

Cleveland County Architectural Survey Update of Historic Resources from 1945 to 1975: Final Report

prepared for

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submitted by

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Introduction

In January 2019 Cleveland County contracted with Landmark Preservation Associates to conduct an architectural survey of approximately 200 resources dating to the 1945-75 period in the county. The project was funded by Cleveland County and Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) monies administered by the N.C. Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The project had two phases: a planning phase, conducted in January and February 2019, and the survey proper, completed in August 2019. The planning phase identified and characterized resources for survey and gathered relevant historical information for context, resulting in the preparation of a preliminary report. The survey proper resulted in the architectural survey (documentation) of over 200 resources from the 1945-75 period, data entry into the HPO's Access database, and the completion of a final project report including recommendations for individual resources and areas that warrant consideration for the state's Study List of potentially National Register-eligible resources.

The project was completed by architectural historian J. Daniel Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates and supervised by Chris Martin, Senior Planner with the Cleveland County Planning Department, and Annie McDonald, Preservation Specialist with the HPO. The work was assisted by a steering committee of local historians, preservationists, and other interested and knowledgeable individuals including Ted Alexander, John Barrett, Fred Blackley, Robin Brackett, Mot Davis, Violet Arth Dukes, Lydia Elliott Hamrick, Roger Holland, Bill McCarter, Martha R. "Brownie" Plaster, Clarissa Jennings-Reid, Heather Robbins, Joel Rountree, and Lucas Shires. County staff who assisted the project included Matt Capps and Anna Parker.

Individuals who opened their homes and buildings to the survey or otherwise contributed to the project included David Allen, Rev. Randy Blanton, Max Boggs, Norma Borders, Carol Moss Bridges, Cecil Burton, Joy Renee Calhoun, Alice Caldwell, Jasmine Caldwell, Edna Cooper, Velda A. Cureton, Don Dellinger, Carl Dockery Jr., Bob Elliott, John Elliott, Mike Elmore, Tommy Forney, Barbara M. Ghigo, Jay Gragg, Kevin Hamrick, Betsy S. Harnage, John Harry, Calvin Hastings, Melissa Hawk, E. Scott Heath, Rory P. Hefner, Fred J. Hoyle, Stephanie Jarvis, Patricia D. King, Millie Kittrell, Bill Ledford, Noel Manning, Elene Connor Martin, Thomas W. Martin Jr., Mickey Morehead, Sheila Morrow, Helen Ford Pack, Harold "Bubba" Plaster, Jimmie Poole, Donna Prescott, Bathine Ross, Patsy Rountree, John V. Schweppe III, Suzanne Simmons, George David Sims, Kim Sisk, Jim Stamey, Joe L. Suttle, Julie Tillman, Ray Towery, Greg Traywick, Dottie Vincent, Harold Watson, Debbie Webb, and Scott White.

The project area encompassed Cleveland County and fourteen of its incorporated municipalities with the exception of Kings Mountain and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The temporal range of the survey, 1945 to 1975, reflected the project's status as a follow up to a comprehensive county survey conducted in 1997-98, which recorded resources up to the late 1940s and culminated in the 2003 publication of *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County, North Carolina*. The thirty-year span from 1945 to 1975 therefore covers resources that are or will soon be considered historic but were not recorded in the previous survey. A few pre-1945 resources were documented as well. Usually these were resources of considerable interest that had not been surveyed before, or previously surveyed resources for which the collection of more information was warranted. The project did not have a specific thematic focus but an effort was made to document properties associated with African American heritage.

Survey entailed the field documentation of selected resources involving photography and the noting of architectural features. The history of the resources was determined largely from secondary sources, primary sources such as city directories, and interviews with knowledgeable individuals. The principal product of the survey was 214 property records entered into the HPO's survey database and generated as paper files archived at the HPO's Western Office in Asheville. A digital version of the property records and photographs was also provided to Cleveland County and the HPO shared GIS layers with the County. Another product was the Study List recommendations included at the end of the report which will be reviewed by the County and the HPO and scheduled for presentation to the N.C. National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) at its October 2019 meeting.

Historic Overview

Cleveland County, located in the southwest Piedmont region of North Carolina, was created in 1841. The county's original economy was largely agrarian, but beginning in the late nineteenth century, manufacturing played an increasingly important role. From 1860 to 1940 the population of the county increased from 12,348 to 58,055, much of the increase occurring in the county's two largest towns, Shelby (the county seat) and Kings Mountain.¹ The population continued to grow after 1940, as shown by the following table:

1950	64,357
1960	66,048
1970	72,556
1980	83,435 ²

Shelby's 1940 population of 14,037 represented approximately 25 percent of the county's total population and supported a thriving downtown commercial district, a focus of the National Register-listed Central Shelby Historic District, designated in 1983. Subsequent historic district designations in the town have included East Marion-Belvedere Park Historic District (2002), a boundary increase to the Central Shelby Historic District (2002), and the West Warren Street Historic District (2009). The four districts together encompass much of Shelby's core white residential areas as they had developed by 1945. Shelby's principal historic African American neighborhood, located northeast of the downtown, attracted such institutional and commercial enterprises as the Cleveland County Training School, Dockery's Funeral Home, and the Washington Theatre (CL1146), the latter resurveyed as part of the project.³

Cotton, an important Cleveland County cash crop, spurred the growth of textile manufacturing in the county. Shelby Cotton Mills was established in 1899 and by the early 1950s resulted in the construction of over 140 mill houses in the Morgan Street area.⁴ Kings Mountain supported a number of textile mills and associated mill villages, as did several of the county's smaller communities, including Lawndale and Grover.⁵ Other communities, such as Belwood, Casar, Earl, Fallston, and Polkville, developed primarily as market and service centers for surrounding farms. Patterson Springs formed around a mineral water spring by the same name and by the end of the nineteenth century supported a resort hotel.⁶ A spring also existed at Boiling Springs, although in that community the main economic driver was education, beginning with a high school (1905) that evolved into a junior college (1928) and, in the 1940s, what is now Gardner-Webb University.⁷ The county's youngest incorporated community is Kingstown.

¹ Brian R. Eades and J. Daniel Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County, North Carolina* (Shelby, N.C.: Cleveland County Historic Preservation Taskforce, 2003), 15.

² The county's 2010 population was 98,078.

³ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 40-41, 168, 274; Heather Fearnbach, "Cleveland County Training School" (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2015).

⁴ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 105.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 18-21.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 36.

⁷ Lansford Jolley, *Dreaming, Daring, Doing: The Story of Gardner-Webb University, 1907-1997* (Boiling Springs, N.C.: Gardner-Webb University, 1997), 12-15, 56-57.

Another factor in the county's economic development was the railroad. The Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line reached Kings Mountain and Grover in 1872, followed by the Carolina Central Railroad, which reached Shelby in 1874. Enhanced rail connections were largely responsible for a surge in cotton production during the 1870s, from 520 bales in 1870 to 6,126 bales in 1880.⁸ Railroad transportation remained important in the twentieth century but automobile and truck transportation offered an alternative, especially after about 1920. Already by 1937, according to a city directory of that year, Shelby supported thirty-seven filling stations, eight car dealerships, four commercial garages, four auto parts stores, three auto body paint shops, three repair shops, three motor express services, three taxi services, two auto accessory stores, two tire and innertube retailers, one car insurer, and one bus station.⁹ Trucks and automobiles had a pervasive impact on the built environment, fostering or associated with paved roads, multilane highways, parking lots, garages and carports, and strip commercial development.

Until the construction of Interstate 85 through the southeast corner of the county in the early 1960s, US Highway 74 was the county's principal highway connection to other areas. The Highway 74 bypass was built around Shelby in the early 1950s and became a magnet for strip development and other, non-commercial development. Notable buildings built beside the bypass include the 1950s Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1207 W. Dixon Blvd. (CL1699), the ca. 1957 Fred M. Simmons Architectural Office at 924 E. Dixon Blvd. (CL1662), and the ca. 1952 Town House Motor Court at 1530 E. Dixon Blvd. (CL1683). Also associated with the bypass is the West Dixon Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge (CL1512), which was built across the road in the 1950s to give school children from neighborhoods on the south side of the bypass safe passage to Graham Elementary School on the north side.

