

Historic Properties Management Plan
Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Andrew Pickens Ranger District
Sumter National Forest

Prepared by

Oconee Heritage Center
Walhalla, South Carolina

December 7, 2011



Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
Cultural Resource Management Report 2012-01

Overview and Executive Summary

The Oconee Heritage Center (OHC) of Walhalla, South Carolina has requested a special use permit from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS) to establish a Southern Appalachian Farmstead (SAF) living history interpretive site on 20 acres on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest. The SAF will be developed at the existing Russell House Historic Site (Russell Farmstead) on Highway 28 in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River (WSR) corridor.

The SAF will preserve and interpret historic rural lifeways associated with Southern Appalachian culture that were present in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina from 1875 to 1925. This will protect and enhance some of the river corridor's historical and recreation values, while ensuring that development does not degrade the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, or other biological, geological, scenic, or recreation values.

The area known as the Russell Farmstead including the Russell House Site (38OC106) is located southwest of the Highway 28 bridge adjacent to the Chattooga River in Oconee County, South Carolina (Figure 1). The area also includes the location of Chattooga Town (38OC18), a 17th and 18th century Cherokee village (Schroedl 1994) and a small historic period Cherokee ceramic scatter (38OC412) (Gresham 2003). The property was purchased by a settler from a Cherokee in 1816, eventually passing to William Ganaway Russell in 1867 (O'Steen and Chapman 1991:6). The Russell Farmstead consisted of agricultural fields, gardens, pastures, a large two-story frame house and at least 12 outbuildings. The Forest Service purchased the 187 acre Russell farm tract in 1970.

Five acres of the Russell Farm (38OC106) including historic buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register or NRHP) in 1988. Fire destroyed the main house, two outbuildings and a privy in May 1988. The loss of four buildings, in addition to advanced deterioration of the remaining structures over the years, has diminished the historic value and interpretive opportunities at the site. Although portions of the original agricultural fields continue to be mowed each year to provide open wildlife habitats, the historic and interpretive recreation values of the farmstead continue to degrade over time.

The Oconee Heritage Center has prepared this HPMP to provide consideration and management of effects on historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) throughout the operation of the Forest Service special use permit. The HPMP provides for the management of historic properties which are those properties listed in or eligible for the NRHP including for this project the Russell House Site (38OC106) and the Chattooga Town Site (38OC18).

This document includes:

- Project purpose and need
- Planned actions
- Description of Historic Properties and other cultural resources
- Project management and preservation goals and priorities
- Project effects and mitigation measures
- Implementation procedures

Purpose and Need

In 2009, the OHC, a regional historical society non-profit organization, applied for a special use permit to restore the Russell Farmstead as a living history interpretive site that would offer museum exhibits and educational programs related to the area's rich cultural history. The Forest Service has considered development scenarios and assessed potential environmental impacts of such development from 2009 to 2011. Results of that analysis, with additional consideration of recent recreation management planning in the adjacent upper Chattooga River segments is included in an environmental assessment.

The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) have been consulted on the proposed undertaking and potential effects to historic properties. Correspondence from previous consultations is included in Appendices A and B. This Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) includes SAF project goals and priorities, project effects mitigation or management measures, and implementation procedures.

After consideration of the application from the OHC Board of Directors, the Forest Service proposes to permit the Oconee Heritage Center to develop the SAF living history interpretive site. The action will restore the Russell Farmstead as a functioning farm designed and operated to interpret various aspects of rural Southern Appalachian culture between 1875 and 1925. The restoration will replicate the sights and sounds of this era and encourage visitors to learn about

the area's history and relationship to the river. The restoration and development will include (Figure 2):

- Restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of the existing Russell Farmstead structures, landscapes and historic uses;
- Relocate a historic cabin to the site to be used as an interpretive center;
- Relocate a historic cabin to be interpreted as a typical rural Southern Appalachian farmhouse;
- Construction of a 30-vehicle gravel parking area and public vault toilets to handle expected visitation; and
- Construction of a home of a traditional local type which will fit into the historic landscape and be used as the caretaker residence (on the opposite side of the highway).

The purpose of the project is to protect and manage heritage resources at the site and educate forest visitors about those resources and their relationship to the river, enhancing the river corridor's historic values and interpretive recreation opportunities. Interpretation will focus on Southern Appalachian history, architecture, agriculture, historic preservation techniques, environmental conservation and the mission of the U.S. Forest Service.

The project is needed because the Russell Farmstead (30OC106) is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a significant part of the historic landscape of Oconee County. Due to insufficient maintenance since the fire destroyed the main house the remaining buildings and historic landscape have been deteriorating. Former gardens, fields, pastures and open spaces have overgrown with brush and trees. Buildings have been vandalized and damaged by weather. The SAF project will reverse this deterioration by stabilizing, restoring and maintaining the buildings and landscape of the Russell House site. A full time tenant will improve security.

The SAF will also demonstrate and interpret the equipment, tools, and farming methods from the era. Other aspects of traditional appalachian culture and lifeways will be demonstrated. It will develop appropriate visitor use facilities (parking lot and restrooms) to handle the expected volume of use and include the relocation of a cabin for an interpretive center; relocation of a second cabin to be interpreted as a typical rural Southern Appalachian farmhouse; a 30-vehicle gravel parking area and public pit toilets; and construction of a replica home to be used as the caretaker residence (on the opposite side of the highway).

Southern Appalachian Farmstead

Appendix A Alternative 2/Proposed Action

Proposed Buildings

1. Pit toilets
2. Office
3. Caretaker's Residence (new construction)
4. Smokehouse (replica)
5. Sorghum Mill and Furnace
6. Appalachian Farmhouse



Figure 2. Project map.

The Forest Service finds the OHC SAF proposal is consistent with and supports the following goals and objectives stated in the *Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Sumter National Forest* (USDA Forest Service 2004) and directives from the *Forest Service Manual* (FSM) 2360 Heritage Program Management:

- Goal 31 - Manage areas with special paleontological, cultural, or heritage characteristics to maintain or restore those characteristics (USDA Forest Service 2004: 2-28).
- Goal 32 - Meet the demand for quality heritage learning and tourism opportunities. Realize the potential of heritage sites on the national forest to draw heritage tourism partners to benefit both the heritage assets and public programs (USDA Forest Service 2004: 2-28).
- FSM 2364.42 Conservation and maintenance of cultural resources. The agency official shall meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation for National Register eligible or listed properties on National Forest lands.

Planned Actions

The actions planned for the SAF are included in Table 1.

Table 1. SAF actions	Summary of proposed actions for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead
Buildings/Structures	
Russell Farmstead NRHP site	Stabilize, restore and maintain existing buildings (main barn, pig farrow, log barn, springhouse, small storage shed, large storage shed, small barn, corncrib, root cellar) on the five acre site. Construct a replica of the original smokehouse. Development would occur through a phased-in approach as funding is available.
Relocated historic buildings	Two historic cabins would be relocated to the site. A "visitor center" cabin will serve as the primary interpretive center and also include an office and sales area; it will have phone and electric utilities. A second cabin will represent a typical, small Appalachian farmhouse and will not have utilities. If the replica smokehouse described for the NRHP site is not feasible, a relocated smokehouse will be considered. Development would occur through a phased-in approach as funding is available.
Caretaker's Residence	A new residence will be constructed in the historic, Appalachian-style on the south side of Hwy. 28. Utilities would include water, septic system, phone and electricity. The caretaker would be an OHC employee, and would reside and work at the site.
Public restrooms	Installation of two modern vault toilets.
Parking	Construction of a 30-space gravel parking area. Approximately five spaces will be signed for traditional use in the area (hunting, fishing, or other use of the river corridor) with the remainder signed for use at the historic site. During special events, "overflow parking" for event visitors is available at the USFS Hwy. 28

