

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: McCrorey Heights Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: Roughly bounded by Interstate 77, Oaklawn Avenue, Fairmont Street, and Brookshire Freeway/NC-16City or town: Charlotte State: North Carolina County: MecklenburgNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer** **Date**_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐☐

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Structure

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Object



Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

140

Noncontributing

35

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

140

35

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Period Cottage

Bungalow/Craftsman

Colonial Revival

Other: Minimal Traditional

Ranch

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundations:

BRICK

CONCRETE

OTHER/Concrete Masonry Unit

Walls:

BRICK

STONE/sandstone

WOOD/weatherboard

STUCCO

ASBESTOS

METAL/Aluminum

SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

Roofs:

ASPHALT

METAL

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Located along the Beatties Ford Road corridor of northwest Charlotte, McCrorey Heights is a Black-developed neighborhood spanning over sixty years of development. Platted in 1912 and revised in 1928, 1940, and 1949, the majority of building took place between 1950 and the end of the period of significance in 1977. Early homes range from small period vernacular cottages to larger Craftsman bungalows and Colonial Revival homes along Oaklawn Avenue and in the northwestern blocks of the neighborhood. Most resources built after 1945 consist of one-story brick veneer Ranches with side-gabled or hipped roofs, Split-Level residences, and side-gabled Minimal Traditional residences of more than one story.

Narrative Description

McCrorey Heights is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the central business district of Charlotte and less than one-half mile from the campus of Johnson C. Smith University, the historically-Black institution where H.L. McCrorey served as president. It is northwest of the junction of Interstate 77 and Brookshire Freeway/NC-16, east of Beatties Ford Road, and south of Oaklawn Avenue. The Vest Water Treatment Plant is located at the western boundary of the district. The district encompasses approximately 65 acres. Topography drops from the north at Oaklawn Avenue to Van Buren Avenue, where a tributary of Irwin Creek is located between Van Buren Avenue and a steep drop from Brookshire Freeway.

McCrorey Heights is wholly residential in building usage except for First Baptist Church-West, located on Oaklawn Avenue at the northern boundary of the district. The district contains a total of 175 primary resources, with 140 contributing primary resources (80% of total number of primary resources) and 35 noncontributing primary resources. There are also 12 contributing outbuildings and 20 noncontributing outbuildings, which include carports, garages, and swimming pools. Outbuildings have been omitted from the counts of resources.

The period of significance for McCrorey Heights is from 1912, when the first plat of the neighborhood was made, to 1977. The end date of 1977 was determined by two buildings, First Baptist Church-West at 1801 Oaklawn Avenue (1977) and the Matilda B. Spears Samuda House at 1648 Patton Avenue (1976), designed by notable Black Charlotte architect Harvey Gantt. The boundaries of the district follow the 1912 original plat by Henry L. McCrorey, and revised plats in 1928, 1940, and 1949. Also included in the district is a triangular section in the northeast corner bounded by Oaklawn Avenue, Andrill Terrace, Washington Avenue, and Clifton Street. White owners platted and sold the land by 1953 to Black buyers, and the area is historically considered part of McCrorey. The first period of development is located in the western portion of the district and along Oaklawn Avenue (originally known as the Belt Road) and has a mix of early twentieth-century vernacular houses and large stately two-story Colonial Revival residences. Most resources in McCrorey Heights were built ca. 1950 to the end of the period of significance in 1977. These primarily consist of one-story brick veneer Ranches with side-gabled

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

or hipped roofs, Split-Level homes, and side-gabled Minimal Traditional residences. Buildings range from custom architect-designed to plans selected from local homebuilders. Several houses were constructed by Mangie McQueen, a notable Black contractor, during the period of significance.

Building setbacks vary based on the period of construction, with houses built before 1940 closer to the street than those built after World War II. The 1912 plat features square blocks with typical lots size 80' wide and 195' deep. The revised plat of 1940 changed typical lot dimensions to 50' by 150', and the 1949 revision standardized most undeveloped lot widths at 57'. As long Ranch houses became more popular into the 1960s, some buyers purchased two lots to accommodate the building footprint. Some exceptions are notable, as there are Ranches oriented with the lot to have their shorter elevations facing the street.

The district has a mix of lots with and without mature trees. Yards are largely well-maintained with shrubs and plantings around building foundations. Crape myrtle trees line Patton Avenue. The neighborhood is quiet in its level of activity but is impacted by noise pollution from constant traffic on Interstate 77 and Brookshire Freeway.

Manmade elements in McCrorey Heights include the pattern of the streets, curbs, sidewalks, driveways, retaining walls, and extant buildings and outbuildings. Sidewalks are inconsistent in their application, though they are primarily located along more trafficked streets like Oaklawn Avenue. Blocks with sidewalks include those bordered by Patton Avenue, Washington Avenue, Clifton Street, and Fairfield Street. The layout of McCrorey Heights has remained almost unchanged since the end of the period of significance in 1977. A major impact on the southern section of the district occurred in the late 1960s, when the construction of Interstate 77 and Brookshire Freeway took out houses on the south side of Van Buren Avenue. Some of the houses were moved to vacant lots in the district, but most were moved elsewhere. Vacant lots in McCrorey Heights were historically undeveloped, with many owned by adjacent homeowners. Some vacant lots remain undeveloped, while others have new buildings constructed outside the period of significance.

As a district, McCrorey Heights retains significant integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The historical layout of the neighborhood at its original location is largely intact. The western portion of the neighborhood, west of Mulberry Avenue and north of Patton Avenue, retains the layout of the original 1912 plat. The majority of McCrorey Heights follows the plats from 1940 and 1949. The only portion which has been altered is a small 1957 revision with eight lots south of Van Buren Avenue, removed for the construction of the ramp from Interstate 77 to Brookshire Freeway. The integrity of setting and feeling remains high. The setting is largely unaltered except for the presence of Interstate 77 at its eastern boundary and Brookshire Freeway on its southern boundary. While these major highways brought environmental pollution to a quiet, suburban development, these changes occurred during the period of significance and are part of its historic context. The feeling of McCrorey Heights as a residential neighborhood is unchanged. Non-historic construction has

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

been minimal, primarily occurring on historically vacant lots. Similarly, there have been few demolitions in the neighborhood.¹ Most buildings in the district are original in materials and workmanship.

Development History

The development of McCrorey Heights is outlined in the Community Planning and Development context provided in Section 8 but is summarized here. The district is comprised primarily of development plats by H.L. McCrorey in 1912, 1928, 1940, and 1949. A small triangular section at the northeast corner of the district, bounded by Oaklawn Avenue, Clifton Street, Washington Avenue, and Andrill Terrace, was originally under white ownership. These lots were sold to Black buyers in the early 1950s.

The original 1912 plat laid out streets and avenues in a parallelogram grid aligning with Beatties Ford Road at west and Oaklawn Avenue at north. Typical lots were 80' by 195'. Blocks were five lots wide with an alley. Lot sales were slow in these early years, with construction on only the four northwest blocks. A revision of the plat in 1928 squared the undeveloped street grid to its modern layout by realigning the north-south streets. The lot sizes were reduced, with typical parcels now 50' by 150', and the alleys were removed. However, few lots were sold except along Oaklawn Avenue. The second plat revision in 1940 set the southern border of the neighborhood along Van Buren Avenue. The final revision in 1949, which widened lots to 57' to better accommodate the linear Minimal Traditional house footprint, remains in place today. As the lots were not platted with the sprawling Ranch house in mind, buyers typically purchased two lots to accommodate their homes. Houses in McCrorey Heights were largely custom built. As the development of the neighborhood spanned over 50 years, a variety of architectural forms styles are present. These include Craftsman Bungalows, Colonial Revival homes, Minimal Traditional-style houses, Period Revival Cottages with Colonial or Tudor Revival-style detailing, and Ranch forms with Colonial Revival or Modernist detailing. Two buildings, First Baptist Church-West and the Matilda Spears Samuda House, were designed by noted African American architect Harvey Gantt. Collectively, the homes in McCrorey Heights present a timeline of architectural styles in Charlotte within the boundaries of a single neighborhood.

INVENTORY LIST

The inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name, then ascending numerically by house number along those streets. McCrorey Heights was designated as a local historic district in 2021. The historical essay and architectural survey, which is posted online at <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/>, form the core of this nomination. Each resource has its own page, which is cited in this report. Additional research for this nomination includes newspaper articles, deeds, and city directories. Houses built after the period of significance may have a name applied to them, but those built since 2000 are simply named "House."

¹ Addresses where historical period homes were demolished include 2020 Washington (demolished in 2007), 806 Mulberry (ca. 2019), 812 Mulberry (ca. 2019), 1635 Patton (ca. 2021), 1639 Patton (ca. 2021), and 1623 Madison (2023).

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Properties in the inventory are coded as Contributing or Noncontributing based on their date of construction and level of historic integrity. All contributing resources were constructed during the period of significance, ca. 1912 to ca. 1977. Some early resources may have a date of construction such as ca. 1910 but are considered contributing as an exact date is unknown. Contributing resources retain sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to contribute to the historic character of the district. A large majority of resources are in good condition. Few are in fair condition, typically due to rotten fascia and soffits on the facade.

Material integrity is considered medium within the district, with contributing individual buildings ranging from high to low integrity. Most buildings have been altered to a varying degree. Properties in the inventory are coded as contributing or noncontributing due to age or alterations based on their date of construction and level of material integrity. All contributing resources were constructed during the period of significance, ca. 1912 to ca. 1977 and retain sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to contribute to the historic character of the district. Common changes to residential buildings within the district include the installation of vinyl or other synthetic siding, replacement windows and doors, the construction of rear additions, and the enclosure of side or rear porches. While these changes in combination may render a property noncontributing, a building is contributing if it retains its original form, fenestration, and character-defining architectural features. These features include but are not limited to iron supports, integrated brick planters, gable returns, dentil and modillion cornices, and pediments.

For example, the 1954 Dr. Reginald A. & Catherine R. Hawkins House at 1703 Madison Avenue has vinyl replacement windows and front door and a new standing seam metal roof. Exposed rafters in a roof notch over the façade entry planter have been removed. However, the building retains its original form, fenestration placement, and modernist detailing. Therefore, this building is contributing to the district. Resources are considered noncontributing when the fenestration has been altered, a front porch has been constructed or enclosed, or an addition has resulted in the alteration of the primary roofline. For example, the 1955 Joseph W. and Lucy D. Harper House at 1630 Van Buren Avenue was altered with replacement vinyl sash windows, painting the brick veneer, and the construction of a shed porch on the façade. The porch replaced a brick stoop with shed extension, thus altering the form of the building and rendering it noncontributing.

Since the designation of McCrorey Heights as a local historic district in 2022, rehabilitation and repairs have included materials appropriate to the period of significance. Replacement windows are often vinyl but have grid patterns similar to the original windows or period appropriate configurations.

Buildings retaining the highest integrity of materials and design have original windows and front door, no vinyl or aluminum siding applied over original wood sheathing and appear relatively unchanged since the period of significance. Aluminum siding became a common exterior

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

sheathing during the period of significance, and its impact on integrity is judged on the initial date of construction of the building.

Noncontributing buildings in the district are primarily those which are constructed outside the period of significance. Several buildings have been constructed after 2000, though these are minimal in number compared to the number of contributing buildings. Buildings constructed only a few years after the period of significance are only excluded due to their construction date. Many of these include brick veneer Ranches that would otherwise qualify.

Prefabricated sheds and carports were considered to be temporary and were not included in the inventory.

CLIFTON STREET

Novella McCrorey Flannagan House, 914 Clifton Street (1953)

Contributing Building

Built in 1953 for Novella McCrorey Flannagan, daughter of Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) president Dr. H.L. McCrorey, who developed the neighborhood. A graduate of Juilliard, she became a valued part of the New York City music scene in the late 1920s and 1930s, eventually founding and leading the Mt. Morris Music School in Harlem during the 1940s and early 1950s. When her father passed away in 1951, she returned to Charlotte to assist the family with lot sales in McCrorey Heights. Novella permanently moved back to New York in the early 1970s, and she sold the house to Earl and Pauline Avant, whose extended family still owns the property.²

The McCrorey Flannagan House is an expansive Ranch house with a low, side-gabled, asphalt shingle stepped roofs and masonry foundation. It is sheathed with Roman brick veneer. The house is comprised of two sections—a taller, wider eastern section overlapping the lower, narrower western section. The eastern section has two bays of typical paired original two-over-two double-hung wood windows flanking vertical wood siding. A large rectangular interior chimney is located on the west elevation of this section. The entry is located where the two sections meet. It has a brick stoop and an original wood door with sidelights. The entry bay is angled with a flat roof, and a gabled extension of the eastern section roof peak creates a clerestory. On the façade of the western section is a five-lite fixed ribbon window. A flat-roofed wing extends from the western section. It contains a carport with square metal columns on a brick kneewall at front and a wood-paneled garage bay at rear.

Cora Tate Booton House, 1000 Clifton Street (1952)

Contributing Building

Built in 1952 for Cora Tate Booton, then a widow and a teacher at Isabella Wyche School. She and sister Aurelia Tate Henderson, who also lived here for many years, were daughters of Thad Lincoln Tate, a barber and Charlotte's most prominent Black businessman at the turn of the

² "Permit Is Issued for \$20,000 Home," *Charlotte Observer*, August 15, 1953; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 3528, Page 213.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

twentieth century. The Tate family were active members of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church, which Thad had helped found. Cora attended Barber-Scotia College, Hampton University, and Columbia University. Her husband Ray Andre Booton, Sr., was a grocer in Muskogee, Oklahoma, who died in 1933. Cora and son Ray returned to Charlotte by 1930, where she taught fourth grade at Myers Street School. She taught in Charlotte schools for 32 years, retiring in 1959.³

The Booton House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional residence with brick veneer, a side-gabled, asphalt shingle roof, and masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash. The façade is three bays wide and has a gabled façade bay with replacement vinyl tripartite window at its north end. Adjacent is the entry bay, with a brick stoop, ornamental iron railing, a six-panel wood door with storm door, and sandstone veneer surround. The southern bay has a tripartite window. Two gabled dormers with vinyl siding and pairs of typical windows are evenly spaced in the façade. On the south elevation is an exterior brick chimney with protruding stone accents, beyond which is a flat-roofed addition with brick veneer façade, vinyl siding on other elevations, and one-over-one vinyl sash windows. A flat-roofed metal double carport is attached to the north elevation. Side gables have pairs of replacement windows and vinyl siding. A wide shed dormer clad in vinyl siding is on the rear roof slope.

Leland S. and Theodora P. Cozart House, 1015 Clifton Street (1959)

Contributing Building

Built in 1959, this was the home of distinguished educator Leland Stanford Cozart and Theodora Percival Cozart. Leland served as the first Black president (1932-1964) of Barber-Scotia College in Concord. A native of Granville County, he graduated from Biddle University and pursued graduate studies at Columbia University and Harvard University. Leland first taught natural science and English at his alma mater, the Mary Potter School in Oxford, then became principal of Washington High School in Raleigh. He served as the first executive secretary of the North Carolina Teachers Association until being recruited to the presidency of the newly merged Barber-Scotia College, formed from Scotia Seminary and Barber Memorial College of Alabama. Theodora was a 1915 graduate of Scotia Seminary. She taught in schools in her native South Carolina before marrying Leland. The Cozarts lived in Concord until, in anticipation of Leland's retirement, they built the Clifton Street house. Theodora died in 1963, and Leland passed in 1979.⁴

The Cozart House is a one-story Ranch with brick veneer, a side-gabled, asphalt shingle roof, and masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one, vinyl sash replacements with false

³ Tom Hanchett, "1000 Clifton Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1000-clifton-avenue/>; "Permit Issued for House," *Charlotte Observer*, September 11, 1951.

⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1015 Clifton Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1015-clifton-avenue/>; "Wife of College President Dies," *Charlotte Observer*, February 20, 1963; "Ex-President of Barber-Scotia, Dr. Leland Cozart, Dies at 87," *Charlotte News*, October 29, 1979.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

grids—eight-over-eight on the façade and six-over-six on other elevations. Wide brick steps with a curving ornamental iron railing lead to the entry, which has a recessed replacement six-panel door framed by fluted pilasters. Windows are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes. The façade has a dentil cornice, which continues under the eave returns on the side elevations. The side gables have pentagonal louvered vents in peaks. A tapered exterior brick chimney is on the north elevation. A gabled ell extends from the north side of the rear. It has a vinyl tripartite window on the west elevation and aluminum siding and a rectangular vent in the gable.

Carport (detached) (1961) – Contributing

Hipped carport has ornamental iron supports on brick kneewalls and rear storeroom with brick veneer and a six-panel wood door.

CONDON STREET

VACANT LOT – South of 801 Condon Street

This property served as right-of-way by the City of Charlotte to access the Vest Water Works. The right-of-way was closed and property transferred to Johnny A. Williams, owner of 801 Condon Street.

Johnny A. and Felecia H. Williams House, 801 Condon Street (1958)

Contributing Building

Built 1958-1959 for Johnny A. Williams, a longtime teacher who later worked in the nuclear power industry, and Felecia H. Williams. Contractor for construction of the house was Mangie McQueen, a McCrorey Heights neighbor who was one of the city's busiest African American homebuilders. Johnny was educated at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) and taught electronics in public schools. In 1968, Westinghouse, which operated a nuclear turbine manufacturing facility in Mecklenburg County, hired Johnny as "staff assistant for employment" with responsibilities including "interviewing, orientation and testing of hourly employees at the plant."⁵

The Williams House is one of the largest original homes in McCrorey Heights. The long hip-roofed Ranch is sheathed in Roman brick and features sandstone on the façade. The foundation is a concrete slab, and the roof is asphalt shingle. Typical windows are original three-lite wood sash. The south section of the house, which has the highest roof, is three bays wide. The first bay has a paired typical window at the main level and vinyl replacement window at the basement. The second bay has a smaller, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash window above a vinyl replacement basement window. The integral entry porch at the third bay has elaborate ornamental iron supports and railing. Under the porch is a large nine-lite fixed picture window. The north section of the house is longer but lower in height than the south section. An interior rectangular brick chimney is located at the transition to the north section of the house. The first bay north of the porch has a sandstone integrated planter and a four-lite fixed window. The

⁵ Tom Hanchett, "801 Condon Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/801-condon-street/>; "Names and Changes," *Charlotte Observer*, June 25, 1968.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

second and third bays consist of a hipped façade bay with a pair of typical windows. The site slopes from north to south, and the southern hipped section has a walkout basement with façade windows.

Garage (1958) – Contributing

The shed-roofed frame garage is sheathed in wood weatherboard siding with brick veneer façade. It has a two-car garage bay and original solid wood door.

David W. and Lillian E. Black House, 802 Condon Street (ca. 1955-1956)

Contributing Building

David W. Black and wife Lillian Black purchased the property from the McCrorey heirs in 1952. Permits indicate that the house was built circa 1955-1956 by D. C. Gibson, likely David C. Gibson, who owned Century Construction. David worked in domestic service as a “houseman” for Julian Harris, a salesman for Southern Atlantic Belting who lived in Eastover.⁶

This small, one-story, frame house has a front-gabled, asphalt shingle roof and masonry foundation. The original asbestos siding may be extant under the current wood composite siding. Windows are largely one-over-one, vinyl sash replacements with an original two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash window on the façade. The small gabled porch has a concrete floor and is supported by square section wood posts. The rear elevation has a gabled hood with simple brackets over a brick stoop.

Shed (ca. 1975) – Contributing

The frame shed has wood composite siding and south-facing clerestory window.

Rev. Joseph T. and Ione E. Jones House, 810 Condon Street (1963)

Contributing Building

Built in 1963 for Rev. Joseph Thomas Jones, an official with the Presbyterian Church who assisted rural churches throughout the Southeast, and Ione Elston Jones, a long-time beloved professor of English at JCSU. The couple’s adult son J. Charles Jones was one of the region’s foremost Civil Rights leaders who co-led Charlotte’s sit-ins in 1960 and went on to national Civil Rights activism with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council from 1960 to 1965.⁷

The Jones House is a Split-Level house sheathed in brick veneer. Roofs have asphalt shingles. Its one-story portion has a side-gabled roof and is built on a masonry foundation. The two-story section has a front-gabled roof and has a concrete slab foundation. Windows are vinyl sash

⁶ Tom Hanchett, “802 Condon Street,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/802-condon-street/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1586, Page 581; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1712, Page 329; *Hill’s Charlotte City Directory* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1959), 71.

⁷ Tom Hanchett, “810 Condon Street,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/810-condon-street/>; “Building Permits,” *Charlotte News*, July 16, 1963; Tom Hanchett, “Remembering Civil Rights Activist J. Charles Jones,” blog entry, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, February 27, 2020, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://www.cmlibrary.org/blog/remembering-civil-rights-activist-j-charles-jones>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

replacements. On the one-story portion, a shed porch with square section wood posts covers the entry. The brick steps have new horizontal wood railings. A large façade chimney and tripartite window are located on the façade of the one-story portion. A two-car garage bay extends from the north end of the one-story portion.

2 VACANT LOTS – 812 Condon Street

This property has never been developed and is historically tied to the property at 801 Condon Street.

Johnson House, 815 Condon Street (1970-1971)

Contributing Building

The house was built by Carolina Builders, Inc., in 1970-1971 for the family of Willie L. “Bill” Johnson, Sr. and Thomasina McCullough Johnson. A mail carrier who worked for the *Charlotte Observer* as a part-time sportswriter, Bill purchased the *Charlotte Post*, the city’s Black-oriented weekly newspaper, in 1974. Son Willie L. Johnson, Jr. was severely injured, resulting in a lower leg amputation, while serving in Vietnam in 1965. The house was built to accommodate his wheelchair use, and he and wife Edna R. Johnson resided there after Bill and Thomasina moved up Beatties Ford Road to University Park North. After Bill’s death from leukemia in 1986, Willie and his brothers Robert L. “Bob” Johnson and Gerald O. Johnson inherited ownership of the *Post*. The house remains in ownership of the extended Johnson family.⁸

The Johnson House is a one-story Ranch house with a side-gabled, asphalt shingle roof and masonry foundation. It is sheathed in brick veneer with single runners mimicking quoins at the corners. Windows are one-over-one with eight-over-eight false grid vinyl sash replacements. The front-gabled brick porch is supported by Doric columns, and the gable is stuccoed. Symmetrical gabled wings are located on the side elevations. A gabled ell extends from the rear south bay, and a flat-roofed rear addition with vinyl siding is flush with a flat-roofed metal carport beyond. Side gables have vinyl siding.

Moreland-Webber House, 915 Condon Street (1964)

Contributing Building

George W. C. Moreland took out the permit to build this single-family rental residence in 1964. Moreland, one of the city’s few African American real estate investors, lived two blocks away at 1801 Patton Avenue in McCrorey Heights. The initial tenant made his mark on Charlotte as a leading medical man. Dr. Spurgeon Webber, Jr. and his wife Loretta Hill Webber rented here as he was beginning his dental career, with his office on Keller Drive (renamed Dr. Webber Avenue circa 2014) near West Charlotte High. Loretta was a nursing graduate of Meharry Medical College who became program director for the Metrolina Lung Association and consulted as a health analyst with the City of Charlotte. She was named North Carolina Small Business Person

⁸ Tom Hanchett, “815 Condon Street,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/815-condon-street/>; “Building Permits,” *Charlotte News*, October 31, 1970; “Local Black Paper Gets New Owner,” *Charlotte Observer*, June 7, 1974; Harold Warren, “Charlotte Post Owner Dies,” *Charlotte Observer*, June 21, 1986; “Willie Johnson Jr., Charlotte Post Co Owner, Dies,” *Charlotte Post*, August 15, 2002.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

of the Year for her leadership of American Minority Industries, Inc., a computer tabulating business that she and her husband founded in the mid-1970s. The couple had two children, son Dr. Spurgeon Webber III, who took over his father's practice, and daughter Diedra Webber Humphrey. The Webbers later moved to Hyde Park Estates, the premier African American suburban development down Beatties Ford Road, where they built one of the few New Formalist homes in Charlotte.⁹

The Moreland-Webber House is an L-shaped, hipped Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and masonry foundation. The integral porch is supported with ornamental supports, and the brick steps have ornamental iron railing. Typical windows are original three-lite metal awning windows, with a replacement vinyl window with air-conditioning unit at the north elevation.

**George W. Holland House, 1012 Condon Street (1952)
Contributing Building**

Mangie McQueen constructed the house for George Washington Holland, Jr. in 1952. Holland was a native of South Carolina who operated a landscaping business. He married Catherlene Camp in 1968, and they had son George III. The elder George died in 1982, but shortly before he deeded the property to his son and sister, Elminie Holland Rickman.¹⁰

The Holland House is a one-story Minimal Traditional house with a tall side-gabled roof. It has a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash replacements. The façade is three bays wide with a small gabled entry porch in center. The porch has replacement square section wood posts and wood railing. The three-lite wood mid-century door has a metal storm door. The entry bay is flanked by a tripartite window and a typical window. Side elevations have three typical windows. Original eight-lite metal sash casement windows are in the gables. An interior brick chimney rises through the front slope near the roof ridge. A gabled ell, possibly an original porch enclosed with wood German siding, is at the north end of the rear elevation.

**House, 1016 Condon Street (2022)
Noncontributing Building**

The side-gabled, two-story house has a concrete slab foundation, brick veneer, and asphalt shingle roof. A prominent one-story garage extends from the façade. The gabled entry bay has a shed porch with square-section wood posts and a trio of windows above. Windows are one-over-one with four-over-one false grid vinyl sash. A gabled screened porch is located at the south end of the rear elevation.

FAIRMONT STREET

Corley-Henderson House, 1012 Fairmont Street (ca.1920)

⁹ Tom Hanchett, "915 Condon Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/915-condon-street/>.

¹⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1012 Condon Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1012-condon-street/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Rev. Angus Patterson Corley purchased property from his brother-in-law Rev. Henry L. McCrorey in 1912. The earliest known residents were renters John Coit, a porter for Maxwell Brothers & McDonald, and his wife Annie in 1931. The Corleys moved into the house by 1934 and sold it in 1941 to James H. and Mamie Harper Henderson, who resided here until their deaths in 1990 and 1999 respectively.¹¹

This one-story dwelling is a simple rectangle under an asphalt shingle, hipped roof. The house has a masonry foundation and is sheathed in wood clapboard siding. Windows are original four-over-one, wood sash with storm windows. The roof extends at the front to shelter a porch across the whole front of the house. Porch columns are Doric replacement, and the deck is quarry tile. The off-center front entry has an aluminum storm door obscuring the door. Single typical windows flank the entry. A substantial brick chimney with a corbelled top is visible near the center of the roof. A shed extension at rear is partially visible from the street.

Annie Mae and Robert Wheeler House, 1016 Fairmont Street (ca. 1911)

Noncontributing Building

James T. and Carrie Bowling purchased the lot from H. L. McCrorey in 1911 and likely built the house by the time they sold the property in 1922. William and Annie Mae Massey Wheeler purchased the house from Lee Kinney in 1924 for \$2,250. They moved into the house after 1930 and resided there until 1961. Annie was a registered nurse at Charlotte Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital; she died in 1942. William remarried to Frances Wheeler, who resided in the home until her death in 1981.¹²

The Wheeler House is a simple rectangular dwelling on a masonry foundation. It is sheathed in composite siding. The hipped, asphalt shingle roof has exposed rafter tails. The partial width engaged front porch is supported by metal columns. A brick exterior chimney on the north elevation has single shoulders and a corbelled top. A second brick chimney is located near the rear at the south elevation. Windows are double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes, and the front entry is a replacement door. An integral porch at the north rear corner is infilled.

MADISON AVENUE

William E. and Ocala Bluford House, 1600 Madison Avenue (1960, 1967)

Contributing Building

This house was originally constructed about 1960 at 643 Fairfield Avenue just off Van Buren Avenue at the southern edge of McCrorey Heights. In 1967 the government took that land to construct the Northwest Expressway (now Brookshire Freeway). William E. Bluford, Sr., a JCSU history professor, arranged with Crouch Brothers house movers to transport the dwelling to a new foundation at 1600 Madison Avenue, where Prof. Bluford, wife Ocala, and his family

¹¹ Tom Hanchett, "1012 Fairmont Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1012-fairmont-street/>.

¹² Tom Hanchett, "1016 Fairmont Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1016-fairmont-street/>; *Charlotte Observer*, June 27, 1924; "Wheeler Funeral Tuesday," *Charlotte Observer*, May 12, 1942; "Mrs. Frances Wheeler," obituary, *Charlotte News*, July 17, 1981.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

lived into the 2000s. In addition to a long career at JCSU, where he taught history and political science, William was among the early African Americans employed as visiting professor at Winthrop University as it desegregated. In 1968 William ran unsuccessfully for Mecklenburg County Commission, the first Black Republican to do so in the twentieth century. As the Civil Rights movement opened opportunities for public service, he won appointment to several boards, including UNC Charlotte's Board of Trustees, and he became the first African American to serve on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. William graduated from Virginia Union University and the University of Michigan in addition to further study at Harvard University and New York University. Ocala Godfrey Bluford met William when they both taught at Avery Institute in Charleston. She graduated from Claflin College and later studied at the University of Michigan and New York University, attaining a master's degree in English.¹³

The Bluford House is a one-story Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, and masonry foundation. Typical windows are original two-over-two, wood sash. The façade is four bays wide with two typical windows and a tripartite picture window adjacent to the recessed entry, which has an original six-panel wood door and diamond-pane sidelight. The brick steps and stoop have ornamental iron railing. The fourth bay has a tripartite vinyl sash replacement window. Gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents in the peak. A gabled ell extends from the east side of the rear elevation.

**Marvin and Jeanne Rorie House, 1601 Madison Avenue (1963)
Contributing Building**

Built by Claude Morgan, a contractor from Kings Mountain, in 1963-64 for Marvin B. Rorie and Jeanne Morgan Rorie, both educators in Charlotte's public schools. Marvin taught at West Charlotte High and later served as a guidance counselor at Myers Park High. Jeanne taught at Cochrane Junior High.¹⁴

The Rorie House is a Ranch-style house that displays similar massing to a Split-Level house, with a two-story east section and a one-story west section even with the upper level of the east section. The lower level of the east section has a concrete slab foundation, and the west section is built on a crawlspace. The house has asphalt shingle, side-gabled roofs and brick veneer siding except for the upper level of the east section, which has vinyl siding. Typical windows are one-over-one, wood sash. The lower level has two-lite vinyl replacement horizontal sliding windows on the facade and fixed windows on the east elevation. The upper level of the east section protrudes over the lower level and has brick wing walls at the side elevations. The one-story section consists of the entry bay and a five-lite wood sash bow window. The uncovered brick landing has wide brick steps and modern pattern ornamental iron railing. The original front door is solid wood with a large round brass viewport, and the adjacent sidelight has frosted glass above a mail slot. An exterior brick single-shoulder chimney is located on the east elevation. A gabled ell at rear extends from the west section and is slightly taller, extending to the façade roof

¹³ Tom Hanchett, "1600 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1600-madison/>.

¹⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1601 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1601-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

slope as a gable with louvered vent. Aerial imagery shows a gabled double carport extending from the rear ell. A stepped brick retaining wall extends from the west wing wall at the lower level.

Otis O. and Revella A. Currie House, 1607 Madison Avenue (1956)

Contributing Building

Built in 1956 by Charlotte Realty Co. for Otis Odell Currie and Revella Antley Currie. Otis worked for the Southern Railway, and Revella was a nursing aide at Mercy Hospital for twenty-five years.¹⁵

The Currie House is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled, Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and masonry foundation. The moderately steep main gable roof hides a small half story. A projecting front-gabled bay has a horizontal sliding window and a small entry porch, which is gabled with square section wood posts and railing. A tripartite picture window is on the façade. Windows are vinyl replacement, except for six-lite metal windows in the upper gables. A prominent exterior chimney is on the west elevation. A gabled enclosed porch sheathed in vinyl siding is located at the rear on the east side.

Eddie and Lois H. Byers House, 1608 Madison Avenue (1957, 1964)

Contributing Building

Built 1957 by contractor Ed Griffin for Eddie Elliot Byers, Sr., a principal at several Charlotte Mecklenburg schools, and Lois Harris Byers, also a lifelong educator. Both were leaders in Charlotte's civic life. Among other activities, Eddie served as Vice Chair of Charlotte's anti-poverty agency and the Charlotte Area Fund, and Lois led the local chapter of Jacks and Jills, the enrichment organization for African American youth. Eddie graduated from JCSU and earned a master's degree in school administration from Columbia University. Lois also graduated from JCSU after a period at Livingstone College, and she also earned master's degrees in physical education and counseling.¹⁶

The Byers House is a one-story Ranch with brick veneer, scattered stone accents on the façade, and masonry foundation. It has an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof with aluminum siding and vents in the gables. The façade has a protruding wide gabled bay with ornamental iron supports, which cover the entry stoop, brick planter, and a tripartite window with three-lite, aluminum, awning sashes. The original wood front door has an ornamental iron storm door. Windows are original aluminum sash, two-lite on the façade and east elevation and a three-lite awning window on the west elevation. An exterior brick chimney with single shoulders is on the west elevation. Gabled ells with a low-slope shed roof between extend at rear and both side elevations to create a full-width addition, added in 1964 by contractor Cecil Threadgill.

Richard A. and Theresa J. Stewart House, 1612 Madison Avenue (1961)

¹⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1607 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1607-madison/>.

¹⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1608 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1608-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Built 1961, by contractor G. R. Hicklin for Richard Allen Stewart, Sr., who worked in the textile industry, and Theresa Johnson Stewart, a schoolteacher. Richard was a native of Barbourville, Kentucky and attended Kentucky State College. He graduated from Renouard Training School for Embalmers and played baseball for the Asheville Blues in the Negro Southern League. Richard worked at Southern Knitwear Mills. He served as chair of the building committee for Friendship Baptist Church, which relocated from Brooklyn to Beatties Ford Road in the 1960s. Theresa graduated from JCSU and earned a master's in reading from Appalachian State University. She taught at Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) for thirty-six years.¹⁷

The Stewart House is a brick Split-Level residence with a hipped, two-story east section on a concrete slab and side-gabled, one-story west section on a masonry foundation. Roofs are asphalt shingle. The entry stoop at the west section is covered with a shed roof extension and has ornamental iron railing. Adjacent is an original six-lite bow window. The east section has an overhanging upper level with vinyl siding. Windows are vinyl replacement. A brick interior chimney is located in the west section, which has an asymmetrical louvered vent in the gable peak.

Lucielle Gibson Harris House, 1613 Madison Avenue (1956, ca. 1964, ca. 2000)

Contributing Building

Fannie Lucielle Gibson Harris, also known as Lucille, purchased property on Madison Avenue from the McCrorey heirs in 1955 and had a house built by local contractor Edwin O. Clarkson the following year. Lucille was a teacher who taught in Charlotte schools for thirty-six years, retiring in 1964. She married Simbo B. Harris, a native of Winston-Salem who lived in New Bern, in 1928; he died in June 1932.¹⁸

The Harris House is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and masonry foundation. Windows are original wood sash, two-over-two double-hung on the façade and six-over-six double-hung on the sides. The façade has a prominent gabled bay with a tripartite window with a stone accent below. The entry has a metal awning with ornamental iron support over the brick stoop. The original wood three-lite mid-century modern door has an ornamental iron storm door. Façade windows also have metal awnings. Gables have louvered vents at the peak, and the side gables have six-over-six double-hung wood windows upstairs. An exterior chimney is located on the east elevation. A ca. 2000 full-width gabled addition extends from the rear. The addition encompasses an earlier ca. 1964 to the west side of the rear elevation.

Thomas Rest Home, 1615 Madison Avenue (ca.1955)

¹⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, February 17, 1961; "Mr. Richard A. Stewart," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, December 6, 1996.

¹⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1613 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1613-madison-avenue/>; "Retired Teacher Harris Dies," *Charlotte News*, February 19, 1982.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Longtime renter Mattie Williams Samuels Thomas operated Thomas Rest Home in the house from the mid-1960s until the early 1990s. Dr. Shirley M. Cornwall, a dentist and native of Panama, and Letty Castora Cornwall, purchased the property in 1954, and the following year McClure Lumber Company received a permit to build the house. The Cornwalls rented the house and retained ownership after Dr. Cornwall moved to Greenwood, Mississippi in the 1950s. William H. Thomas, a porter with the Southern Railway, and wife Mattie moved into the house in 1960. A native of Clinton, South Carolina, Mattie was one of the first fifteen Black women in Charlotte to be certified as licensed practical nurses by the state in 1947. William died in 1963, after which Mattie began operating the rest home in the house. As elderly Black people had limited options for nursing care, private rest homes operated by trained nurses in residences were not uncommon.¹⁹

The Thomas Rest Home is a one-story Ranch with a hipped roof with a masonry foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. It is primarily brick veneer with stone veneer wainscoting on the façade and stone veneer on the protruding façade bay. The recessed entry has brick steps with wood and ornamental iron railing. The six-panel door has an ornamental iron storm door. The façade bay has an original twelve-lite wood window. Typical windows are two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash, which appear original. A brick exterior chimney with stone detail is on the west elevation, beyond which is a tripartite picture window. The rear elevation has two hipped ells at either end connected by an uncovered wide porch. The concrete deck porch has brick steps at the west side and an ornamental iron railing. The west ell is an entry porch with turned wood posts. The east ell has two typical windows on its rear elevation. Between the ells are two entrances.

Reeder-Stewart House, 1616 Madison Avenue (1955, 1967)

Contributing Building

Mail carrier William T. Reeder and Mae Dunn Reeder purchased the property in 1954 and contracted Ervin Company to build a house the following year. Mae was a graduate of JCSU who worked as a supermarket clerk at the time of her death in 1959. William remarried the following year to Yvonne Gordon Roberts. They sold the property in 1965 to Theodore G. Stewart and Sara J. Stewart. In 1967 Theodore took out a permit to have contractor Mangie McQueen add a room and a carport at the rear of the dwelling.²⁰

The Reeder-Stewart House is a one-story Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle hipped roof, and masonry foundation. Windows are vinyl replacement. The 1967 addition creates a long Ranch with its length running along Creek Street. The entry stoop has brick steps with

¹⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1615 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1615-madison-avenue/>; "Mrs. Mattie Williams Thomas," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, April 2, 1994; Dorothy Knox, "More Nurses Needed Now," *Charlotte Observer*, May 9, 1965; "Local Nurses Get Licenses," *Charlotte Observer*, December 16, 1947; "Practical Nurses Deal in Healing and Comfort," *Charlotte News*, June 15, 1951; "Mecklenburg Has Numerous Options for Care of Elderly," *Charlotte Observer*, October 14, 1973.

²⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1616 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1616-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

ornamental iron railing, and the stoop, along with a brick planter, are under the roof overhang supported with a pair of round metal columns on a brick kneewall. The façade has a wide projecting hipped bay with two-lite horizontal sliding windows, which are also present on the west elevation. The integral rear carport has round metal posts and an exterior storage room with an original wood panel door. There is an interior brick chimney near the west elevation.

VACANT LOT – 1623 Madison Avenue

Former site of the Isaac and Gwendolyn B. Heard House, built by Ervin Construction Company in 1957 and demolished in 2023. It was a one-story Ranch with brick veneer and a gable-on-hip roof, an unusual feature in McCrorey Heights. A 1975 double carport addition was designed by Harvey Gantt of Gantt Huberman Architects.²¹

Graham-Hill House, 1624 Madison Avenue (1963, ca. 1975, ca. 1980)

Contributing Building

Dr. Drayton P. Graham, Sr. and Caroline W. Graham purchased lots 8 and 9 of Block I in McCrorey Heights in 1954, though they did not build for nearly a decade. In late 1962 they hired contractor H. W. Carriker to build a house. Dr. Drayton Graham arrived in Charlotte in 1956 to set up practice in obstetrics and gynecology. A native of coastal South Carolina, Drayton attended school at Snow Hill Institute in Alabama, Hampton Institute in Virginia, and Virginia State College, then earned his medical degree from prestigious Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He first rented space in the Watkins Building, a favorite office address for professionals in Charlotte's African American neighborhood of Brooklyn. In 1959 he bought and extensively renovated a house at 1230 Beatties Ford Road to create an office/clinic building close to suburban McCrorey Heights. Frustrated with the lack of progress for Black Charlotteans to access medical care, the Grahams relocated to Atlanta in 1965.²²

Educators Samuel Washington Hill and Dr. Esther Page Hill purchased the house in 1967. They had originally lived at 1635 Van Buren Avenue, but freeway construction forced them to relocate. They sold the house, which was moved to Cornelius, and moved into the Madison Avenue residence. Samuel was a native of Anniston, Alabama, who graduated from nearby Talladega College and earned a master's in music and music education from Columbia Teachers College. He taught music at the high school and college levels, most notably as an assistant professor of music at North Carolina Central University (NC Central). Esther was born in Rocky Mount, but her family moved north to Brooklyn, New York soon afterwards. She returned to North Carolina to attend NC Central but earned her degree in social studies education from Columbia University Teachers College. She later received a master's in fine arts and art education from Columbia, and in 1986 was awarded a PhD in Art Education from Florida State

²¹ Tom Hanchett, "1623 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1623-madison-avenue/>.

²² Tom Hanchett, "1624 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1624-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

University. Esther was art supervisor for CMS until accepting a faculty position at UNC Charlotte. The Hill family retains ownership of the property.²³

The Graham-Hill House is a long one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Eaves at the side elevations increase in depth toward the peak, which have vertical aluminum perforated vents. The façade has a long, recessed section sheathed in vertical vinyl siding. The roof overhang covers stacked brick planters along the recessed portion of the façade. The west planter is straight, while the east planter is convex in shape. The planters flank the brick landing, which has ornamental iron railing and brick steps that widen to the sidewalk. The off-center recessed entry has an original wood door with three square panels with concentric circles and an adjacent sidelight with fluted glazing. On either side of the recessed façade section are brick bays, the west bay having stacked brick veneer. Windows are aluminum, either original or replaced during the period of significance, varying with two-lite or three-lite awning sash. A gabled ell extends to the rear flush with the east elevation, culminating in a ca. 1975 gabled double carport. A picture window with a trio of two-lite aluminum awning windows above is located on the east elevation of the gabled ell. An interior rectangular brick chimney is located between the primary mass and a ca. 1980 shed addition.

Rev. Samuel L. and Hallie Fulwood House, 1632 Madison Avenue (1955)

Contributing Building

Rev. Samuel Levi Fulwood, Jr. and Hallie Massey Fulwood purchased a house under construction by W. P. Cherry and Co. in April 1955. Rev. Fulwood grew up in Waxhaw and graduated from JCSU. He headed congregations in Rowan County and Statesville before answering the call from Bellefonte Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, retiring as pastor after twenty-two years in the pulpit. Hallie taught elementary school. Son Sam Fulwood III authored *Waking from the Dream* about his youth in McCrorey Heights. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and became a nationally known journalist for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Los Angeles Times*, and other major newspapers. The Fulwood family retains ownership of the property.²⁴

The Fulwood House is a one-story Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, and a masonry foundation. The façade has a gable bay with smaller gable entry porch, both with vinyl siding. The porch has square section wood posts. The porch deck and steps are brick and the steps have ornamental iron railing. Gables have vertically perforated vinyl vents. Windows appear to be original one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash. A tripartite bay window with one-lite wood sashes, a shingle roof, and wood brackets below extends from the façade. The front door is a replacement. An entry on the west elevation has a brick stoop and steps with ornamental iron railing.

Lloyd H. and Thelma S. Davis House, 1633 Madison Avenue (1959)

²³ Tom Hanchett, "1624 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1624-madison-avenue/>.

²⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1632 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1632-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Built 1958-59 for Lloyd Howard Davis, who headed the Department of Education at JCSU, and teacher Thelma Spaulding Davis. Lloyd was a native of Cullowhee who graduated from the high school department of Biddle Institute. He received a Bachelor of Arts from St. Augustine College in Raleigh. At Boston University he completed a master's and worked toward a doctorate. Lloyd joined JCSU in 1951 and retired as chair of the education department in 1975. Thelma was also from western North Carolina and earned her bachelor's degree from NC Central. She also completed graduate work at JCSU and the University of New Hampshire. Thelma taught at Marie G. Davis Elementary and Bain Elementary in Mint Hill.²⁵

The Davis House is a one-story side-gabled Ranch with brick veneer and a masonry foundation. It has a long primary mass and shorter, small gable section at the east elevation. Roofs are asphalt shingle and trimmed with dentil molding. The entry is located at the east end of the primary mass and features an integral corner porch with ornamental iron support and railing. The double-hung wood sash windows, eight-over-eight on the façade and six-over-six on the east elevation, appear to be original. Gables have wood siding with tall rectangular louvered vents. The west elevation has a perforated brick wall at the integral carport, which is accessed from the rear.

Pavilion (ca. 2008) – Noncontributing

Gabled pavilion at southeast corner of backyard has square section wood posts and wood weatherboard siding in gables.

