

Dallas Architectural Survey: Final Report

prepared for

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submitted by

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Introduction

In early 2019, Gaston County, on behalf of the Town of Dallas, contracted with Landmark Preservation Associates to conduct an architectural survey of 108 historic resources in the Town of Dallas. The project is funded by Gaston County and Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) monies administered by the N.C. State Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The survey resulted in the architectural survey (documentation) of resources, data entry into the HPO's Access database, and the completion of a final project report with recommendations for individual resources and areas that warrant consideration for the state's Study List of potentially National Register-eligible resources.

The project was undertaken by architectural historian J. Daniel Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates and was supervised by Tiffany Faro, Development Services Director for the Town of Dallas, and Elizabeth Crawley King, Architectural Survey Coordinator with the HPO. The project area encompasses areas within the Town's jurisdictional boundaries. The temporal range extends from the nineteenth century (the date of the earliest extant resources) to ca. 1970, and includes survey of selected resources built during the decade of the 1970s.

Survey entailed the field documentation of resources involving photography and the noting of architectural features. Historical information on the resources was determined largely from secondary sources, primary sources such as Gaston County directories, the county's

Geographical Information System (GIS) database, and interviews with knowledgeable individuals. Property records were entered into the HPO's survey database and generated as paper files archived at the HPO's main office in Raleigh. A digital version of the property records and photographs was provided to the Town, which will also receive GIS layers from the HPO. The Study List recommendations at the end of this report will be reviewed by the Town and the HPO and scheduled for presentation to the N.C. National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) at its October 2019 meeting. In addition to Tiffany Faro and Beth King, individuals who assisted the project include Donna Christopher, Calvin Craig, Melinda Gibson, Jason Luker, John F. Merck, Lucy Penegar, and Pastor Roger Storms.



Former Gaston County Courthouse (left) and Hoffman Hotel (right)

Historic Overview

Dallas, designated the county seat of newly-created Gaston County in 1846, was named for George Mifflin Dallas, the nation's vice-president under President Polk. Land was deeded for the establishment of the town in February 1847 and a courthouse square was laid out.¹ According to a standard account, a temporary log courthouse was built in 1847 and a brick replacement was completed in 1848 (GS0444; current address 131 N. Gaston).² The 1840s courthouse burned in 1874 but was rebuilt "on the old walls" the following year and stands today as one of the town's oldest structures.³ The white-painted brick Greek Revival-style building occupies the center of the square, its pedimented front facing east and topped by a wooden belfry. Below is an entry with a round-arched fanlight above a double flight of steps with a graceful cast iron railing. A high basement level, tall courtroom windows, and a gabled wing at the northwest rear corner are other features. Courthouse use was discontinued in 1911 when the county seat was moved to Gastonia and the old courthouse was converted to other uses and eventually housed town offices. To the northeast of the courthouse square at 108 E. Trade stands the 1847 former Gaston County

¹ Charles Greer Suttlemyre Jr. and Ruth Little Stokes, "Dallas Historic District" (National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1973).

² Evon Houser and Rudd Friday, "Town of Dallas" (ca. 1940 article), 111. Other accounts date the brick courthouse to 1847.

³ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 482.

Jail (GS0009), a two-story brick building with parapet gable ends and stone-reinforced window surrounds.⁴

Court activity attracted businesses and residents who built stores and dwellings facing onto the square. The grandest of these early buildings is the 1852 Hoffman Hotel at 131 W. Main (GS0010), a three-story brick building with a full-façade two-story porch. The building, which ranks among the state's oldest hotels, has been meticulously restored and now houses the Gaston County Museum.⁵ Another early brick building is the two-story 1850 Rhyne Store at 130-132 N. Gaston (GS0011), which features a pediment with a Greek Revival window or vent surround. Among the early residences that front onto the square are the 1850 Smyre-Pasour House at 113-115 N. Holland (GS0012), a one-story frame building with a symmetrical five-bay original section and a three-bay extension made ca. 1870. Next door is the 1850s Roberts-Lewis House at 103 N. Holland (GS0446), a two-story frame dwelling with extensive modern additions related to its current use as a restaurant.



