

An interview with Dan Benton revealed that he and his wife purchased the house design plan from a prominent Raleigh architect, though he could not recall the architect's name. The Bentons chose not to build a basement; otherwise, the house was built according to the plans. The house was the only Modernist Ranch in the vicinity. In the 1980s, Dan Benton removed a pair of small windows on the east elevation and replaced them with a single glass-and-metal door and matching fixed-pane window. The door opens onto a small wooden deck Benton added. In 2022, the Bentons replaced the built-up roof with the current red colored metal roof.⁵

Though the house is believed to have been designed by a well-known local architect, research did not uncover any other properties in the Raleigh vicinity with enough similarities to indicate a strong connection between the Alva and Dan Benton House and any other house or architect in the area. The siting of the house is peculiar for typical Modernist dwellings in the area. Many in Raleigh were designed to blend in with the outdoors and often were partially obscured from the road by designed landscaping and foliage. The integration with the outside and inside was a character-defining feature in many Modernist buildings, not just in Raleigh but across the country. The Alva and Dan Benton House is located on a corner with limited landscaping. All sides of the house are visible from either Old Watkins or Forestville Roads. The slight rise of the lot above the two roads further heightens the visibility of the house. Dan Benton noted that he and his wife chose the house design because it appealed to them and was unusual, and that the landscape was not a critical factor when selecting a design for their home. Additionally, the land was given to them by Alva Benton's father, so they had less flexibility in selecting the site for their home.⁶ Other design characteristics that separate the house from other Modernist dwellings in the area is the prominent, visible front door. For many comparable dwellings, the door is often recessed, set perpendicular

¹ Interview with Dan Benton, conducted by the author in-person on April 4, 2023; Wake County Consolidated Real Property Index, 1974/180.

² *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, North Carolina), "Benton-Poole Wedding Solemnized," September 25, 1961, 8.

³ Wake County Consolidated Real Property Index, 1562/720.

⁴ Interview with Dan Benton, conducted by the author in-person on April 4, 2023.

⁵ Interview by the author with Dan Benton, April 4, 2023.

⁶ Interview by the author with Dan Benton, April 4, 2023.

to the façade wall, or otherwise obscured.

The dwelling was built at the tail-end of Modernist housing development in Raleigh, though it shares design features that are characteristic of the Modernist movement. The earliest documented contemporary house in Raleigh was built in 1946 by Keif Valand for developer Willie York, though Modernism officially arrived in Raleigh in 1948, when the School of Design at North Carolina State College (now NCSU) opened, headed by Henry Kamphoefner.⁷ New construction in Raleigh did not reflect the style immediately, and the city never saw a flood of Modernist buildings like other cities did, such as Asheville, and in places on the west coast like California and Oregon. NCSU School of Design faculty including George Matsumoto, Milton Small, Edward Waugh, and others designed homes for themselves and friends or for a few people interested in the new style. Full-time architects based on Raleigh also built Modernist buildings, including dwellings, civic and institutional buildings, houses of worship, and more.⁸

Postwar Raleigh grew in size and in population, moving from fifth largest to fourth largest city in the state during this period as the city limits expanded. Between 1945 and 1965, over 18,000 new buildings were constructed in the city and suburbs, many of them single-family dwellings.⁹ Housing in Raleigh followed national trends of the period. Most of the dwellings in Raleigh were built as part of subdivisions or tract housing, rather than standalone dwellings such as the Alva and Dan Benton House. Dwellings during this period could be either speculative or custom. For custom homes, homeowners could choose a design from a plan book and adjust elements as necessary, as seen at the Alva and Dan Benton house.¹⁰ The Bentons selected the design from a book and chose not to include a basement, which was included in the original plan according to Dan Benton. The house was constructed on a corner lot adjacent to an agricultural property, rather than in a newly established subdivision.

After World War II, most dwellings continued to be built in revival styles featured in mail-order and stock books printed by national building companies like the Standard Homes Company, which had offices in Raleigh. These speculative houses transitioned from modest Colonial or Tudor Revivals to the Ranch, which became ubiquitous starting in the 1950s.¹¹ By the late 1950s some Ranches had taken on Contemporary stylistic features, such as clerestory windows, exposed rafters under wide eaves, and groups of large windows.¹² Small, Minimal Traditional Ranches gave way to the longer Rambler Ranch and Split-Level dwellings. Traditional and Colonial Ranches proved to be more popular than the Contemporary style. These houses often had picture windows, bedroom windows placed high on the wall, a mix of siding materials, and a carport under a side-gable roof.