Ulysses and Catherleen R. McCaskill, 1636 Madison Avenue (1955)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955 by contractor W. P. Cherry & Son and purchased by Ulysses Manuel McCaskill and Catherleen Robinson McCaskill. A native of Bamberg, South Carolina, Ulysses worked as an etcher, making machinery for printing cloth, and as a truck driver for Consolidated Engraving Company. Catherleen died in 1967, and Ulysses sold the house in 1971 to Reginald W. Dalton and Theresa Dalton. Reginald took an active role in the Republican Party and became an auditor for the North Carolina Department of Revenue, part of the generation who integrated state government in the South.²⁶

The McCaskill House is a one-story Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, and a masonry foundation. The brick front stoop has ornamental iron railing and is covered by a shed extension of the roof eaves. Windows are vinyl replacement. A small brick chimney is at the rear interior. Gables have louvered vents in the peaks. A gabled porch on the east side of

²⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1633 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1633-madison-avenue/>; "Thelma Spaulding Davis," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, December 20, 2009.

²⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1636 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1636-madison-avenue/>; "Mrs. McCaskill," obituary, *Charlotte News*, February 25, 1967.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

the rear elevation has been enclosed with vinyl siding.

M. Ethel Watson House, 1639 Madison Avenue (1963)

Contributing Building

Mary Ethel Watson was the mother-in-law of attorney Charles V. Bell, who lived next door at 1645 Madison Avenue. Granddaughter Charlene Bell Richardson remembers that when Mrs. Watson was ready to move to Charlotte, she asked Charlene's father to sell her the lot so that she could have the house built. Ethel was granted a building permit in February 1963 for contractor Mangie McQueen to build her home. She lived in the house until her death in February 1966. The Bells sold the property to the trustees of Rock Hill A.M.E. Zion Church in Indian Trail, who utilized the property as a parsonage.²⁷

The Watson House is an unusual one-story hipped Ranch rotated to fit on the long, narrow lot. The eastern section of the house has the longest roofline. Two slightly lower hipped ells extend west at the façade and rear. The house has a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle roof. The façade features a deep integral front porch, which has ornamental iron supports on brick piers with an ornamental iron railing, and carport with ornamental iron supports on brick planter. Windows are vinyl sash replacement and include picture windows on the facade. An exterior chimney rises through the eaves on the east elevation near the façade. A wood deck with narrow horizontal railing is at the rear.

Joe and Mildred Grier House, 1640 Madison Avenue (1957)

Contributing Building

Built in 1957 by Ervin Construction Company for educators Joe Edward Grier and Mildred Smith Grier. Joe was a graduate of NC A&T, where he taught for thirty-one years as an assistant professor of animal husbandry. He also received a Master of Science degree in animal science from the University of Illinois. Joe played semi-professional baseball and was inducted into the NC A&T Sports Hall of Fame in 1982. Mildred was among the first women to enroll as freshman at JCSU in 1941. She taught at a Rosenwald School in Robeson County while Joe was in graduate school. Upon returning to Charlotte, she taught math at York Road Junior High.²⁸

The Grier House is a one-story Ranch rotated to fit on the narrow, deep lot. It has an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Windows are vinyl replacements. A hipped ell at the west elevation incorporates a carport and the entry. The entry is on the west elevation. The brick entry stoop has ornamental iron railing, and the front door is original wood with molding in a diamond pattern. Under the carport are two storage rooms with original wood five-panel doors. An interior chimney rises through roof ridge of the carport ell. A hipped ell was added to the east end of the rear elevation in 1965. An entry with brick steps and concrete stoop

²⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1639 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1639-madison-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, February 21, 1963; "Mrs. Mary Watson," obituary, *Charlotte News*, January 29, 1966.

²⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1640 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1640-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

is located on the east elevation. The driveway passes through the carport to a detached double carport to the rear.

Carport (detached) (1983) – Noncontributing

The gabled double carport has round metal posts on a brick wall with corbelled brick piers at corners. The façade gable has vertical siding and a louvered vent.

**Henry and Emma B. Knight House, 1644 Madison Avenue (1958)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1957-58 by contractor Fred Shue for Henry Knight and Emma Bell Knight. Henry worked at Swift & Co., the Charlotte branch of a national meat-packing company. Emma was a nurse. Both were natives of Alabama.²⁹

The Knight House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has a prominent wide, gabled façade porch covering the brick planter, front stoop, and a bay window. Fluted columns on taller brick planters support the façade porch, which has wood German siding in the gable. Roman brick accents are around the replacement front door. A wide interior chimney rises at the roof ridge. Windows are vinyl replacements. There is a gable ell extending from the west side of the rear elevation.

**Charles V. and Laura W. Bell House, 1645 Madison Avenue (1955, 1968)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1955 for attorney Charles Vincent Bell and his wife Laura Watson Bell, a teacher at West Charlotte High. Charles grew up in eastern North Carolina, the son of attorney Peter H. Bell, Sr., who earned a law license in 1901. Charles attended NC Central, graduating with a degree in history. He taught school for ten years before enrolling in the new law school at his alma mater. After graduation he worked for his father for a year before moving to Charlotte at the behest of local NAACP leader Kelly Alexander. Charles became one of the first four African Americans admitted in 1955 to membership in Mecklenburg County's Bar Association. In 1966 he argued *Davis v. North Carolina* before the U.S. Supreme Court, which helped set precedents that safeguard the rights of arrestees. Laura earned degrees from Spelman College and Columbia University and taught English at the high school level.³⁰

The Bell House is a large rambling Ranch with a complex asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer with scattered stone accents, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are two-over-two, original, wood sash with storm windows. The façade has three stepped bays. The first bay has a pair of typical windows, and the second bay has a tripartite picture window. The west bay includes the corner entry porch with a new metal support. Stone surrounds the replacement door. A prominent interior brick chimney is located on the façade slope. The west elevation has two

²⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1644 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1644-madison-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, December 4, 1957.

³⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1645 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1645-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

hipped projecting bays. At the south end is a sun porch with jalousie windows on three sides. A two-car garage, originally a carport enclosed in ca. 1968, with new door is located at the north end. A replacement entry door with brick stoop and steps is between these bays. A triangular butterfly-roof porch with V-shaped steel supports covers a broken tile patio on the north elevation of the garage bay. Three narrow vertical three-lite windows are located at the east end of the rear elevation of the garage bay.

Pool (ca. 2022) – Noncontributing

The in-ground swimming pool has a concrete deck and patio.

House, 1648 Madison Avenue (2019)

Noncontributing Building

The lot was historically vacant until the current house was constructed in 2019. It is a one-story Contemporary home on a concrete slab foundation. The shed roof has asphalt shingles, and the exterior is sheathed in a mix of weatherboard and board-and-batten wood composite siding. The entry is recessed between two façade bays, with the west bay protruding out slightly beyond the primary wall plane. The west elevation is tall due to the shed roof, and the front bay consists of a two-car garage. Typical windows are fixed vinyl, though there are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash on the east elevation.

Swimming pool (2025) – Noncontributing

Under construction at the time of survey in January 2025.

Accessory dwelling unit (2025) – Noncontributing

Under construction at the time of survey in January 2025. It has a wood frame and shed roof mimicking the house. The building has a separate address of 1650 Madison Avenue.

Oren and Ruth C. McCullough House, 1700 Madison Avenue (1959)

Contributing Building

Built in 1959 by Ed Griffin Construction Company for postal worker Oren McCullough, Jr., and teacher Ruth Caudle McCullough. Oren graduated from JCSU after military service during WWII. In 1948 he was the first Black man hired to be a letter carrier in Charlotte. He faced discrimination in his job, unable to advance to supervisory positions, and filed many complaints. He was included in the lawsuit *Chisholm v. United States Postal Service*, which found in 1980 that he and other Black employees had been discriminated against and were entitled to back pay and other reparations. Ruth was a graduate of Bennett College in Greensboro and taught in CMS for forty years, with tenures at Double Oaks Elementary and Briarwood Elementary.³¹

The McCullough House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, Roman brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has a gabled façade bay with vinyl siding in the gable. The recessed original stepped three-lite wood door at the engaged corner porch, which has a

³¹ Tom Hanchett, "1700 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1700-madison-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1781, Page 598.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

mitered corner with brick steps at an angle, has ornamental iron support and railing. A stone veneer creates a wainscoting on the east façade bay between the tripartite window and engaged stone planter. A wide interior brick chimney rises through the façade roof plane. Windows are vinyl replacement and horizontal in orientation. The side eaves increase in depth toward the peak, where there are louvered vents. A gable ell at the west side of the rear elevation has been incorporated into a full-width flat-roofed addition across the rear. The addition includes a carport supported by ornamental iron supports on a brick kneewall and screen porch.

**Dr. Reginald A. & Catherine R. Hawkins House, 1703 Madison Avenue (1954, 1958, 1961)
Contributing Building**

The Dr. Reginald A. and Catherine R. Hawkins House, built 1953-54, was one of four homes of Charlotte Civil Rights leaders bombed in the night in November 1965. Hawkins, a dentist and Charlotte's most outspoken and persistent activist in the Civil Rights movement, won major changes in the city and beyond during the decades he lived here. His protests played key roles in desegregating the Charlotte airport in 1956, upscale restaurants in 1963, Charlotte Memorial Hospital circa 1963, and much more. One of his longest efforts was the series of actions and lawsuits that culminated in *Swann v Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education*, the landmark 1971 U.S. Supreme Court decision that brought court-ordered busing to the nation. In 1968 he became the first African American to run for Governor of North Carolina. Catherine was a native of Charlotte whose grandfather, James D. Martin, was a professor at JCSU. She attended NC A&T for a year before transferring to JCSU, graduating with a degree in math and science. She was a founding member of the Gamma Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha at the university. She also earned an associate's degree from Central Piedmont Community College in scientific data processing, undertook coursework in math and computer processing at Fordham University, and received a master's degree in guidance and counseling from UNC Charlotte. Catherine taught math and data processing in CMS before becoming a guidance counselor at Independence and South Mecklenburg high schools. She died in December 2024 at age 100.³²

The Hawkins House is a side-gabled Ranch house with a standing-seam metal roof, sandstone and brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are vinyl awning replacement sash. The façade is sheathed in sandstone veneer and is four bays wide. The eave is notched above the first bay, which has a two-lite horizontal sliding window and integral planter. Beyond is a sandstone internal chimney at the roof peak. The entry bay has a sandstone stoop with replacement three-lite mid-century style door. A typical window and three-lite horizontal sliding window comprise the western bays. The western gable has vertical wood paneling. A large flat-roofed carport extends from the eastern elevation, supported by trios of metal columns on low sandstone walls. A ca. 1958 addition extends back from the carport with eight bays of awning windows and wood trim above brick veneer wainscot. The wainscot extends beyond the rear elevation to form a short wall. A ca. 1961 gabled addition designed by local firm Ferebee & Walters is located at the west end of the rear elevation.

³² Tom Hanchett, "1703 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Thomas E. and Mildred Y. Gilliard House, 1704 Madison Avenue (1957)

Contributing Building

Built in 1957 by contractor Mangie McQueen for Thomas E. Gilliard Jr. and Mildred Young Gilliard. A native of Sumter, South Carolina, Thomas was a graduate of JCSU and worked for American Bank & Trust and its successor North Carolina National Bank. He was appointed to the Mecklenburg Jury Commission, which determined procedures for the selection of juries for county courts, and served a term as its chair. A native of Asheville, Mildred graduated from Drake University in Iowa. She served as Program Director at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, which served Black Charlotteans until merging with the white YWCA in 1964, and later retired as a teacher from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.³³

The Gilliard House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional house with an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has a full width uncovered patio with brick steps and ornamental iron railing. Typical windows are one-over-one, vinyl sash replacements. The front entry has a scalloped metal hood over the original wood door, which has four panels, a four-lite fanlight window, and brass mail slot. Flanking the entry are a typical window and a replacement tripartite picture window. An exterior brick chimney is located on the east elevation. Typical windows are located in the gables. A side entry with brick stoop and ornamental iron railing is on the west elevation. Two gabled ells extend from the rear elevation, which also has a shed dormer.

Bennie Comer Latimer Lee House, 1708 Madison Avenue (1956, 1964, 1966)

Contributing Building

Sisters Allie and Bobbie Latimer purchased the property in 1953. Bobbie died the following year due to injuries in a car accident in New Bern, and Allie and brother Leon had the house built for their mother, Bennie Comer Latimer Lee. A native of Montgomery, Alabama, Bennie was a teacher in Alabama before moving to North Carolina. She lived in Concord for a period where she was among the first Black public notaries in Cabarrus County, before moving to Charlotte. Bennie was an active member of the National Council of Negro Women, receiving the Mary McLeod Bethune Award. She lived in the house until her death in 1981, and the family retains ownership of the house.³⁴

The Lee House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional house with an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof and brick veneer. Original metal sash windows are retained except in the side gables. The façade has a gabled bay with a twelve-lite picture window. A scalloped metal canopy over the brick stoop is supported by ornamental iron supports with railing. An exterior brick chimney is on the east elevation. The rear elevation has three shed-roofed additions and a shed dormer. According to building permits, the attic was converted to living space in 1963-1964, and a rear porch was enclosed in 1966.

³³ Tom Hanchett, "1704 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1704-madison-avenue/>.

³⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1708 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1708-madison-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1629, Page 189.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Samuel P. and Elsie P. Woodard House, 1709 Madison Avenue (1955, 1960, 1971)

Contributing Building

Built 1954-1955 by the Bob Allen Agency for Samuel P. Woodard and Elsie Allen Woodard. A native of Smithfield, Samuel graduated from Fayetteville State University. He worked as a Boy Scout field scout executive, the top regional official in charge of recruiting and assisting Negro scout troops and managed the large Brookhill Village low-income apartment complex. He served on the boards of McCrorey YMCA, the Charlotte Community Development agency, and as vice chair of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. Elsie taught English at JCSU and also volunteered extensively in the community. She was educated at Bennett College and the University of Michigan, where she earned her master's degree.³⁵

The Woodard House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. The wide façade bay features vinyl siding in the gable, a louvered peak vent, engaged brick planter, and two original metal sash windows—a tripartite window and 1 six-lite window. An exterior brick chimney extends through the roof of the façade gable bay and forms its west elevation. Adjacent is the entry stoop with a replacement door. Side gables have no eaves, vinyl siding, and small louvered vents. The east elevation has a narrow three-lite original metal sash window and a paired replacement vinyl window. On the west elevation are an original nine-lite window and two small vinyl replacement windows. A gabled addition at rear, made in 1960 and extended in 1971, protrudes beyond the primary mass.

Robert and Dorothy H. Person House, 1712 Madison Avenue (1954, 1961)

Contributing Building

Built 1953-54 for Robert Person, Jr., a counselor at Mecklenburg County Juvenile Court, and Dorothy Holt Person, a librarian with the Charlotte Public Library system. Robert graduated from NC Central, where he and Dorothy met, and earned his master's in social work at Atlanta University. He worked as a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court probation counselor and later, as an Aid to Families with Dependent Children Division supervisor. Governor Luther Hodges appointed Person in 1959 to the state advisory committee for the state training school for Black juvenile delinquents at Goldsboro. He retired in 1986 as director of employment and training for the City of Charlotte. A native of Mebane, Dorothy earned bachelor's and master's degrees in library science from NC Central. She began working for the public library in 1951 as a bookmobile substitute and was appointed head librarian at the North Branch in 1957. Dorothy moved to the Main Library in 1963 as the first Black person to work a desk job as a reference librarian. She was promoted to head of reference in 1973 and retired from the position in 1985.³⁶

The Person House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof with wide frieze board. It has original two-over-two, wood sash windows, including a tripartite window east of the front entry and a corner window at the east side of the

³⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1709 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1709-madison-avenue/>.

³⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1712 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1712-madison-avenue/>; "Dorothy Person Retires from Library," *Charlotte Post*, August 1, 1985.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

façade. The front porch has brick steps and ornamental iron railings, and a scalloped metal canopy with ornamental iron supports. Adjacent is a brick planter. The original wood front door has eight panels and a brass mail slot. An interior chimney is located on the rear slope. Scalloped metal canopies cover the windows on the façade and west elevation. A shed screen porch and open porch are located on the west side of the rear elevation. A 1961 hipped addition extends from the east side of the rear elevation.

Carport (detached) (1984) – Noncontributing

The gabled double carport has square section wood posts, plywood siding, and an open vent in the gable.

Edwin M. and Miriam S. Barrett House, 1713 Madison Avenue (1953, ca. 1962)

Contributing Building

Built 1952-1953 by contractor C.T. Brown for Edwin Morris Barrett and Miriam Sampson Barrett. Edwin served as a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen during WWII and earned a bachelor's degree from Allen University. He was a career employee in the Railway Mail Service, retiring in 1975 after twenty-five years. A native of Sumpter who met Edwin while he was stationed in the town, Miriam graduated from Spelman College. She worked as a nurse at Charlotte Memorial Hospital and later taught school in Sumpter. The Barretts acquired a third of the eastern adjacent lot in 1956 and contracted builder Mangie McQueen to add a carport and rear addition in 1962.³⁷

The Barrett House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has picture windows on the façade flanking the brick entry, which has an original three-horizontal-lite wood door with ornamental iron screen door. An integral side entry porch has ornamental iron supports and a matching original wood entry door. The double carport beyond, added ca. 1962, has round metal posts on a brick wall and rear storeroom with wood board-and-batten siding. Side gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents in the peak. Windows are vinyl replacement. The rear elevation has a hipped bay. A shed addition at the east side of the rear elevation was also constructed ca. 1962.

William C. and Johnsie Covington House, 1717 Madison Avenue (1957, 1969)

Contributing Building

Built in 1956-57 by Ed Griffin Construction Company for William C. Covington and Johnsie Jackson Covington. William was a Civil Rights pioneer as one of Charlotte's first African American policemen. He grew up nearby on Condon Street north of Oaklawn Avenue and attended JCSU, graduating with a degree in biology. He helped found the N.C. Organization of Black Police Officers, which supported equality among those in the profession, and was part of the team that successfully sued the Charlotte Police Department over discriminatory practices in the 1970s. William also operated the West Charlotte Drive-In on Beatties Ford Road for around twenty years. A native of York County, South Carolina, Johnsie was a longtime educator in

³⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1713 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1713-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools at Biddleville School, Isabella Wyche School, Lincoln Heights Elementary, and Hidden Valley Elementary. She was a graduate of Bennett College with a degree in childhood development and received a master's in education from Columbia University. They raised their daughter Rev. Dr. Sheron Covington Patterson, who served on the Board of Trustees for Southern Methodist University, in this home.³⁸

The Covington House is a hipped one-story Ranch on a masonry foundation and sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. It is sheathed in brick veneer with scattered stone detail. Typical windows are original two-over-two double-hung wood sash. The façade features a twelve-lite wood window adjacent to the brick entry stoop and six-panel original wood door. A brick wing wall terminates the east side of the façade bay. An interior chimney rises at the roof ridge. A hipped double carport bay on the west elevation has ornamental iron supports on a brick wall and an exterior storeroom with board-and-batten siding beyond. A flat-roofed metal patio canopy and perforated brick wall are visible on the rear elevation of the carport. A hipped addition was made to the rear ca. 1969 by contractor Mangie McQueen.

W. Howard and Gladys F. Moreland House, 1722 Madison Avenue (1963)

Contributing Building

Built in 1963 by contractor G. R. Hicklin for teachers William Howard Moreland, Sr. and Gladys Ford Moreland. Howard was a native of Charlotte and a graduate of Livingstone College. He was a civics instructor at Second Ward High when named founding principal at Marie G. Davis Elementary School. William played a key role in starting what is now the McCrorey YMCA, initiated the annual Queen City Classic high school football showdown, and worked with the Negro Citizens League as it began its successful campaign for the hiring of Charlotte's initial Black policemen. A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Gladys had graduated from Columbia University and taught at Isabella Wyche School.³⁹

The Moreland House is a long one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, Roman brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof. Windows are horizontal slider vinyl replacement sashes. It has a prominent gabled façade bay with a trio of typical one-over-one, double-hung, replacement, vinyl windows and board-and-batten-siding in the gable. The roof overhang is supported by ornamental iron supports on the brick planter. The recessed entry bay has fieldstone veneer adjacent to an original front door and square hardware. The brick landing and steps have ornamental iron railing. A carport is located on the east elevation and has round metal posts on a brick wall. A side entrance under the carport has brick steps and ornamental iron railing. Side gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents in peaks. Two gabled bays project from the rear elevation.

Walter W. and Samella Twitty House, 1725 Madison Avenue (1953, 1972)

Contributing Building

³⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1717 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1717-madison-avenue/>.

³⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1722 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1722-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Built 1952-53 by contractor Mangie McQueen for Walter Whitman Twitty, Sr., Charlotte representative of the Black-owned North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company (NC Mutual), and Samella "Sammie" Brown Twitty, a longtime teacher in Charlotte's public schools. Walter ranked among the city's most important Black economic leaders. He worked to open opportunities in the wider society during the Civil Rights era, including taking part in one of the South's earliest sit-ins in 1954, which desegregated Charlotte's airport. A native of Rutherford County, Walter graduated from JSCU. He joined NC Mutual in 1939 and advanced up the ranks to District Manager in Charlotte, retiring in 1980. Sammie held education degrees from Bennett College and Columbia University. She taught in CMS until retiring in 1982 after nearly forty years.⁴⁰

The Twitty House is a one-and-a-half-story side-gabled Minimal Traditional residence on a masonry foundation and sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. It is sheathed in aluminum siding, which was installed in 1967 by Piedmont Pacific Lumber. The east side of the façade is sheathed in brick veneer, and the west side contains a recessed entry bay with brick stoop. The northwest corner of the façade has full-height picture windows. Typical windows are vinyl replacement, with short one-over-one double-hung sashes on the façade and horizontal sliders on the east and west elevations. A brick interior chimney is located at the roof ridge. Gables have small six-over-six vinyl replacement windows. The front entry and an entrance on the east elevation have replacement doors ornamental iron storm doors. A 1972 shed-roof metal double carport is attached to the east elevation and is supported by joists with decorative detail and round columns. Beyond is a shed-roofed utility room with vinyl siding.

Rowe R. and Alma M. Motley House, 1726 Madison Avenue (1956, 1962)

Contributing Building

Built about 1956 for Rowe R. "Jack" Motley and Alma Moreland Motley. A native of Prattville, Alabama, Jack graduated from NC A&T. He worked as a mail carrier until he quit due to racial discrimination in career advancement. Jack became a real estate broker and established Motley Real Estate. He became politically active, helping to launch the Black Political Caucus in Charlotte, and successfully won election in 1974 as the first Black candidate elected to the Mecklenburg County Commission. Jack was the state's first Black member of the Democratic National Committee and chaired the national Black Political Caucus. In 1981 he was appointed to fill the remaining term of state assembly-member Fred Alexander and served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission in the 1990s. Alma attended Bennett College and graduated from JCSU. She taught in CMS for thirty years.⁴¹

The Motley House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, Roman brick veneer, and a low asphalt shingle hipped roof. A large L-shaped flat-roofed addition was made to the west and rear elevation in 1961-1962. The façade has a corner sun porch with four jalousie windows in the western bay under the flat-roofed addition. The projecting gabled entry bay has stone veneer

⁴⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1725 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1725-madison-avenue/>.

⁴¹ Tom Hanchett, "1726 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1726-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

around a three-lite picture window and stone-clad planter below. The recessed entry has an original wood three-panel door, a five-light sidelight, brick steps leading to the stone landing, and an ornamental iron railing. Vertical wood paneling is located in the gable and on either side of the recessed entry. Original ribbon windows above brick veneer wainscot are at the east side of the façade and east elevation. Six jalousie windows of the sun porch wrap around to the west elevation. Adjacent is a door with full-lite jalousie window and jalousie transom and a small two-lite original horizontal sliding window with storm window. The rear elevation includes an eastern bay with composite siding wrapping to the east elevation, a carport, and a tripartite window and two-lite horizontal siding window covered with storm windows. A former exterior fireplace at west elevation is contained within the sun porch. A second interior fireplace is located at in the rear addition.

Edwin and Roberta D. Thompkins House, 1800 Madison Avenue (1954)

Contributing Building

Built 1953-54 by contractor Mangie McQueen for educators Dr. Edwin Thompkins and Roberta Douglass Thompkins. A graduate of JCSU, Edwin was a religion professor at his alma mater. In September 1957 he accompanied young Dorothy Counts as she walked through an angry mob to desegregate Harding High, a moment captured in photos that appeared in newspapers nationwide. Roberta was a native of Charlotte whose father, Dr. Robert L. Douglass, taught math at JCSU from 1904 until 1947. She graduated from JCSU and received a master's degree from Columbia University. Roberta taught at Fairview Elementary and Marie G. Davis Elementary.⁴²

The Thompson House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional residence with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are six-over-six, original, wood sash. The façade features a wide tripartite window in the western bay. The shed porch has brick steps and ornamental iron supports and railing. Stone veneer surrounds the original wood, four-panel, four-lite entry door and wraps to the west elevation of the gabled façade bay where there is an octagonal window. The façade has a gabled bay with an octagonal window in the gable and bay window with a small shingle roof on its façade. Gables have peak louvered vents. An exterior chimney is on the west elevation. A one-and-one-half-story, gabled ell extends from the rear elevation. A gabled two-car garage faces east to Fairfield Street and connects to the house with a gabled hyphen. An interior chimney is located at the rear.

David E. and Norma Y. Holden House, 1801 Madison Avenue (1957, 1964)

Contributing Building

Built in 1957 by contractor Fred C. Shue for David Edward Holden and Norma Yongue Holden. David was a graduate of JCSU who managed Southside Homes, a public housing development on South Tryon Street. A native of Charlotte, Norma graduated from JCSU and earned a master's degree from NC A&T. She was a teacher who in 1955 helped open York Road School

⁴² Tom Hanchett, "1800 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1800-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

adjacent to Southside Homes, which was renamed Robert F. Kennedy Junior High after integration.⁴³

The Holden House is a one-story side-gabled Ranch with asphalt shingle roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The simple façade has recessed end bays, with the entry bay having a brick stoop with integrated planter and a stone veneer surrounding the entry. A metal accessible ramp approaches the entry. Windows are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes with the exception of a tripartite window in the middle façade bay. Gables have perforated vinyl vents. A brick interior chimney is at the roof ridge. The rear corner porch on the east side of the elevation has been enclosed with picture windows and aluminum siding. A 1964 shed double-carport extends from the rear, with two bays supported by round metal posts on brick kneewalls.

Lou P. Benson House, 1805 Madison Avenue (1959)

Contributing Building

Designed by Louis H. Asbury Associates and built 1958-1959 by Marsh Realty Company for Lou Pogue Benson, a teacher at Second Ward High who later became a guidance counselor in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Lou graduated from JCSU and completed graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. She also worked as Negro field director for Girl Scouts in Charlotte. Her husband Jack Gerard Benson died in March 1958. He was also a graduate of JCSU and held a master's degree from Atlanta University. Jack was on the faculty at their alma mater, chairing the mathematics department. Lou raised daughter Donna G. Benson and son J. Gerard Benson, Jr., in this house. Gerard became one of Charlotte's best jazz bass players. He was a longtime performer with the band A Sign of the Times, which was led by trombonist Tyrone Jefferson, former music director for legendary soul/funk star James Brown.⁴⁴

The Benson House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The hipped porch bay on the façade has a vertical vinyl-sided wing wall on the east elevation and ornamental iron supports and railing. Typical windows are original two-over-two double-hung wood sash with storm windows. Under the porch is a six-lite wood window with awning middle sashes. A brick interior chimney rises through the façade roof plane. The rear elevation features two shed-roofed extensions and a gabled false dormer.

Woodson G. and Willa M. Carson House, 1808 Madison Avenue (1951)

Contributing Building

Built 1951 by Erwin Construction Company for Woodson Gainwell Carson, Sr. and Willa Robinson Carson. Woodson worked for the Southern Railway as a waiter. Willa graduated from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) and Columbia University. She taught for over thirty years, with stints in Selma and Raleigh before returning to Charlotte to teach home economics and family living at Second Ward High. After Second Ward closed in 1969, she transferred to Garinger High but died suddenly in 1970. Their son Woodson Gainwell Carson, Jr., and

⁴³ Tom Hanchett, "1801 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1801-madison-avenue/>.

⁴⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1805 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1805-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

daughter-in-law Ollie Tolliver Carson raised their family in the home. Woodson attended Virginia State University and JCSU, and Ollie worked as a clerk for the U.S. Post Office.⁴⁵

The Carson House is a two-story Minimal Traditional house with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Its asymmetrical façade is three bays wide and has a glass block stairwell window. The middle bay features the entry with a flat-roofed hood supported by ornamental iron brackets and a six-panel original wood door. The brick stoop has an ornamental iron railing. Above the entry is a typical one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement window. The third bay has a one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement window wider than typical and differing in height. A narrow-gabled carport at the west elevation has brick supports and concrete masonry unit knee wall with a brick cap. The scissor gable is clad in plywood, and it appears a louvered vent has been removed. A storeroom at the rear of the carport has brick veneer and a wood slab door. The entry on the west elevation at the carport has a six-lite wood door. The side gables of the residence have half-moon louvered vents. The east elevation has an exterior chimney, and an interior chimney is located on the rear roof slope.

Emma C. & Deborah J. Craig House, 1809 Madison Avenue (1955, 1959, ca. 2015)

Noncontributing Building

Built 1955 for Emma C. Craig, widow of physician Thomas E. Craig. Daughters Deborah Janette Craig and Katie L. Craig, who were teachers, also lived here in the 1950s, with Deborah becoming the principal occupant after her mother's passing in 1969. Deborah graduated from JCSU and did graduate work at New York University. She retired from CMS.⁴⁶

The Craig House is a one-story T-shaped Ranch with an asphalt shingle cross-hipped roof, painted brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes with false nine-over-nine grids. The longer section of the hipped roof is oriented perpendicular to Madison Avenue. It creates protruding bays on the façade and rear elevation. The protruding façade bay has a horizontal sliding window on its façade and an integral porch on its east elevation. The porch has square section wood posts, replacing original ornamental iron supports, and ornamental iron railing. Along the west elevation are horizontal sliding windows. An integral carport on the east elevation has paired ornamental iron supports on tall narrow brick piers and shelters a side entrance with brick steps and ornamental iron railing. Behind the carport, a flat-roofed addition includes a sunroom with full-lite French doors and sidelights. The east elevation has four one-over-one vinyl windows. An exterior brick chimney rises on the rear elevation of the sun porch. A brick interior chimney rises through the roof ridge.

Alexander H. and Rachel D. Byers House, 1812 Madison Avenue (ca. 1958, 1962)

⁴⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1808 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1808-madison-avenue/>; Susan Jetton, "They Planned Party for Her; Now...Her Funeral," *Charlotte Observer*, January 7, 1970; "Mr. Woodson Gainwell Carson, Jr.," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, March 2, 1995.

⁴⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1809 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-madison-avenue/>; "Ms. Deborah J. Craig," *Charlotte Observer*, January 21, 1994.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Built ca. 1958 for educators Alexander Hamilton Byers and Rachel Duren Byers. Alex graduated from Second Ward High in 1939, then worked at Dunbar Photography to earn enough money to enroll at JCSU in 1947. He taught in High Point and earned a master's degree from Columbia University. Returning to Charlotte, Alex taught math at Northwest Junior High before moving into administration. When named principal of Ranson Junior High in 1969, Alex became first Black principal of a majority white school in CMS. He later moved into the central office where he was Area Superintendent of the Garinger/Independence area. Rachel was a classmate at Second Ward High School who graduated from Bennett College and earned a master's degree from Columbia University. She taught at numerous schools in Charlotte over her career. According to building permits, the lower level was converted to a living area with bedroom, den, and half bath in 1962.⁴⁷

The Byers House is a Split-Level residence with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and side-gabled roofs with asphalt shingles. The one-story section is built on a crawlspace, and the two-story section has a concrete slab foundation. The one-story section has an exterior brick chimney on its west elevation and shed porch on the façade with brick steps and ornamental iron supports and railing. Stone veneer flanks the replacement front door. There is an original wood tripartite picture window west of the front entry. The façade of the two-story section has two-over-two double-hung original wood sash windows on the second story and in the lower west bay of the first story. The lower east bay has a trio of vinyl replacement windows. The west gable of the two-story portion has aluminum siding.

Carport (detached) (ca. 1990) – Noncontributing

The flat-roofed metal carport is located behind the house.

VACANT LOT – 1815 Madison Avenue

This lot is historically undeveloped.

Hughes-Gillespie House, 1817 Madison Avenue (ca. 1958, 1968)

Contributing Building

Built ca. 1958 at 1605 Van Buren Avenue for educators Louis J. Hughes and Mary C. Hughes. Louis was principal at Morgan Elementary, and Mary taught at West Charlotte High. When freeway construction took the properties on the south side of Van Buren Avenue in 1968, the Hugheses sold the house to Morris G. and Lula Strothers Gillespie. The Gillespies hired Widenhouse Movers to transport the house to the lot they had purchased at the corner of Madison Avenue and Mulberry Avenue. Daughter Eva Johnson Shadd, who along with husband John L. Shadd had sold her parents the property in 1965, became the first female principal in

⁴⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1812 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1812-madison-avenue/>; "School Board: 5 Other Men Get Principalships," *Charlotte Observer*, June 20, 1969.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

CMS when she took the position at Myers Park High. Eva later lived in the house until her death in 1996, the year after her father passed.⁴⁸

The Hughes-Gillespie House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and masonry foundation. Typical windows are original one-over-one, double-hung, wood sashes with storm windows. The entry porch is at the east corner and has ornamental iron railing at the brick steps and square section wood posts on a brick wall at the east elevation. A hipped ell extends from the east side of the rear elevation. A brick interior chimney is at its rear. A flat-roofed addition was made to the rear ca. 1968, when the house was moved from Van Buren Avenue. The west elevation of the addition has two bays stepped back from the primary mass of the house. The first bay is a porch enclosed with vinyl siding and a horizontal siding window. Brick steps and stoop to the enclosed porch have wood railing. The second bay contains a garage.

**Calvin M. and Dorothy C. McKinney House, 1901 Madison Avenue (1963-1964)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1963-64 for musician and music teacher Calvin Montgomery McKennie and Dorothy Carr McKennie, a schoolteacher. Dorothy grew up in Concord and attended Bennett College. She was a career teacher in CMS and at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Calvin was educated at Florida A&M University and New York University. Calvin joined the band of Maurice Williams as a saxophone player in 1957. Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100 the week of November 21, 1960, with the song "Stay (Just a Little Bit Longer)." The Zodiacs kept touring and recording fresh material. A 1968 register of new copyrights listed Calvin McKennie as a copyright holder along with Williams on the compositions "Try" and "I'll Be There." The band got a boost when "Stay" appeared on the soundtrack of the 1987 hit film *Dirty Dancing*. That coincided with Calvin's retirement from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, and he went on the road with the Zodiacs full-time, touring all over the United States and the United Kingdom. Calvin worked as the group's manager, played saxophone, and co-led the horn section for the better part of two decades.⁴⁹

The McKennie House is a one-story brick veneered Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, a masonry foundation, and interior brick chimney. Typical windows are paired two-over-two original wood sash with storm windows. The façade features two typical windows, an integral porch with an ornamental iron support at the corner, and paired floor-to-ceiling two-over-two picture windows. The site slopes from north to south and has a walkout basement on concrete slab foundation. At the rear are two single-car garage bays below grade and a tall wood stair and porch to the main level.

⁴⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1817 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1817-madison-avenue/>; Jeri Harvey, "Mrs. Eva J. Shadd Named Principal," *Charlotte Post*, July 28, 1977; "Mr. Morris G. Gillespie," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, April 7, 1995; Tammie Tolbert, "Eva Virginia Johnson Shadd, First Black Woman High School Principal," *Charlotte Post*, April 25, 1996.

⁴⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

VACANT LOT – 1905 Madison Avenue

Historically undeveloped wooded lot.

MULBERRY AVENUE

House, 806 Mulberry Avenue (2022)

Noncontributing Building

Formerly the Tony S. and Francennie Jordan House, built 1951-1952 by Tony, who was a brick mason. It was demolished ca. 2019.

This house is a two-story hipped residence with various hipped bays on the façade. The foundation is concrete slab, and the roof is asphalt shingle. The exterior is sheathed in composite siding. The protruding hipped façade bay has large picture windows and vertical composite siding. It has a two-story recessed entry with two fixed windows above the door. The south façade bay has tripartite picture windows at each level. A hipped garage bay is located on its north elevation.

House, 812 Mulberry Avenue (2022)

Noncontributing Building

Formerly the Tony S. and Francennie Jordan House, built 1951-1952 by Tony, who was a brick mason. It was demolished ca. 2019.

This house is a two-story hipped residence with various hipped bays on the façade. The foundation is concrete slab, and the roof is asphalt shingle. The exterior is sheathed in composite siding. The protruding hipped façade bay has large picture windows and vertical composite siding. It has a two-story recessed entry with a tall, fixed window above the door. The south façade bay has a picture window with adjacent casement window at each level. A hipped garage bay is located on its north elevation.

VACANT LOT – West side of 800 block of Mulberry Avenue, south of 1901 Patton Avenue

This property has never been developed and is historically connected to 801 Condon Street.

House, 950 Mulberry Avenue (2021)

Noncontributing Building

Originally part of lots 1 and 2 of block D of McCrorey Heights (1819 Washington Avenue), this portion was subdivided and sold in 2019. Built ca. 2021, the two-story house has a hipped primary mass and stepped gable façade bay with flat-roofed porch. Windows are vinyl sash and include four-lite fixed, four-lite casement, and single-lite fixed. It is sheathed in wood composite siding with brick veneer on the first floor of the gabled façade bay and on the façade of the hipped garage bay. The foundation is concrete slab, and the roof is asphalt shingle.

OAKLAWN AVENUE

Bernard L. and Lucille H. Brown House, 1547 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1958)

Contributing Building

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Built ca. 1958 for Bernard Lee Brown, Sr. and Lucille Hall Brown. The Browns were educators at Carver College, the Black counterpart to Charlotte College. Bernard taught social science while Lucille was a librarian. Bernard was a graduate of JCSU and earned a master's degree from Columbia University. Lucille was a native of Concord and graduate of Bennett College. She retired from CMS. The Browns separated or divorced, and Bernard remained in the house.⁵⁰

The Brown House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. There are no eaves but wide fascia and frieze boards. A shed extension covers the entry, which opens onto a brick stoop with ornamental iron railing, and a wood picture window. A gable extension at the east elevation is set back from the façade. The west elevation has a wide single-shouldered brick chimney. There is a gabled ell on the rear elevation. Windows are two-over-two, double-hung, original, wood sash. Gables have wide weatherboard siding and louvered vents in peak. The property is accessed from both Oaklawn Avenue and Washington Avenue.

Hendrix-Trimmier House, 1601 Oaklawn Avenue (1950, 1962)

Contributing Building

Built 1950 for Buell David Hendrix, Jr., whose family owned and managed Oaklawn Cemetery, and Marilyn Craig Hendrix. The Hendrix family were the only white people known to have lived in this Black area. The Hendrix family owned the property east of Clifton Street and north of Washington Avenue, which they subdivided and sold to Black buyers. Buell and Marilyn sold the property in 1953, and the next residents were Roscoe Trimmier, Sr. and Susie E. Stitt Trimmier. A native of Seneca, South Carolina, Roscoe was a janitor and worked at Fancy Foods of the Carolinas at the time of his death in 1972. Their son Roscoe Trimmier, Jr., was celebrated in local newspapers upon his graduation from West Charlotte High in 1962 as he received over \$28,000 in college scholarship offers. He chose to attend Harvard University, where he majored in engineering, and continued to Harvard Law School as part of the class of 1974. He was hired as an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston and became the firm's first Black partner in 1983. The Trimmiers sold the property in 1962 to H. Elbert Kiser, a white contractor who developed some properties in McCrorey Heights. Kiser maintained the residence as a rental until selling it to Black buyers Albert J. and Jessie L. Reid in 1975.⁵¹

The Hendrix-Trimmier House is a one-story side-gabled house with an asphalt shingle roof with no eaves, vinyl siding, and masonry foundation. The gabled façade bay has a six-over-six double-hung original wood window with storm window on its façade. Adjacent is the small, shed entry porch supported with square section wood posts. The concrete steps and brick porch deck have an ornamental iron railing. The façade also features a bay window with small asphalt shingle roof. A long, gabled extension on the west elevation, originally a porch but enclosed and

⁵⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1547 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1547-oaklawn-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 2045, Page 99.

⁵¹ Tom Hanchett, "1601 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1601-oaklawn/>; Kays Gary, "Consider, Mr. K., If You Will, The Case of Roscoe Trimmier Jr.," *Charlotte Observer*, April 21, 1962; "Student's Choice—Harvard; His Honors Total \$28,000," *Charlotte News*, May 8, 1962.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

expanded to its current footprint in 1962, features an eight-over-eight window on its façade elevation. A side entrance is on the east elevation and has brick steps and a brick stoop with ornamental iron railing. Gables have louvered vents. A brick exterior chimney rises at the west elevation at the intersection with the gable extension. The driveway is located at the rear on Washington Avenue.

Jimmie and Minnie J. McKee House, 1607 Oaklawn Avenue (1957)

Contributing Building

Built 1957 by Ervin Construction Company for James Robert "Jimmie" McKee and Minnie Jackson McKee, community leaders who were best known as proprietors of their Excelsior Club on Beatties Ford Road. They also played a large role in Charlotte's cultural life, helping launch Black-format WGIV radio in the late 1940s and 1950s, serving as lay leaders for what became First Baptist Church-West in McCrorey Heights, and working tirelessly to raise funds for JCSU and other organizations. Jimmie was a native of Charlotte whose parents had passed by the time he was 14. He left school to work and help provide for his nine siblings, of which he was second oldest. His jobs included head mail clerk with Horton Motor Lines and bartending at high-end night clubs and country clubs in the Charlotte area. Jimmie and Minnie purchased a two-story house at 921 Beatties Ford Road in 1944 and remodeled it into the Art Deco-style Excelsior Club, which became a center of the Black music and social scene in Charlotte, as well as a meeting place for civil rights activists. In addition to co-owning the club, which operated under their ownership for forty years, Minnie was a longtime teacher in CMS. She graduated from WSSU and received a master's degree from Columbia University.⁵²

The McKee House is a Roman brick Split-Level house with a hipped two-story section and side-gabled one-story section. Roofs are asphalt shingles, and the foundation is brick. The lower level has a concrete slab foundation, and the one-story section is constructed on a crawlspace. Windows are vinyl replacement, primarily horizontal sliders. The façade features a brick stoop with tall brick steps and ornamental iron railing at the junction of the two sections. The door appears to be a replacement, full-lite door with a decorative screen door. Adjacent is a vinyl tripartite window. The west gable has vinyl siding with a pentagonal louvered vent. The interior brick chimney is located on the rear slope. The rear elevation includes a garage bay at the west side and entry with full-lite French doors. The entry has a brick stoop and steps with ornamental iron railing. A perforated brick wall around the back yard has curved sections flanking the driveway from Washington Avenue.

J. Garfield and Elizabeth V. Connor House, 1615 Oaklawn Avenue (1963)

Contributing Building

Built 1963 by bricklayer James Garfield Connor (also spelled Conner in records) for himself and Elizabeth Vaughn Connor. An earlier house stood on this site, built in 1933 by and for Buell David Hendrix, Sr. and Adele Lynch Hendrix, the white owners of Oaklawn Cemetery. Hendrix moved to 1601 Oaklawn Avenue about 1951 and let his previous dwelling fall into disrepair.

⁵² Tom Hanchett, "1607 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1607-oaklawn/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Garfield bought it about 1962 intending to remodel, but found it too deteriorated, so he demolished it and built the current brick Ranch-style house. Garfield was a native of Huntersville who attended NC A&T. A native of Chester County, South Carolina, Elizabeth worked as an elevator operator for Duke Power Company. She died suddenly in 1966. Garfield remarried the following year to Amay James Elementary teacher Allean Gatson. Allean graduated from JCSU and completed post-graduate work at Temple University and Appalachian State University. She retired from CMS as an assistant principal, then served as principal of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School until its closure in 1988.⁵³

The Connor House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof. It has a prominent hipped façade bay with a vinyl tripartite window on its façade. The entry is adjacent to its west with a brick stoop with quarry tile and wood railings and a replacement door. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements. An integral carport at the west elevation has large square section wood posts on a brick kneewall. An enclosed porch with sliding glass doors and windows opens onto the carport. An interior brick chimney is located beyond the gable façade bay. The rear elevation has a wood deck with sliding glass door. An unpaved driveway continues through the carport to Washington Avenue.

