

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Survey Committee
May 21, 2025
Virtual Meeting
6:01 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.
Minutes**

Present

Dontressa Ashford, Survey Committee Chair
Lesley Carroll, HLC Treasurer
Whitney Feld
Victoria Grey, Community Outreach Committee Chair/HLC Secretary
Candice Leite
Michael Rogers
Stewart Gray, HL Director
Tommy Warlick, HL Historic Preservation Specialist
Elizabeth Stuart, HL Senior Administrative Support Assistant

Absent

Nadine Ford
John Kincheloe
Edwin Wilson

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

1. Chair's Report: Dontressa Ashford

Chair Ashford welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

a. R. Kent and Gertrude N. Blair House, 529 N. Poplar Street, Charlotte

Susan Mayer, consultant, stated that this house is located on the edge of Charlotte's Fourth Ward historic district. She stated that the owner expressed interest in landmark designation a few years ago but had to delay starting the process. She stated that there is significant associative history with this house through both family history and the house's architecture as a modified Foursquare house. She stated that the house was built ca. 1906 for the Blair family, which owned it until 1979. She stated that the house has been well-maintained and contains exterior and interior original features, including a staircase and fireplaces.

b. Foard House, 7410 Shady Lane, Charlotte

Historic Preservation Specialist Warlick stated that this house is located in the Grove Park subdivision, within what was previously known as the Crab Orchard area. He stated that the house was nominated by property owner, Virginia Walker. He stated that the property has been cited by NC Modernist, a publication that brings attention to endangered and challenged midcentury modern houses in North Carolina. He stated that the house was originally built for Cecil “Zeke” Foard, owner of Sign Art Inc., and Nancy Grady Foard, accomplished stained glass artist and political activist for the Democratic party. He explained that Nancy was dedicated to historic preservation, particularly in Charlotte, and noted that she and two other women owned and oversaw the restoration of the NC Medical College Building.

He explained that Tim Foard, son of the original owner, stated that the house was built in 1968 by Jack Dagenhart, who built a few other houses in this area. He stated that staff is not certain of the architect and continues to research the house.

c. McClintock Presbyterian Church, 14008 Erwin Road, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this church is adjacent to the McClintock Rosenwald School, which is a designated landmark. He stated that the congregation was founded in 1865 and was an early supporter of education for the recently emancipated. He stated that this church is believed to be the first Black Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg County and is credited as one of the founding churches of the Catawba Presbytery, the first all-Black presbytery in the Presbyterian Church USA, which also included 7th Street Church, the Murkland Church, and the Woodland Church. He stated that the presbytery was founded by the three ministers who are credited for much of the foundation work for Johnson C. Smith University: Samuel Alexander, Sidney Murkland, and Willis Miller.

Warlick stated that this church is named for a local farmer who donated building materials for the first church building. He explained that the original members worshipped in a brush arbor before the church was constructed. He stated that the building may have been built in 1948 with additions added in the 1950s and noted that staff continues to research the property. He stated that the church and congregation have served the Steele Creek area for 150 years and explained that many current members are direct descendants of original members. He noted that congregation member, Bryant Foust, nominated this property for Study List consideration.

d. Newell Presbyterian Church, 1500 W. Rocky River Road, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this property was nominated by Ginny Harper of Mecklenburg County’s Public Information department. He stated that the congregation was founded in 1889 with 31 charter members who originally met in the dining room of Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Newell. He explained that Mr. Newell was one of three cofounders of the Newell community and a charter member of the church.

Warlick stated that this church was built on land provided by John Newell, brother of W.B. Newell. He stated that the first church was built on this land in 1892. He stated that the pictured building was built in 1925, but that the property also included a red brick education building (built in 1964), the main sanctuary (built in 1978), and a standalone brick bell tower likely built

sometime between 1964-1978. He stated that there are approximately 320 graves within the cemetery with the earliest marked graves dating to the 1880s. He explained that the 1964 building is currently used as an education building and explained that staff may look more at that building and the other structures as the entire property is studied.

Committee Member Leite asked if the Committee was considering the entire parcel or one structure. Warlick stated one structure for now. He stated that staff needs to further research the other structures.

Director Gray stated that the properties listed on the Study List are typically listed under an address as opposed to a defined amount of property. He stated that the entries are more general so that other features can be included.

Warlick stated that the property was brought to staff's attention because the congregation is working with the City of Charlotte to potentially build affordable housing on some of the vacant land.

Commissioner Grey presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Carroll that the Survey Committee place the following properties on the Study List of Prospective Historic Landmarks: R. Kent and Gertrude N. Blair House, 529 N. Poplar Street, Charlotte, N.C.; Foard House, 7410 Shady Lane, Charlotte, N.C.; McClintock Presbyterian Church, 14008 Erwin Road, Charlotte, N.C.; and Newell Presbyterian Church, 1500 W. Rocky River Road, Charlotte, N.C. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

3. Updates on Pending Properties

a. Hunters Chapel United Methodist Church, 18423 John Connor Road, Cornelius

Chair Ashford stated that the Town of Cornelius is currently working on its budget and that the public hearing for this property may be held in July.

b. Ziglar-Bowers House, 421 Heathcliff Street, Charlotte

Chair Ashford stated that this public hearing will likely be held on August 25. She stated that the Historic Landmarks Commission was informed of the negative feedback from the State Historic Preservation Office and unanimously reaffirmed proceeding with landmark designation at their May 12 meeting.

c. Dr. C. Warren & Vivian L. Williams House, 5906 Crestwood Drive, Charlotte

Chair Ashford stated that the Commission voted on May 12 to proceed with landmark designation and noted that paperwork has been filed with Charlotte City Council requesting a public hearing on August 25.

d. Smith Cottage a/k/a Johnson C. Smith University Teacher House, 301 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte

Chair Ashford reminded the Committee that this property was placed on the Study List in January. She stated that Warlick is working on the designation report.

e. Pharr's Haven, 13813 Holbrooks Road, Huntersville

Chair Ashford reminded the Committee that this property was placed on the Study List in March. She stated that Tahlya Mock is working on this designation report.

4. Staff Report

Senior Administrative Support Assistant Stuart stated that staff is leading a bike tour on June 7th through historic northwest Charlotte in conjunction with Charlotte Spokes People.

Gray stated that June 7th would also be the marker unveiling for the Franks House in Third Ward.

Staff stated that consideration of the membership of the Commission's various Committees would be undertaken soon and explained that each member should expect to hear from staff.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

Commissioner Carroll presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Rogers that the Survey Committee meeting adjourn. The Committee adjourned by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.