Contemporary home design can be seen in some subdivisions within the city limits, such as Country Club Hills Subdivision (WA4474), a circa-1946 neighborhood that features a handful of Contemporary houses designed by faculty of the School of the Design mixed with Ranches and

⁷ M. Ruth Little, "The Development of Modernism in Raleigh, 1945-1965," 2006, 13; M. Ruth Little, "Post-World War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965 MPDF," 2009, F-24.

⁸ Little 2006, 13-14.

⁹ Little 2006, 4-5.

¹⁰ Little 2009, F-30.

¹¹ Little 2006, 13-14; Little 2009, E-11.

¹² Little 2006, 19.

Colonial Revival-inspired dwellings.¹³ Later tract subdivisions, like Ridgewood (WA4630) and Brentwood (WA4465), represented national building trends, such as Ranches, Split-Foyers, and Split-Levels.¹⁴

Discussion of Comparable Properties

A search of HPOWeb revealed more than 300 Ranches built in Raleigh and the vicinity in the postwar period through the early 1960s. The overwhelming majority were built as part of subdivisions. Few shared Modernist characteristics with the Alva and Dan Benton House such as the prominent, visible front entrance, eave wall slab chimney, integrated carport, and mix of siding materials. Research uncovered three properties comparable with the Alva and Dan Benton House, which are described below.

516 Winterlochen Road is a contributing resource to Greenbrier Estates (WA8354), which is roughly bounded by US 70, Vesta Drive and Winterlochen Road to the north, US 401 and Greenbrier Road to the west, Cindy Drive to the south and Tiber Drive to the east. Built between 1958 and 1975, the subdivision contains 315 single-family Ranches, Split-Levels, Split-Foyers, and Colonial-Revival dwellings. While some of the Ranches and Split-Levels feature contemporary design elements, 516 Winterlochen Road is the only comprehensively Modernist house in the neighborhood. Like the Alva and Dan Benton House, the circa-1962 dwelling was designed by an



Figure 13: House, 516 Winterlochen Road, 2023.

unknown architect, and it is likely the original owners purchased pre-existing plans. The façade features a prominent chimney adjacent to the off-centered entrance on the façade. The low-sloped, front-gable roof features clerestory windows just beneath the eaves, providing privacy on the façade side, similar to the function of the high windows on the Alva and Dan Benton House façade. Greenbrier Estates was recommended eligible under Criteria A and C under the areas of community planning and development and architecture in 2018.¹⁵

¹³ Marvin A. Brown and Sarah Potere, “Proposed New Interchange on I-440 at Ridge Road to Connect to Crabtree Valley Avenue, Wake County, North Carolina,” 2018, 50-51.

¹⁴ Little 2006, 8.

¹⁵ Marvin A. Brown and Sarah Potere, “Convert At-Grade Intersection to an Interchange at US 70/NC 50 and SR 2912 (Timber Road), Wake County,” 2018, 21.

3015 Haven Road was designed by an unknown architect and built by J. T. Butts Construction Company in 1959 at the end of Haven Road, a single residential road off Donald Ross Drive within the city limits.¹⁶ Like the Alva and Dan Benton House, 3015 Haven Road appears to have been designed as a custom house for the original owners and not part of a planned subdivision. The L-shaped dwelling features a prominent eave wall slab chimney visible on the façade. The integral carport is prominent, and the house features high ribbon windows to provide privacy. The low-sloped roof and brick siding are similar to that of the Alva and Dan Benton House.



Figure 14: 3015 Haven Road, 2023.

James A. and Olivia McNeill built their Modernist residence on the north side of Blue Ridge Road circa 1960. They found the plan in a magazine.¹⁷ The modest dwelling features distinctive Modernist characteristics found at the Alva and Dan Benton House, such as the integral carport, low-sloped front-gable roof, and fixed-pane vertical windows at the entrance that is located under the peak of the gable. The all-brick dwelling does not feature the mix of siding materials as at the Alva and Dan Benton House, and it appears that the windows have been replaced at some point.



