



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

December 5, 2023

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Dear Renee:

RE: Historic Structure Report: Install Culverts and Improve SR 1534 (Hart Rd) from Everett Rd to 500 feet south of Eagle's Nest Lane in Transylvania County WBS No. 36249.4529, PA No. 23-05-0011

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to improve SR 1534 (Hart Rd) in Transylvania County. NCDOT contracted Acme Preservation Inc. to evaluate one property, a summer camp, in the project area.

The report and survey materials are enclosed for your review and comment as per 36CFR.800. Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this project. I can be reached at (919) 707-6088 or by email at sleap@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelby Reap".

Shelby Reap
Historic Architecture Team

Attachments

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

**Install Culverts and Improve SR 1534 (Hart Road)
from Everett Road to 500 feet south of Eagle's Nest Lane
Transylvania County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 36249.4529**

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

**Prepared by:
Acme Preservation Services, LLC
825-C Merrimon Avenue, #345
Asheville, NC 28804**

November 2023

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

for

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**Prepared by:
Acme Preservation Services, LLC
825-C Merrimon Avenue, #345
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828-281-3852**

November 2023

Clay Griffith, Principal Investigator
Acme Preservation Services, LLC

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Install Culverts and Improve SR 1534 (Hart Road), Transylvania County
North Carolina Department of Transportation
WBS No. 36249.4529

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to install culverts and improve SR 1534 (Hart Road) from Everett Road (SR 1533) to 500 feet south of Eagle's Nest Lane in the Pisgah Forest community of Transylvania County. The project length is approximately 0.2 mile and generally bordered on both sides by the wooded property of Eagle's Nest Foundation (ENF), which operates a youth summer camp and semester school. Little River lies just east of the project area and generally flows south-to-north before joining the French Broad River a little more than one mile downstream. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is delineated as 300 feet on either side of the existing center line.

This project is subject to review under the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA/USFS 2015). NCDOT Architectural Historians defined an APE and conducted a site visit to identify and assess all resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. Only one resource warranted an intensive National Register eligibility evaluation, which is the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that no other properties or districts within the APE are worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

NCDOT contracted with Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) in June 2023 to complete the intensive historic resources evaluation of Eagle's Nest Camp (TV0377), which is owned by Eagle's Nest Foundation (ENF). Architectural historian Clay Griffith conducted the fieldwork in June and August 2023, photographing and mapping the camp resources and landscape, and authored the report. Background investigation included research through the Transylvania County's online GIS, tax data, and Register of Deeds records; communication with ENF Executive Director, Noni Waite-Kucera; and at the Rowell Bosse Local History Room of the Transylvania County Library in Brevard. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) survey files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville were searched to provide some architectural context.

After an intensive evaluation following the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility, Eagle's Nest Camp was found to be eligible under Criteria A and C in the areas of entertainment/recreation and architecture. The property comprises more than 40 built resources and extensive landscape elements that collectively define the camp setting. Carol Purse Oppenheimer founded Eagle's Nest Camp, a private summer camp for girls, in Haywood County in 1922 but moved the camp to Transylvania County in 1927. The first summer camps in western North Carolina opened in the 1910s, and the area quickly gained a concentration of youth summer camps over the next decades. Eagle's Nest ranks among the pioneering camps in Transylvania County and remains one of a small number of those early camps to still operate. Oppenheimer hired a prominent local civil engineer, Royal H. Morrow, to lay out the camp site and oversee its development of buildings, activity areas, and gathering spaces within the natural setting. The buildings were executed in a rustic manner utilizing natural materials and built to blend with their

wooded surroundings. As ENF has replaced or added structures for the camp and school, the new buildings generally emulate the scale and materials of its original buildings and are sensitively sited within the landscape. Dr. and Mrs. Alex Waite purchased Eagle’s Nest from Oppenheimer in 1945 and oversaw an evolution of the camp program that has continued through three generations of family leadership. Eagle’s Nest Camp has significant, multi-faceted associations with the rise of youth summer camps in Transylvania County and the growth of organized camping throughout the twentieth century.

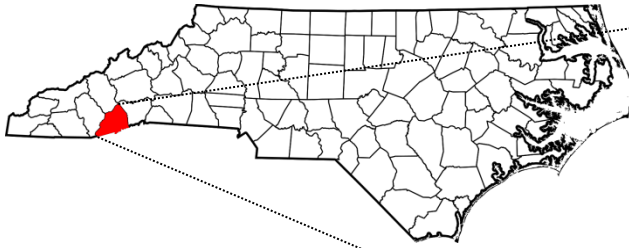
APS conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 60; 36 CFR Part 800; the HPO’s *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*; and NCDOT’s current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products*. This property evaluation meets the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service.

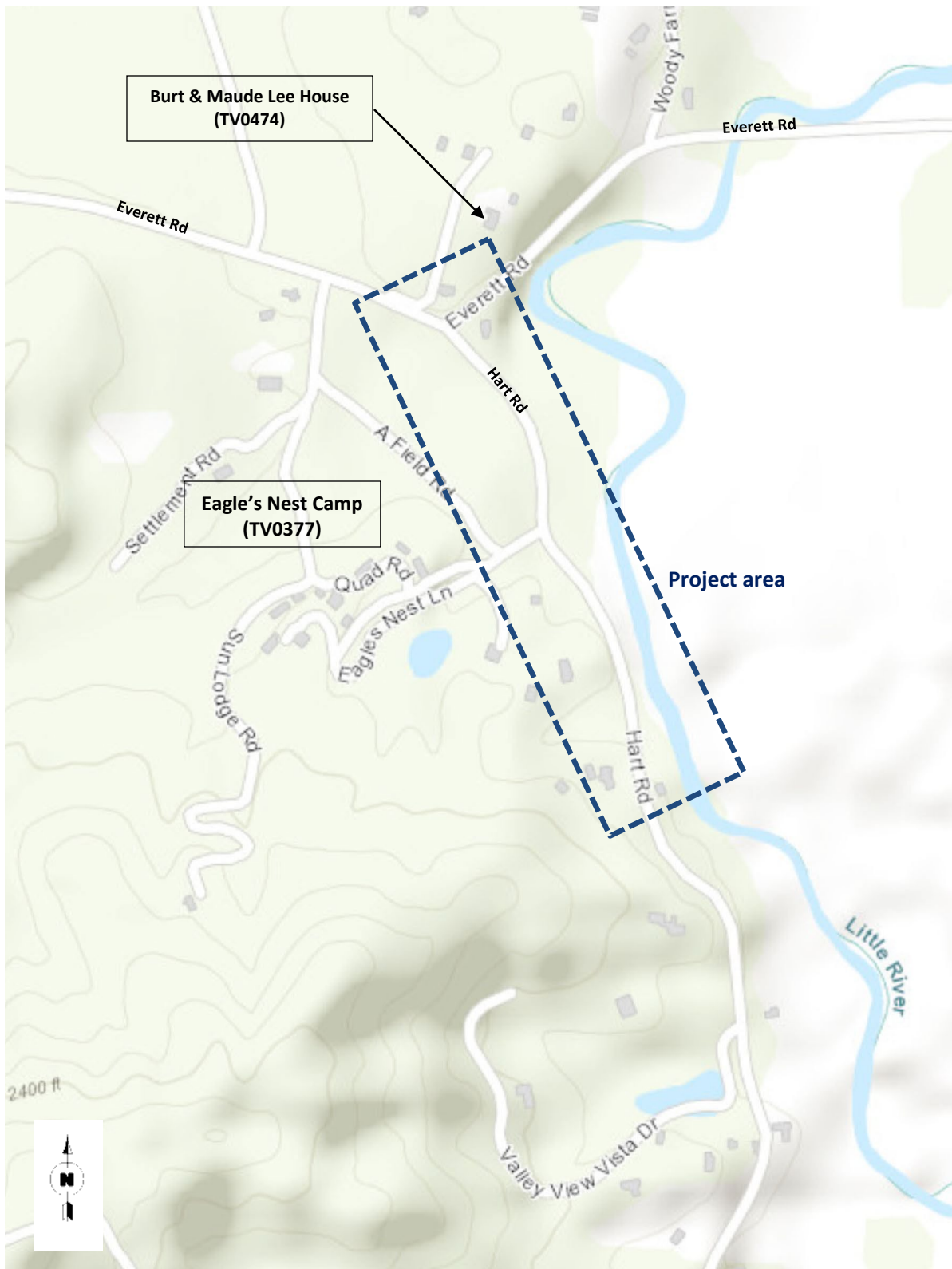
SSN	Property Name	Address	PIN	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
TV0377	Eagle’s Nest Camp	43 Hart Road	9506-95-9719-000	Eligible	A, C

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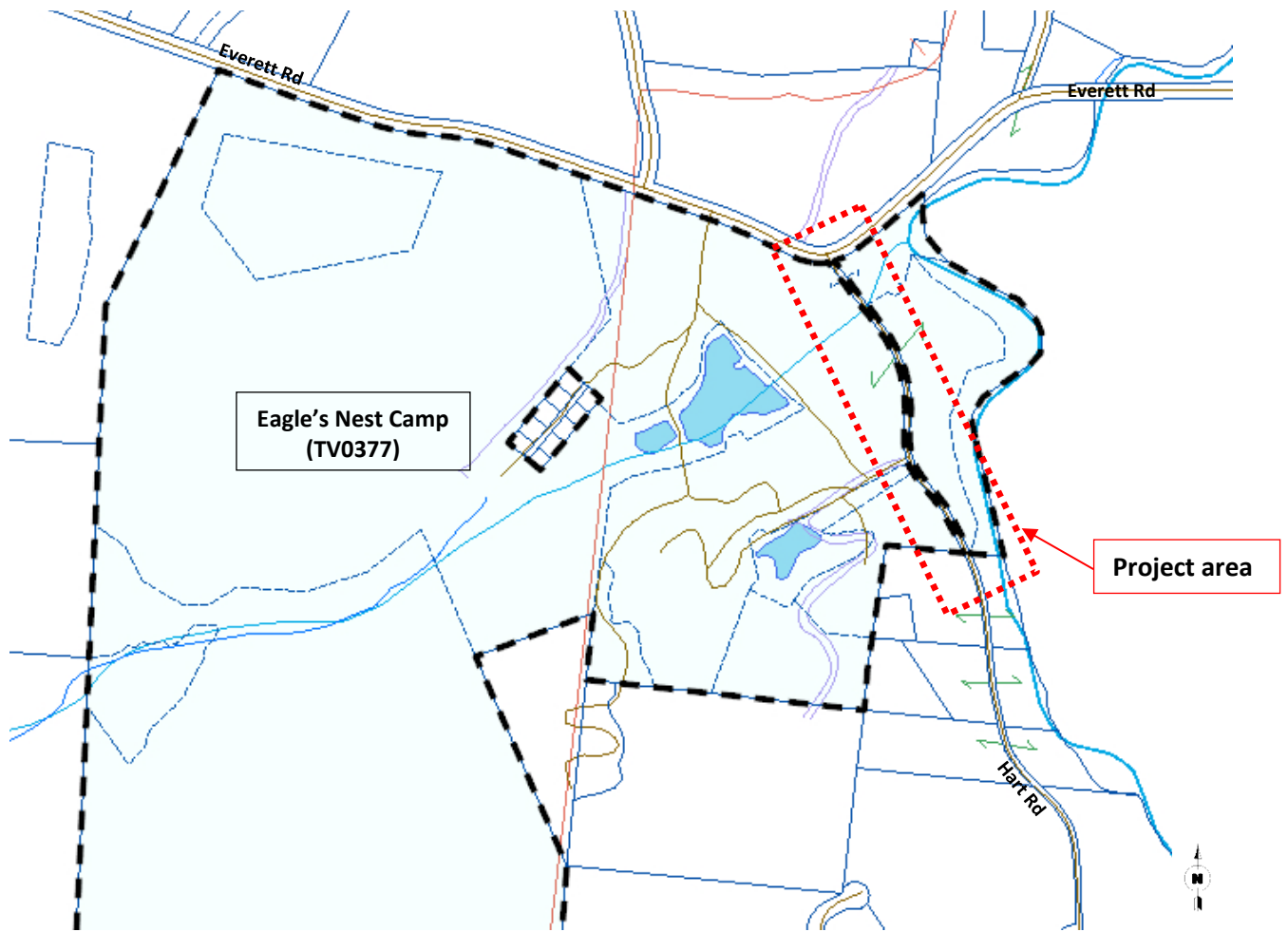
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I. Project Location Maps





**Project Location Map (Source: USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer;
<https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>)**



Project Location Map showing extent of Eagle's Nest Camp (TV0377) property in relation to project area
(Source: Transylvania County GIS)

II. Introduction

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to install culverts and improve SR 1534 (Hart Road) from Everett Road (SR 1533) to 500 feet south of Eagle’s Nest Lane in the Pisgah Forest community of Transylvania County. The project length is approximately 0.2 mile and generally bordered on both sides by the wooded property of Eagle’s Nest Camp (TV0377), a youth summer camp. The camp property, which is owned by Eagle’s Nest Foundation, also serves as the base campus of The Outdoor Academy, a semester-long boarding school for 10th and 11th grade high school students. Little River lies just east of the project area and forms the eastern boundary of the campus. The river generally flows south-to-north before it joins the French Broad River a little more than a mile downstream. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed project is delineated as 300 feet on either side of the existing center line.



Little River valley, view to northwest toward project area from Cascade Lake Road (SR 1536)

The general project area is defined by forested hillsides, river bottomlands, and agricultural fields. Hart Road (SR 1534) intersects Everett Road (SR 1533) at a nearly 90-degree curve in the roadway and descends sharply for approximately 300 feet before leveling off as it passes the athletic fields and entrance to Eagle’s Nest Camp. Maple trees planted on the west side of the road, along with a split-rail fence, have replaced a dense border of evergreen trees, and the maples commemorate five-year intervals of school operation extending back over 28 years. South of the camp’s entrance at Eagle’s Nest Lane, the roadway is bordered by steep, wooded hillsides to the west and by the wooded banks of Little River to the east. The gravel entrance drive to the camp property, marked by a modest wooden sign, is bordered to the south by dense rhododendrons.



