



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

March 1, 2019

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

RE: Proposed Designation of the **Derita High School Gymnasium, 6115 Rumble Road, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County**

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for the report we received on the proposed designation of the Derita High School Gymnasium located at 6115 Rumble Road in Charlotte. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

The Derita High School Gymnasium possesses special local significance in the context of evolving U.S. educational curriculum in the interwar years. As stated in the report, "It represents the rising importance of physical education and sports in secondary public education in Mecklenburg County in the 1920s and 1930s" and is one of only three extant freestanding school gymnasiums commissioned by the Mecklenburg County Board of Education prior to WWII. The report also states the Derita High School Gymnasium possesses special local significance for its architecture as a design by prevalent architect Lucian Jackson Dale and as a unique example of local gymnasium design that breaks with previously favored revivalist civic design.

We have shared recommendations with staff for changes to the report. Once the report has been revised to include staff's recommendations, we believe the commission and the local governing board will be able to more accurately determine if the Derita High School Gymnasium possesses the requisite special significance and integrity required for local historic landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property is worthy of preservation because of its special significance to the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance to the property is subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission.

If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features 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 Derita High School Gymnasium. Please contact me at 919-814-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber E. Stimpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Amber E. Stimpson
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure