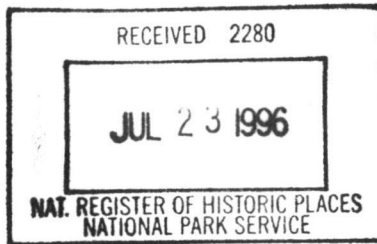


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Matthews Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 157-195 and 156-196 N. Trade St.; 118 E. Charles St. N/A not for publication

city or town Matthews N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28105

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow, SHPO 7/16/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8/22/96

Entered in the
National Register

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
10	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet**Matthews Commercial Historic District
Mecklenburg County, NCSection number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Matthews Commercial Historic District is a small and remarkably intact collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial and light industrial buildings. It occupies the north end of the 100 block of North Trade Street, the historic commercial thoroughfare of downtown Matthews.¹ Seven of the ten buildings comprising the district's primary resources front North Trade Street, while two reside along the alley that marks the district's west edge and one faces East Charles Street, the north boundary of the district. Five buildings share party walls. The rest are free-standing, separated from their neighbors by small graveled, rear parking areas or by grassy side yards, several of which contain shrubs and mature trees. North Trade Street is five lanes wide, but the concrete sidewalks, stepped up from the curb on the west side of the street, abut all but one of the main elevations and are of ample width for comfortable pedestrian travel. Several modern period streetlights and one very tall and streamlined modern lamp punctuate the concrete. Most of the building signs are painted, routed wood; only one is plastic and internally lit.

The district's boundaries are visually distinct. Beyond and parallel to East Charles Street is the CSX Railroad corridor with a single line of tracks flanked by broad swaths of right-of-way. Heavy landscaping installed in recent years has reduced the visual connection between the historic commercial buildings and the railroad and thus support the selection of East Charles Street as the district's north boundary. An empty grassed lot to the east and a modern "neo-colonial" brick-veneered bank building set back from the street and surrounded on two sides by asphalt paving define the district's south edge. Extending beyond, to a busy intersection at the south end of the block, there are one-story brick storefronts that display the characteristics of typical early twentieth-century commercial architecture but are of recent vintage.

With the exception of an ancillary, ca. 1970 building (entry 5B), all of the resources in the Matthews Historic District contribute to the area's historic character, ranging in date from 1888 to 1939 and retaining a notably high degree of integrity. Restrained decorative brickwork typical of modestly fashionable commercial buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries generally characterizes the district. All but one of the primary resources exhibit brick exteriors and all but two of these are a single story. The 1939 former United States Post Office (entry 5) is the only building in the district without a traditional commercial storefront. Canvas awnings shade seven of the district's ten storefronts.

Anchoring the northeast corner of the block, one of the oldest buildings in the district is the Heath and Reid General Store, built in 1888 (entry 8). The two-and-one-half-story painted brick building is one of the most architecturally distinctive in downtown Matthews, featuring corbeled brick pendants

¹Like many early twentieth-century commercial districts, streets are laid out in a grid pattern, in this case oriented approximately northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast. For the sake of clarity, simplified compass points are used in this nomination. Thus, northeast-southwest streets (N. Trade St. and the alleys) are considered to run north-south and flanking properties are described accordingly, while northwest-southeast streets are considered to run west-east.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Matthews Commercial Historic District
Mecklenburg County, NC

Section number 7 Page 2

at the primary cornice, a bracketed wooden cornice across the storefront, hood molds at the second-story windows facing East Charles Street, and dozens of metal stars marking anchor bolts at the top of the first and second stories on all four elevations. With detailing almost identical to that of the adjoining Heath and Reid General Store, the building on East Charles Street (entry 9) may be its contemporary. Its symmetrical six-bays fenestration consists of two doors flanked by two-over-two windows, all in segmental arches.

Most of the buildings in the district date to around the turn of this century, including the two-story brick building at 189 North Trade (entry 4), modestly detailed with vertical recessed panels at the primary cornice, a bracketed wood cornice across a modernized storefront, and very narrow label molds marking the segmental arches of the second-story window openings. Just to the south, the two one-story Funderburk Brothers buildings have narrow main facades occupied largely by intact storefronts. The older building at 159 North Trade (entry 3), erected in the late nineteenth century, features a three-bay storefront with a flush, center double door and flanking sash windows. The decorative brick corbel on the flat parapet appears to have been added when the adjacent dry goods store at 157 North Trade (entry 2), bearing the same motif, was built in 1901. The newer building has a recessed double door and flanking display windows, all united by a wooden bracketed cornice.

The 1890s one-story brick building abutting the alley now known as Library Lane completes the Funderburk Brothers complex (entry 1). The southern end of the building is a cross-gable-roofed grist mill that began as an L-shaped structure and was enlarged a few years later with an addition that filled in the recess of the L. The second, rectangular, gable-roofed unit to the north was built as a blacksmith shop. A continuous gable roof bridges the intervening ten-foot-passage, recently glassed in, that is marked by front and rear attic gables.

Like the Funderburk buildings on North Trade Street, Renfrow Hardware (entry 7) across the street is notable for its remarkably intact interior with original wooden floors and built-in display shelves. Characterized by clay-colored brick, an intact wood-framed storefront with bracketed cornice, and corbeled pendants across the roofline, the original portion of Renfrow Hardware, at the north end of the building, dates to ca. 1900 and was enlarged not long thereafter with a virtually identical unit distinguished from the original by the deeper red of its brickwork. The large 1930s addition continuing the North Trade streetscape gives the appearance of a separate building. This dark red brick structure of seven bays divided into three storefronts features cast-stone square blocks at the corners of flush, rectilinear patterns of brick stretchers and a central stepped parapet flanked by short projections that give the illusion of pilaster capitals.

The district's most recent historic building is the one-story dark red brick-veneered former U.S. Post Office built in 1939 at the northwest corner of North Trade and East Charles Street (entry 5). This freestanding building is one of the most distinctive in the district due to its Neoclassical Revival styling and set-back with front and side lawns. Formality characterizes the front and side elevations with their symmetrical fenestration, continuous stone cornice, and tall stepped parapet with stone coping. At the main facade, two stone Tuscan columns *in antis* front pairs of tall and narrow windows flanking a central double-door entrance with a lunette transom.

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The narrow one-story, gable-front frame building with a rectangular false-front parapet at 156 North Trade Street marks the southeast edge of the district (entry 6). Built in 1892 as the town's post office, it has an L-shaped extension to the rear that appears to be a residential addition giving the building an overall "T" shape.

There are only two ancillary buildings in the district, both to the rear of 195 North Trade Street at the northwest end of the district. Close to the rear of the former 1939 post office building, a small windowless, one-story, shed-roofed brick structure appears to be of early twentieth-century vintage and built for storage or as a pump house. Just behind this small structure, a ca. 1970 one-story, cinder block building extending almost to the back alley is the district's only noncontributing resource.

Inventory List**C 1. Funderburk Brothers Grist Mill and Blacksmith Shop, Library Lane, 1890s.**

Apparently built at the same time as two distinct units separated by a ten-foot passage, the grist mill and blacksmith shop were linked as a single building by a continuous gable roof with front and rear attic gables marking the passage. The grist mill is the four-bay-wide, three-bay-deep structure south of the attic gable, while the blacksmith shop is the rectangular two-bay-wide, one-bay-deep unit to the north. As originally constructed, the grist mill had an L-configuration with a wide double batten door topped by a latticework brick ventilator in the east gable end. Both units are laid in one-to-five bond, have exposed purlin or rafter ends in all the eaves, and feature rectangular window and door openings flanked by pilasters oddly terminating just above the top of each door and window. Molded surrounds at the two-over-two double-hung sash windows (recent replacements, based on two surviving windows, of later six-over-six windows) are identical to those of the E. J. Funderburk Building (entry 3), also apparently built in the 1890s. Within a few years of its construction, the grist mill was enlarged with a rear addition that filled in the recess of the ell and is distinguished by segmental-arched window and door openings and contrasting brick. The addition's gable roof parallels that of the original rear ell. After becoming severely deteriorated, the grist mill and blacksmith shop were rehabilitated as offices according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The rehabilitation entailed enclosure of this passage with glass, giving the two buildings their present, unified appearance, and removal of a later shed addition on the east flank of the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith shop roof had to be reconstructed, but the original trusswork of the grist mill survived and remains exposed, and some of the mill equipment has been preserved in place. The modern metal roof covering is similar to the original raised seam tin.

