

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Survey Committee Minutes
Location: 2100 Randolph Road, Charlotte, N.C.
October 30, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Present:

**Ms. Diane Althouse
Mr. Akadius Berry
Ms. Penny Higdon, HLC Secretary
Mr. Jeff Parsons, HLC Vice Chair/Survey Committee Chair
Mr. Michael Rogers
Mr. Jonathan Schulz
Dr. Dan L. Morrill, HLC Consulting Director
Mr. Stewart Gray, HLC Senior Preservation Planner
Ms. Elizabeth Stuart, HLC Administrative Assistant**

Absent:

**Mr. Louis Asbury
Mr. Nathan Clark, HLC Treasurer
Mr. Edwin Wilson**

Visitors:

None

1. Chair's Report: Jeffrey Parsons

Mr. Parsons reported that the *Charlotte Business Journal* recently published an article on the gentrification of neighborhoods in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Mr. Parsons requested that the Committee members be cognizant of buildings that are in peril and to let Staff know of any that may have historic significance. Ms. Althouse asked if Mecklenburg County or the City of Charlotte maintained a list of demolition permits. Dr. Morrill stated that he would follow up with the County regarding where such a list might be located.

2. Director's Report: Dan Morrill

Dr. Morrill reported that he has talked with the owner of the McLaughlin House about the amount of land to be included in the proposed historic landmark. She has agreed that the rear line should be ten feet from the rear-most portion of the house. Dr. Morrill talked with Jay Camp, Senior Planner of the Town of Matthews. Mr. Camp stated that he thought that the edges of the tax parcel should be the side and front boundaries of the landmark. In keeping with statements made at the last Survey Committee meeting, the owner wants the side and front boundaries of the landmark to extend to the edges of the right of way of the abutting streets. Dr. Morrill has consulted with Sandy Carnegie who

states that a title search to determine ownership of land and a survey will be necessary to extend the boundaries beyond the tax parcel and to determine ownership of the affected land.

Staff recommended that the Committee allow Staff to investigate the issues associated with the proposed landmark and report back to the Committee at its next meeting. The Committee agreed.

3. Senior Preservation Planner's Report: Stewart Gray

Mr. Gray had no report.

4. Consideration of Survey and Research Reports

a. Cornelius High School Agricultural Building, 21126 Catawba Avenue, Cornelius, N.C.

Dr. Morrill reported that the Survey and Research Report on the Cornelius High School Agricultural Building has been brought to the Historic Landmarks Commission at the request of the Town of Cornelius. Dr. Morrill reviewed the special significance and integrity of the building. Dr. Morrill also provided contextual history of the era when the building was constructed. Dr. Morrill reported that he had not received permission to go inside of the building and that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has not stated whether it supports historic landmark designation.

MR. SCHULZ PRESENTED A MOTION SECONDED BY MS. HIGDON THAT THE SURVEY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION THAT IT PROCESS THE CORNELIUS HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL BUILDING (INCLUDING THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AND A PARCEL OF LAND TO BE DETERMINED BY A SURVEY), 21126 CATAWBA AVENUE, CORNELIUS, N.C., FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION AND THAT THE TOWN OF CORNELIUS BE ASKED TO PAY FOR THE SURVEY. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

b. Derita High School Gymnasium, 6115 Rumble Road, Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Morrill reviewed the Survey and Research Report, focusing on the special significance and integrity of the building. Dr. Morrill reported that except for the windows, the building is still intact. Dr. Morrill reported that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools did not give him permission to enter the gymnasium. CMS has also not stated its attitude about the prospect of designating the Derita High School Gymnasium as a historic landmark.

MR. ROGERS PRESENTED A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. BERRY THAT THE SURVEY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION THAT IT PROCESS THE DERITA HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM (INCLUDING THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AND THE ENTIRE TAX PARCEL UPON WHICH IT SITS), 6115 RUMPLE ROAD, CHARLOTTE, N.C., FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

5. Consideration of Placement on the Study List of Prospective Historic Landmarks

a. Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Slave Cemetery, 1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Morrill reported that slave cemeteries are important cultural artifacts. Approximately 40 percent of Mecklenburg County's population in 1860 was enslaved. The Commission has already secured historic landmark designation for the W. T. Alexander Slave Cemetery and the Neely Slave Cemetery. The Mallard Creek Slave Cemetery deserves the same level of protection and recognition.

Dr. Morrill stated that he is requesting approval to prepare the Survey and Research Report on the Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Slave Cemetery. Dr. Morrill explained that there was an element of threat to the cemetery. Ms. Althouse questioned the immediacy of the threat and whether resources might be better served researching other, more endangered properties. Mr. Parsons stated that he would work with Dr. Morrill to review the Commission's Study List to ensure the best use of resources.

MS. ALTHOUSE PRESENTED A MOTION SECONDED BY MS. HIGDON THAT THE MALLARD CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SLAVE CEMETERY, 1600 W. MALLARD CREEK CHURCH ROAD, CHARLOTTE, N.C., BE PLACED ON THE STUDY LIST OF PROSPECTIVE HISTORIC LANDMARKS. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

Mr. Parsons reminded the Committee members to be mindful of development occurring throughout Mecklenburg County. Mr. Berry asked about the study of the Beatties Ford Road Corridor. Mr. Gray noted the new schedule for Survey Committee meetings and asked the Committee members to make Staff aware of any conflicts with the schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.