

Beatties Ford Road Corridor

- *From Excelsior Club/ 277 Loop to Interstate 85

- *Pre 1945 or historically significant properties

- *44 Total Structures

- *28 homes, most Craftsman and Minimal Traditional, a couple of Colonial Revival examples

- *Several historically significant properties (Excelsior, NW School of the Arts, City Waterworks, House of Prayer, Memorial Presbyterian Church)

Beatties Ford Road Corridor

JAMES PEELER STUDIOS
1404 Beatties Ford (1942)



2224 Beatties Ford (1944)



Beatties Ford Road Corridor

GREEN BOOK SITES

1500 Beatties Ford (1948)



1100 Beatties Ford

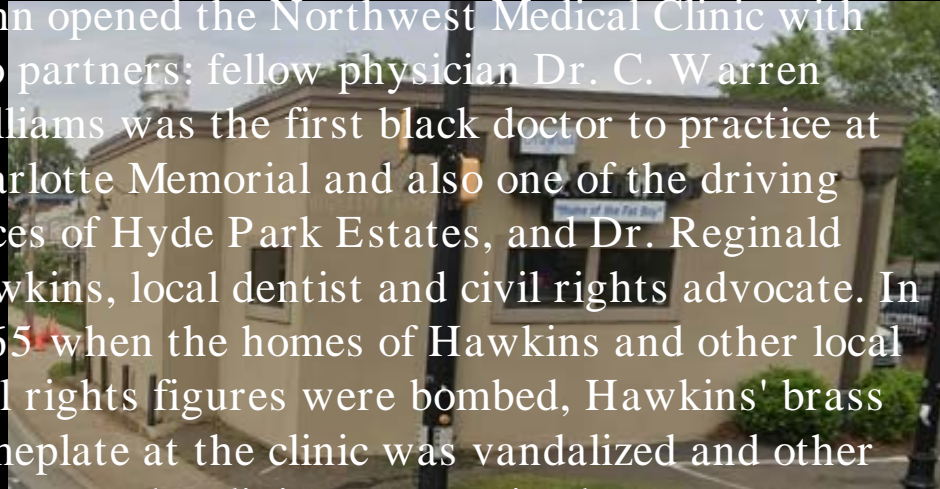


Beatties Ford Road Corridor



Northwest Medical Clinic - 1218 Beatties Ford

In 1957 Charlotte doctor and civic leader Emery Rann opened the Northwest Medical Clinic with two partners: fellow physician Dr. C. Warren Williams was the first black doctor to practice at Charlotte Memorial and also one of the driving forces of Hyde Park Estates, and Dr. Reginald Hawkins, local dentist and civil rights advocate. In 1965 when the homes of Hawkins and other local civil rights figures were bombed, Hawkins' brass nameplate at the clinic was vandalized and other threats to the clinic were received.



Beatties Ford Road Corridor



2017 Beatties Ford

Constructed in 1948
1950 Directories list tenant
as Alexander and Sons Gro.
Possible connection/ use by
University Park residents
due to its proximity

Washington Heights

- *Pre-1945 structures, historically significant properties
- *112 total structures, 110 of which were homes. Vast majority are Craftsman style, also a handful of Minimal Traditional and Colonial Revival
- * Most examples from the 1920s and 1930s.
- *Sanders Ave, Booker Ave, Tate St, Pitts Dr, Dundeen St, Campus St, Celia Ave, Onyx St.

Washington Heights

2515 Booker Avenue (1919 Polaris, 1925 building permits)

JAMES PATTERSON GROCERY

Patterson-Logan grocery, one of the few remaining examples of a Black owned grocery store in Charlotte.

1925-30 James Patterson

1945-60 Walker Logan



University Park

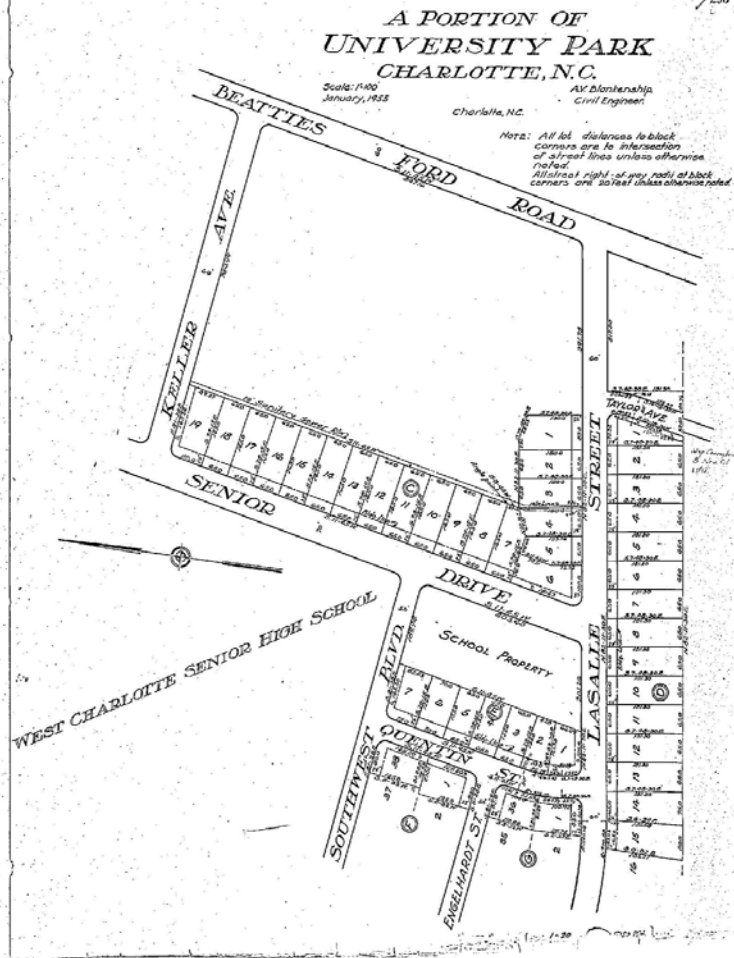
- *Surveyed 11 representative homes in University Park
- *Ranged from 1955 - 1965, all examples were Ranch style
- *University Park remains largely intact as a testament to the strides the African American community began to take in the city during the Civil Rights era. It was the home of several important local civic leaders, educators, professionals, and entertainment personalities and the home of a handful of black businesses, churches, and schools that still exist on the corridor.

Fred and Kelly Alexander



Fred Alexander and white developer C.D. Spangler, who teamed up on the Double Oaks apartment complex earlier, developed the University Park neighborhood off Beatties Ford Road and LaSalle Street. The development emerged around West Charlotte High School after the school moved down Beatties Ford in 1954, and became a suburban community full of ranch homes occupied by the growing Black middle class.

Fred and his brother Kelly, both civil rights pioneers in Charlotte, both owned homes at 2128 and 2140 Senior Drive that are excellently preserved examples of the type of construction in University Park. Both were bombed by unknown assailants on Nov. 22, 1965.

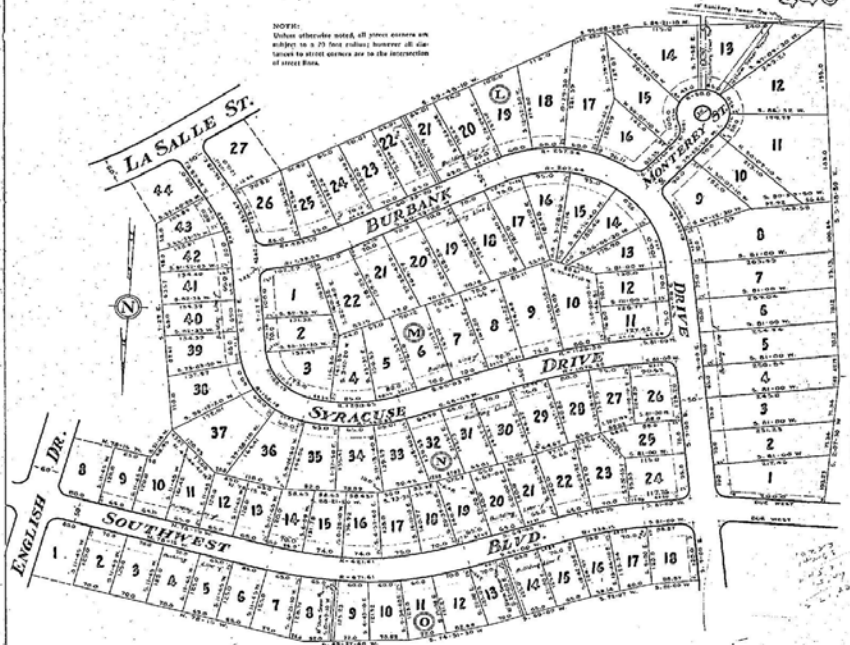


PHASE ONE - January 1955

Arranged around the new West Charlotte High School that moved to Senior Drive in 1954, University Park was announced in the Observer on Sept. 5, 1954, at a price of \$9 million. The 473-acre tract was to be divided into lots for 1,200 homes eventually, priced between \$8000 and \$9000. The plan at the date of the article was to build about 200 homes a year.

