



Appendix E Cultural and Historic Resources Report

June 2022

Cultural Resource Background Review/ New River Valley Station Feasibility Study, Montgomery County, Virginia

March 2022

Prepared for

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Prepared by

NRV Project Team



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March 24, 2022

Date



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1 Introduction

On behalf of Transforming Rail in Virginia and as a subconsultant to Moffatt & Nichol, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Dovetail) conducted a background review of four potential station locations in the New River Valley (NRV) area of Virginia (**Figure 1-1**, p. 2). If federal funding is awarded, development of a station will eventually require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This preliminary study was designed to provide data to aid in the site selection process by providing details on previous cultural resource studies and previously recorded resources in the study area of each station, as well as conduct a limited historic map review to ascertain the potential for unrecorded historic resources. In instances where a previously recorded resource has not been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), preliminary recommendations on data potential were given to help identify areas of concern or locations that may require additional studies.

For the purposes of this research, the study areas comprised oval-shaped study buffers around each possible station location, measuring approximately 0.5 mile (0.8 km) by 1 mile (1.6 km) in size (**Figure 1-2** and **Figure 1-3**, pp. 3–4). The four stations under consideration are NRV Mall North, NRV Mall West, Ellett, and Merrimac. Because the study areas overlap notably for the two NRV Mall locations, they were studied together as part of the current research.

The background review and historic map research was completed in October and November, 2021, by Kerri Barile, Patrick Johnson, and Jonathan Valalik with Dovetail Cultural Resource Group. All three individuals meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards for their respective fields. Dr. Barile served as the project Principal Investigator.

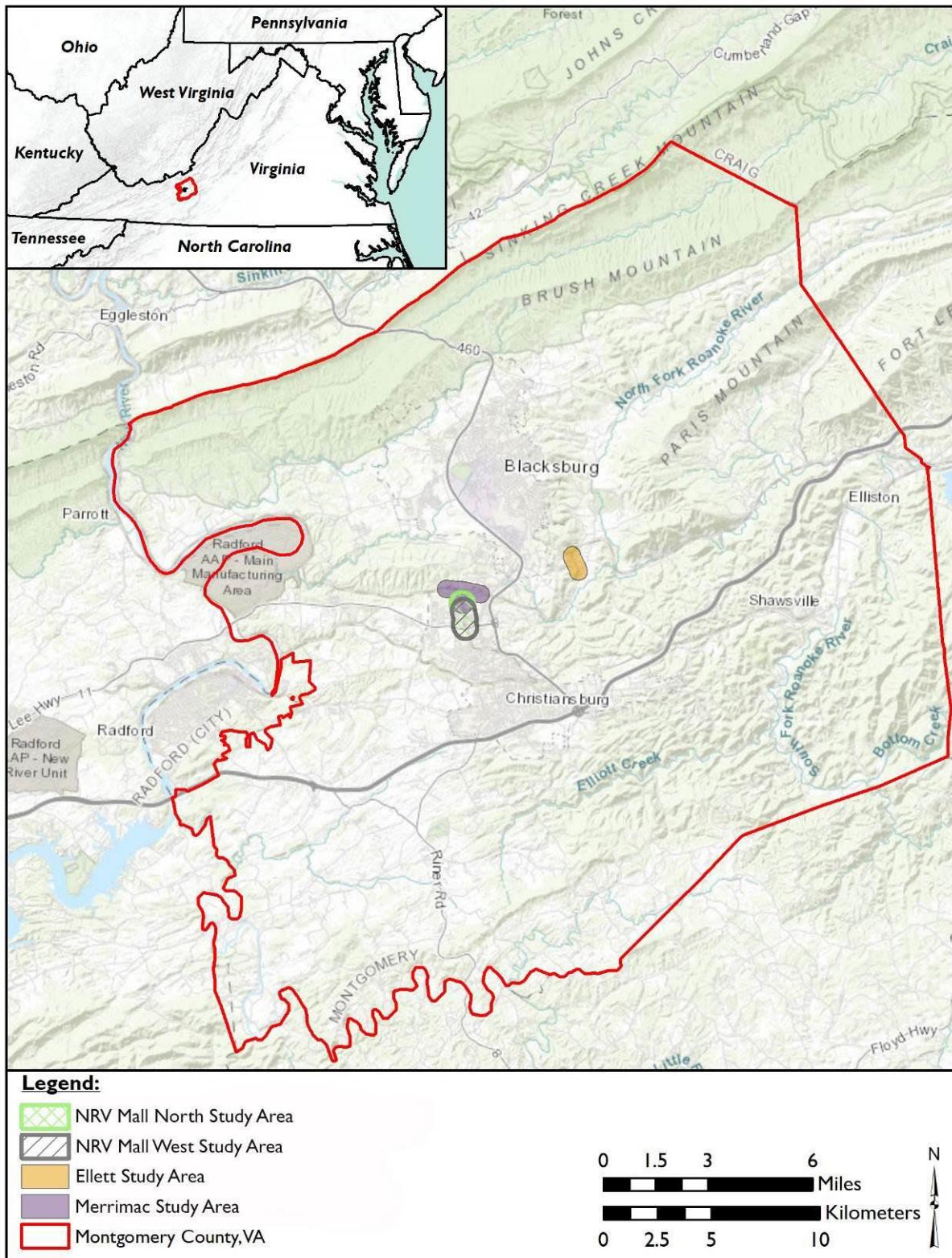


FIGURE 1-1. LOCATION OF STUDY AREAS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA (ESRI 2021a)

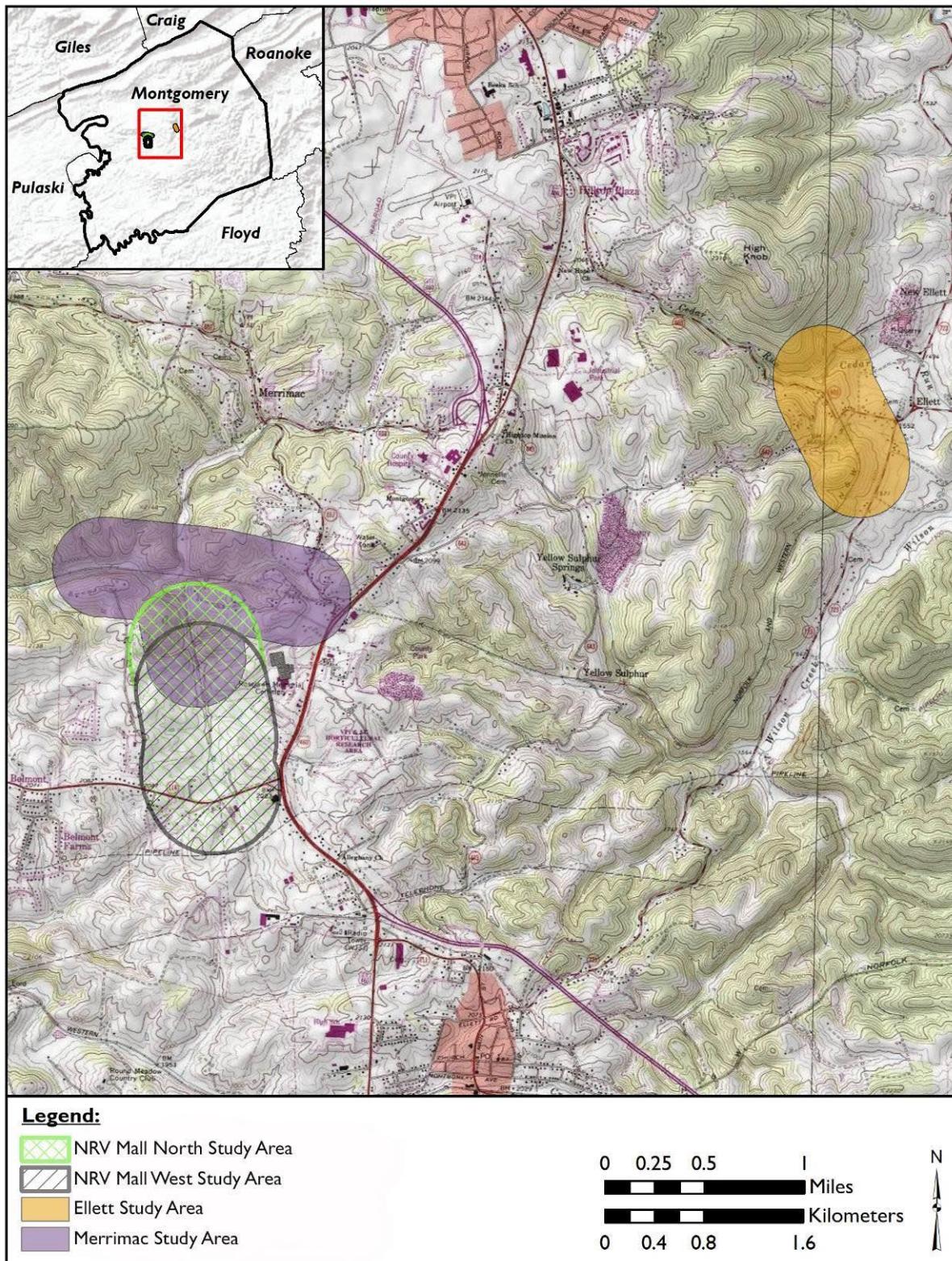


FIGURE 1-2. FOUR STUDY AREAS AS SHOWN ON A UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (USGS) TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (ESRI 2021b)

