

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Survey Committee
April 29, 2026
Hybrid Meeting
2100 Randolph Road, Charlotte
6:01 p.m. – 7:58 p.m.**

Minutes

Present

Gordon Kerr, Committee Member
John Kincheloe, Commissioner/Survey Committee Chair
Candice Leite, Committee Member
Jason Tapp, Commissioner
Stewart Gray, HL Director
John Howard, HL Historic Preservation Manager
Tommy Warlick, HL Historic Preservation Specialist
Elizabeth Stuart, HL Senior Administrative Support Assistant

Absent

Michael Rogers, Committee Member

Note: This meeting was held virtually through the Microsoft Teams video conferencing platform and in person at the Historic Landmarks office at 2100 Randolph Road, Charlotte.

1. Chair's Report: John Kincheloe

Chair Kincheloe welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee members, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.

2. Consideration of Designation Reports

a. Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2, 335 W. Craighead Road, Charlotte, and 4130 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte

Historic Preservation Specialist Warlick showed a map of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church and the cemeteries, including a third cemetery that is an active cemetery. He stated that Cemeteries #1 and #2 have been on the Study List since 1997 and noted that the congregation is interested in proceeding with landmark designation.

Warlick stated that Cemetery #1 started ca. 1750 and contains at least 48 known graves in addition to unknown graves, including some that lay outside the stone wall. He stated that the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter restored the stone walls that surround the cemetery in 1914 and installed a cast iron fence that no longer exists.

He stated that several notable people are buried here, including Reverend Alexander Holmes Craighead, who was the County's first full-time religious leader and is buried in the cemetery's earliest known grave.

Warlick explained that Cemetery #2 is surrounded by a chain link fence and stone wall that blocks the view of the cemetery from passersby. He stated that this cemetery started ca. 1786 and is known to have at least 297 marked graves plus unmarked graves with the last known burial occurring in 1888. He stated that notable figures buried here include Hezekiah Alexander and Reverend Samuel Craighead Caldwell.

Warlick stated that these cemeteries have many significant headstones, including 20 created by the Bigam Family Stonecutters Shop. He stated that the cemeteries, particularly Cemetery #2, are threatened by vehicle exhaust fumes from the nearby roads.

Commissioner Tapp asked if the church still owns these cemeteries and Warlick stated that was correct.

Committee Member Leite asked whether all of the headstones were documented. Warlick stated that the church funded a survey of all three cemeteries in 2009 that shows the known locations of headstones and who is believed to be buried there.

Director Gray noted that Bigam stones are believed to be the oldest preserved artwork in the County excluding indigenous pieces.

Rob Thomas, representative of the Mecklenburg Historical Society (MHS), stated that the church is concerned about the cemeteries and their upkeep. He stated that MHS has a team working with the congregation to gather documents stored throughout the church to learn more about the graves. He stated the importance of preserving the cemeteries and church.

Committee Member Kerr asked about the boundaries of Cemetery #1. Warlick explained that the cemetery is contained within the four border walls but noted a prior infrared survey that identified a small unknown number of anonymous graves just outside the border wall.

Committee Member Leite presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Kerr that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it process the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church Cemeteries #1 and #2, 335 W. Craighead Road, Charlotte, N.C., and 4130 N. Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C., for historic landmark designation, including the properties and fixtures associated with the two tax parcels, including without limitation all graves, grave markers, tombs, and architectural structures and features on each of the two properties. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

b. McClintock Presbyterian Church, 14008 Erwin Road, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this church was added to the Study List in May 2025 and is in the Steele Creek community. He explained that the church's 6.6-acre parcel also includes an active cemetery and the ca. 1922 McClintock Rosenwald School that was designated as a local historic landmark in 1989, as well as the remains of a ca. 1885 one-room schoolhouse.