One manifestation of mid-twentieth century car culture was the drive-in movie theater phenomenon. The Shelby Drive-In Theatre (CL0140) was in existence by April 1950 when it was joined by the Sunset Drive-In Theatre near Mooresboro. The Sunset Drive-In, which is still in operation, boasted parking space for 400 cars, a four-lane entrance and two-lane exit, and "electrical ramp markers at the end of each row [to] inform drivers whether or not there are empty parking spaces in the row."¹⁰ The county's first drive-in bank, the First National Bank Branch at 526 S. Lafayette St. in Shelby (CL1515), opened in August 1956.¹¹

⁸ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 15-17.

⁹ *Miller's Shelby, N.C., City Directory, 1937-1938* (Asheville, N.C.: Southern Directory Company, 1937).

¹⁰ *Shelby Daily Star*, April 6, 1950.

¹¹ *Cleveland Times*, August 3, 1956.



First National Bank Branch (left) and Shelby High School (right), both in Shelby.

Textiles figured as the county's principal industry during the 1945-75 period, joined in 1959 by the fiberglass plant of Pittsburgh Plate Glass, or PPG (CL1694). Located at 940 Washburn Switch Rd. between Lattimore and Shelby, the PPG plant (now NEG, Nippon Electric Glass) was the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass reinforcements and employed 1,800 workers at its peak.¹² Another major addition to the county's industrial portfolio, and one more in line with its textile focus, was Fiber Industries (CL1659), which built a plant at 2525 Blacksburg Rd. near Earl for the making of polyester fiber in 1959-60.¹³ The Fiber Industries plant was expanded in 1964, at which time its products were described as polyester staple fiber and filament yarn.¹⁴ Rail and highway transport, water and energy availability, and a skilled labor force contributed to the establishment of many smaller industrial plants during the period.

The period was one of change in education as well. The post-war baby boom, added to general population increase, spurred the construction of more schools, or the addition of new buildings to existing complexes, such as occurred at the Mooresboro school. As the student wave moved through the educational system, educators saw the need for increased high school capacity. Work began on the new Shelby High School (CL1700), located on the US 74 bypass (Dixon Boulevard), which opened in 1960 or 1961.¹⁵ The new Kings Mountain High School opened in 1965 and in 1967 two rural high schools opened: Burns High School (CL1647), located between Fallston and Lawndale, and Crest High School (CL1711), located between Boiling Springs and Shelby.¹⁶ Higher education also expanded during the period. The Cleveland County Technical Institute, today's Cleveland Community College, opened in Shelby in 1965, moved to its current Post Road location in 1968, and in 1974 built its first large academic building, known today as the Joseph M. Wright Occupational Complex (CL1703).¹⁷ Returning servicemen swelled enrollment at Gardner-Webb College in the late 1940s and prompted extensive new construction

¹² Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 218.

¹³ *Shelby Daily Star*, April 1, 1960.

¹⁴ *New York Times*, February 9, 1964.

¹⁵ Shelby High School website.

¹⁶ *Century Stories* (Shelby, N.C.: The Star, 2000), 75-76.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 77; *The Bridge* (1975 Cleveland County Technical Institute Yearbook), 6, 9.

which initially focused along Quinn Circle (CL1674). In 1996 the Gardner-Webb campus consisted of thirty-five major buildings and in the 2010s the student body approached 4,000 in number.¹⁸ Gardner-Webb is today one of the county's largest employers.

Cleveland County's housing stock expanded substantially during the period. The reasons were several. Grover historian Joel Rountree notes that once local millworkers were financially able, they "wanted to move out of the mill village and have their own little house."¹⁹ The opening of PPG in 1959 and Fiber Industries in 1960 with their higher salaries were likely also factors. Much of the new housing stock was in the form of ranch house developments on the periphery of Shelby and Kings Mountain. Brittain Village, developed by Lenny Brittain on the southern outskirts of Shelby, was once such subdivision. In 1969 the Shelby homebuilding firm Jones & Honeycutt advertised Brittain Village as a "planned community for better living," and placed an advertisement in the Shelby telephone directory with a picture of a two-story split-level home, although in reality one-story ranch houses predominate in the subdivision.²⁰ Ranch house subdivisions also sprang up around some of the smaller municipalities. A surveyed example is the block of 1960s houses on Eastwood Drive in Polkville (CL1638). Stylistically mixed small-town suburbs include Fallston's Beam Avenue area (CL1650) and Boiling Springs' Memorial Drive neighborhood (CL1640), both of which areas have Minimal Traditional houses from the 1940s and 1950s.

Ranch house developments were also built on rural tracts distant from towns, among them Juniper Terrace north of Boiling Springs and Kingstown north of Lattimore and PPG. Moss Lake, the water supply reservoir for Kings Mountain, was created in the late 1960s and early 1970s and became a mecca for residential development, though most construction at the lake occurred after 1975.²¹ Early residential development at the lake is reflected in surveys of houses on North Oakwood Drive (CL1632) and the ca. 1975 house at 119 Canterbury Drive (CL1633). The residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional trends established by 1975 have continued to the present. The most significant change has been the decline of the local textile industry as operations have moved abroad.

Architectural Overview

The years 1945 to 1975 were a period of architectural transformation in Cleveland County. One aspect of the transformation was scale, illustrated by the construction of enormous industrial plants like PPG and Fiber Industries and the development of large residential subdivisions. Another aspect was stylistic, as Modernism eclipsed Historicism as the dominant architectural mode, especially for non-domestic architecture. Until the 1930s, all construction in the county was either vernacular—buildings like log cabins and mill houses—or Historicist, architecture influenced by historical styles and building traditions. Notable local examples of Historicist styles include the Classical Revival style of the 1907-08 Cleveland County Courthouse in

¹⁸ Jolley, *Dreaming, Daring, Doing*, 65-66, 147.

¹⁹ Joel Rountree, personal communication with the author, February 2019.

²⁰ *Southern Bell Telephone Directory for Shelby, N.C.* (October 1969), 61; Martha R. Plaster, personal communication with the author, February 2019.

²¹ *Century Stories*, 82.

Shelby, the Gothic Revival style of the 1910-11 First Baptist Church Shelby, and the Spanish Mission style of El Nido in Shelby, built in 1920-21.

Modernism emerged as an alternative to Historicism in the early twentieth century, although its roots extend back to the nineteenth century and even arguably to the late eighteenth century. Pioneering Modernist architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Mies van der Rohe rejected overt historic references and based their architecture instead on fundamentals like form, structure, and material. Modernism was at first an elite, intellectual, and avant-garde movement, not widely adopted or understood in America, but in the 1920s and 1930s it gave rise to several styles that, though relatively rare compared to the Historicist styles of the era, managed to enter the American mainstream. One of these styles, the Art Deco style, was used for the 1936 Rogers Theatre in Shelby, the county's first fully-realized Modernist building. The Rogers Theatre was designed by Wilson architect Charles C. Benton who employed characteristic Art Deco elements like blocky massing, channeled vertical piers, and stylized geometric and floral ornament.²² Modernism was a favorite of the era's movie house designers because it evoked a certain fashionable Hollywood sophistication, and consequently it was used for the local theaters that followed the Rogers, such as the 1939 State Theatre in Shelby, a more restrained example of Art Deco, and the 1948-49 Joy Theatre in Kings Mountain, even plainer.²³

Modernism spread to other building types in the late 1930s and early 1940s, as evinced by Shelby's 1937 (white) high school, ca. 1940 Coca-Cola Distributing Plant, and 1941 armory.²⁴ The Second World War suppressed construction activity but when civilian building resumed in 1945, Modernism dominated non-residential construction. One proof of Modernism's ascendancy was a 1946 proposal by Shelby architect Victor Winfred Breeze to enlarge the courthouse by giving it four new Modernist fronts. Breeze proposed removing the Classical Revival building's porticos and domed cupola and creating in their place a flat, horizontal profile and austere elevations with columnar window arrangements. Though audacious in its gambit to remake the county's quintessential building in the Modernist image, Breeze's concept was not realized and the courthouse retains its classical character.²⁵

The first phase of post-war Modernism in the county was the Moderne style, akin to Art Deco but generally more focused on form than ornament. Rounded forms were a Moderne motif, as seen in two prominent Shelby buildings in the style, the ca. 1946 Brown-Hopper Motors dealership at 944 E. Marion St. (CL1540) and the late 1940s Lackey Pontiac Dealership at 724 W. Marion St. (CL1527). Brown-Hopper Motors, Shelby's Studebaker dealership, features a concrete stucco façade with rounded corners and has a center entrance recessed between rounded projecting piers under a cantilevered flat roof. The Lackey dealership, which sold Pontiac, Cadillac, and Buick models, also has curved corners but with header stack-bond brickwork above and below curved windows. The two dealerships, which stand at what were the principal east and west vehicular portals to Shelby in the immediate post-war period, catered to consumers newly liberated from the deprivations of depression and war.

²² Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 198-199.

²³ *Ibid.*, 200, 213.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 196-197, 204, 205.

²⁵ *Shelby Daily Star*, July 8, 1946.



The Moderne-style Lackey Pontiac Dealership (left, detail) and the International Style Fred M. Simmons Architectural Office (right), both in Shelby.

The rounded entry projection treatment also appears on one of the county's most unusual period buildings, the ca. 1950 Military Park Service Station at 1842 S. Battleground Ave. outside of Grover (CL1652). The station's entrance passes through the base of a tapered cinder block tower that evokes the obelisk monument at the nearby Kings Mountain National Military Park. The county has a profusion of service station forms and treatments from the 1945-75 period, but the Military Park Service Station is the only station that uses overt architectural mimicry, an example of what architectural theorists Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi call a duck (after a 1930s roadside building famously built in the form of a duck). Another example of the rounded entry treatment appears on the ca. 1947 cinder block Moderne building at 1407 S. Lafayette St. (CL1621), where the rounded forms step inward like the entry embrasure of a medieval church. Another car-oriented building with Moderne affinities is the late 1940s Auto Inn (Laughlin Furniture Outlet) at 400 N. Lafayette St. in Shelby (CL1608), formerly a multi-purpose automobile, truck, and tractor business, which has a yellow brick façade striped with red brick or terra cotta material.

A more rarified version of Modernism was known as the International Style, typified by blocky or planar forms, sometimes juxtaposed in dramatic gravity-defying compositions, and a sort of crisp simplicity verging on minimalism. An audacious local example of the International Style is the ca. 1957 Fred M. Simmons Architectural Office at 924 E. Dixon Blvd. (CL1662). The one-story flat-roofed building (most early Modernist architecture had flat roofs), constructed of white-painted cinder block (white was the almost obligatory International Style color), has a rectilinear form that contrasts with a projecting curved roof over the front entry. The entry roof cantilevers from a central column; more cantilevers appear on the back elevation, which was the elevation most visible to motorists on the Dixon Boulevard bypass. Before he built his office on the bypass, Simmons worked from an office in his home at 3809 Polkville Rd. near Polkville (CL1595). The one-story cinder block house, arranged around a courtyard, shows a mix of International Style and other influences.



The International Style Union Trust Company (left) and the Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced Shelby Savings Bank (right, detail), both in Shelby.

The International Style was showcased by a suite of important bank buildings built in downtown Shelby in the 1950s and 1960s. The 1962-63 Cleveland Savings & Loan Building (PNC Bank) at 131 N. Lafayette St. (CL1164) is a two-story glass and marble box. The 1960s Union Trust Company (Gragg & Gragg) at 9 E. Marion St. (CL1183) has a concrete and glass enclosure within a structural cage of two-story concrete columns. The 1958 First Federal Savings & Loan at 330 S. Lafayette St. (CL1513), though somewhat altered, features masses and planes of brick, marble, and metal. The International Style was also used for the 1964 and later Cleveland County Office Building (Cleveland County Health and Human Services Campus) at 130 S. Post Rd. (CL1620), designed by Shelby architects Holland & Riviere. Blocky forms, flat roofs, veneers in shades of tan and brown brick, and color-coded metal panels above and below windows are elements of the building, which is pictured on the first page of the report.

The American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), whose career spanned from the 1880s to the 1950s, developed a distinctive version of Modernism that influenced architects working in the county. A prominent example of Wrightian influence is the ca. 1965 Shelby Savings Bank (Home Trust Bank) at 224 E. Warren St. in Shelby (CL1663), designed by Raleigh architects Ralph Johnson Associates. The two-story building features angled corners faced with tan, honey, and pink-hued sandstone laid in courses of varying widths. Small rectangular skylights pierce the flat roof where it overhangs the stonework, a direct Wrightian influence. Wright's later domestic designs, known as his Usonian houses, which were intended as models for American housing, inspired a number of the county's houses, either directly or indirectly. These include the ca. 1952 Brice and Louise Harry House at 140 Lakeview Dr. in Grover (CL1677), the ca. 1960 Robert and Jennie Falls House at 1308 Wesson Rd. in Shelby (CL1507), and the 1959 Jack and Ruth Schweppe House at 607 Peach St. in Shelby (CL1544). The Schweppe House, a one-story Ranch house with a spreading hip roof, was built to plans supplied by the firm Home Planners, Inc., located in Detroit, Michigan. The plans identify Irving E. Palmquist as the architect and Richard B. Pollman as the designer. The Shelby architectural firm Breeze, Holland & Riviere also played a role in the design of the house.

Another internationally acclaimed architect whose influence is perceptible locally was the Swiss-French architect Charles-Édouard Jeanneret (1887-1965), known as Le Corbusier. Three of the county's 1960s high schools show Corbusier's influence, most markedly in the ca. 1961 Shelby High School at 230 E. Dixon Blvd. (CL1700), which features a windowless second-story expanse of brick supported by a grid of cylindrical concrete columns known as pilotis, a common Corbusian structural system. Burns High School at 307 E. Stagecoach Trail near Lawndale (CL1647) and Crest High School at 800 Old Boiling Springs Rd. near Shelby (CL1711), which were built to the same design in 1967, feature tower-like elements with concave curved walls at their bases which recall similar expressive juxtapositions of straight and curved elements in Corbusier's architecture. Other than these features the three high schools are largely International Style in character, but that in itself represents Corbusian influence since Corbusier was one of the pioneers of the International Style in the 1920s. Another architect whose influence appears to be present was the German-born Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe (1886-1969), who spent the latter part of his career in America and helped define the boxy, steel and glass, corporate architecture style. Aspects of the Simmons Architectural Office suggest Miesian influence, as do the floating box-like quality and window/pier compositions of the ca. 1969 office building at 513 S. Dekalb St. in Shelby (CL1701).

Church congregations were important patrons of Modernist design. A highly visible example on the Shelby bypass is the 1950s-60s Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1207 W. Dixon Blvd. (CL1699). Designed by Shelby architects Van Wageningen and Cothran, the current 1966 sanctuary melds a number of influences. Its prow-like front gables recall Wright's 1946 Unitarian Meeting House in Madison, Wisconsin, and the attenuated spiked form of its front carillon recalls the soaring Trylon at the 1939 New York World's Fair. The interior is equally striking, with arching glued-laminated supports that rise from the slate flagstone floor to the apex of the wood-sheathed ceiling, which has a skylight along the ridge. A conceptual rendering shows the evolution of the design from a less adventurous composition to the successful final approach (the original 1950s sanctuary in the complex has a more conventional Modernist character).



The Wrightian Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shelby (left) and the stylistically heterogeneous Fairview A.M.E. Zion Church in Earl (right).