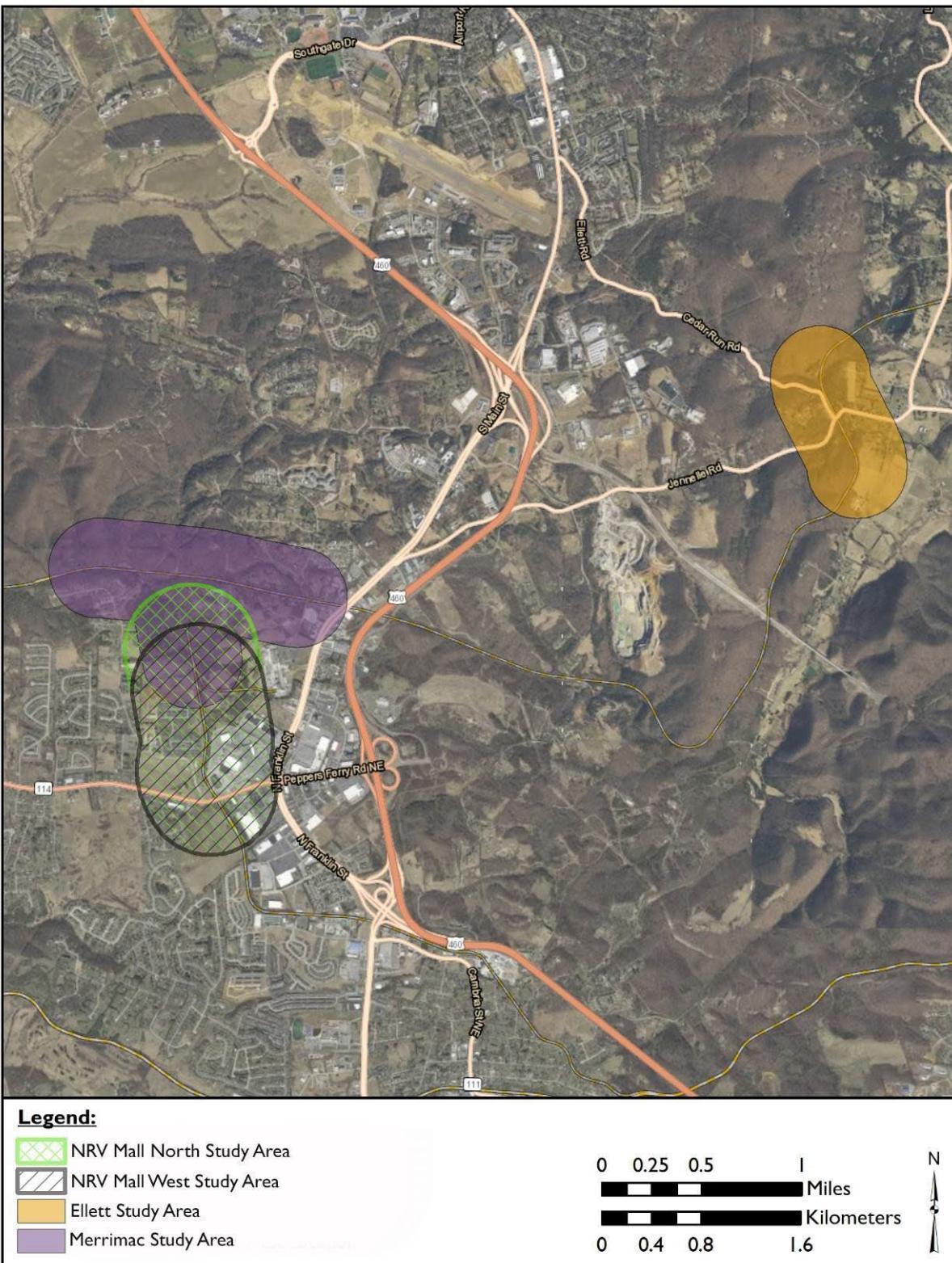


FIGURE 1-3. FOUR STUDY AREAS AS SHOWN ON AERIAL IMAGERY (VIRGINIA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION NETWORK [VGIN] 2017)

2 Project Methodology

Dovetail conducted a background literature and records review at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), including an investigation of records on previous cultural resource studies and previously recorded archaeological sites and architectural properties within the study areas. The purpose of this work was to obtain information to aid in future project planning, namely to identify potential cultural resource issues at the outset of the decision-making process. Text on the research potential of key resources that have not been evaluated for NRHP potential was included to provide data on possible future cultural resource studies/areas of concern.

Although this task did not include in-depth historical research on each area, an abbreviated historic map and historic aerial review was conducted. Images from the seventeenth through the twentieth century were examined to note any areas with a high potential to contain buried historic deposits.

3 Results

The following chapter presents the results of the background review performed at the four station locations under consideration, including a summary of potential future studies.

3.1 NRV Mall North and West

The two NRV Mall locations under study—north and west—are both located partially on the property currently occupied by the New River Valley Mall. This parcel contains the circa-1988 shopping area and a large, paved parking lot surrounding the commercial buildings. New River Road NW encircles the complex. Undeveloped land and other commercial properties are located on the peripheries of the study areas. As aforementioned, because the two study areas in this location (north and west) overlap notably, they are discussed here together. The current study included a background literature and records review (previous surveys in the area and previously recorded resources) as well as a historic map review to identify the potential for unrecorded resources.

3.1.1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

No previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the study area of either NRV Mall North or NRV Mall West. The closest were two cultural resource surveys and excavations approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) south of the study area. In 2006, Radford University conducted a survey of 2.3 acres (0.9 ha) associated with Christiansburg Institute and identified artifacts out of their original context that may have been associated with the institute but did not identify any new archaeological sites (Ward 2006). In 2017, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) conducted a survey of 0.15 acres (0.06 ha) associated with the Huckleberry Trail and identified no archaeological sites (Penner 2017).

3.1.2 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Seven previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the NRV Mall North and West study areas, none of which have been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (**Figure 3-1**, p. 7; **Table 3-1**, p. 8). Of these, three are prehistoric, three are historic, and one has both prehistoric and historic components. The latter, site 44MY0228, consists of a camp dating to the Early Archaic and Woodland periods as well as an artifact scatter dating to the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth centuries. Several projectile points, a few prehistoric ceramic sherds, and hundreds of other lithic artifacts have been identified at this site. Two pieces of bottle glass, unglazed ceramic sherds, and redware were also recovered and date to the historic period of the site. While NRHP eligibility has not been established, the large amount of material recovered from a small site (estimated at 85 by 129 feet [28 by 43 m]) suggests that the site is likely to contain information on the prehistory and history of this area.

Three prehistoric sites were recorded in the NRV Mall study areas. Site 44MY0229 dates to the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland periods. Six prehistoric ceramic sherds and over 100 lithic artifacts, including projectile points, hammerstones, and informal tools, were recovered from this site. While NRHP eligibility has not been established, the large amount of material recovered from a small site (estimated at 85 by 200 feet [28 by 67 m]) means the site likely has the potential to reveal information on area prehistory.

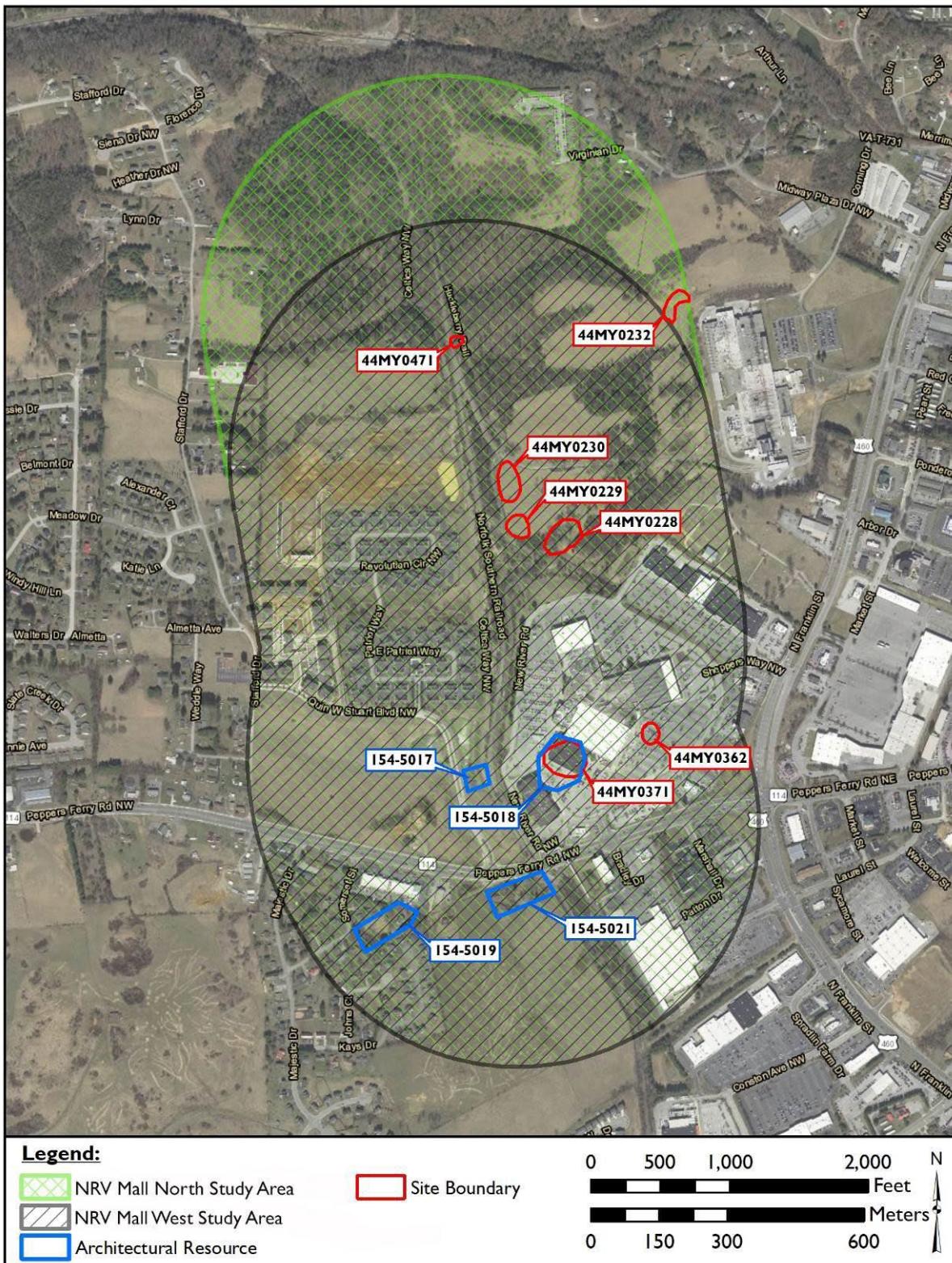


FIGURE 3-1. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES IN THE NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS (VGIN 2017)

Site 44MY0230 dates to the Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland periods. Artifacts from the site include three bifaces and approximately 200 pieces of debitage. While NRHP eligibility has not been established, the large amount of material recovered from a small site (estimated at 128 by 150 feet [39 by 48 m]) means that the site could have data potential and may be potentially eligible for the NRHP pending additional survey and analysis. Site 44MY0471 dates to an unknown period of prehistory. Lithic artifacts from the site include a core, informal tool, and 10 pieces of debitage. The site was not evaluated for the NRHP.

Three historic sites were recorded in the NRV Mall study areas. Site 44MY0232 is a house site dating to the early twentieth century; the artifact assemblage includes 20 ceramic sherds and 10 pieces of bottle glass. The site was partially destroyed by construction of a later twentieth-century house in the immediate vicinity. Site 44MY0371 is a nineteenth-century house site with no associated artifacts. It has been destroyed by development. Neither of these sites have been evaluated for the NRHP; although formal coordination is needed, data presented in DHR records suggests that neither would require additional studies. Site 44MY0362 is a cemetery dating to the late-nineteenth century whose remains and gravestones were relocated. The site has been destroyed by construction of the New River Valley Shopping Center.

TABLE 3-1. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS

DHR #	Type	Period	DHR Evaluation
44MY0228	Camp; Artifact scatter	Early Archaic, Woodland; Late 19th through early 20th Century	Not evaluated
44MY0229	Camp, temporary	Late Archaic, Early Woodland, Late Woodland	Not evaluated
44MY0230	Camp, temporary	Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, Late Woodland	Not evaluated
44MY0232	Dwelling, single	20th Century: 1st quarter	Not evaluated
44MY0362	Cemetery	19th Century: 3rd quarter	Not evaluated
44MY0371	Dwelling, single	19th Century	Not evaluated
44MY0471	Camp	Prehistoric/Unknown	Not evaluated

3.1.3 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

There are four above-ground resources previously recorded with the DHR that are located within the NRV Mall North and West study areas (**Table 3-2**, p. 9; also see **Figure 3-1**, p. 7). Of these, two have been determined to be not eligible for the NRHP (154-5021 and 154-5019). One of the dwellings, the Frank Ridinger House (154-5019), is a two-story frame house built circa 1850. The second above-ground resource determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP is a dwelling located at 300 Peppers Ferry Road (154-5021). This is a one-story brick dwelling built circa 1947.

The remaining two resources have not been evaluated for NRHP potential. They include a barn and a dwelling. The barn (154-5017) is a one-story log building constructed circa 1830. The dwelling (154-5018) is a two-story brick building constructed circa 1799. Both of these resources have been demolished.

TABLE 3-2. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS

DHR ID	Property Names	Date of Construction	Evaluation Status
154-5017	Charles Taylor Tobacco Barn	ca. 1830	Not Evaluated
154-5018	Charles Taylor House (Historic), Harrison-Hall-Taylor House	ca. 1799	Not Evaluated
154-5019	Frank Ridinger House, 450 Old Peppers Ferry Rd	ca. 1850	DHR Staff: Not Eligible
154-5021	House, 300 Peppers Ferry Road	ca. 1947	DHR Staff: Not Eligible

3.1.4 HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

Historic maps suggest that the areas within and immediately adjacent to the NRV Mall North and West study areas was sparsely developed in the nineteenth century. Maps from the Civil War show several families settled in this general area, including the Linkus family and a “cabin” near the southern portion of the study area (**Figure 3-2**) (Library of Congress 186_). This trend continued through the first quarter of the twentieth century. The Blacksburg Branch Railroad came through the area in the early 1900s eventually spurring more settlement.

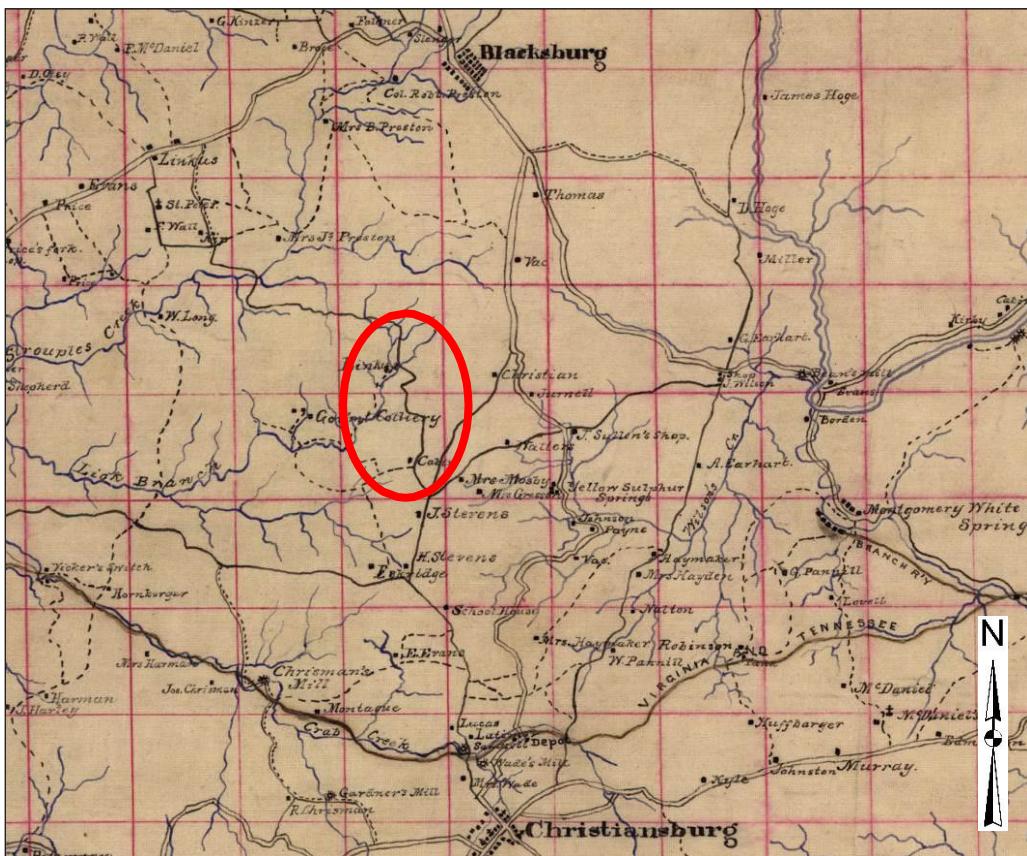


FIGURE 3-2. APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS (IN RED) ON AN 1860S CIVIL WAR MAP (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 186_), NOT TO SCALE

The central part of the study areas remained undeveloped into the 1930s (**Figure 3-3**) (USGS 1932). Although the northern portion of the study areas remained largely undeveloped, present-day Franklin Street (Route 460) was expanded to be a four-lane road and the number of houses had increased adjacent to it as well as Peppers Ferry Road NW near the Stafford Drive intersection (**Figure 3-4**, p. 11) (USGS 1965). The neighborhoods established in the mid-twentieth century continued to grow throughout the 1970s and 1980s (**Figure 3-5**, p. 11) (USGS 1983). Aerial imagery indicates a notable uptick in development within the central portion of the study area associated with the New River Valley Mall construction in 1988 (historicaerial.com 2021). The southern portion of the study area also continued to be developed, while the northern study area remained largely open throughout the remainder of the twentieth century. This is still the case today.

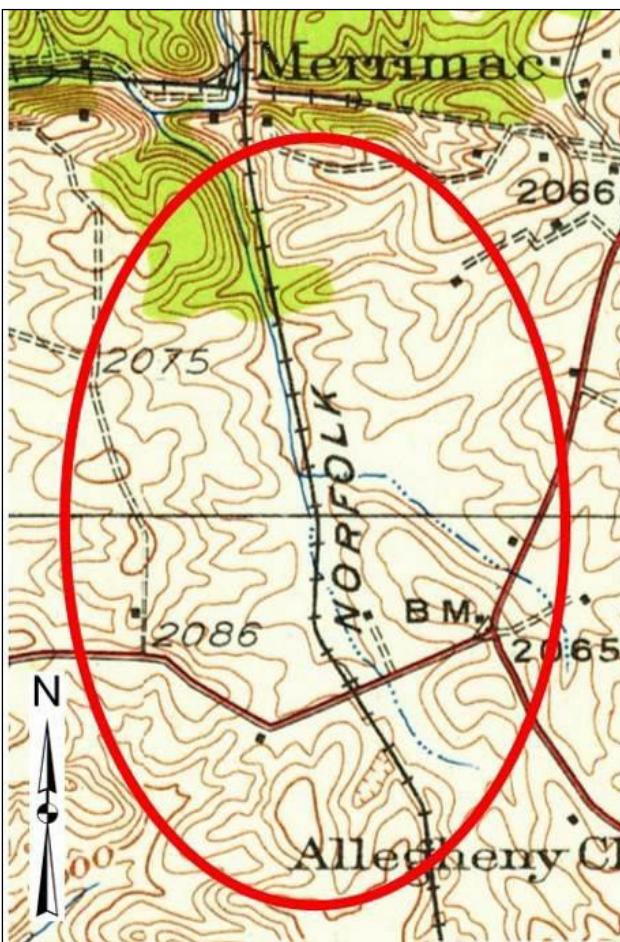


FIGURE 3-3: 1932 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS (USGS 1932), NOT TO SCALE

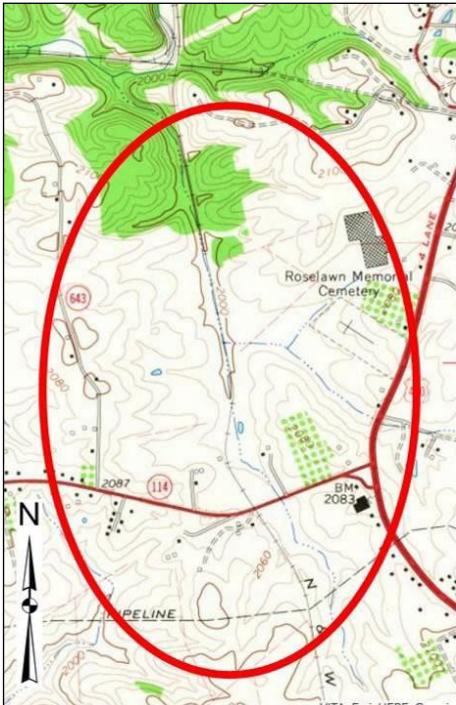


FIGURE 3-4: 1965 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS (USGS 1965), NOT TO SCALE

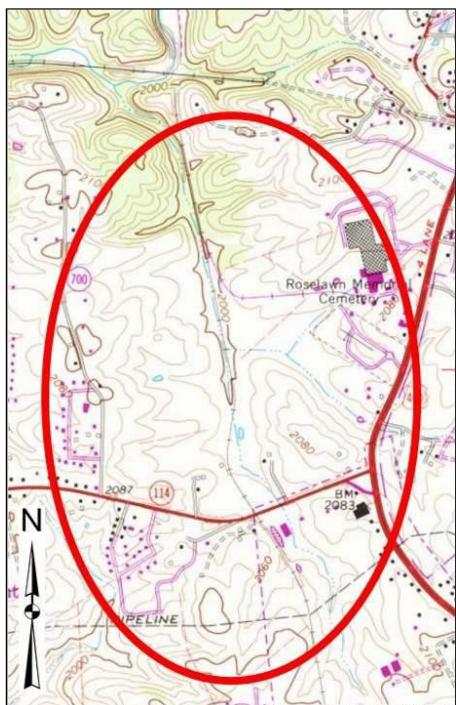


FIGURE 3-5: 1983 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF NRV MALL NORTH AND WEST STUDY AREAS (USGS 1983), NOT TO SCALE

3.1.5 SUMMARY

The NRV Mall North and West study areas have not been previously surveyed, and they are not within a recorded historic district, battlefield, or other notable large historic property. The background review suggests that unrecorded archaeological sites may be within the larger study area. To date, recorded sites that are associated with the prehistoric occupation tend to have a more robust physical presence than those dating to the historic period. Several of the prehistoric sites have the potential to provide information on an area Native American occupation; crafting recommendations on potential eligibility for the NRHP necessitate additional study. The three historic sites also have not been evaluated but likely do not have data potential.

Only four architectural resources have been recorded. The railroad itself has not been recorded but it is over 50 years in age and will require documentation. It is possible that additional resources over 50 years in age may be located within the study area but the quantity is low as the area has only recently been developed. The ensuing cultural resource studies will be dependent on where within the study area that the station and associated facilities are located. Should they be placed adjacent to the mall or within the paved area around the mall, no additional archaeological studies are warranted but an architectural study may be needed to meet DHT guidelines should resources over 50 years old be located outside of the footprint but within the viewshed of the new station. If the station is placed outside of the mall, archaeological survey of areas that have the potential for intact soils within the study area limits of disturbance will likely be required, and an architectural study of buildings over 50 years in age could be warranted. This is especially notable for the southern portion of the study area where previously recorded archaeological sites are on file, including several large prehistoric sites, and the historic map review noted that development began there in the mid-twentieth century. This could result in the presence of above-ground resources over 50 years in age that may require recordation. Despite the potential requirement for additional survey, it is likely that cultural resources would not preclude the selection of a preferred location.

3.2 Ellett

The Ellett study area is located east of Route 460 between Christiansburg and Blacksburg near the intersection of Route 642 and the Norfolk and Western Railroad. The area is sparsely developed with the majority of the buildings comprising residential and commercial buildings along the primary roadways.

3.2.1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

No previous cultural resource surveys have been completed within the study area. The area is on the outskirts of two developed towns and appears to have not been the subject of large-scale development, transportation improvements, or other projects that may have required cultural resource services. The closest previous study was a 2007 survey for the Smart Road cellular tower project completed by Dovetail, approximately 2,800 feet east of the study area (Dollins et al. 2007). During the work, the team completed an archaeological survey and an architectural study with a viewshed analysis. No sites were recorded during the archaeological work. Three architectural resources were studied: the New Ellett Railroad Station (060-0379), the Earhart House (060-0380), and the Virginian Railway Underpass (060-0573). Based on the viewshed study, it was recommended that the project would have no adverse effect on these three resources.

3.2.2 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

One previously recorded archaeological site is located within the Ellett study area (**Table 3-3; Figure 3-6**, p. 14). Site 44MY0160 is a church constructed in 1856 that was rebuilt in the early 1900s. The extant building is the Trinity United Methodist Church (060-0383) (see below for more details). The church is listed in the NRHP, but the nineteenth-century archaeological site surrounding the existing church has not been evaluated for the NRHP as an individual resource.

TABLE 3-3. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE ELLETT STUDY AREA

DHR #	Type	Period	DHR Evaluation
44MY0160; 060-0383	Church	Mid-19th through 20th Century	Not evaluated

3.2.3 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES

There are five above-ground resources previously recorded with the DHR that are located within the study area (**Table 3-4**; also see **Figure 3-6**, p. 14). Of those five above-ground resources, one is Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and NRHP listed (060-0383). The remaining four have not been formally evaluated for the NRHP by DHR staff (060-0381, 060-0382, 060-0384, 060-0571).

Trinity United Methodist Church (060-0383) on Route 723 is a one-story brick church constructed circa 1908. The church was listed in the VLR and the NRHP for its architectural merit. The property also includes the archaeological site associated with the first church on the property (44MY0160, see above).

The remaining four resources have not been evaluated for the NRHP. Three of these resources are two-story frame dwellings. Two of these houses were constructed around 1875 (060-0381 and 060-0384); the third dates to around 1840 (060-0382). The remaining resource is a two-story store constructed around 1885 (060-0571).