Warlick stated that this church was formally organized in 1866 and was the first Presbyterian church in Mecklenburg County and one of the first two Presbyterian churches in North Carolina that was founded by the newly emancipated freedpeople after the Civil War. He stated that Reverend Samuel Alexander became the church's first minister after leaving the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in part due to that predominately white church's support of slavery. He stated that Reverend Alexander was also a cofounder of the Freedmen's College of North Carolina, now known as Johnson C. Smith University. He stated that the church was one of two original members of the Catawba Presbytery, the first all-Black presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., that became the largest all-Black presbytery in the world.

Warlick stated that the original church structure was built ca. 1867. He explained that the McClintock name was chosen as the church's name by the congregation to honor the farmer who donated much of the building supplies for that first church building. He stated that Reverend Ijams was the first Black minister of the church and is buried alongside his wife in the cemetery. He stated that the congregants helped build Charlotte's World War I U.S. Army Camp Greene.

Warlick stated that the original 1867 church was replaced ca. 1891 by the current church. He showed a current picture of the sanctuary and front entry and explained that changes included enclosing the wood frame structure with brick cladding, removing the two turrets, and reconfiguring the front entry. He noted that the 1891 wood frame structure remains behind the brick cladding.

Warlick stated that the 1885 schoolhouse once located on the church's property offered grades 1-7 and was demolished in 1916. He stated that the school was replaced in 1922 by the McClintock Rosenwald School. He stated that the earliest marked grave in the cemetery is from 1871 and he noted that the cemetery remains active. He stated that the church still has an active congregation that is currently meeting in the McClintock Rosenwald School due to repairs needed to the church sanctuary.

Committee Member Kerr asked why the church was remodeled in 1961. Warlick stated that there is not a good oral history that explains the reason but that it appears that the congregation was trying to modernize the church. He explained that the church lost a lot of its records in a fire in the late 1800s.

Committee Member Kerr asked if the interior was original. Warlick stated that interior features include original floors, wall paneling from the 1960s, and pews that pre-date 1961.

Committee Member Leite asked if the two doors at the back of the sanctuary were the original front doors. Warlick stated that it was unclear whether those were the original doors, as what had been two individual doors and entries were reconfigured in the 1960s renovations into a single door.

Warlick explained that this structure could be thought of as two different churches with the 1891 building including the wood frame now located within the brick cladding of the 1961 church, with such other 1961 additions as the paneling and drop ceiling.

Candice Member Leite questioned whether the church in its original form is more important than the 1961 additions. Director Gray stated that the history that is associated with this site outweighs the individual architectural changes.

Warlick explained that staff needs to confirm with the congregation whether the interior of the church will be included as part of the recommended designation. He stated that staff recommends that the Survey Committee present two separate motions, with one including the interior as part of the recommended designation and the other not including the interior. He explained that staff will present the appropriate motion to the Historic Landmarks Commission after confirming the designation specifics with the congregation.

Committee Member Kerr presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Leite that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it process the McClintock Presbyterian Church, 14008 Erwin Road, Charlotte, N.C., for historic landmark designation, including the interior and exterior of the church building, and all of the property associated with the tax parcel and the structures and fixtures on that property, including the cemetery and the remains of the ca. 1885 one-room schoolhouse but excluding the McClintock Rosenwald School. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Committee Member Leite presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Kerr that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it process the McClintock Presbyterian Church, 14008 Erwin Road, Charlotte, N.C., for historic landmark designation, including the exterior of the church building and all of the property, including the cemetery and the remains of the ca. 1885 one-room schoolhouse but excluding the McClintock Rosenwald School. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

c. Jefferson-First Union Plaza, 301 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte

Gray stated that this 32-story tower was the first late modern skyscraper in downtown Charlotte and the tallest building in the state when first constructed. He stated that the construction of this and other high-rise buildings increased office space in Charlotte to over seven million square feet.

Commissioner Tapp asked if the proposed designation would include the plaza facing Tryon Street. Gray stated that the recommended designation includes only the tower and hyphen.