Most of the county's Modernist churches are located in Shelby, as are most of its Modernist buildings of all sorts (with a few in the smaller towns), but several Modernist churches were built in rural areas. A notable example is the ca. 1968 Trinity Baptist Church at 746 Trinity Church Rd. near Mooresboro (CL1688), which has an overhanging front gable supported by curving pillars that form a monumental lancet archway, an inspired and even whimsical reference to the Gothic Revival style, which was common in church design before Modernism. Even more stylistically heterogenous is the 1973 Fairview A.M.E. Zion Church at 109 Third St. in Earl (CL1661), which has a traditional gable-fronted nave form (a form that extends back to the origins of church architecture in the Late Roman Empire), a Colonial Revival steeple, Gothic Revival corner towers with a suggestion of castellation, and Modernist canted piers next to the entries. Fairview's design grew out of an idea-finding tour of area churches made by the minister and church members. Member Floyd Ford was largely responsible for the construction and perhaps also for the building's design.²⁶

To Americans of the late 1940s and 1950s, restarting their lives after the traumas of the Great Depression and World War II, Modernism represented a refreshing break with the old cultural order. Businessmen saw opportunity in the new paradigm, and commercial strip development geared toward an increasingly mobile public was overwhelmingly Modernist after the war. A well-known example is the 1952 Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge at 2000 E. Dixon Blvd. in Shelby (CL0342), a front/side-gabled building designed by Shelby architects Van Wageningen and Cothran. Neon signage on the building and a large wedge-shaped sign out front beckoned to motorists. Service station design vied for motorist attention, and a flat roof, or a shed roof concealed behind a flat parapet, was a cost-effective way to achieve a modern appearance, as demonstrated by the ca. 1960 Brackett Oil Company service station at 5714 Casar Rd. in Casar (CL1585). The cinder block of the building's construction and the metal of its window frames, still relatively new building materials and treatments in 1960, contributed to the effect.

Several architecturally distinctive Phillips 66 service stations were built in Shelby and environs in the 1960s. Each of the stations features a drive-through canopy of soaring wedge-shaped form, supported and penetrated at the tip by a strutted steel mast. The design, introduced in 1960, was the brainchild of Phillips Corporation architect Clarence Reinhardt, and it proved popular nationwide for its exciting evocation of aeronautics and the nascent space age.²⁷ Local examples include the Bridges Phillips 66 Service Station (Express Service Station) at 501 Lineberger St. (CL1606) and the ca. 1964 Charles Weaver Phillips 66 Service Station (Sim's Store) at 336 Buffalo St. (CL1702), both in Shelby, and the ca. 1966 Patterson Springs Space Station and Towing at 1403 S. Post Rd. near Patterson Springs (CL1593). The Weaver station is unusual in that its drive-through is a reduced and simplified version of the basic design, and the Patterson Springs station retains its original canted plate glass office window design.²⁸ A service station that appears to be based on a nationally-disseminated design is the ca. 1963 Cities Service Station at 401 E. Marion St. in Shelby (CL1526), which features a white-painted metal-panel

²⁶ Alice Caldwell, personal communication with the author, April 2019.

²⁷ W. Dwayne Jones, "A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas" (Texas Department of Transportation Historical Studies Report No. 2003-03, 2003 [2016 update]), 7-11.

²⁸ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 52. Another Reinhardt/Phillips design, in downtown Shelby, was demolished ca. 2000.

exterior, a flat roof with canted fascias, and a vertical rectangular element that appears to pin the composition to the ground. Metal wall panels visible through the ground-to-roof aluminum-framed office windows have their original pale yellow and green colors. The curved lamp posts that arc over the surrounding pavement appear to be another original feature.



Belwood Auto Sales in Belwood, a ca. 1959 automobile-related Modernist building (left), and the Shelby Medical Center, a ca. 1953 Modernist health care-related building in Shelby (right).

The standardization illustrated by the Phillips 66 stations predates 1945 as a trend in American architecture, but it became more pervasive during the post-1945 period, especially in corporate architecture where branding was an important aspect of the business model. Pre-engineered (prefabricated) metal buildings are another illustration of the trend. Rollerama at 3902 Polkville Rd. near Polkville (CL1589), a roller-skating rink erected ca. 1971, is one such building, with a deeply-overhanging shallow-pitched front-gable roof to shelter patrons gathered in front and a vivid red and blue paint scheme in the spirit of an original scheme using unknown colors.²⁹ Nearby is the custom-engineered airplane hangar behind the Fred and Eunice Simmons House (CL1595), erected in 1970 or 1971 from components manufactured by the Metallic Building Company of Houston.

Modernism was popular for medical facilities during the period, in part because the sleek lines and surfaces typical of the style harmonized with modern concepts of hygiene and efficiency. Cleveland Memorial Hospital evolved continuously during the first half of the twentieth century at its 201 E. Grover St. site on the north side of Shelby, replacing old buildings as they became obsolete and erecting new ones. Today the earliest major element is the 1967 Grover Building (CL1518), a three-story International Style building with buff-painted brick elevations divided into sections by projecting pier-like window frames of white-painted concrete. The upper stories cantilever over a recessed first story and plaza-like deck, which in turn cantilevers over a basement story.

The hospital attracted a bevy of clinics, doctor's offices, and pharmacies. The ca. 1953 Shelby Medical Center (Hawthorne Center) at 809 N. Lafayette St. (CL1710) features a loose arrangement of flat-roofed wings with wraparound corner window walls of flat and corrugated glass panes. The center originally housed the Shelby Clinical Laboratory, the Cornwell Drug Company, and five physician and surgeon offices. The ca. 1964 Medical Arts Pharmacy at 108-

²⁹ *Blazes* (1973 Burns High School Yearbook), 213.

110 E. Grover St. in Shelby (CL1519), designed by Shelby architects Breeze, Holland & Riviere, employs smooth and grooved brickwork to create a vertically striped pattern on its austere exterior. Modernist health care facilities were built in the county's smaller communities as well. In addition to the Edwards Clinic and Nursing Home at 6443 Fallston Rd. in Toluca (CL0373), a pre-war facility expanded with a Modernist-influenced wing during the post-war period, there was the ca. 1959 John B. Crow Doctor Office (Arrie B. Ellis Municipal Building) at 2918 Austell Rd. in Earl (CL1660) and the 1950s Boiling Springs Family Medicine (Washburn Hall) at 106 W. College St. in Boiling Springs (CL1643). Also in Boiling Springs, but Colonial Revival in style rather than Modernist, is the 1949 Royster Memorial Hospital (Royster Hall) at 116 W. College Ave. (CL1642). The hospital was built as the Gardner-Webb infirmary, and its Colonial Revival style was in keeping with the school's Colonial Revival theme.

Many Cleveland County buildings of the 1945-75 period have no stylistic affinities. These utilitarian buildings were typically constructed for agricultural or industrial uses. The Carpenter Farm at 5437 Polkville Rd. in the Polkville vicinity (CL1637) has a cinder block milking parlor constructed in 1954 or 1955 when the farm was converted to a Grade A dairy, and the 1940s and later Elmore's Feed and Seed complex at 121 Carpenters Grove Church Rd. in Belwood (CL1574) has a metal-sided frame chicken house of standard long gabled form built in 1966. The Elmore complex includes a cotton gin, a building type with both agricultural and industrial associations. The two-story cinder block building was built in the late 1940s by Barney Peeler and a Mr. Boggs and was converted to feed milling in 1952, but it retains exterior features associated with its original use. Several other cotton gins from the general period survive in the county, including the ca. 1940 Polkville Cotton Gin at 4600 Polkville Rd. in Polkville (CL1566), the ca. 1950 Delight Cotton Gin at 5039 Delight Rd. in Delight (CL1587), the ca. 1953 Boggs & Williams Cotton Gin on the 6000 block of Fallston Rd. in Belwood (CL1575; now ruinous), the early twentieth century Casar Cotton Gin (part of the Casar Downtown survey, CL1584), and the 1946 A. M. Boggs Cotton Gin, part of the Boggs Farm Center at 807 E. Stagecoach Rd. in Fallston (CL1590). Jim Stamey, owner of the Polkville gin, who remembers the ca. 1940 fire that destroyed an earlier gin at the location, recalls that then-owners William Yates Horn and Jacob Ivey Whisnant contracted with the Murray Gin Company of Dallas, Texas, a major cotton gin manufacturer, to build the current building. Stamey recalls that it was a "package deal," Murray providing both the building and the equipment.³⁰ The Polkville gin retains virtually all of its 1940s equipment. The Fallston and Delight gins may also be prefabricated Murray gin buildings. The Fallston gin was originally erected in Enoree, South Carolina, and was moved to its current site in 1960 after the Boggs family's former gin at the location burned down. Another cotton gin-related building is the ca. 1948 Crowder Cotton Gin Office on the 100 block of Lattimore Rd. in Lattimore (CL1695), a metal-sided warehouse-like building beside railroad tracks.