	Boat Launch approximately 0.5 miles west of the site. Limited administrative parking would be permitted within the site.
Security	An on-site caretaker provides primary security for the site, in addition to routine USFS law enforcement in the river corridor. OHC may install additional fire detection/security systems as needed.
Other	One sawmill and one sorghum mill/furnace may be constructed (pole sheds).
Landscape	
Historic landscapes	Re-establishment of the stagecoach and other roadbeds, fence lines, gardens and agricultural crops, as well as pastures with traditional grazing farm animals.
Pesticides	Limited use of USFS approved herbicides during initial land clearing. Household insecticides may be used to protect buildings.
Existing stream crossings	Replace with foot bridges as approved by specialists.
Ditching or drainage structures	Additional structures as approved by specialists.
Existing power line	Realign to Highway 28 corridor.
Events, Programs and Interpretation	
Public events/programs	Living history interpretive events and programs that could include, but would not be limited to, agriculture, construction, traditional farm practices, historically accurate arts and crafts and transportation. Fundraisers will be permitted on a case-by-case basis.
Interpretation	OHC and USFS would develop interpretive signs, literature and interpretive messages that would include but not be limited to: the biological diversity and ecological significance of the Chattooga River; the history of the Cherokees and Chattooga Town; the local, transportation, cultural and agricultural heritage of Oconee County/Southern Appalachia; the Russell House NRHP site; and, the role of the Forest Service. All material would be approved by the USFS.
Implementation	
Monitoring / adaptive management	USFS would monitor all aspects of the project including land clearing, construction, reconstruction, agricultural and commercial activities, maintenance, visitation and impacts to the river's ORVs. Stabilization of buildings would be monitored. Special attention will be given to assessing the extent that SAF parking is used by upper Chattooga anglers, hikers, or boaters during high use periods (when upper Chattooga access parking and capacities are exceeded). Adaptive management strategies to address such problems may include separated parking for SAF and upper Chattooga users.
Performance bonding	OHC would provide a performance bond before each historic building or new structure is placed on the site.
Commercial Activities	
Shuttle system	The OHC would be permitted to operate a commercial shuttle system to transport visitors to the SAF.
Sales	OHC would be permitted to sell limited merchandise and Forest Service products.
Fees	OHC would be permitted to charge fees.
Fundraising	Fundraisers or similar events would be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Historic Properties/Archeological Sites in the Project APE

The Southern Appalachian Farmstead project includes areas which have been the focus of extensive archeological and architectural historic preservation study including all or portions of three known heritage sites: the Cherokee town of Chattooga (38OC18); the Russell House and outbuildings (38OC106); and a prehistoric ceramic scatter (38OC412) (Figure 1).

Chattooga Town 38OC18

This archeological site is the location of Chattooga Town, a 17th and 18th century Cherokee village. The village had a population of about 100 persons, contained 10-15 houses and a council house, and was most intensively occupied from the mid 1600s to around 1740 (Schroedl 1994). Earlier prehistoric archeological components from the Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian Periods are also present. The site was first recorded as an archeological site in 1969 and was acquired by the Forest Service in 1970 (Elliott 1984:17).

Forest Service archeologists examined portions of 38OC18 in 1976 and 1978 prior to proposed parking areas (Green 1976; Prokopetz 1978). The site was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, information provided was insufficient to support placement on the NRHP. Forest Service test excavations in 1984 discovered buried archeological features and the location of a Cherokee house in the field north of Highway 28.

The most extensive study of Chattooga Town was done from 1989 to 1994 (Schroedl 1994). It identified the locations of former Cherokee buildings and determined the types and placement of archeological resources on the site (Cutts 1997; Howard 1997). Further test excavations were conducted on the site in 2003 and 2005 in a study prior to replacement of the Highway 28 bridge over the Chattooga River (Pomfret 2006). A South Carolina state highway historic marker commemorating Chattooga Town was placed on Highway 28 near the site in 2008.

38OC18 is eligible for placement on the NRHP and is in protective management. It was intensively cultivated for more 100 years with some disturbance to upper soil layers. Most of the site is now forested or mowed as a wildlife opening.

Russell House 38OC106

The Forest Service acquired the Russell House in 1970 and recorded it as an archeological or heritage resources site in 1978. William Clark bought the property in 1816 from Walter Adair, a Cherokee. The farm had passed to the Nicholson family by 1827 and in 1867 to William

Ganaway Russell (O'Steen and Chapman 1991:6). The Russell House replacing the earlier Nicholson house was built in the 1880s or 1890s.

The Forest Service requested a determination of eligibility from the Keeper of the NRHP in 1979; the site was determined eligible for the NRHP in 1980. Architectural drawings of the buildings were made in the early 1980s. The Forest Service took architectural documentary photos in 1987; an historic preservation form completed an architectural assessment of the buildings in 1987 (Preservation Consultants 1987). The Russell House and outbuildings were listed on the NRHP in 1988.

The NRHP property includes five acres. Twelve buildings were included in the nomination consisting of the Russell House, three barns, two storage sheds, a tool shed, a smoke house, a corn crib, a spring house, a pig farrow and a root cellar. The house, built after 1867 and expanded in the later 19th and early 20th centuries was significant in the area of transportation as a stage stop and inn. The farm building complex dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th centuries was also found significant in the area of agriculture. The outbuildings are representative of the diverse aspects of a small late 19th/early 20th century Appalachian farmstead and are common building types that incorporate regional construction techniques.

Fire destroyed the main house, a storage building and the smoke house in 1988. The Forest Service completed an architectural evaluation of the remaining nine outbuildings and an archeological survey of the site in 1991 (O'Steen and Chapman 1991). The study concluded that the farm buildings represent an array of farm activities from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but the loss of the Russell House diminishes material integrity of the site. The associated significance of the site in transportation history was diminished with the destruction of the former house or inn. The archeological survey found no significant archeological remains on 38OC106. The consultant concluded that the site no longer contained sufficient integrity or significance, given the loss of the house, to warrant continued listing on the NRHP. However, the site retained value as a historic agricultural farm complex and could be interpreted.

The Forest Service consulted with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office which concurred that the site probably had lost much of the characteristics under which it was nominated to the NRHP. The Forest Service considered the site no longer eligible and thought the SHPO had removed it from the NRHP. Over the years, management included minimal maintenance of access paths and spaces near the buildings which have deteriorated from natural effects.

However, 38OC106 was never removed from the NRHP. Currently, the Forest Service maintains that the site retains sufficient integrity of design and setting, and links to historic transportation and agriculture themes to remain a NRHP property. The remaining farm

outbuildings retain value in interpreting the site and are characteristic of traditional farm architecture. They contribute to the significance of this site.

Unnamed prehistoric site 38OC412

This site was recorded in 2003 during a survey for the renewal of the Haywood Electric power line right-of-way located west of the Russell House farm buildings (Gresham 2003:20-23). The site consists of a small scattering of Cherokee complicated stamped ceramic sherds. Four sherds were recovered from two shovel test pits. The site measures approximately 20 meters in diameter. Gresham concluded that this was not the location of a Cherokee house or integral part of Chattooga Town, but may be pottery broken when accessing a nearby spring. The site has been determined not eligible for the NRHP.

Project Management and Preservation Goals, Priorities, and Procedures

The OHC will be a steward of the historic properties within the APE of the SAF in coordination with the Forest Service. The OHC will protect and preserve the integrity of historic properties while meeting project priorities to repair and restore buildings and historic landscapes. The project will also function within the Forest Service goals for the management of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

Goals

- Protect and maintain the integrity of historic properties
- Avoid or mitigate impacts to historic properties
- Coordinate activities with the USFS under the conditions of the special use permit and HPMP
- Maintain compatibility with the goals for the management of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River including other resources areas pertaining to water quality, aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, recreation, and aesthetics.
- Provide interpretive and educational opportunities

Protection and mitigation of archeological resources

To achieve the project goals the OHC will coordinate with Forest Service archeologists to protect historic properties and avoid disturbance of significant archeological resources. This will include the following.

- Forest Service archeologists will review any planned large ground disturbing activities
- Forest Service archeologists will monitor agricultural areas

- Vandalism or looting of archeological resources will be reported to Forest Service archeologists
- Significant cultural resources including suspected human remains will be reported to the Forest Service
- The Forest Service will consult with the THPO and SHPO concerning any affects on significant archeological resources

Protection and Mitigation of Historic Buildings and Structures

This HMP follows the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* as guidance for the protection of the buildings at the Russell House Site. The guidelines discuss four distinct approaches to the treatment of historic building including preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

The OHC will prepare a Historic Structure Report (HSR) as a planning document prior to the treatment of each historic building with the exception of any immediate repairs needed to stabilize or preserve buildings. The HSR will record the current condition of the building, identify historic fabric, and the means to minimize the loss, damage, or any adverse effects upon it. The HSR will include the following.