Commissioner Tapp presented a motion seconded by Committee Member Leite that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it process the Jefferson-First Union Plaza, 301 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C., for historic landmark designation, including the exterior of the tower and hyphen, the land included in the tower and hyphen, the interior of the lobby and the following interior items: lobby configuration, travertine wall and column cladding in the lobby, cruciform columns in the lobby, configuration (not finishes) of the circulation and mechanical core on each floor, and the historic mail chutes. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

d. Amendment for the Liddell-McNinch House, 511 N. Church Street, Charlotte

Gray stated that this house was one of the first postbellum buildings designated as a historic landmark by the Historic Landmarks Commission in 1976. He stated that the designation report was written in 1975 and did not include a good description of the land or interior of the house.

Gray stated that the current property owner has requested that the land be included in the designation. He explained that tax deferrals provided through historic landmark designation help property owners maintain historic buildings. He stated that Susan Mayer of SVM Historical Consulting researched the history of the property to update the designation report to include the interior of the house and the land.

Committee Member Leite presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Tapp that the Survey Committee recommend to the Historic Landmarks Commission that it amend the Liddell-McNinch House, 511 N. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C., historic landmark designation to include the interior and exterior of the house and the associated tax parcel. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

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

a. Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 W. Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this extant church was built in 1870 as the congregation's fourth house of worship. He stated that massive rocks that populate the church property are stones from the foundation of the third church that were saved when this church caught on fire. He stated that Louis Asbury, Sr., designed the Sunday school addition to the church in 1930.

b. 400 Queens Road Condominiums, 400 Queens Road, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this is a ca. 1963 building that is currently used as a condominium complex. He stated that the building is located within the Myers Park National Register

Historic District as a non-contributing structure. He stated that the property may have been built originally as housing for nursing staff for Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Kevin Winn, president of the condominium association, thanked the Committee for considering this property.

c. Davis Upholstery Shop, 314 Meyer Lane, Pineville

Warlick stated that this property was submitted by the applicant via the application portal. He stated that this building was likely built ca. 1920 but noted his uncertainty. He stated that this was the Lawrence Chapel Presbyterian Church until 1974 when several small Presbyterian churches merged to form the Metropolitan United Presbyterian Church. He stated that the property was sold in 1975 to the Davis family for use in its upholstery business.

d. Davidson Railroad Depot, 215 Jackson Street, Davidson

Warlick stated that this property was nominated by the Town of Davidson Planning Department. He stated that this depot used to be owned by Davidson College and is currently owned by the Charlotte Area Transit System. He stated that the property has been considered for part of the Red Line expansion.

Warlick stated that this building was built ca. 1897 by the Southern Railway. He stated that the property is identified as a contributing structure to the Davidson National Register Historic District. He stated that the original train platform no longer exists. He stated that this site is associated with a 1914 train derailment that killed two employees and is now a prominent stop on a local ghost tour.

e. 422 Heathcliff Street, Charlotte

Warlick stated that this house is owned by Nina Bridges and is located in the Wesley Heights neighborhood near the newly-designated Ziglar-Bowers House. He stated that the house was built ca. 1938 on the largest lot within block 18 of Wesley Heights. He stated that this house has a musical association as a band house for many of the finest Charlotte musicians, including professional jazz musician, Michael Porter.

Nina Bridges, property owner, noted the significance of the house and thanked the Committee for reviewing the property.

John Howard, Historic Preservation Manager, stated that he visited the property last week and explained that the house is in good shape and is deceptively large with a second floor.

Committee Member Kerr presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Kincheloe that the Survey Committee place the following properties on the Study List of Prospective Historic Landmarks: Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church, 101 W. Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, N.C.; 400 Queens Road Condominiums, 400 Queens Road, Charlotte, N.C.; Davis Upholstery Shop, 314 Meyer Lane, Pineville, N.C.; Davidson

Railroad Depot, 215 Jackson Street, Davidson, N.C.; and 422 Heathcliff Street, Charlotte, N.C. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

4. Historic Landmarks Staff Report

Warlick stated that the Faires Farm Silos were recently designated as a historic landmark by Charlotte City Council. He stated that the community is supportive of this designation and plan to celebrate the property's history.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.