University Park was built in four distinct phases. The first phase has the lots for the neighborhood beginning on Remington Street off Beatties Ford Road, near the intersection of Bellair Drive. English and Senior Drive are the two main thoroughfares through the neighborhood, and in the first phase both stretch from LaSalle to Keller Ave. Southwest Boulevard and Engelhardt Street also run parallel to LaSalle through the neighborhood.

NOTE:
Unless otherwise noted, all prices are in
subject to a 10% tax unless otherwise noted. All
prices to street corners are to the intersection
of street lines.



**A PORTION
OF
UNIVERSITY PARK
CHARLOTTE, N. C.**

Scale: 1" = 50' A.V. Blankenship
January 19, 1959 Civil Engineer
Charlotte, N.C.
Property of C. D. Spangler Const. Co.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG
The undersigned engineer, being duly sworn,
deposes and says that the plat upon which this
certificate appears is in all respects correct
according to the best of his knowledge and
belief and was prepared from an actual survey
made by him on the 19th day of
January, 1959, with a
maximum linear error of closure of 1/10,000,
and a maximum field error of angular closure
of 25.000" per angle.
Signed *A.V. Blankenship*
Registered Civil Engineer

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG
I, *John M. Cress*, a notary public
in and for the county of Mecklenburg, and state
of North Carolina, do hereby certify that
A.V. Blankenship, Civil Engineer,
personally appeared before me this day and
acknowledged to me the due execution of the fore-
going certificate and upon the oath sworn to
me of the execution of said certificate.
Witness my hand and seal this 2nd day
of February, 1959.
Notary Public
By *John M. Cress*, Notary Public

APPROVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAT OF THE
SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, N.C.
DIVISION OF RECORDS PLANNING COMMISSION
John M. Cress Feb. 3, 1959

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG
The foregoing certificate of *A.V. Blankenship*
a Notary Public, is in full and complete
compliance with the provisions of the laws
of this State relating to the recording of
plats and the certificate of the Notary
Public.
Witness my hand this 3rd day of February, 1959.
John M. Cress
Notary Public

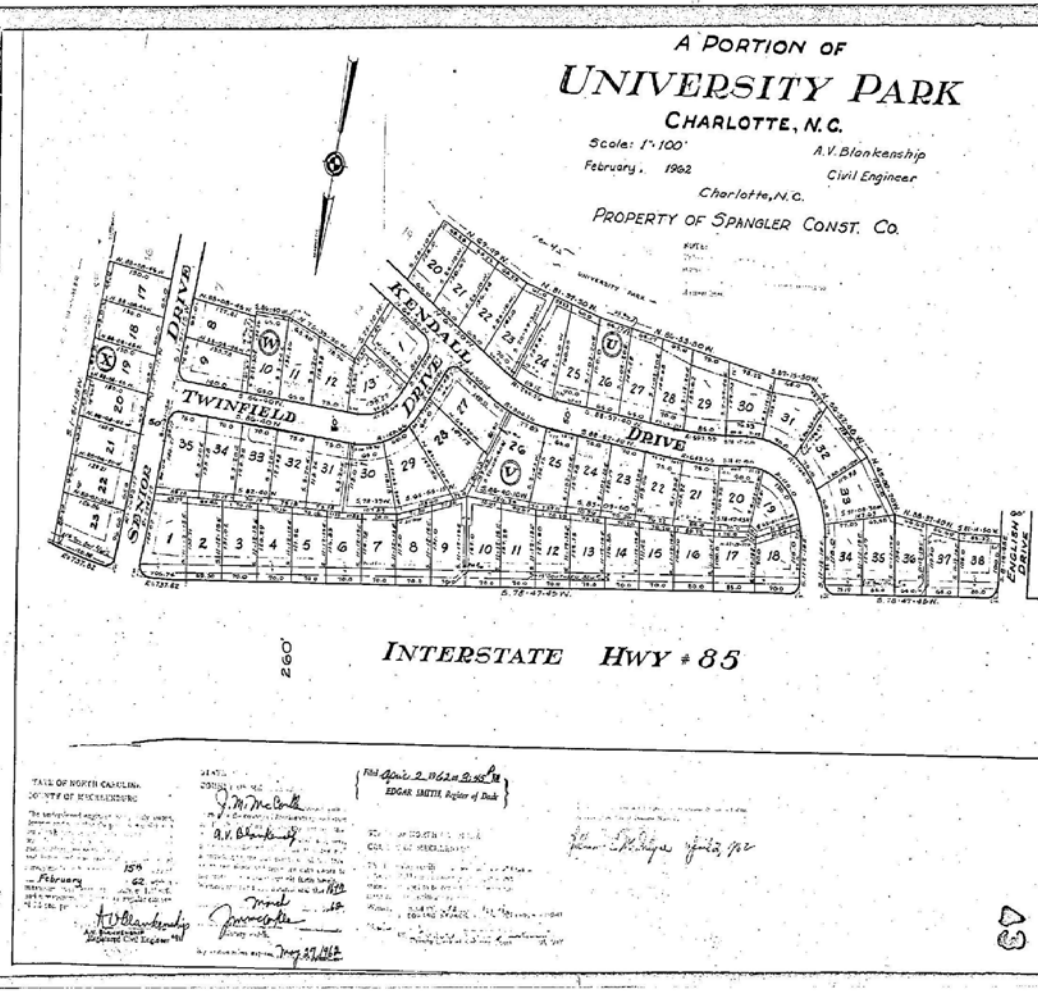
[Seal of Notary Public]
John M. Cress, Notary Public