- The approximate date of construction
- Current conditions, photographs
- Remaining significant or noteworthy features
- Evaluation of current and proposed needs in relation to the historic fabric.
- Goals and recommended overall treatment approach (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction)
- Recommended treatments for individual features or areas
- Priorities and order of treatments

The remaining structures at the Russell House Site presently exist in various stages of decay and deconstruction. The treatment for each building will be different, and may be subject to change based on the availability of funding and the recommendation of a hired historic preservation consultant. Listed below are extant structures along with their foreseen treatments, conditions, and other considerations.



Main Barn- Rehabilitate

This largest building remains in fair shape and is has strong structural integrity. It will be further stabilized and the surrounding vegetation managed to protect the structure. Rehabilitation will provide space for the exhibition of historic farm tools and processes and space for live animal husbandry demonstration.



Pig Farrow- Preserve

Almost completely consumed by poison ivy, this small structure will be preserved through extensive vegetation management on its outer surfaces and may require some interior support following the ivy removal. Depending on its stability after treatment, it could potentially be used for its intended purpose (rehabilitation).



Springhouse- Restore

The building's western face has been heavily vandalized, leaving the structure vulnerable to further damage. Treatment will include restoring the western face of the building to its period form and strengthening the structure to allow full entry.



Log Barn- Preserve

As the oldest structure on site (c.1820), this two-cribbed log-construction has fallen into serious disrepair. Following the roof toppling from the cribs, exposure led to a great deal of deterioration of the structural logs. Given the advanced state of decay, this structure will be stabilized for safe movement around the perimeter, but otherwise primarily be preserved in its current state. Interpretation will be required as further treatment for this structure. Interpretive content is likely to include the importance of preservation and cycles of land use.



Small Storage Shed- Rehabilitate

This small structure (likely used as a chicken house) will be stabilized, damaged portions replaced, the surrounding vegetation managed, and used along with the adjacent farmyard to house poultry for the use of living history interpretation.



Large Storage Shed- Rehabilitate

This building retains high structural integrity, which combined with its accessibility will make it ideal for the storage and display of the tools used for production on the farm. Also, because of its accessibility, it has a lot of carved graffiti on its south-eastern face. With little additional reconstruction, this building's original function can be restored.



Small Barn- Preserve

Having never been re-roofed with tin on one side, the decayed wooden shakes on the eastern portion of this small building allowed the weather to rot away much of the one side. In addition to the natural forces of weathering and decay, the building's accessible location at the edge of the field made its wooden walls desirable supply of firewood for people using the site for camping. A large uprooted tree that fell nearby missed the structure's remaining stable wall by a number of inches. Originally an open-sided barn, the fallen side can be eventually be reconstructed to stabilize the structure and make it useable.



Corncrib- Restore

Probably the most intact and impressive structure remaining on the site, the doors on either side of this large building are the most at-risk to decay. Replacing the doors and protecting the foundation from termite and vegetation damage will render the corncrib useable. Even with corn production incorporated in the program of the farmstead, the corncrib will primarily be used for storing corn for interpretive purposes.



Root Cellar- Preserve

Built into the side the hill, the root cellar has experienced some earth shifting and has a wall buckling. The main treatment approach for this structure will be to stabilize it as much as possible, so to allow peaking into the front door to gain insight into its purpose.

Staff for Historic Preservation

The OHC will employ historic preservation and restoration consultants to prepare Historic Structure Reports and oversee the building treatments. This may include training of SAF staff and those working on buildings. It could include historic preservation workshops and education sessions.

Priorities

Priorities will be primarily security and accessibility with a focus on safety for the buildings and visitors to the SAF. A secondary priority will be the treatment of the buildings.

Proposed Ten Year Project Implementation Schedule

YEAR	DESCRIPTION
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain Insurance• Secure all permits• Establish "Friends" Support Group• Fund Raisers, marketing/advertising• Begin clearing vegetation on NRHP site and along historic stagecoach road
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin clearing lands for historic landscape restoration (pastures, gardens, etc)• Begin repairs/stabilization of existing structures• Performance Bond for caretaker residence• Hire Farm Manager
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct caretaker residence• Establish water, sewer, electricity• Construct parking area and restrooms• Performance Bonds for 4 structures• Install drainage structures
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct 4 remaining structures• Construct walking paths• Design and install interpretive signage• Prepare and plant crop area
5 through 10	Operational Living History Farmstead

Interpretation

- Interpretive panels will be mounted on non-obtrusive free-standing posts or signage frames.
- Original buildings and those moved to the SAF will be clearly identified.

- Open spaces throughout site will be devoted to various programmed activities and demonstrations, located appropriately to provide access, safety, and to avoid impacting the site and its structures.
- Visitors to the site will be allowed interior access to some structures (big barn, springhouse, large storage shed, small barn, corncrib), while access will be restricted to other structures (root cellar, chicken coop, pig farrow, log barn).

Maintenance

- Maintenance will be performed by SAF staff
- A Site Maintenance Plan will be developed to address long-term maintenance needs and how they will be accomplished as well as short-term/regular maintenance needs and how they will be accomplished.

Security

Enhanced security will be provided by

- Open viewsheds through the site
- Caretaker's occupation of site
- Provisions for emergency telephone services
- Security lighting in areas around parking lot, restrooms and Interpretive & Visitor Center, located to not distract from the historic character of the site
- Fire alarm system- connected to caretaker's cabin
- Potential video surveillance

Interpretation and Public Education

- SAF staff will coordinate volunteer presenters, demonstrators, and living history interpreters to facilitate programmed activities.
- Additional staff will be used to coordinate logistics for programmed events.
- Living history interpretive events and programs could include, but would not be limited to, agriculture, construction, traditional farm practices, historically accurate arts and crafts and transportation.
- Events and programs could include, more specifically interactive demonstrations on the following.

soap making
 cooking
 household practices
 traditional/organic gardening
 woodworking
 blacksmithing

animal husbandry
milling
spinning
candle making
fiber arts, quilting
self sufficiency
music
folklore/storytelling
traditional dance
barn raising/traditional construction
basketry
natural dying
tanning/leatherwork.
Traditional farming/plowing

Project Effects

The proposed SAF addresses Goal 28 of the *2004 Sumter RLRMP* by protecting and enhancing the historic values. It will restore and maintain existing buildings and historic landscapes and retain values which contribute to the NRHP eligibility of the Russell House site. Existing buildings will be maintained using NRHP guidelines. Relocated historic buildings will be in character with the original buildings and would not, with the exception of a replacement of the smoke house which was burned, be on the NRHP site. A relocated Appalachian farmhouse, sorghum furnace and mill will be located north of the NRHP site in an area outside the Chattooga Town site. Parking, enclosed vault-type toilets and the sales area will be non-intrusive and clearly separated from the historic building complex. All original historic buildings will be identified by signs. The caretaker's residence will be across the highway from the known heritage sites and in character with the historic setting.

Previous archeological work has identified portions of the Chattooga Town site in areas planned for cultivation under this alternative, but no significant archeological remains were identified in the project area. Previous SHPO and THPO consultation has concurred with the USFS determination that the resumption of shallow cultivation will have no adverse effect on 38OC18. Cultivation will be monitored annually by USFS archeologists. The relocation of the power line to the Highway 28 corridor will remove an intrusive element from the vicinity of the farm buildings and relocation will have no effect on archeological resources.

Living history events and interpretive programs will enhance history values and encourage preservation and protection of heritage resources. The site will become a valued opportunity for heritage tourism in the local and tri-state area.

Mitigation Measures

A Forest Service archeologist will monitor cultivated areas annually after plowing. The results of the monitoring will be reported to the SHPO and THPO each year. Cultivation will be stopped if any significant cultural resources including human remains are encountered. The SHPO and THPO will be consulted on possible effects to historic properties.

OHC will use only qualified individuals to work on historic buildings. The work will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for historic buildings. The planned work will be reviewed by the Forest Service and done in consultation with the SHPO and THPO.

Implementation Procedures

The OHC will be responsible for implementing the HPMP. A SAF project cultural resources coordinator will be identified to coordinate cultural resources related issues with the Forest Service. The OHC through the cultural resource coordinator will be responsible for the following.

- Review activities that may affect cultural resources and consult with the USFS Archeologist
- Assist in documentation and preparing materials for USFS consultation with the THPO and SHPO on SAF related effects to historic properties
- Report to the USFS any looting or vandalism
- Coordinate any restoration, repair or other work on historic buildings
- Coordinate with the Andrew Pickens District Ranger any major events or interpretive programs
- Insure that qualified individuals are used for work on historic buildings.
- Insure that Historic Structure Reports are completed prior to building treatments and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines are used to guide work on historic buildings

The USFS will be responsible for monitoring the HPMP and the SAF special use permit issued to the OHC. A Forest Service archeologist will consult the SHPO and THPO as plans are developed to repair or restore historic buildings or if any activities which may affect historic properties are planned outside of the initial project proposal. The SHPO and THPO will be consulted if any significant archeological materials are identified including any human remains. All SHPO and THPO consultation will be through the USFS.

Dispute resolution

The OHC will handle any disputes with the USFS under the terms of the special use permit. The USFS will consult with the SHPO and THPO on any issues related to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR 800.

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Appendix A.

SHPO Consultation.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360/2720-2

Date: July 23, 2009

Ms. Caroline Dover Wilson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, , SC 29223

RE: Section 106 consultation/NEPA Scoping, Southern Appalachian Farmstead Proposal,
Sumter National Forest, Oconee County

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County, South Carolina has received an application from the Board of Directors for the Oconee Heritage Center in Walhalla, South Carolina to establish a Southern Appalachian Farmstead living history interpretive site on 20 acres of national forest lands at the existing Russell Farm Historic Site on Highway 28 near the Chattooga River. The purpose and context of this proposal is to preserve and interpret historic rural lifeways associated with Southern Appalachian culture that was present in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina from 1875-1925.

Three cultural resource sites are known for the proposed farmstead project area. These include the Russell Farm site (38OC106) which is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register eligible Chattooga Town site (38OC18) extends to an old field that may be re-cultivated. A second Cherokee site (38OC412) is located on the power line west of the buildings and was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places during a transmission line special use renewal survey in 2003.

The Russell Farmstead

The Forest Service purchased the Russell Farmstead in a 187-acre tract in 1970. Originally, the Russell Farmstead consisted of agricultural fields, gardens, pastures, a large two-story frame house and at least 12 outbuildings. Fire destroyed the main house, two outbuildings and a privy on May 14, 1988.

When five acres of the farmstead were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, the house, outbuildings and site itself were recognized for three areas of significance dating from 1867-1921: transportation, architecture and agriculture. For transportation, the site was recognized for its role as a stage stop and inn. The house and outbuildings were recognized in the area of agriculture as representative of the diverse aspects of buildings on a small turn-of-the-century Appalachian farmstead. The main house and individual outbuildings were considered significant examples of vernacular architecture. The remaining buildings serve as interesting examples of early rural architecture, but the loss of four buildings to fire and the advanced

deterioration of the remaining structures has resulted in adverse impacts to the site. Portions of the original agricultural fields have been mowed each year to provide open habitat for wildlife.

The Russell House site was reevaluated for eligibility after the fire destroyed the house and three outbuildings. I have enclosed a copy of that report. The Forest Service determined at that time (1991) that the site was no longer eligible having lost major contributing elements. However, steps were never taken to remove the site from the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest Service currently has no plans to pursue removal of this site from the National Register.

Proposed Action

Based on the application from the Board of Directors for the Oconee Heritage Center, the Forest Service is proposing to authorize the establishment of a Southern Appalachian Farmstead living history interpretive site on 20 acres of national forest lands including the existing five acre Russell Farm Historic Site and a portion of the historic period Cherokee Chattooga Town Site.

This proposal includes the following actions.

- Stabilization, restoration, maintenance and interpretation of the buildings and grounds on the five-acre Russell Farmstead National Historic Register Site;
- Placement and interpretation of up to 12 additional relocated historic buildings and partial reestablishment of the historic landscapes on an additional 15 acres of the Russell Farmstead outside of the five acre National Register site. This includes original locations and operations of roadbeds, fence lines, gardens, agricultural crops (e.g. corn, sorghum) and pastures with traditional farm animals;
- Use of an additional relocated historic building (Cleveland School) as living quarters for a full-time tenant to provide on-site presence and security. This structure would be located on the south side of Highway 28 outside the National Register site where a mobile home existed prior to public ownership;
- Construction of a 30-vehicle parking lot;
- Installation of public restroom facilities (modern, pit-type toilets);
- Use of an additional relocated historic building as an interpretive center, office and gift shop;
- Limited use of Forest Service-approved herbicides (as may be required primarily in some of the initial phases of land clearing) and insecticides (as may be required with the presence of farm animals);
- Replace existing stream crossings with foot bridges. Some additional ditching or drainage structures are also needed;
- Living history interpretive events and programs;
- Fundraising through donations and sales; and
- Relocation of existing power line to Highway 28 corridor.

Purpose and Need

The area known as the Russell Farm Historic Site is an important landmark in Oconee County. However, due to lack of sufficient maintenance, the portion of the Russell Farm that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places has been deteriorating since a fire destroyed the main house and two outbuildings. Grasses, weeds, shrubs, trees and vines have grown over what used to be lawns, gardens and pastures. Buildings have been weathering, falling down, and vandalized. This proposal would reverse that trend by stabilizing, restoring and maintaining the buildings and grounds. The presence of a full-time tenant would improve security and reduce the potential for vandalism in the future.

In addition, the Southern Appalachian Farmstead would be a functioning farm designed and operated for the purpose of interpreting various aspects of rural Southern Appalachian culture. The historical context of the farm would be defined between 1875 and 1925; therefore, the site would be restored visually to what one would have seen in the late 19th or early 20th century. The site would also promote heritage tourism and serve as a welcome center for visitors entering the South Carolina upstate, offering information to visitors about recreational and other opportunities in the area and on the national forest.

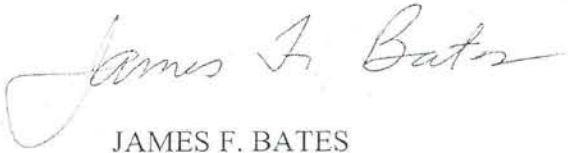
The primary goal of the project would be public education about heritage resources such as Southern Appalachian history, architecture, agriculture, historic preservation techniques, environmental conservation and the mission of the U.S. Forest Service. Not only would structures be preserved (houses, cabins, corn cribs, smokehouses) but also equipment, tools and techniques would be interpreted. This would be a working farm in the sense that activities would include those from actual life during the given time period. Activities may include making candles, growing crops, blacksmithing and many others. Visitors will not only be able to see how the farm looked, but also experience it. Events would include small festivals, Appalachian music gatherings, quilting bees, barn raisings, cooking sorghum, and farming and lumbering demonstrations.

I am enclosing information of the sites (38OC18, 38OC106, 38OC412) and project. These include a map showing a visualization of where the parking area and additional buildings are planned. The area containing the original buildings was examined for archeological resources in 1991 and no prehistoric or historic Cherokee period artifacts were found there. The University of Tennessee's work at Chattooga Town did locate some Cherokee artifacts in the field north of the building planned for restored agriculture. I am enclosing a map from Eric Howard's MA thesis which shows this area.

This letter is an initial contact as the Forest Service considers issuing the Oconee Heritage Center a special use permit. Individual actions including the parking lot construction and resuming cultivation of the field, repairs to buildings and relocation of additional buildings will be reviewed for potential effects to historic properties and heritage resources.

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this proposed undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Bates". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist

August 25, 2009

James F Bates
USDA
810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824



Re: Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Oconee County, SC
SHPO #: 09CW0495

Dear Mr Bates:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, which we received on July 27, regarding the above referenced project. We also received histories, photos, and site plans as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the US Department of Agriculture pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.

The Russell Farmstead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We have reviewed the submitted information thoroughly, and believe that the project has potential; however we have a few questions that need to be answered before providing our comments.

What will be cumulative effects of plowing at Site 38OC18? What method of plowing will be used? Certain types of plowing could result in artifact disturbance.

Will there be signage to differentiate the National Register listed buildings from the buildings that are not original to the site? If so, we would like to see examples and/or a design.

