

MEMO

To: File – Renfrow Commercial Properties

From: HLC Staff

Date: December 28, 2022

Re: Comments from State Historic Preservation Office on Designation Report for Renfrow Commercial Properties, Matthews

By email dated December 16, 2022, SHPO staff provided feedback based on their review of the Designation Report for the Renfrow Commercial Properties. In summary, the issues raised included the following:

- Additional discussion of the contributing structures' significance as to the growth of, and the ultimate decline of and transition away from, the local cotton economy and the contributions of the Renfrow family to the development and evolution of the local business community;
- Additional discussion as to the significance of the structures in light of the county's scarcity of similar gin-related operational support structures;
- Additional discussion as to the effect of recent additions to the properties relative to the overall integrity of the properties' setting and feeling; and
- Additional consideration as to the impact of the loss of the cotton gin and seed warehouse on the overall historical and cultural significance of the properties.

Following review of the Designation Report and the SHPO feedback, the HLC staff revised and updated the Designation Report to address the issues raised and to reiterate the historical and cultural significance of all four properties and the associated contributing structure to the town of Matthews and Mecklenburg County.