TABLE 3-4. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE ELLETT STUDY AREA

DHR ID	Property Names	Date of Construction	Evaluation Status
060-0381	House, SW of the junction of Routes 603 and 723	ca. 1875	Not Evaluated
060-0382	House, Route 723	ca. 1840	Not Evaluated
060-0383 (44MY0160)	Trinity United Methodist Church, Route 723	ca. 1908	NRHP Listing, VLR Listing
060-0384	House, Route 723	ca. 1875	Not Evaluated
060-0571	Country Corner Store	ca. 1885	Not Evaluated

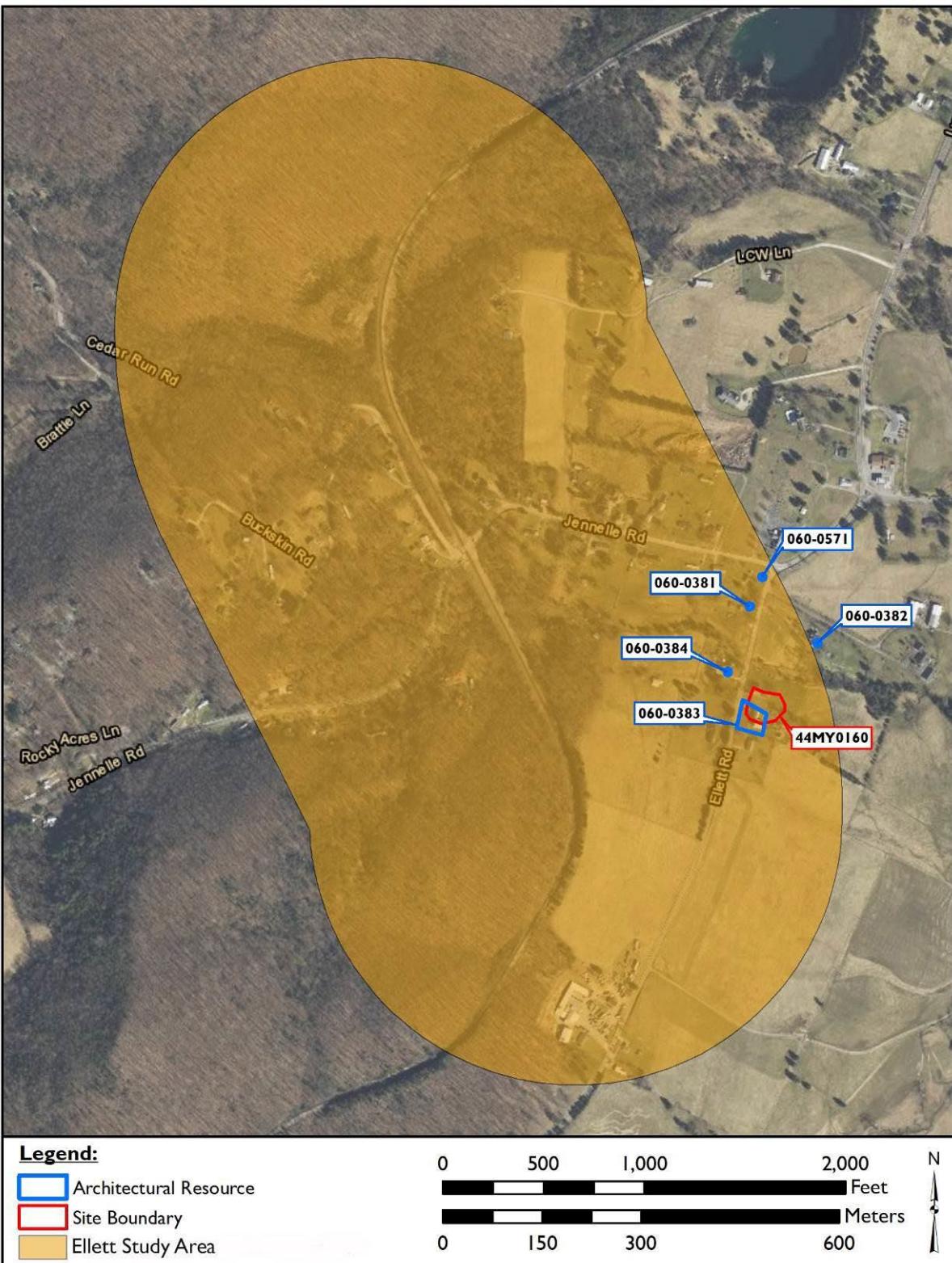


FIGURE 3-6. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES IN THE ELLETT STUDY AREA (VGIN 2017)

3.2.4 HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

Historic maps suggest that the area within and immediately adjacent to the study area was a lightly settled crossroads in the nineteenth century through the first quarter of the twentieth century (**Figure 3-7**) (Library of Congress 186_). The homestead of “J. Wilson” is shown at this intersection with an associated “shop” which may be a blacksmith’s operation. By the 1930s, the railroad came through the area and major roads had been established. Buildings had been constructed along roads in the area, particularly Cedar Run Road. A 1932 topographic map shows Cedar Run Road running along the west side of the Norfolk and Western Railroad before crossing the tracks and continuing east (**Figure 3-8**, p. 16) (USGS 1932). Numerous buildings line the roadways. By 1983, Cedar Run Road and surrounding roadways continued to be populated with built resources (**Figure 3-9**, p. 16) (USGS 1983). Both Ellett Road and Jannelle Road were increasingly developed throughout the remainder of the twentieth century. Aerial imagery confirms these trends and indicates that settlement remains clustered along the roadways today (historicaerials.com 2021).

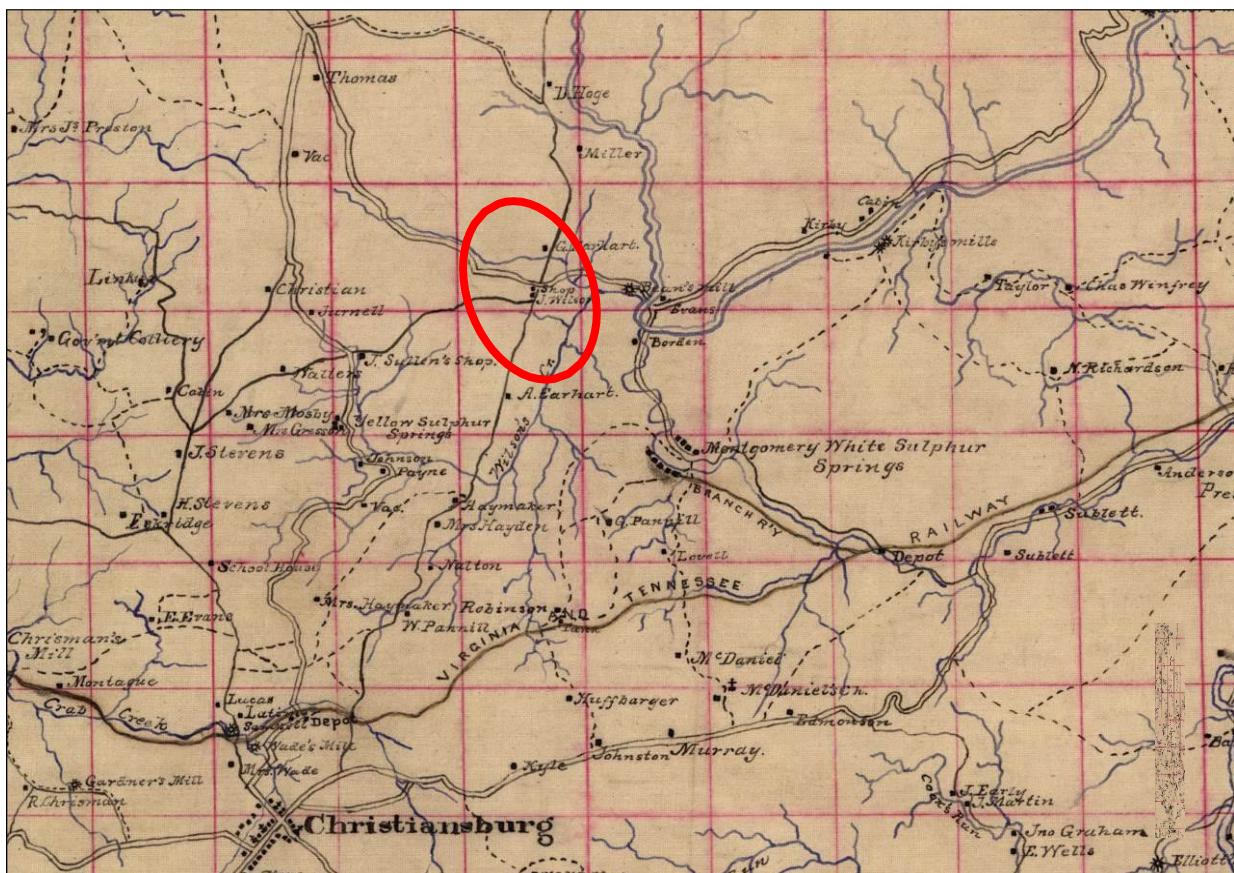


FIGURE 3-7. APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE ELLETT STUDY AREA STUDY AREAS (IN RED) ON AN 1860S CIVIL WAR MAP (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 186_). NOT TO SCALE