Perty J. and Elizabeth M. Dargan House, 1621 Oaklawn Avenue (1958, 1965)

Contributing Building

Built 1957-1958 by Ervin Construction Company for Perty James Dargan and Elizabeth Ross Dargan. Perty was a native of Pageland, South Carolina, who worked at the Douglas Aircraft missile assembly plant on Statesville Avenue. Elizabeth graduated from Fayetteville State University. She began teaching in Charlotte after marrying Perty in July 1957. Elizabeth taught math and science at York Road High then became a guidance counselor at the integrated Alexander Graham Junior High. She ended her 35-year career as principal at Billingsville Elementary and Barringer Elementary. A building permit was granted in 1965 to enclose a porch for a kitchen expansion.⁵⁴

The Dargan House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, Roman brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a prominent gabled façade porch with aluminum siding and round louvered vent in the gable and a brick wingwall at its west elevation. The east corner is supported by an ornamental iron support and its porch is accessed by quarry-tiled brick steps with ornamental iron railings. The three-panel original wood door with a storm door and stone accents on either side. A brick planter spans the west side of the porch. Windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements, with a tripartite picture window west of the entry. The lot slopes from west to east, and as a result, the carport at the east elevation has a high ceiling, which is supported by ornamental iron supports on brick kneewall. The east elevation gable has aluminum siding and rectangular louvered vent. A porch under the carport has been enclosed and clad in vinyl siding. The west elevation of the main block of the house has aluminum siding and a

⁵³ Tom Hanchett, "1615 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1615-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁵⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1621 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1621-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

louvered vent in the gable. A shed addition at rear east has a brick veneer and a shed porch with square section wood posts on its west elevation. A wood deck is visible at the rear of the shed addition. A long, gabled addition extends from the west side of the rear elevation. An interior brick chimney rises through the front roof slope interior.

**Milton D. and Gwendolyn D. Cunningham House, 1627 Oaklawn Avenue (1952, 1967)
Contributing Building**

Built 1951-1952 by Thomas & Revis Building Co. for educators Milton Daniel Cunningham and Gwendolyn Davidson Cunningham. Milton was a native of Chester County, South Carolina who graduated from WSSU. He later earned a master's degree from Columbia University. After serving in WWII, he worked for the state Employment Security Commission for six years before moving into education. Milton taught in Gastonia before coming to CMS in 1953 and retiring in 1976. Gwendolyn grew up in Kings Mountain, where her father was principal of Davidson High School. She attended Barber-Scotia Seminary and graduated from Bennett College. She later earned a master's degree from Columbia University and completed further graduate studies at Howard University, UNC, and UNC Charlotte. Gwendolyn served as principal at Double Oaks Elementary and Oaklawn Elementary, where she was nationally recognized for leadership of the newly integrated school.⁵⁵

The Cunningham House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a protruding gabled façade bay on the west side with paired typical one-over-one vinyl replacement windows on its façade. It has a prominent louvered vent in the gable above aluminum siding. The recessed front entry is covered with a metal hood and has brick steps with quarry tile and wood handrails. The door is obscured by an ornamental iron storm door. The east elevation has aluminum siding in the gable and an exterior brick chimney. The west elevation of the main block of the residence has a louvered vent in the peak and gabled bay visible at the rear. Extensive additions were made to the east elevation and rear elevation in 1967. A large gabled addition extends from the rear and east elevations of the primary mass. A gabled side entry bay has a quarry-tiled brick stoop covered by metal canopy with ornamental iron supports. The door has an ornamental iron storm door. The east elevation of the addition has a wide exterior brick chimney. Two low-slope shed-roofed bays at the rear were also added in 1967.

Carport (detached) (1967) – Contributing

Gabled carport has round metal columns and aluminum siding in gable and on rear storeroom.

**Thomas H. and Grace L. Wyche House, 1635 Oaklawn Avenue (1949, 1959)
Contributing Building**

Built 1949 by Ervin Construction Company for attorney Thomas H. Wyche and Grace Long Wyche. Thomas was a graduate of JCSU and attended law school at Howard University. He

⁵⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1627 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1627-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

returned to Charlotte and began practice, only one of four Black attorneys in the city at the time. Thomas became one of the Carolinas' most important Civil Rights attorneys, part of the national network of NAACP lawyers who worked together to attack segregation from the 1940s through the 1960s. Thomas played an active role in nearly every major and minor Civil Rights action that touched Charlotte, including desegregation of the airport, schools and health care, the sit-in movement, the 1961 Freedom Ride, and the trial of international Civil Rights rebel Robert Williams. Thomas later helped start Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont in 1967, today an important resource for low-income Charlotte-area residents. Grace was a career school librarian who partnered with her husband in activism. After completing a two-year program at Barber-Scotia College, she graduated from Shaw University and would later earn a master's degree from Columbia University. A building permit was issued in 1959 for an unspecified remodel.⁵⁶

The Wyche House is a one-and-a-half-story, Minimal Traditional house with a masonry foundation with basement, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Windows are original wood sash, typically six-over-six double-hung with storm windows. The gabled façade bay has a tripartite window and entry porch under a scalloped metal canopy with delicate metal posts. The porch has brick steps and an ornamental iron railing, and the entry door has an ornamental iron storm door. The gable for the façade bay has eave returns and a louvered vent. An additional window on the west side of the façade has a metal awning with "W" monogram. The east elevation has an exterior brick chimney. Side gables have six-over-six double-hung wood windows in the upper level and small louvered vents in peaks. The basement is accessible by a below-grade entry on the east elevation. It has concrete steps, wood railing with metal posts, and a replacement panel door. A wide shed dormer is on the rear elevation.

Williams-Beckwith House, 1641 Oaklawn Avenue (1950)

Contributing Building

Built in 1949-50 by Thomas & Revis for physician Dr. Oliver Benjamin Williams and Ethel T. Williams. Oliver was a native of Newberry, South Carolina, who graduated from JCSU where he played football. He continued to Fisk University, earning a master's degree, then medical school at Meharry Medical College. Upon completing a surgical residency in Kansas City, he returned to Charlotte to establish his practice. He died in 1954. Ethel moved to Detroit and sold the house to Carson Hezekiah Beckwith and Margaret Demond Beckwith. Carson was a graduate of NC Central and taught school for a short period in rural eastern North Carolina. He entered Moler Beauty College in Brooklyn, and upon graduation, moved to Charlotte and opened Band's Beauty College, the first cosmetology school for African Americans in the Charlotte region. Margaret was an accomplished musician, graduating from the Eastman School of Music and operating the Beckwith School of Music in Charlotte. She died in 1965, and Carson remarried to Ivestia "Peggy" Hegge the following year. After attending Bennett College, Peggy moved to New York and worked as a fashion model and for the Urban League. Peggy became one of the first Black women on radio when she went on air at WEDR in Birmingham, Alabama, as "Peggy Heggie." She moved to Charlotte to work as public relations director at JCSU and married

⁵⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Carson. Peggy later became executive director of the local Association for Sickle Cell Disease, serving in the position for thirty-one years.⁵⁷

The Williams-Beckwith House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick and stone veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a gabled façade bay with a picture window, eave returns, vinyl siding, and louvered vent in the roof peak. A square jalousie window is its west elevation of the façade bay overlooking the entry. A brick and quarry tile stoop leads to the original stepped three-lite wood door. Adjacent to the west is a diamond-pane window. Windows are original metal sash casement—1 six-lite on the façade and eight-lite on side elevations. A prominent wide façade chimney and adjacent façade are clad in stone veneer. Gabled wings recessed from the primary mass are at either side elevation. The west wing has an original window on the façade, eave returns, and louvered vent in the gable. The east ell is formerly a one-car garage with an infill wall with vinyl siding and a pair of horizontal slider windows to mimic the appearance of a garage door. A recessed entry with brick steps lined by a pipe railing connects the garage with the primary mass. The east elevation of the garage has eave returns and a 12 twelve-lite original window, and a gabled addition sheathed in vinyl siding at the rear. The east elevation of the primary mass has aluminum siding in the gable and a louvered vent in peak. Aerial imagery shows a curved glass, prefabricated sunroom west of the east gabled addition.

**Rudolph M. and Carolyne W. Wyche House, 1713 Oaklawn Avenue (1960)
Contributing Building**

Built 1959-60 for Dr. Rudolph Melville Wyche, one of Charlotte's most distinguished physicians, and Carolyne Welborne Wyche, a nurse. Rudolph (no relation to neighbor attorney Thomas Wyche) played an active role in civic affairs. He was part of the plaintiff group that won the 1951 lawsuit that desegregated Revolution Park, and in the mid-1950s, he served as president of the Black Old North State Medical Association as its members worked to end segregation in health care. The son of physician Allen A. Wyche, who began to practice in Charlotte in the 1890s, Rudolph was a graduate of JCSU and trained in medicine at Howard University. He interned at Lincoln Hospital in Durham before beginning practice in Charlotte. Carolyne came from her native Salisbury to attend the nurses training program at Charlotte's Good Samaritan Hospital, graduating in 1944. In addition to assisting her husband, she worked as a nurse first at Good Samaritan then, after integration, at Charlotte Memorial Hospital. Later in her career, she worked for CMS, retiring as a health occupations teacher at Independence High.⁵⁸

The Wyche House is a long one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, Roman brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a prominent gabled façade bay with picture window and an integral entry porch with brick steps, square section wood posts and railing, and vinyl siding in the gable. An oculus window is adjacent to the entry, which has an original six-panel wood door with flanking narrow sidelights and wood panels. Windows are one-over-one

⁵⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1641 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1641-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁵⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1713 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1713-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

double-hung vinyl replacement with six-over-six false grids. A brick interior chimney rises directly behind the façade bay. A trio of windows are at the west corner of the façade. The east elevation consists of a gabled rear-entry carport with decorative brick perforation at the south corner. Gables have louvered vents in peak. A gabled wing extends from the rear at the west elevation.

Dr. Roy S. and Maria E. Wynn House, 1721 Oaklawn Avenue (1951, 1962)

Contributing Building

Built 1950-51 for Dr. Roy Spurgeon Wynn, one of Charlotte's leading medical men and the region's only African American ophthalmologist, and Maria Ellis Wynn. A native of Bertie County, Roy attended Howard University for undergraduate studies and medical school. He trained in ophthalmology at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis. Dr. Wynn initially began practice in Warrenton but moved to Charlotte, opening an office in 1941. He served as president of the local NAACP and joined lawsuits to desegregate public facilities. A native of Warrenton, Maria graduated from Shaw University. She was civically active, serving as the first Black woman on the board of the Charlotte YWCA.⁵⁹

The Wynn House is a prominent two-story Colonial Revival house with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows appear to be eight-over-eight original wood sash. A brick basket weave water table demarks the main floor level. Soffits and cornices have vinyl siding. A dentiled cornice adorns the façade. Gables have eave returns. The symmetrical façade has eight-over-eight double-hung wood windows on both levels flanking the entry porch and six-over-six double-hung wood windows upstairs. A flat half-round portico with Tuscan columns and dentil cornice shelters the entry. A brick sidewalk and rounded steps with ornamental iron railing lead to the entry, which has a six-panel door and storm door with flanking sidelights and fanlight above. The sidelights are four-lite with a wood panel below. Wings extend from either side elevation. The east elevation has an exterior brick chimney rising through the flat-roofed porch. The porch has Tuscan columns and dentil cornice on the façade. A five-lite wood French door provides entry to the house. Flanking the chimney are quarter-round windows, with a louvered vent at south and four-lite window at north. The ca. 1962 west wing was designed by Ferebee Walters and Associates. It is two bays wide and projects beyond the façade. It has a dentiled cornice on the façade. The first bay has an eight-over-eight double-hung wood window, and the second bay is comprised of a porte cochere with Tuscan columns. The upper level of the west elevation has two eight-over-eight double-hung wood windows and a small six-over-six double-hung wood window in the gable. Visible at the west rear is a hipped ell.

Theodore A. and Mildred P. Alridge House, 1729 Oaklawn Avenue (1969)

Contributing Building

Built 1968-1969 for Mildred Phillips Brodie Alridge, a lifelong educator, and plasterer Theodore "Theo" Addison Aldridge. Mildred was a native of Charlotte who attended Shaw University and

⁵⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1721 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1721-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

graduated with degrees in education from the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University. She taught elementary school in CMS. Her first husband, Rev. Milledge Thompson Brodie II, died in 1948, and she remarried to Theo in 1957. Theo was a retired plasterer with C.W. Kirkland Company.⁶⁰

The Alridge House is a long one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof with a dentil cornice, cream-colored brick veneer with brick quoins at the corners, and a masonry foundation. It has original two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows, though the façade tripartite window was unable to be assessed due to the window screens. The recessed entry is accessed by brick steps and has narrow sidelights over panels flanking the original, six-panel, wood door with an ornamental iron screen door. A bay at the east end of the façade is recessed. The recessed west wing consists of a two-car garage. A small brick chimney is centered on the rear elevation.

**First Baptist Church-West, 1801 Oaklawn Avenue (1976-1977, 2004)
Contributing Building**

First Baptist Church-West dedicated this new sanctuary on Oaklawn Avenue in 1977. The institution is Charlotte's oldest Black Baptist congregation, founded in 1867 and housed for many years in a handsome brick building at 1020 South College Street in the center city. The building on Oaklawn Avenue is architecturally significant as the work of important African American architect Harvey Gantt. Gantt integrated Clemson University as an architecture student, established the long-running Charlotte firm Gantt-Huberman in 1971, and won two terms as Charlotte's first Black mayor in the 1980s. The church had acquired property on Oaklawn Avenue by 1973, when adjacent landowners Alexander and Leila Davis renounced any claim to the intended right-of-way for Mulberry Street and sold the property to the church. The building permit was granted in April 1976. A Family Life Center with chapel and gymnasium was completed by contractor John S. Clark Co. in 2004.⁶¹

Before becoming the home of First Baptist Church-West, the site on Oaklawn Avenue initially held a dormitory for the Roman Catholic order of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The African American order came to Charlotte to staff Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School, an African American academy that opened on Statesville Avenue in 1957. The one-story brick structure was demolished by 2003 for the construction of the Family Life Center.⁶²

The sanctuary of First Baptist Church-West is contemporary in its design with a blocky geometrical massing and angled rooflines. The standing-seam metal roof over the primary mass is an asymmetric butterfly shape punctuated by a tall, shed clerestory with stained glass on its north face. A shed belltower rises at the northwest corner of the façade, which faces Oaklawn

⁶⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1729 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1729-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁶¹ Tom Hanchett, "1801 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1801-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁶² "McCrorey Heights: Making History in an African American Neighborhood," unpublished draft report (August 1, 2022), 33.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Avenue. The three primary entrances are deeply recessed. The primary mass is trapezoidal in plan, and tall narrow stained-glass windows along the side elevations are set at the rear of recessed bays. The sanctuary is linked to the flat-roofed fellowship hall and Family Life Center by a glazed entry hall. All buildings have a concrete slab foundation.

Shed (2001) - Noncontributing

A gabled concrete masonry unit storage building is at the northwest edge of the parking lot.

VACANT LOT – 1901 Oaklawn Avenue

Formerly the site of the Elias L. and Mary Foster House. Elias L. Foster and wife Mary Foster were the first residents of a ca. 1914 one-story frame hipped Craftsman house on the site. Elias operated a barber shop on South Mint Street. The home was acquired by First Baptist Church-West in 2004 and demolished in 2018.⁶³

Moore-Davis House, 1907 Oaklawn Avenue (1928)

Contributing Building

Rev. William H. (also referred to as Wade) Moore and Sallie Moore were issued a building permit for the house at 1907 Oaklawn Avenue in May 1928. Rev. Moore was a native of South Carolina and a Methodist minister. They had moved to Kershaw County, South Carolina by 1935. Alexander and Leila Davis purchased the property in 1937 and resided there until building a new house next door at 1911 Oaklawn Avenue in 1956. Alexander was a porter at Pound & Moore office supply store, and later at the Federal Reserve Bank. Leila was a teacher at Myers Street School.⁶⁴

The Moore-Davis House is a hip-roofed frame Craftsman house built on brick piers, sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof, and sheathed in aluminum siding. The gabled roof of the porch extends from the roof ridge and features a pair of four-lite Craftsman windows under the gable. It is supported by ornamental iron supports on brick piers, and the brick stairs have brick parapets and ornamental iron railings. Windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement. A single-shouldered chimney rises on the east elevation, flanked by small windows in a classic Craftsman configuration. Another brick chimney is located near the rear of the house.

Garage (1958) – Contributing

A gabled concrete masonry unit garage is located behind the house.

Alexander W. and Leila M. Davis House, 1911 Oaklawn Avenue (1954)

Contributing Building

Alexander Walter Davis, a porter at the Federal Reserve Bank, and Leila Mildred McPherson Davis, a teacher at Myers Street School, contracted with Ervin Construction Company to build

⁶³ Tom Hanchett, "1901 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 19, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1901-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁶⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1907 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1907-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

the house at 1911 Oaklawn Avenue in 1954. The Davises resided in the home until their respective deaths in 1983 and 1990.⁶⁵

The Davis House, built in 1954, is an unusual later appearance of the Tudor Revival cottages popular two decades previous. The brick veneer house has a tall, asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, and a masonry foundation. The façade features a protruding gabled bay even with the porch. This bay has a trio of windows and a round decorative window, which appears original, in the gable. The porch has a metal awning supported with ornamental iron supports with railing and concrete floor. The entrance bay has a tall gable and a replacement two-panel door with leaded glass. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements. A brick chimney is located at the west elevation. An original metal four-lite French casement window is in the gable on the east elevation. Two replacement casement windows on the east elevation indicate a basement. A full-width gabled ell extends at the rear.

Carport (detached) (2003) – Noncontributing

A gabled frame carport located behind the house is not visible from public right-of-way; viewed from aerial imagery.

Rev. Samuel W. and Emma Byers Hamilton House, 1913 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1924, 1958, 1964)

Contributing Building

Rev. Samuel W. Hamilton was a graduate of Livingstone College who pastored numerous churches and served in the district administration of the A.M.E. Zion Church. He and his first wife, Emma C. Byers Hamilton, had contractor R. A. Summerville construct “a two-story dwelling costing \$4,000 and containing eight rooms” on then-Double Oaks Avenue in 1924.⁶⁶ Emma, who was a teacher, died in 1932. Rev. Hamilton remarried to a woman named Helen, and he predeceased her in 1955. Helen worked at the A.M.E. Zion Publishing House. She lived in the house with her second husband, Charles W. Clarkson, until selling it in 1967 to Earl Avant. Building permits were issued in 1958 for a remodel and in 1964 to add a stairway upstairs.⁶⁷

The Hamilton House has an asphalt shingle hipped roof with gabled bay on the west bay of the facade. It is built on a masonry foundation and sheathed in asbestos siding. The hipped porch is supported by ornamental iron supports on brick piers and a single truncated wood post at the west corner. The porch has ornamental iron railing and a concrete floor with brick border. The porch wraps around to the west elevation, forming an enclosed gabled bay with two-over-two windows with storm windows. Typical windows are four-over-one wood sash with storm windows. Eaves are bracketed and have exposed rafters. There is a wide rectangular interior chimney at the center of the roof.

⁶⁵ Tom Hanchett, “1911 Oaklawn Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1911-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁶⁶ “Building Permits,” *Charlotte Observer*, July 25, 1924.

⁶⁷ Tom Hanchett, “1913 Oaklawn Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1913-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Edward and Bonnie Warren O'Daniel House, 1919 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1924)

Contributing Building

J. Henry Warren, the original owner of 1923 Oaklawn Avenue, sold part of his property to daughter Bonnie Lucille Warren O'Daniel and her husband Edward in 1924. Edward worked as a porter/bellman at the Mecklenburg Hotel, one of the city's largest downtown hotels. He was a founding member of the Colonel Charles Young Post No. 168 of the American Legion in 1926. Bonnie was leader of the Biddleville community center. He died aged thirty-six in 1929 of influenza and pneumonia. Bonnie and their children moved to Brooklyn, New York after 1935. The next notable owners were Charles W. and Lucille Withers, who purchased the property in 1944. Charlie operated the Neighborhood Service Station on Beatties Ford Road.⁶⁸

The O'Daniel House is a one-story, side-gabled Craftsman house built on masonry foundation, sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof, and sheathed in wood weatherboard siding. Eaves have exposed rafter tails and wood brackets. It has a prominent gabled porch with wood shingle siding and louvered wood vent in the gable. The porch has a broken tile floor and ornamental iron supports. The front door is four-lite wood. Typical windows are original four-over-one wood sash with storm windows. Windows on side elevations have metal awnings. Brick chimneys are located on the west elevation through the eave, east elevation through the eave, and at the south elevation of the gabled rear bay. Aerial imagery shows a full-width rear ell with a gabled bay at east and a hipped bay at west.

Warren-Drye House, 1923 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1929)

Contributing Building

J. Henry Warren was issued a building permit for a "two-story frame house" on Oaklawn Avenue in early 1929.⁶⁹ A graduate of Biddle University, he was a noted barber whose shop was located near City Hall and serviced many of Charlotte's elite white businessmen and civic leaders. J. Henry was a longtime Sunday School superintendent for Grace A.M.E. Zion Church. He married Lula G. Lomax Warren, daughter of A.M.E. Zion Bishop Thomas H. Lomax, in 1896. She was a teacher at Biddleville School until retiring in 1942. The Warrens had previously lived in a home in Washington Heights which was featured in the 1915 publication *Colored Charlotte*. However, they only resided in the new house on Oaklawn Avenue for four years, as the Great Depression led to the closure of J. Henry's barber shop and foreclosure on the house. They moved to the Brooklyn neighborhood, where Lula died in 1956. J. Henry later resided in Washington, D.C., where he died in 1960.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1919 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1919-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁶⁹ "Building Permits," *Charlotte Observer*, January 24, 1929.

⁷⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1923 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1923-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Warren-Drye House was purchased in 1938 by Thomas Wesley and Bertha Beard Drye. A native of Cabarrus County, Thomas was employed by retailer Ed Mellon Co. for over fifty years as a porter. He died in 1954. Bertha, who was his second wife, sold the property in 1959.⁷¹

The Warren-Drye House is one of the few examples of the Dutch Colonial style of Colonial Revival residential architecture found in Charlotte. The two-story asphalt shingle gambrel-roof house is built on a masonry foundation and is sheathed in wood German siding. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six grid vinyl replacements. The façade is symmetrical in form, with shed porch and wide shed dormer. The shed porch has truncated wood posts on brick piers. Façade fenestration is asymmetrical, with a pair of typical windows, a replacement door, and a typical window unevenly spaced at the first level. The shed dormer has two typical windows above the door and window and a third typical window above the east paired window. An exterior brick chimney extends through the eaves at the east elevation. A smaller interior brick chimney is centered at the rear of the roof ridge.

**Rev. Abraham H. and Susan P. Prince House, 1927 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1932, 1959)
Contributing Building**

Rev. Abraham H. Prince, pastor of Brooklyn Presbyterian Church, and Susan P. Prince purchased the property from J. Henry Warren in 1928. They constructed a house by 1932, which is when they first appeared in the Charlotte city directory at the Oaklawn Avenue address. Rev. Prince was a graduate of Biddle Institute. Susan Peacock Prince was a teacher who graduated from Shaw University. They resided in the house until 1980. Building permits were issued in 1959 for repairs from a fire.⁷²

The Prince House is one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled Craftsman Bungalow. It is built on a masonry foundation, sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof, and is sheathed in wood weatherboard siding. Asbestos shingle siding, which had covered the wood siding, has been removed since a 2019 local historic district survey. The engaged porch has prominent rectangular brick columns at the corners supporting curved wood brackets and wood beam. ornamental Iron supports set on the solid brick balustrade with stone cap flank the brick porch steps. Under the porch is the wood front door with adjacent casement windows with transom. The façade has a large gabled dormer with eave brackets and a trio of two-over-two vinyl replacement windows. A brick chimney rises through the roof at the west elevation and beyond the gabled dormer. The east elevation has a bay window with a shed roof in its third bay. A shed porch with enclosed sections on its west end extends from the rear, which has a matching gabled dormer. A third brick chimney is located through the roof at the east elevation of the rear.

Dr. Robert H. and Gladys L. Greene House, 2001 Oaklawn Avenue (1937, 1956-1957, 1961)

Around 1936, Dr. Robert H. Greene and Gladys L. Greene, residents of the Brooklyn neighborhood, purchased property along Oaklawn Avenue to construct a new home. The

⁷¹ Tom Hanchett, "1923 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1923-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁷² Tom Hanchett, "1927 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1927-oaklawn-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Greene chose from a catalogue a plan by Robert L. Stevenson of Boston. A graduate of Howard University's undergraduate and medical school programs, Dr. Greene and Gladys moved to Charlotte around 1929. She taught elementary school, and he ran his medical practice from the Mecklenburg Investment Company building, Charlotte's first office building owned by and leased exclusively to Black professionals. Dr. Greene also served as staff physician at Good Samaritan Hospital, Charlotte's African American hospital. As an obstetrician and family doctor, Dr. Greene delivered hundreds of babies and provided primary medical care for numerous families throughout the county. He was one of the first African American doctors to gain privileges to Charlotte Memorial Hospital and was named by North Carolina Governors Dan Moore and Robert Scott to the Medical Advisory Council for the State Board of Mental Health. Dr. Greene was also involved in several professional organizations, including the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Society, and the American Medical Association, and was a member and one-time president of both the Charlotte Medical Society and the Old North State Medical Society. The Greene House was designated a Mecklenburg County landmark in 2009. A building permit was issued in December 1956 for an addition, and a second permit was granted in 1961 for siding.⁷³

The Greene House is a two-story side-gabled Colonial Revival house sheathed in wood siding. The roof has an asphalt shingle roof, and the foundation is a crawlspace on brick. Typical windows are six-over-six wood windows, except on the facade which has eight-over-eight wood windows. The facade of the principal section of the house is symmetrical. The front entrance is centered on the facade. It is sheltered by a gabled pedimented portico supported by two Tuscan columns, along with two similar pilasters. The columns rest on a brick stoop accessed by two full-width brick steps. The portico features beaded trim at the base and molded trim at the top of the simple freeze. The gable is recessed with molded trim on the raking cornice. The portico shelters the original six-panel door, which is topped by an elliptical fixed transom containing leaded glass set in a fan pattern. Sidelights contain leaded glass in a geometric pattern and wooden panels. Side elevations each feature a one-story wing with flat roofs and balustrades, with a sunroom at the east elevation and porch at the west elevation. The sunroom features Tuscan columns with French doors and sidelights. The west porch has trios of columns at the corners and a pair of columns between. The rear elevation has a two-story gabled ell with arched gable vent, continuous eaves, and a trio of typical windows upstairs and a pair of small four-over-four wood windows below. A one-story hipped addition wraps around the gable ell.⁷⁴

Garage (ca. 1937) – Contributing

One-story frame garage is front-gabled with wood weatherboard siding and replacement garage door.

⁷³ Tom Hanchett, "2001 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2001-oaklawn-avenue/>; William Jeffers, "Dr. Robert H. Greene House: Survey and Research Report," Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission (2009), accessed September 19, 2025, <https://hl.mecknc.gov/Properties/Designated-Historic-Landmarks/charlotte/west-end/greene-house-dr-robert-h.>

⁷⁴ Jeffers, "Greene House."

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Frederick L. and Grace E. Wiley House, 2009 Oaklawn Avenue (1938, 1957)

Contributing Building

Frederick L. Wiley and wife Grace E. Wiley were career educators, he at Second Ward High and she at Isabella Wyche Elementary, and were life-long residents of the house. The Wileys were granted a building permit for a \$5,100 dwelling on Oaklawn Avenue in June 1938. Fred was a pitcher in the Negro National League in the 1920s and was nicknamed "The Atlanta Surprise." His civic leadership included membership on the three-person committee that raised half the funds to construct West Charlotte's athletic stadium in 1948, spurring the School Board to provide a matching amount. Grace helped launch the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, an active African American sorority. In 1942 she was one of the first five initiates tapped by the original seven charter members, a majority of whom were residents of McCrorey Heights. A building permit for an addition was issued in February 1957.⁷⁵

This two-story, side-gabled, frame house has a masonry foundation and is sheathed in vinyl siding and sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are six-over-six vinyl replacement. The façade entry bay has an entry projection with a steep gable with a small original six-over-six wood window in the gable above a replacement six-lite Craftsman door and a one-over-one with four-over-four grid vinyl replacement window. Composite shake siding on front entry projection and enclosed east porch. A brick chimney extends through the eave at the east elevation. A 1957 one-story addition at rear has a hipped roof.

House, 2015 Oaklawn Avenue (2022)

Noncontributing Building

Formerly the site of the Robert H. and Azilee Caldwell House, a one-story side-gabled frame house built ca. 1915. The two-story flat-roofed modernist house has a concrete slab foundation. It is sheathed in varying applications of wood composite siding. The façade is two bays wide. The lower level is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and is slightly recessed. It has an entry with overhead brace awning and five three-lite storefront windows. The upper level has a small, fixed window over the entry and a pair of four-lite windows with spandrel panels above. The wall of the east elevation continues beyond the façade plane. The east elevation has board-and-batten siding. It features a prominent window wall at the southeast corner. The west elevation has wood composite siding.

Garage/apartment (ca. 2024) – Noncontributing

The two-story, shed-roofed accessory dwelling unit has an apartment over a garage. It is sheathed in wood composite siding and has paired fixed windows on the upper façade. The unit has the address 2017 Oaklawn Avenue.

Dr. Edson E and Gertrude Blackman House, 2019 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1938, 1975)

Contributing Building

⁷⁵ "Building Permits," *Charlotte Observer*, June 29, 1938; Tom Hanchett, "2009 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2009-oaklawn-avenue/>; "Fred Wiley," Seamheads, accessed September 19, 2025, <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=wiley01fre>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Built about 1938-39 by Dr. Edson E. Blackman and Gertrude Williams Blackman. Dr. Blackman was a Barbadian-born physician of statewide importance during the 1930s and 1940s for his pathbreaking work to document and end the substandard conditions of African American hospitals under segregation. Gertrude was a nurse who helped found the Charlotte chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. Dr. Blackman helped organize Black Parent Teacher Associations across the city to ask for larger appropriations for African American schools in 1946, and the following year he ran for School Board. In 1953 he joined with most of the city's other Black doctors in a study calling for expansion of Good Samaritan Hospital. For his decades of effort locally and across the state, his fellow Black physicians in the Old North State Medical Society named him Doctor of the Year in 1959. Dr. Blackman died in 1961, and Gertrude moved to Buffalo, New York, where she died in 1970. The Blackman heirs sold the property to Steno and Mattie Gaines. They received a building permit in 1975 to add a carport, which has since been removed.⁷⁶

This two-story side-gabled Colonial Revival house has an asphalt shingle roof and masonry foundation. It is sheathed in brick veneer and has a heavy dentil cornice wrapping into eave returns on the side elevations. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grids vinyl replacement. The entry has fluted pilasters topped with a broken pediment. The symmetrical façade features the centered entry at the main level and a smaller typical window above. On either side is a bay with typical windows at each level. An exterior brick chimney is at the west elevation. The side elevations have paired windows in the gable. A one-story gabled ell with brick veneer is on the west side of the rear elevation. An exterior chimney is on its rear elevation. A shed-roofed enclosed porch extends from the ell across the rear elevation of house. A gabled enclosed entry extends from the east elevation. Both the enclosed entry and enclosed porch are sheathed in wood composite siding.

Rev. Frank M. and Effie Beaver House, 2025 Oaklawn Avenue (ca. 1923, 1950, 1957, 1963, 2021-2022)

Noncontributing Building

The house was likely built by Alex and Lula Coble, who purchased the property in 1923 from white realtor Lee Kinney. The Cobles defaulted on a \$1500 loan in 1925. Kinney purchased the house at public sale, then he sold it to plasterer Robert H. Caldwell and wife Azilee Caldwell. Rev. Franklin M. Beaver, minister at Davidson United Presbyterian Church from 1934 until his retirement in 1965, and his wife Effie Byers Beaver purchased the property in 1931 from the Caldwells. Effie taught in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County schools for thirty-seven years and attended JCSU. She died in 1957. Rev. Beaver married Johnsie Allison in 1961. Johnsie was a teacher at Harding High School until retiring in 1977. Rev. Beaver died in 1973, and Johnsie lived in the house into the 1980s.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Tom Hanchett, "2019 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2019-oaklawn-avenue/>.

⁷⁷ Tom Hanchett, "2025 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2025-oaklawn-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 498, Page 201; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 591, Page 435; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 812, Page 50; "Mrs. F. M. Beaver," obituary, *Charlotte News*, June 26, 1957; "Rev. F. M. Beaver," obituary, *Charlotte News*, August 15, 1973.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

This one-and-a-half-story house on a masonry foundation has an asphalt shingle clipped side-gabled roof and is sheathed in brick veneer, added ca. 1963, with composite siding on noted additions. The property was renovated in 2021-2022, with the original center gable replaced with a larger gabled dormer flanked by smaller gabled dormers. The gabled front porch has new truncated wood posts on brick piers and bluestone flooring, replacing the ornamental iron supports added in 1963. A shed dormer is located on the rear roof slope. A brick chimney is at the west elevation. Typical windows are tripartite vinyl sash, and the doors are replacement.

PATTON AVENUE

Rev. Calvin M. & Margaretta R. Young House, 1600 Patton Avenue (1959, 2022-2023)

Noncontributing Building

Originally a one-story hip-roofed Ranch house with brick veneer and projecting hipped garage bay below grade. The house was substantially remodeled in 2022-2023 and no longer bears resemblance to its original appearance. The house was built in 1959 for Rev. Calvin Monroe Young, Jr. and Margaretta Reese Young. Rev. Young was one of McCrorey Heights' many Presbyterian ministers. He commuted to Gastonia, where he led that city's main African American Presbyterian congregation for a quarter century. He attended South Carolina State University and received his theological education at JCSU. Margaretta held a Bachelor of Science degree in science and mathematics from Knoxville College and taught at Highland High in Gastonia and West Charlotte High.⁷⁸

The Young House today is a one-story Contemporary house sheathed in wood composite siding. Roofs are asphalt shingle. It has a masonry foundation with concrete slab foundation at the basement level. Its façade has a perpendicular projecting shed bay with board and batten siding; the shed roof section extends the entire depth of the house. A deck forms part of the roof of the basement, which exits to grade. The entrance bay is also shed-roofed with clerestory windows. The shed porch has a rectangular wood post and horizontal railing and wood composite decking. Beyond the entrance bay is the shed-roofed footprint of the original house.

Charles E. and Lena M. Sammons House, 1601 Patton Avenue (1958)

Contributing Building

Designed by noted Charlotte architect Louis Asbury and built in 1958 by Marsh Realty Co. for Charles Edward, Sr. and Lena Mills Sammons. Charles was one of several McCrorey Heights men who worked for the U.S. Post Office, among the best-paying steady jobs available to African Americans before the 1960s. Lena was a life-long educator with degrees from JCSU and UNC. She taught at York Road High and Garinger High, served as Director of Public Relations at JCSU, and finished her career as principal of Hidden Valley Elementary. She ran for a seat on the Board of Education in 1974.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1600 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1600-patton-avenue/>.

⁷⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1601 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1601-patton-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, August 12, 1958.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Sammons House is a one-story, brick veneered Ranch with an asphalt shingle hip roof, a masonry foundation, and an interior brick chimney. The hipped porch has ornamental iron supports and a stacked concrete masonry unit wing wall at its east elevation. There is a mix of original two-over-two double-hung, wood windows and vinyl replacement windows. The façade features six original windows in a ribbon configuration and a pair of replacement windows under the porch. A hipped ell extends at the west side of the rear elevation.

**Rev. Herman L. and Olethea W. Counts House, 1604 Patton Avenue (1959, 1971)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1958 by Marsh Realty, the house was purchased by Rev. Herman L. Counts and Olethea "Lee" Wilson Counts. Rev. Counts was a native of Roland, South Carolina, and two-time alumnus of JCSU. He pastored rural churches before earning a master's degree from the McCormick Theological Seminary and a PhD in Religious Education and Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. Rev. Counts joined the faculty of JCSU in 1947 and became an active civic leader in Charlotte. Lee was from Charleston and attended Coulter Memorial Academy in Cheraw, South Carolina, and Scotia Seminary. She taught kindergarten at Oaklawn Center.⁸⁰

Their daughter Dorothy Counts made national headlines when she integrated Harding High in 1957, the year before the family moved to this house. Pressure at Harding proved so overwhelming that Herman and Lee Counts transferred daughter Dorothy to a boarding school out of state. She returned to Charlotte to attend JCSU and made her career in childhood education, often visiting her parents' home on Patton Avenue.⁸¹

The Counts House is a one-story brick veneer Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof and a masonry foundation. Most windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grids vinyl sash replacement. The projecting hipped porch has ornamental iron supports and railing. Also under the porch is an original six-lite floor-to-ceiling picture window with middle awning sashes. The entry has an original wood six-panel door with brass mail slot. The house has a brick interior chimney on the front slope. A gable false dormer with louvered vent is on the rear elevation. A small, hipped ell extends from the west side of the rear elevation.

Garage (ca. 2008) – Noncontributing

The front-gabled garage is sheathed in wood composite siding.

**William P. and Dorothy R. Crawford House, 1607 Patton Avenue (1959, 1963, 1971)
Contributing Building**

Built 1959 by Marsh-Broadway Construction Co. and purchased by William P. Crawford and Dorothy Rutledge Crawford. William was from Abbeville, South Carolina, and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He worked as a laborer and cook. A native of Charleston, Dorothy was a graduate of Knoxville College and earned a master's degree in library science from Catholic University.

⁸⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1604 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1604-patton-avenue/>.

⁸¹ Tom Hanchett, "1604 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1604-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

She worked as a librarian at Charlotte's short-lived Carver College, a segregation-era predecessor of Central Piedmont Community College and retired from CMS. Additions were made to the rear in 1963 and 1971.⁸²

The Crawford House is a one-story, brick veneered Ranch with a T-shaped, asphalt shingle, cross-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement. The front-gabled façade bay has a replacement tripartite picture window and recessed entry with an integral porch with ornamental iron supports and railing. Gable ends have aluminum siding. A shed addition at the rear has aluminum siding. An interior brick chimney is located near the east elevation.

Jack S. and Jeanne M. Brayboy House, 1608 Patton Avenue (1960-1961)

Contributing Building

Built by contractor Hubert S. Whitlock in 1960-61 for Dr. Jack S. and Jeanne Martin Brayboy. Jack was a professor and director of athletics at JCSU, one of the university's most respected and beloved figures. Brayboy Gymnasium, the school's basketball arena, is named in his honor. A native of New Jersey, Jack played football at JCSU while triple-majoring in chemistry, mathematics, and physical education. He also earned a master's degree in physical education and PhD in teacher education from the University of Pennsylvania. Jeanne was an elementary school music teacher who became one of Charlotte's most active civic women. She grew up in Camden, South Carolina, and attended Bennett College in Greensboro. While earning a master's degree from Boston College, Jeanne briefly dated Martin Luther King, Jr. She taught for forty years in CMS.⁸³

The Brayboy House is a one-story side-gabled Ranch on a masonry foundation. The roof is asphalt shingle. It features an unusually large projecting second-story gabled bay over a double carport. The one-story portion has brick veneer and flared eaves in the east gable. Brick steps with ornamental iron railing lead to the entrance, which has paired fifteen-panel wood doors flanked by wide sidelights with diamond textured glass. Adjacent is a replacement tripartite picture window. The second-story bay above the carport has flared eaves in the gable, horizontal sliding two-lite windows, and vinyl siding. The double carport has round metal posts along the exterior and is divided by a storeroom with vinyl siding along the interior.

Bernice M. and Lawrence H. Bullock House, 1611 Patton Avenue (1955-1956, 1963)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955-1956 and remodeled in 1963, this house's first owner-occupants were Bernice Martin Richardson Bullock and her second husband Lawrence, a bellman at the Mecklenburg Hotel. In a neighborhood of impressive women, Bernice Martin Richardson Bullock was notable not only for her own achievements as a college administrator at Bethune-Cookman College and JCSU but also as mother to three daughters who became closely involved in local and national

⁸² Tom Hanchett, "1607 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1607-patton-avenue/>.

⁸³ Tom Hanchett, "1608 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1608-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Civil Rights efforts. Bernice and her first husband, barber Paul Hamilton Richardson (died 1943), were parents to Dr. Annie Richardson, who headed the National Institute of Science; Catherine Richardson Hawkins, whose husband Dr. Reginald Hawkins became Charlotte's most outspoken and effective Civil Rights crusader; and Emily Richardson Ivory, whose family led Civil Rights efforts in Rock Hill, South Carolina.⁸⁴

The Bullock House is a one-story L-shaped Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and a gabled façade. The roof has asphalt shingles. A gabled extension with wood siding above forms a bay with tripartite ribbon window and side entry with an integral porch with ornamental iron support and railing. Stone veneer wraps from the façade to the west elevation under the flat-roofed carport. The carport has brick columns on a low brick kneewall. A hipped ell forms the lower portion of the L-shape at the south end of the carport. Typical windows are tripartite horizontal sliding vinyl sash replacement. A flat-roofed enclosed porch at the west end of the rear elevation has vinyl siding and jalousie windows.

Elizabeth S. and John D. Randolph House, 1616 Patton Avenue (ca. 1959)

Contributing Building

Built about 1959 and first occupied by Elizabeth "Libby" Schmoke Randolph, who became a trailblazing woman in top leadership at CMS during the 1960s and 1970s, and her husband John Daniel Randolph (died 1963), an electrical engineer who oversaw maintenance operations at the Brookhill Village low-income housing development. Libby was principal at University Park Elementary when the couple moved into the house. During the 1960s as a CMS administrator, she launched kindergarten classes across the school district. She rose to become Assistant Superintendent in the 1970s, the first African American female to co-lead the district, and was celebrated as radio station WBT's Woman of the Year in 1979. The main building of the CMS administrative campus is named in her memory.⁸⁵

The Randolph House is a one-story brick veneered Ranch with an asphalt shingle, hipped roof and a masonry foundation. The site slopes from west to east, and tall brick steps with an ornamental iron railing lead to the recessed entry porch. Adjacent is a hipped bay with a pair of typical one-over-one, vinyl replacement windows with six-over-six false grids. The roofline extends to a carport with a storeroom to the west, supported by round metal posts on a brick kneewall. A brick interior chimney rises at the rear. Stone accents are around the entry door, and the frieze has dentil moulding.

Clarence E. and Helen F. Moreland House, 1617 Patton Avenue (1956)

Contributing Building

Built 1956 for Clarence Earl Moreland and wife Helen Pethel Moreland. Clarence was a graduate of Livingstone College who served as principal at Billingsville School and Northwest Junior High (today Northwest School of the Arts), the city's only Black middle school, when it

⁸⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1611 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1611-patton-avenue/>.

⁸⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1616 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1616-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

opened in 1954. Helen attended Howard University and taught at Fairview School. Both received master's degrees from Columbia University.⁸⁶

The Moreland House is a one-story Ranch on a masonry foundation sheathed in Roman brick veneer. It has a stepped, asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof. The primary mass has two bays of typical horizontal sliding replacement windows and an entry porch with ornamental iron railing with a diamond pattern. The original wood front door has a single rectangular light and is separated from the sidelight by a stone veneered panel. The stepped portion has replacement picture windows and a brick interior chimney rising through the roof ridge. A flat-roofed double carport extends from the rear and west elevation and has round metal posts and a brick veneer storeroom.

William E. and Doreatha M. Cornelius House, 1624 Patton Avenue (1980)

Noncontributing Building

A graduate of JCSU, William Edward Cornelius worked at Efirds department Store before operating a laundromat in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Dorethea Mayfield Cornelius taught at Biddleville School. The Corneliuses were granted a building permit in March 1980 for the house on Patton Avenue, which was constructed by Charlotte homebuilder American Family Homes, formed in 1972 and specializing in constructing individual homes for landowners.⁸⁷

The Cornelius House is a later iteration of the side-gabled, brick veneered Ranch on a masonry foundation and sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. Its length is accented by the double carport at its east end, which has ornamental iron supports on brick kneewalls. The uncovered front landing has an ornamental iron railing. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement.

Stanley C. and Clotelle N. Fisher House, 1627 Patton Avenue (1956, 1967)

Contributing Building

Constructed 1956 for postal clerk Stanley Fisher and wife Clotelle McQueen Fisher by her father, contractor Mangie McQueen. Stanley Coolidge Fisher grew up in Lexington, Kentucky. He won basketball and football scholarships to Fayetteville State College in North Carolina, served in WWII, and went on to graduate from Hampton Institute in Virginia in 1953. According to his funeral program, Stanley worked in a wide range of jobs over his lifetime, as noted in his funeral program:

Before entering college he worked as a horse groomer and trainer, waiter and traveled the Great Lakes as an attendant on passenger cruise ship lines. Later in life he was employed as a carpenter, painter, postal clerk, insurance agent, real

⁸⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1617 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1617-patton-avenue/>.

