

June 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern at Historical Society Commission

The Caldwell Berry heirs have put in a request for a Historical Landmark for the 7231 McIlwaine Farm land in honor of our Grandfather Caldwell Berry. He worked this farm diligently and persevered with payments on the property from crops grown to maintain possession of his property for the Caldwell Berry Heirs.

Name of property: Caldwell Berry Farm

Street Address: 7231 Mcilwaine Rd Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Date added to study list: 4/15/2014

Tax parcel number of property: 01506103

Owner of property: Octavia C Payne and Reginald Clark

Current Owners Contact information: 1707 Highland Ave. New Castle Pa. 16105  
Payne/7246511756

11207 Monte Carlo Huntersville NC  
28078/Clark7044082555

Period or date of construction: 1918 farmland

Source of information for #7: Mecklenburg County Polaris

Present use of property: a /agricultural and j/private residence

Architectural Design Farm House style

Caldwell Berry worked as a tenant farmer to acquire the house and President Roosevelt made it possible for African Americans to obtain farm loans for their entrepreneur pursuits. Little by Little he created a lovely farm area at 7231 McIlwaine Rd.

Caldwell Berry's house had a large kitchen with an authentic home comfort, wood burning, cooking stove and oven provided heat in the kitchen and dining areas. There was a large formal dining room, a large living room with a piano, and one

large Bedroom. A long front porch ran along the front of the house with a variety of flowers and large porch swing and chairs for visitors.

A second bedroom was added along with a bathroom in the late 1940's, with indoor running water. Two large fireplaces provided heat in these new areas. There is a panoramic view from the front porch of to McIlwaine Road street of the property.

There were several farm buildings on the property, the smokehouse, the chicken coop, the barn and storage shed. The house, chicken coop, smokehouse are the remaining structures.

Presently the Caldwell Berry Heirs have acquired the Forestry Services to help with reduction in the Property Taxes and we have acquired and rental to owner of goats and sheep livestock to keep the property in good condition. These two items make the Caldwell Berry estate a historical landmark designation a good fit for preserving the property.

Our plans for the Caldwell Berry property is to follow the instruction of the restorative company that visited the property on April 4, 2017. Mr Boyce advised me on what I needed to do before he could get started inside of the house. I am getting the house exterminated and some under the house work done this month on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Then we can proceed with some other restorations to the house for the historical designation for our grandfather Caldwell Berry. I cannot forget my granddad who thought so much of his heirs he worked his hands to the bone. I was a part of those working efforts when I was younger growing up. After school I would help in planting potato slips, beans, peas and helping with gathering the cane crop for making of molasses. Caldwell Berry was one of the few black landowner at that time and required no aid from the government to maintain his status in the Huntersville, North Carolina community. His work ethic was enough to keep him going and paying his bills.

These are the reasons this Caldwell Berry property is a good fit for the Historical Landmark designation at 7231 McIlwaine Road, Huntersville, North Carolina 28078.