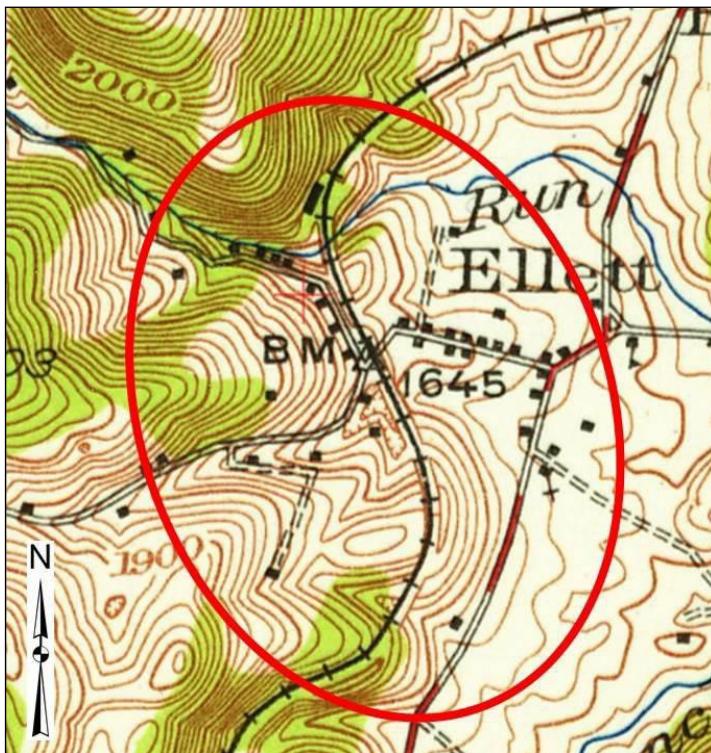


FIGURE 3-8: 1932 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF ELLETT STUDY AREA (USGS 1932), NOT TO SCALE

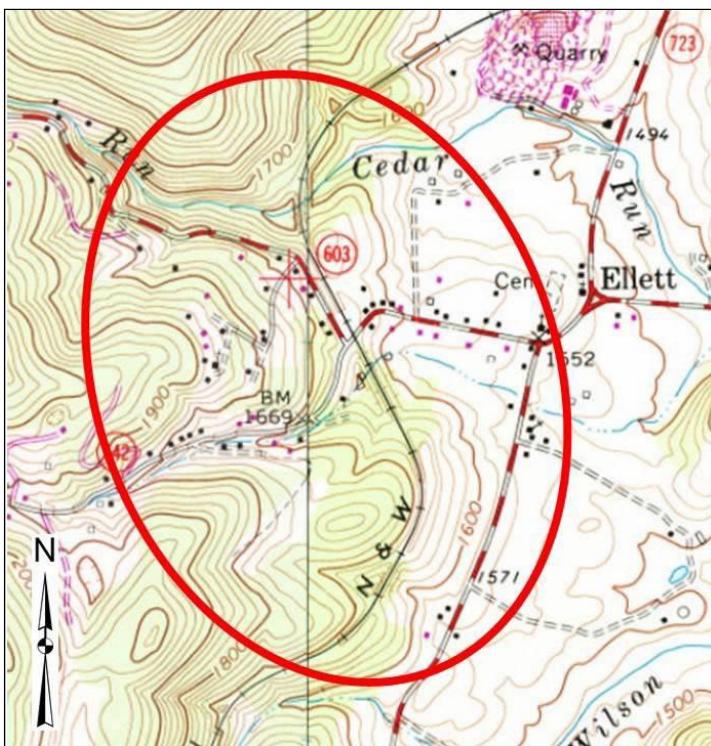


FIGURE 3-9: 1983 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF ELLETT AREA (USGS 1983), NOT TO SCALE

3.2.5 SUMMARY

As with the NRV Mall North and West study areas, there have been no previous cultural resource surveys done within the Ellett study area. There is one NRHP-listed, above-ground resource: Trinity United Methodist Church (060-0383). The site of the earlier nineteenth-century church on the lot is also located on the parcel (44MY0160). It is suggested that the station not be placed within the direct primary viewshed of this resource. There are no other recorded archaeological sites recorded in the study area. The four other architectural resources recorded in the area have not been evaluated for NRHP potential. The historic map review confirms that development has historically been along the transportation corridors in this area, including both roads and the railways.

It is probable that any selected station location within this study area will require both archaeological and architectural survey due to the paucity of studies and associated evidence of development. It is unknown if eligible sites or buildings will be identified. Additional coordination would be needed, but it is unlikely that newly identified resources would impede construction of the station.

3.3 Merrimac

The Merrimac study area is located west of Route 460 and south of the small community of Merrimac. The study area centers along an east-west stretch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. There is little development in the area, and most of the parcels are lightly forested. A residential development along Stafford Drive is within the southern portion of the study buffer—an area that partially overlaps with the NRV Mall North and West study areas.

3.3.1 PREVIOUS CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEYS

There have been no previous cultural resource surveys conducted within the Merrimac study area. The closest survey was completed in 1999. Approximately 1,500 feet (457 m) north of the study area, archaeologists from the DHR completed a survey of a series of twentieth-century coal mines (Klatka et al. 1999). In particular, the team focused on 27 locations associated with the Merrimac Mines. Based on the work, the team suggested that the archaeological potential of the mine area is high and they suggested additional studies. To date, no additional work has been completed on this area according to records on file at the DHR.

3.3.2 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Eight previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the study area, none of which have been evaluated for NRHP potential (**Table 3-5**, p. 18; **Figure 3-10**, p. 19). Of these, three are prehistoric and five are historic.

The three prehistoric sites were also discussed earlier. They include site 44MY0229, which dates to the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland periods; site 44MY0230, which dates to the Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland periods; and site 44MY0471, which dates to an unknown period of prehistory. Sites 44MY0229 and 44MY0230 both contain high quantities of artifacts within sites that appear to have intact stratigraphy. These sites may be potentially eligible for the NRHP pending additional study. Site 44MY0471 has a light density of artifacts, none of which are diagnostic. This site is likely not eligible for the NRHP.

TABLE 3-5. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE WHITETHORN DISTRICT WEST STUDY AREA

DHR #	Type	Period	DHR Evaluation
44MY0229	Camp, temporary	Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland	Not evaluated
44MY0230	Camp, temporary	Middle Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland	Not evaluated
44MY0248	Mine, coal	20th Century: 1st half	Not evaluated
44MY0249	Mine, coal	20th Century: 1st half	Not evaluated
44MY0269	Railroad	20th Century: 1st half	Not evaluated
44MY0270	Dwelling, single	20th Century: 1st half	Not evaluated
44MY0271	Railroad bridge	20th Century: 1st half	Not evaluated
44MY0471	Camp	Prehistoric/Unknown	Not evaluated

Five historic sites are in the Merrimac study area, many of which are associated with standing buildings and only one of which has associated artifacts. These five historic sites have no associated artifacts noted on their site forms and should likely be also recorded as architectural resources in the future. Sites 44MY0248 and 44MY0249 are coal mines dating to the first half of the twentieth century from which no artifacts were recovered. Site 44MY0270 is a former building that was part of the Merrimac Anthracite Coal Mine in the first half of the twentieth century. Site 44MY0269 is an intact railroad with no associated artifacts dating to the first half of the twentieth century. Site 44MY0271 is an intact railroad bridge with no associated artifacts dating to the first half of the twentieth century. Insufficient data concerning these five sites is present in the DHR records to warrant a suggestion on their potential NRHP eligibility.

3.3.3 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES

There are two above-ground resources previously recorded with the DHR located within the Whitethorn District West study area (**Table 3-6**; also see **Figure 3-10**, p. 19). Midway Esso (060-0173) is a one-story service station constructed circa 1925 with a masonry structural system. It currently is clad in vinyl siding. The resource has been determined to be not eligible for the NRHP.

A dwelling on Route 643 (060-0163) has also been previously recorded, though not evaluated for NRHP eligibility. This is a one-story, three-bay single-family house constructed around 1875 with a timber-frame structural system. It was last surveyed in 1986.