⁸⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1624 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1624-patton-avenue/>; "For the Record," *Charlotte News*, March 14, 1980.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

estate salesman, housing inspector for the City of Charlotte, and as a bus driver for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.⁸⁸

Clotelle was a graduate of Hampton Institute, Barber Scotia College, and Pennsylvania State University. She was one of the first women in local schools to teach drivers education. Her career included tenures at Second Ward High, West Charlotte High, and Garinger High.⁸⁹

The Fisher House is a one-story brick veneer Ranch with asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, a masonry foundation, and stone accents scattered throughout the façade. Windows are vinyl sash replacement. A small gabled front porch has wood German siding and angled eave returns in the gable and is supported by square section wood posts. The entry door is a four-panel replacement with fanlight. A brick planter extends along the façade. Side gables have triangular louvered vents in the peak. An interior brick chimney is located at the roof peak. A gabled bay extends from the west side of the rear elevation. An adjacent porch was enclosed as part of a ca. 1967 addition. The addition included a shed-roofed carport with brick veneer storeroom at the rear elevation. The carport was enclosed with brick veneer, full-lite window, and replacement door at a later date.

Fannie Davis Ivey Davidson House, 1631 Patton Avenue (1961)

Contributing Building

Teacher Fannie Davis Ivey Davidson purchased a Ranch house built by Marsh-Broadway Construction Company in 1961. Fannie graduated from JCSU and taught in Mecklenburg County schools. Her first husband, Rev. B. J. Ivey, died in 1959, and she remarried to Rev. William Henry Davidson (died 1967), pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Fannie rented the house but later resided there, as her obituary lists 1631 Patton Avenue as her home. The first tenant was Winston B. Fletcher, art teacher and coach at Second Ward High and later at Ranson Junior High. The house later served as the parsonage of Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church.⁹⁰

The Ivey Davidson House is a one-story Ranch house with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has an inset front entry porch with ornamental iron supports. East of the porch is an integral carport brick-clad storeroom with screened rear porch at rear. Storm windows are over the original two-over-two, wood sash windows. The wood fascia board is in disrepair. An exterior brick chimney is on the west elevation.

Frances C. and Elbert E. Waddell House, 1632 Patton Avenue (1965)

Contributing Building

⁸⁸ "In Memoriam of Mr. Stanley Coolidge Fisher," funeral program, Grier Funeral Service (2004), accessed September 19, 2025, https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Fisher_St Stanley.pdf.

⁸⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1627 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1627-patton-avenue/>.

⁹⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1631 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1631-patton-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, November 14, 1960; "Mrs. Fannie Davis Ivey Davidson," *Charlotte Observer*, September 19, 1985.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Built 1965-66 by contractor H. W. Carriker for Second Ward High principal Dr. Elbert Edwin "E. E." Waddell, one the city's top educators and civic leaders, and Frances Sarada Caldwell Waddell, also a teacher. Waddell received bachelor's and master's degrees from NC A&T and the Doctor of Education degree from Duke University. After serving as principal of Kingville High in Albemarle from 1943 to 1963, he was recruited to Charlotte. Waddell led Second Ward High as principal from 1963 to 1969. He then moved into CMS administration, first as Assistant to the Superintendent and later Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, until retirement in 1982. Today, educational facilities are named in Waddell's honor in both Albemarle and Charlotte. Frances held degrees from Barber-Scotia Seminary, Winston Salem State, and NC A&T. Her volunteer work with First Baptist Church-West resulted in her being named the church's Woman of the Year in 1977. They divorced in 1979, and Frances retained ownership of the house.⁹¹

The Waddell House is a symmetrical split-foyer house on a masonry foundation sheathed in brick veneer with quoins. The side-gabled roof is asphalt shingle, and the gables have vinyl siding. The foundation is concrete slab. An integral porch runs the full width of the façade of the primary side-gabled portion of the house and has square columns covered with vinyl wraps. The entrance has a replacement four-panel wood door with leaded glass half-moon lite and sidelights. A broken triangular pediment and fluted pilaster surround the entry. The lower level of the house is below grade. Shorter gabled wings extend from either side. Brick chimneys are located at the interior rear and exterior east elevation. Windows are six-over-six double-hung original wood sash on the second story and six-lite wood sash in the first story. A flat-roofed carport at the west side of the rear elevation has a rooftop deck with ornamental iron railing.

Swimming pool (ca. 1969) – Contributing

Permitted in 1969, the rectangular pool is located behind the house. It is surrounded by a concrete deck and pierced brick wall. Brick steps lead from the lower level of the house.

House, 1635 Patton Avenue (2022)

Noncontributing Building

Originally site of the Louella M. Currie House, a 1957 brick veneer Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof and double carport. Louella Currie taught at West Charlotte High. The house was demolished by January 2022, and the lot divided into two parcels. A pair of two-story frame houses with hipped roofs, prominent façade garages, and shed porches were constructed. This house has wood composite siding with stacked brick veneer and corners on the façade. The porch has square section wood posts with brackets on stacked brick piers. Windows are vinyl sash, with one-over-one double-hung windows in the entry bay and fixed windows throughout.

House, 1639 Patton Avenue (2022)

Noncontributing Building

⁹¹ Tom Hanchett, "1632 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1632-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Originally site of the Louella M. Currie House, a 1957 brick veneer Ranch with hipped roof and double carport. Louella Currie taught at West Charlotte High. The house was demolished by January 2022, and the lot divided into two parcels. A pair of two-story frame houses with asphalt shingle hipped roofs, prominent façade garages, and shed porches were constructed. This house has wood board and batten siding with manufactured stone veneer and corners on the façade. The porch has square section wood posts on manufactured stone-veneered piers. Windows are vinyl sash, with one-over-one double-hung windows in the entry bay and fixed windows throughout.

VACANT LOT – 1640 Patton Avenue

This property has never been developed and is historically tied to the property at 1632 Patton Avenue.

Eddieola Alexander Williams House, 1643 Patton Avenue (1957, ca. 1980)

Contributing Building

Built 1957 by Marsh Realty Company for Eddieola Alexander, a teacher at Sterling High School in Pineville. A native of Charlotte, Eddieola earned bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics from NCCU. She later taught at West Charlotte High School and was an active alumna of Zeta Phi Beta sorority. She married Leon P. Williams in 1976, and they divorced in 1985.⁹²

The Alexander Williams House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has two-over-two double-hung, original wood sash windows and an interior brick chimney in the front slope. The uncovered porch has brick steps, broken tile floor, and ornamental iron railing. A brick planter with ornamental iron railings runs half the length of the façade. The windows have ornamental iron shutters. A hipped ell extends from the west side of the rear elevation. A longer hipped ell at the east side of the rear elevation was added ca. 1980. A brick wall with ornamental iron double gate surrounds the back yard.

Matilda B. Spears Samuda House, 1648 Patton Avenue (1976)

Contributing Building

Built in 1976 for Matilda Brandon Hairston Spears Samuda, an educator and pathbreaking school principal. A native of southern Virginia, Matilda married A.M.E. Zion minister Rev. George Howard Hairston. His ministry brought them to Charlotte. Matilda taught at small schools in Gaston County, then in Charlotte at Myers Street School and Marie G. Davis Elementary. In 1961 she was appointed principal at Zeb Vance Elementary in Third Ward. When Vance and other majority-Black schools closed in 1969 under the desegregation plan, she became principal at Park Road Elementary until retiring in 1974. Matilda also taught as an Associate Professor of Education at Barber-Scotia College. Rev. Hairston passed away in 1950, and she remarried Arthur Eugene Spears, twenty years her senior. Spears headed the Charlotte office of North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, one of the foremost Black-owned insurance and

⁹² Tom Hanchett, "1643 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1643-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

investment enterprises in the Southeast. Spears had been a longtime resident of a house on the north side Oaklawn Avenue, which was widened in 1974 and infringed into the property's front yard. Matilda then acquired this lot on Patton Avenue deeper in the neighborhood and contracted Harvey Gantt to design the home. After Spears's death in 1981 at age 96, Matilda later remarried to engineer A. James Samuda.⁹³

The Spears House is an unusual Ranch designed by architect Harvey Gantt, who later served as the first Black mayor of Charlotte. The roofs have asphalt shingles, and it is built on a masonry foundation. Its east section is side-gabled, presenting a typical Ranch appearance. The west section of the house has a shed roof. A prominent shed-roof section extends from the west side of the rear elevation, forming the small rear courtyard. The façade has a large exterior chimney and recessed window bays with board and batten siding. The recessed front porch has ornamental iron screening. The west elevation of the front mass has a sliding-glass door with a large, angled window above. The south and west elevations of the shed wing have board and batten siding in the upper sections, possibly covering windows. A recessed bay with vertical vinyl siding on the west side of the rear elevation was designed for a garage, but instead Matilda had it finished as a game room for playing bridge.

Lucille Henry Tyson House, 1649 Patton Avenue (1968)

Contributing Building

Constructed in 1968 by a small local construction firm, Union Builders of Matthews, for Lucille Henry Tyson, widow of Dr. E. French Tyson. Dr. Tyson was a graduate of Harvard Medical School who served as school physician and football coach for JCSU in the 1910s. He practiced medicine from his office on S. Brevard Street in Brooklyn and was named Doctor of the Year by the Charlotte Medical Society in 1957. Dr. Tyson, who Lucille married in 1943, died in 1962. Lucille resided in the house until her death in 1973. Her stepdaughter, Maye Tyson Jackson, inherited the home, which she rented as she lived out of town.⁹⁴

The Henry Tyson House is a side-gabled Split-Level house with exaggerated proportions. The upper level of the two-story section is quite large and slightly protrudes over the lower level, which has brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a concrete slab foundation. It is sheathed in vinyl siding and has triangular vents in the gable peaks. The recessed entry is at ground level and has an original wood door with a small octagonal lite and textured glass sidelights. Typical windows are three-lite metal awning sashes, except for the curved bay window on the façade of the one-story section.

House, 1651 Patton Avenue (2002)

Noncontributing Building

⁹³ Tom Hanchett, "1648 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1648-patton-avenue/>; "2 Negro Schools May Attract Whites," *Charlotte Observer*, August 3, 1961; "Park Rd. Principal Retiring," *Charlotte News*, July 26, 1974.

⁹⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1649 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1649-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Built in 2002 on a historically undeveloped lot. The one-story hipped house has a brick veneer with quoins on the façade and vinyl siding on other elevations. Two gabled façade bays, with the west bay having a two-car garage, frame the inset entry. The foundation is concrete slab. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash.

Otis L. and Lavenia S. Young House, 1700 Patton Avenue (1955, 1965, 1975)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955 by contractor Edwin O. Clarkson, who had purchased three lots for development, for Otis Lewis Young and Lavenia Smith Young. Otis attended South Carolina State University and worked for over thirty years for Southern Railway. A native of Greenville, South Carolina, and 1950 graduate of JCSU, Lavenia taught at Bruns Avenue Elementary, and in retirement, volunteered as librarian at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School. Building permits were issued in 1965 to extend a rear porch and in 1975 for a carport and chimney addition.⁹⁵

The Young House is a side-gabled Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Windows are one-over-one with false grids, double-hung, vinyl replacement. It has a gabled façade bay with a typical window with eight-over-eight false grids and rectangular louvered vent. The brick stoop with ornamental iron railing is sheltered by a short extension of the roof over the four-panel two-lite wood front door. The adjacent bay has a tripartite picture window with replacement vinyl sashes. An exterior brick chimney is located at the east elevation, which also has paired typical windows with six-over-six false grids in the gable. A shed dormer with vinyl siding is located on the rear elevation. A gabled wing connects the primary mass to a flat-roofed double carport on the east elevation. The carport has square section wood posts on a brick kneewall. Visible at the west elevation is a shed porch with jalousie windows, beyond which is a full-width low shed extension with brick veneer.

Dr. Coleman D. and Almeda H. Rippy House, 1701 Patton Avenue (1952, 2019)

Noncontributing Building

Dr. Coleman DuPont Rippy and Almeda Hunt Rippy took out the permit to build this house in 1952, one of the earliest in McCrorey Heights. For decades, Dr. Rippy was one of Charlotte's strongest voices for social justice. He initially directed the Oaklawn Community Center, a social work effort that aided low-income residents in the Double Oaks area of Charlotte, and later, created the program in Sociology and Social Work at JCSU. He also served as a national lay leader in the A.M.E. Zion Church. Almeda had a long career as an educator, a curriculum development administrator in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, and a professor of education at UNC Charlotte. The Rippys had met at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, and moved to Charlotte after Coleman's service in World War II.⁹⁶

The Rippy House is a one-story, side-gabled house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. There are no eaves, and the gables have wide board and batten siding.

⁹⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1700 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1700-patton-avenue/>.

⁹⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1701 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1701-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The original brick stoop was replaced in 2019 with a concrete porch with a flat roof. There is an interior brick chimney on the rear slope. The two-lite vinyl windows and the narrow-lite front door are replacements. Extensive additions were made ca. 1966, which included an extension of the rear west gabled ell, the construction of a gabled addition connecting to a gabled double carport at the east, and a concrete patio in the middle. The carport has round metal posts on a low brick kneewall.

Williams-Greene House, 1704 Patton Avenue (1955, 1958, 1960, 1969)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955 by contractor Edwin O. Clarkson and sold to Wilma Leona Richardson Green Williams, an instructor at JCSU. Wilma graduated from Howard University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1915. She married educator David Veruell Green soon afterwards, but he died in 1920. Wilma then married Frank Webster Williams, and they moved to Charlotte in the late 1920s where he taught chemistry. Frank died of dementia in 1932. Wilma taught and served as principal at Woodland Elementary School in Paw Creek and oversaw elementary education in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools before retiring in 1965. She died in 1968 and left her house and property to neighbors Lavenia Young (1700 Patton), Louise Holloman (1705 Patton), and Arelia Henderson (1000 Clifton). They then sold the house to Malachi Lonnie Greene and Mattie Macon Greene.⁹⁷

A native of South Carolina, Malachi graduated from Clinton College in Rock Hill. He was a skilled cement mason who had co-founded the Charlotte local of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association (OPCMIA), a nationwide union largely led by African Americans. He was among six businessmen who founded Beatties Ford Memorial Gardens, the first Black-owned cemetery in the Charlotte area. At the time of his death in 1983, he operated Greene Brothers, “one of the largest Black-owned construction companies in the area.”⁹⁸ Malachi also served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission and was active in the Democratic Party. Mattie was a teacher educated at JCSU. Their sons helped integrate North Carolina colleges—older son Malachi Jerome Greene was one of three Black students who integrated Charlotte College in 1961, and younger son William H. attended North Carolina State University before transferring to JCSU. After his parents moved, William and his family lived in the Patton Avenue house. William worked in higher education, serving as president of Livingstone College from 1983-1987 and in administration in other institutions including Ohio State University and University of Massachusetts Amherst. His wife Dr. Ruth L. Greene was also an accomplished educator. She retired from JCSU as O'Herron Distinguished Professor of Psychology and was made a professor emerita.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Tom Hanchett, “1704 Patton Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1704-patton-avenue/>; “Ex-Principal of Woodland Elementary,” *Charlotte Observer*, December 11, 1968; “Mrs. Wilma L. Williams,” obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, December 12, 1968.

⁹⁸ Pam Kelley, “Contractor Malachi L. Greene, 71, Dies,” *Charlotte Observer*, November 8, 1983.

⁹⁹ Tom Hanchett, “1704 Patton Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1704-patton-avenue/>; Phillip Moeller, “Six Blacks Begin New Cemetery,” *Charlotte Observer*, August 26, 1971; Pam Kelley, “Contractor Malachi L. Greene, 71, Dies,” *Charlotte Observer*, November 8, 1983.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Williams-Greene House is a one-story side-gabled house with no eaves, brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are original six-over-six wood sash. The façade has a gabled bay with wood composite siding in the gable. Below is a pair of typical windows with storm windows, and a brick porch with a scalloped metal awning and iron supports and railing. The original wood front door has three stepped rectangular lites. Adjacent to the entry is a tripartite window. A small gabled wing extends to the east and continues the façade with a typical window. An interior brick chimney rises through the façade roof plane. The entry at the west elevation also has a scalloped metal awning. An extensive hipped addition wider than the primary mass of the house extends from the rear elevation. It has an octagonal window with small shed hood on its west facade elevation, and a recessed entry with shed hood on the east side. According to building permits, additions were made in 1958 and 1969.¹⁰⁰

Carport (detached) (1974) – Contributing

The detached carport has a flat roof and corrugated metal siding on a storeroom. It is located behind the house at the northwest corner of the parcel.

Berthron T. and Louise K. Holloman House, 1705 Patton Avenue (1951, 1971)

Contributing Building

Built in 1951 by builder G.C. Holmes for Berthron Thomas Holloman and Louise Kirkland Holloman. Berthron filed the permit on March 5, 1952. Berthron was a native of Georgia who graduated from JCSU. He worked as a mail clerk with the U.S. Postal Service and was a veteran of WWII. Louise was born in Catawba, South Carolina, but moved with her family to Charlotte as a child in 1925. After high school at Second Ward High, she earned a teaching degree at Winston Salem Teachers College (now Winston Salem State University). She would later do graduate work at NC Central in Durham and New York University. Louise taught in Charlotte's public schools for forty years at Isabella Wyche School and Merry Oaks Elementary.¹⁰¹

The Holloman House is a one-story Minimal Traditional house with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows are original six-over-six wood sash with storms installed over. The façade has a gabled bay with eight-over-eight window and shed porch with ornamental iron supports and railing. The porch shelters an original wood tripartite picture window and entry. The wood front door, with 4 panels and 4 arched lites, appears to be original. The porch and façade under the porch are sheathed in vinyl siding. There are two brick chimneys, an interior chimney at the rear and an exterior double-shouldered chimney at the west elevation. Rectangular louvered vents are in the side gables. A flat-roofed metal carport was added at the rear in 1971.

Sylvester and Alice Lee House, 1708 Patton Avenue (1954, 1959, 1972, 1981)

Contributing Building

¹⁰⁰ "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, October 30, 1958; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, August 2, 1969.

¹⁰¹ Tom Hanchett, "1705 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1705-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Built 1955 by contractor Edwin O. Clarkson and purchased by Sylvester Lee, Jr. and Alice Cameron Lee. Sylvester attended JCSU and served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. Like his father Sylvester Lee, Sr., he was a plasterer. Sylvester worked for Kirkland Construction before starting his own business, Lee's Plastering Service, in the late 1950s. Alice was a graduate of JCSU and taught in CMS.¹⁰²

The Lee House is a one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl sash replacements. Stuccoed elements in the façade are likely works of Sylvester Lee, Jr. The façade has a stuccoed gabled bay with a one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl replacement window and entry landing with ornamental iron railing. The front door is wood with four panels and a divided fanlight, and it has a simple pediment with fluted pilasters. An asymmetrical gable wing extends along the façade to the east, and the slight difference in brick color reveals this section to likely be a later addition. The gable is stuccoed. Its façade has a stuccoed oriel with one-over-one with four-over-four false grid vinyl replacement windows flanking an original 20-lite wood picture window with storm window. The primary mass beyond has triangular louvered vents in the gables and an interior brick chimney on the front slope. Two gabled additions extend from the rear. The ca. 1972 western addition projects beyond the west elevation of the primary mass of the house.

Carport (detached) (1954) – Contributing

The metal carport has perforated metal beams, round metal posts, and a shed roof.

Edward J. and Naomi W. High House, 1709 Patton Avenue (1954, 1961)

Contributing Building

Edward J. High, Sr. and Naomi Watson High took out the permit to build this house in 1954, contracting with Ervin Construction Company. A native of Boston, Edward attended NC Central before enlisting during WWII. He graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor of Science in business education and master's in teaching with specialization in vocational education. He was a teacher at Carver College, also worked as a carrier for the U.S. Post Office, and eventually became an administrative assistant with the City of Charlotte. He was a civic leader who played a role in integrating Charlotte's most important sports event, the Shrine Bowl, in the 1960s and he became an early Black member of several boards, including the Airport Commission. Naomi was also educated at NC Central, where she met Edward. She was a lifelong educator, teaching at Carver College, Sterling High in Pineville, and Charlotte elementary schools.¹⁰³

The High House is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, Minimal Traditional house with an asphalt shingle roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The façade has a gabled bay with round louvered vent under the gable, a tripartite window, and the front entry with broken

¹⁰² Tom Hanchett, "1708 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1708-patton-avenue/>.

¹⁰³ Tom Hanchett, "1709 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1709-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

pediment and fluted pilasters. The front stoop is brick with ornamental iron railing. Wide friezes are on the façade and rear elevations. An exterior brick chimney is located at the east elevation adjacent to an enclosed gabled porch with jalousie windows and aluminum siding. The Highs were granted a building permit in 1961 to add the rear carport and two rooms upstairs, indicated at rear by a wide shed dormer extending across the rear elevation. The shed-roofed carport has ornamental iron supports on a brick kneewall. Windows appear to be original one-over-one wood double-hung with storm windows.

Talmadge and Rosetta G. Alexander House, 1712 Patton Avenue (1951)

Contributing Building

Built 1951 for Talmadge and Rosetta Grant Alexander by Mangie McQueen. Talmadge was a graduate of Second Ward High and an Army veteran of WWII. He was a postal worker and waiter at the Plantation Grill, a popular drive-in restaurant on Charlotte's west side located at the intersection of West Morehead Street and Wilkerson Boulevard. A native of Laurens, South Carolina, Rosetta was a homemaker who was very involved at Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church. Rosetta died in 1999. Talmadge remarried Alma Neal in 2001 but died in 2006, and she retains ownership of the house.¹⁰⁴

The Alexander House is one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional residence with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement. It has a prominent gabled entry bay with a scalloped metal awning over the front door and brick stoop with ornamental iron railing. A tripartite replacement window is east of the entry bay. A lower gabled wing extends from the east elevation and has an enclosed porch with vinyl siding on its facade. An interior brick chimney is at the stepped gable intersection. Louvered vents are located in the side gable peaks. A gabled ell extends from the west side of the rear elevation.

Edward D. and Lula D. White House, 1713 Patton Avenue (1955)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955 by contractor J.C. Bayne for Edward "Ed" D. White and Lula Dunn White. They owned White Coal & Fuel Oil at 400 S. Myers Street in the Brooklyn neighborhood for over 25 years. Ed died in 1967, and Lula in 1971.¹⁰⁵

The White House is a one-story Ranch house with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are original eight-lite metal casement. It has an off-center projecting gabled bay with the front entry and a tripartite window. The flanking façade bays have tripartite metal sash picture windows. The broken tile landing is uncovered and extends east along the façade. The original wood door has three stepped rectangular lites. A brick interior chimney rises beyond the façade gable bay. Gables have louvered vents in the peak. A

¹⁰⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1712 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1712-patton-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1469, Page 594.

¹⁰⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1713 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1713-patton-avenue/>; "Roll of Honor," *Charlotte Observer*, February 24, 1963.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

low slope shed addition clad in vertical wood paneling extends from the west side of the rear elevation.

Rev. Cordell H. and Ruth E. Kennedy House, 1716 Patton Avenue (1953)

Contributing Building

Built in 1953 for Rev. Cordell H. Kennedy, pastor of the Grier Heights Presbyterian Church, and Ruth Ezell Kennedy, who taught at the Alexander Street School. Rev. Kennedy came to Charlotte in 1949 from Rogersville, Tennessee. In 1955 he was installed as pastor at Grier Heights Presbyterian Church, the largest church in the African American neighborhood of Grier Heights. He took a leadership role in the regional governing body of the black Presbyterian Church, serving as Moderator of the Catawba Synod in 1964. Ruth was a Charlotte native and graduate of Winston-Salem Teachers College (now WSSU). She joined the Charlotte school system in 1934. The Kennedys raised their son Cordell Kennedy, Jr., in this house. During the late 1960s, he served as a statewide coordinator for Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).¹⁰⁶

The Kennedy House is a one-story brick veneered Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl sash replacement. The façade has a shallow projecting bay with a tripartite window, replacement Craftsman door, and uncovered brick patio. A single-shouldered brick chimney is located at the west elevation. A small gable projection at the east elevation has wood composite siding on its east elevation and a rear corner porch with square section wood post and new metal railing. Side gables have louvered vents in peaks.

W. Leon and Rosalyn L. North House, 1721 Patton Avenue (1950, 1960)

Contributing Building

William Leon North, Sr., took out the permit to build this house on November 13, 1950. Leon and his wife Rosalyn Levister North attended Shaw University and taught school in Alexander County before moving to his native Mecklenburg County. He was later employed by the U.S. Postal Service. His only child William Leon North, Jr., died in 1971 in Washington, D.C., and his widow Flossie Gant North was given the house by the North heirs.¹⁰⁷

The North House is a prominent Tudor Revival home with a tall, asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are original six-over-six wood sash with storm windows. The façade features a large single-shouldered chimney adjacent to the rounded original wood door with a diamond-pattern rectangular lite and surrounding stone accents. The brick and terra cotta-tiled front porch has a scalloped metal awning with ornamental iron supports and railing. A tall gabled façade bay has a trio of typical windows below and wood composite siding and a small typical window above. A screen porch with German siding in the gable extends from the east elevation. At the west elevation, a shed-roofed entry vestibule has

¹⁰⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1716 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1716-patton-avenue/>.

¹⁰⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1721 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1721-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

jalousie windows and German siding. At the rear is a wide shed dormer with wood composite siding. According to building permits, a bathroom addition was made in 1960.

Slade-James House, 1722 Patton Avenue (1960)

Contributing Building

Built in 1960 as the retirement residence of Bishop Walter William Slade and Sallie Mae Slade. Rev. Slade served as a Bishop in the A.M.E. Zion Church from 1944 to 1960, part of the 12-person governing body of the national denomination. He followed in the footsteps of his father Rev. Mayfield Slade, an A.M.E. Zion minister who helped spread the religion in western North Carolina. Born in Newton, Walter received the license to preach in 1895 and, in 1901, graduated from Livingstone College. He first pastored a circuit of churches in rural Tennessee, then worked to start new congregations in North Carolina. Sallie Mae Watson Blake Slade, who Walter married in 1931 after the death of their respective spouses, was a Supervisor of Missionary Work in the denomination. She was educated at Bennett College and Howard University. After Walter and Sallie Mae's deaths in 1963 and 1975, respectively, her son Caesar Blake sold the property to Ernest Leroy James, Jr. and Ernestine Stewart James. Ernest was an instructor of communications and coordinator of the media center at JCSU. The James family continues ownership of the house.¹⁰⁸

The Slade-James House is a large one-story T-shaped Ranch house with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are original, paired, casement, wood sash windows. The T-shape is formed by symmetrical projecting bays on the west side perpendicular to the long primary mass of the house. The protruding facade bay includes an integral deep corner porch. Wide brick steps with intricate ornamental iron railings lead to the front door, which has an ornamental iron screen door, and a wide sidelight. The porch is supported by paired square section wood posts with horizontal connectors atop a brick planter. A hip-roofed garage wing extends west from the rear section of the primary mass. A wide brick chimney is located at the rear, extending through the flat roof over the enclosed patio. The enclosed patio has jalousie windows over brick veneer. An ornamental iron gate is located between the enclosed patio and garage wing.

VACANT LOT – 1723 Patton Avenue

This property was historically undeveloped.

O'Dell W. and Bertha B. Robinson House, 1800 Patton Avenue (1952, 1971)

Contributing Building

Built 1952 for O'Dell William Robinson, Sr. and Bertha Brown Robinson by Mangie McQueen. O'Dell was a graduate of JCSU who served for many years as a top executive with McCrorey YMCA, then located in Brooklyn to serve the city's Black residents. He later taught math at

¹⁰⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1722 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1722-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Wilson Junior High School. A graduate of JCSU, Bertha taught in CMS starting in 1948 and retired as an assistant principal.¹⁰⁹

The Robinson House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement. In 1971, the Robinsons hired architect Harvey Gantt to add the wide transverse gable section at the west end of the house, which holds a dining room and kitchen at front and a garage at rear. The façade has a prominent chimney with stone accent staggered up from its base and a single shoulder at the roof eave. The stone also covers an integrated planter between the chimney and the tall brick stoop, which provides access to a recessed double door entry. A gabled addition, also added in 1971, extends from the east side of the rear elevation.

**George W. C. and Margaret T. Moreland House, 1801 Patton Avenue (1965-1966)
Contributing Building**

Built 1965-1966 by contractor Elbert Robinson for George Wiley Clinton Moreland and wife Margaret Turman Moreland. George was one of Charlotte's few African American real estate professionals. Son of an A.M.E. Zion bishop, he attended Livingston College and JCSU. Margaret was a graduate of Bennett College who taught in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools where she helped desegregate First Ward Elementary.¹¹⁰

The Moreland House is an unusual two-story side-gabled Ranch-style residence with its façade oriented along Fairfield Street. The house has a concrete slab foundation, brick veneer with quoins, and an asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl sash replacement, though some original aluminum sash windows remain. The main floor of the house is upstairs, accessed by a tall brick staircase with ornamental iron railing leading to the front entry. The gabled porch is supported by fluted Doric columns and has dentil cornice and stuccoed pediment. The original wood door has four panels and four arched lites. Original aluminum tripartite picture windows flank the front porch. A storeroom is located under the front porch, with a louvered wood door at its south elevation and frosted glass casement window on the façade. The dentil cornice continues along the façade, and eaves have angled returns. A brick chimney rises through the eave on the façade. The south elevation has a carport at rear with an enclosed porch above. The porch has pairs of original aluminum three-lite awning windows. An original three-lite awning window is also extant on the north elevation at the upper level first bay. The gables and the enclosed porch are stuccoed.

**Albert D. Neal House, 1805 Patton Avenue (1955, 1959, ca. 1995)
Contributing Building**

¹⁰⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1800 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1800-patton-avenue/>.

¹¹⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1801 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1801-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

According to a 1951 article highlighting local Black businessmen, Albert D. Neal was "building his own home with his own hands."¹¹¹ Albert was a barber who operated Neal's Barber Stop, which he opened in 1946 after serving in WWII, until 2004. He later attended Carver College and became a licensed funeral director, associating with Alexander Funeral Home for fifty years. He was married twice—first to high school sweetheart Mildred Byers Neal (died 1954) and later to Willette Craine Byers (died 1968).¹¹²

The Neal House is a one-story Minimal Traditional house with Tudor Revival influences. It has an asphalt shingle cross-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The façade features a double-shouldered chimney adjacent to the stone-accented entry. The original rounded door is wood with two stepped lites and has an aluminum storm door. The shed front porch has a broken tile floor and ornamental iron supports and railing. A gabled bay has an octagonal window under its peak and a trio of vinyl windows, which replaced an aluminum tripartite picture window. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacement sashes. A ca. 1995 full-width gable addition, likely encompassing a prior addition from 1959, extends from the rear. The west entry stoop has been enclosed with a shed entry vestibule with wood composite siding. A second shed addition on the west elevation of the addition has wood composite siding and a metal security door on its façade and corrugated metal siding and a louvered vent on its west side.

Carport (detached) (1991) – Noncontributing

The gabled carport is constructed of concrete masonry units. It was enclosed with concrete masonry units ca. 2021 and formerly had square section wood posts.

Fred and Emma M. Davis House, 1811 Patton Avenue (1954)

Contributing Building

Built 1954 for Fred Davis, Sr., and Emma Mitchell Davis by Ervin Construction Company. Fred worked a variety of blue-collar jobs—cleaning railroad cars for the Southern Railway, one of Charlotte's largest employers; at random, in 1954; loading trucks at Central Motor Lines in 1961; and as a mail carrier at the time of his death in 1969. Emma was a nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital and Charlotte Memorial Hospital who graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing in Raleigh.¹¹³

The Davis House is a tall one-story Minimal Traditional residence with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows are paired single-lite with eight-lite false grids vinyl replacement. The façade has a shed bay with stone accents and corner window on its west end. The integral entry porch at the east end has a concrete floor and

¹¹¹ Hubert W. Norris, "Negro Success Story: Albert Neal Making Success in Business," *Charlotte Observer*, June 10, 1951.

¹¹² Tom Hanchett, "1805 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1805-patton-avenue/>; "Albert 'Ad' Neal," obituary, Alexander Funeral Home, accessed September 22, 2025, <https://www.alexanderfunerals.com/obituaries/albert-ad-neal>.

¹¹³ Tom Hanchett, "1811 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1811-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

an ornamental iron support. The entry door is a replacement with a full-lite storm door. A quadripartite replacement window is in the west bay of the façade. A single-shouldered brick chimney is located on the east elevation. A flat-roofed porch with a round metal post shelters a side entry on the west elevation.

Bampffield J. and Dorothy P. Stinson House, 1812 Patton Avenue (1975)

Contributing Building

Built in 1975 for Bampffield J. Stinson, descendant of one of the South's most illustrious Black political families, and Dorothy Peoples Stinson, a Charlotte educator. Bampffield was the great-grandson of Robert Smalls, who was born enslaved and served as a Congressman from South Carolina. His grandparents were Elizabeth Smalls Bampffield—an educator who served as postmaster in Beaufort, South Carolina—and Samuel Bampffield, a South Carolina state legislator and publisher of *The New South* newspaper. Educated at JCSU and Western Reserve (now Case Western) University, Bampffield J. Stinson was one of the first Black postal clerks in Charlotte. Dorothy attended Winston-Salem State University and JCSU, where she earned her bachelor's degree, and later received her master's from Columbia University. She taught for forty years in CMS at Alexander Street School, First Ward Elementary, and Olde Providence Elementary.¹¹⁴

The Stinson House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a raised gable section in the middle of the principal mass, which creates an integral porch with Doric columns and ornamental iron railing along the brick steps. Typical windows are original six-over-nine double-hung wood sash with storm windows. A one-car garage is located on the west elevation and is stepped back from the façade. Gables at the east elevation and west elevation of the garage have louvered vents in the peak. Vinyl siding is present in the gables of the center section and west elevation of the primary mass.

James C. and Clara H. Brown House, 1815 Patton Avenue (1950, 1963)

Contributing Building

Built 1950 by Mangie McQueen for James Cunnelly Brown and Clara Harper Brown. They owned the Dark Swan Smoke Shop & Confectionary, then located at the corner of Eldridge Street and West Stonewall Street in the Third Ward neighborhood.¹¹⁵

The Brown House is a one-story, side-gabled house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. The façade has a gabled bay and a shed porch with square section posts. Typical windows are one-over-one wood sash with storm windows. A square brick interior chimney rises through the front slope. A scalloped metal awning is over an entry on the east elevation. A ca. 1963 gabled den addition extends at the west side of the rear elevation.

Blanche W. Tyson House, 1817 Patton Avenue (1965)

¹¹⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1812 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1812-patton-avenue/>.

¹¹⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1815 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1815-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Noncontributing Building

Built 1965 by contractor John Harvey Davidson for Blanche Willie Tyson, one of the city's longest-serving elementary school teachers. Blanche earned her bachelor's degree at JCSU and master's degree from Columbia University. She taught at the Alexander Street School for most of her career. She later operated her own private Tyson Kindergarten in her home at 407 N. Myers Street in the First Ward neighborhood. Never married, Blanche died in 1968 and willed her property to her nieces and nephews. The Malphurs family purchased it in 1981.¹¹⁶

The Tyson House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows are original one-over-one wood sash with storm windows. The house is noncontributing due to a new gabled porch with square section wood posts, wood railings, and wood composite siding under the gable. The entry has a replacement door with a storm door. West of the porch is an original wood sash tripartite picture window. A shed ell at the east side of the rear elevation has a porch enclosed with wood composite siding and entry with wood railing at its east elevation.

William L. Smith House, 1818 Patton Avenue (1951)

Contributing Building

William L. Smith took out the permit to build this house in 1950. He was then Assistant District Manager for North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1955 he struck out on his own and opened W.L. Smith Insurance Agency, which he operated until his death in 1972. He was married twice—to Carrie Nance Smith (died 1955) and Velma Quick Smith. William and Velma sold the property in 1962 to retired teacher Estelle J. Arthur when they purchased a lot in the new Hyde Park Estates development. Estelle taught for forty-seven years at Myers Street School.¹¹⁷

The Smith House is a one-story, side-gabled house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are original wood eight-over-eight double-hung with storm windows. It has a brick porch with a slightly off-center gabled roof covering the entry. The porch features ornamental iron supports and railing and vinyl siding in the gable. The replacement front door has a storm door. An interior brick chimney is located on the front slope at the roof ridge. The side elevation gables have large rectangular louvered vents.

VACANT LOT – 1821 Patton Avenue

This wooded lot is historically undeveloped.

Edgar C. and Florence C. Goodwin House, 1822 Patton Avenue (1953)

Contributing Building

Built 1954 for Edgar Cephus Goodwin, founder and longtime leader of Charlotte's McCrorey YMCA, and Florence Cannon Goodwin, a public health nurse. Edgar was a native of Charlotte

¹¹⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1817 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1817-patton-avenue/>.

¹¹⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1818 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1818-patton-avenue/>; "Miss Arthur, Retired Teacher," *Charlotte Observer*, June 3, 1970.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

and graduate of JCSU. He was hired to be Executive Secretary of the Second Street YMCA in 1946, which was renamed for H.L. McCrorey upon completion of a new modern building in 1951. After the demolition of the Brooklyn neighborhood due to Urban Renewal, Edgar spearheaded another building campaign for a facility on Beatties Ford Road, completed in 1972. Soon after, he retired from the YMCA to work for the City of Charlotte as an employment counselor. A native of Cheraw, South Carolina, Florence came to Charlotte to train as a nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital. After working at the hospital, she became a nurse in the city's public health department, one of the first formed in the South, for over thirty years.¹¹⁸

The Goodwin House is a small, one-story, side-gabled house on a masonry foundation, which bridges the transition from the cottage-like Minimalist Traditional to the longer Ranch. It is sheathed in brick veneer with stone accents on the gabled façade bay, which includes an integral corner porch with ornamental iron supports. The roof is asphalt shingle. The windows are original two-over-two double-hung wood sash with a tripartite picture window in the gable bay. Gables have wood composite siding. An interior brick chimney rises at the roof ridge. A shed addition with wood composite siding is located at the west side of the rear.

Ruth O. Blake Dixon House, 1900 Patton Avenue (1952)

Contributing Building

Built in 1952 by W.B. Presson for Ruth O. Blake, a teacher at Myers Street School. She married Memory Clayton Dixon, a sign painter and owner of a grocery store in Third Ward, in the 1950s. After her death in 1973, he moved to Rocky Mount, and the house was sold to Wilma Little in 1978.¹¹⁹

The Blake House is a one-story, side-gabled, Minimal Traditional residence on a masonry foundation. The roof is asphalt shingle. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grids vinyl replacement. The house has Tudor Revival elements on the façade, namely the asymmetrically shouldered brick façade chimney adjacent to the gabled entry bay. The entry bay, which has a metal awning and wide landing with ornamental iron railings, protrudes from a wide gabled façade bay with a replacement tripartite picture window. A similar window is located at the west end of the façade. Gables have rectangular louvered vents. A second brick chimney is located on the front roof slope. A shed extension at the west side of the rear elevation shelters an enclosed corner porch sheathed in vertical wood siding.

Rev. James W. and Margaret A. Smith House, 1901 Patton Avenue (1961)

Contributing Building

Built in 1961 for Rev. James Wynnetotte Smith, Sr., pastor at Seventh Street Presbyterian Church, and teacher Margaret Arthur Smith. Rev. Smith was a four-time graduate of Biddle University (now JCSU). He ministered churches in Knoxville, Wilmington, and Raleigh before

¹¹⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1822 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1822-patton-avenue/>.

¹¹⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1900 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1900-patton-avenue/>; "Mrs. Dixon," obituary, *Charlotte News*, October 6, 1973.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

returning to Charlotte to lead Seventh Street Presbyterian from 1941 to his retirement in 1966. Margaret was an alumna of Livingstone College and taught until retiring in 1963.¹²⁰

The Smith House is a hipped Ranch with Roman brick veneer and asphalt shingle roof. The west side of the house has a masonry foundation while the east side has a basement with concrete slab. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl replacement. A shallow hipped bay on the east side of the façade includes a tripartite picture window and corner porch with ornamental iron railing and support sheltering a recessed six-panel wood replacement door. The site slopes sharply from the front of the house to the rear, creating a carport under a hipped enclosed porch at the rear. The porch is enclosed with board and batten siding with aluminum jalousie windows. A side entry with pierced masonry foundation, tall concrete steps, and ornamental iron railing is on the east elevation. Six-lite wood sash windows are extant at the basement on the east elevation and façade. The façade windows have brick light wells. A window opening at the basement south of the side entry is covered with plywood. A square interior brick chimney is visible from the east elevation.

**Hubert W. and Henrietta T. Norris House, 1904 Patton Avenue (1952, 1970, ca. 2010)
Noncontributing Building**

Built in 1952 for Hubert Webster Norris and Henrietta Traywick Norris, educators at JCSU. Hubert held a bachelor's from Clark College and a master's degree from Atlanta University. He was a professor of economics and political science from 1947 until retiring in 1962 due to poor health. He died in 1968. Henrietta was a graduate of Jackson State University in Mississippi who taught early childhood education. She joined the faculty at JCSU in 1949 and retired in 1975.¹²¹

The Norris House was built as a one-story, side-gabled Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. It was renovated between 2009 and 2012 according to Google Streetview and real estate listing photos. The roof was drastically changed to a high-slope hipped roof. The original brick entry stoop was incorporated into an integral porch with square section wood post under the projecting hipped façade bay. The entry door is a three-lite mid-century style replacement. The west side of the façade is sheathed with vertical wood siding, which wraps to the west elevation, and has a tripartite vinyl replacement window. A brick planter spans the west side of the façade. The roof of the 1970 addition at the rear has also been altered with a high hipped roof. The exterior brick chimney on the west elevation was extended to meet building codes. Typical windows are one-over-one with two-over-two false grids vinyl replacements.

**Lorenzo E. and Dorothy B. Poe House, 1908 Patton Avenue (1958)
Contributing Building**

¹²⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1901 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1901-patton-avenue/>.

¹²¹ Tom Hanchett, "1904 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1904-patton-avenue/>; "Retired Professor Hubert Norris Dies," *Charlotte News*, June 6, 1968; "Eight Added at J. C. Smith," *Charlotte Observer*, September 4, 1949.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Built in 1958 by Mangie McQueen for educators Lorenzo E. Poe and Dorothy Brewer Poe. A native of Huntsville, Alabama, Lorenzo came to Mecklenburg County about 1937 to be the first principal of what is now the Ada Jenkins School in the town of Davidson, just north of Charlotte. He was a graduate of Knoxville College and NC Central. He later served nineteen years as principal of Sterling High in Pineville, its last leader prior to closing as part of Charlotte's school integration. Lorenzo was assistant principal at Olympic High then principal at Amay James Elementary until retiring in 1970. Dorothy also taught in public schools, primarily at J.H. Gunn School east of Charlotte, and retired in 1976 from Highland Elementary. The Poe House was featured in the *Charlotte Observer* Home section in 1984.¹²²

The Poe House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. A prominent hipped façade bay includes a corner porch, which has ornamental iron supports. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl sash replacements. An exterior single-shouldered brick chimney is on the west elevation. An integral enclosed porch at the west side of the rear elevation has vertical vinyl siding.

VACANT LOT – 1909 Patton Avenue

This property is historically undeveloped.

Romeo and Frances G. Alexander House, 1913 Patton Avenue (1964)

Contributing Building

Built 1964-65 by Romeo Alexander, well-known as the proprietor of Razades Restaurant on Statesville Avenue and an active investor in real estate, and nurse Frances Gormley Alexander. A graduate of West Charlotte High, Romeo opened a corner store and Oaklawn Tavern before building Razades in 1957. Frances attended nursing school at Good Samaritan Hospital and retired from the county health department as a family planning nurse.¹²³

The Alexander House is a Split-foyer house with asphalt shingle roof, brick veneer, and Colonial Revival details. It consists of a two-story front-gabled section and one-story side-gabled section. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash replacement. The two-story section has a pedimented gable with vinyl siding and an octagonal louvered vent. The basement level, which has a concrete slab foundation, has short original six-over-six wood sash windows with storm windows. The upper level has taller typical windows. Quoins are at the corners of the two-story section. The one-story section, which is built on a masonry foundation, is side-gabled with an integral porch. Doric columns sit on a brick kneewall, behind which are six-over-nine wood sash windows. The split-foyer entrance is at ground level and features a likely original six-panel wood door and a nine-lite transom with storm window above. An

¹²² Tom Hanchett, "1908 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1908-patton-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, January 22, 1958; Olympic Official Named Amay James Principal, *Charlotte Observer*, July 24, 1968; Claudia Allen Lowe, "Comfort Without Clutter," *Charlotte Observer*, July 1, 1984.

¹²³ Tom Hanchett, "1913 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1913-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

exterior chimney is located on the east elevation. There is a small gabled extension at the west side of the rear elevation sheathed in vinyl siding.

Carport (detached) (1971) – Contributing

Shed-roofed carport at the rear of the house has triangular metal posts in concrete base and corrugated metal roof.