Rhyne Store (left) and Smyre-Pasour House (right)

The continuing presence of county court functions benefitted Dallas during the post-bellum period, but growth was hampered by the decision to route the Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railroad several miles south of the town. The line established a depot at Gastonia, which grew at the expense of Dallas and, in 1909, was declared the Gaston County seat, a change finalized in 1911. Bypassed by a major rail line and deprived of the county courthouse, Dallas grew modestly compared to Gastonia and other towns and cities in the region, a state of affairs that has contributed to the survival of much of its nineteenth-century charm. The town was not entirely bypassed by progress, for about 1880 it was connected to the national rail network with the construction of the Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railway.⁶ The ca. 1900 depot of the C&LNGR's successor, the Carolina & North Western Railroad, stands at 201 W. Main where it was moved in 1976 (GS0455).⁷

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Kim Withers Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Gastonia, N.C.: Gaston County, 1982), 115-116.

⁷ Ibid., 117.

Post-bellum prosperity is illustrated by the early 1870s Setzer Building at 124-130 W. Trade (GS0461). Originally three stories in height (it was reduced to two stories in 1947), the brick building features formal entryways and large windows. The town's rail connection encouraged the establishment of textile mills. The first of these was the Dallas Cotton Mills at 202 E. Church (GS0438), which was equipped with 60 steam-powered looms and 2,000 spindles when it opened in 1892. The mill was enlarged over the years, most recently in the mid-twentieth century. The town's second mill was the Morowebb Cotton Mill at 400 S. College (GS0441; formerly 205 E. Robinson), incorporated in 1903 and placed into operation the following year.⁸ The large one-story brick building boasted a three-story castellated tower. Today a small portion of the mill survives. A third mill, Monarch Cotton Mills (GS0451), was erected at 301 E. Main by 1922.⁹ The large workforces at the mills—125 operatives at the Dallas mill ca. 1905 and 100 at Morowebb in the 1920s—provided inhabitants for mill housing, mostly one-story frame dwellings concentrated in the blocks to the south and east of the downtown. Many of the town's mill houses have an unusual saltbox or cat-slide form created by a side-gable roof that is asymmetrical—of standard steepness on the front with a more shallow-pitched back plane that extends to engage rear rooms. The largest collection of these houses survives on the 300 and 400 blocks of South Gaston Street, part of the Morowebb Mill Village (GS0440). One of the best-preserved individual houses with the form is 407 E. Main, part of the Monarch Cotton Mill Village (GS0450), which has its original weatherboard siding, center brick chimney, four-over-four wood sash windows, and granite foundation footers.



Dallas Cotton Mills (left) and 407 E. Main (right)

West Trade Street, the principal connecting route to the west, developed as the town's premiere white residential neighborhood in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The 1880 John Puett House at 308 W. Trade (GS0466) is one of the oldest surviving residences on the street. The two-story Italianate and Gothic Revival-influenced frame house with bracketed cornice and mill-sawn window vergeboards was built by carpenter George Detter.¹⁰ The 1903

⁸ Robert Allison Ragan, *The Pioneer Cotton Mills of Gaston County (N.C.) "The First Thirty" (1843-1904)*, 125-126, 286.

⁹ 1922 Sanborn map.

¹⁰ Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 126.

Pinkney Summey House at 307 W. Trade (GS0465) is an interesting interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The two-story frame house features a turret-like element set into the high-pitched rounded roof of the front porch. The Summey House has round accent windows, as do its approximately contemporaneous Queen Anne-style neighbors the ca. 1910 Oscar F. Mason Sr. House at 101 Maple (GS0458) and the ca. 1905 Myrtle G. Graybeal House at 311 W. Trade (GS3258).

Residential development along West Trade Street and adjacent streets prompted the construction of churches for the town's principal white congregations. The 1914 Dallas Baptist Church at 402 W. Trade (GS0467) is a brick-veneered Romanesque-influenced building with dual front towers (one taller than the other) and round-arched stained-glass windows. The 1950 First Presbyterian Church of Dallas at 412 W. Trade (GS3261), built by Clarence Thornburg, blends the Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival styles in its wall buttresses and entry embrasure (Gothic) and multi-stage steeple (Colonial). Churches are the chief surviving historic resources associated with the Dallas African American community. The 1939 former building of First Baptist Church, Dallas at 308 S. Rhyne (GS3282) has a small cemetery, as does the ca. 1950 Humphrey Chapel A.M.E.Z. Church at 603 W. Main (GS3270). Humphrey Chapel has an original rear portion of brick or brick-veneer construction with buttresses and triangular-headed stained glass windows along the sides and a more recent front addition (possibly ca. 1980) with variegated brick veneer in shades of off-white, tan, and brown.