We would also like to review the restoration plans for the National Register listed buildings.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6169 or cwilson@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Caroline Dover Wilson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office



"Wilson, Caroline D."
<cwilson@SCDAH.STATE.S
C.US>

08/26/2010 09:43 AM

To "Jim Bates" <jbates@fs.fed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Southern Appalachian Farmstead

Jim,

I've received your letter regarding the Farmstead project. We believe that a programmatic agreement might be the best way to deal with this project given that there will be future action on the site. Let me know what you think, and if need be, I can put together some examples to send to you.

Thanks,

Caroline Dover Wilson

Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 896-6169
Fax (803) 896-6167

****STATUS UPDATE for the week of August 23rd:** We have reviewed and sent letters for projects received through August 5th.**

PLEASE NOTE: We **CANNOT** accept Section 106 forms via e-mail, unless requested. Please send us hard copies using certified mail or UPS/Fed-Ex to ensure your project package has arrived. Thank you for your understanding.**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360

Date: August 11, 2010

Ms. Caroline Dover Wilson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RE: Section 106 Consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, final alternatives

Dear Ms. Wilson:

This letter is to continue Section 106 consultation on the proposed special use permit for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead project on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest in Oconee County. The Forest Service is in the process of writing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed project and has finalized a proposed action and alternatives which I have enclosed. I am also including copies of our earlier correspondence to refer to and will answer questions you asked in your earlier letter.

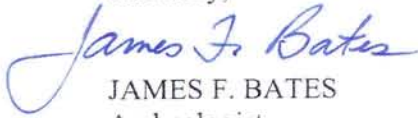
Current Section 106 consultation is for the issuance of a permit to the Oconee Heritage Center for the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead. Section 106 consultation will continue in the future as specific actions are planned that may have effects on historic properties including the Russell House site (38OC106) and the Chattooga Town site (38OC18). The Forest Service will complete an operating plan for the management of the permit. The SHPO will be consulted as plans are made to restore buildings or cultivate a portion of the Chattooga Site. I believe that a Memorandum of Agreement dealing with the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead and heritage related issues which would include the South Carolina SHPO may be warranted.

Let me address the questions from your previous letter. The possible effect of plowing on a portion of 38OC18 will be reviewed prior to any plowing. Previous work by Dr. Gerald Schroedl and an MA thesis by Eric Howard found some historic Cherokee artifacts in the field where restored agriculture is planned. However, Howard's analysis concluded that no houses or buildings were located in that field, lessening the possibility that prehistoric features are present. The current proposal includes traditional farming practices which could include animal drawn plows or early twentieth century tractors. Plowing will be shallow in fields that have been cultivated for over 100 years and would largely be in previously disturbed soils.

The SHPO will be consulted as plans are made to repair or restore buildings. The final alternatives do not include any relocated buildings on the Russell House NRHP site with the exception of a replica of a smoke house that burned down. Original and relocated buildings will be clearly marked and you will be able to review the proposed designs of the signs.

I hope this answers your concerns. The current consultation is not meant to cover all future actions which might affect historic properties but it is to identify heritage resources related issues during the NEPA analysis and complete Section 106 consultation prior to the issuance of the special use permit to The Oconee Heritage Center for the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the project or need additional information.

Sincerely,



JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist

Southern Appalachian Farmstead
Draft EA effects analysis proposed alternative
J. Bates 8/9/10

Direct and Indirect Effects of Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

This alternative addresses Goal 28 of the Sumter Forest Plan by protecting and enhancing outstanding remarkable values pertaining to the history of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. It would restore and maintain existing buildings and historic landscapes and retain values which contribute to the National Register eligibility of the Russell House site. Existing buildings would be maintained using National Register guidelines. Relocated historic buildings would be in character with the original buildings and would not, with the exception of a replacement of the smoke house which was burned, be on the National Register site. A relocated appalachian farmhouse, sorghum furnace and mill would be located north of the National Register site in an area outside of the Chattooga Town site. Parking, the toilets, and office would be non-intrusive and clearly separated from the historic building complex. The caretakers' residence will be across the road from the known heritage sites and in character with the historic setting.

Previous archeological work has identified portions of the Chattooga Town site in areas planned for cultivation under this alternative, but no significant archeological remains were identified in the project area. Additional archeological review will be completed prior to any cultivation to confirm that no significant archeological resources will be affected by shallow plowing. The relocation of the power line to the Highway 28 corridor will remove an intrusive element from the vicinity of the farm buildings. There will be no effect on archeological resources from the power line relocation.

Living history events and interpretive programs will enhance history values and encourage preservation and protection of heritage resources.

Cumulative Effects of Alternative 2

This alternative will enhance and protect heritage outstanding remarkable values. It will address cumulative adverse effects to National Register of Historic Places site 38OC106 due to the deterioration of existing buildings.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360

Date: February 4, 2011

Ms. Carolina Dover Wilson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RE: Section 106 Consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Archeological Survey

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The Forest Service would like to continue Section 106 consultation on the proposed special use permit for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead project located on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest in Oconee County and is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment (EA) prior to making a decision. In previous correspondence, you received the proposed alternatives and proposed action for this project as well as information about previous cultural resources surveys and archeological testing in the area of potential effects (APE) including the Russell House Site (38OC106), the Chattooga Town Site (38OC18), and a small historic period Cherokee site (38OC412). During the EA analysis the Forest Service determined that some portions of the APE required additional archeological investigations to identify and assess potential effects to cultural resources.

Four additional areas were examined for cultural resources by me in January 2011. These are the proposed location of the caretaker's residence, the building/reconstruction site for the Appalachian Farmhouse, the parking lot, and the restored agricultural field. The enclosed map shows these locations. Descriptions of fieldwork and results are provided below.

Area A is the proposed site of the caretaker's residence and includes approximately 1.5 acres. It is located outside of and immediately across SC Highway 28 from the Russell House Site and consists of an open field with a 15-25 degree slope bordered by a small creek. This field contained a mobile home with septic system in the 1970s. Nine shovel test pits were excavated across the field covering it at approximately thirty meter intervals. These contained dark brown loam to over 30 centimeters and no cultural resources. The mobile home site includes a poured cement slab, electrical cables, and an old dirt road. A cinder block well house and power pole are located upslope in the southeast portion of the lot near the creek. This is an old agricultural field based on the surface evidence of plowing, vegetation, and shovel test pit information. It was later used as a residential site from the middle twentieth century into the late 1970s.

Area B is the proposed building site of the relocated (brought from off site) Appalachian Farmhouse and sorghum mill. It is in woods bordering an agricultural field that contains the southern portion of the Chattooga Site (38OC18). A previously surveyed Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative power line right of way is located to the east. The building site is level to gently sloping. Slopes become steep near SC Highway 28. Approximately .75 acres of near level

ground were examined for the proposed building site using a grid of 17 shovel test pits at ten meter intervals. These shovel test pits revealed deep dark brown loam similar to soils found in the adjacent agricultural field and contained no artifacts. The area between the building site and the Russell House Site (38OC106) was also surveyed with shovel test pits in high site probability areas for a total of 2.2 acres. No cultural resources were identified. Area B contains 40-50 year old white pine trees and some uneven surface contours remaining from cultivation. It is an old agricultural field probably cultivated into the early twentieth century.

Area C is the proposed parking area adjacent to SC Highway 28 at the southwestern edge of the Russell House Site. It contains approximately one acre and is an old agricultural field planted in white pines by the Forest Service in the 1970s. Nine shovel test pits were excavated at twenty meter intervals through the proposed parking area. These contained disturbed yellowish red clay loam plow zone and no artifacts. The approximate boundary of the Russell House site was established and the proposed entrance to the parking area was determined to cross an approximately 20 by 20 meter section of the southwest corner of 38OC106 at Highway 28. The proposed office next to the parking lot is at the Russell House Site boundary. No cultural resources were found at either of these locations or in the proposed parking area.

Area D is the proposed restored agricultural field containing approximately four acres in the southern portion of the Chattooga Town Site (38OC18). The field is gently sloping towards the river and was cultivated from the early nineteenth century until a few years ago. It is currently mowed each year in six strips separated by hedgerows. Previous archeological research by the University of Tennessee identified historic period Cherokee and possibly prehistoric artifacts in this field. Eric Howard in his MA thesis examined the University of Tennessee data and determined that the artifacts recovered did not match patterns established for Cherokee houses elsewhere on the site.