Minnie Alma Blake House, 1916 Patton Avenue (1952)

Contributing Building

Minnie Alma Blake purchased two lots at the corner of Patton Avenue and Condon Street in 1950 and 1951. She was educated at JCSU and was the first girls basketball coach at West Charlotte High. Minnie never lived in the house, likely building it as a rental property. Rev. James A. and Christine Heard Holloway resided there in 1953. Rev. Holloway directed the Mecklenburg Baptist-Interracial Commission, working in partnership with white minister Rev. Claude Broach of St. John's Baptist Church. Other tenants included Spencer Durante, principal of Second Ward High, who later built a house on Van Buren Avenue and David J. Abraham, Jr. and Rosetta J. Abraham. David was a barber at the Fairview Barbershop. Rosetta taught at Double Oaks School.¹²⁴

The Blake House is a one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl replacement. The roof plane extends higher at its east section to encompass an extension at the rear. The centered front porch is covered with a shed extension of the roof and supported by square section wood posts. The replacement front door and vinyl windows, including a tripartite picture window, are not centered on the facade. A recessed small gabled wing is located on the east elevation. There is an interior brick chimney at the rear. Gable ends have vinyl siding.

House, 2000 Patton Avenue (ca. 1983)

Noncontributing Building

Original location of the Woods-Rann House, likely built in 1920 by Ernest and Ila Woods. A 1942 deed in trust described the house as "a five room frame dwelling house."¹²⁵ Emery L. Rann, Sr. and Vicie Mae Froe Rann purchased the house the in May 1942. Emery joined the faculty at JCSU in 1926 as a professor of English. He was educated at Lincoln University, Wittenburg College, and Columbia University. Emery retired in 1941 due to poor health and died three years later. Vicie attended Bluefield State Teachers College in West Virginia and later in life graduated

¹²⁴ While Mecklenburg County property records list the house at 1912 Patton Avenue, the physical address on the house read 1916 Patton Avenue. Tom Hanchett, "1916 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1916-patton-avenue/>.

¹²⁵ Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1068, Page 68.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

from JCSU. She taught school and retired as principal of Woodland Elementary by 1949. The house was demolished by 1983, when the current building appears in aerial images.¹²⁶

The one-story hipped Ranch house has an asphalt shingle roof and a masonry foundation. It is sheathed with aluminum siding above a brick wainscoting. The façade has an off-center hipped porch with ornamental iron supports, brick steps, and ornamental iron railings. There are a mix of two-over-two double-hung aluminum windows and one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement windows. A low shed wing with two additions on concrete slabs at its rear is located on the west elevation. The original front section has brick wainscoting and aluminum siding above. The middle section is a frame addition with vinyl siding and a six-panel door on the east elevation. The rear section has wood composite siding.

Dr. Emery L. and Margratha C. Rann House, 2008 Patton Avenue (1952, 1963)

Contributing Building

Built in 1952, this was the longtime home of Dr. Emery L. Rann, Jr., one of Charlotte's most important physicians and civic leaders, and Margratha Chambers Rann. Educated at JCSU, the University of Michigan, and Meharry Medical College, Emery first worked as a teacher and coach at high schools and colleges around the South. He then attended Meharry Medical College, graduating in 1948 and opening his practice in Charlotte. Dr. Rann became a major force in the Civil Rights movement's drive to desegregate healthcare across North Carolina, and he helped lead the NAACP's nationwide campaign to open hospitals to all. He was also active in voting rights and was a published poet who wrote the lyrics for the alma mater of Meharry Medical College. When the National Medical Association elected him President in 1973-74, his views were widely quoted in the national media. *Ebony* magazine named him one of 1974's "100 Most Influential Black Americans." Margratha was a teacher, graduating from Bennett College. The Ranns separated in the 1970s, and Margratha retained the house.¹²⁷

The Rann House is a one-story, side-gabled Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. The roof has no eaves except over a brick planter on the façade, which is located between a gabled façade bay and shallow shed porch with minimalist ornamental iron supports. The front door is solid wood with a wide three-lite sidelight over a brass mail slot. Windows are vinyl replacement. A wide shed extension at the rear has an entry with a wood landing and stairs on its east elevation. It has an interior brick chimney at the rear roof slope.

Carport (detached) (2018) – Noncontributing

The gabled, metal frame garage is perpendicular to the house. It has metal siding and seamed metal roof.

¹²⁶ Tom Hanchett, "2000 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2000-patton-avenue/>; "Death Claims Emory L. Rann," *Charlotte Observer*, January 5, 1944; "Mrs. Vicie Rann," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, February 6, 1954.

¹²⁷ Tom Hanchett, "2008 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2008-patton-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Ira A. and Arcasia D. Brewer House, 2009 Patton Avenue (1960)

Contributing Building

Built in 1960-61 for schoolteacher Ira Brewer, Jr., and Arcasia "Katie" Davidson Brewer. Ira was a native of Cabarrus County who graduated from NC A&T in 1947. He taught art at Unity High in Statesville during the late 1940s before moving to Charlotte, where he was an art teacher in public schools for thirty-four years. In 1976, he founded Los Bravos, a non-profit organization of fifteen African American men from Mecklenburg and Gaston counties who met regularly to work for charitable causes. Los Bravos was a partner organization of the Mecklenburg chapter of the women's group Las Amigas, Inc., founded in 1957. A native of Statesville, Katie was heavily involved in local civic and philanthropic organizations including Las Amigas.¹²⁸

The Brewer House is a one-story, side-gabled Ranch with a brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, a masonry foundation, and an interior brick chimney along the front slope. The recessed entry porch is sheathed in vinyl siding. It contains two-lite sidelights flanking the six-panel door. Typical windows are two-lite with eight-lite false grid horizontal sliding vinyl replacements. Gables have vinyl siding and louvered vents at the peak. A gabled extension is located at the west side of the rear elevation. Its east elevation has a shed roofed porch enclosed with vinyl siding. A raised patio with ornamental iron railing at the southeast corner was covered with a flat roof by 2002 according to aerial imagery.

Carport (detached) (1961) – Contributing

The gabled metal frame carport is located behind the house.

David H. and Eunice Stewart House, 2014 Patton Avenue (ca. 1921, 1962)

Noncontributing Building

David Hazel Stewart and Eunice Black Stewart married in 1920 and were listed as living on Jefferson Avenue, the original name of Patton Avenue, in Biddleville in the 1921 city directory. They rented the house until purchasing it from Dr. J.S. Gaul, a white doctor who also invested in real estate, in 1952. The Stewarts lived in the house until their respective deaths in 1986 and 1980. Hazel was a plastering contractor, and Eunice retired from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools as a custodian.¹²⁹

The Stewart House is a one-story, hipped frame house built on a brick pier foundation with concrete masonry unit infill. It is sheathed with vinyl siding and sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement. The engaged porch has been enclosed, and the entry moved to the west elevation. The facade has a picture window and typical window. According to building permits, a 19' x 20' hipped addition with a room and bathroom was made to the rear elevation in 1962. A square concrete masonry unit chimney is visible on the rear elevation.

¹²⁸ Tom Hanchett, "2090 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2009-patton-avenue/>.

¹²⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Amay James Presbyterian Church Parsonage, 2015 Patton Avenue (1950)

Contributing Building

Built in 1950 by the Presbyterian Church as residence for ministers, the home housed pastors of Amay James Presbyterian Church on the city's west side. Ministers who resided in the house include Rev. Leon Anderson (1947-1953), Rev. Andrew A. Allen (1953-1956), and Rev. McKinley A. Cochrane, Jr. (1956-1979). The church was organized in 1942 and named for Mrs. Amay Martin James, who had worked for two decades as a Sunday School teacher in the west Charlotte community. The Mecklenburg Presbytery purchased the property in 1949 from H.L. McCrorey, then razed an extant house on the site, saving the nails to be used in the new parsonage. It was church owned until 1982, and the church held its last service in December 1986.¹³⁰

Rev. Anderson stepped into the pulpit at Amay James Presbyterian Church in 1947 soon after he finished his theological degree at JCSU. While in college, his commitment to social work showed in his decision to live among the poor in the new Fairview Homes, Charlotte's first public housing project for African Americans, and to work in the nearby Oaklawn Community Center. Even then he had his sights set on the Amay James mission: his thesis, "A History of Mission Work Among Negroes in the Charlotte, North Carolina, Area of Mecklenburg Presbytery," chronicled the efforts of Amay James and her allies. He led Amay James Presbyterian Church for six years, departing in 1953 to become Regional Director for Christian Education at Presbyterian headquarters in Atlanta.¹³¹

Rev. Allen was pastor of a church in Greenville, South Carolina, when he was called to serve at Amay James in 1953. He received his bachelor's degree and a Master of Divinity from JCSU. He resigned in 1956 and moved to Connecticut, where he obtained a master's in education from University of Bridgeport and worked for the city as a program director.¹³²

Rev. Cochrane was the longest-tenured resident of the parsonage. The son of a Baptist minister, Cochrane graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from JCSU. He had attended Fairview School where he was taught by Amay James. Rev. Cochrane pastored Calvary United Presbyterian in Kannapolis, Covenant United Presbyterian in Kannapolis, and Ben Salem United Presbyterian on Monroe Road until being called to Amay James in 1956. He retired from ministry in 1979 due to health concerns.¹³³

The Amay James Presbyterian Church Parsonage is a one-and-a-half story symmetrical Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-

¹³⁰ Tom Hanchett, "2015 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2015-patton-avenue/>.

¹³¹ Hanchett, "2015 Patton Avenue"; "The Two Hundredth Stated Session of Mecklenburg Presbytery," (April 21, 1953), *Minutes of the Mecklenburg Presbytery* (n.d.), 51.

¹³² Hanchett, "2015 Patton Avenue"; "The Two Hundred Third Stated Session of Mecklenburg Presbytery," (January 19, 1954), *Minutes of the Mecklenburg Presbytery* (n.d.), 31; "The Two Hundred Eleventh Stated Session of Mecklenburg Presbytery," (January 17, 1956), *Minutes of the Mecklenburg Presbytery* (n.d.), 31.

¹³³ Hanchett, "2015 Patton Avenue"; Ted Mellnik, "Rev. McKinley Cochrane Dies at 68," *Charlotte Observer*, July 2, 1987.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

one double-hung vinyl replacement. The façade has replacement vinyl tripartite picture windows flanking the tall gabled entry porch, which has siding and square section wood posts. Two dormers with siding and replacement windows are in the front slope. The asphalt shingle roofs do not have eaves, but dentil moulding is on the facade. An exterior brick chimney is located on the west elevation, extending through the roof of a gabled porch with concrete floor and square section wood posts. A porch appears to have been enclosed at the rear of the east elevation. A shed roofed addition and deck with pergola are located at the rear. The east gable has paired typical windows.

VAN BUREN AVENUE

William E. and Wilhelmina M. White House, 1610 Van Buren Avenue (1957, ca. 2020)

Contributing Building

Built 1957 by Mangie McQueen for educators William "Bill" Edward White, Sr., and Wilhelmina McDonald White. A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, Bill graduated from JCSU and later continued onto New York University to earn a Master of Arts degree. He taught science in CMS for over thirty years, retiring in 1981 after stints at West Charlotte High, Northwest Junior High, and Alexander Graham Junior High. After the government took land along Van Buren Avenue in 1968 to build the Northwest Expressway (now Brookshire Freeway), Bill won appointment to the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission, a place where he could call attention to the harm that such projects did to neighborhoods. Wilhelmina graduated from NC A&T and taught at West Charlotte High.¹³⁴

The White House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It originally faced Van Buren Avenue, but when Brookshire Freeway was constructed in the late 1960s, the street was removed. Windows are vinyl replacements of varying configurations. A centered hipped bay on the façade includes paired two-lite tall sliding windows and an integral corner porch on the east side. The porch is supported by a trio of rectangular wood posts on a brick kneewall. The west side of the façade has three two-lite horizontal sliding windows (originally open to the carport), and the east side has short three-lite horizontal sliding windows. The carport on the west elevation was enclosed ca. 2020 and now has two garage doors. A shed screen porch is located at the rear with an adjacent patio. West of the screen porch is a one-over-one window. An interior chimney rises through the front slope of the east side.

J. Dwight and Ruby B. Martin House, 1622 Van Buren Avenue (1956, 1959)

Contributing Building

Built 1955-56 for dentist Dr. James Dwight Martin, Jr. and Ruby Barr Martin, a teacher and college administrator. He practiced for over fifty years and was a member of the Charlotte Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Society, Old North State Dental Society, and National Dental Association. Dwight was a graduate of JCSU where his father Dr. James D. Martin, Sr., taught Latin. Ruby was a native of Columbia, South Carolina. She moved to New York where

¹³⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1606 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1610-van-buren-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte News*, November 6, 1956; Maria Douglas, "Junior High Science Teacher William White," *Charlotte Observer*, June 14, 1988.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

she took business classes and worked for Wall Street brokerage firm Domnick & Domnick. She later graduated from JCSU and worked as secretary to the president of Barber-Scotia College. She died in 1959, and Dwight remarried to Erma L. Martin. He practiced dentistry until retiring in 1980 but died soon afterwards.¹³⁵

The Martin House is a long one-story Ranch with a low-sloped asphalt shingle hipped roof, Roman brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It is oriented toward the curve in Van Buren Avenue. Typical windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement. A protruding hipped bay on the façade is sheathed in contrasting textured Roman brick. The bay includes an integral entry porch, which has brick side steps, an ornamental iron railing, and a quartet of narrow round metal poles. The eastern section of the house was added in 1959. A wide rectangular chimney is at the interior near the east elevation. A gable-on-hip ell at the rear elevation shelters an enclosed porch sheathed in wood composite siding.

Carport (detached) (1959) – Contributing

Flat roofed metal-frame double carport has tapered meal truss supports.

Joseph W. and Lucy D. Harper House, 1630 Van Buren Avenue (1955, 2022)

Noncontributing Building

Built in 1955 for Joseph Walter Harper, Jr., a letter carrier with the Post Office who also worked as a waiter at Charlotte's elite country clubs, and his wife Lucy DeVeaux Harper, a barber who owned Harper's Barber Shop. Joseph was a native of South Carolina and a graduate of South Carolina State College, where his father taught history. The Harpers also owned Green Light Smoke Shop for a short time. They resided in the house until their respective deaths, Joseph in 1968 and Lucy in 1975.¹³⁶

The Harper House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, painted brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash replacement. The original front stoop with shed roof extension was removed and replaced in 2022 with a shed porch with square section wood posts, a wood deck and steps, a wood and ornamental iron railing, and horizontal wood skirting. An exterior chimney is on the west elevations. Gables have louvered vents in the peak.

Corine S. Grier House, 1634 Van Buren Avenue (1966)

Contributing Building

Beautician Corine S. Grier purchased the property in 1967 from Gertrude Harper Pearson and her husband Dr. Charles Henry Pearson. The Pearsons acquired the property from Gertrude's parents, who lived next door, in 1956. However, they likely did not build the house until 1965, when they took out a mortgage of \$11,500 on the property. Corine rented the property until

¹³⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1622 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1622-van-buren-avenue/>.

¹³⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1630 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1630-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

transferring it to her niece Sarah in 1982; Corine died the following year. Tenants included H. Howard Davis, Dean of Men at JCSU, and wife Caldonia Dyer Davis, an instructor at JCSU.¹³⁷

The Grier House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. It has a prominent wide gabled façade bay with an integral entry stoop. Windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement sashes with two-over-two false grids. Gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents in the peak. An exterior chimney is located on the east elevation. A gabled ell at the east side of the rear elevation contains an integral corner porch.

VACANT LOT – 1638 Van Buren Avenue

This property has never been developed and is historically connected to 1644 Van Buren Avenue.

Raymond P. and Bernice G. Rorie House, 1644 Van Buren Avenue (1957)

Contributing Building

Constructed in 1957 for Raymond Perry Rorie, Jr. and Bernice G. Rorie. Both were professionals active in education and public health. Bernice was a case worker with the Mecklenburg County Department of Public Welfare. Educated at Elizabeth City State University and NC A&T, Raymond was a teacher who also served as a guidance counselor and eventually rose to lead Westerly Hills Elementary as its principal. In 1968 he became the first African American appointed to the Mecklenburg County Board of Health.¹³⁸

The Rorie House is a long one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof. A wide hipped bay at the east end of the façade has a recessed entry porch with square section wood post and ornamental iron railings along the tall brick steps. Windows are vinyl replacement. A porch at the west corner of the façade has been enclosed with vinyl siding and vinyl windows. Beyond is a hipped double carport extending beyond the west elevation. It has square brick columns with brick walls between. There are two interior chimneys, a wide rectangular one at the west end and a smaller square one at the east end. The site slopes from west to east creating a basement, which has a window on the façade and on the east elevation. The basement level has a former entry infilled with a window and two small horizontal siding windows. Replacement sliding glass doors on the rear elevation have a brick landing with ornamental iron railing.

Shed (ca. 1968) – Contributing

A gabled shed at the northeast corner of the property first appeared in aerial imagery in 1968. It is constructed of concrete masonry units.

House, 1700 Van Buren Avenue (1990)

¹³⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1634 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1634-van-buren-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 2644, Page 100.

¹³⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1644 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1644-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Noncontributing Building

While the property was purchased by teacher Grace E. McCauley in 1954, no house was built until at least 1990 according to aerial imagery. Grace was educated at JCSU and held master's degrees from Atlanta University and New York University. She died in 1985, and sisters Rose McCauley Jones (who lived next door at 1704 Van Buren Avenue) and Wilburn Mary McCauley inherited the property.¹³⁹

The one-story, hipped brick-veneered Ranch house faces Clifton Street. The lot slopes from north to south, creating a tall masonry foundation on the south elevation. The house is sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash replacement. A hipped bay on the façade has vinyl siding, a trio of original tall picture windows, and a corner porch with ornamental iron railing. The south bay of the façade has an original picture window. A gabled garage bay with vinyl siding is located on the north elevation. An integral porch is located at the south rear corner and has wood railing, square section wood posts, and wood lattice below. A deck at the center of the rear elevation also has wood railing, square section wood posts, and wood lattice below. An interior brick chimney rises through the rear slope.

Rose M. and Barnabas R. Jones House, 1704 Van Buren Avenue (1959)

Contributing Building

Built 1959 by Evans Construction Company and purchased by Barnabas Richard Jones and Rose McCauley Jones. Barnabas was a graduate of JCSU. He worked as a janitor at First United Methodist Church when he was struck by a train and died in April 1960, only residing in the house for just over a year. Rose was an alumna of the school of nursing at Good Samaritan Hospital and worked as an R.N. for the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department.¹⁴⁰

The Jones House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Most windows are vinyl replacement, but the middle window on the façade is three-lite aluminum awning sash. The gabled porch has ornamental iron supports and railing. Stone accents are under the porch on the façade. A gabled extension at the east side of the rear elevation appears to be an enclosed porch with vertical paneling and two-over-two double-hung aluminum sash windows. Gables have aluminum siding. There is an interior brick chimney on the front roof slope.

Rev. Leonard A. Ellis House, 1708 Van Buren Avenue (1959)

Contributing Building

Designed by Louis H. Asbury & Associates and built 1958-1959 by Marsh-Broadway Construction Company, the house was purchased by Rev. Leonard Allen Ellis in 1959. A native of Due West, South Carolina, Rev. Ellis was a graduate of JCSU and Union Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Davidson Presbyterian Church for nineteen years, retiring in

¹³⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1700 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1700-van-buren-avenue/>.

¹⁴⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1704 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1704-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

1985. Before accepting the call, Rev. Ellis had been a pastor in the Fairfield-McClelland Presbytery. Listed in the city directory as occupants during this period were Herman Lacoste Counts, Jr., the son of Rev. Ellis's JCSU classmate Rev. Herman L. Counts, Sr., and Doris S. Counts. Herman, Jr. worked in administration at JCSU until taking a position at Denison University in Ohio in 1966. Rev. Ellis then resided in the house until his death in 1987.¹⁴¹

The Ellis House is a one-story side-gabled Ranch with brick veneer and a masonry foundation. The asphalt shingle roof has no eaves. A gabled façade bay with bay window extends to a flat-roofed corner porch with ornamental iron supports and railing and an east-facing front entry. Dentil moulding is located on the façade and east elevation of the corner porch. Gables have aluminum siding. Windows are vinyl replacement. An interior brick chimney is located on the front roof slope. A hipped screen porch extends from the east side of the rear elevation.

**James D. and Julia McClellan House, 1712 Van Buren Avenue (1956)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1955-56 by contractor Edwin O. Clarkson for James Daniel McClellan, Sr., and Julia Grooms McClellan, a teacher at Northwest Junior High School. Julia earned education degrees from South Carolina State University and NC A&T. James was a graduate of JCSU and enlisted in the Army during WWII. He worked in education before joining the Charlotte Police Department in February 1947. He died in 1960, and Julia remarried to Methodist minister Rev. James E. McCallum.¹⁴²

The McClellan House is a hipped Ranch with a deep footprint. It has brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, a masonry foundation, and a tall brick exterior chimney on the west elevation. Typical windows are original six-over-six double-hung wood sash with storm windows. A hipped bay projects from the façade and has off-center paired six-over-six double-hung wood windows. Adjacent to the hipped bay is the uncovered front landing with ornamental iron railing. The replacement front door is bordered by an original wood sash tripartite window with storm window. A hipped ell at the west side of the rear elevation is sheathed in wood composite siding.

**Joe and Emma Bogle House, 1716 Van Buren Avenue (1955)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1957 for plasterer Joseph "Joe" James Bogle and teacher Emma Clarkson Bogle. After service during WWII, Joe returned to Charlotte and worked as a plastering contractor. He later worked for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Authority. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Emma attended JCSU and New York University. She taught at West Charlotte High

¹⁴¹ Tom Hanchett, "1708 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1708-van-buren-avenue/>.

¹⁴² Tom Hanchett, "1712 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1712-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

and, after integration, Myers Park High. The Bogles sold the house in 1969 and moved to Hyde Park Estates. Educators Baxter and Mary Smoot purchased the property in 1976.¹⁴³

A native of Mocksville, Baxter Cheshire Smoot attended JCSU after service during WWII. He taught at Alexander Street School in First Ward, Thomasboro Elementary, Oaklawn Elementary, and Enderly Park Elementary before retiring early due to disability. Mary Steele Smoot was also a graduate of JCSU. She taught at Biddleville Elementary, Billingsville Elementary, and Derita Elementary before retiring in 1988. Both Baxter and Mary held master's degrees in education, he from Columbia University and she from New York University. Baxter died in 1988, and Mary passed in 2001.¹⁴⁴

The Bogle House is a hipped Ranch with painted brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, a masonry foundation, and an interior chimney in the front slope. Windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement sashes. A hipped bay projects from the façade and has a tripartite picture window. Adjacent is the uncovered front landing with prominent brick steps with an ornamental iron railing. A concrete retaining wall with a horizontal wood fence is located at the east elevation.

Rev. Ray A. and Laura M. Booton House, 1722 Van Buren Avenue (1958)

Contributing Building

Built by contractor Ed Griffin in 1958 for Ray Andre Booton, Jr., a member of Charlotte's distinguished Tate family who repeatedly made headlines as a Civil Rights pioneer, and Laura Mason Booton. Ray's grandfather Thaddeus Tate operated a downtown barber shop, helped start Grace A.M.E. Zion Church, and co-developed the Mecklenburg Investment Company building in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Ray attended JCSU before transferring to Tuskegee University. After service in WWII, Ray became one of Charlotte's first eight Black full-time policemen. He then worked for the post office before shifting to federal employment. An avid golfer, in 1951 he helped launch the lawsuit that desegregated Charlotte's Bonnie Brae Golf Course (now the Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park). Ray later earned a Master of Divinity degree from JCSU in 1965 and was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church. He served Charlotte area churches until 1984. In 1999 he was inducted into the National Black Golf Hall of Fame. Since 1992 the "Ray A. Booton Golf Classic" has been played in Charlotte to benefit his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi. Laura attended Hampton University, New York University, and NC A&T. She taught at the high school and college level and later worked at Mechanics and Farmers Bank, from which she retired.¹⁴⁵

The Booton House is a large one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. The primary mass has a full-width brick planter with

¹⁴³ Tom Hanchett, "1716 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1716-van-buren-avenue/>; "Joseph J. Bogle," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, March 23, 2004; "Emma Clarkson Bogle," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, November 2, 2009.

¹⁴⁴ Hanchett, "1716 Van Buren Avenue".

¹⁴⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1722 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1722-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

ornamental iron balustrade. The porch is at the east corner of the primary mass and has ornamental iron supports and railing. The recessed entry has a replacement with storm door, and to its east is a stone veneer section. A lower gable section comprises the east bay. Typical windows are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement with eight-over-eight false grids on the facade. Gables have vinyl siding with louvered vents. A brick interior chimney is visible at the rear, which has a centered gable extension with prefabricated sunroom on its west elevation. The backyard has a pierced brick wall.

Chester and Jessie N. Donald House, 1800 Van Buren Avenue (1955)

Contributing Building

One of four houses constructed by Wheatley & Co. in 1955, the residence was purchased that year by teacher Chester A. Donald, Jr., and Jessie Nicholas Donald. Chester attended Livingstone College, Carlton University in Minnesota, UNC Charlotte, and New York University where he received a master's degree. He taught in Zebulon and Cumberland, Maryland before moving to Charlotte, where he would retire after 31 years. Jessie graduated from West Charlotte High and attended a business school program at McCrorey YMCA. Chester and his wife Jessie divorced in 1975, and Jessie retained the house.¹⁴⁶

The Donald House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The hipped porch has ornamental iron supports and railings. Windows are vinyl replacement and include tripartite picture windows on the facade and the west elevation. Gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents in the peaks. An addition extends at the rear and beyond the west elevation of the primary mass. Its roof is hipped at the rear and gabled at the south elevation, where the addition connects to a shed-roofed side entrance bay. An interior chimney in the front slope has a metal smokestack and is stuccoed.

Rev. Paul L. and Eliza A. Ross House, 1804 Van Buren Avenue (1955, 1960, ca. 1970)

Contributing Building

One of four houses built in 1955 on Van Buren Avenue by Wheatley & Co., the residence was purchased by Rev. Paul Lawrence Ross and Eliza Alexander Ross in 1956. Rev. Ross grew up in Winnsboro, South Carolina, and attended JCSU and Drew University in New Jersey. He ministered to rural communities in the south before becoming pastor of Love's Chapel Presbyterian Church in Belmont, which he led for 33 years while commuting from McCrorey Heights. Eliza graduated from Clear Creek High in eastern Mecklenburg County and Bennett College in Greensboro.¹⁴⁷ Son Audwin Ross was noted by local historian Tom Hanchett as "the neighborhood's unofficial historian" whose collection of ephemera and reminiscences of McCrorey Heights residents formed a basis for the neighborhood's history.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1800 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1800-van-buren-avenue/>; "Ten Students Get Diplomas," *Charlotte News*, February 5, 1959.

¹⁴⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1804 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1804-van-buren-avenue/>; "98 Graduate in Exercises at Bennett," *Charlotte Observer*, May 29, 1952.

¹⁴⁸ Hanchett, "1804 Van Buren Avenue."

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Ross House is a one-story brick veneered Ranch with a side-gabled primary mass with an asphalt shingle roof. A projecting gabled two-story addition with basement was made to the façade ca. 1970. Windows are one-over-one double-hung, vinyl replacement sashes. The shed entry porch has ornamental iron railing and an enclosed room with vertical vinyl siding on its west end. The façade under the porch has a tripartite picture window and is sheathed in vinyl siding. The original wood slab door with two square decorative molding motifs has a storm door. Gables have aluminum siding and louvered vents, with a rounded vent on the gable of the façade addition. An interior chimney in the west slope of the two-story section with stovepipe is stuccoed. The west entrance and flanking windows have a metal awning. A gabled addition was made to the east side of the rear elevation in 1960.

Garage (ca. 1975) – Contributing

The front-gabled two-car garage is constructed of concrete masonry units. The gable has vinyl siding and a louvered vent.

Virginia W. Stepteau House, 1808 Van Buren Avenue (1955)

Noncontributing Building

One of four houses built by Wheatley & Co. on Van Buren Avenue, the residence was purchased in 1956 by Virginia Williams Stepteau, a cashier with the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. Virginia graduated from Morris Brown College and worked for the insurance company for over forty years. She was the first Black woman to serve as a voting precinct registrar in Mecklenburg County, and in 1976 was chosen as Woman of the Year by the North Carolina Council of Alpha Pi Chi sorority for business and professional women.¹⁴⁹

The Stepteau House is a one-story Ranch with a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof. The façade has vinyl siding above the brick wainscoting. The façade has a flat-roofed porch with boxed columns. The west section of the porch is enclosed with vinyl siding. The porch shelters a picture window adjacent and the replacement front door. Original ornamental iron supports were replaced with square section columns. Windows are vinyl replacement. Gables have vinyl siding. A metal awning on the west elevation covers a side entrance and flanking windows, and awnings are also over the windows on the east elevation. A gabled extension clad in vinyl siding is visible on the rear.

Lee Ada Harris House, 1812 Van Buren Avenue (1955, ca. 2015)

Noncontributing Building

Teacher Lee Ada Harris purchased the house in 1956 from Rex Wheatley, whose construction company had built four houses along Van Buren Avenue the preceding year. She was a native of Harrisburg and attended Barber-Scotia College and Shaw University. Lee Ada taught in Cabarrus County and retired from teaching in New Jersey.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1808 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1808-van-buren-avenue/>.

¹⁵⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1812 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1812-van-buren-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Harris House is a one-story, front-gabled Minimal Traditional house with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. All windows are vinyl replacement sash, with four-lite casement windows being the typical configuration. It has a gabled porch with vinyl-wrapped square section wood posts and painted plywood in the gable. The porch covers a replacement picture window and a modern replacement door with a narrow full-length lite. The façade has a typical window in its west bay. The primary mass gable has vertical wood siding and a large louvered vent. The porch roof extends on the east elevation to shelter an exterior storeroom with wood composite siding. A door with brick landing in the first bay of the west elevation was removed ca. 2015, rendering the house noncontributing.

Carport (detached) (2016) – Noncontributing

Located at the west elevation of the house, the shed carport has square section wood posts and corrugated metal roof.

James R. and Robbie S. Grier House, 1816 Van Buren Avenue (1955)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955 for James Ramsey Grier and Robbie Lee Stevenson Grier. James worked then as a shipping clerk at Huttig Sash & Door, a building materials firm located near the intersection of Tuckaseegee Road and Thrift Road. By the 1980s, he was a diesel mechanic at Estes Express, one of the many long-distance trucking firms based in the Charlotte area. Robbie worked as a caregiver at a nursing home.¹⁵¹

The Grier House is a one-story brick veneered Ranch on a masonry foundation. The asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof with no eaves. The gabled porch has metal awnings on all sides and ornamental iron supports and railing. Typical windows are small, vinyl, replacement, horizontal sliders. Metal awnings are over windows on the side elevations. Gables have aluminum siding. An enclosed shed porch with aluminum siding and shed carport with concrete masonry unit retaining wall and ornamental iron railing are located at the rear. An interior brick chimney in the front slope has been stuccoed.

WASHINGTON AVENUE

House, 1601 Washington Avenue (2002)

Noncontributing Building

Research indicates that this property was not developed during the period of significance. The one-story Ranch house on a masonry foundation was built in 2002. It is sheathed in vinyl siding and has an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl sash with six-over-six false grids. A stepped gabled bay on the east façade has a corner porch with turned wood post and a smaller gabled bay with brick veneer and tripartite window with fanlight. Façade windows on the primary mass are typical windows with fanlights.¹⁵²

¹⁵¹ Tom Hanchett, "1816 Van Buren Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1816-van-buren-avenue/>.

¹⁵² Tom Hanchett, "1601 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1601-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

**Carrie M. and Ganzy H. Hart House, 1607 Washington Avenue (-1959, 1962)
Contributing Building**

Built 1959-1960 by contractor Edwin O. Clarkson for Ganzy H. and Carrie McClellan Hart. A graduate of Second Ward High and Winston-Salem State Teachers College (WSSU), Carrie taught at Woodland School in rural west Mecklenburg County, Biddleville School, and Merry Oaks Elementary, where she was the first Black teacher. In 1970 the *Charlotte News* profiled Carrie as her third-grade class threw a holiday party for her. Her brother James McClellan lived in McCrorey Heights at 1712 Van Buren Avenue. Ganzy had lived in Flushing, New York, where he worked at Harlem Hospital, before moving to Charlotte where he was a cook. He died in 1966 of a stroke.¹⁵³

The Hart House is a brick-veneered Minimal Traditional with an asphalt shingle, steep, side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Its façade has a large gabled bay with a projecting gabled porch with aluminum siding and ornamental iron supports. Windows are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl replacement. The groupings on the façade have metal awnings. Side gables have louvered vents, and the east elevation has paired windows in the upper level. A hipped carport at the west elevation has breeze block screening between round metal posts. A brick chimney rises through the roof near the west elevation. A shed extension on the rear is visible from the west elevation and is sheathed in aluminum siding. An entry and a paired window beyond the carport have metal awnings.

**Austin and Elizabeth H. Simons House, 1611 Washington Avenue (1959)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1959 by contractor Fred C. Shu for Austin and Elizabeth Harrison Simons. Austin was a longtime employee of Harry & Bryant Funeral Home, and Elizabeth worked there for a period as a maid.¹⁵⁴

The Simons House is a hipped Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, dentil molding, and a masonry foundation. The recessed entry has wood paneled siding, and six-lite sidelights flanking the likely original door with aluminum storm door. Windows are original six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The integral carport at the west end has ornamental iron supports on a brick kneewall and vertical wood paneling on the rear storeroom.

**Alvin V. and Shirley W. Kennedy House, 1615 Washington Avenue (1966)
Contributing Building**

Built 1966 by contractor H. W. Karriker for Alvin Von Kennedy and Shirley Williams Kennedy. Alvin graduated from NC A&T in 1937. He was hired as a case worker with the Mecklenburg County Department of Public Welfare in 1941 after completing a year of graduate study at

¹⁵³ Tom Hanchett, "1607 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1607-washington-avenue/>; Carole Gray Moore, "Love in Full Measure: Teaching, Children Are Her Life," *Charlotte News*, December 23, 1970.

¹⁵⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1611 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1611-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Atlanta University. Alvin retired as a social worker with the Veterans Administration. Shirley taught in CMS for thirty-nine years, retiring from Eastover Elementary. She served on the board of Spirit Square, an arts complex in uptown Charlotte.¹⁵⁵

The Kennedy House is a one-story Ranch with an asphalt shingle, stepped, side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. The east mass of the house has a taller roof, under which is an integral porch with Tuscan columns. The front door has infill panels with single-lite sidelights at the top on either side. Windows are vinyl replacement. The west mass of the house is flush with the recessed portion of the façade under the porch and culminates in a double garage on the west elevation. The integral garage has aluminum siding in the gable. A gabled bay is at the east side of the rear elevation.

Winson R. and Theodora D. Coleman House, 1629 Washington Avenue (ca.1974)

Contributing Building

Built about 1974 as a retirement residence for JCSU philosophy professor and tennis coach Dr. Winson Ralph Coleman and Theodora Dugas Coleman, an elementary school teacher. Winson grew up in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and earned his undergraduate degree in Latin and Greek at Pennsylvania College. He won a full scholarship at Haverford College in Massachusetts, where he graduated with a master's in philosophy in 1929, and joined the faculty at JCSU that fall. Winson received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1950 and was one of only four African American academics to earn a doctorate in philosophy during that decade. He retired from JCSU in 1974 after forty-five years, and the Coleman-Cuthbertson Tennis Courts are named for him. A native of Augusta, Georgia, Theodora graduated from Atlanta University and later earned her master's degree from Columbia University. She taught for nearly thirty years, retiring as a teacher at Double Oaks Elementary in 1963.¹⁵⁶

The Coleman House is a one-story, brick Ranch with an asphalt shingle, side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Brick steps with an ornamental iron railing lead to the recessed entry, which has an original three-light door with storm door and wide sidelight with textured glass above a wood panel section with a brass mail slot. Windows are original two-lite, aluminum, awning windows with a trio of four-lite windows on the façade. A wide exterior chimney is on the east elevation. Louvered vents are in the gable peaks. A gabled extension on the rear elevation includes an enclosed porch with jalousie windows and double carport with enclosed storage room.

Kenneth S. and Willie M. Powell House, 1635 Washington Avenue (ca. 1960, 1969)

Contributing Building

Built for Kenneth Senior Powell, professor and football coach at JCSU, and Willie King Powell, and moved to its current site in 1969. A native of Nassau, Bahamas, Kenneth immigrated to New York City at a young age with his parents. He came south to attend JCSU, where he graduated in

¹⁵⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1615 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1615-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁵⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1629 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1629-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

1943 with Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and earned All-CIAA and All-American honors in football. After service during World War II, Kenneth coached at Howard University before returning to Charlotte. He served as athletic director and football coach at Second Ward High. Willie later joined his alma mater as a professor of health and education as well as coaching positions in football and track. He was inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame in 1987. Willie was a native of Chester, South Carolina, who graduated from Barber-Scotia College and JCSU, also in the class of 1943 alongside her future husband. Both Willie and Kenneth earned their master's degree from New York University. She was a teacher and assistant principal in CMS. She was voted Teacher of the Year for Derita Elementary in 1983-1984. When traffic engineers routed the new Northwest Expressway (now Brookshire Freeway) through that land, the Powells arranged for the dwelling to be moved up to Washington Avenue in 1969.¹⁵⁷

The Powell House is a Split-Level residence with brick veneer and an asphalt shingle, hipped roof. The east portion is one story on a masonry foundation, and the west portion is two stories with a concrete slab foundation. Brick steps with ornamental iron railing lead to the recessed entry, which has a six-panel door with storm door and frosted glass sidelight. Typical windows are two-lite, awning, aluminum sash. The upper level of the two-story section has pairs of three-lite awning windows. An interior brick chimney is located at the rear. A side entry on the east elevation of the one-story section has brick steps and ornamental iron railing behind a wing wall.

Clifton A. and Frankie N. Ezell House, 1642 Washington Avenue (1952, ca. 2020)

Noncontributing Building

Built about 1952 and first occupied by Frankie Nichols Ezell, owner and manager of the Evergreen Flower Shop on East 7th Street in First Ward, and Clifton Arnold Ezell, a porter for many years at the Union Bus Station. Frankie was a native of Alabama and attended Knoxville College. She began working at Evergreen Flower Shop when it opened in 1942, and she and Clifton purchased the business in 1957.¹⁵⁸

The Ezell House is a side-gabled Ranch with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Changes made ca. 2020 include the addition of a gabled front porch, enclosing the east screen porch with vinyl siding, and adding a wood deck at the rear east. The front porch has a concrete floor with brick trim, square section woods posts, and vinyl siding, and the front door is a replacement. Windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement.

Rev. Hercules and Carrie D. Wilson House, 1646 Washington Avenue (1957)

Contributing Building

Built by Mangie McQueen in 1957 for Presbyterian minister Rev. Dr. Hercules Wilson and Carrie Dockery Wilson. A native of Darien, Georgia, Hercules came to Charlotte in 1903 to attend the "preparatory department" of what is now JCSU. He stayed on to graduate from the

¹⁵⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1635 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁵⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1642 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1642-washington-avenue/>; "Mrs. Clifton A. Ezell, Owner of Flower Shop," *Charlotte Observer*, April 19, 1972.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

college in 1908, and from the institution's School of Theology in 1911. He pastored at rural Presbyterian churches and served as principal at rural schools before organizing Charlotte's Brooklyn Presbyterian Church in 1911. He accepted a call to Westminster Presbyterian in Concord in 1917 where he served forty years until retirement in 1957. Carrie earned a bachelor's degree from JCSU in 1943. She taught in Cabarrus County schools and served as a Jeanes Supervisor, a position backed by the Jeanes Fund that supported rural teachers.¹⁵⁹

The Wilson House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional with an asphalt shingle, tall, side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. It has a prominent gabled bay on the façade with an off-center trio of windows below and a single window above. Windows are replacement one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sashes. The shed porch has boxed square section wood posts. A tall brick chimney rises on the west elevation. A wide shed dormer is on the rear roof slope.

Carport (detached) (1957) – Contributing

The flat-roofed double carport has a metal frame and V-shaped metal truss supports.

**Seventh Street Presbyterian Church Parsonage, 1650 Washington Avenue (1953)
Contributing Building**

Seventh Street Presbyterian Church (today First United Presbyterian Church) was granted a building permit in October 1952 for contractor W.B. Presson to construct a parsonage at 1650 Washington Avenue. Rev. James Wyandotte Smith, Sr. and his wife Margaret Arthur Smith were the first occupants until moving to a new Ranch house at 1901 Patton Avenue in 1961. Henry E. Ezell, Jr. and Roxie O. Ezell, active members of the church, were long-time residents. Henry's brother Clifton lived two doors down at 1642 Washington Avenue. Henry worked as a janitor, and Roxie served as church secretary from 1957 until retiring in 1975.¹⁶⁰

The Seventh Street Presbyterian Church Parsonage is a one-and-a-half-story, Minimal Traditional residence with an asphalt shingle, tall, side-gabled roof, a brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are six-over-six vinyl replacement. It has a gabled front porch with brick deck and square section wood posts. Adjacent is a replacement bay picture window, which continues from the roof plane. A tall brick exterior chimney rises at the west elevation. A shed dormer on the rear is connected to a two-story shed-roof addition on the east side of the rear elevation. A one-story gabled extension on the west side of the rear elevation is visible from aerial photography.

Garage (2000) – Noncontributing

A gabled two-car garage with vinyl siding is visible via aerial imagery.

¹⁵⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>; *Educational Directory of North Carolina, 1946-1947* (Raleigh: Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1947), 11.

¹⁶⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1650 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1650-washington-avenue/>; Beverly Moore, "3 Retire from First United Presbyterian," *Charlotte Post*, January 9, 1975.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

**Joseph C. and Marjorie R. Belton House, 1700 Washington Avenue (ca. 1950, 1962)
Contributing Building**

The Belton House was the second residence constructed during the post-WWII development of McCrorey Heights. Joseph Charles Belton was principal at Clear Creek School in eastern Mecklenburg County. He held degrees from JCSU and the University of Michigan. Marjorie Rowe Belton led Charlotte's Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA. A native of White Plains, New York, Marjorie came to the south to study at Hampton University on a full scholarship. After graduation, she taught French and history for five years in Currituck County schools, where she met Joseph. Marjorie later became a guidance counselor at Second Ward High and West Charlotte High, retiring in 1979.¹⁶¹

The Belton House is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, brick veneered, Minimal Traditional house with an asphalt shingle roof and a masonry foundation. It features simplified Tudor elements, namely a steep-roofed façade bay and façade chimney. Windows are original wood sash and include eight-over-eight, double-hung sashes on the main level and six-over-six, double-hung sashes on the upper level. A pair of wide, one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows is located on the first story façade of the gabled façade bay. The façade bay has vinyl siding and a window in the gable. The front landing has ornamental iron railing at the brick steps. The roof has no eaves. The east elevation has a shed porch with square section wood posts. Pairs of windows are in the gables of the primary mass, above which are louvered vents. A gable dormer is located in the center of the rear elevation. A gabled carport is located at the west end and is connected to the primary mass with a ca. 1962 low gabled hyphen with brick veneer. The carport is supported by round metal posts and has vinyl siding in its gable and on the rear storeroom.

**Stuart-Reddick House, 1701 Washington Avenue (1950)
Contributing Building**

Built in 1950 for Kathleen L. Stuart, home economics teacher at West Charlotte High. Also residing in the house was fellow faculty member, librarian Martha E. Riddick. Both were natives of Virginia—Kathleen from Christiansburg and Martha from Hampton. Kathleen earned a bachelor's degree from Teachers College at Columbia University in February 1940. She had taught in her hometown at Christiansburg Industrial Institute before coming to Charlotte. Martha was a graduate of Hampton University and studied at Syracuse University, UNC, Atlanta University, and the University of Chicago. Both had come to Charlotte by 1940, when they were listed as roomers in the residence of William and Ada Roberts in Washington Heights. Kathleen died suddenly in 1953. Martha retired in 1973 after thirty-four years at West Charlotte High. Martha purchased the property from Kathleen's siblings in 1956 and resided there until her own death in 1987.¹⁶²

¹⁶¹ Tom Hanchett, "1700 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1700-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁶² Tom Hanchett, "1701 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1701-washington-avenue/>; "Permits Given for New Homes," *Charlotte Observer*, July 14, 1950; "Two Counties Name Teachers," *Roanoke Times*, August 17, 1934; *Catalogue Number for the Sessions of 1940-1941* (New York: Columbia University, 1941), 216-218; Population Schedule for Ward 11,

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Stuart-Riddick House is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. It has two gabled dormers on the façade and a shed dormer on the rear. Gables are sheathed in vinyl siding. An exterior brick chimney rises on the east elevation, which also has a flat-roofed screen porch. Windows are vinyl replacement. The front stoop has a metal canopy with thin metal posts. The embellished panel front door has an ornamental iron screen door.