Dallas Baptist Church (left) and Humphrey Chapel A.M.E.Z. Church (right)

Educational buildings and complexes of note include the 1923-24 Dallas Graded and High School at 300 W. Church (GS0469), a two-story classically-detailed brick building for white students, which was the successor to the 1879 Gaston Female College, a private institution that had been converted to a public school.¹¹ Associated with the high school is the 1939 Dennis Franklin Gymnasium at 208 W. Church (GS3224), a Moderne-influenced brick building that is the town's first Modernist building, and the 1939 Dallas High School Home Economics and Agriculture Building (Dallas Civic Building) at 205 W. Church (GS3273), which has a cinder block foundation, an early use of the material. The C. F. Gingles Elementary School for the

¹¹ Ellen Turco and April Montgomery, "Dallas Graded and High School" (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2001); Robert L. Williams, *Gaston County, A Pictorial History* (Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning, 1981), 58.

town's black children originated as a one-room schoolhouse in 1877. The school later stood on Spargo Street and is now gone.¹² School architecture after World War II was typically Modernist in character, as illustrated by the 1957 Carr Elementary School at 307 S. Pine (GS3267). Another important educational resource, Gaston College, is discussed below.

As the twentieth century progressed various house styles waxed and waned in popularity. The Craftsman style, common elsewhere in the county between the 1910s and 1930s, is relatively rare in Dallas. Examples include the two-story ca. 1920 Jessie S. Summey House at 303 W. Trade (GS3257), which features massive stone porch pillars, half-timber effects in the porch gables, and wood shingle sheathing; the ca. 1920 Raymond E. Cooke House at 407 W. Trade (GS3260), a bungalow with Japanese-inspired gable brackets; and the ca. 1925 Richard F. Nixon House at 508 W. Church (GS3225), a bungalow with fifteen-over-one wood sash windows, thick curved eaves brackets, and brick veneer with intentionally crude mortar. The bungalow house form, characterized by a one-story or story-and-a-half height and a snug appearance, was the house form that most commonly carried the Craftsman style. A late example of the form and the style is the 1952 Howard and Katherine Lay House at 307 Dallas-Stanley Highway (GS3290). The brick-veneered one-story house has a wraparound porch on the front and south sides with squat tapered square wood pillars on tall brick pedestals with recessed panels on their sides.



Jessie S. Summey House (left) and Brewer's Sinclair Service Station (right).

The Craftsman style was joined by a small roster of eclectic styles during the middle decades of the twentieth century. One was the Colonial Revival style, which emulated the classically-derived architecture of the colonial and early national periods. Collections of Colonial Revival-influenced houses appear on the 400 and 500 blocks of W. Main (GS3241) and in the Churchill-Kingtree-Princess Subdivision (GS3291), which developed largely in the 1960s and 1970s. Popular especially during the 1940s in Dallas was the Period Cottage style, a picturesque style that borrowed mostly from the Tudor Revival style. Several sophisticated examples of the style stand on the 600 and 700 blocks of N. Oakland (GS3275), including 607 N. Oakland, a ca. 1948 Period Cottage with stone veneer of unusual reticulated appearance, brick trim, and a prominent front chimney with a battered (tapered) form. Most Period Cottages have brick veneer, such as

¹² Rudolph Young and Gale Brewer, comps., *African Americans in Gaston County, North Carolina* (ca. 2000).

the 1940s B. Hughes Durham House at 105 S. Maple (GS3272), which has characteristic features of the style such as nested double front gables, the smaller of which covers an entry porch with segmental-arched openings, and an arched sitting porch under a roof extension at one end. The epitome of the period's eclecticism, with its decorative parapets, Spanish tile copings, and corbeled pillars supporting a front drive-through canopy, is the ca. 1940 Mission-style Brewer's Sinclair Service Station at 203 W. Trade (GS3254).



Period Cottage at 611 N. Oakland (left) and locally made metal shingles on the roof of the house at 308 N. Holland (right)

Dallas has two notable architectural localisms. A number of houses are roofed with locally made metal shingles with a distinctive geometric stamped design. These were manufactured at the Puett & Loar Factory north of East Trade Street, which on the 1922 Sanborn map appears as a metal-sheathed saw and planing mill with an adjacent wood-sided building for “Mf’g Tin Shingles.” Among the houses in town that still have the roofing shingles are the Robert-Lewis House at 103 N. Holland (GS0446), the Lewis A. Thorpe House at 313 E. Trade (GS3244), the house at 200 S. Gaston (GS3234), and the house at 308 N. Holland (GS3289). The other localism, actually a feature that occurs primarily in Cleveland County and the northwestern part of Gaston County, is the stove tower. As its name suggests, a stove tower is a tower-like structure containing a kitchen cookstove. The towers typically have windows and/or vents at the first-story level and at the top to facilitate an updraft that conducted heat from the stove up and out of the kitchen rather than letting it pass into the house. The Dallas example (the only one encountered during the survey) appears on the side of the back kitchen and dining room wing of the ca. 1915 J. Harris Fields House at 412 E. Trade (GS3271). The tower is considerably shorter than most examples, and it appears to lack openings for venting heat, which would seem to lessen its effectiveness. Perhaps it represents an incompletely realized version, located as it is on the fringes of the core area of the feature’s occurrence.

Trade Street’s importance as the town’s principal east-west thoroughfare attracted most of the town’s commercial development during the early and mid-twentieth century. Already by 1922, as shown on the Sanborn map of that year, five brick commercial buildings had joined the 1870s Setzer Building on the block facing the courthouse square. These included the ca. 1905 Bank of Dallas at the west end of the block at 146 W. Trade (GS0462), a two-story building of classical character with heavy cornices and a canted corner entry. New brick buildings were built, or older

ones remodeled, in the middle decades of the twentieth century. The ca. 1945 Alex Pastries Building at 114 W. Trade (GS3246) features a Moderne entry with curving sections of soldier-stack-bond brickwork. The ca. 1950 Thomas A. Will Doctor Office at 144 W. Trade (GS3252) has another mid-century treatment: large glass block windows. Mary Jo's Cloth Store at 110-112 W. Trade (GS3245), a two-story Modernist building built in 1962 at the east end of the block, features expanses of yellow brick veneer, aluminum and plate glass storefronts, and terrazzo façade panels. A period newspaper article noted that the “ultra-modern” building, built for the cloth store of Polie and Mary Jo Cloninger, attracted shoppers from a three-state area (North and South Carolina and Virginia).¹³



Holy Communion Lutheran Church (left) and the Carroll J. Carter House (right)

One of the leading examples of architectural modernism in Dallas is the 1971-72 Holy Communion Lutheran Church at 103 W. Church (GS3222). Designed by Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, architect T. Norman Mansell of Mansell, Lewis & Fugate, the church was praised at its November 1972 dedication for its “impressive design, exquisite choice of material, complimentary décor, and theological expression.” The brick-veneered building with its soaring pointed roof references the design for the church at Ronchamp (1955) by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier. Willet Studios of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, supplied the stained-glass windows.¹⁴ Modernism in domestic architecture is often present in the design of Ranch houses, the long, one-story house type that proliferated in peripheral areas of the town beginning in the 1950s. A ca. 1962 Ranch house of Modernist character is the Carroll J. Carter House at 406 W. Wilkins (GS3265), which features large wraparound corner windows, a front brick chimney of simple rectangular form, and an attached carport.

The Modernist International Style was chosen as the architectural idiom for Gaston College, the original three buildings of which were designed by the Shelby architectural firm Ormand & Vaughan (later C. L. Vaughan & Associates) in 1964 and built in 1966-67. The three buildings that form the original campus—the Craig Building (GS3278), the Dalpiaz Center (GS3279), and the C. Grier Beam Administration Building (GS3277)—share a similar aesthetic consisting of flat-roofed blocky forms, pebbledash exteriors with vertically striped window treatments, and

¹³ *Gastonia Gazette*, October 7, 1962.

¹⁴ John F. Merck, comp., *History and Symbolism: Holy Communion Lutheran Church, Dallas, North Carolina, 1885-1978* (Dallas, N.C.), 19.

(for two of the buildings) umbrella-like dendriform concrete porch columns/roofs. The Dalpiaz Center has the added feature of a pebbledash second-story over a recessed window-wall first story.

Interest in the town's historic resources initially focused on the courthouse square, the traditional governmental heart of the county. A March 1957 historic marker unveiling on the courthouse grounds, at which former Dallas resident and UNC President William C. Friday was the speaker, is representative of early commemorations.¹⁵ Appreciation grew in the 1960s and early 1970s, culminating in the listing of the Dallas Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The district, which embraces the public square and buildings facing onto it, was among the first generation of National Register historic district designations in North Carolina. Another milestone in the recognition of the town's historical and architectural significance was its inclusion in *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (1982) by Kim Withers Brengle. A second National Register designation, of the Dallas Graded and High School, occurred in 2002.¹⁶

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 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.

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

¹⁵ *Gastonia Gazette*, March 30, 1957.

¹⁶ Turco and Montgomery, "Dallas Graded and High School."

- is historically and/or architecturally significant
- 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 architectural integrity; that is, the resources mostly retain the character they had during the historic period.

Changes in architectural character and historic development patterns may also contribute to 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.

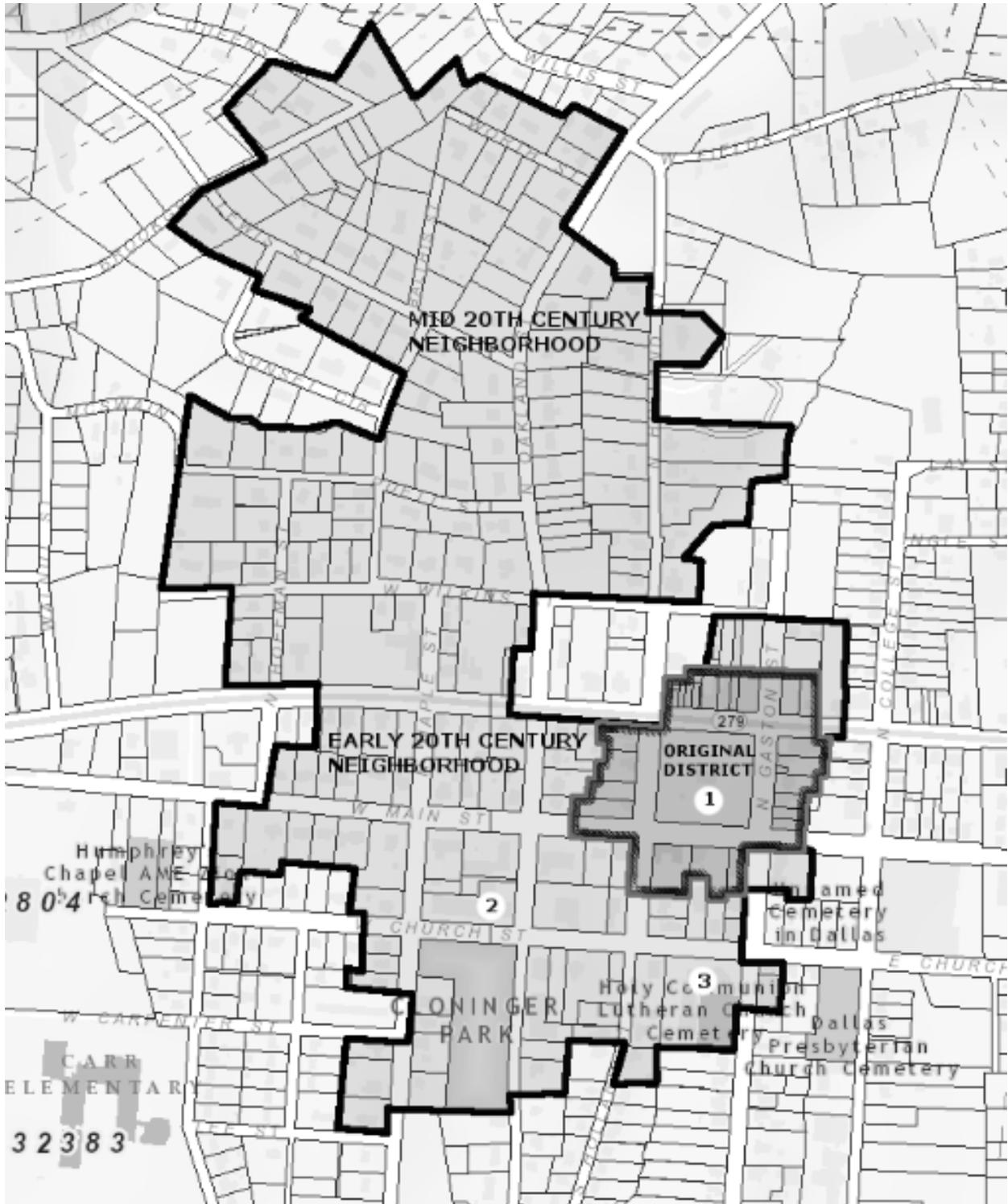
On June 17, 2019, project consultant Dan Pezzoni, HPO contact Beth King, and Town of Dallas Development Services Director Tiffany Faro drove the project area to identify properties and areas for recommendation to the state’s Study List. The list of candidates below is followed by brief discussions of each candidate’s history, architectural character, significance, and integrity.