C 2. Funderburk Brothers Dry Goods Store, 157 N. Trade St., 1901.

Benjamin DeWitt Funderburk built this one-story brick building next to his father's earlier dry good store (entry 3).² The main facade features a recessed double door with a transom (now boarded

²Entries 2 and 3 are based upon Ruth Little-Stokes, "Architectural Sketch: Funderburk Brothers Buildings, North Trade Street, Matthews, North Carolina," 22 February 1978, prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission.

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over), flanking wood-framed plate-glass display windows, and a wooden bracketed cornice. Above, a paneled frieze bearing the painted name, "Funderburk Bros.," is concealed by modern wooden signage. A cornice of prominent corbeled sawtoothing topped by plain corbeling decorates the top of the flat parapet and extends across the facade of the adjoining building. The major alteration is a replacement brick wall on the south elevation that was built in 1978 following the demolition of the neighboring building to the south. The simple rear elevation has a shed canopy, double door, and a bricked-over window. The remarkably well-preserved interior contains the original wooden floor, narrow beaded board ceiling sheathing, center counter with low wooden stools on iron pedestals bolted to the floor on one side, and plaster side walls lined with built-in display shelves with molded cornices.

C 3. E. J. Funderburk General Merchandise Store, 159 N. Trade St., late 19th century. Ellison James Funderburk, the patriarch of the prominent mercantile Funderburk family, is believed to have started his retail enterprises in Matthews with the general merchandise business he established in this building. Its exact construction date remains unknown, but it certainly was between 1878, when he acquired the parcel, and 1898, when he sold it to his son. The one-story brick building has a narrow, three-bay storefront containing a flush, center double door with a transom and flanking double-hung sash windows. The simple brick facade is laid in a one-to-five bond; the facade openings have flat brick arches; and the vertical four-over-one sash appear to be 1920s replacements. The very plain treatment of the storefront with its small windows and flush entrance has been described as representing a transitional stage between domestic and commercial design. The flat roof is concealed by a flat parapet ornamented with the same corbeled sawtooth cornice of 157 N. Trade next door and apparently added when that building was constructed. The rear elevation has a shed canopy and a center batten door with flanking windows (now bricked over) that are capped by segmental arches. The interior contains an ornate pressed tin ceiling of coffered design, unpainted brick walls, and replacement wooden floor boards. An early wooden partition wall separates the main front room from a smaller room to the rear of the store.

C 4. Commercial Building, 189 N. Trade St., ca. 1900. The only two-story building on the east side of N. Trade St., this brick building features very plain corbeling at a flat parapet, a cornice of vertical recessed panels, and very narrow label molds marking the segmental arches of the second-story window openings. Although much of the storefront has been remodeled in recent years with aluminum-framed windows and doors, it retains its original bracketed wood cornice and the wooden door with window at the south end of the facade that provides access to the staircase to the second floor. Other changes to the building include remodeling of the interior when it was converted to offices and the installation of replacement one-over-one double-hung sash windows at the second story.

C 5. (former) U. S. Post Office, 195 N. Trade St., 1939. This freestanding, dark red brick building is one of the most distinctive in the district due to its Neoclassical Revival styling and set-back with front and side lawns. The rectangular five-bay-wide and five-bay-deep building was erected as a post office according to a design by W. Alexis Hood, an engineer with Southern Engineering Co. in Charlotte. Formality characterizes the front and side

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elevations with their symmetrical fenestration, continuous stone cornice, and tall stepped parapet with stone coping. At the one-story building's main facade, five stone steps between brick cheek walls rise to two stone Tuscan columns *in antis*, behind which pairs of tall and narrow twelve-pane windows with prominent stone sills flank a central double-door entrance topped by lunette transom. Narrow but somewhat wider metal-framed, multi-paned casement windows, also with stone sills and covered with metal security bars, line the side facades. On the rear, three-bay elevation, similar windows flank a central double-door entrance sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The building was leased to the federal government for use as a post office until the 1960s and has served a variety of retail purposes since then.³

C 5A. Building, rear of 195 N. Trade St., early 20th century.

This small windowless, one-story, shed-roofed brick structure, apparently built for storage or as a pump house, is situated close to the rear of the 1939 former U.S. Post Office.

N 5B. Building, rear of 195 N. Trade St., ca. 1970.

Extending from close to the small storage building (entry 6A) almost to the back alley, this one-story gable-roofed, cinder block building with a single door in the north elevation is the district's only noncontributing resource.

C 6. Combination Store and Residence, 156 N. Trade St., 1892.

The increasing rarity of late nineteenth-century frame commercial buildings, usually lost to fire and a preference for masonry construction, enhances the importance of this modest one-story building. Typical of its type, the front gable is concealed by a tall flat parapet, in this case a simple rectangle sheathed in weatherboards. Below, a central flush double door with parapet and a pair of flanking four-over-four double-hung sash windows extending from just above the pavement the full height of the entrance transom occupy almost the entire storefront. A very plain, weatherboarded, and gable-roofed L-shaped extension at the rear of the store unit is residential in nature and gives the building an overall "T" shape. The residential unit features a small hip-roofed porch, now partially enclosed and screened, that faces N. Trade St.; two interior flues, six-over-six sash windows; and molded box cornices with returns. Now somewhat dilapidated but still in use as a furniture repair shop, the building originally served as the town post office. The Champion family operated a retail business here early in the century and during World War II the Boyte family's restaurant occupied the building.⁴

C 7. Renfrow Hardware, 188 N. Trade St., ca. 1900 and 1930s.

Occupying a large portion of the east side of N. Trade St.'s 100 block, Renfrow Hardware gives the appearance of two buildings--a turn-of-the-century building with two storefronts to the north and a larger 1930s building with three storefronts to the south--but the development of the property is more complicated than the appearance suggests. The original portion of Renfrow Hardware is the single

³Memorandum from Dan L. Morrill to Claudia Brown, 8 May 1996, in the working file for this nomination at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

⁴*Ibid.*; and Richard L. Mattson, "Historic Landscapes of Mecklenburg County: The Small Towns," July 1991.

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storefront at the north end characterized by clay-colored brick in common bond with seventh-course headers, an intact wood-framed storefront, and corbeled pendants of varying lengths across the parapet roofline. The storefront has a recessed double-door entry, three display windows above paneled bulkheads to each side, and a bracketed cornice very similar to those of three buildings across the street (entries 2, 3, and 4). The north side wall is blank except for twelve star-heads made to hold metal tie rod ends. The small, grassed adjoining side yard serves as an area for plant sales. The interior is remarkably intact with original wooden floors, beaded board walls and ceiling, and built-in display shelves. It was built around 1900 by Thomas Jefferson Renfrow (1847-1935) as a typical country store selling feed, seed, supplies, and implements to area residents (Renfrow also operated a cotton gin in a detached building behind the store that was active until 1965 and razed in the late 1980s.) Early in this century Renfrow enlarged his building with an almost identical unit distinguished from the original by the deeper red of its brickwork in running bond. Striped canvas awnings shade both storefronts.

Larger than the two earlier sections combined, the 1930s addition gives the appearance of a separate building with its contrasting dark red brick, upper elevation ornament of cast-stone square blocks and flush, rectilinear patterns of soldier courses, and a central stepped parapet flanked by short projections that give the illusion of pilaster capitals. The six bays of the main facade, all flush with the street, are asymmetrically arranged into three storefronts: at the north end, double ten-pane windows under single transoms flank and double door with four-light transom; the middle storefront consists of a single glazed door with a tall transom at the center of the addition and a bank of three plate-glass windows to the right; and the south end is a small storefront of wood siding infilling a large opening and pierced by a full-light door and a relatively small display window. Six large windows covered with plywood line the south side elevation, while the rear of the 1930s building has three windows and three doors (single, double, and overhead). The interior spaces of the middle and south storefronts are finished and leased to retail businesses, but the large north space is part of Renfrow Hardware. This area has concrete floors and exposed trusses, painted plaster and brick walls, and many of the original fittings such as open seed bins and display shelves.

When Thomas Jefferson Renfrow died in 1935, his son Richard McDowell "Dow" Renfrow inherited the business. R. M. Renfrow (d. 1963) also farmed, was a salesman for the American Agriculture Company, and served as major of Matthews from 1943 to 1945. R.M.'s son and current owner Frank Renfrow began operating the store in 1957.