³⁰ Jim Stamey, personal communication with the author, April 2019.



The Casar Cotton Gin in Casar (left) and the Polkville Cotton Gin in Polkville (right, detail).

In addition to the vast facilities at PPG and Fiber Industries were many other period industrial plants, both large and small. Goforth Brothers (Southco Industries) at 1840 E. Dixon Blvd. in Shelby (CL1622) is unusual in that uses for the structure of its metal-fabricating hall the former grandstand of Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. Built in 1913, the grandstand was moved to Charlotte in 1939 where it served as bleachers and an exhibit building for the Southern States Fair. When the fair closed in 1960 Goforth Brothers acquired the grandstand and by 1963 or 1964 had reassembled it at its current site. At the small end of the spectrum is the Waco Milling Company at 2253 Cherryville Rd. in Waco (CL1625). The concatenated row of frame and cinder block buildings, some from the period and some apparently earlier, was owned and operated by Arthur Boyd Stroup and his wife, Essie Sellers Stroup, who ground feed for local farmers. Earlier than the period but surveyed as part of the Elliott Farm at 235 Mount Zion Church Rd. near Polkville (CL1600) is the A. J. Elliott Tanyard, an early twentieth century facility for tanning hides that survives as a ruinous poured concrete tanning vat. Country tanyards were once ubiquitous in the South but have left few above-ground traces, the Elliott tanyard being a notable exception.

Modernism reshaped the county's architectural landscape, but it was not the only option during the period. Historicism remained popular, especially in contexts where there was a desire to evoke or reinforce tradition. A sophisticated Historicist design is the ca. 1948 Faith Harvest Church (former Hoyle Memorial Methodist Church) at 1001 Buffalo St. in Shelby (CL1605), also known as Faith Harvest Church. The brick-veneered building, designed in the classically-inspired Colonial Revival style, has a pedimented front with a central steeple with round-arched and Palladian windows, a pedimented entry at the base, and a multi-stage octagonal spire. The design is reminiscent of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, although an unidentified colonial or early national period church may have been the architect's more immediate inspiration. Another sophisticated Colonial Revival church is the 1968-69 Boiling Springs Baptist Church at 307 S. Main St. in Boiling Springs (CL1627), which features a pedimented portico, sand-finished "antique brick" facing, and a 122-foot-high steeple.³¹

³¹ Boiling Springs Baptist Church website.



Boiling Springs Baptist Church in Boiling Springs (left) and Lattimore Baptist Church in Lattimore (right).

Gothic influence, which evoked medieval architecture through the use of the lancet (pointed) arch and other details, was rarely used in the county's church architecture after 1945. One of the few exceptions is the 1949 Lattimore Baptist Church at 303 Peachtree St. in Lattimore (CL1707). The gable-fronted brick building has the ground-hugging proportions of the parish church genre of the Gothic Revival style. Other features include double-leaf doors with decorative strap hinges in a lancet-arched stone or cast stone surround, buttresses with tiered weatherings, and lancet-arched side windows.³² Similar in form is the ca. 1952 Rehobeth United Methodist Church at 2036 Rehobeth Church Rd. near Lattimore (CL1696). Gothic influence is also evident in the detailing of the 1952 First United Methodist Church Lawndale at 219 E. Main St. in Lawndale (CL1581) and its attached education and office building. A Colonial Revival church of unusual form and detail is the 1954 Philadelphia United Methodist Church at 2848 Philadelphia Rd. near Lawndale (CL1649), which features pairs of narrow square colonnettes at the corners of its gable-fronted sanctuary wing. The building also has a bell tower of slab-like form with a round-arched opening for the bell, possibly a Mission style influence.

Historical treatments characterize many of the houses built during the period, generally the early part of the period from 1945 to about 1955. A popular house form that carried over from the 1930s was the Period Cottage, a simplified builder version of the more flamboyant Historicist houses from the pre-war years, especially houses in the Tudor Revival style. The form usually features multiple or nested front gables on an otherwise side-gable roof, often with the principal entries in one of the gables, and often a side sitting porch that is integrated or engaged under the main house roof. A well-documented example is the 1946 house known as Six Gables at 109 Coopers Corner in the Boiling Springs area (CL1687). According to original owner Edna Cooper, she and her late husband C. Evans Cooper were traveling when he spotted a house he liked and made a pencil sketch of it. Lattimore brick mason Dietz Washburn used the sketch to

³² Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 214.

build the house, which has red brick veneer with yellow brick trimmings including a small yellow-brick lozenge design on the face of the chimney.³³



The Leo Vontilzer and Mary Gleaves House in Shelby (left) and the Elmore House in Belwood (right).

Brick was the standard finish material for Period Cottages but a few have stone facing. The ca. 1950 Leo Vontilzer and Mary Gleaves House at 709 Buffalo St. in Shelby (CL1604) is faced in light gray stone, probably granite, with random honey-colored stones mixed in. Over the windows the stones form jagged flat arches with roughly diamond-shaped keystones, and over the arched openings of a side sitting porch they are arranged as voussoirs. The late 1940s Elmore House at 5501 Fallston Rd. in Belwood (CL1573) is faced with vividly hued and patterned Crab Orchard sandstone from Tennessee. A ca. 1947 house at 909 Earl Road in Shelby (not surveyed) is virtually identical in form and its use of Crab Orchard stone as a facing material. Another popular period house type is known as the Minimal Traditional form. Minimal Traditional houses are generally simpler in form and detail than Period Cottages, with boxy side-gabled profiles occasionally with front-gable wings. Boiling Spring's Memorial Drive neighborhood (CL1640), which developed beginning in the late 1940s, has representatives of the Minimal Traditional style and they are also common in Shelby's early suburbs.

By far the most common house type from the period is the Ranch house. Derived from the simple low-slung ranch houses of California, and evocative of the informality associated with the Golden State, the Ranch house is linear in form and one story in height, generally with a low-pitched side-gable roof but occasionally hipped. The form is distinctive enough that it is often considered a style, but ordinarily Ranch houses adopt other styles, either modernist or Historicist or a blend of the two. Though the Ranch house as a modern house type dates to the beginning of the twentieth century, the form experienced its initial flush of popularity in Cleveland County and other parts of North Carolina in the 1950s. Shelby newspapers from the 1950s featured Ranch house designs in "house of the week" promotions.³⁴ Ranch houses remained common in the 1960s and 1970s and are still built today.

³³ Edna Copper, personal communication with the author, May 2019.

³⁴ Eunice Mae Sharpe Simmons, a professional draftsman married to architect Fred Simmons, contributed a "house of the week" column to the local paper, thereby helping to mold architectural taste.



The Brice and Louise Harry House in Grover, a Ranch house (left), and the arcaded Jack Riviere House in Shelby (right).