Rev. Joseph A. and Mattie B. DeLaine House, 1706 Washington Avenue (1971, 1975)

Contributing Building

Built in 1971 by Gutledge and Holmes Construction Company for Rev. Joseph A. DeLaine, Sr. and Mattie Belton DeLaine. Both Rev. DeLaine and Mattie were graduates of Allen College in Columbia, South Carolina. The DeLaines played an important role in the national Civil Rights movement, working with their neighbors in Clarendon County, South Carolina, to file the first of the five cases that came together as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Their house in Summerton, South Carolina burned to the ground as the fire department watched. Re-assigned to preach in Lake City, South Carolina, Rev. DeLaine was targeted by nightriders who shot up the family home and set fire to his church. Relatives helped smuggle the DeLaines out of the state, and Rev. DeLaine finished his career in the New York City area. He and Mattie retired south to Charlotte and built the house on Washington Avenue near her brothers, Joseph and Moses.¹⁶³

The DeLaine House was commissioned by son Joseph A. DeLaine, Jr., who hired New Jersey architect Alexander Tudor to design the unusual modernist home. The brick veneer home has a mansard roof with platform on the primary mass flanked by flat-roofed bays on the east, west, and rear elevations. These bays extend beyond the primary mass, creating a deeply recessed entry. The façade of the west bay has a picture window, while the east garage bay protrudes forward. The solid wood front door has a brass mail slot and storm, and it is flanked by large picture windows. Typical windows, which are one-over-one, vinyl sash replacement, have wood panels below. A flat-roofed porch at the middle of the rear elevation was enclosed in 1975.

VACANT LOT – 1707 Washington Avenue

This property is historically undeveloped and is connected with 1701 Washington Avenue.

Edna E. Morris House, 1711 Washington Avenue (1965, ca. 2018)

Noncontributing Building

Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, ED60-70B, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, 4A; "Rites Wednesday for Local Teacher," *Charlotte Observer*, May 5, 1953; Natasha King, "Martha Riddick, Retired Librarian, Dies," *Charlotte Observer*, September 26, 1987.

¹⁶³ Tom Hanchett, "1706 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1706-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Built in 1965 by contractor H.W. Carriker for Edna E. Morris. A native of Charlotte and graduate of JCSU, Edna received her master's degree from Columbia University. She taught for forty-six years in Charlotte schools, primarily at Fairview Elementary.¹⁶⁴

The Morris House is the only example of the rear-loaded Split-Level house in McCrorey Heights. The side-gabled, brick house is one story at the front and two stories on the rear elevation. It has a concrete slab foundation and an asphalt shingle roof. The house was modified ca. 2018 with painted brick, the extension of the façade gable bay into a deep porch, and a long two-story gabled addition off the center rear. The porch has wood composite shingles in the gable and square section wood posts on stone-tiled piers. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements. The east elevation has a side entry with wood steps and railing at the one-story front section. A garage bay at the lower level of the two-story section has been filled with vinyl siding and a typical window. A shed extension on the west elevation has an original brick section at rear and addition on front. The addition has a concrete-masonry unit foundation and is sheathed in wood composite siding. Brick steps and landing with ornamental iron railing are at its rear elevation.

**Charles B. and Evelynne H. Maxwell House, 1712 Washington Avenue (1952)
Contributing Building**

Built 1951-1952 for Charles Baxter Maxwell and Evelynne Hill Maxwell. Charles attended JCSU and served in WWII. He worked as a mail carrier and payroll clerk for Johnson Mills Company. Evelynne graduated from JCSU and Columbia University. She taught at Biddleville School, University Park Elementary, and Northwest Junior High before moving into administration. After serving as acting principal at Morgan Elementary for a semester, she was principal of Amay James Elementary before her death in 1964. Charles sold the house in 1972 to his sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Shade Payne.¹⁶⁵

The Maxwell House is a later one-and-one-half-story Minimal Traditional house with Tudor Revival features. It has an asphalt shingled side-gabled roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The gabled façade bay is bisected by the façade chimney, which is flanked by small quarter-fanlight windows. The entry is located in a small gabled bay projecting from the west side of the façade bay. It has a brick landing and steps with ornamental iron railing. There is a picture window with four-lites on either side east of the façade chimney. A gabled bay extends from the west elevation and has a porch with square section wood post and wood composite siding. Windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement. A full-width gabled ell extends from the rear.

Rev. Howard W. and Helen B. Givens House, 1715 Washington Avenue (1967, 1974)

¹⁶⁴ Tom Hanchett, "1711 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1711-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁶⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1712 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1712-washington-avenue/>; "Construction Applications Top \$169,000," *Charlotte Observer*, September 21, 1951; "Mr. Charles Baxter Maxwell, Jr.," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, October 10, 1987.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Built 1966-1967 by Black contractor Mangie McQueen for Rev. Howard Washington Givens, Jr., and Helen Bampfield Givens. Howard is best remembered for bringing together the churches that became Memorial Presbyterian Church and helping raise funds for its new building dedicated in 1968. A native of Georgia, he graduated from JCSU and Union Theological Seminary. Helen, daughter of Elizabeth Smalls Bampfield and granddaughter of the African American Civil War hero and political leader Robert Smalls, taught school in Charlotte. She attended Barber-Scotia College before graduating from JCSU. She died in 2001 at age 104. Her nephew Bampfield J. Stinson resided in McCrorey Heights at 1812 Patton Avenue.¹⁶⁶

The Givens House is a Split-Level house with a side-gabled, one-story portion on a masonry foundation and a front-gabled, two-story section, which extends below grade and has a concrete slab foundation. Roofs have asphalt shingles. A rear addition was made in 1974. The integral front porch extends over the entry stoop and a brick planter along the façade of the one-story section. The porch is supported by ornamental iron columns. The façade of the one-story section has a curved bow window. All windows are vinyl replacements. The vinyl-sided upper section of the two-story portion overhangs the below-grade brick lower level, which has horizontal sliding windows. The front-gable has eave returns and a louvered vent in its peak. A small square brick interior chimney is located in the east slope of the two-story section. An exterior brick chimney is located on the rear elevation of the two-story section. A side entrance is located below grade on the lower section of the west elevation.

Rev. Elo L. and Doris S. Henderson House, 1716 Washington Avenue (1958, 1971)

Contributing Building

Built 1958-59 for Rev. Elo L. Henderson and wife Doris Stephens Henderson. A native of South Carolina, Rev. Henderson graduated from JCSU and became founding minister of Grier Heights Presbyterian Church. He became the first Black executive in the United Presbyterian Church, leading the Catawba Synod from the 1950s into the 1970s. A two-time graduate of NC Central, Doris was a teacher in CMS. On behalf of their daughter Sula, the Hendersons were among the plaintiffs in *Swann v. Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools*, which resulted in the 1971 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to order busing to desegregate schools.¹⁶⁷

The Henderson House is an L-shaped, one-story, brick-veneered Ranch turned 90 degrees to fit on the narrow lot. It is comprised of the front-gabled section, forming the façade, extending from the side-gabled section at rear. A shed porch with ornamental iron supports and railing is located on the east elevation of the front-gable section at the bend in the L-shape, and there is a tripartite picture window on the south elevation of the primary mass under the porch. Typical windows are original three-lite, aluminum, awning sashes on the gable extension and original four-lite, aluminum, awning sashes on the side-gabled primary mass. Gables have louvered vents in the

¹⁶⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1715 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1715-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁶⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1716 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1716-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

peaks. It has a brick interior chimney on the east slope of the front-gabled section. The roof is asphalt shingle, and the foundation is brick-clad.

Garage (1958) – Contributing

The front-gabled one-story garage has brick veneer and a vertical panel wood door.

VACANT LOT – West of 1716 Washington Avenue

This property is historically undeveloped and is connected with 1716 Washington Avenue.

VACANT LOT – 1719 Washington Avenue

This property is historically undeveloped.

Johnson C. Smith University President's House, 1723 Washington Avenue (1966)

Contributing Building

Built 1965-1966 as the President's House for JCSU. The house was designed by A.G. Odell & Associates, one of the most prolific firms in Charlotte during the post-WWII period. Odell had designed the master plan for the university in the early 1960s. The house was built by G.E. Vinroot Construction Company. It was first occupied by Dr. Rufus Perry, president of JCSU 1957-1968. An energetic fund-raiser and long-range planner, he led the construction of key new buildings on campus, including Brayboy Gymnasium, Duke Library, Memorial Student Union, and the Perry Science Center. Dr. Perry is remembered as JCSU's "master builder."¹⁶⁸ Later university presidents who resided here include Lionel Newsome (1968-1972), Wilbert Greenfield (1973-1982), Robert Albright (1983-1994), and Dorothy Cowser Yancy (1994-2008). The university sold the property in 2009.¹⁶⁹

The Johnson C. Smith University President's House is a stately example of the Colonial Revival style. It is two stories tall, sheathed in brick veneer, and built on a masonry foundation. The house has a main two-story block under an asphalt shingle, side-gable roof, with the roof slope extending downward at the back in "saltbox" fashion to create a one-story rear area. The features of the house include such Colonial Revival touches as dentil molding under the front eaves, original six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows upstairs and nine-over-nine sash downstairs, and a broken pediment and pilasters framing the front door. Two gabled ells extend from the rear elevation. A one-story ell on the west side of the one-story section holds the two-car garage. The ell steps down from the 2-story section of the house to an entry with an original six-lite three-panel wood door with sidelights and transom. The garage bay has a flat-roofed protruding section. The east ell is two stories in height and is shorter in length than the west ell. Between the ells is a deck atop an extension of the east ell basement. Steps lead down to a concrete patio. An exterior chimney is located on the east elevation, and an interior chimney is at the rear slope of the two-story section. A wide shed dormer is located on the rear slope of the two-story section of the house.

¹⁶⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1723 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1723-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁶⁹ Hanchett, "1723 Washington Avenue,"; Celeste Smith, "Full-Court Press Yielded CIAA," *Charlotte Observer*, February 20, 2006.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

John W. and Ophelia C. Gray House, 1726 Washington Avenue (1955, 1962, ca. 1990, ca. 2017)

Noncontributing Building

Constructed in 1955 for John “Johnnie” William Gray, Jr., then a dining car waiter on the Southern Railway, and Olie Ophelia “Kitty” Carson Gray, a teacher at Fairview School. Johnnie, who also worked at Myers Park Country Club and Sharon View Country Club, retired from Southern Railway in 1982 after thirty-nine years. A native of Polk County, Kitty taught for 41 years in her hometown of Tryon, Forest City, Asheville, and Charlotte. She was educated at WSSU, JCSU, received a master’s degree from New York University, and later earned a second master’s degree in early childhood education from the University of Maryland. Upon retirement in 1975, Kitty helped reestablish the local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women after her retirement and was a tireless educational organizer. Their son Dr. Ronald Gray married Christine Young, daughter of Rev. Calvin and Margaretta Young of 1600 Patton Avenue.¹⁷⁰

The Gray House is a one-story, brick veneered Ranch with an asphalt shingle, hipped roof and a masonry foundation. Renovation of the house in ca. 2017 reversed later additions at the rear and west elevations. However, an original flat-roofed wing on the west elevation was replaced with a smaller hipped ell. A hipped façade bay includes the porch, which has ornamental iron supports and railing, and a stone accent wall on the west elevation. The replacement modern front door has three square lites. Windows are vinyl replacements, including the façade tripartite window. A rectangular interior chimney is located at the roof ridge. A ca. 2017 hipped addition on the west elevation has vertical wood paneling, large picture windows on the facade, and a stone planter on the west elevation. An original hipped ell, which was added onto at its rear, extends from the east side of the rear elevation.

Swimming Pool (2021) – Noncontributing

An inground swimming pool at the rear of the house has a vinyl liner. Large cement pavers are set apart diagonally with grass in between.

Shade T. and Margaret M. Payne House, 1801 Washington Avenue (ca. 1952-1955)

Contributing Building

Built 1952-55 by one of Charlotte’s leading brick masons, Shade Thomas Payne, as the home for himself, his wife Margaret Maxwell Payne, and their family. A native of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Shade served in the Army during WWII. He married twice, first to Dorothy Rowe at age 19. He successfully sued for divorce on grounds of desertion in 1946, and shortly after he married Margaret. A Charlotte native and graduate of Second Ward High, she studied at Barber-Scotia College and JCSU where she earned with a degree in elementary education in 1943. She later earned a Master of Science in Education degree at NC A&T. Margaret taught music, language arts, and social studies at Sterling High in Pineville and Plato Price School in west

¹⁷⁰ Tom Hanchett, “1726 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1726-washington-avenue/>; Pat Borden, “She’s an Organizer for Education,” *Charlotte Observer*, October 21, 1977; “Ophelia Carson Gray,” obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, March 18, 2001; “Gray-Young,” marriage announcement, *Charlotte Observer*, July 28, 1974.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Charlotte. After desegregation, she moved to Cochrane Junior High. She retired in 1982 after thirty-five years of service in education.¹⁷¹

The Payne House is a one-and-a-half-story Minimal Traditional house on a masonry foundation. The asphalt shingle, cross-gabled roof is oriented toward the rear. The façade is three bays wide with a gabled bay with paired original six-over-six, wood sash windows, a shed entrance vestibule with a wood, mid-century door with three rectangular lites in a stepped pattern, and a tripartite window with original four-over-four, wood sash windows flanking a replacement sixteen-lite vinyl window. The upper level features a gable-roof dormer with original window. A small, hipped wing protrudes from the east elevation and includes a flat-roofed porch with ornamental iron supports and railing at its rear. The south elevation features a prominent gable-roofed section, and a shed porch with square section wood posts, which is a later addition.

The exterior of the Payne House demonstrates the skill of Shade Payne as a mason. It is primarily sheathed in running bond brick with soldier row coursing at the joist levels of the main and upper levels. The enclosure around the backyard is of pierced brick construction interspersed with ornamental iron fencing. The Payne House also features three brick chimneys of varying size, placement, and design. The largest and most prominent chimney is located on the east elevation near the facade and has a stone-capped single shoulder and corbelled cap. A second chimney is integrated into the rear elevation, and a small square interior chimney rises near the valley of the L-shaped house. Payne also showed his skill with stonework, as the gabled façade bay and shed entry vestibule are sheathed in narrow sandstone with extruded mortar joints.¹⁷²

Garage (1956) – Contributing

The side-gabled two-car garage was most likely constructed by Shade Payne. It features two single-car garage bays and a original wood door entrance.

Rev. Moses S. and Cornelia G. Belton House, 1809 Washington Avenue (ca.1955-1956, 1969, 1975)

Contributing Building

Built in 1955-1956, this was the home of Rev. Moses Belton, the first Public Relations director at JCSU, and educator Cornelia Green Belton. Rev. Belton was an alumnus of the university, graduating with degrees in 1933 and 1936. He taught and served as dean of boys at private Presbyterian academies in North and South Carolina, including Mary Potter High in Oxford. Cornelia was a native of Oxford. She was a 1939 graduate of Winston-Salem State Teachers College (WSSU) and completed further study at Columbia University, NC Central, and UNC. She taught at the state Colored Orphanage in Oxford until marrying Rev. Belton in 1945. She joined him in Charlotte, where he served as Associate Dean of Men and taught religious

¹⁷¹ Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>; Allen Norwood, "Out and About," *Charlotte News*, June 10, 1982.

¹⁷² Tom Hanchett, "1612 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1612-madison-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

education at JCSU. Cornelia taught at Matthews School and third grade at Sterling High in Pineville. Both Rev. Belton and Cornelia retired in 1974 from JCSU and CMS respectively.¹⁷³

Rev. Belton became an important behind-the-scenes bridge builder during the Civil Rights era. He served on the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee, established in 1960, which made Charlotte a national leader in desegregation. In January 1963 Rev. Belton invited the most controversial African American of the day, Malcolm X, to give a public lecture at JCSU. He helped arrange the integration of Charlotte's upscale restaurants in May 1963, one year before the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act. On May 29, Mayor Stan Brookshire and Dr. John Cunningham of Davidson College dined with Rev. Belton and local NAACP leader Kelly Alexander at the Manger Motor Inn downtown.¹⁷⁴

The Belton House is a one-and-one-half-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional home with brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. The façade features a prominent gable bay which includes the front entrance. The brick stoop has ornamental iron railing and is covered with a metal canopy with pipe columns. The east elevation has an exterior brick chimney and gabled enclosed porch with new vinyl siding infill and typical one-over-one, double-hung vinyl windows with six-over-six false grids. The porch formerly had original jalousie windows. Side gables have paired windows, and the façade gable has a rectangular replacement window. Replacement windows and doors. The flat-roofed metal carport at the west was added in 1969, and an enclosed utility room was permitted in 1975.

House, 1813 Washington Avenue (2023)

Noncontributing Building

Formerly the site of the William R. and Blanche R. Oliver House, built ca. 1956-1957 for William Oliver, an educator in Charlotte's public schools, and Blanche Rann Oliver, a music teacher. In 1968 William, who was nominated by first Black city council member Fred Alexander, won appointment to Charlotte's Park and Recreation Commission, the first Black member of that body.¹⁷⁵

The house is a large, two-story brick veneer residence with an asphalt shingle hipped roof and paired gables on the façade. A two-story wing with a garage is located at the east elevation. Typical windows are three-over-one vinyl sash. Gables have brackets and round louvered vents.

Garage (2023) – Noncontributing

Two-story garage has front-gabled roof and is sheathed in brick veneer matching the house.

Lovett A. and Annie C. Warner House, 1819 Washington Avenue (ca.1950-1951, 1968)

¹⁷³ Tom Hanchett, "1809 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>; Johnson C. Smith University, *Golden Bull* (Charlotte: 1975), 8; "Mrs. Cornelia Greene Belton," *Charlotte Observer*, March 24, 1993.

¹⁷⁴ Hanchett, "1809 Washington Avenue."

¹⁷⁵ Tom Hanchett, "1813 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1813-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

Built about 1950-1951 for Lovett A. Warner, who worked for the A.M.E. Zion religious denomination, and Annie Collins Warner, teacher at the Myers Street School in the Brooklyn neighborhood. Lovett was the son of Bishop Andrew Jackson Warner, who was born enslaved and founded the first A.M.E. Zion church in Arkansas before moving to Charlotte to lead the congregation of Clinton Chapel. Lovett later taught physical education and coached basketball at Livingstone College. He also coached tennis at JCSU, where he was director of alumni affairs. Annie was a graduate of JCSU and obtained a master's degree from Columbia University.¹⁷⁶

The Warner House is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, Minimal Traditional residence with an asphalt shingle roof, brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. Paired gable dormers with board and batten siding are present on the façade roof slope. On the east elevation are an exterior brick chimney and gabled wing, originally a carport but enclosed by 1968, clad in board and batten siding on the façade and wood composite siding on the east elevation. A ca. 1968 tall shed-roofed two-car carport is located at the rear, with breeze block and wood composite siding along its west elevation. Renovations give the Warner House a more contemporary aesthetic, with trendy elements including white-painted brick and dark brown, vinyl sash replacement windows. However, the original structural elements are intact.

Swimming pool (2022) – Noncontributing

Rectangular swimming pool with concrete deck was added in 2022.

5 VACANT LOTS – 1900-1922 Washington Avenue

The lots consist of an asphalt parking lot connected to First Baptist Church-West, 1801 Oaklawn Avenue. A gabled concrete masonry unit storage building at the northwest edge of the parking lot is included in the entry for First Baptist Church-West (1801 Oaklawn Avenue).

House, 1901 Washington Avenue (ca. 2006)

Noncontributing Building

This two-story, frame house is built on a concrete slab foundation. It has vinyl siding and a clipped gable, asphalt shingle roof. Typical windows are one-over-one with six-over-six false grid vinyl sash. The façade is two bays wide with a projecting two-story bay with garage opening. The shed roof porch has a square section wood post. There are two typical windows on the façade.

Julius F. and Sarah E. Stroud House, 1905 Washington Avenue (1956, 1964)

Contributing Building

Built in 1956 by contractor Fred Shu for Julius Franklin Stroud, Jr. and Sarah Elizabeth Irby Stroud. They were high school sweethearts, graduating in the class of 1932 from Second Ward High. Julius found work with the U.S. Post Office. He served 39 years, retiring as one of the first Black supervisors in the Charlotte office. Sarah Elizabeth Irby was valedictorian their high

¹⁷⁶ Tom Hanchett, "1819 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1819-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

school class. She enrolled in JCSU in 1949 and graduated cum laude in three years. She taught at Rockwell Elementary near Derita and retired from CMS.¹⁷⁷

This one-story, brick veneered house has an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof and a masonry foundation. Wooden trim along the edge of the roof was sheathed in aluminum in 1964, according to a building permit taken out by Julius Stroud. Typical windows are one-over-one, single-hung, vinyl replacement windows with original jalousie storm windows. The front roof slope extends to cover a brick planter, tripartite picture window, and entry. It has ornamental iron supports, and the brick entry stoop and steps have ornamental iron railing. The replacement door is solid with a sunburst metal overlay. Gables have louvered vents in the peak. A gabled enclosed porch on the east side of the rear elevation has vinyl siding.

Emma Love Crawford House, 1911 Washington Avenue (1958, 1970)

Contributing Building

Built 1958-1959 by Marsh Realty Co. for Emma Love Crawford, a registered nurse (RN) at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury. She chose a design by architect Russ Abree. Emma had the home built for her mother Elizabeth Williams Nelums and stepfather David Nelums but later lived in the residence with her sister Sadie Crawford, who retired from the New York Department of Social Services. Emma was active in the NAACP and was awarded life membership by the Mecklenburg County Branch in 1986.¹⁷⁸

This one-story Ranch has a masonry foundation, brick veneer, and an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements. Gables have vertical wood paneling and louvered vents in the peak. A hipped façade bay covers the built-in brick planter, entry stoop, and steps to the side entry at the integral carport. It is supported by square section wood posts. The integral carport on the east has ornamental iron supports along the east elevation. The small storeroom enclosure at the carport is unclad with a six-panel door. Behind the storeroom are brick steps with ornamental iron railing and an original jalousie window. A small brick interior chimney extends through the center ridge.

Perry and Gladys Haynes House, 1917 Washington Avenue (ca. 1948, ca. 1993, 2008)

Noncontributing Building

This is among the first of the houses built after World War II in McCrorey Heights. The initial dwelling was among the smaller houses in the neighborhood, built by Perry Haynes, a warehouse clerk at the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) grocery warehouse on Summit Avenue, and Gladys Cunningham Haynes. They divorced in 1958, and Perry remained in the house until his death in 1981. The house was renovated in 2008 after a fire.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁷ Tom Hanchett, "1905 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1905-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁷⁸ Tom Hanchett, "1911 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1911-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁷⁹ Tom Hanchett, "1917 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1917-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The one-story, brick veneered house has a standing-seam metal, front-gabled roof with louvered vent in its peak. It is built on a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one, vinyl replacements with six-over-six false grids. The front entry opens onto a brick front stoop covered with a flat hood with large brackets. The façade has a pair of windows and a single window flanking the entry. An exterior brick chimney is located on the west elevation. The gabled bay at the east elevation has a two-lite horizontal window. A ca. 1993 full-width gabled addition sheathed in vinyl siding extends from the rear.

House, 1921 Washington Avenue (2024)

Noncontributing Building

The tall, two-story, transitional house has an asphalt shingle, front-gabled roof, is sheathed in composite siding, and built on a masonry foundation. Gables have wood brackets, and eaves have exposed rafter tails. A projecting two-story façade bay has a sixteen-panel glass garage door with vertical siding and four-part vinyl windows above. A standing-seam metal roofed shed hood with large brackets is situated over entry. Typical windows are 3-light modern vinyl sash.

Edward T. and Arphesia M. Nelson House, 1927 Washington Avenue (ca. 1942)

Contributing Building

This rental home was owned by the McCrorey family until 1963. From 1942 into the early 1950s, the house was home to Edward T. Nelson, a chauffeur, and wife Arphesia McClure Nelson. In the late 1950s, Rev. Columbus Crawford lived here, pastor at the small Church of God located within walking distance at 2229 Booker Avenue in Washington Heights.¹⁸⁰

The one-story, front-gabled, frame house is built on masonry foundation, sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof, and sheathed in vinyl siding. The gable has a rectangular louvered vent. Windows are one-over-one, vinyl replacements. The hipped porch has a concrete floor and ornamental iron supports and railing. The entry door is a six-panel replacement with a metal screen door. Interior brick chimneys are located through the east roof plane and centered in the west roof plane. A gabled bay with shed-roofed enclosed porch projects from the rear elevation. It has an exterior brick chimney at its southwest corner.

McCrorey-Belton House, 1928 Washington Avenue (ca. 1920, 1970, 1987)

Noncontributing Building

In June 1920, H.L. and Mary McCrorey borrowed \$1,000 from Citizens Savings and Loan Company, the likely date of construction for this house. The McCrorey-Belton House was rented out by the McCrorey family until 1960. Mattie Parker, who worked as a maid, was a tenant as early as 1932, the first year Washington Avenue addresses were listed in the city directory. Gilbert McNighton Belton and Carrie Davidson Belton moved in by 1936. A native of Fairfield County, South Carolina, Gilbert worked as a barber at Brevard Street Barber Shop. He met Carrie in Washington, D.C., where he was working in his brother James's barber shop. Carrie

¹⁸⁰ Tom Hanchett, "1927 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1927-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

was from Elmwood in Iredell County. In 1960 the Beltons purchased the house. Carrie died in 1972. Gilbert sold the house in 1985 and moved to Monroe where he died the following year.¹⁸¹

This one-story frame house has an asphalt shingle, cross gabled roof, vinyl siding, and brick pier foundation with concrete masonry unit infill. The porch has square section wood posts and an enclosed east bay with a garden window. A wood ramp leads to the porch deck. The house features vinyl replacement windows and replacement doors.

Jessie Lee Anthony House, 2000 Washington Avenue (ca. 1967)

Contributing Building

In 1967, Jessie Lee Anthony purchased the newly built house at 2000 Washington Avenue from McKee Realty Company, assuming the mortgage of \$3,500.¹⁸²

The one-story, frame Ranch house has an asphalt shingle, hipped roof, vinyl siding, and is set on a concrete masonry unit foundation. Windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements. The centered recessed porch has concrete steps, wood railing, and square section wood posts. Under the porch is a replacement entry door with storm door and pair of typical windows.

Moreland-Rhue House, 2001 Washington Avenue (ca.1962)

Contributing Building

African American real estate dealer George W. C. Moreland, who lived nearby on Patton Avenue, took out permits to build this house in 1961-1962. Moreland also took out a permit at the same time to erect 2005 Washington Avenue next door. Both were constructed by contractor T. R. Helms. The first occupants were Albert Johnson Rhue and wife Christina Hill Rhue, both educators. Albert was a graduate of South Carolina State College who taught at Northwest Junior High. Christina attended JCSU, where she received a degree in English. She served as librarian at Alexander Street School. By 1975, they had moved to their native South Carolina.¹⁸³

The one-story, brick veneered Ranch has an asphalt shingle, hipped roof and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one, vinyl replacements. The façade has a replacement window, replacement six-panel door with storm door, and an original aluminum tripartite picture window. Hipped wings extend from the side elevation. The west wing contains a hipped screen porch with square section wood posts. The east wing has a façade entry with solid wood door and storm door. Entries have brick steps with ornamental iron railings.

Moreland-Webber House, 2005 Washington Avenue (1962)

¹⁸¹ Tom Hanchett, "1928 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1928-washington-avenue/>; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 431, Page 34; "Mrs. Belton," obituary, *Charlotte News*, November 4, 1972; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 5066, Page 521; "Mr. Gilbert Belton," obituary, *Charlotte Observer*, April 22, 1986.

¹⁸² Tom Hanchett, "2000 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2000-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁸³ Tom Hanchett, "2001 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2001-washington-avenue/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Contributing Building

African American real estate dealer George W. C. Moreland, who lived nearby on Patton Avenue, took out permits for contractor T.R. Helms to build this house in 1961-1962. The first occupant of the house was Spurgeon Webber, Jr., one of the city's leading medical men, known for his community involvement. A native of Kings Mountain, Dr. Webber attended Hampton Institute then continued to study dentistry at Meharry Medical School in Nashville. There he met Loretta Jean Hill, who was studying nursing, and they married. After service during WWII in the U.S. Army Air Force in their Dental Corps, the Webbers moved to Charlotte. His house on Washington Avenue may have been the couple's first residence in Charlotte, as Dr. Webber established his dental practice nearby at 1109A Beatties Ford Road. In the mid-1960s, the family moved around the corner to 915 Condon Avenue, another of George Moreland's cluster of four rental dwellings.¹⁸⁴

This one-story Ranch has an asphalt shingle, hipped roof, a brick veneer, and a masonry foundation. The façade has an aluminum tripartite picture window, a three-lite, mid-century, wood door with an aluminum storm door, and a two-light, aluminum awning window. The entry stoop and steps are brick and concrete with ornamental iron railing. Three-lite, aluminum, awning windows are located on the side and rear elevations. Symmetrical hipped wings extend from side elevations. The east elevation wing is a screened porch with screen door and square section wood posts. The west elevation wing has wood German siding and replacement door with wood screen door.

Lieutenant and Daisy McIntosh Jackson House, 2008 Washington Avenue (1947, 1958, 1963)

Contributing Building

Lieutenant Jackson was issued a building permit for a \$4,800 dwelling at 2008 Washington Avenue in June 1947. Building permit data indicates that Jackson expanded the dwelling at least twice, in 1958 and a kitchen addition in 1963. Lieutenant Jackson was a native of Danbury, Georgia, and worked as a shipping clerk at the A&P warehouse. Daisy McIntosh Jackson was born in Anderson, South Carolina, and worked as a server at Jack's Cookies and a missionary for their church, Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church. The home remains in the extended family.¹⁸⁵

The one-story, side-gabled Minimal Traditional house has brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one, vinyl, replacement sash with six-over-six false grids, covered with ornamental iron security bars. The façade has a gabled bay at its western end with a pair of typical windows. A shed-roofed section extends from the gabled bay along the façade. It has a former recessed entry enclosed with vertical wood paneling and a replacement tripartite picture window. Concrete steps to the original entry are extant adjacent to

¹⁸⁴ Tom Hanchett, "2005 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2005-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁸⁵ Tom Hanchett, "2008 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2008-washington-avenue/>; "Building Permits," *Charlotte Observer*, June 14, 1947.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

the new gabled wood porch. There are two interior brick chimneys—a small square chimney near the center of the front roof plane, and a larger rectangular chimney at the roof ridge beyond the gabled façade bay. A gabled addition with garage extends from the rear.

Moreland-Caple House, 2009 Washington Avenue (ca. 1962)

Contributing Building

The house was likely built by George W. C. Moreland, an African American developer who built the surrounding homes. The first occupants of this house, around 1963, were educators Horace B. and Patricia C. Caple. He taught at West Charlotte High, and she taught at York Road High. The couple subsequently moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, when Horace accepted a position at Shaw University. The Moreland family retains ownership of the property.¹⁸⁶

The one-story, side-gabled Ranch has brick veneer, an asphalt shingle roof, and a masonry foundation. The façade has an aluminum tripartite picture window, a three-lite mid-century wood door with an aluminum storm door, and a one-over-one, aluminum sash window. Entry stoop is brick and concrete with ornamental iron railing. A three-lite, aluminum window is on the east elevation, and a one-over-one, vinyl replacement window is on the west elevation. Symmetrical gabled wings extend from the side elevations. The east elevation wing has a screened porch with a screen door and square section wood posts. The west elevation wing has wood German siding and solid door with screen door.

Jerry H. and Ruebenna G. Flack House, 2014 Washington Avenue (ca. 1960, 1968)

Contributing Building

This is one of several houses moved up from Van Buren Avenue in 1968 when land there was taken to construct Brookshire Boulevard. The house was originally built in 1960 at 1601 Van Buren Avenue. A native of Rutherfordton, Jerry Hicks Flack was a life-long educator trained at JCSU with additional work at summer institutes at Union College and Howard University. He taught science at Winchester High in Monroe, Harding High, and Central Piedmont Community College. Ruebenna Greenfield Flack was also a science teacher at Northwest Junior High. A native of Mt. Olive, she graduated from Bennett College and pursued further education at East Carolina College. On Washington Avenue, they raised daughter Enya Flack, who graduated from South Mecklenburg High and George Washington University. She pursued a career in entertainment with roles in television series and movies.¹⁸⁷

A previous dwelling, the home of Susie Allen from the 1930s until her death in 1958, previously stood on this site. Her heirs sold the property in 1963, and African American real estate investor Oren Alexander, whose brothers Romeo and Talmadge lived nearby on Patton Avenue, applied for a permit to demolish it.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁶ Tom Hanchett, "2009 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2009-washington-avenue/>.

¹⁸⁷ Tom Hanchett, "2014 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2014-washington-avenue/>; Kay McFadden, "S. Meck High's Flack a Hit as Malcolm's Savvy Sweetheart," *Charlotte Observer*, September 22, 1996.

¹⁸⁸ Hanchett, "2014 Washington Avenue."

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The Split-Level house has brick veneer on the ground levels, and the overhanging upper level is clad with vinyl siding. The lower level is on a concrete slab foundation while the mid-level is on a crawlspace. The asphalt shingle is side-gabled with louvered vents in the peak. The brick steps and stoop have ornamental iron railings. The front entry door is a replacement with storm door. Typical windows are original three-lite, aluminum windows. The lower level has two-lite, aluminum windows. The one-story bay at the façade has a tripartite picture window. A brick chimney is located on the east elevation of the two-story section. A gabled addition extends from the rear of the one-story portion. A flat-roofed addition with upper-level deck was made to the rear of the two-story portion when the house was moved in 1968.

2020 Washington Avenue – VACANT LOT

Formerly the Jessie and Ola Billingslea House. Aerial imagery shows a likely traditional/vernacular house with either front-gabled or hipped roof. The home fell into disrepair, and was demolished ca. 2007 by Ruebenna G. Flack, owner of 2014 Washington Avenue next door.

Duplex, 2026A-B Washington Avenue (2024)

Noncontributing Building

New construction was underway at the time of the survey in December 2024. Tall, two-story, front-gabled transitional duplexes present as detached homes, joined by one-story exterior storage rooms accessed at rear. The duplexes are sheltered by an asphalt shingle roof.

Garage (2024) - Noncontributing

One of two garages behind the duplex at 2026 Washington Avenue. The one-and-a-half story frame garage has a high asphalt shingle front-gabled roof. It is situated along the eastern property line and accessed from Washington Avenue. The garage was under construction at the time of survey in December 2024.

Garage (2024) - Noncontributing

One of two garages behind the duplex at 2026 Washington Avenue. The one-and-a-half story frame garage has a high asphalt shingle front-gabled roof. It is situated perpendicular to the duplex and is accessed from Fairmont Street. The garage was under construction at the time of survey in December 2024.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☒ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Social History: Civil Rights

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1912-1977

Significant Dates

1912

1928

1940

1949

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

McQueen, Mangie (builder)

Gantt, Harvey

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Located on the north side of the city center of Charlotte, North Carolina, the McCrorey Heights Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level with a period of significance from 1912, the approximate date of the earliest building, to 1977, when Charlotte's most prominent Black congregation, First Baptist Church-West, completed a new sanctuary designed by renowned Black architect, Harvey Gantt. There are 140 contributing primary resources and 35 noncontributing primary resources.

The district is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American and Social History for Civil Rights. McCrorey Heights is a prominent place in the African American history of Charlotte. The neighborhood was platted in 1912 amidst the backdrop of residential segregation and population growth in Charlotte by Rev. Henry Lawrence McCrorey, the long-

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

serving, African American president of Biddle University (later known as Johnson C. Smith University). Following initially slow development, McCrorey Heights became the premier suburb for Charlotte's Black middle- and upper-class home seekers in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s when employment and loan opportunities were favorable. Charlotte's highly-educated and influential African Americans purchased lots directly from McCrorey—and, after his death in 1951, from his daughter, Novella McCrorey Flanagan—until all lots were sold by the early 1970s. Prominent ministers, educators, attorneys, and physicians lived in McCrorey Heights throughout its history. This suburb flourished as residents participated in social clubs, schools, churches, and organizations focused on racial equality, making a lasting impact on Black society in Charlotte.¹⁸⁹

As the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum in the 1950s and continued through the 1960s and 1970s, many residents of McCrorey Heights played leadership roles that directly influenced the integration of medical societies, schools, transportation facilities, parks, and other corners of the city, and thus the district is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for Civil Rights. Among them were Dr. Reginald Hawkins, regarded as Charlotte's most vocal and steadfast civil rights activist; Dr. Emery Rann who integrated the city's medical society; Thomas Wyche who featured in every prominent legal battle related to the struggle in the city; Rev. Moses Belton, an important bridge between Black and white leaders; and Rev. Elo Henderson, a persistent voice for full integration.¹⁹⁰

The district also is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. McCrorey Heights was unique among other neighborhoods in Charlotte, including the city's Black neighborhoods, because it was platted and its lots were sold by McCrorey and his family who were African Americans. The design of the neighborhood consists of about 20 blocks in a basic grid pattern with wide-paved, generally tree-lined streets and houses set back with manicured front lawns.¹⁹¹

The McCrorey Heights Historic District has maintained a high level of integrity in contrast to many other historically Black neighborhoods in Charlotte. Urban renewal of the 1960s and 1970s fractured many of these neighborhoods and, in some cases, completely demolished them. Non-historic development also has taken a toll on older neighborhoods.¹⁹² Although highway development has led to some property losses on the edges of McCrorey Heights, the neighborhood is exceptionally intact, due in part to its geographic separation from intensive urban renewal projects in the downtown area and also because of the activism of its citizens. Three resources in the district meet Criterion Consideration G because they are homes that were

¹⁸⁹ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

¹⁹⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 4.

¹⁹¹ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

¹⁹² Hanchett, "The Center City: The Business District and the Original Four Wards," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/The-Center-City.pdf>, accessed March 13, 2025, 9–10; Hanchett, *Sorting out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875–1975* (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2020), 249.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

relocated during the district's period of significance, and they still present an orientation, setting, and overall character that aligns closely with their original locations.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Ethnic Heritage: African American and Social History

The Growth of African American Communities in Charlotte, 1865–1912

African American history has been an integral part of Charlotte's history since the city's its founding prior to the American Revolution. Most of the early Black population were enslaved people who labored in the area's early plantations. By the time of the Civil War the total population of Mecklenburg County was 17,000, including some 6,800 (or 40%) who were enslaved. About 300 were free Black people who worked as blacksmiths, barbers, iron moulders, painters, and, more often, common laborers.¹⁹³ Following emancipation and the end of the Civil War, the African American population of Charlotte continued to grow along with the general population as the region recovered from the conflict. The last several decades of the nineteenth century brought manufacturing and new railroad connections to Charlotte, which increased opportunities for Black residents in the city and surrounding region to find employment and build new communities. In Charlotte and other Southern cities, newly developed neighborhoods of the early twentieth century were strictly divided by race due to covenants in deeds that prohibited African Americans from living in white neighborhoods, unless they worked as servants in the home of a white property owner.¹⁹⁴ Even though segregation confined Black Charlotteans within specific boundaries, they nevertheless managed to create a flourishing society that featured Black-owned businesses and financial institutions, as well as prominent churches of many denominations that sustained the community. Charlotte drew in many new Black residents who helped establish a visible Black middle- and upper-class.¹⁹⁵

McCrorey Heights, a Black community from its beginning in 1912, had several precursors in the city. Brooklyn, growing from an earlier Black settlement called Logtown, took shape as a predominantly Black neighborhood on the south side of the city center in this period.¹⁹⁶ Closer to the core of the city were the small Black hamlets of Blandville, Greenville, and Irwinville, which

¹⁹³ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, "Background: Slavery in Charlotte-Mecklenburg," electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Background-Slavery-in-Charlotte-Mecklenburg.pdf>, accessed March 11, 2025.

¹⁹⁴ Hanchett, *Sorting Out the New South City*.

¹⁹⁵ Stewart Gray and Paula Stathakis, "African American Resources in Mecklenburg County," September 2002, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, electronic document, https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/survey-and-national-register/surveyreports/Mecklenburg_County_African_American_Resources_Survey-Gray_and_Stathakis-2002.pdf, accessed October 22, 2025.

¹⁹⁶ Hanchett, "The Center City," 14.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

had schools, churches, and small businesses along with working-class residences.¹⁹⁷ Biddleville was founded a couple of miles northwest of the center in 1871 as a residential community for Black professionals who taught at the neighboring, all-Black college, Biddle Institute, which produced educators, ministers, and other professionals who enhanced the city's Black leadership. As Charlotte expanded in geography over the next three decades, the city would annex Biddleville. Cherry and Griertown (later known as Grier Heights) came into existence on the southeast side of the city by the 1890s; however, the Black population into the early decades of the twentieth century continued to concentrate in newly-opened neighborhoods northwest of the city as segregation entrenched. The developers of these northwest neighborhoods—Washington Heights, Western Heights, Lincoln Heights, and others—were white men who primarily marketed their developments to Black, middle-class homebuyers.¹⁹⁸

The Early Years of McCrorey Heights, 1912–1945

Into the atmosphere of new Black neighborhood development in northwest Charlotte in the early twentieth century stepped Dr. Henry Lawrence McCrorey (1863–1951), the only African American in a crowd of white developers. McCrorey, born in Fairfield County, South Carolina two months after the Emancipation Proclamation freed his mother, Nancy McCrorey, demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Black education, spirituality, and progress. He attended elementary school at the Williard Richardson School in Winnsboro. At the age of 23, he moved to Charlotte for high school courses at Biddle, which had been founded just after the Civil War by Presbyterian missionaries from the North.¹⁹⁹ Biddle's normal and seminary courses. Following graduate work at the University of Chicago, the trustees resident of the university in 1907, a position he would hold until 1947.²⁰⁰

In founding McCrorey Heights, McCrorey wanted to create a place where Charlotte's Black professionals, such as the professors and administrators of Biddle University, could build homes and community. Biddleville, which was 40 years old at the time McCrorey Heights was founded, had little space remaining for this growing class of people.^[60] McCrorey's income as President of Biddle, along with real estate investments he had made in earlier Black communities, provided him the resources to acquire a large tract of farmland north of Biddle in 1911. The land ran east of Beatties Ford Road, a roughly north-south corridor of increasingly Black neighborhoods that lead out of the city center and past Biddle. Sloping eastward toward Irwin Creek, the tract was about half a mile long and on the south side of rural Belt Road (later Oaklawn Avenue). He filed a plat in 1912 for the yet-unnamed development. The plat had a

¹⁹⁷ Tom Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BIDDLEVILLE.pdf>, accessed March 13, 2025; Stewart Gray and Paula Stathakis, "African American Resources in Mecklenburg County," September 2002, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, electronic document, https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/survey-and-national-register/surveyreports/Mecklenburg_County_African_American_Resources_Survey-Gray_and_Stathakis-2002.pdf, accessed October 22, 2025.

¹⁹⁸ Hanchett, "The Cherry Neighborhood," 1.

¹⁹⁹ Biddle Memorial Institute was later known as Biddle University and Johnson C. Smith University.

²⁰⁰ "Final Rites for President Emeritus Henry Lawrence McCrorey," July 1951, *DigitalNC*, electronic document, <https://lib.digitalnc.org/record/238454?ln=en&v=uv#?xywh=-2226%2C-1%2C8347%2C3587&cv=3>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

gridiron pattern of streets consistent with many communities of the era. He named Fairfield after the county of his birth while others followed the surnames of Presidents Washington, Madison, Jefferson (later Patton), and Lincoln (later Van Buren). Though McCrorey revised the plat in 1928, 1940, and 1949, the changes were minimal and reflected his commitment to the initial plan.²⁰¹

A prominent leader in Charlotte, McCrorey attracted people of means who purchased lots and built homes in his new community. Their status in the community fit with McCrorey's vision for the neighborhood to come. A local barber, J. Henry Warren, and his wife Lula bought two lots along Oaklawn Avenue shortly after the plat was filed. Like McCrorey, Henry was a local leader. Among other initiatives, he pushed for Black men to enlist in World War I. Lula was daughter of the founder of Livingstone College in Salisbury and an elementary-level teacher. The Warrens built a home on their property in 1929 (1923 Oaklawn Avenue).²⁰² Others who bought properties and eventually built homes were his brother-in-law, Rev. Angus Corley in 1912 (1012 Fairmont Street), barber Elias Foster (1901 Oaklawn; now a vacant lot) about 1914, and plasterer Robert and Azilee Caldwell about a year later.²⁰³

McCrorey had laid the foundation for his neighborhood. By the end of the 1910s, he had sold about two dozen lots and a handful of houses had been built, but most of the land was undeveloped. Development, in fact, lagged through the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s with only about 19 houses built in the northwestern corner of the plat and primarily along Oaklawn Avenue. McCrorey apparently did not advertise his neighborhood in newspapers or conduct any formal marketing, which may have accounted for its minimal growth in this period. A neighboring development, Washington Heights, had more success in the 1920s and 1930s. Platted by white investors for Black homebuyers in 1910, it was, perhaps, more attractive because it had direct access to the streetcar than ran out of the city center along Beatties Ford Road. The developers also embarked on a promotional campaign that beckoned middle-class Black people to purchase property. By the 1930s, there were some 200 homes in Washington Heights.²⁰⁴

McCrorey Heights has had two notable losses to its plat in its history. The most recent was in the 1960s when Brookshire Freeway was built, and the first was in the early 1920s. In that year, the city of Charlotte searched for a site for a new municipal water works. The western side of McCrorey's land, amounting to 11 acres (or about three blocks) lying between Beatties Ford Road and Fairmont Street, became the prime candidate. In 1922, the City offered McCrorey \$15,000 for the property. McCrorey refused the offer, but the city used condemnation powers to move forward with the acquisition for the slightly larger sum of \$16,500. The resultant water plant and its two towers still loom over McCrorey Heights today. Later residents came to view

²⁰¹ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

²⁰² Hanchett, "1923 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1923-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁰³ Tom Hanchett, "1012 Fairmont Street," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1012-fairmont-street/>; Tom Hanchett, "1901 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 19, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1901-oaklawn-avenue/>.