C 8. Heath and Reid General Store, 196 N. Trade St., 1888.

One of the oldest and most architecturally distinctive structure in downtown Matthews, this two-and-one-half-story painted brick building, three bays wide and eight bays deep, serves as a prominent anchor of the north end of the district with decorative facades on both N. Trade and E. Charles streets. Except for the removal of one of the original two recessed entrances and the installation of replacement multi-paned display windows, the storefront occupying the lower N. Trade St. elevation is largely intact with a full-width, ten-light transom (now shaded by an awning) and a heavily bracketed wood cornice. Above, windows are two-over-two double-hung sash set in shallow segmental arches and topped by a stringcourse that repeats the contour of the arches. The brick

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cornice of the N. Trade St. elevation consists of rectangular corbeled pendants framing simple corbeling above a row of headers set as dentils, while along E. Charles St. it continues without the dentil course and is punctuated by delicate corbeled pendants above a soldier course set as sawtoothing. All windows on the E. Charles St. elevation are almost identical to those facing N. Trade St. except that those of the second-story are capped by corbeled hoods. The E. Charles St. elevation also features two double-leaf doors, one of which is glass-paneled and topped by a two-light transom. Dozens of metal stars marking anchor bolts of tie rod ends at the top of the first and second stories on all four elevations. Otherwise, the rear and west side elevations are largely blank. Originally a single open space on each floor, including the full basement, the interior has been remodeled in recent years with modern finishes. Everard Jefferson Heath (1851-1912) and Edward Solomon Reid (1864-1934) purchased this property in 1888 and were operating their business in this building by 1889. An advertisement for Heath & Reid in the 1889 Charlotte city directory states that they were bankers, cotton buyers, and wholesale and retail merchants. After Reid moved to Charlotte, Heath took his eldest son as his partner and changed the name of the business to E. J. Heath Son. The elder Heath died in 1912 and in 1919 his wife sold the building to J. B. Hemby and W. L. Hemby, who continued to operate a store here. Subsequent tenants included John Paxton who operated a grocery store from the 1920s to the 1950s.⁵

C 9. Commercial Building, 118 E. Charles St., ca. 1890.

With detailing almost identical to that of the adjoining 1888 Heath and Reid General Store, the building on East Charles Street appears to be its contemporary. Its symmetrical six-bay fenestration consists of two glass-paneled, double-leaf doors with two-light transoms flanked by two-over-two windows, all in segmental arches. A subtle stringcourse outlines the blind brick arches of the openings. The cornice combines the motifs of the two cornices on the Heath and Reid building: rectangular corbeled pendants frame simple corbeling with a mousetooth course and a course of header dentils runs the full width of the facade at the base of the pendants. At the base of the corbeling, there are three evenly spaced metal stars marking tie rod end anchor bolts. Occupied by retail establishments for its entire history, the building has been updated on the interior with modern finishes.

⁵Dr. Dan L. Morrill, "Survey and Research Report on the Heath and Reid General Store," 5 November 1980, for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission.

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1880s - 1946 _____

Significant Dates

1888 _____

ca. 1900 _____

1939 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Comprising the north end of the 100 block of Matthews's main street, North Trade Street, the Matthews Commercial Historic District is one of the most impressive small-town commercial districts in Mecklenburg County. The district is remarkably intact, with ten of its eleven resources contributing to its historic character; the sole noncontributing building is an ancillary block utility building hidden by North Trade Street's streetscape. Initial development of downtown Matthews was prompted by completion in 1874 of the Central Carolina Railroad, which connected Wilmington and Charlotte and established a depot at the stagecoach stop known as Fullwood's Store. The area around the depot quickly attracted businessmen who established retail and service enterprises in newly constructed buildings, most of them frame for the first couple of decades. In 1875 the name of the local post office changed to Matthews in honor of a railroad board member, and when the town was incorporated in 1879, it boasted 200 residents. The earliest surviving buildings in the district include the large and prominently sited two-story Heath and Reid General Store of 1888 featuring corbelled pendants and the architecturally more reserved one-story brick E. J. Funderburk General Merchandise Store, also believed to have been built in the 1880s. All but two of the district's buildings erected over the next five decades followed these precedents as one- and two-story brick structures typical of small-town commercial architecture in their modest detailing of decorative brickwork and wood storefronts, often with bracketed cornices. The two buildings that housed Matthews's post office stand apart from this group architecturally: the small frame store of 1892, with a false parapet front, a very rare surviving example of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture; and the fashionable Neoclassical Revival style building with granite columns and trim, erected in 1939 expressly as the town's post office. The architectural importance of this group of nine primary buildings complements the area's significance in the realm of commerce generated by the railroad as they were largely built for and housed businesses operated by several of Matthews's most prosperous entrepreneurs. They included Ellison James Funderburk and his three sons whose interests numbered general merchandise and dry goods stores, a blacksmith shop, and a grist mill; Everard Jefferson Heath, banker, cotton buyer, and wholesale and retail merchant; and Thomas Jefferson Renfrow, whose general store specialized in hardware and farm supplies. All of the district's historic enterprises continued well past the middle of this century, several of them carried on by successive generations of the founding families.

Historic Contexts (Architecture and Commerce): The Commercial Districts at the Heart of Mecklenburg County's Small Towns

Between the 1880s and the Great Depression, small towns emerged as a significant settlement form in Mecklenburg County and across the Carolina Piedmont. Pineville, Matthews, Huntersville, and Cornelius grew from sleepy stagecoach stops or crossroads hamlets with names like Morrow's Turnout (Pineville) or Fullwood's Store (Matthews) into centers of local trade with bustling main

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Mecklenburg County, NCSection number 8 Page 9

streets and often clamorous industrial sites.¹ These four towns followed common patterns of development that engendered a distinctive small-town landscape in Mecklenburg County, combining features of the farm as well as the city. Like Charlotte, the county seat which blossomed into the hub of the Piedmont textile belt and a prominent symbol of New South industrialism, these towns held urban ambitions of their own. Townspeople vigorously participated in the "Cotton Mill Campaign" to bring mills to their communities, invested in red-brick commercial blocks and schools, and erected fashionable residences and churches. Their main streets invariably were oriented to railroad lines, which crisscrossed Mecklenburg County and sparked urban growth in the early 1900s.

While developing urban characteristics, Mecklenburg's small towns had a kinship with the surrounding countryside. The rolling landscape eased into town in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as farms and woodland rolled behind town lots. Pineville, Matthews, Huntersville, and Cornelius were settled primarily by rural folk. Their traditional farmhouse designs often occupied parcels broad enough for flourishing kitchen gardens and assorted outbuildings and street patterns reflected rural precedents with main thoroughfares tending to follow traditional local transportation routes, made wide enough to accommodate turning teams of horses. Reflecting both urban and rural impulses, these small towns ultimately took shape as a distinctive kind of place.

Matthews's strongest bond with Pineville, Huntersville, and Cornelius is the railroad. Due mainly to the availability of rail transportation, on the eve of the Civil War Charlotte was the county's only official "urban place." Between 1850 and 1860 Charlotte had become the junction of four rail lines that penetrated the county, and the population of this farming community and courthouse town promptly doubled in size to 2,265. As the county recovered from the Civil War in the latter decades of the century, new and rebuilt railways not only stimulated Charlotte's continued expansion but also spawned smaller shipping and trading points along their routes. In 1874 the Carolina Central Railway completed its line from Wilmington, North Carolina, to Charlotte, locating one of its depots southeast of Charlotte, beside a stagecoach stop known as Fullwood's Store. Five years later, the Town of Matthews was incorporated on this site, named, in fact, for a member of the Carolina Central's board of directors. By 1874 rails had been re-laid on the prewar Atlantic, Tennessee, and Ohio Railroad line between Charlotte and Statesville. Three years later, Huntersville was laid out along these tracks. During the early 1890s, Cornelius also took root along the A.T.&O. Railroad line, three miles north of Huntersville, and was incorporated in 1905, while Pineville grew up after the Civil War around a depot that the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad had fortuitously sited near the state line at the south end of the county in 1852.²

¹The town of Davidson, too, expanded in these decades and was influenced by the same social and economic forces. For all its similarities with these neighboring places, however, Davidson has historically played a unique role in the county as a college town, as evident in its physical appearance shaped by Davidson College, and thus is not included in this discussion.