Project beginning, SR 1533 (Everett Road), intersection with SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to west



SR 1533 (Everett Road), intersection with SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to northeast



SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to northwest to intersection with SR 1533 (Everett Road)



SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to southeast through Eagle's Nest Foundation property



SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to northwest through Eagle's Nest Foundation property



SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to south through Eagle's Nest Foundation property



Eagles Nest Lane (camp entrance), view to west from intersection with SR 1534 (Hart Road)



SR 1534 (Hart Road) at intersection with Eagles Nest Lane, view to northwest



SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to southeast



Project end, SR 1534 (Hart Road), view to south

III. Methodology

NCDOT contracted with Acme Preservation Services, LLC (APS) in June 2023 to evaluate one property located within the APE for the subject project. Eagle’s Nest Camp (TV0377) is located at 43 Hart Road and extends on both sides of the road for much of the project length. Architectural historian Clay Griffith, who authored this summary report, conducted a field survey of the project area in June and of Eagle’s Nest Camp in August 2023, documenting the camp buildings and landscape. Research was conducted through Transylvania County GIS and Register of Deeds online records, an examination of existing survey site files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville, and the Rowell Bosse Local History Room at the Transylvania County Public Library in Brevard.

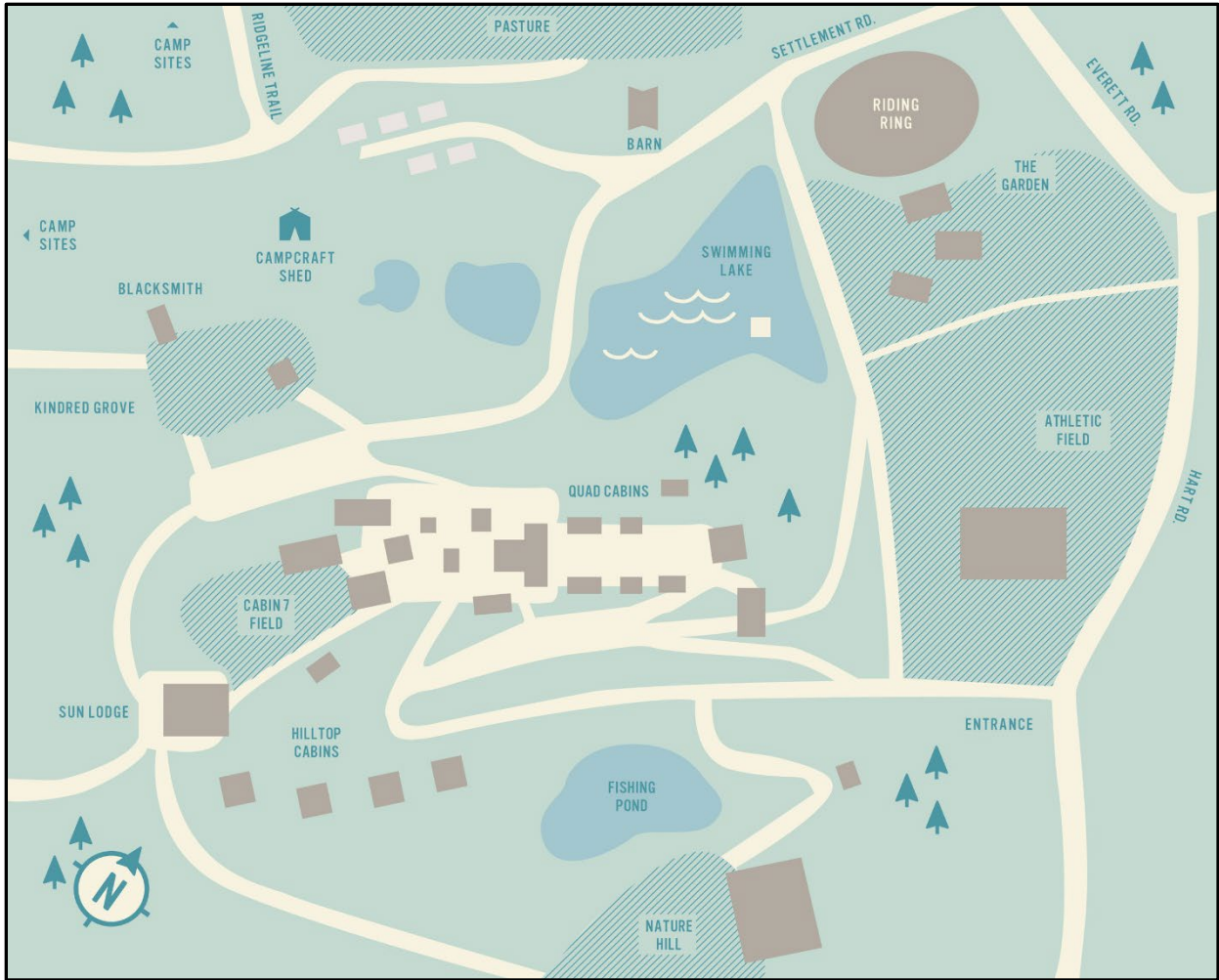
North Carolina HPO’s survey files at the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville and its GIS mapping application (<http://gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb>) were searched to identify other previously surveyed camp properties and provide some architectural context. Deborah Thompson conducted a comprehensive survey for historic architectural resources Transylvania County in 1990-1991, and the results of her survey were published in *Transylvania: The Architectural History of a Mountain County* (1998), which was co-authored by Laura A. W. Phillips. The survey publication provides a general background on the development of the county and its important tourism-based economy in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Nine summer camps in Transylvania County, including Eagle’s Nest, have been previously surveyed, along with 11 others in the neighboring counties of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Jackson. One additional resource—the Burt and Maude Lee House (TV0474)—is located near the project area but outside the APE.¹ At the conclusion of the countywide survey, Deborah Thompson prepared a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled “Historic and Architectural Resources of Transylvania County, North Carolina, including the incorporated towns of Brevard and Rosman, ca. 1820-1941,” which was approved by the National Register in 1993.²

Noni Waite-Kucera, executive director of Eagle’s Nest Foundation, provided invaluable assistance and background information about the summer camp, the foundation, and The Outdoor Academy, which all share use of the 180-acre camp property. Waite-Kucera is the granddaughter of former Eagle’s Nest owners and directors Alex and Hannah Waite and the daughter of former director Helen Waite. After purchasing Eagle’s Nest Camp from the original owner in 1945, the camp became a non-profit organization in 1950. Three generations of the Waite family have overseen the growth of the camp, expansion of its programmatic mission, and enlargement of the property.³

¹ “TV0474 Burt and Maude Lee House,” HPO Survey Files, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Asheville, NC.

² Deborah J. Thompson, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Transylvania County, North Carolina, including the incorporated towns of Brevard and Rosman, ca. 1820-1941” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Barboursville, Kentucky, 1993 (hereinafter cited as *MPDF*).

³ “Noni Waite-Kucera to Retire as Executive Director of Eagle’s Nest,” The Outdoor Academy Blog, August 17, 2023, <https://www.enf.org/outdoor-academy-blog/noni-waite-kucera-to-retire-as-executive-director-of-eagles-nest/>, September 25, 2023.



Eagle's Nest Camp Map (Eagle's Nest Foundation, <https://www.enf.org/camp-map>)

IV. Eagle’s Nest Camp

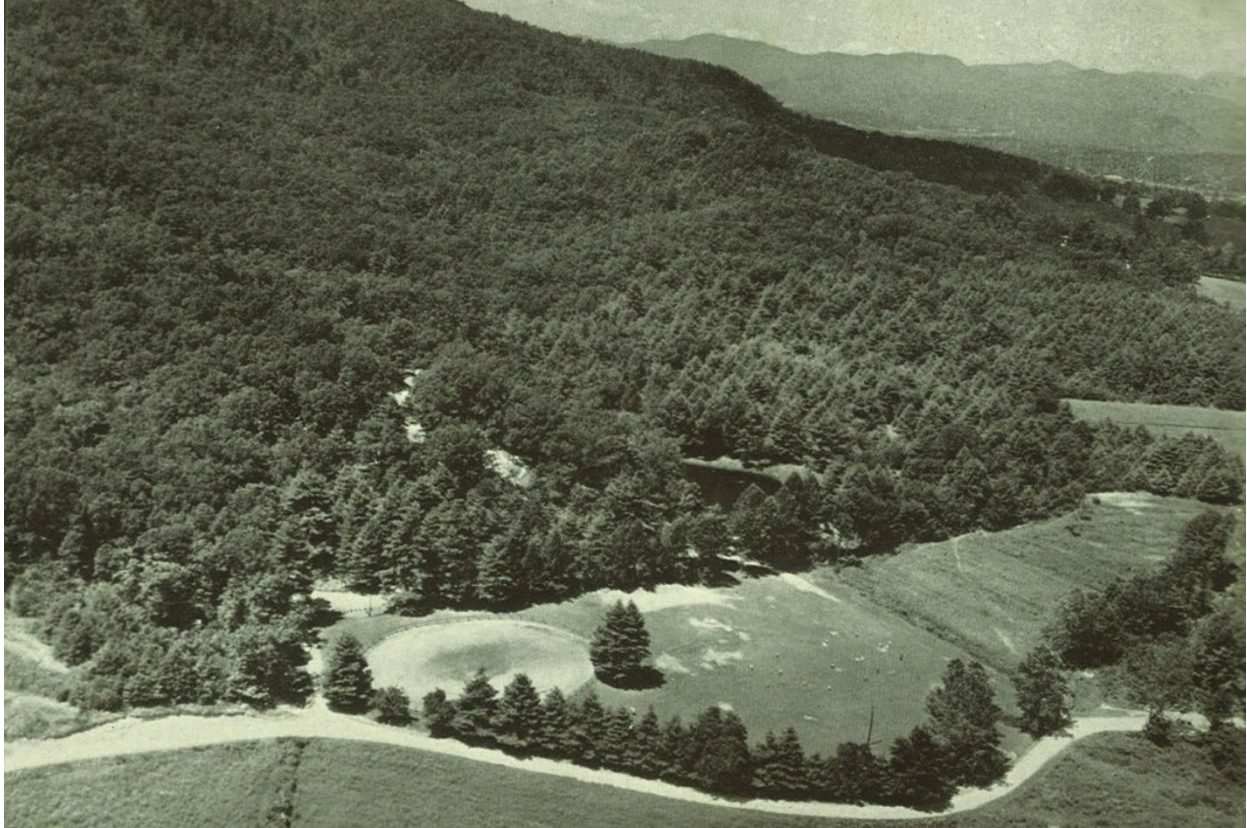
Resource Name	Eagle’s Nest Camp
HPO Survey Site Number	TV0377
Location	43 Hart Road
PIN	9506-95-9719-000
Date(s) of Construction	1927, ca. 1945, ca. 1951, 1960s, 1980s, ca. 1991, 2000s
Eligibility Recommendation	Eligible – A, C (entertainment/recreation, architecture)



Eagle’s Nest Camp swimming lake, view to northwest

Description

Eagle’s Nest Camp began in Transylvania County in 1927 on a 10-acre tract extending east to Little River and grew to encompass 40 acres by the late 1930s. Director Carol Purse Oppenheimer hired local civil engineer and camp owner Royal H. Morrow to lay out the facilities for Eagle’s Nest. The camp property, which includes more than 180 acres, is defined by its landscape and Morrow’s arrangement of building and activity areas within the approximately 30 acres that form the core portion of the camp. Morrow organized the center of camp activity around an open Quad on a wooded plateau. The Dining Room and Old Lodge stand at opposite ends of the Quad, which is filled with white gravel and lined on either side by sleeping cabins. The area at the rear (southwest) of the Dining Room included the camp office, camp store, well house, laundry, infirmary, and staff quarters. Morrow utilized the low-lying ground northeast of the main camp buildings for athletic fields, horseback riding rings, and gardens. An earthen dam on the southwestern edge of the athletic fields impounded a one-acre swimming lake, while an unpaved camp road further delineated the various activity areas.



Eagle's Nest Camp, 1940s aerial view to west; Hart Road in foreground (Photo courtesy of Eagle's Nest Camp)

The entrance drive, leaving Hart Road near the river, generally extends northeast-southwest before doubling back on itself to form a large loop with a gravel parking area on the southeast side of the main quad. On the southeast side of the entrance drive lies the fishing pond, Nature Hill, the new lodge, and a former orchard. A spur extending to the southwest leads up the wooded hillside along the line of boys' cabins. A network of gravel paths and unpaved camp roads radiate out from the central quad and gradually transform into trails that traverse the camp property. To the north of the Quad, paths link two small ponds upstream from the swimming lake. Wooden footbridges span the creek that passes through camp.