Though most Cleveland County Ranch houses are modest in size and finish, some were large and finely detailed. A group of Grover industrialists and professional people, among them members of the textile mill-owning Harry family, built architecturally sophisticated Ranch houses in the Lakeside-Lakeview neighborhood (CL1658) overlooking the picturesque C. F. Harry Jr. Lake on the west side of town. The design of the ca. 1952 Brice and Louise Harry House at 140 Lakeview Dr. (CL1677), which has an angled plan and alternating banks of tall vertical windows and small high-set windows, suggests the involvement of an architect. The 1968 Francis J. Harry House at 107 Lakeside Dr. (CL1676) is similar in form and fenestration though later. Other concentrations of sophisticated Ranch houses exist on Forest Hill Drive, Hillside Drive, and Wesson Road in Shelby.³⁵ The large Ranch-like house at 1007 Mooresboro Road near Lattimore (CL1708), built ca. 1953, is unusual in that it is entirely faced with stone in the manner of a Period Cottage. The ca. 1953 Ranch house at 3739 Cliffside Rd., one of a group of notable Ranch houses on the stretch of Cliffside Road near the Rutherford County line (CL1690), has a Period Cottage-style gabled entry projection with a segmental-arched recess, as well as an unusual rectangular front chimney with a recessed panel with herringbone brickwork. Generally speaking, the county's more sophisticated Ranch houses are stand-alone examples on larger parcels whereas the more ordinary or standardized Ranch houses exist on small lots in suburban or rural subdivisions,

The period also saw the construction of houses of more idiosyncratic character. The ca. 1965 Modernist house of architect Jack Riviere at 320 Country Club Circle in Shelby (CL1665) features a wraparound two-story arcade of white brick. The ca. 1971 Octagon House at 101 Greene Lake Dr. near Kingstown (CL1697) is, as its popular name suggests, octagonal in plan. The ca. 1960 Ranch house at 1359 Maple Springs Church Rd. near Boiling Springs (CL1630), though itself unexceptionable, has in its yard a line of prehistoric animals—replicas of a Brontosaurus, a Stegosaurus, and a Dimetrodon—that seem to patrol the domestic perimeter. Asheville landscape architect Doan Ogden provided landscape designs for a number of county properties during the period. Well-preserved 1970s Ogden schemes appear to survive in Shelby at the 1937 Lloyd and Mary Elizabeth Lutz House at 909 Elizabeth Rd. (CL1668), the 1970s

³⁵ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 51.

Charles Lampley House at 1232 Brookwood Dr. (CL1564), and the ca. 1972 William R. Henshaw House at 201 Montrose Circle (CL1667). Hardscaping—masonry or other non-vegetative landscaping—exists in front of several Modernist buildings, such as the complex stepped and layered composition of raised brick planting beds in front of the 1958 Charles A. Hoey Office at 403 S. Lafayette St. in Shelby (CL1514), designed by Van Wageningen and Cothran, and the brick-curbed patio at the entrance to the ca. 1969 building currently occupied by Chiropractic Physicians of the Carolinas at 513 S. Dekalb St. in Shelby (CL1701). The Hoey office also has a square opening in the roof of the porch that casts natural light into the porch's interior. The ca. 1959 doctor office at 318 Laurel Ave. in Grover (CL1657) has a similar porch roof cutout, positioned over a brick planter.



Entrance patio of the building at 513 S. Dekalb St. (left) and the Joseph M. Wright Occupational Complex (right), both in Shelby.

Single-family houses were the preference for most county residents during the period, but an increasing number lived in apartment complexes. The mid-1960s Park Sumter Terrace Apartments at 820 W. Marion St. in Shelby (CL1531), a quadrangular arrangement of gabled and flat-roofed Modernist brick-veneered buildings, was among the first large apartment complexes. Parkside Villas (Ramblewood Apartments) at 204 Ramblewood Dr. in Shelby (CL1672), a Modernist complex dating to the mid-1970s, has second stories treated as mansard roofs, that is, double-pitched roofs with a steep lower part and a shallow-pitched (in this case flat) upper part, as seen on the 1875 Second Empire style Banker's House in Shelby. The mostly 1970s mansard roof craze also contributed mansarded single-family houses to the county's architectural landscape. Examples include the ca. 1973 house at 2765 S. Lafayette St. south of Earl (CL1634) and the ca. 1973 house at 410 Melody Ln. in Shelby (CL1673).

Certain later Cleveland County architectural trends have their origins in the 1945-75 period. The most significant of these is the basic division between Modernist and Historicist design which, as noted above, had its first local stirrings with Modernist cinema design in the 1930s. The Modernist/Historicist dichotomy dominated post-war architecture and remains important today, though often it is a matter of degree since many buildings combine the two traditions. The survey picked up the very beginning of a phase of Modernism that stressed bold angular forms, as seen in the angular geometries generated by the superimposed and rotated squares that are the essential feature of the ca. 1973 house at 1302 Montrose Dr. in Shelby (CL1534); the steep shed

roofs and canted overhangs of the ca. 1975 house at 407 Robinwood Dr. in Shelby (CL1556), which also has a dramatic bridge between the on-street parking area and the entrance³⁶; the cruciform plan and diagonals of the ca. 1976 Lamar and Ellene Harrell House at 1237 Brookwood Dr. in Shelby (CL1565), designed by architect C. Crawford Murphy; and the pyramids, half-pyramids, jutting plan elements, and triangular-headed openings of the 1976 (and possibly later) Second Baptist Church (Hope Community Church) at 1114 S. Lafayette St. in Shelby (CL1671). The angular phase may be linked to the earlier interest in jutting, prow-like forms, as seen in the 1966 sanctuary of the aforementioned Aldersgate United Methodist Church (CL1699); in the ca. 1959 Claude and Francanna Vaughan House at 702 Forest Hill Dr. in Shelby (CL1545), presumably designed by the original owner, architect Claude L. Vaughan Jr.; and in a number of other houses built in the 1950s and 1960s.

A longer-lasting Modernist trend is the persistence of what is sometimes called Corporate Modern, the minimalist approach originally associated with Mies van der Rohe. The 1974 Joseph M. Wright Occupational Complex at Cleveland Community College in Shelby (CL1703), with its simple massing and unifying ribbon windows, is an early example of the approach. A later example is AGI at 790 S. Battleground Ave. near Grover, built in 1997-98, which illustrates the continued interest in the interplay of transparent glass surfaces and opaque masonry surfaces first introduced to the county in the 1950s.³⁷ In these buildings and others the architectural landscape of today's Cleveland County is an outgrowth of trends established during the 1945-75 period.

³⁶ The house may have achieved its present appearance later than ca. 1975 (Brownie Plaster, personal communication with the author, June 2019).

³⁷ Eades and Pezzoni, *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County*, 279.

Recommendations

The survey identified individual buildings and areas that appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and are recommended for placement on the state's Study List. According to the HPO website, "the Study List identifies properties and districts that are likely to be eligible for the National Register, giving the green light to sponsors and staff to proceed with a formal nomination with reasonable assurance that the property can be successfully nominated." Likewise, as a review mechanism the Study List "screens out properties that are clearly not eligible or that are highly unlikely to be eligible for the National Register, saving time and effort on the part of the properties' sponsors and the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff in preparing and reviewing unproductive nominations."

The National Register of Historic Places, a program of the National Park Service (NPS), is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts worthy of preservation for their significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. The National Register was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that as a matter of public policy, properties significant in national, state, and local history are considered in the planning of federal undertakings, and to encourage historic preservation initiatives by state and local governments and the private sector. The listing of a property in the National Register places no obligation or restriction on a private owner using private resources to maintain or alter the property.

Individual properties that are recommended for the Study List must meet two important thresholds before they are approved for Study List designation, including:

- Meeting the NPS/National Register standards for historic significance.
- Retaining interior and exterior integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling to the historic period when the property achieved significance.

The National Register and the HPO follow certain guidelines for defining the boundaries of potential historic districts that are proposed for the Study List. The historic resources must represent a more or less cohesive grouping that

- Meets the NPS/National Register standards for historic significance.
- Mostly dates to the historic period (in 2019 defined as before 1970, although a few years later may be justifiable).
- Retains a generally high degree of exterior architectural integrity; that is, the resources mostly retain the exterior character they had during the historic period.

Changes in architectural character and historic development patterns are a factor in defining district boundaries. Historic resources may continue beyond a potential district boundary but are not included because as a whole they do not retain as high a level of integrity as resources within the boundary, or they do not possess the same overall level of historic or architectural significance.

On June 17, 2019, project consultant Dan Pezzoni, HPO staff Annie McDonald and Beth King, and Cleveland County planner Chris Martin drove the project area to identify properties and areas for recommendation to the state's Study List. The list of candidates below is followed by brief discussions of each candidate's history, architectural character, significance, and integrity.