²*Crossties Through Carolina: The Story of North Carolina's Early Day Railroads* (Raleigh: The Crossties Press, 1969); Lagette Blythe and Charles R. Brockman, *Hornet's Nest: The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* (Charlotte: McNally of Charlotte, 1961), 259-262, 417-422; H.E.C. Bryant, "Pineville was Quite a Town," *Charlotte Observer*, 21 May 1967.

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These four towns were part of a vast web of railroad-oriented settlements that spread throughout North Carolina in the late nineteenth century. Only twenty-two railroad towns existed in the state in 1860; by 1900 there were 225, the majority in the Piedmont.³ To be sure, most of these urban places were small. The largest of Mecklenburg's towns in 1900 was Pineville, population 585; by 1930 Cornelius headed the list with 1,230 residents. However, their importance lay not in their size but in their reflection of the Piedmont's changing economic, social, and cultural geography.

By the 1890s the region's railroad towns had been integrated in a national network of rail lines. Mecklenburg County, like the rest of the Piedmont, may have continued to be predominantly rural, but old patterns of isolation were being challenged by a new mobility and access to far-flung marketplaces. Railways tied the towns not only to each other and to Southern seaports but also to Northern markets and sources of building materials and finished goods. "We are no longer shut out of the rest of creation!" said the *Davidson Monthly* upon the reconstruction of the A.T.&O. Railroad. By 1894 this railway was part of the extensive Southern Railroad system which had direct connections to the North.⁴

Mecklenburg's small towns performed a host of local functions. Three of them became homes to cotton mills, symbols of a new order with the rail lines and towns that wove them together. By the turn of the century, Pineville, Huntersville, and Cornelius each had a textile factory, and two more rose in Cornelius and Huntersville prior to 1910. All of the towns, Matthews included, functioned as rural marketing and shipping stations for the local cotton crop. The small towns gave rise to schools and churches that served the needs of the growing populations. Hotels, liveries, teacherages, banks, and post offices also appeared, filling out commercial cores and spilling over into residential areas. Residential neighborhoods grew up around the business districts, the industrialists built housing for their workers around the mills, and African-American communities burgeoned at the towns' peripheries.⁵

Each town contained a host of general merchants who were part of a new and aggressive entrepreneurial class, enabled by the railroads to bypass Southern port cities and market the local cotton crop directly to Northern cities in exchange for goods shipped in by rail. Storekeepers stocked their shelves with the latest products from Northern stores and advanced agricultural supplies to farmers who, in turn, cultivated more and more cotton to pay for these provisions. These adroit Piedmont businessmen operated cotton gins, brokered cotton, organized banks, established textile mills, and were active in local and state politics. In Pineville, where the annual sale of cotton around the turn of the century was 6,000 bales, merchant Tom Younts reportedly "made a fortune" in the cotton trade and credit business. At the northwest end of the county, R. J. Stough and J. B. Cornelius "sold everything from cotton to coffins" in their Cornelius store and helped establish two

³Allen Tullos, *Habits of Industry: White Culture and the Transformation of the Carolina Piedmont* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 135-140.

⁴*Davidson [N.C.] Monthly*, 16 June 1871; David R. Goldfield, *Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers: Southern Region and City* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), 86-90.

⁵Blythe and Brockman, 421-422.

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cotton mills in town, while nearby Huntersville's stock of general stores climbed from three in 1900 to ten by the end of the decade. In Matthews, partners Everard Jefferson Heath and Edward Solomon Reid prospered as cotton buyers, merchants, and bankers during the 1890s. Across the street B. D. Funderburk operated a store and cotton gin, sold coal and fertilizer, and was the president of the Bank of Matthews. Neighbor Thomas Jefferson Renfrow not only owned one of the town's major dry goods stores and a cotton gin, but served seven years in the North Carolina General Assembly as well.⁶

"Main Street"--the principal business street--was the most important symbol of small-town commerce in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the county's railroad towns this corridor was invariably oriented to the tracks. In Pineville, Matthews, and Cornelius the main business street ran perpendicular to the railroad, while in Huntersville it squarely faced the tracks at the site of the depot so that the first impression a visitor stepping off the train had was of a place geared to commerce. Yet the small-town business areas were historically modest in scale, reflecting populations that averaged only about 900 residents by the 1930s. The retailing cores of Pineville and Matthews consumed about one block. Early rows of stores in Huntersville and Cornelius occupied merely one side of a block, with other general stores or smaller pockets of retail establishments located nearby.

Main streets offered a spectrum of goods and services. The county business directories published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries recorded an assortment of general stores, livery stables, drug stores, banks, hotels, and post offices. Main Street, Pineville, at the turn of the century was simply characterized as having "ten stores and two bars." Cotton gins, grist and saw mills, blacksmith shops, and other small industries (for example, Huntersville contained a marble works and Pineville a carriage manufacturer in 1896) were typically located away from the main thoroughfare, often along a back alley.⁷

Although there were few pretenses to beauty, main streets fit together at the beginning of the twentieth century as attractive, if not distinctive, business settings. They were pedestrian places where farmers and town residents walked to do their shopping. Perhaps all of the towns maintained rows of shade trees along their business streets, as shown in an early postcard view of Matthews but now lost. Buildings were one or two stories high and normally constructed of red brick. The vast majority of the late nineteenth-century frame commercial buildings were lost to fire or purposely replaced by the middle of this century. Brick commercial blocks embodied permanence and prosperity in these young towns, and clearly differentiated places of business from the predominantly wood-frame residential areas. The masonry was frequently made on or near the construction site, but as commercial districts expanded, brickyards with permanent kilns producing better quality, less porous bricks appeared. By 1910 Cornelius, for example, had a brickyard

⁶Levi Branson (ed.), *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1900* (Raleigh: Branson and Jones, Publishers, 1900); *North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, 1909* (Raleigh: News and Observer, 1909); *Mecklenburg Times*, 1 February 1962; interview with Mary Sherrill, 16 May 1991, Cornelius, NC.

⁷Branson, 1884, 1890, 1896, 1900; Daniel Augustus Tompkins, *History of Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte*, v. 2, (Charlotte: Observer Printing Company, 1903), 198-199.

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situated along the railroad tracks. The more enterprising merchants also installed shopfronts with large plate-glass display windows and bracketed cornices. The finest interiors boasted pressed tin ceilings. Storekeepers ordered all of these stylish features from out-of-town manufacturers and received them by rail, ready for installation.⁸

The landscapes associated with the textile culture and other aspects of the county's traditional small towns largely pre-date the 1930s. By the Great Depression, the sluggish textile industry and severe rural poverty provided scarce opportunities for new construction. Growth remained slow in the postwar decades as cotton production virtually vanished from the Piedmont and the role of agriculture in the local economy declined. In turn, the roles of storekeepers as cotton brokers and suppliers of merchandise to farmers diminished. The textile mills continued to operate and even enlarged their physical plants in Pineville and Cornelius, but their work force increasingly lived away from the traditional villages, benefiting from greater housing opportunities afforded them by better salaries and automobile ownership.

The automobile, indeed, has contributed mightily to the new patterns of growth. In combination with major highways that now span Mecklenburg County, motor vehicle transportation has fueled decentralized development. As the county's towns have expanded with spiraling population growth in recent years, new construction has taken place primarily on former farmland at their outskirts. At an accelerating pace, auto-oriented commercial strips, shopping malls, and residential subdivisions encircle historic town centers. Around Matthews alone, over one million square feet of shopping plazas were constructed or proposed between 1986 and 1991.⁹ Such outlying development, however, has spared the interiors of the towns from drastic physical change. Each Main Street, though altered to a certain degree by modern intrusions and recent demolitions, retains late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings, often occupying entire blocks and lending a distinctive historic character to their respective downtowns.

Historical Background

The origins of the area that became the Matthews Commercial Historic District can be traced to 1874 when the Central Carolina Railroad Company completed its east-west line from Wilmington to Charlotte. Approximately halfway between Monroe and Charlotte, the railroad erected a depot near a post office and stagecoach stop known as Fullwood's Store for its operator, John M. Fullwood. The railroad stop quickly became the focal point of economic activity in eastern Mecklenburg County, and in 1875 the settlement around the depot and store was renamed "Matthews" in honor of Watson Matthews, a member of the railroad's Board of Directors. The depot attracted merchants and other businessmen who established enterprises in the immediate vicinity, primarily south of the tracks. Here, area farmers could obtain supplies and merchandise, both for their own use and to stock

⁸Catherine W. Bishir, et al., *Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 247-251; Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Mecklenburg County, Population Schedule.