(L) Split-rail fence and tennis courts near Hart Road; (R) entrance drive from Hart Road



(L) Path to the Library (#8) and swimming lake from the Quad; (R) fishing pond



(L) Footbridge; (R) gardens



(L) Horseback riding ring; (R) pasture to northwest of the barn



Sketch map and site plan – Eagle’s Nest Camp (Not to Scale)

(N.B. Building numbers on site plan correspond to inventory numbers in text)

TV0377 Eagle's Nest Camp – Resource list

1. Dining Hall – 1927, 1960s, ca. 1975
2. Old Lodge – 1927
3. Girls Cabin 1 – ca. 1940, ca. 1985
4. Girls Cabin 2 – ca. 1951, ca. 1985
5. Girls Cabin 3 – 2003
6. Girls Cabin 4 – ca. 1951, ca. 1985
7. Girls Cabin 5 – ca. 1951, ca. 1985
8. Library – 1996
9. Office – 1991
10. Canteen (Camp Store) – ca. 1927, ca. 1988
11. Health Hut – 1988
12. Development Office / Laundry – 1988, 2019
13. Main well house – 1927
14. Hamilton – 1983
15. Cabin 6 – 1988
16. Boys Cabin 7 – ca. 1985
17. Boys Cabin 8 – ca. 1940, ca. 1985
18. Boys Cabin 9 – 1987
19. Well house – 1980
20. Boys Cabin 10 – 2005
21. Treetops – 1991
22. Sikwayi / OA Office – 1996
23. Packout House – 1980s
24. New Lodge – 1965
25. The Ship (waste treatment) – 2013
26. Athletic Shed – 1992
27. Swimming Shed – ca. 1960
28. Paddling Shed – ca. 1960
29. Garden Hut – 2013
30. Riverside, Hart Road – 1974
31. Faculty House #1 (Berry Patch) – 1945
32. Faculty House #2 (Dean's House) – 2001
33. Maintenance Building – 2018
34. Barn / Stables – 1993
35. Manure Shed – 2016
36. Tractor/woodshed – 1999
37. House, Settlement Road (Chez Mimi) – 1965
38. Log House, Settlement Road (Mariella Davidson Huber Cabin) – 1850s, moved to present location ca. 1965
39. Mo's Hillside – 2020
40. Wayah Visual Arts Building – 2001
41. Cheoah Performing Arts Building – 2002
42. Sun Lodge – 1978, 2023
43. Staff House, Settlement Road – ca. 1985

Beyond the central core, the property encompasses swaths of forested slopes that ascend the ridges south and west of the camp. The extended property contains hiking trails, remote camp sites, and remnants of an old mill site.⁴ The acreage serves to reinforce the impression of a surrounding wilderness, disconnected from the everyday world. In 2016, approximately 143, or 76%, of Eagle's Nest's property was protected under a conservation easement with Conserving Carolina and the North Carolina Clean Water Trust Fund. The boundaries of the easement are shown on a plat recorded with the Transylvania County Register of Deeds, and the protected area includes just over six acres lying between Hart Road and Little River.⁵

The wooded camp property is arranged with several centers of activity and clusters of buildings. The camp's central space is the Quad, an open gravel area with the Dining Room at one end and Old Lodge at the other. Girls' cabins line either side of the quad. Built in 1927, the **Dining Room (#1)** is a one-story side-gable frame building with an attached shed porch extending the full-length of the northeast elevation. Resting on concrete block piers, the building is covered with board-and-batten siding and has screened window openings. Stone steps access the porch, which is supported by peeled log posts and has a wood floor. The interior of the dining room has wood floors and an open wooden ceiling with exposed trusses. In the 1960s, a gable-roof rear ell was constructed to expand the kitchen and pantry areas. The kitchen addition has a concrete foundation, weatherboard siding, and screened window openings.

At the northeast end of the Quad stands **Old Lodge (#2)**. The one-story side-gable frame building has a wood post foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a stone end chimney on the southeast side elevation. The asphalt-shingle roof has deep eaves and exposed rafter tails. The southwest elevation overlooking the Quad features two single-leaf solid-wood entry doors and four square openings that are infilled with boards. The northeast elevation displays an attached shed-roof porch carried on log posts and accessed by stone steps. Double-leaf wooden doors open to the interior. The porch overlooks a paved terrace with a flagpole for camp assembly. The concrete slab pavement is a later addition to the long-standing assembly area. The interior of the lodge is a single open space with a wood floor and exposed roof structure. The fireplace present at the southeast end is uncoursed stone with a stone mantel shelf and tapered chimney stack. The opposite end of the lodge has a raised wooden stage and two window openings in the end wall. A double row of built-in wooden benches line the walls of the lodge except for the stage area.

⁴ Noni Waite-Kucera, personal communication, August 22, 2023.

⁵ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Plat Book 16, page 896.



Main Cabin Quad and Dining Room (#1) (center), view to southwest



Dining Room (#1), oblique view to northwest



Old Lodge (#2), southwest elevation, view to north



Old Lodge (#2), northeast elevation, oblique view to west



Old Lodge (#2), interior, view to south end



Old Lodge (#2), interior, oblique view to north end



(L) Girls Cabin 1 (#3); (R) Girls Cabin 3 (#5)



(L) Girls Cabin 4 (#6); (R) Girls Cabin 5 (#7)

The Quad is circumscribed by the girls' sleeping cabins—three on the south side and two on the north. The original cabins built in the 1920s were typical for the period and were replaced in the 1940s by former Army barracks. The current cabins were rebuilt along similar lines around 1983 using simple frame construction with screened openings and broad, overhanging roof eaves. The chief distinction of the new cabins is the addition of a loft, often located within a dormer, to provide some separation between counselors and their campers.

Located near the Dining Room, **Girls Cabin 1 (#3)** is a one-story frame structure with an asphalt-shingle front-gable roof and a concrete pier foundation. The partial height walls are clad with weatherboards, and a band of screened openings is located beneath the eaves and exposed rafter tails on the side elevations and in the gable ends. A front-gable entry porch on the south elevation facing the Dining Room has square wooden posts and shelters a screened entry door. A similar porch shelters a rear entrance with wood steps extending from the side. A gable-roof ell containing the bathroom is covered with plywood sheathing.

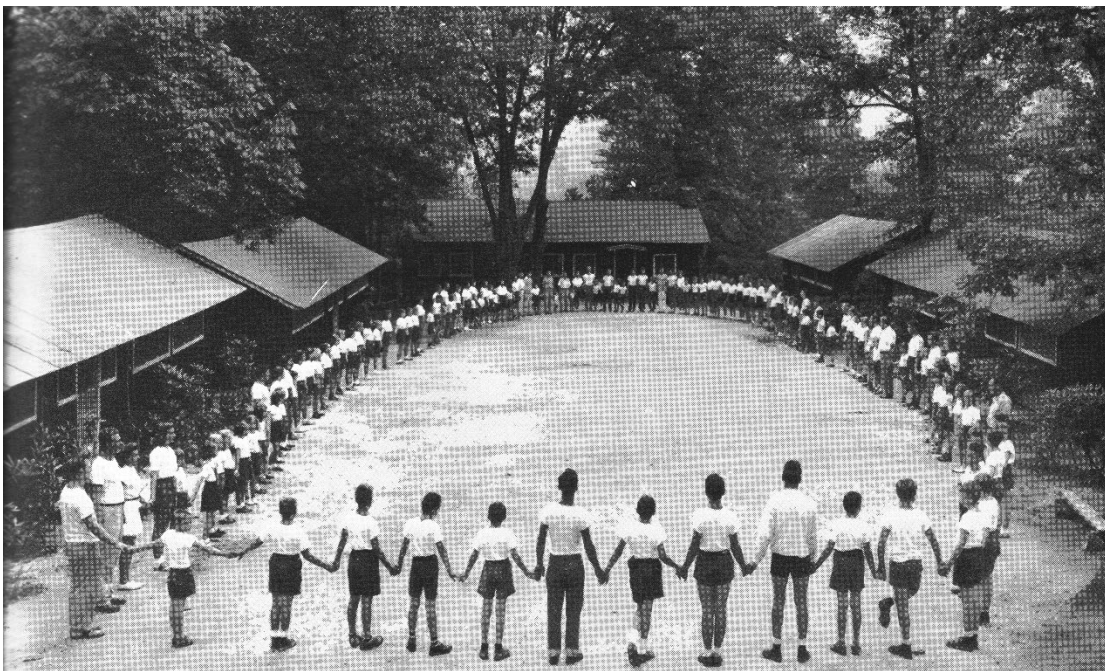
Girls Cabin 2 (#4) is a one-and-a-half-story frame building with an asphalt-shingle front-gable roof and a concrete pier foundation. The partial height walls are clad with weatherboards, and a band of screened openings is located beneath the eaves and exposed rafter tails on the side elevations and in the gable ends. The overhanging roof on the north gable end is supported by triangular brackets and shelters a wooden deck that accesses the single-leaf screened entry door.

A pop-up screened dormer on the east elevation is formed by an extension of the roof slope and contains a sleeping loft for the cabin counselor.

Girls Cabins 3 (#5) is distinguished by its two-story center section containing the counselor's loft and hip roofs on the one-story side wings. Resting on concrete block piers, the cabin is finished with partial-height weatherboarded walls, screened openings, and open eaves with exposed rafter tails. An attached front-gable entry porch is carried on square wooden posts. The projecting end gable eaves of the pop-up center section are supported by diagonal brackets.

Cabins 4 and 5, located on the north side of the Quad, share strong similarities in their design and form. **Girls Cabin 4 (#6)** features a one-and-a-half-story center section containing the counselor's loft. The cabin rests on concrete block piers and is finished with partial-height weatherboarded walls, screened openings, and projecting gable end eaves with exposed purlins and diagonal center brackets. An attached shed-roof entry porch has square wooden posts and simple wood railings. The porch shelters a single-leaf entry door. Attached exterior wooden stairs on the northeast end of the cabin provide access to a secondary entrance. **Girls Cabin 5 (#7)** is nearly identical to Cabin 4, but the secondary entrance is located on the southwest elevation instead of the northeast.

A sixth cabin for girls (not photographed) was built northwest of the Quad along a wooded path linking the Quad and the swimming lake. Originally built to house arts and crafts, the cabin later became used as a library. The building was converted to a girls' cabin in the 1970s and rebuilt in 1996. However, it is still known as the **Library (#8)**.⁶



Evening circle on the Quad, ca. 1950, view northeast to Old Lodge (Photo courtesy of Eagle's Nest Camp)

⁶ Noni Waite-Kucera, email correspondence, August 25, 2023.



(L) Office (#9); (R) Canteen (#10)



(L) Health Hut (#11); (R) Development Office and laundry (#12)

The cluster of administrative buildings located behind the Dining Room to the south and west include several original and remodeled buildings. The **Office (#9)** is a one-story hip-roof building of frame construction resting on a concrete block foundation and finished with weatherboards, asphalt shingles, and replacement windows. A full width engaged porch is carried on square wooden posts and has a wooden railing, wood floor, and open ceiling. The office is perched above the parking area and reached by stone steps that rise to a split run of steps bordered by a stone retaining wall. Wooden posts support metal handrails along the stairs.

The **Canteen (Camp Store) (#10)**, located directly behind the kitchen wing of the Dining Room and oriented towards the Office, is an early one-story front-gable frame building resting on a foundation of concrete block piers and capped by an asphalt-shingle roof. Clad with board-and-batten siding, the building has a single-leaf wooden entry door on the façade and horizontal bands of six-light wood-sash windows covered with screens. The building was enlarged around 1988 with a two-story addition at the rear. The addition consists of a concrete block first story with an open breezeway connecting it to the kitchen. The frame second story contains staff quarters and is accessible from attached exterior wooden stairs and a single-leaf wooden entry door on the north elevation. The staff quarters have screened window openings and a hip roof with a clipped gable on the south elevation overlooking the one-story Canteen. Large, screened openings are located beneath the clipped gable.

The **Health Hut (#11)** is a one-and-a-half-story frame building with a full basement exposed at the rear. Built around 1988, the building rests on a concrete block foundation and has a tall hip roof with clipped end gables, weatherboard siding, and replacement one-over-one double-hung windows. A wooden patio at the front of the building accesses the single-leaf entry door, which is sheltered by a projecting hip-roof canopy. A gabled dormer on the east slope of the roof is covered with weatherboards. Two basement-level garage bay entrances at the rear of the building have double-leaf wooden doors.

A one-story frame building adjacent to the Health Hut contains the **Development Office / Laundry (#12)**. Resting on a concrete foundation, the building has a metal-clad pyramidal roof, weatherboard siding, and modern one-over-one double-hung windows. A wooden patio at the front of the building accesses double-leaf wooden doors composed of a single light over cross-braced lower panels. The open eaves reveal exposed rafter tails. While the upper story contains the camp's development office, a one-story shed-roof extension at the rear houses the laundry. Resting on a concrete block foundation, the laundry has weatherboards, vertical wood sheathing in the roof ends, exposed rafter tails, and double-leaf glazed doors on the east elevation. Two groups of three one-over-one windows are located on the rear elevation. A single-leaf metal door enters the laundry wing from the west elevation.



(L) Main Well (#13); (R) Cabin 6 (#14)



(L) Hamilton (#15); (R) Cabin 7 (#16)

The **Main Well House (#13)**, which dates from the 1920s, is a one-story stone structure with a metal-clad front-gable roof, exposed rafter tails, and board-and-batten siding in the gable ends. The walls are blind, and the building is entered through a single-leaf, braced, solid wood door on the east end.

Cabin 6 (#14), which is used for camper or staff housing as needed, is a one-story pyramidal-roof frame structure that rests on a foundation of concrete block piers. Partial-height walls are clad with weatherboards and surmounted by a band of screened openings. An inset corner porch is supported by bracketed wooden posts and shelters the entrance. An exterior wood stair on the side elevation rises to a secondary screened entrance. A hip-roof cupola sheltering the counselor's loft on the interior rises from the peak of the main roof and rests on a narrow band of screened openings.

Hamilton (#15) is a one-story staff cabin with a concrete foundation, gable-on-hip roof, and weatherboard siding. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. A wooden stoop is attached at the front and accesses the central single-leaf wooden entry door.

This cluster of camp buildings abuts a group of newer buildings erected for use by The Outdoor Academy (OA). The OA buildings (described at the end of the inventory) are generally oriented around an open grass lawn known as Cabin 7 Field. The field takes its name from **Cabin 7 (#16)** located on the southeast side of the green space. The cabin, which is used for campers or staff as needed, is similar in design to Cabins 4 and 5 on the Quad with a one-and-a-half-story center section containing the counselor's loft. Resting on concrete block piers, the cabin is finished with partial-height weatherboarded walls, screened openings, bracketed projecting eaves in the gable ends, and an attached shed-roof entry porch.

A group of sleeping cabins for boys, known as the Hilltop Cabins, occupy a heavily wooded hillside and are roughly organized in a line along a wide gravel path that branches off from the entrance drive. **Boys Cabin 8 (#17)** is similar in design to Cabin 6 and features a pyramidal roof, partial-height weatherboarded walls, and bands of screened openings. A hip-roof cupola sheltering the counselor's loft on the interior rises from the peak of the main roof and rests on a narrow band of screened openings. An engaged shed-roof porch shelters the wooden entry stoop, while an attached shed-roof porch extends the full length of the southeast side elevation.

Boys Cabin 9 (#18) is a one-story frame structure with a concrete foundation and board-and-batten wood siding. The front-gable roof terminates in a hip at the rear, while the front gable extends forward to engage a porch supported by wooden posts with a wooden railing. The window openings are typically screened. Attached wooden stairs at the rear of the cabin serve a secondary entrance.