Seven shovel test pits were excavated by me in the field to examine the depth of historic plow zone and the potential for affecting any buried cultural resources. These were situated on the most elevated locations in each mowed strip with two shovel test pits in the strip closest to the river. The most elevated locations were selected because they are better drained, are the most likely location of historic Cherokee structures based on archeological research, and the areas most likely to have the upper soils removed/eroded due to previous plowing. The depth of the shovel test pits was 40-45 centimeters. They revealed the center portion of the field contained dark brown plow zone 30-38 centimeters (12-15 inches) deep with some slight lighter mottling at the base of this level. This was underlain by a very dark brown uniform loam. The same dark brown 30 centimeter plow zone was found in shovel tests nearer the river. These also contained more silt. Shovel tests in the eastern part of the field upslope and away from the river contained 30-40 centimeters of dark brown plow zone over strong brown clay. One shovel test pit in the strip nearest the river contained a prehistoric vein quartz core from approximately 25 centimeters below surface. No artifacts were found in the other shovel test pits.

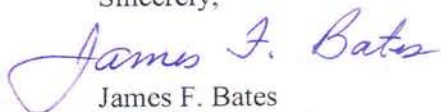
No archeological resources were identified in the caretaker's residence, Appalachian Farmhouse, or parking lot construction sites. The proposed action includes resumed agriculture in an area containing a portion of 38OC18. This field was cultivated for approximately 150 years. Shovel test pits identified 30 centimeters (1 foot) or more of existing plow zone across the field with

many areas having deeper plow zones. Resumed agriculture will be shallow plowing only. The field would be monitored after each plowing by a Forest Service archeologist to determine if features or buried cultural resources are being disturbed. Plowing would be stopped until any suspected significant archeological resources could be evaluated.

The Forest Service finds that there will be no adverse effect on 38OC18 and 38OC106 from the proposed actions in these four areas. However, a complex project programmatic agreement (PA) may be needed to adequately address effects on historic properties related to this long term and complex project including the restoration of historic buildings and monitoring of restored agriculture.

If you agree with this determination please indicate by completing the endorsement below and returning it to this office. If you do not agree with the no adverse effect determination, please let me have your comments and suggestions for resolving any disagreement.

Sincerely,



James F. Bates
Archaeologist

_____ I concur with the no adverse effect determination

_____ I do not concur with the no adverse effect

Signed: _____ Date: _____
State Historic Preservation Office

Southern Appalachian Farmstead

Appendix A Alternative 2/Proposed Action



March 3, 2011



Mr. James Bates
USDA Forest Service
Long Cane Ranger District
810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824

Re: Southern Appalachian Farmstead Archaeological Survey
Oconee County, South Carolina
SHPO No. 09CW0495

Dear Mr. Bates:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, which we received on February 8, regarding the above-named project. We also received the report *Southern Appalachian Farmstead Archaeological Survey* as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to U.S. Forest Service pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

The report meets the guidelines set forth in the *South Carolina Standards and Guidelines*. But please include a topographical map with the location of the archaeological sites referenced in the report and the survey areas in the future. Based on the description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and the identification of historic properties within the APE, our office concurs with the assessment that the proposed projects will have no adverse effect on the archaeological sites 38OC18 and 38OC106. Our office understands that a programmatic agreement (PA) is being prepared to address effects on historic properties related to the restoration of historic buildings and monitoring of the restored agriculture in the project area. We look forward to seeing the PA.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6181 or jbarnes@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Jodi Barnes, PhD
Staff Archaeologist/GIS Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office

cc. Robert Morgan, Forest Service



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360

Date: October 3, 2011

Ms. Rebekah Dobrasko
Supervisor of Compliance, SHPO
SC Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RE: Section 106 consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, draft Historic Properties Management Plan

Dear Ms. Dobrasko:

The Forest Service is completing Section 106 consultation prior to issuing a permit for the Oconee Heritage Center to develop the Russell House Site on the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County, South Carolina as a living history farm. The SHPO has received information on the project during the past two years for review and comment under the Section 106 process. During earlier consultation a project programmatic agreement was proposed to address effects on historic properties related to the long term restoration and preservation of buildings on the Russell House National Register site and the resumption of agriculture on a portion of the Chattooga Town National Register eligible site.

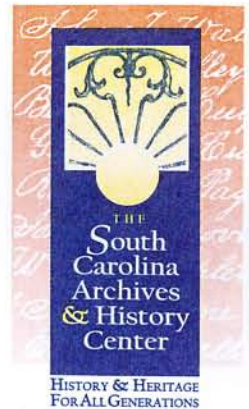
The South Carolina SHPO has now suggested a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) as being the more appropriate way to address effects. I have enclosed a draft copy of the *Historic Properties Management Plan, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest* prepared by the Oconee Heritage Center. I believe that this HPMP will address SHPO and THPO concerns.

Please send me comments on this draft HPMP and any related to the proposed undertaking.

Sincerely,

JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist

October 13, 2011



Mr. James Bates
Archaeologist
US Forest Service
810 Buncombe St.
Edgefield, SC 29824

Re: Southern Appalachian Farmstead
Oconee County, South Carolina
SHPO Project No. 09-CW0495

Dear Mr. Bates:

Thank you for your letter of October 3, which we received on October 4, regarding the proposed permit to Oconee Heritage Center for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead. We also received a draft Historic Properties Management Plan as supporting documentation for this undertaking. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the Forest Service pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

The draft Historic Properties Management Plan is a clear and concise document that governs future work at the proposed Southern Appalachian Farmstead. The Farmstead has several historic properties, including the Russell Farmstead, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and Chatooga Town (38OC0018), which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The HPMP addresses maintenance, security, and interpretation, and discusses when the Oconee Heritage Center will consult with the Forest Service on historic property issues.

Our office believes that the implementation of this HPMP should protect the historic properties from adverse effects, and it is the opinion of our office that the proposed permit should have **no adverse effect** to the Russell Farmstead or Chatooga Town.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 896-6183 or dobrasko@scdah.state.sc.us.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Dobrasko

Rebekah Dobrasko
Supervisor of Compliance, Tax Incentives, and Survey
State Historic Preservation Office

Appendix B.

THPO consultation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360/2720-2

Date: July 21, 2009

Ms. Yolanda Saunooke
THPO Section 106 Assistant
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians
P. O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

RE: Section 106 consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead and Chattooga Site, Sumter
National Forest

Dear Ms. Saunooke:

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County, South Carolina has received an application from the Board of Directors for the Oconee Heritage Center in Walhalla, South Carolina to establish a Southern Appalachian Farmstead living history interpretive site on 20 acres of national forest lands at the existing Russell Farm Historic Site on Highway 28 near the Chattooga River. The purpose and context of this proposal is to preserve and interpret historic rural lifeways associated with Southern Appalachian culture that was present in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina from 1875-1925.

Three cultural resource sites are known for the proposed farmstead project area. These include the Russell Farm site (38OC106) which is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of National Register eligible Chattooga Town site (38OC18) may be re-cultivated. A second small Cherokee site (38OC412) is located on the power line west of the buildings. Four broken pottery sherds from an historic period Cherokee occupation were recovered from this site which was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places during a transmission line special use renewal survey in 2003.

The Russell Farmstead

The Forest Service purchased the Russell Farmstead in a 187-acre tract in 1970. Originally, the Russell Farmstead consisted of agricultural fields, gardens, pastures, a large two-story frame house and at least 12 outbuildings. Fire destroyed the main house, two outbuildings and a privy on May 14, 1988.

When five acres of the farmstead were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, the house, outbuildings and site itself were recognized for three areas of significance dating from 1867-1921: transportation, architecture and agriculture. For transportation, the site was recognized for its role as a stage stop and inn. The house and outbuildings were recognized in the area of agriculture as representative of the diverse aspects of buildings on a small turn-of-the-century Appalachian farmstead. The main house and individual outbuildings were considered significant examples of vernacular architecture. The remaining buildings serve as interesting

examples of early rural architecture, but the loss of four buildings to fire and the advanced deterioration of the remaining structures has resulted in adverse impacts to the site. Portions of the original agricultural fields have been mowed each year to provide open habitats for wildlife.