⁹*Charlotte Observer*, 21 May 1989.

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country stores that served hired farm hands. Annual business activity peaked in the fall when cotton, the region's principal cash crop, was sold and prepared for shipment to distant markets. The fact that the depot soon became a stop for five passenger and eight freight trains daily attested to Matthews's economic importance. When the Town of Matthews was incorporated in 1879, the settlement had grown to approximately 200 residents.¹⁰

One of the most successful businessmen to establish himself near the depot in the town's early years was Ellison James Funderburk (1836-1916), who migrated soon after the end of the Civil War from South Carolina to eastern Mecklenburg County where he became a prosperous farmer. Funderburk purchased his first parcel of land in Matthews in 1878 and in the 1890s was joined by three of his five sons--Benjamin DeWitt Funderburk, Thomas Lee Funderburk, and Ellison Albertus Morgan Funderburk. By the turn of the century the Funderburks operated a complex of enterprises concentrated in brick buildings on the west side of the 100 block of North Trade Street, including a blacksmith shop and grist mill in a building facing an alley and a general merchandise store at 159 North Trade. A cotton gin stood just north of the tracks. The younger generation expanded their interests beginning with construction around 1901 of a livery stable immediately south of the Matthews Commercial Historic District and the dry goods store building at 157 North Trade Street. The latter project was undertaken by Benjamin DeWitt Funderburk, who had acquired his father's general merchandise store at 159 North Trade in 1898. He worked closely with his brother Thomas in establishing new enterprises, including the Bank of Matthews and a second dry goods store for which a two-story brick building was erected in 1909, also immediately south of the district.¹¹ The third brother, Ellison Albertus Morgan Funderburk, was a cashier at the Bank of Matthews until his death in 1937.¹²

Records suggest that Ellison James Funderburk's strongest competition came from Everard Jefferson Heath (1851-1912) and Edward Solomon Reid (1864-1934), who in 1888 purchased a lot on the east side of the 100 block of North Trade Street, near the tracks, and the following year were operating as Heath and Reid General Store in a large two-story brick building they had constructed on the site.¹³ An advertisement in the 1889 Charlotte City Directory includes a drawing of the

¹⁰Dan L. Morrill, historical sketch prepared 22 February 1978 and subsequently incorporated in "Survey and Research Report of Funderburk Brothers Buildings," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 1991, p. 3. The account of the Funderburk family's enterprises also is based upon this report.

¹¹A fire in 1918 destroyed most of the livery stable and another fire in 1958 destroyed the second story of the 1909 bank and dry goods store building. In 1978, Branch Banking and Trust Company, which had recently acquired the Bank of Matthews, razed the remainder of the two buildings in order to build a new bank on the site. The cotton gin had been removed at an earlier, undetermined date.

¹²Of the three brothers, Benjamin DeWitt Funderburk is cited in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission's survey and research report on the Funderburk Brothers buildings as the most prominent, having remained a member of the Bank of Matthews board of directors from 1909 until his death in 1954 and having been widely known for his three terms of service (1909-13, 1915-27, and 1935-49) on the Mecklenburg County Board of Education.

¹³Ten years earlier, Reid's father, Jeremiah Solomon Reid (1831-1906), had been one of the founders of the Town of Matthews. Dan L. Morrill, "Survey and Research Report on the Heath and Reid General Store,"

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building adorned with signs proclaiming Heath and Reid to be wholesale and retail merchants, cotton buyers, and bankers. The name of the business changed to E. J. Heath & Son after Reid moved to Charlotte and Heath took his eldest son as his partner. The elder Heath's 1912 obituaries in the Charlotte newspapers variously described him as one of the county's most prominent men and a successful entrepreneur with the "Midas touch." The general store was a hub of activity: while farm supplies were the mainstay of the firm's operations, groceries were sold at the rear of the building and women could purchase notions at the front.

According to oral tradition, Everard Jefferson Heath's business depended in large part from his role as a "furnishing merchant" loaning supplies to sharecroppers in the spring and exacting payment in the form of crops in the fall. The fact that the Funderburk family operated a cotton gin in addition to the assortment of retail and other service enterprises suggests that they, too, operated as furnishing merchants supporting area farmers with crop liens. Cotton was the perfect cash crop for this system because it does not spoil and could be held by the merchant until the market price was desirable for sale.¹⁴

In 1900, the Funderburks and Heath began to face additional competition from Thomas Jefferson Renfrow when he opened his general merchandise business on the east side of North Trade Street's 100 block, which he supplemented with the services of a cotton gin on a rear alley. The store carried a full spectrum of farm supplies and for many years ginned free of charge the first cotton bale brought to them each season. Renfrow started out in a one-story brick building with a single storefront and within a few years doubled his space with the addition of an almost identical storefront.¹⁵

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the Matthews Commercial Historic District was a bustling center of prosperous businessmen occupying stylish one- and two-story brick buildings, including a two-story building immediately north of the Funderburks' stores and a one-story building to the rear of the Heath general store. The only exception was the modest one-story frame storefront at 156 North Trade Street which had contained the town's post office since 1892.

The district's commercial enterprises continued throughout the 1910s and 1920s and apparently avoided the disaster that befell many business districts during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Funderburk businesses operated under the direction of the three brothers until the deaths of Ellison Albertus Morgan Funderburk in 1937 and Thomas Lee Funderburk in 1940, and thereafter continued under the supervision of the surviving brother, Benjamin DeWitt Funderburk, and his children. Everard Jefferson Heath's widow sold his building in 1919 to J. B. Hemby and W. L.

prepared 5 November 1980 for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, p.1. All information in this nomination pertaining to Heath and Reid is taken from this research report.

¹⁴Paula M. Stathakis, historical sketch incorporated in "Survey and Research Report of Renfrow Hardware Store," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 1991, pp. 3-4.

¹⁵*ibid.*, pp. 3-5. Located on Cotton Gin Alley, immediately east of the district, the Renfrow cotton gin was active until 1965 and dismantled in the late 1980s.

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Hemby, who continued to operate a store there. Beginning in the late 1930s, a subsequent owner rented the building for many years to John Paxton for his grocery. At Thomas Jefferson Renfrow's death in 1935, the general merchandise business was inherited by his son, Richard McDowell Renfrow, who soon enlarged the building with a spacious brick addition containing three storefronts, one for his operation and the other two for lease. The district marked the eve of World War II with the construction of a handsome Neoclassical Revival style building leased by the United States government for Matthews's new post office in 1939.

For the most part, the historic uses of the resources in the Matthews Commercial Historic District prevailed for many years following the end of World War II. The Funderburk brothers' dry goods store at 157 North Trade Street remained in operation until the early 1970s and thereafter the building accommodated a succession of retail businesses up to the present, as has the family's oldest surviving building next door at 159 North Trade. Over the years, their blacksmith shop and grist mill in the building on the rear alley were supplanted by a woodworking shop and retail establishments before becoming a storage building in the 1970s. Since the post office vacated the building at 195 North Trade in the 1960s, it has served a variety of retail purposes and currently houses an antiques shop. Remarkable just for the fact of its survival, even the small frame building at 156 North Trade Street has remained in almost continuous use, operated as a restaurant during World War II and in recent years used by a furniture repair business. The twice-expanded Renfrow building, known for many years as Renfrow's Hardware and operated by Thomas Jefferson Renfrow's grandson Frank since 1957, is especially significant for the uninterrupted fulfillment of its original purpose by its founding family to the present.

Recognizing the importance of the area's historic character and its potential to enhance their businesses, downtown Matthews merchants have demonstrated their commitment to preserving the district through recent rehabilitation projects including storefront restoration of the Renfrow building and the thorough rehabilitation of the Heath and Reid building. The greatest transformation has occurred at the Funderburk complex, where the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission has renovated the two surviving stores for continued retail use and the combination blacksmith shop and grist mill for offices. The collection of well-preserved buildings in the Matthews Commercial Historic District today lends Matthews its reputation for having one of the most historic downtowns of Mecklenburg County's small towns.