²⁰⁴ Tom Hanchett, "Washington Heights," (not dated) History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/charlotte/>, accessed March 2, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

the water plant as a benefit because it provided a buffer between their residences and busy Beatties Ford Road.²⁰⁵

The Great Depression (1929–1941) caused a significant disruption in development across the city, yet there was still some progress in McCrorey Heights as new professionals made it their home. New residents of the period included Abraham Prince, a regional administrator with the Presbyterian church, and his wife Susan, a teacher (1927 Oaklawn Avenue; built in 1932); Frank Beaver, a minister and barber (2025 Oaklawn Avenue; 1934); Dr. Robert H. Greene, a physician, and his wife Gladys, a teacher (2001 Oaklawn Avenue; 1937); Dr. Edson Blackman, a leading physician at Good Samaritan Hospital (2019 Oaklawn Avenue; 1938). As a widely known physician, his housewarming was featured in the *Pittsburgh Courier*, a nationally circulated Black newspaper.²⁰⁶ The publicity surely brought wider recognition to McCrorey Heights. Educational opportunities expanded for African Americans through the early decades of the twentieth century in Charlotte. Near McCrorey Heights, there was Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), where McCrorey resided as President, and in 1938, West Charlotte High School was completed three blocks north of McCrorey Heights along Beatties Ford Road. A staunch advocate for education, McCrorey maneuvered to have the new Black high school placed within his plat of land beginning in 1936. He offered a portion of his vacant land along Oaklawn Avenue to the school board.²⁰⁷ Another Black landowner, Thad Tate, offered a tract up Beatties Ford Road. The school board ultimately selected Tate's property.²⁰⁸ Nevertheless, the addition of a new Black high school—only the second in Charlotte—was beneficial for McCrorey Heights due to its proximity to the neighborhood. Students who lived in McCrorey Heights could walk to the school. Teachers and administrators of the school also lived in the community over the years.²⁰⁹

Leading up to the World War II, McCrorey Heights continued to stand out as the neighborhood for Charlotte's most accomplished African Americans. The socioeconomic makeup of the community was reflected in the level of involvement they had in the design and construction of their homes. Prospective home builders picked designs from newspapers and magazines and then hired their own architects and builders to make their dreams reality in the neighborhood.²¹⁰ The custom-built, single-family homes stood in contrast to other Black neighborhoods. Brooklyn, Cherry, and Griertown (known as Grier Heights after World War II), for example, were heavily populated by general laborers and domestic workers who rented their homes, which often were small, frame dwellings with more than one family living in residence.²¹¹

²⁰⁵ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 19–21.

²⁰⁶ "Housewarming of the Blackmans in Charlotte," *Pittsburgh Courier* (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), November 19, 1938, 9.

²⁰⁷ The location of McCrorey's proposed site along Oaklawn is unknown. "Two Sites for Negro School to be Offered," *The Charlotte Observer* July 1, 1936.

²⁰⁸ "Contract is Awarded for School Addition," *The Charlotte Observer* March 31, 1937.

²⁰⁹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 21–22.

²¹⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 4.

²¹¹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 1–4.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Meanwhile, Charlotte continued to grow in geography and population. The city's total population of 18,100 in 1900 blossomed to over 100,000 by 1940. African Americans accounted for 7,100 residents in 1900 and 69,500 in 1940. Segregation made the northwest and western areas of the city extensively Black. As new neighborhoods opened, older Black communities in the city center fell into decline.²¹² The United States' entry into World War II led to building restrictions, and few new homes appeared in Charlotte during the 1941 through 1945 period.²¹³

McCrorey Heights after World War II, 1945–1977

At the end of World War II, development in McCrorey Heights remained concentrated in the western area of the neighborhood, but the setting dramatically changed through the postwar decades as Charlotte underwent remarkable population growth and a residential building boom that lasted through the 1960s with little interruption. The city's population skyrocketed from 1950 (134,000) to 1960 (201,000), and a vast array of new homes spread outward from the city, tripling Charlotte's developed area from just twenty square miles at the beginning of the Great Depression to over sixty-five square miles by the 1960s.²¹⁴

African Americans, including many war veterans, pursued the dream of owning a home in the growing Charlotte suburbs. They were aided by access to home loans from the Veterans Administration, the Federal Housing Administration, and the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company.²¹⁵ New expressways and thoroughfares coursed through the city like never before, creating easier connections that made neighborhoods like McCrorey Heights convenient for residents who worked at the new churches, schools, and businesses that sprang up across the metropolitan area.²¹⁶ With plenty of lots still available, McCrorey Heights continued to draw middle- and upper-class residents after the war.²¹⁷ More than 150 homes appeared in the neighborhood in this period.

When McCrorey retired from JCSU in 1947, he turned his sights toward promoting McCrorey Heights. McCrorey was known to pull JCSU students aside and walk them up to the development to see the growing neighborhood. He encouraged them to invest in land because, with landownership, he stated, one could “go as high as you can go.”²¹⁸ Lot sales jumped, and

²¹² Gray and Stathakis, “African American Resources,” 19.

²¹³ Thomas W. Hanchett, “The Growth of Charlotte: A History,” History South, 2020, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/THE-GROWTH-OF-CHARLOTTE.pdf>, accessed November 11, 2025.

²¹⁴ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 23.

²¹⁵ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 25.

²¹⁶ Thomas W. Hanchett, “The Growth of Charlotte: A History,” History South, 2020, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/THE-GROWTH-OF-CHARLOTTE.pdf>, accessed November 11, 2025.

²¹⁷ Gray and Stathakis, “African American Resources,” 33; Harvey Culpepper, “The Black Community and the World War II Industrial Expansion in Charlotte, North Carolina,” *North Carolina Historical Review* 70(4)(1993): 389–415; Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights”; Mecklenburg County GIS, 1938 Aerial Photography of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Time Machine, <https://maps.mecklenburgcountync.gov/timemachine/>, accessed November 11, 2025.

²¹⁸ O'Dell Robinson, quote from Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 24.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

new streets and houses appeared. McCrorey began to realize his dream for the community by the time he passed away in 1951.²¹⁹ McCrorey's daughter, Novella McCrorey Flanagan, handled the sale of lots after her father's death. Living half the time in New York and in Charlotte, she built a home in McCrorey Heights on Clifton Avenue. She saw that every remaining lot was sold before retiring to New York about 1972.²²⁰

Dozens of new homes were built in McCrorey Heights in the 1950s and 1960s. The same can be said for other Black neighborhoods that arose in the period, such as Oaklawn Park and University Park, yet the custom-built homes of McCrorey Heights, along with the socioeconomic status of its residents, made it different. Prices for newly constructed homes in McCrorey Heights ranged from \$14,000 to \$15,000, according to a 1959 magazine article about homebuilding in Charlotte. These figures made it the most expensive Black neighborhood in the city.²²¹ Statements from residents and other sources from the time period tell of the pride that residents had in their neighborhood. Rev. J.W. Smith saw the neighborhood as peerless when he spoke about it with the *Charlotte News* in 1962. "If there is another A-1 residential area for my people," he said, "I don't know it." The newspaper itself referred to the neighborhood as "one of the city's best Negro residential areas."²²² In the same timeframe, resident Dr. Richard Hill pointed to the freedom to choose the design on one's home as unrivaled in the city. He considered McCrorey Heights "the only section in Charlotte where our group has been privileged to build the kind of homes we want."²²³ For another resident, Mrs. M.T. Jones, the neighborhood signified the achievements of Charlotte's African Americans against the odds. "McCrorey Heights represents progress," she said, "the kind of progress our people need."²²⁴ Reflecting in 2023 on his 1960s childhood in McCrorey Heights (1632 Madison Avenue), Sam Fulwood III expressed the following about his neighborhood and its residents:

Black people of means, like the preachers and teachers and doctors and postal workers and small business owners, settled in McCrorey Heights by force as much as by design to work for upward mobility and racial progress. They lived in relative comfort and isolation, beyond the oppressive purview of white people. For my parents and neighbors, success in life meant a college education, a professional job with the government or a business catering exclusively to Black consumer needs, marriage to another employed (Black) person and home ownership.²²⁵

McCrorey Heights remained Charlotte's leading Black professional neighborhood through the closing years of the historical period, even as the legal structure of segregation was starting to

²¹⁹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 25.

²²⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 46.

²²¹ Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 11.

²²² Dick Rigby, "McCrorey Residents Protest," *The Charlotte News* April 3, 1962.

²²³ Douglas Connah, Jr., "Expressway Will Cause Dislocation," *The Charlotte News* June 15, 1962.

²²⁴ Jerry Shinn, "Negro Residents Want Expressway Rerouted," *The Charlotte Observer* April 4, 1962.

²²⁵ Sam Fulwood III, "Sam Fulwood III '78 – My Carolina Story," *Carolina Alumni*,

<https://alumni.unc.edu/about-carolina-alumni/gaa-board-of-directors/my-carolina-story/sam-fulwood-iii-78-my-carolina-story/>, 2023.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

fall. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 was an important civil rights achievement because it banned racial discrimination in housing, but it did not create instant or widespread integration.²²⁶ Many white neighborhoods still remained largely closed through long-standing customs, real-estate steering, and uneven enforcement. In this environment, McCrorey Heights continued to anchor the city's Black middle and upper classes. Its staying power reflected both the neighborhood's stability and the slow, uneven pace of change after 1968.²²⁷

The arrival of the First Baptist Church-West congregation to the neighborhood in 1975 illustrates the persistence of McCrorey Heights' status. The church site (1801 Oaklawn Avenue) had been the former home of the short-live dormitory of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, a community of Black Catholic sisters, in the mid-1950s. The sisters staffed Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School, an African American academy that opened that year just outside of McCrorey Heights on Statesville Avenue.²²⁸ Later, when the sisters moved from the site and the building was demolished, neighborhood residents Jimmy and Minnie McKee led the effort to acquire the property as a new home for their downtown congregation, which dated to 1867. Located on South Church Street near the city center, the congregation had given birth to several other congregations and was prominent in the local Civil Rights movement. Many regarded it as the most important Black church in Charlotte. Facing redevelopment pressure related to urban renewal projects, the church sought a new home in the late 1960s when they bought the former Oblate Sisters property in 1968.²²⁹ They hired Harvey Gantt to design the new sanctuary, an impressive building that was dedicated at 1801 Oaklawn Avenue in 1977.²³⁰ The church is a remarkable resource whose history aligns with that of the historic district.

McCrorey Heights in the Era of Urban Renewal in Charlotte, 1957–1977

Lasting from the late 1950s into the mid-1970s, the period of urban renewal in Charlotte led to partial and wholesale destruction of many Black neighborhoods in the city. McCrorey Heights, due to geography and, more so, the activist nature of its residents, emerged from the period with minimal damage. Their story of survival stands as an exception in the narrative of urban renewal. Formed in 1957, the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission set its sights on eliminating slums and revamping older neighborhoods that stood in the way of new freeways and other developments. In 1960, the city, working in unison with the state highway department, planned the Northwest Expressway (today's Brookshire Freeway). The proposed route would necessitate the destruction of most of the homes along Van Buren and the southern end of Fairfield.²³¹ In the face of this threat, McCrorey Heights neighbors worked together to achieve a better outcome.

²²⁶ Michael Schill and Samantha Friedman, "The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988: The First Decade," *Cityscape* vol. 4, no. 3 (1999):57.

²²⁷ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 3–4.

²²⁸ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 33.

²²⁹ "First Baptist Church Buys Fellowship Hall," *The Charlotte Observer* December 12, 1968, 29.

²³⁰ Hanchett, "1801 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1801-oaklawn-avenue/>.

²³¹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 56–57.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The State Highway Department and local leaders hosted a public meeting about the freeway project in April 1962. In attendance were several McCrorey Heights residents who represented the neighborhood on the matter: Rev. J.W Smith, Charles V. Bell, and Thomas Wyche. Among the 200 people in attendance, they were, according to newspaper reports, the most vocal about the damage the proposed route would cause. They pointed to the fact that the homes in the pathway of the road were new and that their owners, if forced to relocate, would have an extremely difficult time finding homes and a neighborhood of the quality of McCrorey Heights. The group expressed their understanding that certain obstacles prevented an alternate pathway, such as the water works site, JCSU's campus, and two cemeteries, but begged that something be done to reduce the number of homes to be demolished.²³² The Highway Department stated they would attempt to do so and, afterwards, the proposed route was shifted slightly further south. Although the McCrorey Heights activists found the revised route "less objectionable," they nevertheless had managed to mitigate the impact of the road.²³³

When the freeway construction commenced in 1968, those who had to move out of their homes felt the same pain that many Black people did in Charlotte as a result of urban renewal projects. Emily Ivory, widow of Presbyterian pastor Cecil Augustus Ivory, Sr., lived at 1631 Van Buren Avenue. She worked as a teacher and had a child in high school when she learned that the Expressway construction would require the removal of her home. She reported to the *Charlotte Observer* that the news made her "very emotional. I cried all night."²³⁴ Her home was one of nearly a dozen on the south side of Van Buren Avenue that would be torn down or moved to accommodate the freeway. Ivory planned to relocate her house to an empty lot elsewhere in Charlotte.²³⁵ Sam W. Hill, whose property was also in the path of destruction, sold his home to an individual who moved it to northern Mecklenburg. Hill was determined to remain in the neighborhood. He bought 1624 Madison Avenue a couple blocks away in McCrorey Heights.²³⁶ The Northwest Expressway opened in segments across Charlotte from the late 1960s through the mid-1970s. Compared to other Black neighborhoods in Charlotte, such as Greenville and Brooklyn that were entirely demolished, McCrorey Heights suffered minimal losses as a result of urban renewal.²³⁷

Since the 1970s, many of Charlotte's historically Black neighborhoods along the Beatties Ford Road corridor have declined due to the damages of urban renewal, crime, and other challenges. In the midst of this downturn, McCrorey Heights remained stable. In 1991, a reporter for the *Charlotte Observer* described the neighborhood with its "pleasant homes with two car garages,

²³² Dick Rigby, "McCrorey Residents Protest," *The Charlotte News* April 3, 1962; Jerry Shinn, "Negro Residents Want Expressway Rerouted," *The Charlotte Observer* April 4, 1962; "New Road Change is Proposed," *The Charlotte News* June 14, 1962.

²³³ "New Road Change is Proposed," *The Charlotte News* June 14, 1962.

²³⁴ Emily Ivory, quoted in "Highway Unit: Leave Moving to Us," *Charlotte Observer* March 25, 1968, 25.

²³⁵ "Highway Unit: Leave Moving to Us," *Charlotte Observer* March 25, 1968, 25.

²³⁶ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 56–57.

²³⁷ Hanchett, "The Cherry Neighborhood," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/THE-CHERRY-NEIGHBORHOOD.pdf>, accessed March 12, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

winding streets, [and] neat yards” as an exception among others in west Charlotte.²³⁸ In recent years as the pressure of gentrification has mounted, residents of McCrorey Heights have banded together, as they did in the past, to preserve their neighborhood and its unique story. They successfully worked together to achieve listing as a Local Historic District in the City of Charlotte in 2022.²³⁹

Black Professionals of McCrorey Heights, 1940s-1970s

Since its inception, the residents of McCrorey Heights represented the professional elite of Black Charlotte whether they were physicians, pastors, educators, school administrators, postal workers, businessmen, architects, or residential contractors. Most of the households were run by couples who had college degrees, and it was not uncommon for couples to both have master’s degrees or Ph.Ds.. Many of these families lived in the neighborhood for decades, making a lasting impact on the history of the city.²⁴⁰

The postwar expansion of educational opportunities for African Americans provided greater access to medical degrees as most large cities in the American South had private medical schools where Black men could attend, although under segregated circumstances.²⁴¹ The continued growth of Charlotte’s African American population advanced the need for Black physicians in the city. Good Samaritan Hospital had received a major addition in 1925 that doubled capacity; another wing was added in 1937 that brought to 22 nurses.²⁴² Medical men who worked there or had their own private practices were especially prominent. Dr. Robert H. Greene and Dr. Edson Blackman were among the prewar physicians in residence. Postwar arrivals on Oaklawn Avenue were Dr. Oliver B. Williams (1641 Oaklawn, 1949), Dr. Rudolph M. Wyche (1713 Oaklawn 1960), and Dr. Roy S. Wynn (1721 Oaklawn, 1951). Elsewhere in the neighborhood were Dr. Emery Rann, Jr. (2008 Patton, 1952) and Dr. Drayton P. Graham (1624 Madison, 1963). There also were dentists: Dr. Reginald Hawkins (1703 Madison, 1954), Dr. J. Dwight Martin (1622 Van Buren, 1956), and Dr. Spurgeon Webber, Jr. (rented at 915 Condon in 1964). In addition to these, there were dozens of nurses over the years who lived in McCrorey Heights.²⁴³

Throughout its history, McCrorey Heights had many pastors who served across the city and in outlying communities. They were central community leaders in Charlotte who provided moral guidance, organized civil rights activities, and influenced politics. These clergymen led AMEZ, Baptist, Presbyterian, and other denominations. AMEZ minister Rev. Samuel W. Hamilton (1913 Oaklawn Avenue), a JCSU graduate who had settled in McCrorey Heights in the 1920s,

²³⁸ Polly Paddock, “Violence Knows No Boundaries,” *The Charlotte Observer* January 5, 1991.

²³⁹ “The McCrorey Heights Neighborhood Association Awarded the Charlotte Museum of History’s Excellence in Preservation Award,” *The McCrorian* (May 2023), electronic document, <https://mccroreyheights.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The-McCrorian-May-2023.pdf>, accessed November 12, 2025.

²⁴⁰ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 1–2.

²⁴¹ Thomas J. Ward, Jr., *Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2010), 59–94.

²⁴² William H. Huffman and Thomas W. Hanchett, “Old Good Samaritan Hospital,” Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, 1985.

²⁴³ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 28.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

ascended to high level leadership in his church, and his wife was secretary of the AME Zion Publishing House in Charlotte. Rev. Walter Slade (1722 Patton Avenue) was a Bishop who was nationally known as one of the AMEZ denomination's great evangelists. His wife, Sallie Mae, supervised missionary work. Given its close relationship to Presbyterian-affiliated JCSU, McCrorey Heights was home to many Presbyterians. The manse for the minister of the leading Black congregation in Charlotte, First United Presbyterian, was completed at 1650 Washington Avenue in 1951.²⁴⁴

The Baptist faith also was represented in McCrorey Heights. Originally from Georgia, Rev. James R. Holloway came to Charlotte in 1947 to lead the church's Negro Board of Missions. He also directed the Mecklenburg Baptist-Interracial Commission, an uncommon coalition of Black and white churches which strived to spread the faith among African American and white residents. The Holloway family built a home at 1916 Patton Avenue.²⁴⁵

Educators who taught in public and private schools in Charlotte and the surrounding area were even more numerous than ministers in McCrorey Heights. In this sense, the neighborhood reflected the expansion of educational opportunities for African Americans at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. JCSU had a strong association with the neighborhood, and as it expanded after World War II, there arose a severe housing shortage for professors and other staff that was, to a noticeable degree, answered by McCrorey Heights.²⁴⁶ Professors at Barber Scotia College, located in Concord, also lived in the neighborhood. Several years after the war in 1949, a new junior college, Carver College, opened in a section of Second Ward High in 1949 to instruct Black students. It merged with the all-white Central Industrial Education Center to form Central Piedmont Community College in 1963. In the same year, UNC-Charlotte integrated, and many Black professors there in the 1960s and 1970s lived in McCrorey Heights. Leland S. Cozart, founder of Barber Scotia College, actually built his retirement home at 1015 Clifton Street in 1959. JCSU completed a new Presidential residence at 1723 Washington Avenue in 1965.²⁴⁷

Intermingled among the professors, homes of public schoolteachers also dotted McCrorey Heights. Many brought high-level expertise to their classrooms which were located across Charlotte and in outlying, smaller communities.²⁴⁸ Postwar population growth and the continuance of school segregation translated to new elementary, middle, and high schools through the 1960s and 1970s. Along with teachers were many school principals over the years who resided in the neighborhood. Mentors, advocates, and community leaders, they were among the most highly-regarded professionals in African American city life in the days before school integration.²⁴⁹ Among them was Howard Moreland (1722 Madison) who was the founding

²⁴⁴ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 34–35.

²⁴⁵ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 31–32.

²⁴⁶ Inez Moore Parker, *The Johnson C. Smith University Story*, edited by Helen Vassy Callison (Charlotte, NC: Charlotte Publishing 1975), 23–32.

²⁴⁷ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 36–37.

²⁴⁸ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 34–40.

²⁴⁹ Natalie Denise Lewis, "Brokering Access, Belief and Opportunities: A Phenomenology of Black Principals' Leadership Through a Racialized Lens" (PhD diss., University of Denver, 2020), 20–28,

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

principal at Marie G. Davis Elementary, Dr. E.E. Waddell (1632 Patton) who led Second Ward High and later became a district administrator, and Libby Randolph (1616 Patton). Randolph, also school administrator, was notable in that she launched kindergarten classes across Charlotte.²⁵⁰

Postal jobs were highly prized by African Americans in the mid-twentieth century, protected by Civil Service laws that prevented arbitrary firing. Edwin M. Barrett, a career employee in the U.S. Railway Mail Service, took out the permit to build 1713 Madison in 1952. Like many men who moved into McCrorey Heights after World War II, he was a veteran, and also a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Other mail workers in McCrorey Heights included Willie Lee Johnson, Sr., who also created a side career for himself as a freelance journalist for both Black and white newspapers. When the founder of the African American Charlotte Post died, Willie Lee Johnson, Sr., became the publisher in 1974. The family constructed the house at 815 Condon Street about 1970.²⁵¹

Rounding out the heads of households in McCrorey Heights were renowned businessmen, construction professionals, barbers, and other professions. These occupations reflected how African Americans in Charlotte managed to thrive even in the confines of segregation. At 1913 Patton Avenue lived Romeo Alexander. He owned the popular Razades Restaurant on Statesville Avenue and was an active investor in real estate.²⁵² W.W. Twitty (1723 Madison Avenue) owned the popular West Charlotte Drive-In alongside his day job as an executive with North Carolina Mutual Insurance.²⁵³ Another neighbor who did well in the hospitality business was Jimmie McKee (1607 Oaklawn). He and his wife Minnie opened the Excelsior Club in 1944 in an old house on Beatties Ford Road, then remodeled it in the early 1950s in the Art Moderne style to create one of Charlotte's most visually striking buildings and a prominent gathering place for Black leaders. The Excelsior Club (921 Beatties Ford Road) is located west of McCrorey Heights across Beatties Ford Road.²⁵⁴ The club's manager in the postwar decades was Edith Shearing, another McCrorey Heights resident who, when not serving drinks, founded and operated Charlotte's Black Political Caucus in the late 1960s. The purpose of the caucus was to disrupt the influence of political bosses who, for large sums of money, brought the Black vote for local candidates.²⁵⁵ Another bustling social hub was Neal's Barbershop at Oaklawn Avenue and Beatties Ford Road, presided over for fifty-some years by Albert D. "A.D." Neal (1805 Patton Avenue).²⁵⁶

²⁵⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 40–51.

²⁵¹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 41–42.

²⁵² Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 42.

²⁵³ Hanchett, "1717 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1717-madison-avenue/>.

²⁵⁴ William Huffman, "Historical Overview: The Excelsior Club," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historical Landmarks Commission, 1985, electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/2016/11/02/excelsior-club/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁵⁵ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 45.

²⁵⁶ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 43.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Social and Civic Organizations of McCrorey Heights, 1950s-1970s

In the 1950s and 1960s, McCrorey Heights residents joined social and civic clubs that preserved Black heritage, built community pride, and encouraged leadership. These groups also supported Civil Rights activism and strengthened the neighborhood's collective identity. Bridge clubs consisting of McCrorey Heights residents met to play the popular game at the Wheatley YMCA in Brooklyn or the Excelsior Club on Beatties Ford Road. Other clubs met simply to talk and enjoy fellowship. The Moles, an African American women's social organization with chapters nationwide that was organized for pleasure as well as service, had McCrorey Heights adherents. Gladys Moreland, Margratha Rann and Carolyn Wyche were among the initial members of the 1950s, and soon were joined by Roberta Thompkins, Naomi High, Evelynne Maxwell.²⁵⁷

Along with socializing, many clubs worked for community betterment. In the 1930s, seven boys in the Brooklyn neighborhood dubbed themselves the Swanks Social Club. The group stuck together for the rest of their lives, adding like-minded members up to a total of thirty. They fundraised for the new McCrorey YMCA in 1951 and for many other social-uplift efforts over the years. When McCrorey Heights lot sales took off after World War II, several Swanks built houses near each other, forming a nexus of families who would take large roles in the Civil Rights movement: activist attorney Thomas Wyche (1635 Oaklawn); Ray Booton, Jr., (1725 Van Buren), the first African American on the city police force; desegregation-era educators Eddie Byers (1608 Madison), Samuel Woodard (1709 Madison); as well as W.W. Twitty (1725 Madison) who was a voice in local justice issues facing African Americans.²⁵⁸

Two clubs specializing in educational uplift were the Links and Jacks & Jills, both affiliates of major national women's organizations. In 1955, fourteen local women, including Cora Booton, Thelma Byers, Novella Flanagan, Gladys Greene, Ruby Martin, and Maria Wynn from McCrorey Heights, chartered the Charlotte chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Launched in Philadelphia in 1946, the Links became perhaps the nation's most important organization (outside of the sorority system) for forging social networks among upscale African American women locally and nationally. The Charlotte chapter funded college scholarships and supported health and education programs aimed at African Americans. Jack and Jill got its Charlotte start in 1957, with Carolyn Wyche (1713 Oaklawn Avenue) and Gwendolyn Heard (1623 Madison Avenue) among its leaders. Jack and Jill provided after-school educational enrichment for upscale Black families – and it planned intercity events with counterparts outside Charlotte.²⁵⁹

While Civil Rights was part of the mission of many African American organizations that McCrorey Heights residents joined, one group made racial activism its prime purpose: the Charlotte chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Kelly Alexander, Sr., reenergized the group in the 1940s and made it into a strong force for change, even as he moved up to statewide NAACP president. The chapter lobbied local government and issued regular press releases on major issues. McCrorey Heights men and

²⁵⁷ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 49–53.

²⁵⁸ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 53–54.

²⁵⁹ Diane Wyche, quoted in Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 55.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

women took a public role in the NAACP. Thomas E. Gilliard (1704 Madison Avenue) served for many years as the chapter's vice president, and his wife, Mildred, regularly appeared on committee lists. Dr. Roy S. Wynn (1721 Oaklawn Avenue) did a stint as treasurer. Other McCrorey Heights residents who were members included Moses Belton (1809 Washington Avenue), dentist Reginald Hawkins (1703 Madison Avenue), physician Edson Blackman (2019 Oaklawn Avenue), and Baptist leader Rev. James R. Holloway (1916 Patton Avenue).²⁶⁰

Construction Professionals of McCrorey Heights, 1950s–1970s

The role of African Americans in the planning, design, and construction of McCrorey Heights through the years reflects the skill, determination, and enterprise of Charlotte's Black community during the era of segregation. At a time when systemic discrimination limited economic and occupational opportunities, McCrorey Heights became a place where African Americans could contribute directly to shaping their own neighborhood through building, skilled trades, and design.²⁶¹

McCrorey Heights was an exception in Charlotte where many of the new Black neighborhoods of the postwar period featured homes designed by white architects and built by white-owned construction firms.²⁶² Even though white construction firms were active in building McCrorey Heights, they did not completely dominate the scene. One of four major white home builders, Lex Marsh, is known to have built at least eight houses in the neighborhood.²⁶³ Mangie McQueen, however, surpassed Marsh. A self-taught homebuilder whose career embodied the ambition and perseverance of mid-century Black tradesmen, he built 11 houses, three additions, and two carports in the neighborhood.²⁶⁴ McQueen was a native of McBee, South Carolina who settled in Charlotte around 1940. Despite having only four years of elementary-level education, he taught himself construction skills using trade books that he ordered by mail.²⁶⁵ By 1952, he was one of only two Black contractors listed in the Charlotte city directory.²⁶⁶ Over the course of his career, he built seventy-eight houses across the city, including those in McCrorey Heights.²⁶⁷ His projects, such as the Johnny A. and Felecia H. Williams House (801 Condon Street), the M. Ethel Watson House (1639 Madison Avenue), and the Edwin and Roberta D. Thompkins House

²⁶⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 56–57.

²⁶¹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 43–44.

²⁶² Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 10.

²⁶³ Among those in McCrorey Heights were Lou P. Benson House (1805 Madison), Charles E. and Lena M. Sammons House (1601 Patton), Rev. Herman L. and Olethea W. Counts House (1604 Patton), William P. and Dorothy R. Crawford House (1607 Patton), Fannie Davis Ivey Davidson House (1631 Patton, MBC), Eddieola Alexander Williams House (1643 Patton), Rev. Leonard A. Ellis House (1708 Van Buren, MBC), and Emma Love Crawford House (1911 Washington). Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," *History South*, electronic document, <http://www.historysouth.org/charlotte>, accessed March 13, 2025.

²⁶⁴ Works that are known to have been completed by McQueen are as follows: 801 Condon, 1616 Madison (addition and carport), 1639 Madison, 1704 Madison, 1713 Madison (addition and carport), 1717 Madison (addition), 1725 Madison, 1800 Madison, 1627 Madison, 1800 Madison (addition), 1815 Patton, 1610 Van Buren, 1646 Washington, and 1715 Washington.

²⁶⁵ "Mangie McQueen," obituary, *The Charlotte Observer* (October 19, 2003).

²⁶⁶ The other was Clarence L. Rabb. Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 10.

²⁶⁷ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 4.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

(1800 Madison Avenue), stand as tangible evidence of African American craftsmanship and enterprise within a segregated housing market.²⁶⁸

Back in times of enslavement, African Americans had dominated trades such as brickmaking and masonry work. Shade Payne, a brick mason, continued that tradition. As his obituary stated, [REDACTED] “It was his extreme joy to show others samples of his masonry in and around the City of Charlotte... He excelled in laying and placing exquisite corners and other structural brick masonry.” [REDACTED] His home at 1801 Washington Avenue, which Payne himself built, shows off an abundance of “exquisite corners.” [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Greene co-founded the union local of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association. Isaac Heard, Sr., (1623 Madison, currently a vacant lot) who served as a building engineer for the vast Hercules Missile Plant (now Camp North End) on Statesville Avenue.²⁶⁹

Black architect Harvey Gantt designed both the Matilda B. Spears Samuda House (1648 Patton Avenue) and the First Baptist Church–West (1801 Oaklawn Avenue), one of the community’s most prominent landmarks.

The participation of these individuals in the design and building of McCrorey Heights illustrates the growing economic and occupational achievements of Charlotte’s Black community in the mid-twentieth century. Their contributions reveal how African Americans exercised agency in the creation of their own neighborhoods, making McCrorey Heights an important reflection of Black advancement and self-determination in the built environment.

Social History: Civil Rights

McCrorey Heights Historic District is significant under Criterion A at the local level as the home of many of Charlotte’s leaders in the movement for African American civil rights. Among the most prominent individuals whose efforts led to noticeable gains in the movement for equality during the time they resided in the neighborhood were Dr. Reginald Hawkins, Dr. Emery Rann, Rev. Moses Belton, Thomas Wyche, and Rev. Elo Henderson. Aside from these long-serving trailblazers there were many foot soldiers. Nearly every home in McCrorey Heights had a resident who participated in the battles of the movement, whether as parties to lawsuits, participants in sit-ins, members of the NAACP and other rights organizations, or activists in school desegregation.²⁷⁰

Thomas Wyche was a Charlotte native, the son of Rev. Robert P. Wyche who was pastor of the city’s largest Black church—First United Presbyterian Church. Thomas graduated from Biddle

²⁶⁸ Hanchett, “1800 Madison Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, accessed September 18, 2025, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1800-madison-avenue/>; Hanchett, “1801 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1801-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁶⁹ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights.” 43–44.

²⁷⁰ Hanchett, “McCrorey Heights,” 1.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

University and then went to Howard University in Washington D.C. for legal training. Along with other classmates, Wyche pioneered sit-ins as a tactic at restaurants in the Capitol city in 1943 and 1944. Returning home to Charlotte, he opened a law office, married Grace Long, and began building their home at 1635 Oaklawn Avenue in 1949 when McCrorey Heights started to boom. Working closely with the NAACP, the first Civil Rights lawsuit he filed, teaming with attorney Spottswood Robinson III, was a petition on behalf of a group of sixteen African Americans who had unsuccessfully attempted to desegregate Charlotte's Bonnie Brae golf course in 1951. Among those who were blocked from playing at this public course were Dr. Rudolph Wyche, who built a home at 1713 Oaklawn Avenue in 1959, and Dr. Robert H. Greene, who had resided in McCrorey Heights since 1937 (2001 Oaklawn Avenue). The case crawled through litigation until 1956 when the course desegregated, an important victory that garnered national attention.²⁷¹

Dr. Emery Rann, Jr. and Dr. Reginald Hawkins, medical practitioners who resided in McCrorey Heights, were prominent figures in the attempt to end segregation in local and state medical societies and hospitals. Rann, a graduate of Second Ward High School in Charlotte and a well-educated physician who practiced in the city, built a home in McCrorey Heights in 1952 at 2008 Patton Avenue. The same year, as president of Charlotte's Junior Negro Chamber of Commerce, he pushed for local African Americans to register to vote; however, his most prominent area of activism was the integration of medicine. In 1951, he had applied for membership in the all-white Mecklenburg County Medical Society. His application was denied because it lacked the required approval of three members. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision ruling the end of segregation, the Mecklenburg society decided to accept Rann in an event that made national headlines. The North Carolina Medical Association, the all-white, state-level counterpart, however, steadfastly refused to accept Black people and, as a private group, was not beholden to the *Brown* decision.²⁷²

Meanwhile, Hawkins, who had built his home at 1703 Madison Avenue in 1954, led the charge to desegregate local hospitals. African Americans, since 1885, could receive treatment at Good Samaritan Hospital. After World War II, several Episcopal churches funded the hospital; however, the facility struggled to match the standard of care that whites could receive in the city's white hospitals.²⁷³ In 1961, Hawkins led JCSU students in picketing at the city's four white-only hospitals, calling for integration. Initially, Black patients were admitted but in segregated wards. Committed to the cause, Hawkins drew attention to his efforts by writing to U.S. Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy. Hawkins emphasized that all the hospitals utilized Federal construction funds when they were built, and therefore, they were required to provide equal treatment. Kennedy authorized the U.S. Health Department to mount a fact-finding mission in Charlotte in August 1962. The following year, Charlotte Memorial Hospital opened its doors to people of all races, as well as Black physicians. Dr. C.W. Williams and Rann were

²⁷¹ Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁷² Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 28–29.

²⁷³ Brandon Lunsford, "Good Samaritan Hospital," Charlotte Museum of History, <https://charlottemuseum.org/learn/articles/good-samaritan-hospital/>.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

the first to serve on the staff at Charlotte Memorial. The state's white medical society finally decided to integrate in 1964, with Rann among the initial African American members.²⁷⁴

Rann's work in civil rights notably continued through the 1960s and 1970s. He headed a group of Black community leaders in 1963 who were united against expressway plans that would affect Beatties Ford Road. He served as chair of the NAACP-sponsored Imhotep Conference for Hospital Integration from 1964 to 1969. Imhotep was a national effort that worked to coordinate efforts of groups that were pushing new laws and filing court cases aimed at eliminating segregation in the fields of hospitalization and health. Having risen well above the discrimination he once faced, Rann served as the President of the National Medical Association in 1973. Widely quoted in national media for his opinions about healthcare as it impacted African Americans, Rann was named by *Ebony* magazine as one of their "100 Most Influential Black Americans" for 1974. Also in the 1970s, Rann began efforts that ultimately led to the creation of Charlotte's Afro-American Cultural Center, known today as the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture.²⁷⁵

Like Rann, Hawkins also sought to break the barriers of discrimination in medicine. In the 1950s, he sought and failed to gain admission in the North Carolina Dental Association. He was engaged in a legal battle to obtain admission for years with representation by his neighbor in McCrorey Heights, Thomas Wyche, and also support from Thurgood Marshall and others connected with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Hawkins finally won in 1964, which marked the close of a long fight that gained national attention.²⁷⁶

McCrorey Heights residents directly contributed to the desegregation of the Charlotte airport six years before the famous Greensboro lunch counter sit ins of 1960. In July 1954, the Charlotte airport completed a new terminal with Federal construction funds. Local administrators barred African Americans from eating in the terminal's Airport '77 restaurant. This exclusion defied a 1946 Supreme Court ruling stating that interstate transportation facilities must serve customers regardless of race. Hawkins and Wyche decided to mount a challenge. They brought with them other neighbors—W.W. Twitty (1725 Madison Avenue) and Civil Rights attorney Charles V. Bell (1645 Madison Avenue). The four men arrived at the airport, sat down, and asked for service. They were refused. Wyche then filed suit. Following two years of legal wrangling, the airport restaurant desegregated in 1956.²⁷⁷

School integration was one of the longest fought battles of the Civil Rights movement nationwide. The 1954 *Brown* ruling that mandated school desegregation was a success for the movement; however, civil rights activists had to maintain pressure for years afterwards until state

²⁷⁴ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 29–30.

²⁷⁵ Hanchett, "2008 Patton Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/2008-patton-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁷⁶ Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁷⁷ Hanchett, "1703 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

and local governments complied. Activists from McCrorey Heights took up the sword in this battle. Wyche and neighbor Charles V. Bell prepared to file legal challenges against the school board and became involved in local politics. Wyche ran for school board in 1955, and though he failed to be elected, the action influenced the school board in 1957 to admit four Black students, including Dorothy Counts.²⁷⁸

In 1957, the Counts family, who later built a home in McCrorey Heights at 1604 Patton Avenue, asked their fifteen-year-old daughter, Dorothy, if she would volunteer to be one of the four Black students to desegregate Charlotte's all-white schools. When she walked toward Harding High (now Irwin Elementary) on the first day of classes, an angry mob met her. Photos flashed around the world, seen even in Paris by famed essayist James Baldwin, who wrote of the "unutterable pride, tension and anguish in that girl's face as she approached the halls of learning with history jeering at her back."²⁷⁹ Beside her in the famous photographs, his face set in determination, was Dr. Edwin Thompkins, the distinguished academic who headed JSCU's School of Theology. Thompkins and his wife, Roberta, had moved into their newly built home at 1800 Madison Avenue several years before in 1954. When classes ended on that difficult day, it was Hawkins who arrived to escort Dorothy safely home.²⁸⁰

The struggle to desegregate Charlotte's schools dragged on after the 1957 efforts as the local board and the state installed new barriers. Thurgood Marshall, the leader of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund who had won the *Brown* decision several years earlier, worked with Charlotte's Wyche to file *Morrow v. Mecklenburg County Board of Education*, which asked courts to restrain the operation of segregated schools. This case failed but provided fuel for a later success: the U.S. Supreme Court case *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* (1971), a landmark Supreme Court decision that affirmed the use of busing and other measures to enforce school desegregation in Charlotte and across the nation.²⁸¹

The student-led movements that characterized the national Civil Rights movement in the 1960s featured local events in Charlotte with notable participation by McCrorey Heights residents. Inspired by the sit-ins at Woolworth's in Greensboro, JCSU students and other local activists, including attorney Wyche and his wife, Grace, and attorney Charles Bell, descended upon white-only eateries on Tryon Street, the prominent downtown thoroughfare, in February 1960. The students, whose legal representation was provided by Wyche and Bell, maintained pressure for six months until, finally, the lunch counters opened to all Charlotteans.²⁸²

²⁷⁸ Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁷⁹ Hanchett, "1800 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 37–38.

²⁸¹ Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁸² Hanchett, "1809 Washington Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Charles V. Bell and his wife, Laura, built the house at 1654 Madison Avenue in 1955. Bell was among North Carolina's leading African American attorneys. Prior to settling in McCrorey Heights, he had filed important school desegregation lawsuits and, in 1951, several years before Rosa Parks famous protest, he boldly sat in a bus seat reserved for white passengers on a Gastonia bus. As his home in McCrorey Heights went under construction, Bell and three other men—including Thomas Wyche—became the first African Americans to be admitted to the Mecklenburg County Bar Association. Later, in 1966, Bell argued *Davis v. North Carolina* before the U.S. Supreme Court, a case that set precedents safeguarding the rights of arrestees. Bell successfully defended Elmer Davis, Jr., an African American who had been arrested in 1960 by Charlotte police in connection with a murder. During his detention, the police failed to read him his rights and forced him to confess to the crime, leading to a death sentence for Davis. While the Davis case was proceeding, Bell and Wyche, working with the NAACP, defended JCSU students who had participated in sit-ins in 1960s. Elsewhere, Bell worked alongside Wyche and Hawkins in 1964 against literacy tests for African Americans who attempted to register to vote.²⁸³

In May 1961, a small group of Black and white college students tested the 1940s federal law that forbade segregation in interstate travel. They boarded buses that would travel across the South in what became known as the Freedom Rides. Departing from Washington D.C., the first stop was Charlotte where Black rider Joseph Perkins was arrested at the bus depot as he attempted to get a shoeshine. Wyche defended Perkins in court, winning his release two days after the incident. Wyche also represented students connected with the Congress of Racial Equality the following year after they were arrested for attempting to integrate restaurants in Charlotte and elsewhere in North Carolina. Wyche also participated directly in local restaurant sit-ins.²⁸⁴

Rev. Moses Belton is best remembered as an intermediary between local government and lunch counter protesters who helped desegregate the city. Belton led the Office of Public Relations at JSCU from 1950 to 1970. In 1956, he and his wife, Cornelia, completed their home at 1809 Washington Avenue. He brought his history of working with interracial alliances and skills in public relations to the local movement for civil rights. Mayor James Saxon Smith created a Mayors Friendly Relations Committee in 1960 to informally work with protesters like the lunch counter demonstrators. Among the members was Rev. Belton, along with McCrorey Heights neighbor Dr. Emery Rann. Their work is credited with encouraging local businesses, like the Harris Teeter Super Markets chain, to employ African Americans in 1962. It was Rev. Belton who invited Malcom X to speak in Charlotte in January 1963. At the event at JCSU, Malcom X

²⁸³ Hanchett, "1645 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1645-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁴ Hanchett, "1635 Oaklawn Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

spoke the crowd about a future day when “the Negro will stand on top of the hill.”²⁸⁵ Five hundred people attended the event.²⁸⁶

An untiring activist, Hawkins led a march of JCSU students to City Hall on May 20, 1963, a date when Charlotte celebrated the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, a document said to have been written as the American Revolution began. At City Hall, Hawkins demanded an end to token desegregation, thundering “we want freedom and we want it now.”²⁸⁷ Over the following week, Mayor Stan Brookshire, hoping to steer Charlotte away from the violence that transpired in Birmingham that same month, urged local white restaurant owners to invite a Black Charlottean to their establishments as a means of integrating dining facilities. He relied on Rev. Belton to secure African American participation. As part of this alliance effort, Belton shared a meal with the mayor. The coordination between white and Black leaders in Charlotte garnered national headlines as Congress began to consider the legislation that became the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which mandated the end of segregation in all public accommodations.²⁸⁸

Attorney Wyche notably defended activist Robert Williams of Monroe, North Carolina. Williams, frustrated by continual Ku Klux Klan and police harassment, stood in contrast to leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. in the early 1960s because he advocated militant activism and armed self-defense.²⁸⁹ Williams fled to communist Cuba in 1961, leaving behind several pressing court cases against him that Wyche was able to resolve in Williams’ favor in 1965.²⁹⁰

In the aftermath of the November 1965 bombings of the homes of Dr. Reginald Hawkins (1703 Madison) and other local civil rights leaders, Rev. Elo Henderson (1716 Washington Avenue; 1959), one of the city’s loudest voices for economic and social justice for African Americans, vowed that the fight for full integration would continue. Henderson was as steady voice at City Council meetings in the 1960s and early 1970s regarding policing, education, employment of African Americans, and the demolition of Charlotte’s Black neighborhoods. White supremacists considered him Charlotte’s leading “militant” despite his objection to violence. Henderson’s family was a co-plaintiff in the groundbreaking *Swann* case. His efforts resulted in the first Black bus drivers in Charlotte.²⁹¹

²⁸⁵ Hanchett, “1809 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁶ Hanchett, “1809 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁷ Hanchett, “1809 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁸ Hanchett, “1809 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1809-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁸⁹ Timothy B. Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001), 14.

²⁹⁰ Hanchett, “1635 Oaklawn Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1635-oaklawn-avenue/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

²⁹¹ Hanchett, “1716 Washington Avenue,” McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1716-washington-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Local historian Tom Hanchett considers Hawkins to be Charlotte's most outspoken and persistent civil rights leaders.²⁹² He and his wife Catherine built 1703 Madison Avenue, where they lived for decades, in 1954. His leadership in civil rights contributed to victories in desegregating postal service employment in 1948, the Charlotte airport in 1956, upscale restaurants and movie theaters in 1963, the Charlotte Memorial Hospital the same year, and other areas of local society and beyond. He also won admittance into the North Carolina Dental Society in 1965. A hallmark of Hawkins' strategy to obtain equality for African Americans was continual protest to disrupt the status quo, which fueled the long fight to desegregate schools that persisted long after the *Brown* ruling of 1954. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund partnered with Hawkins and other local activists to file a lawsuit in 1965 that intended to force North Carolina to move forward in earnest to desegregate schools. The case supported desegregation, but barriers remained. Hawkins' children, along with other local families, also were involved in *Swann v. Charlotte*, which got underway in the 1960s.²⁹³

Hawkins' participation in the Civil Rights movement brought violence to his family home in McCrorey Heights in the summer and fall of 1965. During the first incident, an assailant shot at the home, leaving a bullet hole that remained for decades. Then, on November 22, another attacker hurled a bomb from Clifton Street across the backyard, likely aiming for the Hawkins' master bedroom. As it sailed through the air, the bomb landed in a tree. The homes of three other local Civil Rights leaders—Julius Chambers, Kelly Alexander, and Fred Alexander (who did not live in McCrorey Heights)—also were attacked that evening, yet no one was injured. The event received national coverage. No one ever was arrested. Threats to his life did not deter Hawkins. In 1968, he became the first African American to run for Governor of North Carolina. He was unsuccessful in this campaign and another in 1972, although his boldness likely inspired others in Charlotte to run for offices traditionally held by white candidates. During the 1968 campaign, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was planning to campaign with Hawkins, but the famous Civil Rights leader redirected his focus to a sanitation strike in Memphis. King was assassinated there three days later.²⁹⁴ To this day, McCrorey Heights residents recall their neighborhood's connection to the Civil Rights movement.

Community Planning and Development

Introduction

McCrorey Heights is significant at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development. When segregation in Charlotte's housing divided the city map into Black and white sections, H.L. McCrorey became the first African American in the city to plat a

²⁹² Hanchett, "1703 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁹³ Hanchett, "1703 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

²⁹⁴ Hanchett, "1703 Madison Avenue," McCrorey Heights, History South, electronic document, <https://mccrorey.historysouth.org/1703-madison-avenue/>, accessed March 10, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

neighborhood and sell lots. His daughter, Novella, continued this work after his death in 1951. From the time of his plat in 1912, he sold lots to middle- and upper-class African Americans who built single-family, custom homes on the evolving gridiron of streets and avenues. McCrorey made only minor changes to his plat over the years, preserving a spatial organization for the neighborhood that is evident today. Primarily built during the 1950s and 1960s, McCrorey Heights features a high level of integrity in its physical layout, boundaries, and its resources which are residential except for a church. When many Black neighborhoods in Charlotte fell to the wrecking ball of urban renewal, highway construction, and redevelopment, McCrorey Heights survived with little injury. The following sections trace the neighborhood's physical evolution and its role within the broader history of Charlotte's Black suburban development.

Spatial Organization of McCrorey Heights

The present-day configuration of McCrorey Heights generally follows H.L. McCrorey's original 1912 plat. The streets and avenues create a gridiron pattern of blocks and lots that are minimally different from subsequent replats in 1928, 1940, and 1949 (see **Appendix**).²⁹⁵ The gridiron plan, common since the previous century, was the most profitable way to develop and sell land for residential purposes. Such patterns featured in both Black and white suburban neighborhoods in Charlotte.²⁹⁶ The boundaries have remained roughly the same. The original boundaries of the plat were Oaklawn Avenue (originally called Belt Road) on the north, Beatties Ford Road on the west, an irregular boundary and a railroad corridor on the south, and Irwin Creek on the east. The 1928 plat reflected a slight boundary change on the western side because the City of Charlotte acquired some of McCrorey's property along Beatties Ford Road for a waterworks site in 1922. Through the 1940 and 1949 replats and up to the present, the boundary of McCrorey Heights has remained the same.

The names and orientations of the roads in McCrorey Heights have changed little. Evident today are the east–west avenues of 1912: Belt Road (renamed Oaklawn Avenue by 1928), Washington, Jefferson (renamed Patton by 1928), Madison, and Lincoln (renamed Van Buren by 1928). The 1928 plat showed an unnamed road to the south of, and parallel to Van Buren, but it was never opened.²⁹⁷ The north–south streets in the 1912 plat were Fairmont, Duncan (renamed Condon by 1928), Mulberry, Fairfield, Clifton, and Creek. The only changes in the north–south streets after 1912 were the removal of part of Fairmont for the city's 1922 waterworks development; the addition of Andrill Terrace, which appeared partially in 1928 and fully by 1940; and the removal of the southern end of Fairmont during the 1960s Brookshire Freeway construction.²⁹⁸

²⁹⁵ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

²⁹⁶ David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, and National Register of Historic Places, *Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2002), 37; Hanchett, "Charlotte's Neighborhood Planning Tradition," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Planners.pdf>, accessed November 5, 2025.

²⁹⁷ This southern area, presently Brookshire Freeway, probably was not developed for housing because the elevation significantly sloped southward to a tributary creek of Irwin Creek.

²⁹⁸ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

The blocks and lots of McCrorey Heights slightly changed as the neighborhood became developed. Originally, there were 28 blocks. The number dipped to 27 by 1928 due to the city's waterworks development. By 1940, the number of blocks decreased to 19 due to the removal from the plat of several undeveloped blocks south of Van Buren and the opening of Andrill Terrace. There were finally 18 blocks by 1949, again because of the removal of undeveloped blocks south of Van Buren. Between 1912 and 1949, a slight change in the number of lots per block is evident—from about 10 lots at the initial platting to 14 by the last plat. This change resulted from a decrease in the average lot size between 1912 (80' by 195') and 1949 (57' by 150').²⁹⁹

McCrorey Heights has been residential from the start with the exception of the First Baptist Church-West site, which historically had a religious usage. Houses built prior to 1940 generally are located closer to the street than those built later. As Ranch houses became popular in the 1960s, buyers in McCrorey Heights often purchased two lots to accommodate the broad façade of this style. In several cases, they built their Ranches with the side elevations facing the street.

For many Black neighborhoods in Charlotte, the urban renewal period of the 1960s and 1970s resulted in bisections due to roadway construction and partial or extensive residential demolition, as is discussed further below. McCrorey Heights, in contrast, suffered minimal losses.³⁰⁰ When Brookshire Freeway was planned in the 1950s and early 1960s, the proposed corridor passed just inside the southern border of McCrorey Heights. Houses on the southern end of Fairmont and along the south side of Van Buren stood in the pathway, as well as some undeveloped land surrounding a branch of Irwin Creek. As construction of the highway began in the late 1960s, the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission compensated the impacted owners for their property. Some homeowners relocated their houses to empty lots within McCrorey Heights or elsewhere, while others left their homes to be demolished.³⁰¹ *The Evolution of Charlotte's Black Neighborhoods*

McCrorey Heights appeared in the 1910s amidst deepening segregation in Charlotte. African Americans have been a part of the city's history since its founding prior to the American Revolution. By the mid-nineteenth century, Black and white people lived in relatively close quarters. Local leaders divided the urban core into four wards in the 1850s. The division was based more on social status and geography than race. As the century progressed, political and social forces gradually implemented laws and customs that separated the races in nearly every aspect of city life. By about 1900, Black Charlotteans were restricted as to where they could live. Charlotte's urban Black population, as a result, became increasingly concentrated in the southeastern ward—known as Second Ward and, eventually, Brooklyn. Within these restrictions, Brooklyn became the site of churches, schools, residences, restaurants, and other sites that made it a thriving center for Black Charlotte, remembered by those who knew it as a city within a city.³⁰²

²⁹⁹ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Plat Maps of McCrorey Heights (1912, 1928, 1940, 1949).

³⁰⁰ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 4.

³⁰¹ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," 56–57.

³⁰² Hanchett, "The Center City," 14.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

As Charlotte grew in population in the last half of the nineteenth century, older neighborhoods on the periphery became part of the city and new neighborhoods were developed. Founded in 1871, Biddleville predated McCrorey Heights by several decades. Rev. Stephen Mattoon founded the community which stood across Beatties Ford Road from Biddle Institute, later known as JCSU, where Mattoon served as president. Mattoon, a white man, purchased the land for Biddleville with the intention of selling to African Americans who staffed the university or wished to build homes in this emerging Black enclave just outside the city limits. Mattoon did not create a plat for Biddleville. Homes were built in a linear arrangement that lacked blocks or a central square. Biddleville became the home of Black college students, professors, college alumni, and public schoolteachers who formed the top social tier of Charlotte. Its annexation in 1903, which coincided with the extension of a trolley line along Beatties Ford Road, brought further distinction to the neighborhood. Formerly a rural route, Beatties Ford Road became a corridor for new neighborhood development, most of which were Black neighborhoods, for decades to come.³⁰³

As segregation became entrenched in Charlotte's housing, African Americans became restricted to the west and northwestern areas of the city. Biddleville influenced the trend in this direction, as did several smaller Black communities immediately on the northwestern side of Charlotte—Blandville, Greenville, and Irwinville. Visible by the 1890s, these pockets of Black settlement on non-platted land had obscure origins in the mid-nineteenth century.³⁰⁴ An exception to the trend in Black settlement was a new neighborhood on the southeastern side of the urban core—Cherry, platted in 1891 by a white man named John Myers on his family's former plantation land. The Myers family had been involved in the welfare of Black people since the Civil War. Myers' platting of Cherry was unique because it was the first neighborhood in Charlotte to be platted specifically for African Americans. Cherry's similarities with Biddleville ended here, though, as it came to be populated by working-class Black people who purchased or rented homes. They held jobs in the urban area or in the adjacent white neighborhoods of Myers Park and Dilworth. Cherry had 50 houses in 1905, and in 25 years, there were at least 300. The modest, wood-frame homes were set on small lots. Other community features included a park, a school, and churches.³⁰⁵

Undeveloped land along Beatties Ford Road continued to accommodate new and mostly Black neighborhoods in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Along the streetcar line into northwest Charlotte, real estate developer Walter S. Alexander platted Western Heights on land between downtown and Biddleville in the 1890s. The community was open only to whites, yet as demographics in this section of the city continued to change into the 1920s, Western Heights transitioned to a Black neighborhood.³⁰⁶

³⁰³ Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," not dated, History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BIDDLEVILLE.pdf>, accessed March 6, 2025.

³⁰⁴ Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," 5.

³⁰⁵ Hanchett, "The Cherry Neighborhood," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, 1984, electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/THE-CHERRY-NEIGHBORHOOD.pdf>, accessed March 6, 2025.

³⁰⁶ Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," 14.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

After Western Heights came McCrorey Heights, which stood out from its predecessors because its initiator was African American in a time when only white men were platting and developing new neighborhoods in Charlotte. Through the historical period, only one other African American—Arthur Samuel Grier—would individually plat a neighborhood in Charlotte, but he came upon the scene more than four decades later.³⁰⁷ Another early distinction of McCrorey's development was its residents who were primarily from the middle and upper class of Black people in Charlotte. Of the city's Black neighborhoods, only Biddleville could match it in prestige, but this later would change. McCrorey Heights, nevertheless, did not develop as quickly as Biddleville, Cherry or Western Heights. It had only minimal construction in the decades between its founding in 1912 and World War II. The streetcar did not reach the neighborhood. The neighborhood was a bit further from the urban core where many jobs were. Moreover, the city waterworks acquisition of the eastern edge of McCrorey's property in 1922 separated McCrorey Heights from the major roadway through northwest Charlotte, Beatties Ford Road.³⁰⁸

A year after McCrorey Heights was platted, Walter Alexander partnered with two other white men to plat a new streetcar suburb called Washington Heights. Unlike the Western Heights project, Washington Heights was envisioned, and marketed in local newspapers, as a neighborhood for Black people, especially those of the middle class.³⁰⁹ From the 1910s through the 1930s, the curvilinear streets and gridded blocks of Washington Heights attracted Black homebuilders who built some 200 bungalows. Even H.L. McCrorey purchased property in Washington Heights. The neighborhood, and western Charlotte in general, attracted further attention from Black homebuyers when West Charlotte High School was built adjacent to Washington Heights on Beatties Ford Road in 1938.³¹⁰

Another new white development began in the 1920s along Beatties Ford Road about a mile north of McCrorey Heights. The white-owned Southern Realty and Development Company platted Lincoln Heights with deed restrictions that prohibited Black people from settling within its boundaries, but after World War II, when development picked up, it would become entirely Black.³¹¹

The Great Depression and World War II stifled suburban growth across Charlotte, but the postwar economy brought a resurgence in new residential development. Segregation in housing continued in force. Entirely new Black neighborhoods appeared in west and northwest Charlotte, further solidifying the racial makeup of these sections of the city. An older neighborhood called

³⁰⁷ Hubert W. Norris, "Arthur Grier Leader in Business Circles," *Charlotte Observer* January 21, 1951; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, "Survey of African American Buildings and Sites in Mecklenburg County," electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Survey-Of-African-American-Historic-Sites.pdf>, accessed November 10, 2025.

³⁰⁸ Hanchett, "McCrorey Heights," *History South*, electronic document, <http://www.historysouth.org/charlotte>, accessed March 13, 2025.

³⁰⁹ Hanchett, "Washington Heights," 1–4.

³¹⁰ Hanchett, "Washington Heights," 11.

³¹¹ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, "Lincoln Heights," electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Lincoln-Heights-Essay.pdf>, accessed October 28, 2025; Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 22–24.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Selwyn Park, platted northeast of McCrorey Heights just before the Depression, received new life in 1949 when white prominent developer C.D. Spangler redubbed it Double Oaks. There, he built several hundred low-density, barracks-style units for low-income African American families into the early 1950s.³¹² Meanwhile, Black people began to settle in Lincoln Heights, which became a Black neighborhood by the 1950s when rows of modest, often identical Ranch-style homes filled the neighborhood. Lincoln Heights Elementary School, later a middle school, opened in 1957 as a cornerstone of community life.³¹³

Following in Dr. McCrorey's footsteps was Samuel Arthur Grier, an African American businessman and funeral director who platted Grier Heights in 1949 and developed homes within it. Two miles southeast of the center of the city, the community's roots were in a small cluster of Black landowners dating to the post-Civil War period. By about 1900, it was called Griertown after Grier who owned a large tract of land in the area and a sizable home he completed in 1922. Although Grier had significant resources to build such a home, the majority of his neighbors were working-class people. By 1927, Griertown had a Rosenwald School and two churches. Following World War II, Grier launched Grier Heights Development Company to build houses for war veterans who obtained loans through the Veterans Administration. His company completed about 100 homes for these middle-class residents through the 1950s and 1960s, and many remain in the present although amidst non-historic infill.³¹⁴

University Park, the result of a rare, biracial partnership between a Black civic leader, Fred Alexander, and a prominent white developer, C.D. Spangler, appeared in the 1950s. Situated off Beatties Ford Road and LaSalle Street north of Washington Heights, University Park was one of several new, Black middle-class neighborhoods in Charlotte. It was centered around the newly relocated West Charlotte High School, which had moved from Beatties Ford Road to Senior Drive in 1954. The community was designed with approximately 1,200 proposed Ranch homes spread over more than 400 acres. Construction and expansion continued through the early 1960s, aided by Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans that helped many African Americans achieve homeownership. By 1962, University Park included several residential plats as well as a business district and shopping plaza along Beatties Ford Road.³¹⁵

In addition to C.D. Spangler, there were a handful of other white developers who platted and developed new neighborhoods for both white and Black home seekers in the postwar decades.

³¹² It is unknown if Selwyn Park was initially a Black or white community; however, it probably was Black because it was adjacent to the older Black community of Greenville. Lunsford, Brandon, "University Park Historical Essay," 9.

³¹³ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, "Lincoln Heights," 1–10.

³¹⁴ Hubert W. Norris, "Arthur Grier Leader in Business Circles," *Charlotte Observer* January 21, 1951; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, "Survey of African American Buildings and Sites in Mecklenburg County," electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Survey-Of-African-American-Historic-Sites.pdf>, accessed November 10, 2025.

³¹⁵ Brandon Lunsford, "University Park Historical Essay," Charlotte, North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, 2020, electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/University-Park-Historical-Essay-EAS-edit-2.0.pdf>, accessed March 15, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Ervin Construction Company, owned by Charles Ervin, platted Oaklawn Park between Lincoln Heights and McCrorey Heights in the mid-1950s. Ervin was one of Charlotte's most prolific suburban developers of the post-World War II decades. This neighborhood of developer-built, Ranch-style houses offered working- and middle-class Black families the opportunity to settle near the newly opened West Charlotte High School (1954) and the city's first all-Black junior high, Northwest Junior High School (1954). Oaklawn Park was entirely built between 1955 and 1961.³¹⁶

Most homebuyers in Oaklawn Park obtained loans backed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), making the neighborhood a local example of a postwar, FHA-influenced development. Because Ervin acted as an operative builder—purchasing the land, laying out streets and lots, and constructing the homes—the FHA viewed his company as an efficient means of meeting housing demand and encouraged banks to extend credit accordingly. Oaklawn Park also served as a template for Ervin's later project, Dalebrook, launched in 1960 about one and a half miles north. As with Oaklawn Park, the FHA backed most of the loans, and Ervin again bought the land, sold the lots, and built the Ranch-style houses. Dalebrook, completed by 1961 with about seventy homes on six streets, mirrored Oaklawn Park's form on a smaller scale.³¹⁷ Another Ervin development—Northwood Estates—opened further north along Beatties Ford Road in 1964, and it was built out by about 1970.³¹⁸

With new development unfolding across Charlotte in the 1950s and 1960s, the yet undeveloped blocks of McCrorey Heights became the site of new homes. McCrorey's daughter, Novella, took the helm of her father's real estate business after his death in 1951 until all lots were sold in the 1970s. The new constructions followed the neighborhood's earlier pattern of custom-built homes which made McCrorey Heights different from its counterparts like Double Oaks, University Park, Oaklawn Park, and Dalebrook where developer-built housing prevailed. New residents also continued to reflect the roots of the neighborhood as a community for Black professionals from the middle and upper class. Additionally, McCrorey Heights remained entirely residential (except for the church site) while other new neighborhoods included commercial and educational developments that were directly adjacent to their boundaries.

Urban Renewal, Post-World War II Development, and the Survival of McCrorey Heights

Established in the 1950s, the Charlotte Redevelopment Commission was one of many government entities across the nation that launched urban renewal programs. From interstate

³¹⁶ Hanchett, "Oaklawn Park: An African American Neighborhood in Charlotte," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Oaklawn-Park-Hanchett.pdf>, accessed February 4, 2025.

³¹⁷ Hanchett, "Oaklawn Park: An African American Neighborhood in Charlotte," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Oaklawn-Park-Hanchett.pdf>, accessed February 4, 2025.

³¹⁸ Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "A Portion of Northwood Estates," Map Book 11, Page 149 (1963); Hanchett, "Oaklawn Park: An African American Neighborhood in Charlotte," History South, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Oaklawn-Park-Hanchett.pdf>, accessed February 4, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

highway construction to slum clearance, these initiatives often victimized historically Black neighborhoods in cities large and small through the 1970s. These projects significantly impacted Charlotte's historically Black neighborhoods, leading to extensive property losses and, in some cases, complete demolition and displacement of communities.³¹⁹ McCrorey Heights is notable in that it emerged from this period with only minimal losses.

Brooklyn is perhaps the most well-known victim of Charlotte's urban renewal. Although it was a cultural and business center for Black Charlotteans, the neighborhood had fallen into decline by the 1950s when influential white leaders looked to redevelop the urban center of the city. Between 1960 and 1974, the Redevelopment Commission demolished Brooklyn to make way for modern office development and new roadways.³²⁰ Urban renewal similarly destroyed the small neighborhoods of Greenville and Irwinville in the 1960s and 1970s while also demolishing all but several structures in Blandville.³²¹

Along with urban renewal projects underway in the city were other development projects that injured historically Black neighborhoods in the postwar decades. Cherry suffered bisection as Independence Boulevard/Interstate-277 was developed through it. Real estate developers who saw value in Cherry's proximity to downtown Charlotte acquired older properties in the neighborhood that they demolished to make new spaces for stores, offices, and apartments.³²² Biddleville also lost resources with the construction of I-277, the expansion of JCSU, and 1980s residential infill. Roadway losses and non-historic infill have led to extensive historic property losses in Western Heights and Lincoln Heights.³²³ In the 1990s, the city of Charlotte revitalized properties in Double Oaks and renamed it Genesis Park. The redevelopment introduced a variety of housing styles and modernized many residences, leaving little of the original architectural characteristics.³²⁴

While Brooklyn and other Black neighborhoods fell to the wrecking ball, McCrorey Heights suffered relatively few losses. Geography played a role. The neighborhood was out of the direct path of new interstates and connectors and insulated from downtown redevelopment projects. The same was true for Oaklawn Park, Dalebrook, University Park, and Washington Heights, none of which suffered extensive losses in this period. In comparison to places like Brooklyn, McCrorey Heights was an economically healthy neighborhood with well-connected residents

³¹⁹ Hanchett, "The Center City," 8–10; Khalid Hijazi, "The Effects of Urban Renewal on African Americans in Charlotte, North Carolina: The Case of the Brooklyn Neighborhood, 1960–1974," Ph. D dissertation (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2014).

³²⁰ Hanchett, "The Center City," 28–29; Hanchett, *Sorting out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875–1975* (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2020), 249.

³²¹ Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," 5.

³²² Hanchett, "The Cherry Neighborhood," 3–5.

³²³ Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 64–65; Hanchett, "Biddleville-Five Points," 14; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, "Lincoln Heights," electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Lincoln-Heights-Essay.pdf>, accessed October 28, 2025; Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 22–24.

³²⁴ Brown, *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis*, 73–76.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

who were known for their activism. Only one section of McCrorey Heights, eight lots on the south side on a 1957 revised plat, was impacted.

Criterion Consideration B

Under Criterion Consideration B, a property that has been moved from its original or historically significant location may still qualify if it remains associated with an important historic event.³²⁵

Three properties within the McCrorey Heights Historic District were relocated from earlier sites elsewhere in the district. Each of these properties were moved because they stood in the way of construction of Brookshire Freeway in the late 1960s along the southern edge of McCrorey Heights. The highway construction took place in the context of the urban renewal period in Charlotte.

The William E. and Ocala Bluford House, a one-story Ranch house at 1600 Madison Avenue, originally stood at 643 Fairfield Avenue. The home was built there in 1960. In 1967, the government acquired the Fairfield address for the construction of the freeway. Bluford relocated the home to a vacant lot on Madison Avenue.³²⁶ The Hughes-Gillespie House, a one-story Ranch house at 1817 Madison Avenue, was built by the Hughes family about 1958 at 1605 Van Buren. They sold it to the Gillespie family who moved it to Madison Avenue in 1968.³²⁷ Lastly, the Jerry H. and Ruebenna G. Flack House at 2014 Washington Avenue originally stood at 1601 Van Buren where it was built in 1960. The Split-Level house was moved to its new location in 1968.³²⁸

The relocation of homes in McCrorey Heights occurred within the district's period of significance, and the properties continue to exhibit an orientation, setting, and overall environment comparable to their original contexts. The new sites have always been within the boundary of McCrorey Heights as defined in the historic plats (see **Appendix**). The lot sizes, setbacks, and other features of the new locations are consistent with other lots in the district.

³²⁵ United States National Park Service Interagency Resources Division, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, rev. (ed. 1995), Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 29–30.

³²⁶ Hanchett, "1600 Madison Avenue."

³²⁷ Hanchett, "1817 Madison Avenue."

³²⁸ Hanchett, "2014 Washington Avenue."

McCrorey Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC
County and State

DRAFT

McCrorey Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Ames, David L., Linda Flint McClelland, and National Register of Historic Places, *Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places), 2002.

Brown, Marvin A. *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis for Conversion of High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes to High Occupancy Toll Lanes on I-77 between I-277 and I-85, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County*. Report Prepared for URS Corporation, Morrisville, North Carolina for the State of North Carolina Department of Transportation. 2012. Electronic document, https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER_12-0125.pdf, accessed October 28, 2025.

Charlotte City Directories. *DigitalNC*. Electronic document, <https://lib.digitalnc.org/?ln=en>, accessed, January 12, 2025.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission. "Background: Slavery in Charlotte-Mecklenburg." Electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Background-Slavery-in-Charlotte-Mecklenburg.pdf>, accessed March 13, 2025.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission. "Dalebrook." Not dated. Electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Dalebrook-Essay.pdf>, accessed March 14, 2025.

Culpepper, Harvey. "The Black Community and the World War II Industrial Expansion in Charlotte, North Carolina." *North Carolina Historical Review* 70, no. 4 (1993): 389–415.

"Final Rites for President Emeritus Henry Lawrence McCrorey," July 1951. *DigitalNC*. Electronic document, <https://lib.digitalnc.org/record/238454?ln=en&v=uv#?xywh=-2226%2C-1%2C8347%2C3587&cv=3>.

Gray, Stewart and Paula Stathakis. "African American Resources in Mecklenburg County." September 2002. North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Electronic document, https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/survey-and-national-register/surveyreports/Mecklenburg_County_African_American_Resources_Survey-Gray_and_Stathakis-2002.pdf, accessed October 22, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Mecklenburg County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Hanchett, Tom.

- . McCrorey Heights. *History South*. Electronic document, <http://www.historysouth.org/charlotte>, accessed March 13, 2025.
- . "Biddleville-Five Points." Not dated, *History South*, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BIDDLEVILLE.pdf>, accessed March 6, 2025.
- . "The Cherry Neighborhood." Not dated. *History South*. Electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/THE-CHERRY-NEIGHBORHOOD.pdf>, accessed March 12, 2025.
- . "The Center City: The Business District and the Original Four Wards." *History South*. Electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/THE-CENTER-CITY.pdf>, accessed March 13, 2025.
- . "McCrorey Heights: Making History in an African American Neighborhood." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, 2022, electronic document, http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/McCrorey-Heights-%E2%80%93-HistorySouth.org_.pdf, accessed March 13, 2025.
- . "Oaklawn Park: An African American Neighborhood in Charlotte," *History South*, electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Oaklawn-Park-Hanchett.pdf>, accessed February 4, 2025.
- . *Sorting out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875–1975*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2020.
- . "Washington Heights." Not dated. *History South*. Electronic document, <https://www.historysouth.org/charlotte/>, accessed March 13, 2025.

Hanchett, Tom and Stewart Gray. "Survey and Research Report on the Reginald Armistice Hawkins House." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, 2018. Electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Hawkins-Hse-SR.pdf>, accessed March 13, 2025.

Howard, John G. Jr., "The Friendly Village of Hyde Park Estates: A Mid-Twentieth Century African American Suburb in Charlotte, North Carolina." Unpublished report for Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission, 2014.

Huffman, William. "Historical Overview: The Excelsior Club." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historical Landmarks Commission, 1985. Electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/2016/11/02/excelsior-club/>, accessed February 26, 2025.

Lunsford, Brandon. "University Park Historical Essay." Charlotte, North Carolina: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Landmarks Commission, 2020. Electronic document, <http://landmarkscommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/University-Park-Historical-Essay-EAS-edit-2.0.pdf>, accessed March 15, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

- Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds. "Map of H.L. McCrorey's Property, Charlotte, N.C., 1912." Map Book 230, Page 174. Electronic document, <https://meckrodhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.
- . "Map of J.L. McCrorey's Property, Charlotte, NC, Resurvey by Jerry Reshess, July 1928." *DigitalNC*. Electronic document, <https://www.digitalnc.org/>, accessed October 27, 2025.
- . "Map of McCrorey Heights, Property of H.L. McCrorey, Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina, Revised Map & Survey by Jerry Reshess." April 20, 1940. Map Book 4, Page 437. Electronic document, <https://meckrodhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.
- . "McCrorey Heights 'Revised', Charlotte, N.C." Map Book 6, Page 230. Electronic document, <https://meckrodhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.

Tyson, Timothy. *Radio Free Dixie*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

Wood, Bradford J. and Paul Finkelman, "North Carolina," in *The Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass*, edited by Paul Finkelman (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), 463–469.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 65 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

1. Latitude:	35.252183	Longitude:	-80.854681
2. Latitude:	35.251136	Longitude:	-80.854837
3. Latitude:	35.249166	Longitude:	-80.854742
4. Latitude:	35.248481	Longitude:	-80.854503
5. Latitude:	35.247444	Longitude:	-80.853411
6. Latitude:	35.246934	Longitude:	-80.852512
7. Latitude:	35.246025	Longitude:	-80.849610
8. Latitude:	35.246108	Longitude:	-80.848676
9. Latitude:	35.248302	Longitude:	-80.847303
10. Latitude:	35.249306	Longitude:	-80.848498
11. Latitude:	35.251807	Longitude:	-80.853465

Verbal Boundary Description

McCrorey Heights Historic District is an approximately 65 acre area bordered on the north by Oaklawn Avenue; on the west by Fairmont Street and the City of Charlotte Water Works Vest Station; the south by Van Buren Avenue and Brookshire Freeway/NC-16; and the east by Andrill Terrace and Interstate 77.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of McCrorey Heights primarily follows plats for the neighborhood made by developer Dr. Henry L. McCrorey in 1912 (Mecklenburg County Deed Book 230, Pages 174-175) and revised in 1940 (Mecklenburg County Deed Book 4, Page 437) and 1949 (Mecklenburg County Deed Book 6, Page 230). Two areas are excluded from the historic district that originally fall within these plats. Approximately 9 acres on the western edge of the district was sold in 1922 for the City of Charlotte Water Works Vest Station. Property on the south side of Van Buren Avenue was taken for the construction of Brookshire Freeway/NC-16 and the Interstate 77 ramp in the mid-1960s. Also included in the boundary is a triangular section in the northeast area of McCrorey Heights (bounded by Oaklawn Avenue, Andrill Terrace, Washington Avenue, and Clifton Street). While this section was not originally owned or platted by McCrorey, it is historically considered part of the neighborhood. It was platted and sold by white owners to Black homebuyers between 1949 and 1953, and the houses constructed here differ little from their neighbors in appearance and ownership.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan V. Mayer, architectural historian (SVM Historical Consulting)

name/title: Nick Linville, historian (Linville Historical Consulting)

street & number: 4711 Water Oak Road

city or town: Charlotte state: NC zip code: 28211

e-mail susan@svmhistorical.com, nick@linvillehistoricalconsulting.com

telephone: 318-791-6082

date: December 4, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: McCrorey Heights Historic District

City of Vicinity: Charlotte

County: Mecklenburg

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Nick Linville

Date Photographed: December 2024–March 2025

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #0001:

1 of 20

1600 block of Oaklawn Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing west

Photo #0002:

2 of 20

1721 Oaklawn Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing south

Photo #0003:

3 of 20

1801 Oaklawn Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing southeast

Photo #0004:

4 of 20

1000 block of Fairmont Street
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0005:

5 of 20

1900 block of Washington Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing west

Photo #0006:

6 of 20

1800 block of Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing east

Photo #0007:

7 of 20

1908 Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Photo #0008:
8 of 20
1700 block of Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing northeast

Photo #0009:
9 of 20
1700 block of Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing southeast

Photo #0010:
10 of 20
1722 Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0011:
11 of 20
1704 Patton Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0012:
12 of 20
1812 Madison Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0013:
13 of 20
1800 Madison Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0014:
14 of 20
1700 block of Madison Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing east

Photo #0015:

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

15 of 20
1700 block of Madison Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing west

Photo #0016:
16 of 20
800 block of Fairfield Street
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0017:
17 of 20
900 block of Clifton Street
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing south

Photo #0018:
18 of 20
900 block of Creek Street
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing south

Photo #0019:
19 of 20
1600 Madison Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing north

Photo #0020:
20 of 20
1700 block of Van Buren Avenue
McCrorey Heights Historic District
Facing northwest

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

McCrorey Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC
County and State

**Appendix:
Plats of McCrorey Heights**

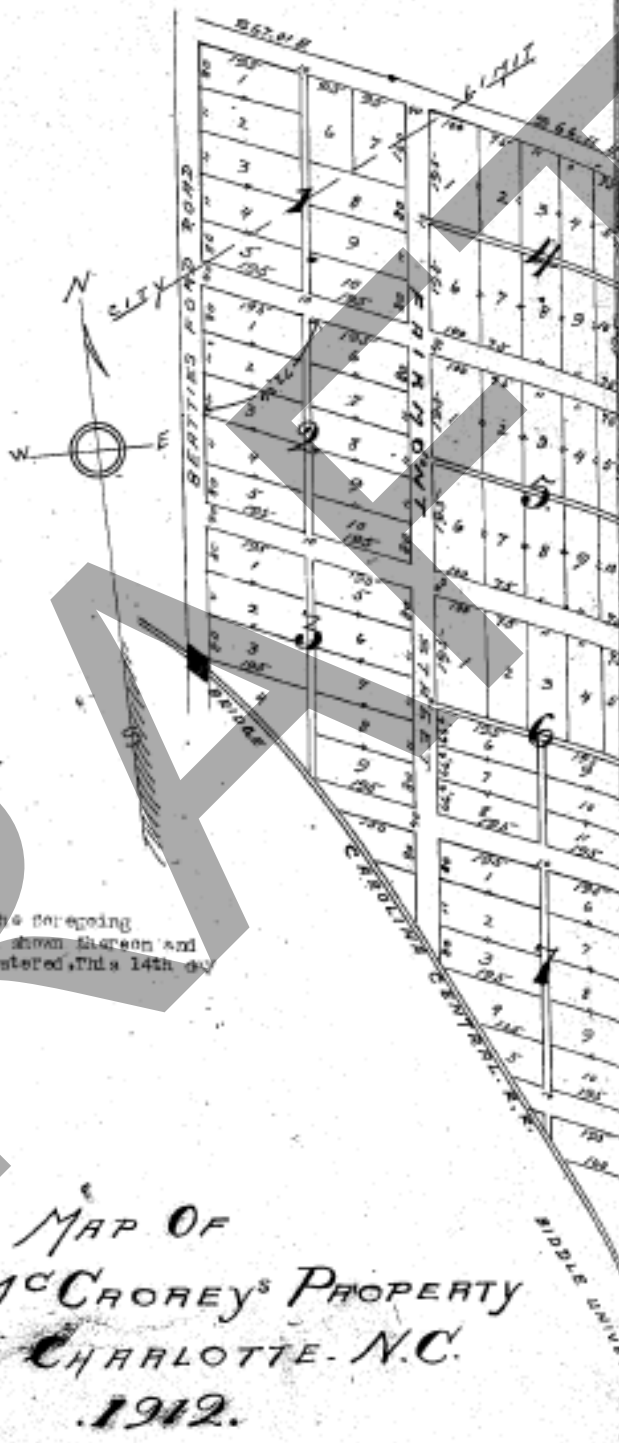
McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

174



not duly sworn, says that the foregoing
actual survey of the land shown hereon and
a this certificate be registered. This 14th day
of, Clerk Superior Court.

MAP OF
H. L. MCCROREY'S PROPERTY
CHARLOTTE - N.C.
1912.

Figure 1. 1912 plat of McCrorey Heights, page 1. Source: Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Map of H.L. McCrorey's Property, Charlotte, N.C., 1912," map book 230, Page 174, electronic document, <https://meckrodhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

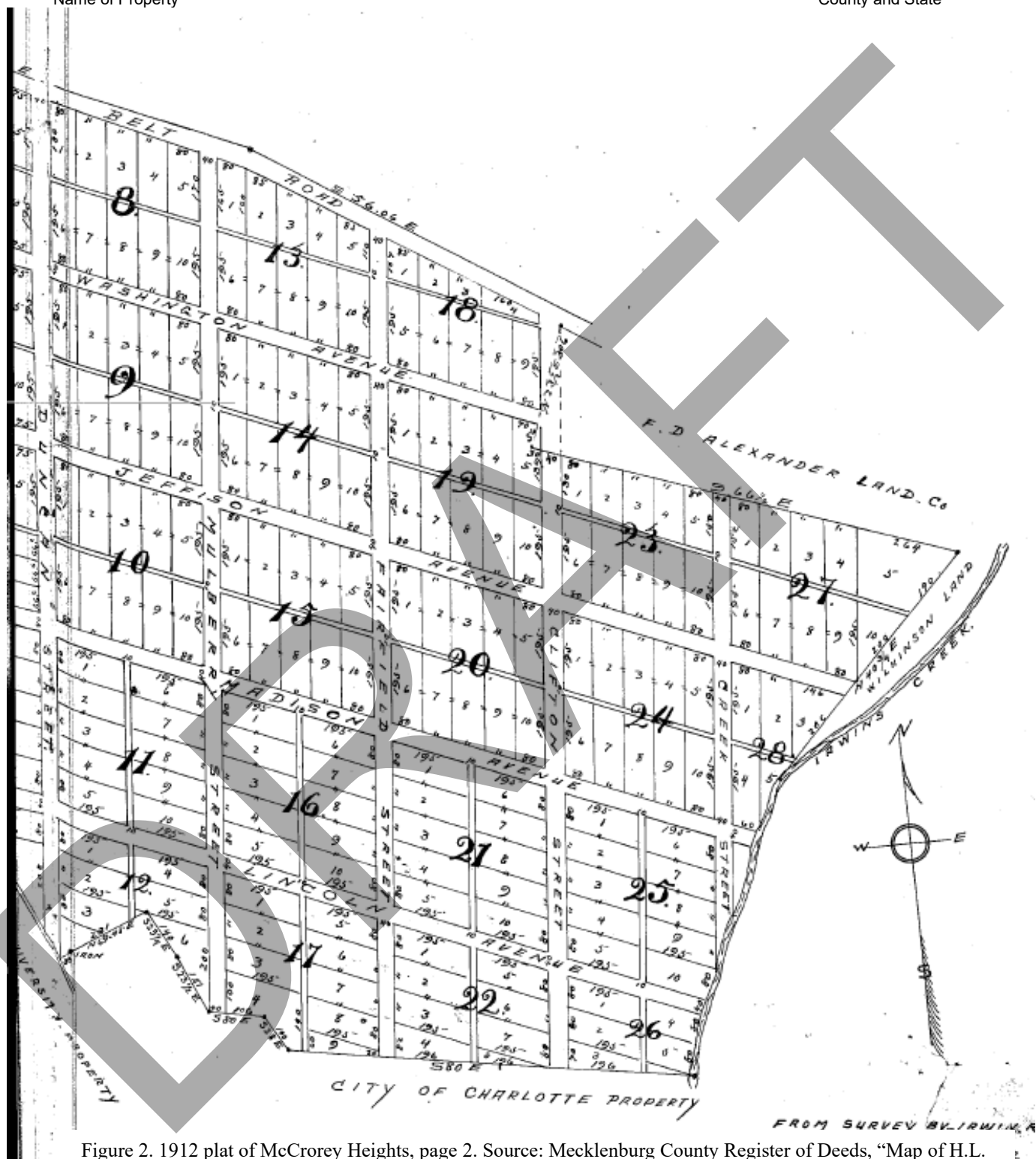


Figure 2. 1912 plat of McCrorey Heights, page 2. Source: Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Map of H.L. McCrorey's Property, Charlotte, N.C., 1912," map book 230, Page 174, electronic document, <https://meckrodhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District
Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC
County and State

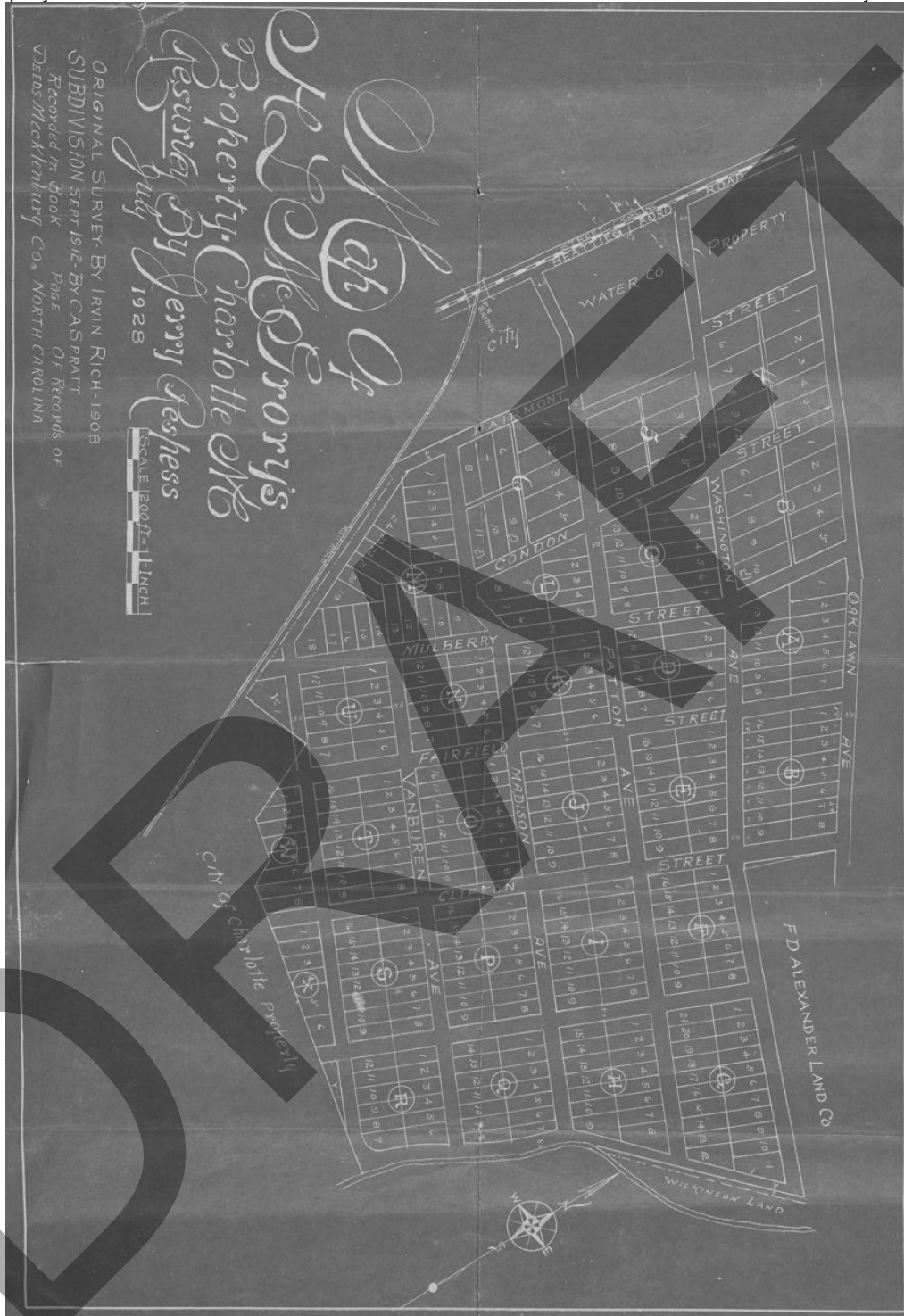


Figure 3. 1928 plat of McCrorey Heights. Source: Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Map of J.L. McCrorey's Property, Charlotte, NC, Resurvey by Jerry Reshess, July 1928," *DigitalNC*, electronic document, <https://www.digitalnc.org/>, accessed October 27, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State



Figure 4. 1940 plat of McCrorey Heights. Source: Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, "Map of McCrorey Heights, Property of H.L. McCrorey, Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina, Revised Map & Survey by Jerry Reshess," April 20, 1940, map book 4, page 437, electronic document, <https://meckrothhistorical.com/welcome.asp>, accessed October 27, 2025.

McCrorey Heights Historic District

Name of Property

Mecklenburg County, NC

County and State