A diminutive one-story **Well House (#19)** set in the woods near the boys' cabins appears to be concrete block construction covered by a skim coat of concrete. The building displays a metal-clad front-gable roof, exposed rafters, and board-and-batten siding in the gable ends. A single-leaf wooden door provides the only access to the interior.

Boys Cabin 10 (#20) appears to be a newer version of Cabin 9. The one-story frame structure exhibits a concrete foundation, board-and-batten wood siding, and screened window openings. The engaged full-width porch created by the projecting front gable shelters a single-leaf glazed-

and-paneled entry door and a group of three one-over-one double-hung windows. The side elevation may also contain double-hung windows with screened coverings.

Located at the top of the boys' cabin line, **Treetops (#21)** rises on wooden posts and is accessed by a double run of wooden stairs at the front of the building. The front-gable frame cabin has an attached clipped-gable front porch, partial-height walls with weatherboards and screened openings. On the interior, the bathroom and storage areas are located at the rear of the cabin, and a central set of wooden steps rises to the counselor's sleeping loft.



(L) Boys Cabin 8 (#17); (R) Boys Cabin 9 (#18)



(L) Well House (#19); (R) Treetops (#21)



(L) Sikwayi (#22); (R) Packout House (#23)



(L-R) New Lodge (#24)

A small group of buildings added in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries are scattered around the property to the southeast of the main quad. Built around 1996 and located just off the Quad near Old Lodge, the one-and-a-half-story frame building known as **Sikwayi (#22)** rises above a full basement and serves as an office, library, and classroom for The Outdoor Academy. The building's side-gable roof engages a full-width porch on the façade and shelters double-leaf glazed entry doors. At the rear, the extended roof slope covers an open passage beneath the building at the basement level. The building is covered with board-and-batten siding and displays modern single-pane casement windows that typically appear in groups of four.

Situated on a steeply sloping site a short distance beyond the fishing pond, **Packout House (#23)** is a one-story frame building supported by a foundation of wooden posts. Built in the 1980s, the building resembles the older camp buildings with an asphalt-shingle hip roof, exposed rafter tails, vertical wood plank siding, and double-leaf wooden entry doors. The walls are topped by a band of screened openings shaded by the deep, overhanging eaves. A hip-roof screened porch supported on tall wooden posts projects from the rear of the building and is accessed by a set of wooden exterior stairs on the south elevation.

Erected in the mid-1960s, the commodious **New Lodge (#24)** is a gable-roof frame building that rises above a partially open basement serving as the craft shop. Concrete foundation walls are set against the sloping ground and round wooden columns supporting the lodge above rise from a

concrete slab floor. The upper level has a metal-clad roof, board-and-batten siding enclosing the gable ends of the building, wood floors, and an open interior with exposed roof framing. The long sides of the building display composite wooden and cabled railings. A wooden deck on the north end of the building has built-in wooden benches to serve as part of the railing system.

A modest frame structure known as **The Ship (#25)** is located at the intersection of the entrance drive and the cross-camp road over the dam. It houses the camp's water treatment equipment. The facility, which is intentionally screened by wood fencing and dense vegetation, is generally unseen by visitors to camp.



New Lodge (#24), interior, view to southeast



(L) Tennis courts and athletic fields; (R) Athletics Shed (#26)



(L) Garden Shed (#27); (R) Paddling Shed (#29)

A broad expanse of relatively flat ground near the entrance and extending along Hart Road and to Little River serves as multipurpose athletic fields. Asphalt courts for tennis and basketball are fenced at the southern end of the large grass field, which also includes a sand volleyball court and a backstop for baseball, softball, and kickball. A modest one-story, frame **Athletics Shed (#26)** sits on a wooden platform supported by concrete piers. An asphalt-shingle hip roof with deep eaves shelters the structure and engages a full-width porch at the front. The walls are clad with vertical wood plank siding, and a single-leaf solid wood door accesses the interior.

A small creek and line of trees generally form the northern edge of the athletic fields, but a wooden footbridge crosses the creek to a separate area used for the archery range. Beyond the tree line, the area below the dam is cultivated for gardening. The **Garden Hut (#27)** is a one-story one-room building with a metal-clad front-gable roof that extends to shelter a large front porch area. The building is clad with vertical wood plank siding and displays six-light wood-sash windows. Single-leaf entry doors on the front and rear elevations are composed of nine lights over cross-braced lower panels. The front roof extension is supported by square wooden corner posts and shelters a concrete slab floor.

Two small sheds for waterfront activities stand on the edge of the earthen dam that impounds the swimming lake. The **Swimming Shed (#28)**, a one-story one-room storage shed, is supported on wood posts and is capped by an asphalt-shingle front-gable roof. Two sets of double-leaf solid

wood doors open onto a shallow wooden stoop at the front of the building. The shed is clad with board-and-batten siding. Located a short distance away, the **Paddling Shed (#29)** is a one-story one-room storage building on a foundation of concrete blocks and wooden posts. Covered with weatherboard siding, the building has an asphalt-shingle hip roof, small pyramidal-roof cupola, and braced double-leaf solid wood doors.

The areas of Eagle’s Nest property closest to the public roads—Hart Road (SR 1534) and Everett Road (SR 1533)—contain several houses for staff and a large maintenance building. **Riverside (#30)**, a two-story split-level dwelling used for administrative housing, is located on the east side of the intersection of the two roads. Due to the change in elevation, the house sits below the grade of Everett Road as it curves to the northeast. The house rests on a concrete block foundation and has a combination of aluminum siding and brick veneer siding, an asphalt-shingle side-gable roof, exterior brick chimney, and a gable-roof garage wing. The façade has a recessed central entrance bay that is flanked by cantilevered upper-story rooms.

Two houses for staff are situated on Everett Road, west of its intersection with Settlement Road, an unpaved secondary camp road. Settlement Road enters the Eagle’s Nest property from Everett Road with the staff houses to the west and the horseback riding ring to the east. The road branches in multiple directions to provide access to the barn, the cross-camp road over the dam, and the main parking area for staff and The Outdoor Academy.



(L) Riverside (#30); (R) Faculty House #1 (#31)



(L) Faculty House #2 (#32); (R) Maintenance Shed (#33)

Faculty House #1 (Berry Patch) (#31) is an eclectic one-story front-gable frame dwelling built in the mid-1940s and enlarged with gable-roof side wings in the 1960s. The house has been remodeled with vinyl siding and replacement one-over-one windows. An exterior stone chimney rises against the exterior of the main block on the south side, while a wooden deck on the north side provides access to single-leaf entry doors. The north wing has a brick veneer apron, rowlock-course water table, and exterior brick end chimney. Two outbuildings are located at the rear of the house including a plywood-clad storage shed and a crib with slatted wood siding.

Faculty House #2 (Dean's House) (#32) is a one-story front-gable bungalow built in 2001 with a concrete foundation, asphalt-shingle roof, attached front-gable porch, and replacement one-over-one double-hung windows. The house is clad with board-and-batten siding except for the gable ends, which are covered with wood shingles. The porch is supported by square wooden posts and has wood railings and steps.

A large one-story post-frame Morton building with metal siding, metal roofing, and an attached wraparound hip-roof porch serves as the **Maintenance Building (#33)**. Built in 2018 and located at the northern edge of the horse pasture, the structure has a gable-roof with two pyramidal-roof cupola vents. A garage bay with an overhead door is located on the south gable end, while two garage bays with overhead doors are located on the west side elevation. The porch wraps around the southwest corner, is supported by square wooden posts, and shelters a single-leaf entry door on the west elevation.

Located on the west side of Settlement Road, a long, one-story center-passage frame **Barn (#34)** is covered with horizontal wood plank siding. The building is capped by a standing-seam metal roof that is gabled at the front and hip at the rear. A raised roof monitor with exposed rafter tails runs nearly the full length of the ridgeline for ventilation. At the front of the barn, a pair of double-leaf wooden doors in the gable end above the center passage provide access to the hay loft. An inset bay at the southeast corner forms a covered waiting area. The side walls are typically partial height for the horse stalls, but the enclosed room at the northeast corner has wooden shutters covering the window openings.

Immediately south and southwest of the barn are two relatively plain, utilitarian sheds. The **Manure Shed (#35)** is a two-bay open frame structure with a steeply pitched metal-clad shed roof. Its two stalls are partitioned by large, heavy duty precast concrete blocks, and the rear wall is plywood. The **Tractor/Wood Shed (#36)** is a one-story frame structure open on two sides and capped by an asphalt-shingle gable roof with exposed rafters. The north wall is enclosed with vertical wood plank siding, while the rear (west) wall has horizontal wood slats. A sizeable pasture covers the gently sloping hillside to the west of the barn.



(L-R) Barn (#34)



(L) Barn (#34); (R) Tractor/Wood Shed (#36)

During his tenure as owner and director of Eagle's Nest, Dr. Alex Waite subdivided ten small lots on Settlement Road to sell to friends and family. In recent years, Eagle's Nest Foundation has bought back most of these interior parcels. Two of the three parcels not owned by Eagle's Nest contain houses built in 1974 and 1987, while the third parcel is undeveloped. Mariella Davidson Waite Huber, daughter of Alex Waite, moved a one-and-a-half-story square-notched **Log House (#38)**, which is thought to have been built in the mid-nineteenth century, to Eagle's Nest around 1965. Situated on parcel owned by the Foundation, the log house was taken apart, logs numbered, and erected on a stacked stone foundation with a side-gable roof, rear shed dormer, new six-over-six and eight-over-eight windows, and an attached, screened, shed porch on the west elevation. A single-leaf entry door is located at the east end of the façade, and the dormer and gable ends are clad with wood shingles. A double-sided fireplace and stone chimney rise on the interior. Another parcel not sold by Eagle's Nest contains a ca. 1985 two-story house used for staff housing (not photographed).

The one-story frame Ranch house known as **Chez Mimi (#37)** occupies camp property but is located adjacent to the subdivided interior parcels. The house is capped by a low-pitched side-gable roof and clad with board-and-batten siding. The dwelling features an engaged carport on the southwest end, an interior stone chimney, façade picture window, and a single-leaf multi-light entry door accessed from an uncovered wooden stoop. A full basement is exposed on the rear of

the house, which has an attached wooden deck running the full length of the rear elevation. The deck is sheltered by a translucent shed roof structure supported by wooden posts.



(L-R) Log House (#38) – oblique front view to east (l) and oblique rear view to west (r)



(L-R) Chez Mimi (#37) – façade (l) and rear elevation (r)

At the north end of the lake, where Settlement Road splits from the camp road, the unpaved service road continues around the west side of the lake to a clearing and parking area on the north side of The Outdoor Academy buildings located around the Cabin 7 Field. Built in 2020 for The Outdoor Academy, **Mo's Hillside (#39)** is a tall two-story frame classroom building with offices and staff quarters resting on a poured concrete foundation and capped by a metal-clad side-gable roof. Clad with board-and-batten siding, the building is organized around an open central passage on both levels that is marked by a cross-gable projecting porch on the front and rear elevations. On the front, an elevated wooden deck enters the building on the second floor, while a handicap-compliant sidewalk approaches the first-floor opening. On the rear elevation, a two-tiered porch projects; a second two-story porch is inset at the northwest corner of the building.

The **Wayah Visual Arts Building (#40)**, built for the Outdoor Academy in 2001, is a one-story frame building defined by its metal-clad side-gable roof and projecting porches on the front and rear elevations. The attached front-gable porches have open truss roofs and are supported by round log columns. The east porch shelters a set of double-leaf glazed doors, while the west porch shelters double-leaf glazed doors topped by a single-light transom. The building is clad with board-and-batten siding, and the windows are square single-pane sash.

The **Cheoah Performing Arts Building (#41)**, built for The Outdoor Academy in 2002, is a one-story frame building that sits on a full basement. It is capped by a metal-clad side-gable roof and covered with board-and-batten siding. The building is distinguished by a large open porch with stout wooden columns that occupies one end of the building. Wide wooden stairs access the porch from the green space to the southeast; a handicap-accessible wooden ramp approaches from the northeast. An enclosed gable-roof wing stands adjacent to the handicap ramp. On the main level, double-leaf glazed doors access the interior, which consists of a music room illuminated by large windows composed of a single center pane on a louvered lower sash and surmounted by a single-light transom.



(L-R) Mo's Hillside (#39) – front entrance walkway (l) and rear elevation (r)



(L) Wayah Visual Arts Building (#40); (R) Cheoah Performing Arts Building (#41)

Built in 1978, **Sun Lodge (#42)**, officially named the J. B. Hannum Sun Lodge for an influential person associated with Eagle's Nest, continues to serve as the principal dormitory for The Outdoor Academy students with a central kitchen and student common room. The three-story frame building, which was constructed using reclaimed lumber from a nearby farm, rises from a concrete foundation and features weatherboard siding, a metal-clad side-gable roof, and paired 10-light casement windows. The upper two stories of the building are currently arranged with four centrally located single-pane windows flanked on either side by four pairs of casements. An ongoing renovation project begun in 2022 will replace all 50 windows with double-pane wood-

sash windows, install two set of exterior French doors, and construct a substantial deck that will wrap around three sides of the building.⁷



(L) Cabin 7 Field with Cheoah (#41) and Wayah (#40) buildings, view to north; (R) Sun Lodge (#42)

Historic Background

Eagle’s Nest Camp began as a summer camp for girls in 1922 in Waynesville, North Carolina. Miss Carol Purse Oppenheimer (1884-1976) of Savannah, Georgia, opened the camp after several years as a leader with the Girl Scouts and managing youth camps in New England. Originally located about three miles from Waynesville on Eagle’s Nest Mountain, the camp property had a swimming pool, basketball court, and a spacious hall for dancing and other indoor activities. Mrs. Frank Heyward, a registered nurse, and Mrs. Frank Myers Jr. assisted Oppenheimer in the operation of the camp.⁸ Henry Wellington Wack favorably described the camp as having a fine lodge where the younger girls lived in attractively furnished rooms. The lodge featured tub and shower baths, modern equipment, and long verandas with scenic vistas.⁹

After five years in Waynesville, Oppenheimer relocated the camp to Transylvania County, which had a distinct concentration of youth summer camps. She initially purchased 10 acres adjoining the Everett Farm (TV0473) from C. E. Cox.¹⁰ Located several miles east of Brevard, the wooded property lay on the eastern side of two low ridges and extended to Little River. Construction of the camp buildings began in January 1927 and was supervised by Royal H. Morrow, a highly respected local civil engineer and camp owner. The planned facilities included

⁷ Ted Wesemann, “Ted’s Thoughts on the Sun Lodge,” Outdoor Academy Blog, May 4, 2021, <https://www.enf.org/outdoor-academy-blog/teds-thoughts-on-the-sun-lodge/>, accessed September 25, 2023.