TABLE 3-6. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES IN THE MERRIMAC STUDY AREA

DHR ID	Property Names	Date of Construction	Evaluation Status
060-0163	House, Route 643	ca. 1875	Not Evaluated
060-0173	Midway Esso, 3340 Midway Road	ca. 1925	DHR Staff: Not Eligible

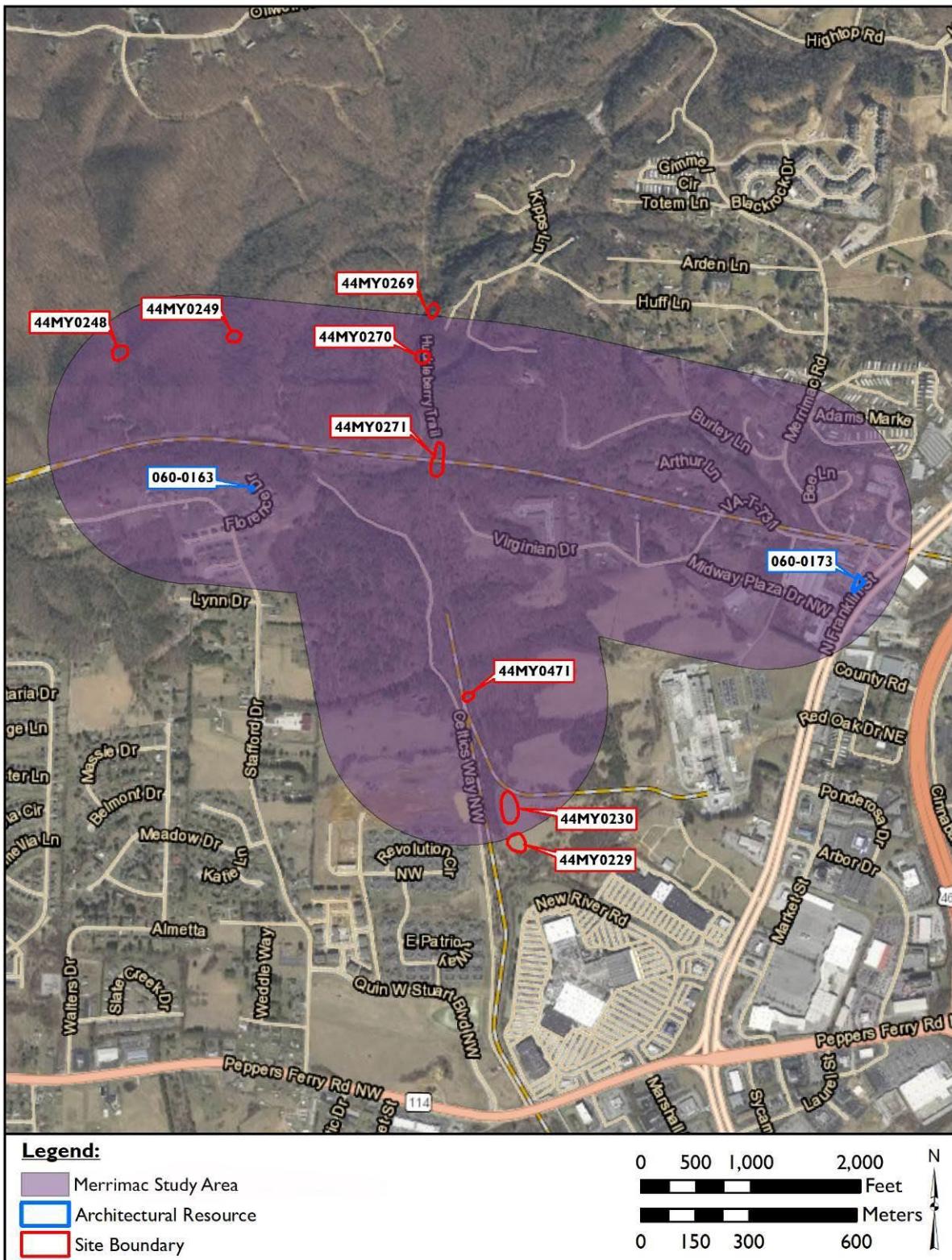


FIGURE 3-10. PREVIOUSLY RECORDED RESOURCES IN THE MERRIMAC STUDY AREA (VGIN 2017)

3.3.4 HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

Historic maps suggest that the area within and immediately adjacent to the study area remained relatively undeveloped in the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth century. As mentioned with the NRV Mall study areas, limited settlement in the nineteenth century is reflected on Civil War-era maps but the development is limited (**Figure 3-11**) (Library of Congress 186_).

As of 1932, few roads existed along the Norfolk and Western Railroad, such as present-day Stafford Drive, Virginia Drive, and Merrimac Road, and buildings sparsely dotted the areas (**Figure 3-12**, p. 21) (USGS 1932). South Main Street was a major corridor in the area, running north-south, and was slightly more populated. By the mid-1960s, the area remained largely rural, although there was slight increase in development along the railroad, and especially where it crossed South Main Street (**Figure 3-13**, p. 21) (USGS 1965). During the 1970s and early 1980s, the areas along South Main Street experienced additional residential development and secondary roads were built off of South Main Street (**Figure 3-14**, p. 22) (USGS 1983). The areas to the north and south of the east-west running Norfolk and Western Railroad had developed slightly more but remained sparsely populated. Topographic maps show that Stafford Drive began being more fully developed around 2005 according to historic aerial imagery (historicaerials.com 2021).

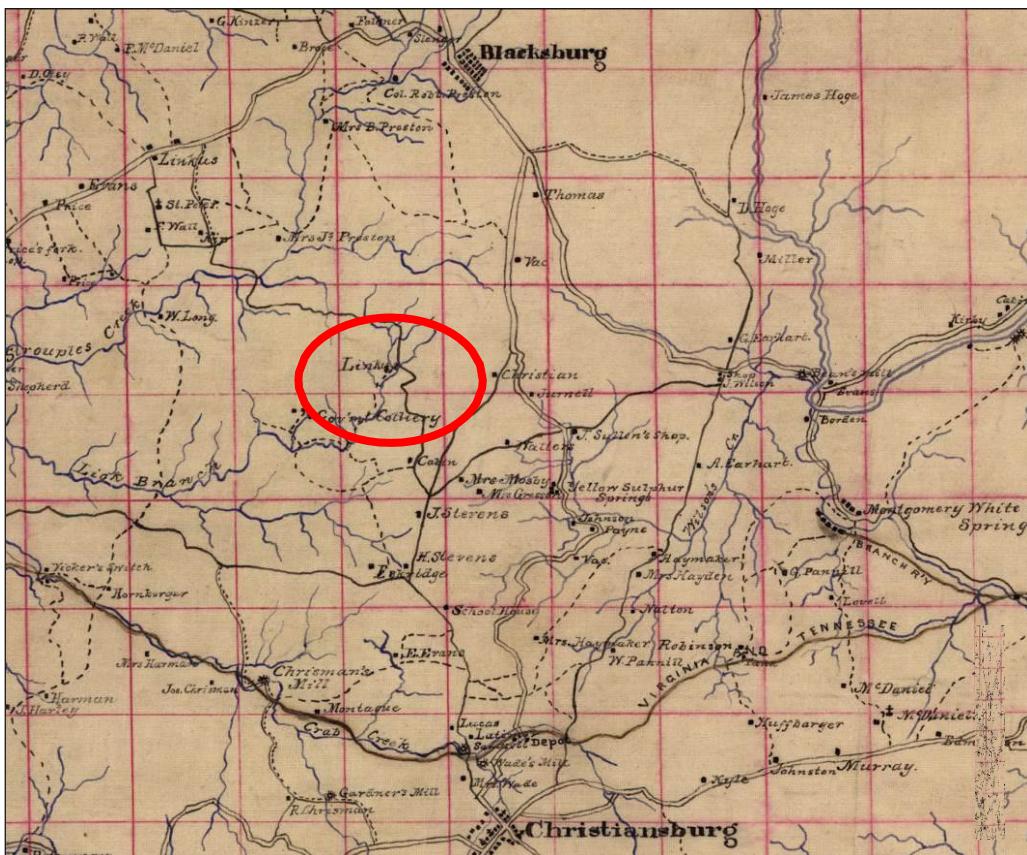


FIGURE 3-11. APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE MERRIMAC STUDY AREA STUDY AREAS (IN RED) ON AN 1860S CIVIL WAR MAP (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 186_), NOT TO SCALE