PHASE TWO - January 1959

The Second Phase is dated January 19, 1959 and adds Burbank Drive, Monterey Street, and Syracuse Drive winding between LaSalle and Southwest Boulevard

PHASE FOUR - February 1962

The fourth and final phase is dated February 1962, and adds Kendall Drive veering off from Senior to the new Twinfield Drive. Abelwood also connects from Kendall to English, and Senior stretches to I-85. The civil engineer for all four of the phases is listed as A.V. Blankenship



University Park landmarks

- **2120 Senior Drive** - Eugene “Genial Gene” Potts, often referred to as the "Jackie Robinson of Radio" in Charlotte for opening doors for broadcasters of color.
- **2412 Twinfield Dr.** - "Chatty" Hattie Leeper, became the first African American woman on a Charlotte radio station in the 1950's (and of one the earliest women in the field period) at station WGIV.
- **2219 Senior Dr** - West Charlotte High School moved here from its original location on Beatties Ford in 1954. After the Supreme Court’s 1971 ruling in the landmark Swann case, the school was integrated and became a national symbol of the cross-town busing policy that made Charlotte the most desegregated major school system in the United States
- **2400 Hildebrand St** - University Park Elementary opened in 1958 and was led through integration by principal Libby Randolph, a long-time icon in Charlotte’s school system.

North Branch Public Library



The former North Branch of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library building, which stands at 2319 LaSalle Street and was integral to bringing library services to African Americans in Charlotte. Allegra Westbrook was hired as "Head of Negro Library Services" for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg library system in 1947, becoming the first black library supervisor in the state. She. The North Branch of the public library opened on LaSalle Street near the corner of Beatties Ford in 1957, serving a community that was almost exclusively African American. Westbrook became the director there, and under her guidance the Black community became increasingly involved in the library through a citizen's advisory committee, which planned lecture series and discussion groups. The North Branch building served the West End until 1997, when it was replaced by the Beatties Ford Road Public Library branch. The building was renovated in 2009, and is currently a popular learning and community center for the West End neighborhoods



McDonald's Cafeteria



Standing at **2023 Beatties Ford** and running along LaSalle Street is the original site of McDonald's Cafeteria, a landmark in the city's Black community. Much like the nearby Excelsior Club, McDonald's became a meeting place for the black community, where they exercised their abilities to speak and organize into action. It also became a place where white Charlotteans went to engage their black neighbors and get votes as well as some legendary home-cooked food.



Despite the changes over the years in the surrounding areas, most of University Park itself retains its historical character today and still beckons as a pleasant and winding group of homes that bring to mind the white suburban homes that one might expect to see in TV sitcoms of the time period.



The shopping center and the homes of the neighborhood's most prominent residents still stand, and the wave of gentrification sweeping from Charlotte's downtown core has not yet touched this community. The housing stock remains almost 100% intact with very little recent construction, and the district exists as an excellent example of Black middle class neighborhood from that era that still remains in Charlotte.