Figure 15: James A. and Olivia McNeill Residence, 3449 Blue Ridge Road, 2023.

Property Evaluation

The Alva and Dan Benton House is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The Alva and Dan Benton House maintains historic integrity. The dwelling remains in its original location and the setting still reflects a rural secondary road outside of a major city. The dwelling retains integrity of location, materials, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. Almost all of the materials are original, save for the roof that was replaced in 2022.

The Alva and Dan Benton House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A (association with significant events). The property is not associated with a single significant event or pattern of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. The dwelling is one of many mid-twentieth-century Ranches built in Raleigh and the vicinity. Mid-century subdivisions with tract or speculative housing in Raleigh associated with faculty of the School of Design and other builders better reflect the trend of postwar housing and postwar architecture in Raleigh and the vicinity.

¹⁶ NC Modernist, "Miscellaneous Raleigh and Wake County NC," accessed March 20, 2023, <https://www.ncmodernist.org/raleigh.htm>.

¹⁷ Ncmodernist.org.

The Alva and Dan Benton House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B (association with significant persons). Research has found no significant connection between the property and persons important to local, state, or national history.

The Alva and Dan Benton House is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C (significant design characteristics). The dwelling's form, materials, and plan contribute to its eligibility as a representative example of a modest mid-century Modernist Ranch in the Raleigh vicinity. The prominent slab chimney on the facade, integrated carport, low-slung design, and mix of siding materials reflect character-defining features of a mid-century Ranch house. The interior has remained unaltered, and the exterior was altered only minimally with the addition of a door and matching window on the east (rear) elevation. The addition of the door and window and roof replacement do not diminish the dwelling's defining characteristics of a mid-century Modernist Ranch.

The Alva and Dan Benton House is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D (potential to yield information). The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design and technology not already obtained by documentary sources or fieldwork and is therefore recommended not eligible under Criterion D.

Period of Significance

The recommended period of significance for the Alva and Dan Benton House is 1963, when the house was built. Contributing buildings include the dwelling and the 1967 outbuilding. Contributing landscape features include the lawn and forested area, along with the two gravel driveways.

Recommended Boundary

The recommended NRHP boundary for the Alva and Dan Benton House is illustrated in **Figure 16** and equates with the current tax parcel. This boundary contains all contributing buildings and landscape features. The boundary along Old Watkins and Forestville Roads conforms to the existing NCDOT right-of-way.



Figure 16: Proposed National Register boundary.

IV. REFERENCES

Benton, Dan. In-person interview with the author. April 4, 2023.

Marvin A. Brown and Sarah Potere. "Convert At-Grade Intersection to an Interchange at US 70/NC 50 and SR 2812 (Timber Road), Wake County, North Carolina." North Carolina Historic Preservation Office ER 18-0644. February 2018. <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER%2018-0644.pdf#page=13>.

-----, "Proposed New Interchange on I-440 at Ridge Road to Connect to Crabtree Valley Avenue, Wake County, North Carolina." North Carolina Historic Preservation Office ER 18-3136. August 2018. <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER%2018-3136.pdf#page=57>.

M. Ruth Little. "The Development of Modernism in Raleigh, 1945-1965." Survey Update. Raleigh, NC: Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, 2006.

-----, "Post-World War II and Modern Architecture in Raleigh, North Carolina, 1945-1965." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2009.

NC Modernist. "Miscellaneous Raleigh and Wake County NC." Accessed March 20, 2023. <http://www.ncmodernist.org/raleigh.htm>.

NETROnline. "Historic Aerials Viewer." Accessed March and April 2023. www.historicaerials.com.

The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC). "Benton-Poole Wedding Solemnized." September 25, 1961.

Sullivan, Patrick, Mary Beth Reed, and Tracey Fedor. "The Ranch House in Georgia: Guidelines for Evaluation." Prepared for Georgia Transmission Corporation: Tucker, GA, 2010.

Wake County Consolidated Real Property Index. Accessed March and April 2023. <http://rodcrpi.wakegov.com/booksweb/genextsearch.aspx>.

Wake County Geographic Information Services. Accessed March and April 2023. <https://maps.raleighnc.gov/iMAPS/>.



8601 Six Forks Road
Forum 1, Suite 700
Raleigh, NC 27615



www.rkk.com