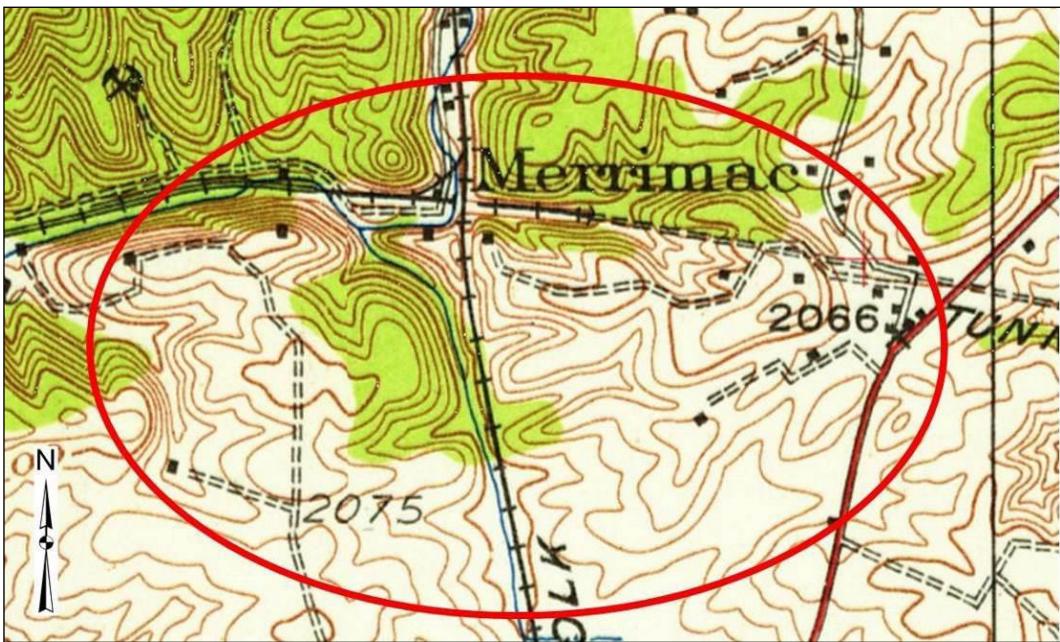


FIGURE 3-12. 1932 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF MERRIMAC STUDY AREA (USGS 1932),
NOT TO SCALE

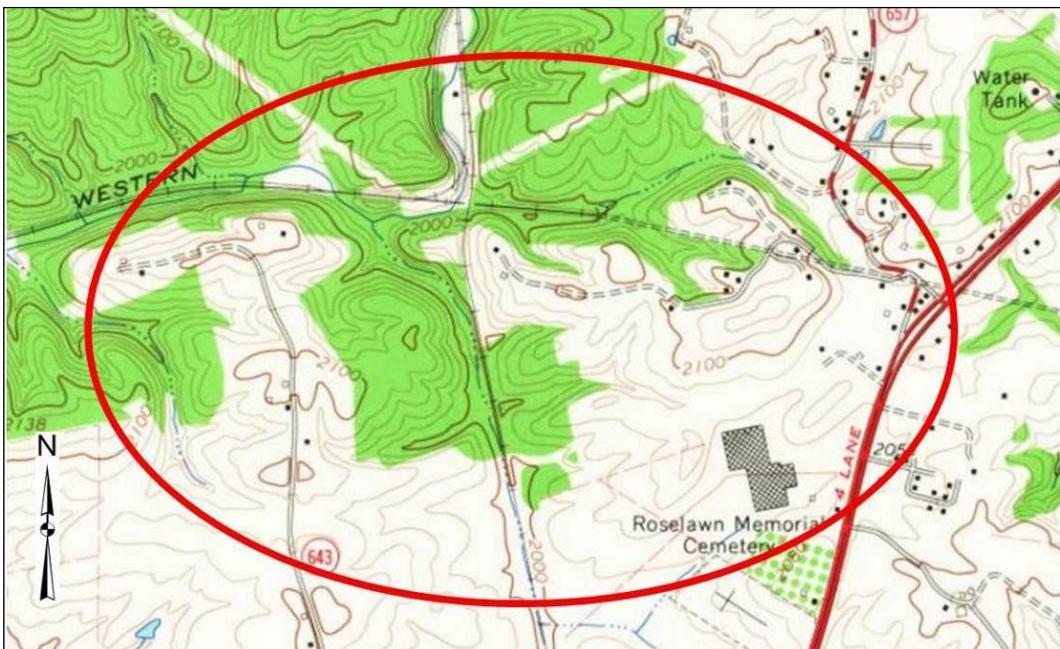


FIGURE 3-13. 1965 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF MERRIMAC STUDY AREA (USGS 1965),
NOT TO SCALE



FIGURE 3-14. 1983 MAP OF APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF MERRIMAC STUDY AREA (USGS 1983), NOT TO SCALE

3.3.5 SUMMARY

The Merrimac study areas has not been previously surveyed, and there are no NRHP-eligible properties within or adjacent to the boundaries. The background review suggests that unrecorded archaeological sites may be within the larger study area. Three prehistoric sites within the study area are likely potentially eligible for the NRHP as they have the potential to provide information on area Native American occupation. Most of the study area has not been surveyed, thus the potential for additional sites to be located in the area is high. There are two previously recorded architectural resources in the study area. One has previously been determined to be not eligible and the second does not exhibit significant characteristics. The limited development in this area suggests that there will likely be additional resources over 50 years in age within the study area to be recorded, but their NRHP eligibility is unknown. This includes the railroad itself.

In sum, it is likely that any selected station location within this study area will require both archaeological and architectural survey. It is not known if eligible sites or buildings will be identified. This said, it is unlikely that newly identified resources would preclude construction of the station in this study area.

4 Summary and Recommendations

The cultural resource studies for the NRV Station Feasibility Study included a background literature and records review and an evaluation of historic maps of each study area to ascertain the potential for resources.

4.1 Summary

Seven previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the NRV Mall North and West study areas. Of these, three are prehistoric (44MY0229, 44MY0230, and 44MY0471), three are historic (44MY0232, 44MY0362, and 44MY0371), and one has both prehistoric and historic components (44MY0228). None have been evaluated for NRHP potential. Based on preliminary data available at the DHR, it is possible that additional study would be needed at 44MY0228, 44MY0229, and 44MY0230 should the recommended project area be near one of these three sites. All contain a high number of artifacts and intact soils based on the background review. They may have the potential to be eligible for the NRHP pending additional study. The remaining four have a lower potential to contain data and/or have been destroyed. Even if additional fieldwork is needed at these sites (444MY0232, 44MY0362, 44MY0371, and 44MY0471), the probability of these resources being eligible for the NRHP is low. There are four above-ground resources previously recorded with the DHR that are located within the NRV Mall North and West study areas (154-5017, 154-5018, 154-5019, and 154-5021). Two have not been evaluated for the NRHP (154-5017 and 154-5018) and two were determined to be not eligible for the NRHP in 2011 (154-5019 and 154-5021). Because these resources were visited more than five years ago, a re-evaluation is required to meet DHR guidelines. As such, should any of these four resources be in the viewshed of the selected parcel, Phase I survey would be required comprising a reconnaissance survey including a brief field visit, completion of a DHR form, and production of a report.

At the Ellett study area, only one previously recorded archaeological site is within the study boundaries: 44MY0160. This cemetery has not been evaluated for NRHP potential. Due to Virginia cemetery regulations, it is suggested that the cemetery be avoided. There are five previously recorded architectural resources. Four have not been evaluated for the NRHP (060-0381, 060-0382, 060-0384, and 060-0571). All four would require Phase I-level survey. The remaining resource, Trinity United Methodist Church (060-0383) is listed in the NRHP. It is suggested that the selected parcel not be located adjacent to or within the viewshed of this resource.

Merrimac contains eight previously recorded archaeological sites. Two of the three prehistoric sites (44MY0229 and 44MY0230) may have the potential to be potentially eligible for the NRHP based on information available at the DHR but additional fieldwork is required to render this determination. The third prehistoric site, 44MY0471, may not be eligible based on the low artifact count and site type. The remaining five sites date to the twentieth century: 44MY0248, 44MY0249, 44MY0269, 44MY0270, and 44MY0271. None have been evaluated for the NRHP. Their data potential is unknown. There are two previously recorded architectural properties: 060-0163 and 060-0173. Both resources require survey at the Phase I level as the former has not been evaluated while the latter was evaluated more than five years ago.

4.2 Recommendations

Three archaeological sites at NRV Mall North and West may require additional study should the selected parcel overlap the site's boundaries: 44MY0228, 44MY0229, and 44MY0230. Four architectural resources require a resurvey: 154-5017, 154-5018, 154-5019, and 154-5021. None of these resources likely require preservation in place and, as such, should not be a deterrent to project planning. However, as aforementioned, no cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the study area. Based on the general paucity of recorded resources and the historic map review, it is probable that unrecorded resources exist in the area. A Phase I cultural resource survey of the selected site and surrounding viewshed will likely be required, to include both archaeological and architectural studies. Once a refined roster of historic properties is created, project effect can then be analyzed.

There is only one previously recorded archaeological site in the Ellett study area, 44MY0160. This cemetery should be avoided. Similarly, the cemetery is associated with the Trinity United Methodist Church (060-0383). This resource is listed in the NRHP, and construction adjacent to or within the viewshed of this resource is not recommended. Four architectural resources would need to be resurveyed at the Phase I level (060-0381, 060-0382, 060-0384, and 060-0571). As with the mall area, this area has not been the subject of a cultural resource survey and it is probable that resources over 50 years in age are located in the study area. Once a build site is identified, a Phase I cultural resource survey should be completed to identify resources and evaluate their NRHP potential, thus leading to a project effect determination.

Two of the aforementioned prehistoric sites (44MY0229 and 44MY0230) are also listed in the study area around Merrimac. Should the selected site be located within the site boundaries, additional archaeological work may be required. The two previously recorded architectural resources (060-0163 and 060-0173) both require a Phase I-level revisit. As with the other study areas, this study area likely contains numerous unrecorded resources. Once a parcel is selected, a Phase I cultural resource survey is recommended to locate unrecorded archaeological and architectural resources in the footprint and surrounding viewshed.

In sum, based on the background review, the only areas of note for future planning are the three notable archaeological sites (44MY0228, 44MY0229, and 44MY0230) and Trinity United Methodist Church and associated cemetery (060-0383/44MY0160). The three sites may require additional study but they will likely not preclude use of these areas. It is suggested that the area around Trinity United Methodist Church and the associated cemetery be avoided. Due to the general lack of formal cultural resource survey in all four study areas, a Phase I cultural resource survey will likely be required of any selected build site. This work will identify unrecorded resources and render a roster of historic properties for effect evaluation.

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