⁸ “Camps in Waynesville and Lake Junaluska Section Enjoy Season,” *The Asheville Citizen*, August 6, 1922, p.26; Carol Oppenheimer Bailey obituary, *Sentinel Star*, November 27, 1976, p.2D.

⁹ Henry Wellington Wack, *More About Summer Camps: Training For Leisure* (New York: The Red Book Magazine, 1926), 51-52.

¹⁰ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Book 58, page, 138.

the necessary buildings, a small lake for swimming and water sports, tennis courts, and athletic grounds.¹¹

The Brevard Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis club, and other prominent individuals readily welcomed Oppenheimer and her camp to Transylvania County. She had gained a sterling reputation among camp directors and brought a wealth of experience as both a businesswoman and as an educator. Local business leaders, whom she easily charmed, expressed delight that Oppenheimer had chosen to relocate her camp to the area and felt that her endorsement not only confirmed the county's prominence as a youth camping center but also promised to attract members of her social circle "to this section...who would probably never have heard of Transylvania county had she not selected this location."¹²

Oppenheimer hired the Ohio-born Royal H. Morrow (1877-1957) to oversee construction of the camp facilities. Morrow moved to Transylvania County with his wife in 1915 and opened an office in Brevard as a civil engineer. During the late 1910s and 1920s he worked with a number of the county's prominent summer camps—French Broad Camp for Boys, Rockbrook Camp, Camp Merrie-Woode, Camp Carolina, and Camp Chickasaw—to lay out the grounds and supervise construction of their buildings and infrastructure. At Eagle's Nest, Morrow was charged with erecting the buildings "in such manner as to preserve all the natural beauty of the surroundings, adding to, rather than taking away, the attractiveness of the location."¹³

In the early years, Eagle's Nest Camp distinguished itself among local girls' camps as one of the smaller operations and open to younger girls. The camp admitted girls between the ages of 5 and 15, with the majority being between 5 and 11 years old. In addition to the attractive natural setting, which grew to 40 acres in the 1930s, Eagle's Nest earned a reputation for its less strenuous program. Perhaps due to the younger age of her campers, Oppenheimer did not stress vigorous outdoor activity and recreation, although opportunities for swimming, hiking, tennis, and horseback riding were available.¹⁴

Oppenheimer maintained open relations with the surrounding community and garnered the goodwill of her neighbors. She welcomed community members to open houses, publicly advocated for the local hospital, and offered special programs for family groups and camp alumni.¹⁵ A Sunday morning ceremony to dedicate the new handicraft cabin at Eagle's Nest in 1930 earned a write up in the Asheville newspaper. During the 1932 season, noted local musician and folklorist Bascom Lamar Lunsford was a guest at the camp and performed a selection of

¹¹ "Eagles Nest Camp is Latest Addition to Brevard List," *The Asheville Citizen*, January 31, 1927, p.B1.

¹² "Eagles Nest Camp is Latest Addition to Brevard List," *The Asheville Citizen*, January 31, 1927, p.B1; "Kiwanians Entertain Football Club; Elect Dr. Sumney President," *The Brevard News*, December 9, 1926, 4.

¹³ "Eagles Nest Camp is Latest Addition to Brevard List," *The Asheville Citizen*, January 31, 1927, p.B1; Laura A. W. Philips, "Morrow, Royal and Louise, House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Winston-Salem, NC, 2006.

¹⁴ "Eagles Nest Camp Appeals to Younger Girls, and Has 'Homey' Atmosphere," *The Brevard News*, July 5, 1928, 22.

¹⁵ "Praises the Hospital," *The Brevard News*, February 14, 1929, 4; "Open Houses is Held by Eagles Nest Camp," *The Brevard News*, July 24, 1929, 7; "Eagles Nest Camp Invites Visitors," *The Brevard News*, June 23, 1932, 1; "Eagles' Nest," *The Brevard News*, June 30, 1932, 1; "Eagle's Nest Camp Enjoys Unique Project," *The Brevard News*, August 18, 1932, 7;

songs.¹⁶ Two weeks later about 20 boys from Camp Pinnacle in Hendersonville, along with their nine-piece dance orchestra, visited the girls at Eagle's Nest. A report of the visit noted that "it was with great reluctance that the guests took their departure about 10:30."¹⁷

Oppenheimer married Dr. Thomas Pearce Bailey (1867-1949), a native of Georgetown, South Carolina, in 1935. The twice-widowed Bailey was a well-known psychologist and educator and the author of several books. At the time of the wedding, he served as a professor of psychology and philosophy at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Oppenheimer continued to operate Eagle's Nest Camp as the couple divided their time between Brevard and Winter Park.¹⁸

While Eagle's Nest was one of 10 camps in Brevard to survive the effects of the Depression, the camp did not open in 1942 due to the impact of World War II. Oppenheimer stated that an acute shortage of labor was the main reason for not reopening. Eagle's Nest remained closed for the 1943 season, although Dr. and Mrs. Bailey spent the summer in Brevard as usual. Oppenheimer instead leased the property to the Apollo Boys' Music School of Dallas, Texas, which sent its director and a group of 30 boys to Eagle's Nest for two months.¹⁹



Flagpole and assembly area northeast of Old Lodge, ca. 1947 (Photo courtesy of Eagle's Nest Camp)

¹⁶ "Noted Singer at Camp Friday," *The Brevard News*, July 14, 1932, 5.

¹⁷ "Pinnacle Camp Boys Visit Eagle's Nest," *The Brevard News*, July 28, 1932, 5.

¹⁸ "Miss Oppenheimer Weds Dr. Bailey at Trinity," *The Asheville Times*, September 13, 1935, 7; "Rollins Professor Weds Camp Director," *Orlando Sentinel*, September 17, 1935, 5.

¹⁹ "Eagle's Nest Girls Camp Will Not Open," *The Transylvania Times*, June 10, 1943, 12; "A Music School To Be Held at Eagle's Nest Camp," *The Transylvania Times*, June 24, 1943, 5.

Eagle's Nest resumed operation in 1945 when Oppenheimer sold the camp property to a group known as Associated Camps Company.²⁰ John V. D'Albora of Cocoa, Florida, a prominent citrus grower, served as president of the organization, although the camp would be under the direction of Alex and Hannah Jones Waite of Winter Park, Florida. Perhaps not coincidentally, Dr. Alexander Waite was a psychology professor at Rollins College, where Oppenheimer's husband served in the same academic department. Associated Camps was composed of individuals interested in child development and education. In reopening, the Waites notably changed Eagle's Nest to a co-ed camp, one of the first in the region, and welcomed approximately 25 boys and 25 girls ages 7-12 for the 1945 session. The programming remained fairly traditional with activities including water sports, athletics, arts and crafts, music, drama, pioneering, nature lore, creative writing, and "other features common to organized summer camp operation."²¹

The Waites, however, exerted tremendous influence on the future growth and development of Eagle's Nest through the second half of the twentieth century. Alexander Waite (1901-1984), who was born in China to Presbyterian missionaries, made a name for himself as a gifted college athlete and coach. Waite starred for the University of South Carolina football, basketball, swim, and track teams, which led to a position teaching and coaching at Asheville High School in the early 1920s.²² In addition to working in Asheville, Waite took a position as an assistant coach at the University of Texas.²³ While coaching at Texas, Waite organized a boys' summer camp that emphasized athletics.²⁴ He returned to Asheville in 1926 and resumed his work with the school's football and track teams. Waite married Hannah Davidson Jones (1898-1982) in 1929. An Asheville native and graduate of Converse College, Hannah Jones worked in the office of Asheville High School.²⁵ In 1931, the couple moved to Durham when Alex Waite took a position at Duke University coaching football.²⁶ In six years at Duke, Waite earned his master's degree in education and a doctorate in psychology while also coaching and organizing intramural sports for the university's summer sessions. In 1937, he took a position at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, as a professor of psychology and assistant football coach.²⁷

²⁰ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Book 83, page 479.

²¹ 'Eagle's Nest Camp to Open,' *The Transylvania Times*, March 22, 1945, 1; Moseley Waite, "History of Eagle's Nest Foundation: Eagle's Nest Camp and the Outdoor Academy of the Southern Appalachians," March 30, 2011, Vertical files, Box 5 – Camps, Rowell Bosse Local History Room, Transylvania County Library, Brevard, NC.

²² "Waite Is Captain Carolina Football Team Next Year," *The Columbia Record*, December 4, 1921, 11; "Johnnie Banks, "Swimming Meet Was A Big Success; Carolina and Waite Were Winners," *The Columbia Record*, January 19, 1922, 8; "Georgia Winner In Track Meet," *The State*, April 15, 1922, 5; "Alex Waite Has Good Position," *The Columbia Record*, March 11, 1923, 9

²³ "Alex Waite Gets A Good Position," *The Columbia Record*, October 4, 1923, 9; 'New Varsity Coach Talks of Powerful Commodore Eleven,' *Austin American-Stateman*, October 14, 1923, 5.

²⁴ "Waite Organizes Boys' Summer Camp," *The Austin American*, May 12, 1925, 3.

²⁵ "Miss Hannah Jones Weds Alex Waite Tuesday," *The Asheville Times*, June 11, 1929, 7; "

²⁶ "Alex Waite to Join Duke Coaching Staff," *The Asheville Times*, May 4, 1931, 9.

²⁷ "Alex Waite Named Rollins Instructor," *The Durham Sun*, July 27, 1937, 1; "Rollins College Signs Alex Waite," *The State*, July 29, 1937, 8; "Alex Waite Gets Post at Rollins College," *The Asheville Times*, September 11, 1937, 10; Bob Terrell, "The Phantom of N.C. State," *The Asheville Citizen*, February 24, 1965, 14.

Alex and Hannah Waite almost certainly became acquainted with Eagle’s Nest Camp through the Baileys and their mutual Rollins College connection. The Waites had two children—Benjamin Moseley and Mariella—as well as a third who died in infancy. During World War II, Alex Waite accepted a commission with the Coast Guard in 1943. While stationed in Miami, the family made national headlines when Hannah Waite credited penicillin treatments with saving the life of her son, Moseley, who had contracted polio.²⁸ Following the first successful summers as camp directors, Alex and Hannah Waite organized Eagles Nest Camp Inc. to purchase the camp and its property from Associated Camps in 1948.²⁹ In order to preserve the educational program and philosophies envisioned by the Waites, the camp was reincorporated as a non-profit organization, and D’Albora was selected as president of the Board of Trustees.³⁰



Riding out the entrance, ca. 1946 (Photo courtesy of Eagle’s Nest Camp)

The camp grew substantially under the direction of Alex and Hannah Waite, adding new cabins and activity facilities and increasing the number of campers to 125. The camp acquired four surplus Army barracks, which were disassembled and moved from Florida to North Carolina where they were reassembled for use as sleeping cabins. In 1946, an outbreak of polio in Florida required chartering a bus to transport campers to Eagle’s Nest, where they were quarantined for two weeks along with all the staff. The camp began offering courses in education and psychology to the staff, who received college credit from Rollins College. The Rollins football team used the camp property for preseason training. As its reputation grew, campers came from new areas of the country, as

²⁸ “Waite Goes on Duty With Coast Guard,” *The Asheville Times*, January 14, 1943, 13; “Penicillin Saves Victim of Polio,” *The News and Observer*, July 5, 1944, 2; “Dr. Alexander Waite” obituary, *The Durham Sun*, October 1, 1984, 2C.

²⁹ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Book 97, page 300.

³⁰ Waite, “History of Eagle’s Nest Foundation.”

well as a large contingent of youth from Cuba, who attended regularly from the early 1950s to the early 1960s. In 1968, Eagle's Nest began hosting the Carolina Camp for Children with Diabetes, organized by a group of parents from Greenville, South Carolina, in conjunction with doctors at Duke University. The camp ran for two weeks before and two weeks after the regular summer camp session every year until 1984.³¹

By the 1970s, Eagle's Nest expanded its programming while deepening its commitment to outdoor and experiential education. Beginning in 1973, Eagle's Nest conducted its first Hante Adventure on the Appalachian Trail. The Hante program, largely developed by Helen Waite, daughter-in-law of Alex and Hannah Waite, offered three- and four-week trips out of camp to small groups of teenagers for more intensive backpacking, rock climbing, and paddling experiences, as well as other outdoor activities and service work. Helen Valentine Waite, who attended Rollins College and earned degrees from Duke University and Salem College, married Benjamin Moseley Waite in 1959. The couple resided in Durham before moving to Winston-Salem, where Moseley was a professor at Bowman Gray School of Medicine and Helen taught in Forsyth County Public Schools as she became increasingly involved with Eagle's Nest.³²

When Alex and Hannah Waite retired as directors of Eagle's Nest in 1977, Helen Waite was named director by the Board of Trustees. She sought to build on the camp's educational programs by initiating off-season activities for adults, the Birch Tree Program for public and private school groups, and The Outdoor Academy of the Southern Appalachians. Founded in 1991, The Outdoor Academy brings together 30 high school students for a semester of experiential learning in an outdoor setting. Although The Outdoor Academy shared the camp property with Eagle's Nest, the small residential school required several specialized buildings designed for year-round use. Prior to the opening of The Outdoor Academy, Eagle's Nest Camp Inc. was reorganized as the Eagle's Nest Foundation (ENF) to oversee the various programs and operation of the camp, Hante Adventures, Birch Tree, and Outdoor Academy. Helen Waite was appointed the first executive director of ENF.³³

Moseley and Helen Waite divided their time between Winston-Salem and Eagle's Nest and raised three children. When Helen Waite retired in 2000, her older daughter, Noni Waite-Kucera, became executive director of ENF and continued the family's involvement with the camp and its educational programs. Waite-Kucera began her tenure by enlarging the camp property and adding new facilities. An adjoining tract encompassing 125 acres was purchased from the P. H. Gladfelter Company in 2001, more than doubling the camp's acreage.³⁴ The Traditional Arts Center, consisting of two classroom buildings (Wayah and Cheoah) for the Outdoor Academy, opened in 2002. To help preserve the camp property and its setting, Eagle's Nest placed 143 acres under a

³¹ Ibid.; "Rollins College Gridders to Train in Transylvania," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 17, 1947, D3; Clyde Osborne, "Camp Lets Diabetic Children Be Normal," *The Charlotte Observer*, June 14, 1970, 12B.