Proposed Action

Based on the application from the Board of Directors for the Oconee Heritage Center, the Forest Service is proposing to authorize the establishment of a Southern Appalachian Farmstead living history interpretive site on 20 acres of national forest lands at the existing Russell Farm Historic Site.

This proposal includes the following actions.

- Stabilization, restoration, maintenance and interpretation of the buildings and grounds on the five-acre Russell Farmstead National Historic Register Site;
- Placement and interpretation of up to 12 additional relocated historic buildings and partial reestablishment of the historic landscapes on an additional 15 acres of the Russell Farmstead. This includes original locations and operations of stagecoach and other roadbeds, fence lines, gardens, agricultural crops (e.g. corn, sorghum) and pastures with traditional farm animals;
- Use of an additional relocated historic building (Cleveland School) as living quarters for a full-time tenant to provide on-site presence and security. This structure would be located on the south side of Highway 28 where a mobile home existed prior to public ownership;
- Construction of a 30-vehicle parking lot;
- Installation of public restroom facilities (modern, pit-type toilets);
- Use of an additional relocated historic building as an interpretive center, office and gift shop;
- Limited use of Forest Service-approved herbicides (as may be required primarily in some of the initial phases of land clearing) and insecticides (as may be required with the presence of farm animals);
- Replace existing stream crossings with foot bridges. Some additional ditching or drainage structures are also needed;
- Living history interpretive events and programs;
- Fundraising through donations and sales; and
- Relocation of existing power line to Highway 28 corridor.

Purpose and Need

The area known as the Russell Farm Historic Site is an important landmark in Oconee County. However, due to lack of sufficient maintenance, the portion of the Russell Farm that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places has been deteriorating since a fire destroyed the main house and two outbuildings. Grasses, weeds, shrubs, trees and vines have grown over what used to be lawns, gardens and pastures. Buildings have been weathering, falling down, and vandalized. This proposal would reverse that trend by stabilizing, restoring and maintaining the buildings and grounds. The presence of a full-time tenant would improve security and reduce the potential for vandalism in the future.

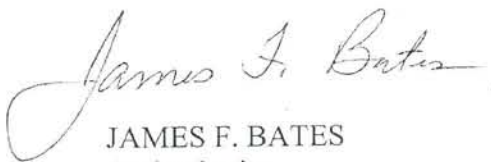
In addition, the Southern Appalachian Farmstead would be a functioning farm designed and operated for the purpose of interpreting various aspects of rural Southern Appalachian culture. The historical context of the farm would be defined between 1875 and 1925; therefore, the site would be restored visually to what one would have seen in the late 19th or early 20th century. The site would also promote heritage tourism and serve as a welcome center for visitors entering the South Carolina upstate, offering information to visitors about recreational and other opportunities in the area and on the national forest.

The primary goal of the project would be public education about heritage resources such as Southern Appalachian history, architecture, agriculture, historic preservation techniques, environmental conservation and the mission of the U.S. Forest Service. Not only would structures be preserved (houses, cabins, corn cribs, smokehouses) but also equipment, tools and techniques would be interpreted. This would be a working farm in the sense that activities would include those from actual life during the given time period. Activities may include making candles, growing crops, blacksmithing and many others. Visitors will not only be able to see how the farm looked, but also experience it. Events would include small festivals, Appalachian music gatherings, quilting bees, barn raisings, cooking sorghum, and farming and lumbering demonstrations.

I am enclosing a map showing a visualization of where the parking area and additional buildings are planned. The area containing the original buildings was examined for archeological resources in 1991 and no prehistoric or historic Cherokee period artifacts were found there. The University of Tennessee's work at Chattooga Town did locate some Cherokee artifacts in the field north of the building planned for restored agriculture. I am enclosing a map from Eric Howard's MA thesis which shows this area.

The Forest Service wishes to know if the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has an interest in this project and wishes to be a consulting party. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposed undertaking. This letter is an initial contact as the Forest Service considers issuing the Oconee Heritage Center a special use permit. Individual actions including the parking lot construction and resuming cultivation of the field will be reviewed for potential effects to historic properties and heritage resources including the historic Cherokee Town of Chattooga.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Bates". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719
Ph: 828-554-6854 Fax 828-488-2462

DATE: August 27, 2009

TO: US Forest Service
Andrew Pickens Ranger District
Attn: Jim Bates
810 Buncombe St.
Edgefield, SC 29824

PROJECT(S): (File Code: 1950-1/2720-2), Comments regarding Southern Appalachian Farmstead Proposal.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is in receipt of the notification to act as a consulting party for the above-referenced project information and would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed Section 106 activity. The EBCI THPO accepts the invitation to act as a consulting party on the above referenced Section 106 undertaking(s) as mandated under 36 C.F.R. 800.

The project's location is within the aboriginal territory of the Cherokee People. Potential cultural resources important to the Cherokee people may be threatened due to adverse effects expected from the level of ground disturbance required for this project. Please send all related archaeological, cultural resource and historical investigatory materials, including the Phase I report, completed by the applicant to this office for review and comment.

If we can be of further service, or if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at (828) 554-6854.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Saunooke
Tribal Historical Preservation Office
Section 106 Assistant
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360/2720-2

Date: August 13, 2010

Mr. Tyler B. Howe
Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians
P. O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

RE: Section 106 consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead Proposal, final alternatives,
Sumter National Forest, Oconee County, South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Howe:

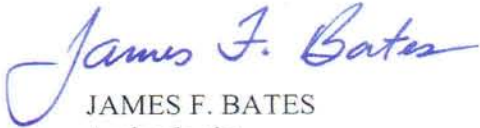
This letter is to continue Section 106 consultation on the proposed special use permit for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead project on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest in Oconee County. The Forest Service is in the process of writing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed project and has finalized a proposed action and alternatives which I have enclosed. I am also including copies of our earlier correspondence to refer to.

Current Section 106 consultation is for the issuance of a permit to the Oconee Heritage Center for the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead. Section 106 consultation will continue in the future as specific actions are planned that may have effects on historic properties including the Russell House site (38OC106) and the Chattooga Town site (38OC18). The Forest Service will complete an operating plan for the management of the permit. The THPO will be consulted as plans are made to cultivate a portion of the Chattooga Site. I believe that a Memorandum of Agreement dealing with the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead and heritage related issues which would include the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians THPO may be warranted.

Let me address a concern from your previous letter. The possible effect of plowing on a portion of 38OC18 will be reviewed prior to any plowing. Previous work by Dr. Gerald Schroedl and an MA thesis by Eric Howard found some historic Cherokee artifacts in the field where restored agriculture is planned. However, Howard's analysis concluded that no houses or buildings were located in that field, lessening the possibility that prehistoric features are present. The current proposal includes traditional farming practices which could include animal drawn plows or early twentieth century tractors. Plowing will be shallow in fields that have been cultivated for over 100 years and would largely be in previously disturbed soils.

I hope this answers your concerns. The current consultation is not meant to cover all future actions which might affect historic properties but it is to identify heritage resources related issues during the NEPA analysis and complete Section 106 consultation prior to the issuance of the special use permit to The Oconee Heritage Center for the operation of the Southern Appalachian Farmstead. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the project or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James F. Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist



Yolanda Saunooke
<yolasaun@nc-chokeee.com
>

09/27/2010 01:02 PM

To "jbates@fs.fed.us" <jbates@fs.fed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Southern Appalachian Farmstead Proposal , Final
Alternatives

Jim,

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI THPO) is in receipt of the notification to act as a consulting party for the above-referenced project information and would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue to comment on this proposed section 106 activity. The EBCI THPO accepts the invitation to act as a consulting party on the above referenced section 106 undertaking as mandated under §36 C.F.R. 800.

The EBCI THPO understands that we will be a consulted as plans are made to cultivate any portion of the Chattooga Town Site. We also concur that a Memorandum of Agreement may be warranted. The amount of cultural information that will be gained from both sites, Russell House site (38OC106) and Chattooga Town site (38OC18), to the public will be very beneficial. This office hopes that we will be allowed to review the interpretation signs that will be located along this project area. As such, the EBCI THPO concurs with Alternative 2 for the above mentioned project.

If we can be of further service, or if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at (828) 554-6854.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Saunooke
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Tribal Historical Preservation Office
Section 106 Assistant



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Francis Marion and
Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-561-4000

File Code: 2360

Date: February 10, 2011

Ms. Yolanda Saunooke
THPO Section 106 Assistant
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians
P. O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

RE: Section 106 Consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Archeological Survey

Dear Ms. ~~Wilson~~:

Saunooke

The Forest Service would like to continue Section 106 consultation on the proposed special use permit for the Southern Appalachian Farmstead project located on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest in Oconee County, South Carolina and is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment (EA) prior to making a decision. In previous correspondence, the EBCI THPO received the proposed alternatives and proposed action for this project as well as information about previous cultural resources surveys and archeological testing in the area of potential effects (APE) including the Russell House Site (38OC106), the Chattooga Town Site (38OC18), and a small historic period Cherokee site (38OC412). During the EA analysis the Forest Service determined that some portions of the APE required additional archeological investigations to identify and assess potential effects to cultural resources.

Four additional areas were examined for cultural resources by me in January 2011. These are the proposed location of the caretaker's residence, the building/reconstruction site for the Appalachian Farmhouse, the parking lot, and the restored agricultural field. The enclosed map shows these locations. Descriptions of fieldwork and results are provided below.

Area A is the proposed site of the caretaker's residence and includes approximately 1.5 acres. It is located outside of and immediately across SC Highway 28 from the Russell House Site and consists of an open field with a 15-25 degree slope bordered by a small creek. This field contained a mobile home with septic system in the 1970s. Nine shovel test pits were excavated across the field covering it at approximately thirty meter intervals. These contained dark brown loam to over 30 centimeters and no cultural resources. The mobile home site includes a poured cement slab, electrical cables, and an old dirt road. A cinder block well house and power pole are located upslope in the southeast portion of the lot near the creek. This is an old agricultural field based on the surface evidence of plowing, vegetation, and shovel test pit information. It was later used as a residential site from the middle twentieth century into the late 1970s.

Area B is the proposed building site of the relocated (brought from off site) Appalachian Farmhouse and sorghum mill. It is in woods bordering an agricultural field that contains the southern portion of the Chattooga Site (38OC18). A previously surveyed Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative power line right of way is located to the east. The building site is level to gently

sloping. Slopes become steep near SC Highway 28. Approximately .75 acres of near level ground were examined for the proposed building site using a grid of 17 shovel test pits at ten meter intervals. These shovel test pits revealed deep dark brown loam similar to soils found in the adjacent agricultural field and contained no artifacts. The area between the building site and the Russell House Site (38OC106) was also surveyed with shovel test pits in high site probability areas for a total of 2.2 acres. No cultural resources were identified. Area B contains 40-50 year old white pine trees and some uneven surface contours remaining from cultivation. It is an old agricultural field probably cultivated into the early twentieth century.

Area C is the proposed parking area adjacent to SC Highway 28 at the southwestern edge of the Russell House Site. It contains approximately one acre and is an old agricultural field planted in white pines by the Forest Service in the 1970s. Nine shovel test pits were excavated at twenty meter intervals through the proposed parking area. These contained disturbed yellowish red clay loam plow zone and no artifacts. The approximate boundary of the Russell House site was established and the proposed entrance to the parking area was determined to cross an approximately 20 by 20 meter section of the southwest corner of 38OC106 at Highway 28. The proposed office next to the parking lot is at the Russell House Site boundary. No cultural resources were found at either of these locations or in the proposed parking area.

Area D is the proposed restored agricultural field containing approximately four acres in the southern portion of the Chattooga Town Site (38OC18). The field is gently sloping towards the river and was cultivated from the early nineteenth century until a few years ago. It is currently mowed each year in six strips separated by hedgerows. Previous archeological research by the University of Tennessee identified historic period Cherokee and possibly prehistoric artifacts in this field. Eric Howard in his MA thesis examined the University of Tennessee data and determined that the artifacts recovered did not match patterns established for Cherokee houses elsewhere on the site.

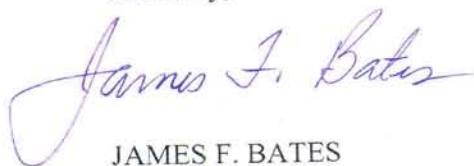
Seven shovel test pits were excavated by me in the field to examine the depth of historic plow zone and the potential for affecting any buried cultural resources. These were situated on the most elevated locations in each mowed strip with two shovel test pits in the strip closest to the river. The most elevated locations were selected because they are better drained, are the most likely location of historic Cherokee structures based on archeological research, and the areas most likely to have the upper soils removed/eroded due to previous plowing. The depth of the shovel test pits was 40-45 centimeters. They revealed the center portion of the field contained dark brown plow zone 30-38 centimeters (12-15 inches) deep with some slight lighter mottling at the base of this level. This was underlain by a very dark brown uniform loam. The same dark brown 30 centimeter plow zone was found in shovel tests nearer the river. These also contained more silt. Shovel tests in the eastern part of the field upslope and away from the river contained 30-40 centimeters of dark brown plow zone over strong brown clay. One shovel test pit in the strip nearest the river contained a prehistoric vein quartz core from approximately 25 centimeters below surface. No artifacts were found in the other shovel test pits.

No archeological resources were identified in the caretaker's residence, Appalachian Farmhouse, or parking lot construction sites. The proposed action includes resumed agriculture in an area containing a portion of 38OC18. This field was cultivated for approximately 150 years. Shovel test pits identified 30 centimeters (1 foot) or more of existing plow zone across the field with many areas having deeper plow zones. Resumed agriculture will be shallow plowing only and would not extend below already disturbed soils. The field would be monitored after each plowing by a Forest Service archeologist to determine if features or buried cultural resources are being disturbed. Plowing would be stopped until any suspected significant archeological resources could be evaluated.

The Forest Service finds that there will be no adverse effect on 38OC18 and 38OC106 from the proposed actions in these four areas. However, a complex project programmatic agreement (PA) may be needed to adequately address effects on historic properties related to this long term and complex project including the restoration of historic buildings and monitoring of restored agriculture on a portion of the Chattooga Town site.

Please let me know if you agree with this no adverse effect determination or if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James F. Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist

Southern Appalachian Farmstead

Appendix A

Alternative 2/Proposed Action





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Long Cane
Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803-637-5396

File Code: 2360

Date: October 3, 2011

Ms. Yolanda Saunooke
THPO Section 106 Assistant
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians
P. O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

RE: Section 106 consultation, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, draft Historic Properties
Management Plan

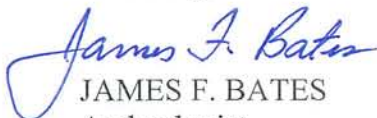
Dear Ms. Saunooke:

The Forest Service is completing Section 106 consultation prior to issuing a permit for the Oconee Heritage Center to develop the Russell House Site on the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County, South Carolina as a living history farm. The EBCI THPO has received information on the project during the past two years for review and comment under the Section 106 process. At last consultation following the suggestion of the South Carolina SHPO, a project programmatic agreement was proposed to address effects on historic properties related to the long term restoration and preservation of buildings on the Russell House National Register site and the resumption of agriculture on a portion of the Chattooga Town National Register eligible site.

The South Carolina SHPO has now suggested a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) as being the more appropriate way to address effects. I have enclosed a draft copy of the *Historic Properties Management Plan, Southern Appalachian Farmstead, Andrew Pickens Ranger District, Sumter National Forest* prepared by the Oconee Heritage Center. I believe that this HPMP will address THPO concerns over the cultivation of a small portion of the Chattooga Site. It provides for annual monitoring of cultivated areas by USFS archeologists. Cultivation will be stopped if any significant cultural resources including human remains are encountered.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this historic properties management plan, the proposed Southern Appalachian Farmstead, or if the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has any concerns regarding this project.

Sincerely,


JAMES F. BATES
Archeologist

Bates, Jim

From: Yolanda Saunooke <yolasaun@nc-chokeee.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 9:04 AM
To: Bates, Jim
Subject: HPMPL Souther Appalachian Farmstead

Hello Jim,

I have reviewed the draft HPMP: Southern Appalachian Farmstead. The EBCI THPO concurs that this HPMO addresses our concerns of the activities of this project within the Chattooga Site. Please accept this as our formal comments.

Thank you,

Yolanda Saunooke