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- Mattson, Richard L. "Historic Landscapes of Mecklenburg County: The Small Towns. Report prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, July 1991.
- Morrill, Dan L. "Survey and Research Report on the Heath and Reid General Store." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 1980.
- Stathakis, Paula M. "Survey and Research Report of Renfrow Hardware Store." Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, 1991.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 2.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 2 5 3 2 0	3 8 8 5 7 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia R. Brown / Richard L. Mattson

organization NC State Historic Preservation Office/
Mattson, Alexander & Associates date June 1996

street & number 109 E. Jones St./
309 E. Park Ave., #4 telephone 919/733-6545
704/376-0985

city or town Raleigh / Charlotte state NC zip code 27601-2807 / 28203

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As shown on the accompanying composite of portions of two Mecklenburg County tax maps (Book 193, page 26 and Book 215, page 1), the Matthews Commercial Historic District encompasses all of lots 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in block 262 (Book 193, page 26) and all of lots 1, 2, 3, and 7 in block 13 (Book 215, page 1).

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries on the Matthews Commercial Historic District encompass the concentration of Matthews's historic and largely intact commercial and light industrial buildings. Transportation corridors (including the recently landscaped CSX Railroad right-of-way, which creates a visual barrier between the commercial buildings and the railroad tracks), non-commercial architecture (such as the residential property west of the unnamed alley bisecting block 262) and less-than-fifty-year-old construction immediately beyond the selected boundaries were crucial to determining the edges of the district.

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Matthews Commercial Historic District
Mecklenburg County, NC

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of District: Matthews Commercial Historic District

Location: Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Photographer: Claudia R. Brown

Date: January 1996

Negative Location: N. C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

- A. Heath and Reid General Store (entry 8) and 118 E. Charles St. (entry 9); to the southeast
- B. View of south side of 100 block of N. Trade St., featuring Renfrow Hardware (entry 7) and 156 N. Trade St. (entry 6, at right end); to south
- C. View of north side of 100 block of N. Trade St., featuring Funderburk Brothers Dry Goods Store (entry 2, left), E. J. Funderburk General Merchandise Store (entry 3, middle), and 189 N. Trade St. (entry 4); to north
- D. Interior of Funderburk Brothers Dry Goods Store (entry 2); to southeast
- E. Former U. S. Post Office (entry 5), to north [entry 5B, non-contributing building to north of Post Office]
- F. Funderburk Brothers Grist Mill and Blacksmith Shop (entry 1), to south

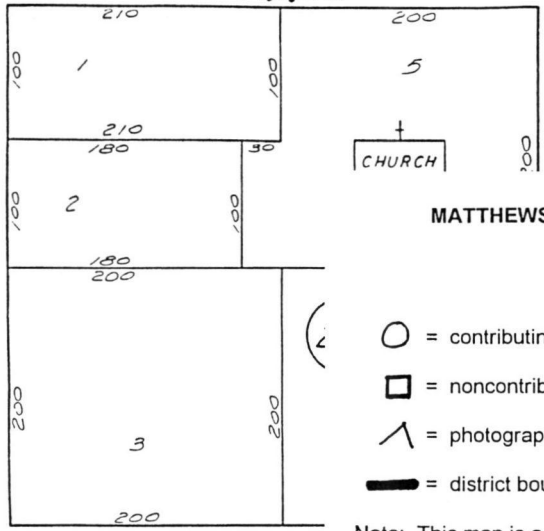
#1009
ST.

(MONROE RD.)

JOHN W.

Book 193, Page 26 ↑
Book 215, Page 1 ↓

#1009

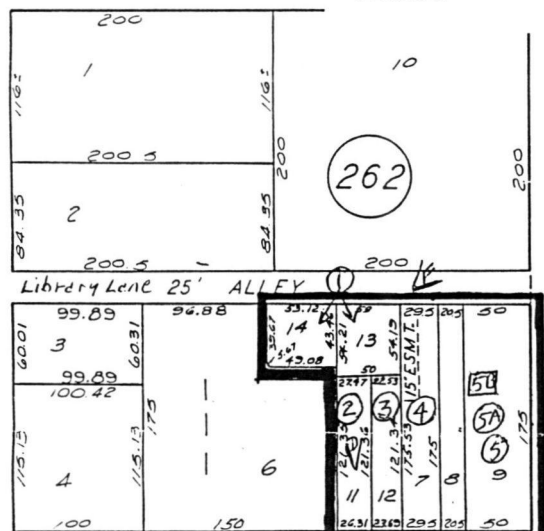
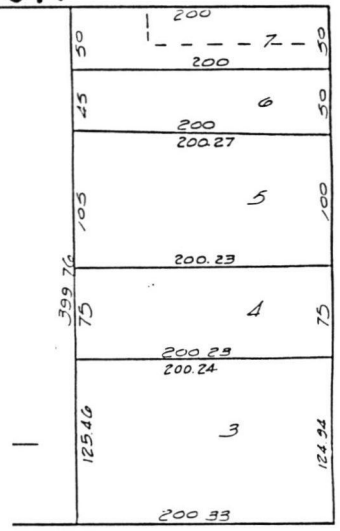


MATTHEWS COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Matthews, North Carolina

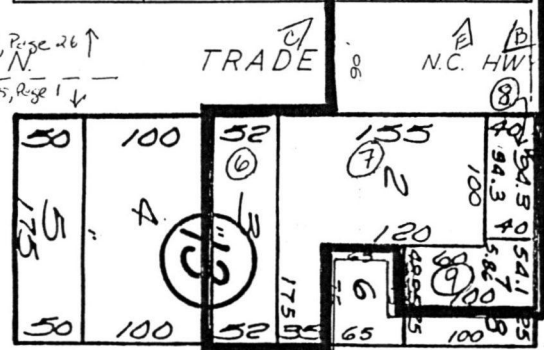
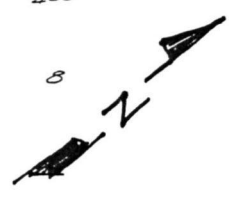
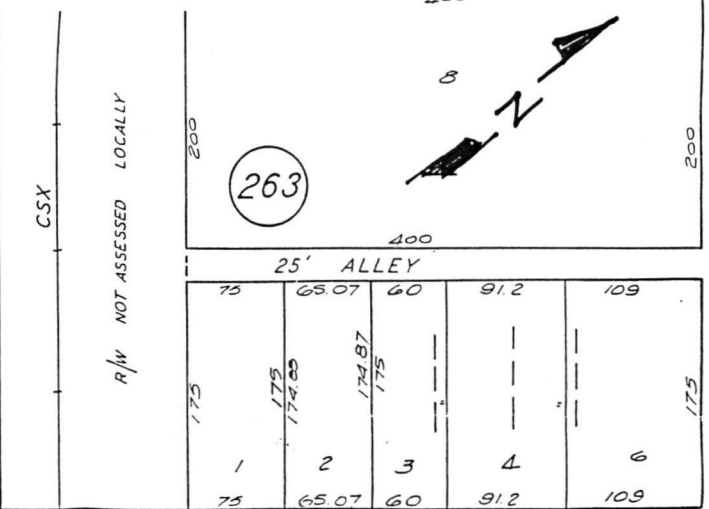
1" = 100'

- = contributing resource, keyed to inventory list
- = noncontributing resource, keyed to inventory list
- ∧ = photograph, keyed to list at end of nomination
- = district boundary

Note: This map is a composite of portions of two Mecklenburg County tax maps: page 26 of map book 193 and page 1 of map book 215.

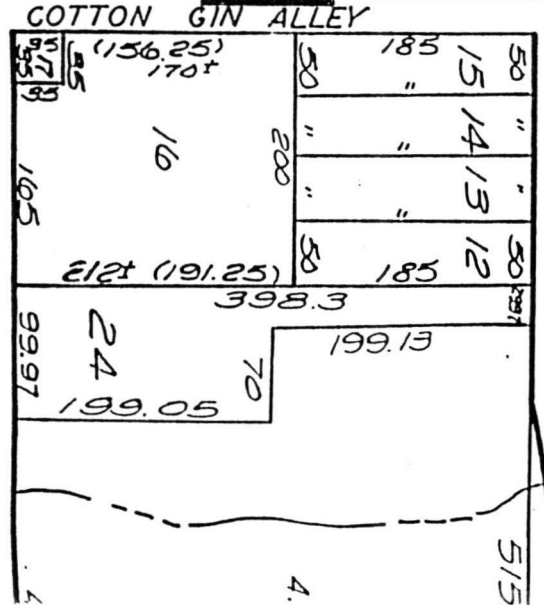


CHARLES ST.