³² Waite, "History of Eagle's Nest Foundation"; "Valentine-Waite," *The Orlando Sentinel*, November 22, 1959, 3E; "Waite Promoted at Bowman Gray," *The Herald-Sun*, May 9, 1971, 6A.

³³ Waite, "History of Eagle's Nest Foundation"; "The History of Eagle's Nest Foundation," Eagle's Nest Foundation, <https://www.enf.org/history-of-enf/>, accessed September 25, 2023. ENF's Birch Tree Programs ceased operations in 1999.

³⁴ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Book 63, page 338.

conservation easement with Conserving Carolina and the North Carolina Clean Water Trust Fund in 2016.³⁵ Eagle's Nest continues to adapt and update its programs, facilities, and traditions in the twenty-first century so that the camp will continue to create an experience where "Eagle's Nest is a world in itself."³⁶

³⁵ Waite, "History of Eagle's Nest Foundation"; "Waite, Brevard," *Winston-Salem Journal*, February 7, 2017, A10.

³⁶ "Individualism Is Stressed in Program at Camp Eagle's Nest in Lower County," *The Transylvania Times*, July 6, 1967, 8.

V. Historic and Architectural Contexts

Historic contexts for Eagle's Nest Camp and similar summer camp properties in Transylvania County were established and presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) entitled *Historic and Architectural Resources of Transylvania County, North Carolina, including the incorporated towns of Brevard and Rosman, ca. 1820-1941* (NR, 1993). The MPDF addresses nineteenth-century tourism in the county, as well as the significant building and growth that occurred in the period between the two World Wars. The county seat of Brevard remained a small village until the arrival of the Hendersonville and Brevard Railroad in 1895, which opened the county's abundant forest resources to increased tourism, recreation, and industrialism.³⁷

Transylvania County was formed in 1861 from portions of Henderson and Jackson counties, and the town of Brevard was laid out on fifty acres of land given by Alexander English, Leander Gash, and B. C. Lankford. Brevard emerged as the center of government and commerce in the late nineteenth century, but inadequate transportation hindered the county's growth in the years between its formation and the completion of the railroad to Brevard in 1895. The railroad provided access to new commercial markets, population growth, and popular architectural styles.³⁸

Northern entrepreneurs such as J. F. Hayes and Joseph Silversteen brought new capital into the region that directly influenced development. Hayes, a Pennsylvania industrialist who had come to the area for his health, helped form the Toxaway Company in 1895 to build resorts in Transylvania and Jackson counties and revived the bankrupt railroad in 1898.³⁹ Joseph Silversteen, a fellow Pennsylvanian, came to Transylvania County in 1902; established several timber-related companies; and purchased over 20,000 acres of forest land from Asheville resident George Vanderbilt to supply the raw materials for his industries. Vanderbilt's extensive land holdings and private forests led to the creation of the influential Biltmore School of Forestry in 1898 to teach and practice scientific management of the forest reserves. The combination of the timber industry, forest conservation, and scenic mountain resorts brought new residents and visitors to Transylvania County.⁴⁰

During the early twentieth century, the county's reputation among tourists and summer visitors began to spread. Brevard's population climbed from approximately 500 citizens at the turn of the century to more than 1,600 by 1920. In addition to its year-round residents, Brevard's population swelled during the summer with tourists and seasonal residents, who were accommodated by a number of hotels, boarding houses, and resorts. New attractions emerged in

³⁷ Deborah J. Thompson, *MPDF*, E20-23.

³⁸ Transylvania County Heritage Book Committee, *Transylvania County Heritage, North Carolina, 1995*, 3rd printing (Brevard, NC: Don Mills, Inc. and the Transylvania County Heritage Book Committee, 2003), 1 and 105. Laura A. W. Phillips and Deborah Thompson, *Transylvania: The Architectural History of a Mountain County* (Brevard, NC: The Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission, 1998), 17-22.

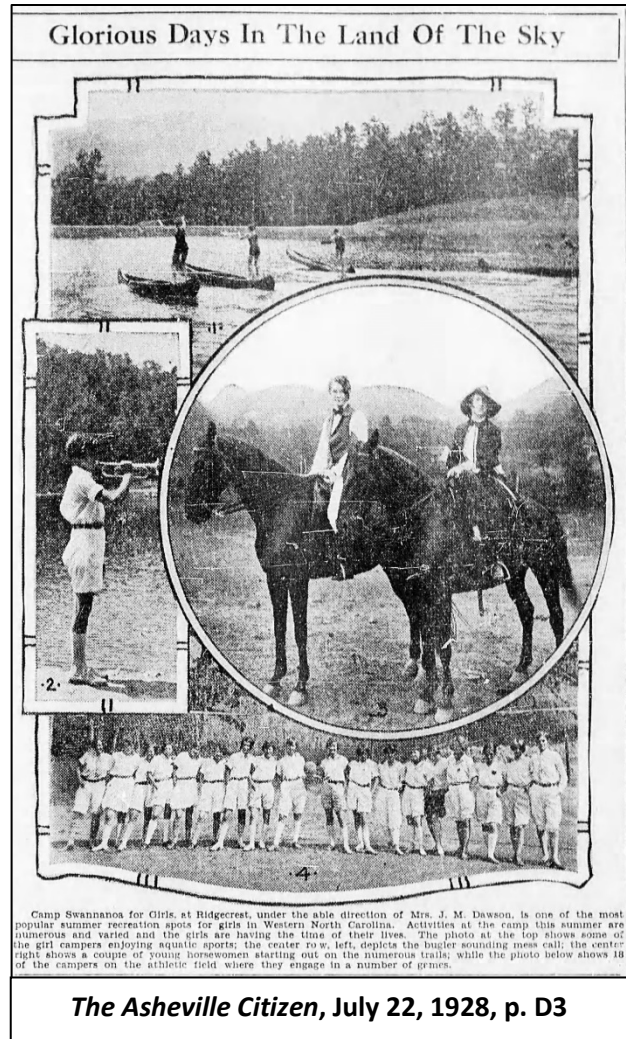
³⁹ Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 31-38.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 39-45.

the late 1910s with the creation of Pisgah National Forest in 1916 and the advent of Transylvania County as a center of youth summer camps in the southern United States.⁴¹

The emergence of organized camping in the United States owes its existence to a variety of factors that include changing attitudes toward the natural environment, educational reform, increased urbanization, additional leisure time, and in the case of girls' camps, changing societal roles and opportunities for women.⁴² For many of the same reasons that western North Carolina emerged as a mountain tourist mecca, the region became a center of youth summer camping in the early twentieth century. The organized camping movement originated in New England in the late 1800s but gained acceptance throughout the South in the first decades of the twentieth century, especially in the southern Appalachian Mountains. In the years following World War I, numerous summer camps for boys and girls were established, making the region a nationally known camping center. In 1926, the area claimed 40 organized camps within 70 miles of Asheville and attracted campers from across the country for a season of hiking, swimming, woodcraft, Native American folklore, and campfire fellowship.⁴³

Transylvania County's summer camps attracted roughly 1,000 youth each year for the two-month camp season that ran from early July to the end of August. The county's 12 camps ranged in size from around 50 campers to 150 or more. Special trains ran between Hendersonville and Brevard to deliver campers and their families. Some of the camps began offering special programs for families or groups during the month of June before the regular camp season started.⁴⁴ Local businesses and county boosters



⁴¹ Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 68-73; Sybil Bowers, "Main Street Historic District" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Bowers Southeastern Preservation, Asheville, NC, 2002.

⁴² Abigail A. Van Slyck, *A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), 3-5, 8-11.

⁴³ Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Cape Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 36-41.

⁴⁴ "Summer Camp Season Opens," *The Transylvania Times*, June 30, 1932, 1; "Campers Flock to Transylvania Co.," *The Brevard News*, July 3, 1929, 1; "Special Trains and Extra Pullmans Bring Campers," *The Brevard News*, June 30, 1932, 1.

regularly noted that “these camps [were] responsible for bringing more people to this section than any other group of individuals or businesses.”⁴⁵

Organized camping can be divided into several types of camps, each with different programmatic objectives, but camp structures were typically designed to fit harmoniously within their setting and generally promote a closer interaction with nature for the participants.⁴⁶ In western North Carolina, the permanent structures were usually rendered in a vernacular, rustic style of architecture that drew upon local building traditions and some popular architectural styles. While most camp buildings were often simple and rustic in appearance, they not only provided safe and comfortable habitations, but also reinforced the camps' ideals and enhanced the campers' relationship to their environment.

Youth summer camps in North Carolina typically developed from individuals with an interest in education or psychology and the desire to instill or reinforce religious and moral values in children. The personality and reputation of the camp owner or director proved to be one of the biggest selling points for summer camps in the early years. Mabel Day, former national secretary of the YWCA, purchased the former Camp Fairfield Lake in 1922 and changed its name to Merrie-Woode. She directed Camp Merrie-Woode for 30 years and instilled its program with a strong sense of her character and idealism. Day envisioned her camp as a utopia where she saw herself shaping the minds and ideals of young women. She reasoned that by teaching the girls to survive in the outdoors, she was teaching them self-sufficiency and building strong character.⁴⁷ Another influential figure in the region's organized camping community, C. Walton Johnson, known as "Chief," opened Camp Sequoyah in 1924 in the Reems Creek section of Buncombe County. Johnson, who had worked for the YMCA before starting his own camp, felt that modern urban life was robbing too many boys of the rugged character and adventuresome spirit of the American pioneers, and Camp Sequoyah, "a real camp for real boys," provided an antidote to the ease and artificiality of city life.⁴⁸ Dynamic camp owners and directors successfully promoted the belief that summer camp could instill a young girl or boy with a greater understanding of society and the world around them.⁴⁹

To promote and ensure high standards, developing camps often relied on the expertise of consultants in various fields. Founders and directors touted the credentials of educators, nutritionists, dieticians, and health inspectors, as well as builders, who were retained to assist in designing the different camp programs and facilities. Dr. Frank Howard Richardson, "a nationally known childcare specialist" from Brooklyn, New York, worked for Camp Montreat for Girls and later Camp Bridewood as a consultant. Richardson fashioned programs to teach "friendliness, self-

⁴⁵ “Camp Opening Will Be Boom to Community,” *The Transylvania Times*, June 23, 1932, 1.

⁴⁶ Van Slyck, *Manufactured Wilderness*, xxiii-xxvii.

⁴⁷ Jennifer F. Martin, “Camp Merrie-Woode” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Cashiers, NC, 1995, 18-20, 23.

⁴⁸ C. Walton Johnson, "What Is Camping," in *Light from A Thousand Campfires*, edited by Kenneth B. Webb (New York: Association Press, Inc., 1960), 28-29.

⁴⁹ Eleanor Eells, *History of Organized Camping: The First 100 Years* (Martinsville, IN: American Camping Association, 1986), 56.

reliance, cooperation, sportsmanship, and leadership" in "homelike" and Christian settings.⁵⁰ Concern for sanitation and health safety issues necessitated that infirmaries, with resident physicians and nurses, become a regular component of the camp grounds. Accreditation through the American Camping Association, which had been founded in 1910, required additional standards for camp programs and facilities.

Royal H. Morrow (1877-1957) and his wife, Louise (1876-1962), moved to Transylvania County in 1908, where he worked on the Toxaway Water Power project. In 1915, the couple relocated to Brevard to improve their children's educational opportunities and began work on a Craftsman-style stone house on East Main Street. Morrow maintained a strong interest in outdoor activities throughout his life and became an expert in the design, layout, and construction of summer camps. He worked extensively on designs for French Broad Camp for Boys, Rockbrook Camp, Camp Merrie-Woode, Camp Carolina, and Camp Chickasaw, as well as water and sewer systems for camps Kanuga, Keystone, Illahee, Sapphire, and Transylvania. He was an active member of the Southern Summer Camp Association, which later consolidated with the American Camp Association, and helped standardize summer camps as a local industry. In addition to his work with summer camps, Morrow served as city engineer for Brevard and as a county highway engineer and designed the town's water system. During the Depression, Morrow joined the United States Forest Service and supervised construction projects for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Pisgah National Forest.⁵¹

Henry Wellington Wack, in his tour of summer camps, described Morrow as "the skillful genius" who planned several of western North Carolina's large camps, including Camp Carolina, Camp Merrie-Woode, and Rockbrook Camp. Wack states that the design of "Camp Carolina is an illustration of the deliberate camp purpose" and "a splendid conception of what the modern camp should be structurally, in its site, and in its field, track and aquatic equipment."⁵² Wack summarized the significant kernel of Morrow's approach to camp design: "In all of Mr. Morrow's camp construction he has sought to build blendingly into the forest, not boldly against its soft and varying face."⁵³

For summer camps established in the mid-twentieth century, their programs often focused more on wilderness and outdoor skills such as whitewater canoeing, rock climbing, and backpacking, and offered more and more out-of-camp excursions. Despite a growing emphasis on wilderness adventures, the camp environment was still important to the overall summer camp experience. Camp buildings during this period, while still rustic in character, were somewhat more utilitarian in design and materials than those dating from between the wars. Through their sites and facilities, camps still strove to create a sense of place and identity that was attractive to their clientele. Mid-century camp development also witnessed a shift towards more permanent camp

⁵⁰ "Camp Montreat for Girls, Montreat, NC," 1937 camp brochure, n.p., and "Camp Bridewood, Black Mtn., NC," 1949 camp brochure, n.p.

⁵¹ Laura A. W. Philips, "Morrow, Royal and Louise, House" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Winston-Salem, NC, 2006; "Camp Directors of Section Organized," *The Asheville Citizen*, September 3, 1924, 12; "City Watershed Finished; Supply Is Now Unlimited," *The Brevard News*, May 13, 1926, 1.