1. GS3292. Dallas Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase).
2. GS3293. Gaston College Historic Area.
3. GS3222. Holy Communion Lutheran Church. 103 W. Church St.



Dallas Historic District (Boundary Increase)
(GS3292): The Dallas Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1973, embraces the courthouse square and facing lots in the center of Dallas. The period of significance for the existing district ends at 1923. The proposed boundary increase would greatly expand the existing district from approximately six acres to approximately sixty acres, adding residential and mixed residential/commercial/institutional areas located primarily to the north and west of the existing area.

The western extension follows West Trade, West Main, and West Church streets to the vicinity of Hoffman and Pine streets, beyond which is mostly modern commercial development. The extension includes commercial buildings like the ca. 1940 Mission-style Brewer’s Sinclair Service Station at 203 W. Trade (GS3254) and the ca. 1946 Dallas Grill at 205 W. Trade (GS3255), as well as educational buildings like the 1923-24 Dallas Graded and High School at 300 W. Church (GS0469), which is individually listed in the National Register; the 1939 Dallas High School Home Economics and Agriculture Building (Dallas Civic Center) at 205 S. Oakland (GS3273); and the 1939 Dennis Franklin Gymnasium at 208 W. Church (GS3224), the town’s first Modernist building. The extension also includes a trio of architecturally sophisticated churches in diverse styles. The 1914 Dallas Baptist Church at 402 W. Trade (GS0467) shows the influence of the Romanesque style; the 1950 First Presbyterian Church of Dallas at 412 W. Trade (GS3261) is Gothic Revival in inspiration; and the 1925 First United Methodist Church, Dallas,



The proposed Dallas Historic District (Boundary Increase). The map indicates the extent of the existing (original) district and notes important buildings such as the Former Gaston County Courthouse (1), Dallas Graded and High School (2), and Holy Communion Lutheran Church (3). The map is not to scale.

at 301 W. Main (GS3268), with its Doric portico and tall round-arched stained-glass windows, is Classical Revival in style. Residences are also stylistically diverse, including examples of the Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch styles.

The northern extension is almost exclusively residential. An early vector of development is North Oakland Street, the 600 and 700 blocks of which are lined with sophisticated examples of the Period Cottage and Minimal Traditional styles dating to the 1940s and 1950s (GS3275). Most historic-period houses in the north extension were built in the Ranch style. A small extension to the south includes the 1971-72 Holy Communion Lutheran Church at 103 W. Church (GS3222), the town's premiere historic-period Modernist building, designed by Philadelphia architect T. Norman Mansell. The Dallas Historic District (Boundary Increase) 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. (The area is also potentially eligible under Criterion A in the education area of significance for the inclusion of the Dallas Graded and High School, which was individually listed under that criterion/area.) The district possesses good overall integrity with relatively few non-contributing buildings.