1. CL1566. Polkville Cotton Gin. 4600 Polkville Rd., Polkville.
2. CL1146. Washington Theatre. 511 Weathers St., Shelby.
3. CL0342. Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge. 2000 E. Dixon, Blvd., Shelby
4. CL1512. West Dixon Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge. W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby.
5. CL1595. Fred and Eunice Simmons House. 3809 Polkville Rd., Polkville vic.
6. CL1699. Aldersgate United Methodist Church. 1207 W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby.
7. CL1647. Burns High School. 307 E. Stagecoach Trail, Lawndale vic.
8. CL1535. East Marion-Belvedere Park Historic District Boundary Increase, Shelby.
9. CL1674. Gardner-Webb University Historic District, Boiling Springs.



Polkville Cotton Gin, 4600 Polkville Rd., Polkville (CL1566): About 1940 the cotton gin of William Yates Horn and Jacob Ivey Whisnant burned down and was replaced by the current building, a pre-fabricated two-story metal-sided building supplied by the Murray Gin Company of Dallas, Texas, a major cotton gin manufacturer. The building has the standard side-gabled linear form of early/mid-twentieth century gins with a side shed and second-story suction tube housing under which wagons and trucks parked and the

cotton was suctioned into the building. The four gins inside the main interior space are a mixture: one is stamped "The Murray Company/Dallas and Atlanta," another is labeled Mitchell (referring to the John E. Mitchell Company, another Dallas, Texas, gin manufacturer), and another is labeled Super-Jem. An augur took seed to a seed house that formerly stood to the east. Near the augur are scales; a second set of scales stands under the shed at the west end of the gin. The machinery was powered by belt drives, many of which are still in place, that were in turn powered by a boiler. The Polkville Cotton Gin is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the industry area of significance as a relatively complete example of the twentieth century cotton gins that once populated the county's countryside, an adjunct to the county's agricultural focus on cotton cultivation.



Washington Theatre, 511 Weathers St., Shelby (CL1146): The Washington Theatre is a prominent historic landmark in Shelby's African American community. According to present owner Carl Dockery Jr., the theater was built in 1948 or 1949 by two white businessmen, a Dr. Sherrill and a Mr. Baxter. Sherrill and Baxter used for the theater a surplus barrel-vaulted Quonset hut obtained from a dismantled World War II military facility. To the front of the corrugated steel hut was added a two-story Moderne brick façade with a prow-like

metal marquee. The entries are flanked by curved sections of modern brick and glass block that

replace earlier finishes. The lobby features curved corners and an interior-illuminated sign over the ladies' room door. A spiral stair rises to a small gallery which was used by the owners' children to watch movies, and next to it is the projection booth with multiple metal hatches through which the movies were projected. The auditorium has a sloping concrete floor and a plastered vault which is flat at the top. Later theater operator Louis Dillingham used the theater for music performances (Dockery has heard that vocalist Etta James once performed there). Despite the aforementioned changes to the entry area and other, smaller modern changes, the theater possesses good overall integrity. The building is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the black ethnic heritage, entertainment/recreation, and social history areas of significance.



Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge, 2000 E. Dixon Blvd., Shelby (CL0342): Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge is a well-preserved example of mid-century roadside architecture on the commercial strip leading into Shelby. The restaurant, built in 1952, was designed by the Shelby firm of Van Wageningen and Cothran. A deeply overhanging front-gable roof and a variety of signage including neon signs are exterior features of the brick-clad Modernist building. The interior features wood wall and ceiling finishes and perforated wood lighting valences that recall designs by

Frank Lloyd Wright. Behind stands the original concrete block cookhouse. Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the commerce area of significance and under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance.



West Dixon Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge, W. Dixon Blvd. at Elm St., Shelby (CL1512): The post-war development of neighborhoods to the south and west of Dixon Boulevard (US74) and the opening of the Graham Elementary School on the north side of the boulevard necessitated a safe pedestrian link between the two. The reinforced concrete pedestrian bridge, probably built in the 1950s, spans the busy divided four-lane highway on stout t-form piers. The solid railings are cast with a paneled pattern and have set into them round metal light fixtures manufactured by the Crouse-Hinds lighting manufacturing company. The lights are disused and all but one or two have had their wire mesh covers removed. At the south and north entrances to the bridge are cast metal panels inscribed with the name of the O. Z. Electrical Manufacturing Company, Inc., of

Brooklyn, N.Y. The section of the bridge where it crosses the lanes of traffic has a mesh cage over it for safety. The bridge possesses good integrity and is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the transportation area of significance.



Fred and Eunice Simmons House, 3809 Polkville Rd., Polkville vic. (CL1595): Architect Fred Martin Simmons (1915-2014) designed this one-story International Style house as a residence for himself and his wife, Eunice Mae Sharpe Simmons. Work on the residence began in 1948 or 1949 and was finished in 1950 or 1951. The cinder block house has an irregular U-shaped footprint with low-pitched shed-roofed living and sleeping wings arranged around a center courtyard that opens to the south through a breezeway-like porch. Another breezeway connects to a

garage at the southeast corner. A chimney and boiler flue of reddish-brown brick rise above the roofline, and there are awning and plate glass windows, some of mid-century picture window form. Brown-painted aluminum siding (now faded) was added in the 1960s. The interior walls are a combination of exposed cinder block, furrowed plywood paneling, and conventional 1970s wood paneling; floors are flagstone or carpeted; and most ceilings are plywood-paneled. The entry opens into a foyer which is separated from the dining room on the south side by a brick planter and a partition formerly glazed with corrugated glass. On the north side of the foyer is Fred's architectural office, which he used before opening his office at 924 E. Dixon Boulevard in Shelby ca. 1956. Also on the property is a runway and ca. 1971 prefab metal airplane hangar manufactured by the Metallic Building Company of Houston. Fred Simmons was one of a cadre of talented Modernist architects working locally (and regionally) during the second half of the twentieth century, and his house expresses his principles of design. The property is potentially eligible under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance. The 1970s siding detracts somewhat from the architectural integrity, but the house retains its essential ca. 1950 form and character.



Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1207 W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby (CL1699): With its prominent site beside Shelby's Dixon Boulevard bypass, Aldersgate United Methodist Church and its extensive educational, office, and recreational complex represents one of the county's flagship Modernist churches. The complex, which was designed by Shelby architects Van Wageningen and Cothran, includes two churches: the original or interim sanctuary built in 1956 and the current sanctuary built in 1966. The Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced gable-fronted

1966 sanctuary features salmon brick veneer, a dramatic carillon of three-sided spike-like form, a prow-like narthex, and exposed glued-laminated wooden structure on the interior. The complex is planned as a series of interconnected wings and semi-detached buildings that form a series of enclosed and open-ended quadrangles. The property is potentially eligible under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance as a complete and high-integrity example of Wrightian Modernism in the county, the work of a notable local design firm.



Burns High School, 307 E. Stagecoach Trail, Lawndale vic. (CL1647): Shelby architects Holland & Riviere designed this high school, built in 1967 and the twin of Crest High School built the same year between Shelby and Boiling Springs. The sprawling tan brick and concrete complex of one- and two-story wings has a front entry with a glass and aluminum window/entry wall recessed inside a porch with a swooping pagoda-like gable roof of concrete on square concrete pillars. The wings are typically flat-roofed, although one features a shallow pyramidal roof with a mansard cap, and there are several architectural accents such as a two-story tower-like projection with a shed roof and, at its base, a curved wall segment (a Corbusian touch), and a boiler flue with a square-section shaft and a v-form cap. The pyramidal-mansard roofs

also cap the two-story press box and concession building beside the football stadium and a ticket kiosk in front. The 1960s saw the construction of three large high schools in the county (outside of Kings Mountain), buildings that remain in use as the county's chief high schools. The well-preserved and intact school is potentially eligible under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance.