⁵² Wack, *More About Summer Camps*, 80, 88.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 93-94.

structures, and camp professionals increasingly recommended building at least one winterized building, a change brought about, in part, for economic reasons. Electricity, indoor plumbing, and winterized buildings extended the camp season and opened the property for additional programming and revenue opportunities.⁵⁴



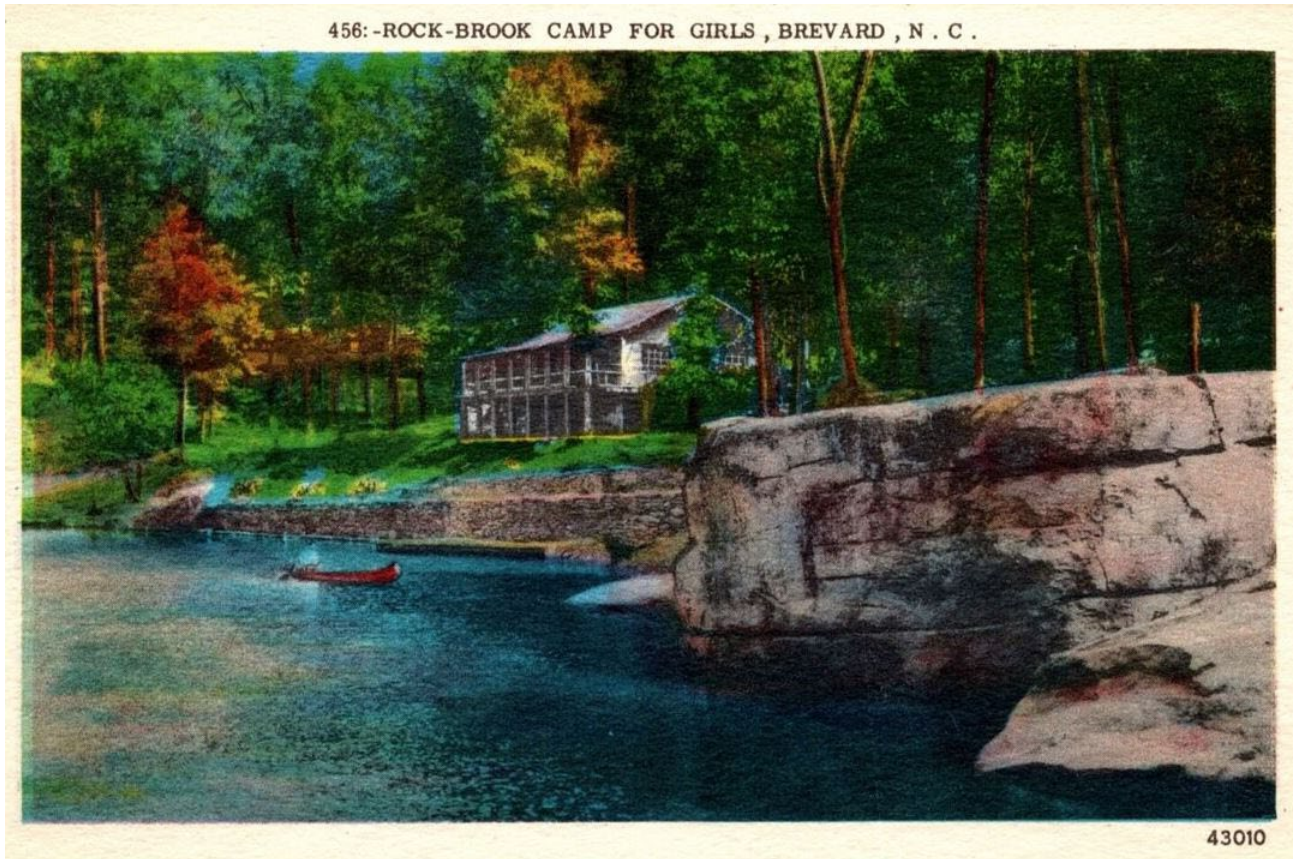
Camp Transylvania, Brevard, N.C., 1943 (Transylvania Heritage Museum)

In her comprehensive survey of historic architectural resources in Transylvania County conducted in the early 1990s, architectural historian Deborah Thompson identified and recorded more than 500 properties, containing approximately 735 buildings or structures. More than half of the recorded buildings and structures are outside the incorporated towns of Brevard and Rosman, including 10 summer camps. She presented the findings of the survey in the MPDF entitled “Historic and Architectural Resources of Transylvania County, North Carolina, ca. 1820-1941” (NR, 1993), and the results of her survey were subsequently published in *Transylvania: The Architectural History of a Mountain County* (1998).

The 30-year-old MPDF elucidates the significance and outlines registration requirements for camps and resorts, although her findings now seem a bit conservative with an over-emphasis on the architecture of individual buildings. By design, summer camp buildings were built for heavy, seasonal use and typically not winterized or fully sealed against the elements. The rustic forms and natural materials of camp architecture, which lacked the refinement of mountain resorts, allowed youth campers to experience an escape from increasingly modernized society and facilitated their connection with the natural world. Although the physical layout of different summer camps varied widely, their components tend to be similar. Organized camp designs made every effort to preserve the natural character of the site and establish an environment that contrasted with the conditions of the city. The use of native building materials and the selection of a site large enough

⁵⁴ Van Slyck, *Manufactured Wilderness*, 34-35.

to permit a degree of isolation for the camp strengthened these principles. Topography also influenced layout and site design, although other factors were often more important to creating a successful arrangement of sleeping quarters, bathhouses, dining and kitchen facilities, administration buildings, and activity areas. Camp-wide gatherings, according to the traditions of each individual camp, might typically occur in the lodge or dining hall, at an outdoor council ring or campfire circle, or other open area of camp. A prominently located lake for swimming and water sports, as well, often became a focal point of camp life, both physically and visually. The group facilities and public gathering spaces helped to shape the camp identity.⁵⁵



Postcard of lake and lodge, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, Brevard, N.C. (Collection of author)

At the start of the 1929 summer season, 14 youth summer camps operated in Transylvania County, including six for boys and eight for girls.⁵⁶ Two of the girls' camps—Camp Merrie-Woode and Camp Toxaway—stand in neighboring Jackson County despite a close association with the Transylvania County camps in promotional literature. Of the remaining 12 early camps in Transylvania, five remain in operation: Keystone Camp, Camp Illahee, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, Eagles Nest Camp, and Camp Carolina. Two others closed but later reopened under different

⁵⁵ George D. Butler, *Introduction to Community Recreation*, 5th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1976), 191-92.

⁵⁶ "Campers Flock to Transylvania Co.," *The Brevard News*, July 3, 1929, 1.

names with different owners and directors. Camp Carolina moved from its original site to a new 220-acre property in 1982. A total of 51 camp buildings were pulled on sleds over a ridge and placed at the new location.⁵⁷ The remaining five camps eventually closed, and the properties transformed into new recreational facilities or were developed for other uses.

Of the still extant camps surveyed by Deborah Thompson, Keystone Camp and Camp Illahee are most similar to Eagle's Nest in their mix of original rustic buildings, newer facilities, and expansive wooded settings. Keystone Camp (TV0112), a girls' camp founded in 1916, is the oldest, continuously operating camp in the region and met at different locations for the first several years until a permanent site was acquired in 1919. Situated on approximately 100 acres at 101 Keystone Camp Road a mile west of Brevard, the camp is screened from Cashiers Valley Road by a continuous row of 40-foot-tall evergreen trees. Fannie Holt and Florence Ellis of Jacksonville, Florida, conceived the idea for a girls' camp while running a day program for their Episcopal church. The earliest structures at Keystone included the lodge and a dam for the swimming lake, built in 1919, as well as the Pavilion, added in 1925. The original open Pavilion featured exposed beams and trusses, a weatherboard skirt, and wooden posts with diagonal bracing. However, it was one of several buildings, including the administrative office, remodeled around 2015.⁵⁸



Keystone Camp (TV0112), 101 Keystone Camp Road, view to northwest (l) and Camp Illahee (TV0109), 500 Illahee Road, view to southwest (r)

Originally there were no cabins at Keystone; campers slept in heavy, canvas tents with wooden floors. The present cabins, which date from after 1951, were based on common forms dating from the 1920s and built in a manner that does not detract from the character of the camp. The one-story, frame cabins feature board-and-batten siding, a low gable roof, and large screened openings, a basic form that has been repeated at numerous camps with little variation over the

⁵⁷ Transylvania County Heritage Book Committee, *Transylvania County Heritage, North Carolina, 1995*, 3rd printing (Brevard, NC: Don Mills, Inc. and the Transylvania County Heritage Book Committee, 2003), 35.

⁵⁸ Dale Neal, "Keystone Camp Molds Young Women For 100 Summers," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 15, 2016, <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/2016/07/15/keystone-camp-molds-young-women-100-summers/86722726/>, accessed October 16, 2023; Jen Nathan Orris, "A Lifetime of Summers," *WNC Magazine*, May 2016.

years. The interiors of the sleeping cabins are usually unfinished but adorned with camper names from many summers of use.⁵⁹

J. H. Tinsley purchased 100 acres approximately two miles southwest of Brevard in 1919 for the purpose of starting a summer camp for girls. Camp Illahee opened in 1921 under the direction of Rev. T. W. Raymond, a Presbyterian minister, who was soon succeeded by an idealistic Presbyterian educator, Hinton McLeod.⁶⁰ The camp property occupied a scenic valley and organized around an artificial lake. In 1924, McLeod Lodge was built at one end of the lake. The distinctive building is a one-story rustic structure with chestnut bark siding, stone fireplace and chimney, and an unfinished interior. A full-width porch overlooks the lake and is supported by an arcade. Tilley Lodge is another important early building that served as the dining hall and lodge. The one-story building has board-and-batten siding, an exterior stone chimney, and a wide gable roof that engages a full-width porch. Camp Illahee prospered under McLeod and his wife, Frances, who ran the camp for seven years following the death of her husband. Subsequent directors expanded the programs to include more arts, drama, music, and dancing. The original sleeping cabins were replaced with new board-and-batten structures arranged in rows. The new cabins closely emulate the original buildings with overhanging gable roofs, screened window openings, and unfinished interiors. The barns and horseback riding rings stand on the northeast side of Illahee Road opposite the main section of camp.⁶¹

Deborah Thompson described Rockbrook Camp as “the most intact and architecturally complex summer camp” property in Transylvania County.⁶² Henry and Nancy Clarke Carrier founded Rockbrook Camp for Girls in 1921 on their mountain estate overlooking the wide French Broad River valley at the base of Dunn's Rock. The 220-acre camp property climbs the slopes behind the imposing Colonial Revival style dwelling built in the early twentieth century for Nancy Carrier’s father, Henry P. Clarke. Born in South Carolina, Nancy Clarke Carrier moved to western North Carolina with her father in 1898 and founded the camp after marrying Henry Carrier. The couple established the camp program to help girls gain independence and skills by living away from home in an outdoor environment.⁶³

Royal Morrow designed the site plan for Rockbrook, based on its decentralized program. The swimming lake is an important centerpiece visually, and below the lake are remnants of an old waterwheel that generated electricity for the camp until 1930. Unlike most other camps, Rockbrook incorporates three lodges, each with an associated line of rustic frame cabins, to serve different age groups. The lodges vary in size and design, but are related in their overall

⁵⁹ Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 73, 120-21; Heidi Coryell Williams, “Summers at Keystone Camp in Brevard,” *Our State*, July 28, 2016, <https://www.ourstate.com/celebrating-100-summer-at-keystone-camp-in-brevard/>, accessed October 16, 2023.

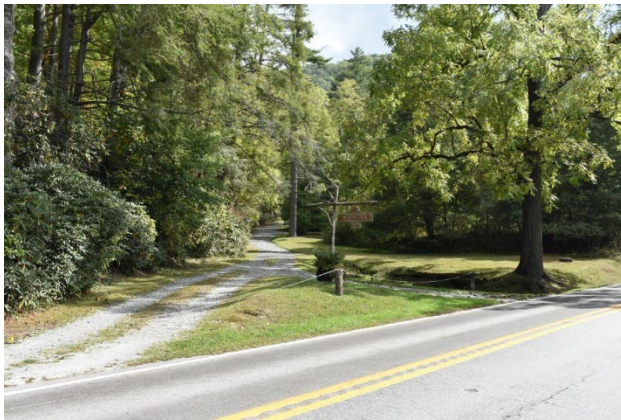
⁶⁰ “Eight Camps Forming Circle Around Brevard Ready For Season; Six Open This Week,” *The Brevard News*, July 1, 1921, 1.

⁶¹ Wack, *More About Summer Camps*, 76; Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 71-72; “A Short History of ‘A Heavenly World’,” Camp Illahee, <https://www.campillahee.com/alumnae/history/>, accessed October 6, 2023.

⁶² Thompson, *MPDF*, F73.

⁶³ “Girls Camp History,” Rockbrook Summer Camp, <https://www.rockbrookcamp.com/describe/girls-camp-history/>, accessed October 6, 2023.

proportions, function, and materials. They are constructed with side-gable roofs, roughly coursed stone walls, and unpeeled logs for rafters, trusses, and porch posts. The dining hall and infirmary were built during the first few years of the camp's existence, and while not as architecturally robust as the lodges, they complement the rustic character of the camp. Nancy Carrier had two nineteenth-century half-dovetail-notched log houses relocated to camp and incorporated into the campus. One of the cabins served as an activity cabin for weaving, while the other was used as a welcome center and mail room. The camp office was housed in a former nineteenth-century federal distillery (TV0188), which stood alongside the highway near the camp entrance. The practice of utilizing actual log houses and other existing buildings in the camp setting for use as lodges, libraries, or craft cabins was common and gave a sense of authenticity to the camp space.⁶⁴



Rockbrook Camp for Girls (TV0186), 3460 Greenville Hwy, entrance, view to northwest (l) and (former) Federal Distillery (TV0188), camp office, view to southwest (r)

Of the five early camps in Transylvania County that closed and eventually faded from the landscape, French Broad Camp for Boys, one of the county's earliest camps, left the fewest traces. The camp, which covered 200 acres on both sides of the French Broad River near Wilson Bridge, contained two permanent buildings—the club house and dining hall—while the campers slept in furnished tents.⁶⁵ Camp Perry-Ann, a camp for Jewish girls built on the site of another early camp, opened in 1927 and closed in 1931. Its 200 acres lay along Williamson Creek near Glen Cannon Falls, which was part of a 1,300-acre tract sold in 1965 for development of the Glen Cannon golf course and residential community. Camp Chickasaw (TV0198) opened in 1926 as a boys' camp. The property, noted for its one-story board-and-batten cabins with metal-clad side-gable roofs and screened window openings, became a girls' camp known as Deerwoode in 1935 before it reverted to a boys' camp in 1959 and thrived from the mid-1960s to the 1980s under the ownership of Bill and Elizabeth Mayes. The camp closed in 1991 and the property was used for vacation rentals. A few of the original camp cabins, which stood intact through the late 1990s, have been remodeled

⁶⁴ Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 72, 255-56; Van Slyck, *Manufactured Wilderness*, 74-76.