Gaston College Historic District (GS3293): Gaston College, a community college serving the Gaston County area, opened in temporary quarters in Gastonia in 1964. In January 1964 the trustees acquired seven acres on Highway 321 in Dallas and hired the Shelby architectural firm Ormand & Vaughan (later C. L. Vaughan & Associates) to prepare preliminary sketches for the new campus. The initial two classroom buildings were completed in 1966: the Craig Building (GS3278) and the Dalpiaz Center (GS3279). The buildings are

International Style in character, two stories in height and flat-roofed, clad with tall panels of white pebbledash concrete that alternate with vertical windows with narrow gray pebbledash panels above and below, creating a striped or columnar appearance. In the Craig Building the pebbledash exterior rises the full two stories, whereas in the Dalpiaz Center the pebbledash appears mostly in the second story, which overhangs a recessed first story of aluminum and plate glass window-wall construction. Widely spaced square concrete pillars support the overhang. A feature shared by both buildings is dendriform porches with central concrete pillars and prestressed concrete caps. In 1967 the C. Grier Beam Administration Building (GS3277) joined the complex. It is similar to the other buildings but has a more irregular form composed of one- and two-story flat-roofed blocks. A hardscape feature from the era is the zoomy curved aluminum lamp standards that line walkways, although their current globe lights post-date the historic period. These three buildings (plus a small contemporaneous service building) form the historic-period core of the Gaston College campus. A fourth building, the Myers Center (GS3280), dedicated in 1977 and somewhat similar in form and finish to the 1960s buildings, stands just west of the original complex. The Gaston College Historic District is potentially eligible under Criterion A in the education area of significance as one of two institutions of higher learning in the county (the other being Belmont Abbey College), and under Criterion C in

the architecture area of significance. The district possesses good overall integrity with no non-contributing buildings and few alterations.



Holy Communion Lutheran Church, 103 W. Church St.

(GS3222): Holy Communion Lutheran, built in 1971-72, was designed by architect T. Norman Mansell of the Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, firm of Mansell, Lewis & Fugate and built by the C. J. Kern Construction Company of Greensboro. The salmon brick-veneered building, trimmed and framed in concrete, has a sanctuary with a drum-like center element fused to a prow-like east element with an inclined roof that comes to an upturned point. The form recalls the design of the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier's church at Ronchamp (1955), a much-published source of inspiration for church design during the period. Willet Studios of Philadelphia produced the faceted colored glass of the windows on the sides of the drum. From the drum extends a

flat-roofed office wing from the same date, and behind that are earlier educational and office wings associated with the Gothic Revival church that formerly stood on the site. A cemetery extends to the south. The elliptical sanctuary in the drum section has brick walls; a marble altar with wood panels carved by an artist in Ortisei, Italy; a slatted wood and white marble pulpit; and a cylindrical white marble baptismal font. A frieze of stained and painted glass medallions, made in Germany, in the lounge beside the narthex, was salvaged from the former church. Despite its current age just shy of fifty years (1971-72), Holy Communion Lutheran Church is potentially eligible under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance as the town's premiere historic-period Modernist building. It possesses exceptional integrity.

Other preservation-related projects and actions are recommended:

Additional Survey and 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 is a step often taken by North Carolina communities that have completed community-wide architectural surveys in which one or more properties are added to the North Carolina Study List. For privately-owned individual properties or small groups of 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 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 additional historic resources, accomplishing one of the chief goals of the town's historic resource planning/management program. Gaston County is eligible to apply for federal grant funding to support a National Register nomination due to its status as a Certified Local Government. National Register listing is associated with a number of benefits, including the state and federal rehabilitation tax credit programs, which would benefit property owners in the proposed boundary increase area of the Dallas Historic District. Additional survey would also be beneficial outside potential historic district areas, since the current project only sampled the diversity of historic resources in the community.

Publication/Promotion: The historic resources of Dallas and Gaston County are the subject of an excellent book, Kim Withers Brengle's *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (1982). Updating of the book, or publication of a new book, would be a way to:

- highlight new information on the town and county's architecture
- include resources that were not deemed old enough for inclusion in the original book
- expand representation of underrepresented building types and associations
- upgrade the design and quality of a book that is now approaching 40 years in age

An architectural publication, especially if it is hardcover and professionally designed, is an ambitious undertaking, and the viability of a book as a business proposition should be explored at the outset. A website version of the information would be another approach. Publication of a book on Dallas alone might be considered, although financial viability would be even more important given the reduced readership.

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