East Marion-Belvedere Park Historic District Boundary Increase, Shelby (CL1535): The East Marion-Belvedere Park Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002, encompasses houses built mostly during the first half of the twentieth century along East Marion Street, the principal vehicular entry into Shelby from the east, and Belvedere Park, designed in 1921 by Charlotte landscape architect Leigh Colyer for developer William B. Lineberger. The potential boundary

increase adjoins the existing district on the east side, along Edgemont Avenue, and includes houses on Adams, Duke, Elizabeth, and Hawthorne. The earliest houses in the boundary increase include Period Cottages, such as are seen on the south side of Hawthorne Road, and picturesque Colonial Revival houses like the 1937 Lloyd and Mary Elizabeth Lutz House at 909 Elizabeth Rd. (CL1668), which features landscaping according to a 1971 design by Asheville landscape architect Doan Ogden. The Colonial Revival style remained popular after World War II, as illustrated by such houses as the ca. 1950 Coyt Tillman House at 922 Elizabeth Rd. (CL1670), which features a cantilevered second-story porch with elaborate decorative metal supports and railing, and the ca. 1962 Norris Lackey House at 918 Elizabeth Rd. (CL1669), said to have been modelled on an antebellum house in Natchez, Mississippi. Toward the end of the historic period Ranch houses were built in the area, such as the ca. 1956 Larry and Dorothy Moore House at 911 Hawthorne Rd. (CL1684), designed by Shelby architects Holland & Riviere. The district is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the community planning and development area of significance and under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance. It possesses good

overall integrity with few non-historic houses and with the character-defining features of its historic houses intact.



Gardner-Webb University Historic District, Boiling Springs (CL1674): The nascent Gardner-Webb University campus grew up around and behind Boiling Springs Baptist Church, which formerly stood on the site of the present-day Dover Chapel on South Main Street. These buildings organized mostly around what would become known as Quinn Circle, a loop that connects to Main Street to the north and south of Dover Chapel. Buildings on the circle are Colonial Revival in character and of brick or brick-veneer construction. They include Dover Chapel itself, built in 1972, which frames the formal entrance to campus along with the Suttle-Wall Memorial Tower, dedicated in 1968. Academic, administrative, and student services buildings include E. B. Hamrick Hall (1925, ca. 1940), individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places

(in 1982) and today the oldest building on campus, with its round-arched windows and Ionic frontispiece; Webb Hall (ca. 1960, ca. 1973), with v-form wings that center on a circular portico and cupola; and the Charles I. Dover Campus Center (1966) with its portico of heavy fluted square pillars crowned by a decorative metal roof balustrade. Some of the buildings on the east side of the circle are thought to be rear office and educational wings of the former Boiling Springs Baptist Church, the sanctuary of which was demolished in 1971 to make way for Dover Chapel. The concentration of early building continues to the north side of West College Avenue to include Royster Memorial Hospital (Royster Hall), a Colonial Revival building built in 1949, and Boiling Springs Family Medicine (Washburn Hall), a Modernist 1950s clinic later acquired by Gardner-Webb. Memorial Drive, known locally as Faculty Circle, developed beginning in the late 1940s as a residential enclave across West College Avenue from the central Gardner-Webb University campus. The April 1949 issue of *The Pilot*, the Gardner-Webb student paper, described the neighborhood as being in “a beautiful pine grove on Memorial Drive on the college campus.” The focal point of the neighborhood is the former Gardner-Webb University President’s House, now known as the Elliott House, at 106 Emily Lane (CL1641), a two-story brick-veneered Colonial Revival residence completed in 1949. Other early houses are Ranch style in character, including the ca. 1950 house at 150 Memorial and the ca. 1954 house at 148 Memorial, one-story frame houses with asbestos shingle siding. Later Ranch houses in the neighborhood tend to have brick-veneer exteriors. The neighborhood is entered via parallel one-way lanes separated by a wide grassy median. As in 1949 the neighborhood remains shady and grove-like. The Gardner-Webb University Historic District is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the education area of significance as the county’s preeminent historic institution of higher learning, and under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance. It possesses excellent overall integrity with (as defined) few to no non-historic buildings, and the buildings that are included retain their historic exterior character.

Additional survey may identify areas adjoining the districts described above that warrant inclusion in them. In addition to these proposed Study List properties and districts are other properties and areas that may warrant placement on the Study List with additional research and/or survey, specifically interior survey for the individual properties. These include:

CL0373. Edwards Clinic and Nursing Home. 6443 Fallston Rd., Toluca.
 CL1520. Lafayette Apartments. 705-707 N. Lafayette St., Shelby.
 CL1545. Claude and Francanna Vaughan House. 702 Forest Hill Dr., Shelby.
 CL1559. Harold W. Causby House. 908 W. Warren St., Shelby.
 CL1577. Fallston Woman's Club. 4908 Fallston Rd., Fallston.
 CL1587. Delight Cotton Gin. 5039 Delight Rd., Delight.
 CL1594. Camp Call Lodge #534. 3801 Polkville Rd., Polkville vic.
 CL1602. Reciprocity Lodge 0693. 307 Buffalo St., Shelby.
 CL1603. Wardell Chapel AME Zion Church. 314 Buffalo St., Shelby.
 CL1605. Faith Harvest Church (formerly Hoyle Memorial Methodist Church).
 1001 Buffalo St., Shelby.
 CL1619. Holly Oak Park. 900 Eaves Rd., Shelby.
 CL1622. Goforth Brothers. 1840 E. Dixon Blvd., Shelby.
 CL1627. Boiling Springs Baptist Church. 307 S. Main St., Boiling Springs.
 CL1636. Buffalo Fish Camp. 4702 E. Dixon Blvd., Shelby vic.
 CL1661. Fairview A.M.E. Zion Church. 109 Third St., Earl.
 CL1662. Fred M. Simmons Architectural Office. 924 E. Dixon Blvd., Shelby.
 CL1665. Jack Riviere House. 320 Country Club Circle, Shelby.
 CL1678. Kingstown Historic Area, Kingstown.
 CL1698. WOHS Radio Station. 1511 W. Dixon Blvd., Shelby.
 CL1705. Crest High School. 800 Old Boiling Springs Rd., Shelby vic.
 CL1712. Forest Hill Area, Shelby.
 CL1713. Country Club Area, Shelby.

Other preservation-related projects and actions are recommended:

Additional Survey: The current project resulted in the survey of over 200 previously undocumented resources. Though these new surveys broaden and deepen understanding of the county's historic resources, in that they include resource types and a period of history not previously examined, there are many additional historic resources from the period that warrant survey. Many of these are located in the areas proposed above for Study Listing and in three additional areas that were sampled but not surveyed to an extent that would allow for recommendation to the Study List at the present time. These are the large and architecturally rich Shelby residential areas of Forest Hill (CL1712) and the Country Club area (CL1713) and the African American municipality of Kingstown (CL1678). In addition, the historic centers of Casar, Fallston, and Polkville are rich with historic resources deserving of survey. There are likely to be many resources from the 1945-75 period that warrant survey in Kings Mountain, which was excluded from the project for administrative reasons.

National Register Designation: Nomination of individual properties and potential historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places would be a natural follow-up to the current project, and in fact is a step often taken by North Carolina communities that have undertaken community-wide architectural surveys. For privately-owned individual properties, presumably any designations would be owner-initiated. For districts, designation would presumably be a county and/or community undertaking, given the direct community benefit of designation and,

for districts, the greater amount of work entailed. As all properties within a proposed historic district must be surveyed before or as part of the designation process, the process affords an opportunity to survey historic resources, accomplishing one of the chief goals of a community historic resource planning/management program and a recommendation of the “additional survey” discussion above. As it did for the current project, the HPO can provide technical assistance and funding in support of a historic district designation initiative due to Cleveland County’s status as a Certified Local Government.

Publication/Promotion: The survey encountered considerable interest among the Cleveland County public in the survey period and its resources, especially in resources popularly known as “mid-century modern.” Often a publication, such as a well-designed hardcover book, is recommended as a way to share survey information with the public. However, the County still has many unsold copies of *Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County, North Carolina*, published in 2003, and a new book of similar scope that would include or focus on the mostly unpublished historic resources of the 1945-75 period would probably not be a financially viable proposition. Instead, alternative means of promotion should be considered. One option would be to highlight the information on a local website or websites, or in a smaller and more affordable (but still high-quality) softcover volume. Another option would be a tour of buildings featured in the survey. It is noteworthy in this regard that one of the sites to be featured on the December 2, 2019, Cleveland County Arts Council Holiday Home Tour is the 1974 house at 1322 Vista Drive on Moss Lake.

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