

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Survey Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
June 17, 2020
6:00 p.m. – 7:19 p.m.**

Present:

**Mr. Brian Clarke
Mr. John Howard
Ms. Christine Landry
Mr. Len Norman, Survey Committee Chair
Mr. Michael Rogers
Mr. Jonathan Schulz
Mr. Jack Thomson, HLC Executive Director
Mr. Stewart Gray, HLC Senior Preservation Planner**

Absent:

Mr. Akadius Berry

Visitors:

**Dontressa Ashford, Ashford House
Cindy Kochanek
Brandon Lunsford, Beatties Ford Road Corridor
Andrew Rowe, 857 Belmont Avenue**

Note: This meeting was held virtually through the Zoom video conferencing platform.

1. Chair's Report: Mr. Len Norman

Mr. Norman discussed the new Committee leadership transition.

2. Director's Report: Jack Thomson

Mr. Thomson stated that he recently visited the Stafford Slave Cabin. Mr. Thomson stated that Mr. Clarke also visited the property and shared his experiences of owning a designated historic landmark with the homeowner. Mr. Thomson reminded the Committee that the Historic Landmarks Commission voted to fund a Designation Report for the entire property and that this endeavor will begin soon. Mr. Clarke provided a brief history of the property and detailed the structures that are on the property.

3. Senior Preservation Planner's Report: Stewart Gray

Mr. Gray stated that he did not have a report.

4. Update on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor Survey

Mr. Gray stated that Staff had intended to bring an update on the progress of the survey to the Survey Committee at its March 2020 meeting, but this was delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The survey is currently 98% complete. Mr. Gray reviewed the scope of the survey and stated that the intent of the study was to produce a comprehensive inventory of Washington Heights, an inventory of significant historic buildings that front Beatties Ford Road between Brookshire Freeway and I-85, and to produce a contextual essay on and list of significant historic properties in University Park. Mr. Gray introduced Brandon Lunsford, archivist for Johnson C. Smith University, who produced the survey. Mr. Lunsford spoke to the Committee and explained his methodology for completing the study. Mr. Lunsford reviewed several notable properties featured in the survey. Mr. Gray stressed that one significant product of the survey was the discovery that in the 1920s, the Biddleville Development Company developed a small neighborhood between Washington Heights and University Park. Another significant product of the survey was the production of a well-defined historic boundary of University Park.

Mr. Norman discussed Green Book properties in relation to the survey. Mr. Howard noted the format of the spreadsheet entries. Mr. Norman discussed the next steps for the survey, which include presenting it to the full Commission and embarking on community outreach.

5. Ashford House, 241 Hoskins Avenue Drive, Charlotte, N.C.

Mr. Gray welcomed Ms. Dontressa Ashford, representative of the Ashford family. Mr. Gray briefly reviewed the historic significance of the house and stated that it is the best example of African American mill housing in Mecklenburg County.

MR. CLARKE PRESENTED A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS THAT THE SURVEY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION THAT IT PROCESS THE ASHFORD HOUSE, 241 HOSKINS AVENUE DRIVE, CHARLOTTE, N.C., INCLUDING THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOUSE AND THE LAND ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOUSE (TAX PARCELS 06306102 AND 06306103) FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

Mr. Gray stated that Staff will make a recommendation to the full Commission regarding the potential designation of the interior of the house.

6. 857 Belmont Avenue, Charlotte, N.C.

Mr. Gray and Mr. Thomson reviewed preservation efforts in the Belmont neighborhood, the history and architecture of the commercial building at 857 Belmont Avenue, and a set of plans for the renovation of the property. Andrew Rowe, owner of the property, expressed his interest in historic landmark designation. Mr. Howard discussed the significance of the building.

MR. SCHULZ PRESENTED A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. CLARKE THAT 857 BELMONT AVENUE, CHARLOTTE, N.C., BE PLACED ON THE STUDY LIST OF PROSPECTIVE HISTORIC LANDMARKS. THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

Mr. Thomson discussed the status of the designation process for the Huntersville Rosenwald School. Mr. Thomson reported that Huntersville agreed to contribute half of the cost of the report. Mr. Schulz stated that the Committee did not need to act on this issue and Staff agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.