

Committee Name: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission

Period of time this report covers: January 2023 – December 2023

Committee Chair: Brian Clarke

Committee Members:

Name	Term Period	Special Category
Dontressa Ashford	3/1/2023 – 7/16/2025	
Robert Barfield	8/7/2019 – 7/31/2025	
Akadius Berry	5/15/2018 – 7/31/2024	
Lesley Carroll	9/8/2021 – 7/31/2024	
Brian Clarke	7/2/2019 – 7/31/2026	
Andra Eaves	9/7/2022 – 7/31/2026	
Nadine Ford	2/14/2022 – 7/16/2026	
Victoria Grey	4/5/2022 – 4/30/2025	
John Kincheloe	8/28/2023 – 7/16/2024	
Emily Makas	3/1/2023 – 6/30/2025	
Edwin Wilson	7/17/2018 – 7/16/2024	

The main goals and objectives for the Committee:

1. Recommend designation of real and personal property as historic landmarks.
2. Administer design review over historic landmarks.
3. Negotiate purchase and sale of historic landmarks through the fee simple or any lesser included interest.

Charges or tasks of the Committee (Action items for the reporting year)

1. Continue to update Rules of Procedure to reflect the changing needs of the HLC.
2. Conduct quasi-judicial hearings for material alterations to designated landmarks.
3. Reconcile revolving fund balance and create guidelines for the best use of funds.

Summary of accomplishments:

1. Protected the following properties through historic landmark designation in 2023: 1) Renfrow Commercial Properties (156 N. Trade Street, 106 N. Trade Street, 125 E. John Street, Matthews); 2) Lambeth-Sullivan House (435 Hermitage Road, Charlotte); Wyche-Dobson-McCoy House (801 E. 8th Street, Charlotte); and Savona Mill (528 S. Turner Avenue, Charlotte).
2. Added the following properties to the HLC's Study List of Prospective Historic Landmarks, which is the first step in the designation process: 1) Sarah Mingo Stevenson House (2000 St. Paul Street, Charlotte); Shuffletown Drag Strip (9530 Bellhaven Boulevard, Charlotte); Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church (2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte); Morrow House (5508 Greene Street, Charlotte); Holbrook House (101 N. Maxwell Avenue, Huntersville); Cathey Lumber Company (501 Penman Street, Charlotte); Caldwell Bradford Schoolhouse (16401 Davidson-Concord Road, Davidson); Steele Creek Manse (Charlotte); Spratt-Grier Farm (Robbie Circle, Charlotte); Smith-Richter House (1030 Huntington Park Drive, Charlotte); Camp Oak (Berryhill Nature Preserve, Charlotte); J.J. Akers House (6501 Sardis Road, Charlotte); Sydenham B. Alexander, Jr. House (250 Cherokee Road, Charlotte); Mary Rose and William Alexander Davis, Jr. House (140 Lynbrook Drive, Davidson); and Delburg Mill House (225 Armour Street, Davidson).
3. Continued to expand educational events through: 1) Adventure Club outings at designated landmarks: Charlotte Coliseum, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and a bike ride focused on historic Plaza Midwood properties; 2) consistent updates on the HLC's Facebook page and occasional collaborations with Mecklenburg County's social media staff to share HLC original content on the main County pages; and 3) working monthly with Mecklenburg County's Public Information department to feature a designated landmark on the County's 4th Street billboard.
4. Celebrated the HLC's 50th anniversary by: 1) Collaborating with Mecklenburg County's LUESA department to create a story map featuring notable landmark designations; 2) creating and maintaining a Google Map layer for local designated landmarks; 3) working with Mecklenburg County's Public Information department on the publicizing of the HLC's 50th anniversary celebration event held on November 2.

List of activities in progress including upcoming events/discussions:

1. Ongoing prioritization of and research into historic properties associated with underrepresented populations including: women, Native Americans, African Americans, and the LGBTQ+ community.
2. Continued focus on community outreach and education, including the creation of a Community Outreach Committee.
3. Development of guidelines for the use of the revolving fund.

Issues that need to be addressed:

1. How to defend the importance of historic properties that have undergone changes and may no longer have the integrity that the State Historic Preservation Office emphasizes.
2. How developmental pressures affect designated historic landmarks and potential historic landmarks.
3. How the HLC can collaborate with preservation non-profits in order to preserve more historic properties.

Recommendations to the City Council:

1. Work with the Historic Landmarks Commission to identify potential historic landmarks located in areas with rezoning petitions.
2. Assess more accurately and completely how the powers of the Historic Landmarks Commission can influence public policy.