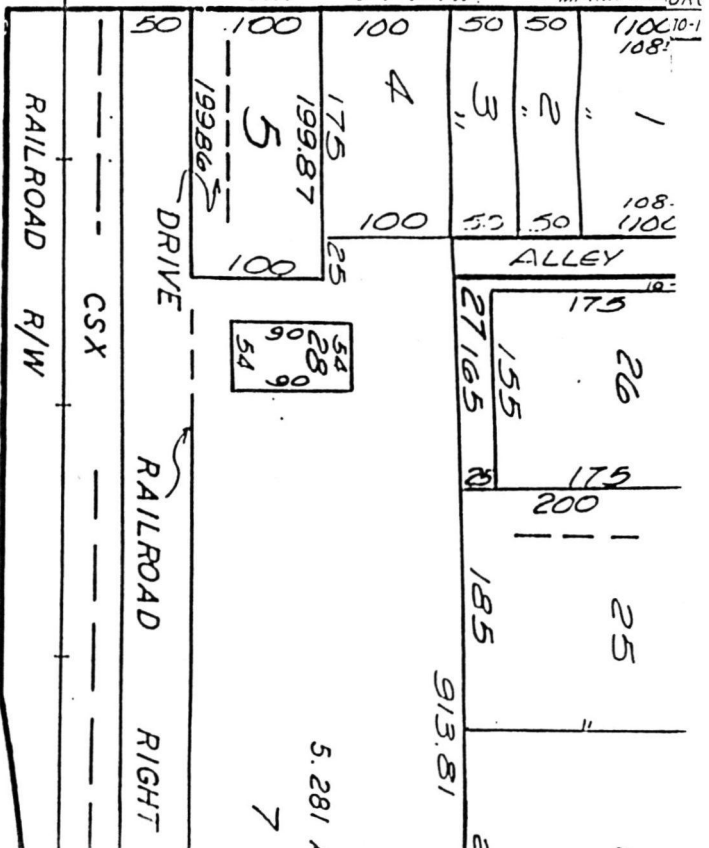


TRADE ST.

E. CHARLES ST.



E. CHARLES ST.



RAILROAD ST.

DRIVE ST.

#3474
TAX LINE
MECKLENBURG
100.10-1
108.1
108.1
110.1

215-01

100	100	50	50	100.10-1
175	175	50	50	108.1
199.87	199.87	50	50	110.1
199.87	199.87	50	50	
100	100	50	50	

100	100	50	50	100.10-1
175	175	50	50	108.1
199.87	199.87	50	50	110.1
199.87	199.87	50	50	
100	100	50	50	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Matthews Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Mecklenburg

DATE RECEIVED: 7/23/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/06/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/22/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/06/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000928

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/22/96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register.

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



MERCANTILE

FRANK'S

N. 96.3.724

Matthews Commercial Historic District
Matthews, NC



H
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E

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PAUL BERRY & CO.
BREADS & BUTTER

N. 96. 3. 697

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Matthews, NC.



N.96.3.714

① Matthews Commercial Historic District
Matthews, Nc



Matthews Antiques & Collectibles

195

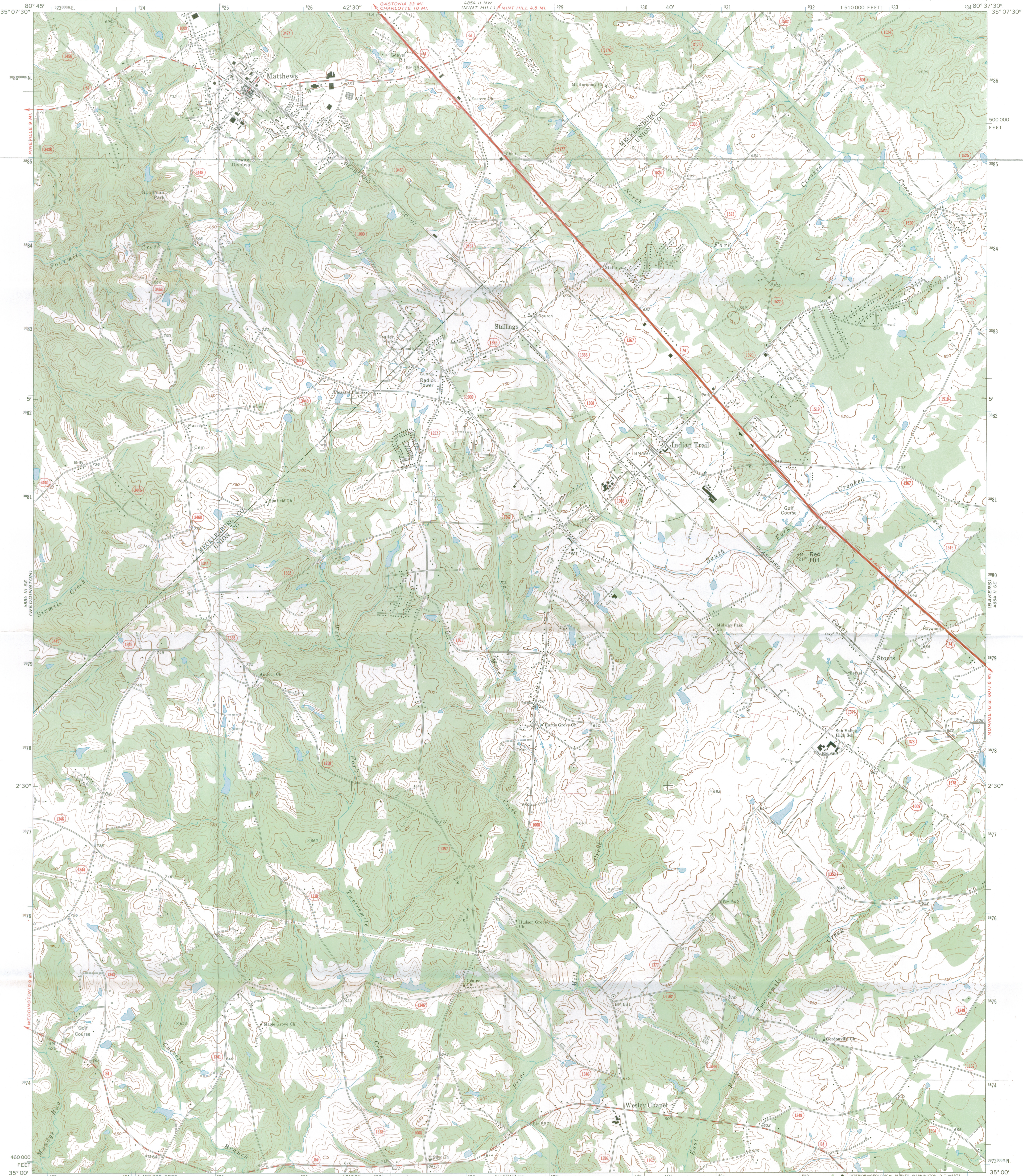
N. 96.3.689

(E) Matthews Commercial Historic District
Matthews, NC

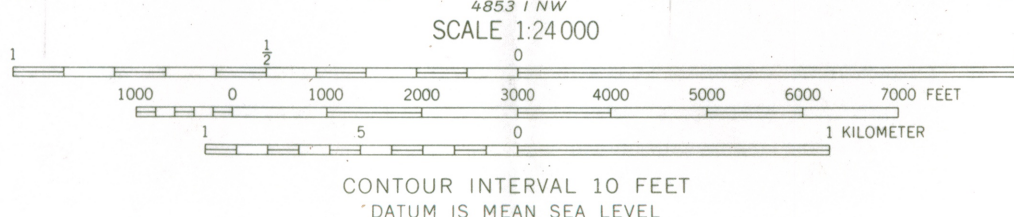
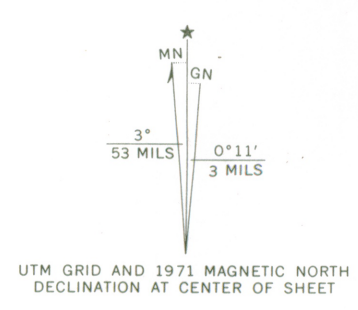


N. 96.3. 709

Ⓕ Matthews Commercial Historic District
Matthews, NC



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and North Carolina Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina
coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MATTHEWS, N. C.
N3500-W8037.5/7.5
1971
AMS 4854 II SW-SERIES Y842

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic
Landmarks Commission**

2100 Randolph Road Telephone: (704) 376-9115
Charlotte, N.C. 28207 Fax: (704) 372-4584

July 3, 1996

Claudia Brown
Survey and Planning Branch
North Carolina Division of Archives and History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807

Re: Matthews Historic District

Dear Claudia:

Enclosed are statements signed by Ann Schrader, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, and J. Christopher Oates, Chairman of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, which affirm that the signers believe that the proposed Matthews Historic District does meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Also enclosed is a copy of an article which ran in the *Charlotte Observer* and which gave notice of the public meeting regarding the proposed Matthews Historic District. I will bring updated slides of the Funderburk buildings to the National Register Advisory Committee meeting on July 11th.