⁶⁵ Laura Gardner, "Picturing the Past: French Broad Camp for Boys," *The Transylvania Times*, May 23, 2022; Joanne O'Sullivan, "Camping In: A Reimagined Ranch Home in Brevard Brings the Outside In," *WNC Magazine* (Fall 2022), [xx].

and updated for year-round accommodation.⁶⁶ Camp Sapphire, the oldest camp in the county begun in 1913, was located a short distance outside of Brevard at the foot of Elk Lodge Mountain. The camp closed around 1940, and the property was purchased in 1945 by local businessman Harry H. Straus, founder of Ecusta Paper Corporation. Renamed Camp Straus, the company offered the property as a recreational area and park for its employees and their families. Developer William McKee purchased the 315-acre tract in 1997 with plans for expansive mixed-use development. Although several components of McKee’s plan never came to fruition, the property became an upscale residential community.⁶⁷ Camp Transylvania (TV0115), a boys’ camp established in 1919 and designed by R. H. Morrow, operated until the 1930s on a site north of downtown Brevard. James C. Pfohl, who founded the Davidson Music School for Boys, a summer music camp, at Davidson College in 1936, moved the camp to Brevard in 1944. Pfohl took advantage of Camp Transylvania’s open-air gymnasium and lodge for the music camp’s rehearsals and concerts. Pfohl presented the first Brevard Music Festival in 1946 as an appendix to the Transylvania Music Camp’s season. By 1955, the camp had evolved into the Brevard Music Center and began expanding the property’s programming and facilities.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Phillips and Thompson, *Transylvania*, 110-111; “History,” Deerwoode Reserve, <https://deerwoode.com/deerwoode-history/>, accessed October 4, 2023.

⁶⁷ “Straus Park Development,” Transylvania County Library Blog, <https://library.transylvaniacounty.org/straus-park-development/>, accessed October 4, 2023.

⁶⁸ “BMC History at a Glance,” Brevard Music Center Summer Institute & Festival, <https://www.brevardmusic.org/about/history/>, accessed October 4, 2023; Susan M. Lefler, *Brevard Then & Now* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 72-73.

VI. Evaluation

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Eagle's Nest Camp (TV0377) is **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places. The camp property presents a significant collection of rustic architecture, recreational resources, and landscape features that reflect a strong association with the summer camp movement in Transylvania County through the twentieth century. Founded in 1922 and opened at this location in 1927, Eagle's Nest Camp retains a small number of original rustic camp buildings and its overall site design by noted civil engineer Royal H. Morrow. The wooded landscape, athletic fields, lake and ponds, pasture, gardens, and trails provide a quintessential natural setting for the full range of youth camping activities. The historic relationships between the landscape, buildings, and activity areas have remained largely intact even as specific buildings and structures have been updated or replaced through the years. The general character of the camp remains relatively unchanged since its construction although Eagle's Nest has continued to evolve and develop with the times. The property generally retains its overall integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been compromised with the replacement and addition of new buildings on the property, but the design and materials of the new buildings intentionally respects the character of the earlier camp structures so as not to detract the overall rustic atmosphere of the camp.

Eagle's Nest Camp is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event). *To be eligible under Criterion A, a property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation. Furthermore, a property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, a property's specific association must be important as well.* When Carol Purse Oppenheimer relocated her five-year-old summer camp for girls to Transylvania County in 1927, it was one of a dozen similar youth summer camps in the county and one of 40 in region at large. Eagle's Nest Camp began as part of a national trend promoting summer camps in response to a number of social ills affecting the nation's youth. Western North Carolina in general and Transylvania County in particular became an important center of youth camping due to the scenic mountains, extensive forest reserves, and tradition of resorts and tourism. Under Oppenheimer's direction, Eagle's Nest offered a typical program of camp activities for young girls, and the camp's popularity stemmed, in part, from its small size and close-knit atmosphere, especially for younger campers. From an early date, Oppenheimer offered special camp sessions for families and alumni, which became a staple of the summer camp season. Alex and Hannah Waite significantly expanded the camp's program after becoming the directors of Eagle's Nest in 1945. The Waites opened Eagle's Nest as a co-ed camp, one of the first in the region, and formed a non-profit organization to better manage the camp and its affiliated educational programs. In addition to maintaining a traditional summer camp, Eagle's Nest hosted a special camp for diabetic children from 1968 to 1984; founded Hante, an out-of-camp adventure program for older campers; and started The Outdoor Academy, a semester-long residential program for high school students that emphasized outdoor recreation and experiential learning. The diverse activities have

helped distinguish and sustain Eagle's Nest through the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Eagle's Nest Camp is significant under Criterion A as one of the oldest youth summer camps in Transylvania County and for its close associations with the growth and development of the important organized camping industry in the region.

Eagle's Nest Camp is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e. individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance, and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group.* Eagle's Nest Camp is the product of many individuals, and their contributions to its organization, operation, educational program, and physical appearance. As such, Eagle's Nest is the cumulative result of their collective efforts and influence. The camp's historic significance is not singularly associated with any specific individual and their productive life with the possible exception of former director Helen Waite, whose significant period of activity at Eagle's Nest occurred within the past 50 years. The property does not appear to represent significant associations with important individuals for eligibility under Criterion B.

Eagle's Nest Camp is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.* The design and layout of Eagle's Nest Camp represents multiple layers of development and operation as the camp's program has evolved and expanded over the past century. The layout of the camp buildings and activity areas adheres to the planning initiated by Royal H. Morrow in 1927. A locally prominent civil engineer, Morrow laid out a number of the area's early summer camps and strove to arrange the camp elements in a way that emphasized their natural setting. At Eagle's Nest, Morrow organized the central camp buildings around the gravel-lined Quad, dammed a small creek through the property to form the swimming lake, and placed the athletic fields, riding ring, and gardens on the low-lying land near Hart Road and Little River. The original dining hall and lodge buildings stand at either end of the Quad and retain their rustic characteristics including frame construction, board-and-batten siding, stone accents, screened openings, and long porches. In addition to a few other early buildings, the camp retains buildings from the late 1940s, 1960s, and other periods of construction in subsequent decades. The camp property was greatly enlarged in 2001 with the purchase of 125 acres to the west and southwest of the original camp property.

Eagle's Nest Camp retains a good collection of rustic camp buildings and structures more than 50 years of age while the overall camp design remains largely intact. The replacement and addition of new buildings has compromised the physical integrity of the camp although the property as a whole continues to be clearly defined as a distinguishable entity. Among the few early summer camps in Brevard that still operate, Rockbrook Camp presents the most cohesive collection of distinctive architectural forms and overall integrity, but the other properties dating from the 1910s

and 1920s—Camp Keystone, Camp Illahee, and Eagle’s Nest Camp—have a greater number of newer or replacement structures within the camp setting. Camp Illahee contains two individual structures of architectural distinction including the chestnut-bark-sided McLeod Lodge built in 1924, which partially extends over the lake, and Tilley Lodge, the large, rustic dining hall. Like Eagle’s Nest, the new construction at Illahee intentionally emulates the scale and materials of the early buildings in order to blend sensitively within the camp setting. Camp Keystone has undergone a greater amount of updating and remodeling for its principal camp structures than Eagle’s Nest. Camp Carolina, another 1920s camp, moved from its original Morrow-design site to a new property in 1982 and lost some of its historic associations and integrity. Eagle’s Nest Camp is significant under Criterion C for its architecture and design. The rustic character of the camp is created not only through its building materials and forms, but also through its site design and landscape that envelops the outdoor activities occurring at Eagle’s Nest since the late 1920s.

Eagle’s Nest Camp is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or pre-history, and 2) the information must be considered important.* Eagle’s Nest Camp covers approximately 180 acres of forested hillsides and low-lying expanses along Little River. Developed as a youth summer camp in 1927 and used continuously since that time, the camp property is unlikely to contribute significant information pertaining to building technology or historical documentation not otherwise accessible from other extant resources and written records.

Boundary Description and Justification

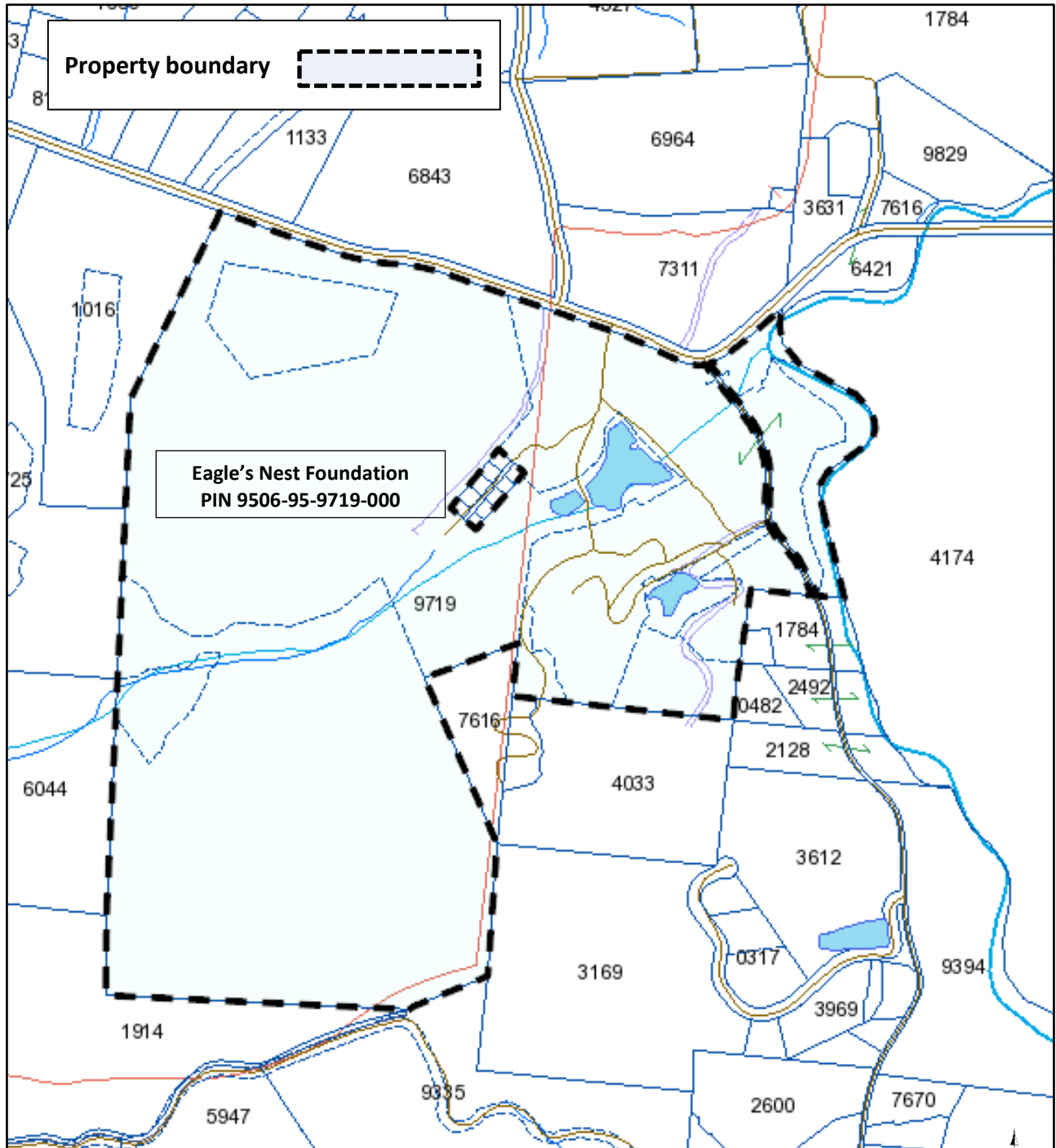
Eagle’s Nest Camp encompasses the full 180-acre tract [PIN 9506-95-9719-000] owned by Eagle’s Nest Foundation and containing the summer camp buildings and grounds, buildings of The Outdoor Academy, and other supporting structures. The original layout designed by Royal H. Morrow continues to define the arrangement of camp spaces and activity areas even as specific buildings have been added or replaced. The significant landscape features including the Quad, swimming lake, athletic fields, garden, entrance drive, and network of camp roads and trails all contribute to the overall camp site and setting.

The property included within the proposed boundary extends to the edge of pavement on both sides of Hart Road (SR 1534) for approximately 0.25 mile south of its intersection with Everett Road (SR 1533). According to the executive director, Eagle’s Nest Foundation maintains the property on both sides of the roadway, which is grassed to the edge of pavement. As noted on the survey conducted for the conservation easement of Eagle’s Nest property, no recorded right-of-way on Hart Road was found.⁶⁹

The proposed boundary circumscribes and thereby includes 10 interior parcels on Settlement Road—accounting for approximately 1.2 acres in total—subdivided and offered for sale by former Eagle’s Nest owners Dr. Alex and Hannah Waite. Seven of the 10 parcels are currently owned by

⁶⁹ Transylvania County Register of Deeds Plat Book 16, page 896.

Eagle's Nest Camp or the Eagle's Nest Foundation, while the three remaining parcels are owned separately by private individuals.



Boundary Map – Eagle's Nest Foundation, 43 Hart Road, PIN 9506-95-9719-000
(Source: Transylvania County GIS)

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