

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Survey Committee Minutes
2100 Randolph Road, Charlotte
March 29, 2023
6:04 p.m. – 7:39 p.m.**

Present

Lesley Carroll
Brian Clarke, Survey Committee Chair/HLC Vice Chair
John Howard
Cindy Kochanek
Stewart Gray, HLC Historic Resources Program Manager
Elizabeth Stuart, HLC Senior Administrative Support Assistant
Tommy Warlick, HLC Consulting Preservation Planner

Absent

Akadius Berry
Nadine Ford
Michael Rogers

1. Chair's Report: Brian Clarke

Chair Clarke introduced Whitney Feld, potential Committee member who observed the meeting. Susan Mayer provided updates on Preserve Mecklenburg's activities.

2. Property Updates

a. Abernethy House, 7040 Pleasant Grove Road, Charlotte

Historic Resources Program Manager Gray stated that this property was discussed at the last Historic Landmarks Commission meeting. He explained that the property is located in a suburban area in northwestern Charlotte on a proposed construction landfill site. He stated that staff is focused on the demolition of the house for the landfill entrance, not on the landfill itself. He noted that funds are available for the production of a designation report, which will be written by Susan Mayer with the anticipation that it will be ready for review at the next Survey meeting.

b. Tudor-Style Houses, 858 and 838 Concord Road, Davidson

Consulting Preservation Planner Warlick stated that he reached out to the owners of 858 Concord Road and they are interested in proceeding with landmark designation. He noted that he has not heard anything from the owners of 838 Concord Road. Gray stated that there was a Tudor-Style house located in between these two houses that has been demolished.

c. Rogers McConnell House, 119 Gilead Road, Huntersville

Gray stated that this is an interesting early bungalow in downtown Huntersville. He explained its architectural significance due to being on-site concrete block, which would be the second such designated property in the County. He stated that the owners are interested in landmark designation. He stated that Susan Mayer will produce this designation report, which has been funded.

d. Conner-Falls House, 122 Mock Road, Davidson

Warlick stated that he will write the designation report for this house, which was built in 1926. He stated that the designation report will be co-funded by the Town of Davidson.

Gray stated that this house may have the best integrity of the surviving houses in the Mock Hill neighborhood. He stated that the owner is interested in landmark designation. He noted that the neighborhood is under developmental threat.

e. Tuckaseegee Trail

Warlick stated that staff has worked to designate this property for several years. He stated that the trail is now on the site of the Whitewater Center and was substantially impacted during its construction. He noted that the designation report produced in 2004 and updated in 2014 will be revised to include additional information.

f. 801 E. 8th Street, Charlotte

Gray stated that this house was moved within First Ward from 9th Street to 8th Street due to a lawsuit that tried to mitigate the negative effects of Urban Renewal. He noted that the property is already on the Study List. He stated that the contracted consultant for the designation report has interviewed the owner and children of the previous owner that lived on 9th Street. He stated that the designation report should be completed by the next Survey meeting.

g. Renfrow Properties

Warlick stated that the Historic Landmarks Commission held its public hearing at their February meeting. He stated that the Town of Matthews held their public hearing this past Monday and would vote on the designation at their next non-zoning related meeting on the fourth Monday in April. He stated that no one spoke for or against the designation at the public hearings.

h. Baxter Davidson Monuments

Warlick reminded the Committee that a series of monuments was placed in northern Mecklenburg County by Baxter Davidson. He stated that five of the monuments were designated at the same time but that the Rural Hill Directional Marker was delayed due to questions regarding the marker's radius from the Department of Transportation. Warlick stated that the designation ordinance was just received and would be registered soon.

i. Sinister Wisdom House, 3116 Country Club Drive, Charlotte

Gray stated that the oldest literary lesbian journal in the country was established at this house by two women associated with UNC Charlotte. He stated that Kayla Chadwick-Schultz produced

the historical essay and staff will produce the architectural description. He stated that the entire report should be ready for review at the next Survey meeting.

3. Hyde Park Estates

Gray stated that Commissioner Berry contacted him regarding a property owner who lives in a house designed by Harvey Gantt. He stated that staff has not yet connected with this property owner.

4. Lambeth-Sullivan House Designation Report

Susan Mayer, author of this designation report, spoke to the significance of the Lambeth-Sullivan House. Warlick thanked Mayer for telling the story of both the well-known, influential people and the servants associated with this house.

Committee Member Howard presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Kochanek that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it process the Lambeth-Sullivan House, 435 Hermitage Road, Charlotte, N.C., for historic landmark designation including the exterior of the house and associated tax parcel. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

a. Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte

Gray stated that this church is located in Druid Hills and was the first parish in the Charlotte area established for African Americans.

b. Morrow House, 5508 Greene Street, Charlotte

Gray stated that this house is located in Derita, which is an underserved area for landmark designations. He stated that it was deemed eligible for listing on the National Register based on a report the Commission produced years ago. He stated that the family is interested in learning more about landmark designation.

c. Sarah Mingo Stevenson House, 2000 St. Paul Street, Charlotte

Gray stated that Stevenson was the first African American woman to hold elected office in Mecklenburg County as she was elected to the CMS Board of Education. Chair Clarke noted that the house across the street is the Alexander House and is currently on the Study List.

d. Shuffletown Drag Strip

Gray stated that the creation of this drag strip was a community effort to get people racing cars off of main roads. He stated that it is now part of a County park and noted that the Park and Recreation Department is supportive of recognizing history.

Commissioner Carroll presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Kochanek that the Survey Committee place the following properties on the Study List of Prospective Historic Landmarks: Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte;

Morrow House, 5508 Greene Street, Charlotte; Sarah Mingo Stevenson House, 2000 St. Paul Street, Charlotte; and Shuffletown Drag Strip. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

6. Priorities for Funding Reports

Gray stated that this item will be tabled until the next meeting for more information to be provided.

7. Adventure Club: Steele Creek Cemetery Preservation Event

Warlick stated that the Adventure Club is headed back to Steele Creek Cemetery to continue preservation efforts on April 22 from 9am – noon. He stated that approximately half of the Bigham stones were cleaned at the October event with the intent to clean the remaining 35 Bigham stones at this event. He stated that he contacted Charlotte Douglas Airport and is hopeful representatives will attend.

8. HLC 50th Anniversary Update

Warlick stated that the 50th anniversary will be promoted on the County's billboard. He stated that the GIS map has been delayed.

Gray stated that he is working on the Blandville Historic Marker. He stated that an unveiling event will be held, possibly this summer. He stated that staff is working on a speaker event this fall, potentially at a historic property. He stated that Pamela Murray reached out to staff and is interested in creating a biking tour of historic landmarks.

9. Old Business

There was no old business.

10. New Business

Gray stated that he met with the Druid Hills Neighborhood Association and noted that the Charlotte Historic District Commission would be well-suited for preservation work in this neighborhood. He stated that the community is large and contains enough historic resources to justify a district.

Gray stated that he also visited the Greenville neighborhood, which is to the west of Statesville Avenue near the Music Factory, and found a bungalow built in 1936. He stated that this could be a surviving artifact of the Greenville neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.