I and the members of the Historic Landmarks Commission are most appreciative of the time, energy and expertise which you devoted to the preparation of this nomination. Indeed, your assistance was vital to the success of this effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,

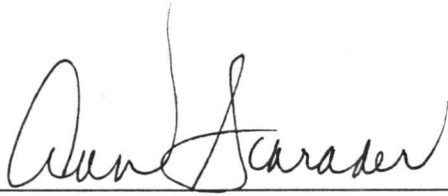


Dr. Dan L. Morrill
Consulting Director

encls.

cc: J. Christopher Oates, HLC Chairman

I, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, have reviewed the nomination for the Matthews Historic District and find that the proposed district **meets** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. I, therefore, **recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register.



7-1-96

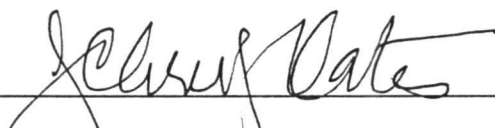
Ann Schrader

DATE



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission

We, the members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, have reviewed the nomination for the Matthews Historic District and find that the proposed district **meets** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register.



J. Christopher Oates, Chairman

7/1/96

DATE

Historic designation likely.

MATTHEWS

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission is pressing for historic designation for parts of downtown Matthews.

The sections include parts of Trade and Charles streets.

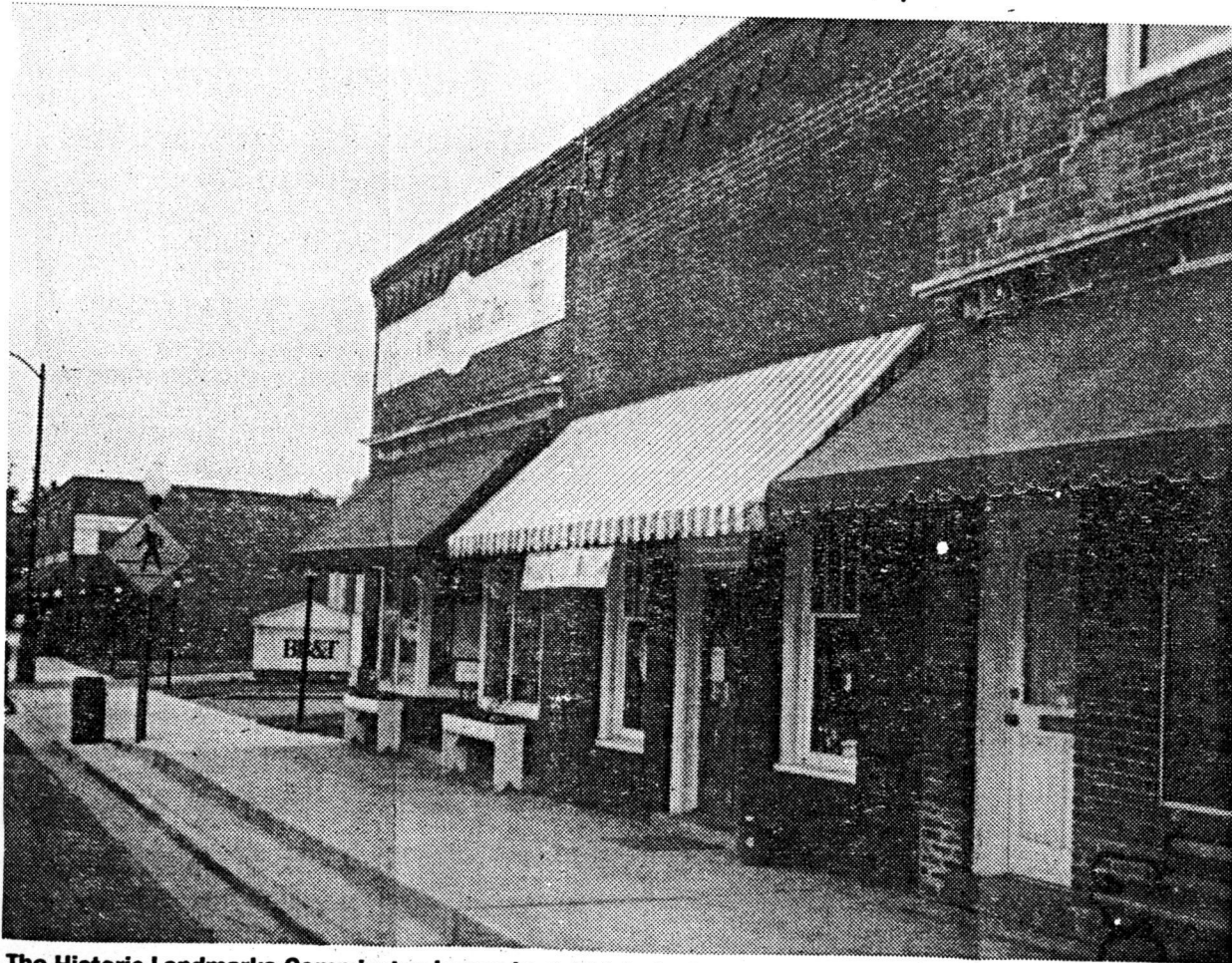
"It's quite an honor to have such a designation," said Dan Morrill, consulting director of the Historical Landmarks Commission. "It would allow lucrative tax credit for investors to use to rehabilitate buildings making restoration economically viable. It also protects the town against insensitive road widening.

"The federal and state government couldn't come in and destroy anything designated as historic,"

Morrill said. "It also draw people's attention attracting tourism."

A public hearing will be June 20 at 6 p.m. so the town can get public input on the matter. The meeting will be in the Hood Meeting Room at the Matthews Police Department, 224 N. Trade St. in Matthews.

Kathy Mendieta



The Historic Landmarks Commission hopes to get historic designation for parts of downtown Matthews, making restoration financially more attractive and potentially drawing tourists to the area.

5354

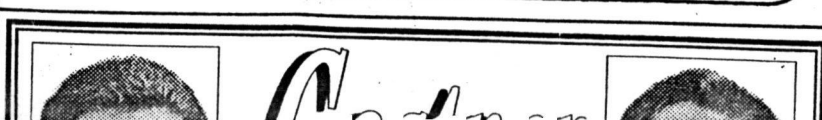
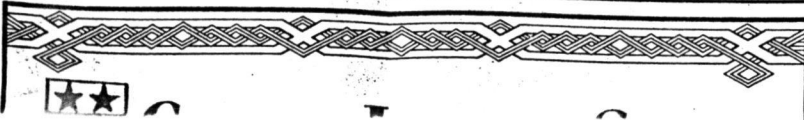
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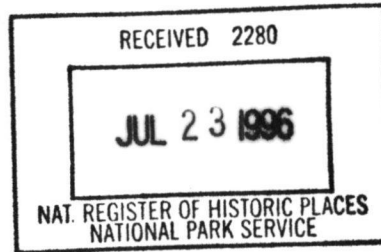


North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History
Jeffrey J. Crow, Director

July 19, 1996



Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: Matthews Historic District, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the nomination for the above-referenced property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find the nomination to be in order. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Harris Edmisten at 919/733-6545.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey J. Crow".

Jeffrey J. Crow
State Historic Preservation Officer

JJC/she

Enclosures

