



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 5, 2017

Stewart Gray
Preservation Planner
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission
2100 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

**RE: Landmark Designation Report for the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566, 124 Morris Road,
Matthews, Mecklenburg County**

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for the report for the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 located at 124 Morris Road in Matthews. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.4.

The two-story, front-gable, concrete block building purchased by trustees of the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 in 1928 is significant in the areas of ethnic and social history for its association with the history of a rural African American fraternal organization and the impacts that organization had in community life. Based on the report, the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 also appears to be one of the few rural lodges organized under the Prince Hall Masonic Order. Therefore, we believe the designation report provides the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and the local governing board adequate information to determine that the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566 has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property as one worthy of preservation because of its special significance in the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance is subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission. The owner may receive an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains special significance and integrity (N.C.G.S. §105-278 *et seq.*).

If the local governing board wishes to extend the commission's authority to significant interior features, the owner must give consent and the designation ordinance must specify the particular features subject to review and describe the nature of the commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. Please note, our comments are advisory only and therefore, nonbinding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, it should proceed in the same manner as would otherwise

be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Once the decision has been made, please return a completed copy of the enclosed form to our office.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed designation of the Star of St. Matthews Lodge #566. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,



Amber E. Kidd
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure