

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 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. 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 Central School Historic District

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number N. Battleground Ave.; N. Piedmont Ave.; E. King St.; E. Ridge Ave.; and N. Gaston St. not for publication N/A
city or town Kings Mountain vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Cleveland code 045
zip code 28086

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jesse Brown SHPO 3/19/01
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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 or other official Date

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Signature of 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

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>52</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>56</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>church-related residence</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>rail-related building</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>commercial building</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>school</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>church-related residence</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>rail-related building</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>commercial building</u>
<u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u>	<u>museum</u>

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire; Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival;
Classical Revival; Tudor Revival; Late Gothic Revival
LATE 19TH and 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Bungalow/Craftsman; Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE: granite, limestone; BRICK; CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT; METAL: tin; WOOD: shake
walls WOOD: Weatherboard; STUCCO; BRICK; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
other GLASS; METAL; STONE: fieldstone; CONCRETE

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

See Continuation Sheets

=====
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 a 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)

- ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance c. 1870-1950

Significant Dates N/A

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.)

See Continuation Sheets

Name of Property Central School Historic District

County and State Cleveland Co., NC

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(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: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Western Office

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Approximately 21 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	468640	3900060	3	17	469000
2	17	469000	3900060	4	17	468640

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) **See Continuation Sheet**

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) **See Continuation Sheet**

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Megan D. Eades & Brian R. Eades date August 2000

street & number 1039 Magnolia Street telephone (912) 746-6510

city or town Macon state GA zip code 31201

Name of Property Central School Historic District

County and State Cleveland Co., NC

=====
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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple owners

street & number See above

telephone N/A

city or town Kings Mountain state North Carolina zip code 28086

=====
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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

7. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Central School Historic District is located in southwestern Cleveland County, North Carolina. Situated approximately ten miles from the South Carolina border and roughly thirty miles northwest of Charlotte, North Carolina, Kings Mountain is surrounded by small towns and textile communities. The district is a well-defined and remarkably intact collection of residential buildings interspersed with two religious facilities, a commercial building, and a railroad depot. The proposed historic district encompasses an approximately two-block by two-block section (roughly two full blocks and two partial blocks) of the residential neighborhood located around the former Central High School in the northwestern area of Kings Mountain. The district contains buildings located on the west and east sides of North Battleground Avenue between East King Street and Parker; the west and east sides of North Piedmont Avenue between East King Street and Parker Street; and the west and east sides of North Gaston Street between East King and Parker; the north side of East King Street between North Piedmont and North Gaston; and the north and south sides of East Ridge Street between North Battleground Avenue and North Gaston Street. The district is roughly bounded on the west by the Southern Railroad and Battleground Avenue, on the north by other commercial and residential areas north of Parker Street, on the east by North Gaston Street, and on the south by commercial and residential areas south of King Street (Business Route 74).

The properties contained in the Central School Historic District were the subject of a reconnaissance-level historic sites survey conducted in 1980 by Carol Perrin, Historic Preservation Consultant, in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office, and the area was re-surveyed as part of a county-wide historic sites survey conducted by Brian Eades in 1997-1998, under the auspices of the Cleveland County Historic Preservation Task Force and the State Historic Preservation Office. Both surveys represent the ongoing effort to comprehensively survey and evaluate historic resources in the Cleveland County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

The district is comprised largely of late nineteenth and early-to-mid twentieth-century residential buildings and contains fifty-six (56) contributing and six (6) non-contributing resources that range in date from circa 1870 to 1950. Houses, churches, and commercial buildings are considered primary resources, while detached garages, outbuildings, storage facilities, and fences are considered secondary resources. The inventory at the end of this section provides a complete list of the resources according to type and date.

Most of the buildings within the district are best classified by their architectural type, and represent popular forms such as gable front and wing, or L-Plan; cruciform plan; Foursquare; cottage; and bungalow. These buildings do not exhibit clearly definable exterior features associated with a particular architectural style, but may have subtle details or exterior ornamentation typical of the period, especially among the Victorian and bungalow dwellings. There are, however, good examples of Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Gothic Revival, and Craftsman styles contained within the Central School Historic District.

Primary building materials include weatherboard, brick, and concrete cladding, asphalt shingles or rubber roof materials, and brick, stone, or concrete foundations. Most of the contributing buildings retain their historic materials or exhibit replacement materials that are like or compatible with the historic finishes. Exterior details and other defining features are also intact.

The streets contained within the district boundaries were platted in a grid pattern, and all streets retain their original widths with very few changes to the historic setting other than the addition of concrete sidewalks, asphalt paving, and contemporary street lamps. All the buildings are set back uniformly from the street, and, in some cases, are backed by alleys that bisect the city blocks. Deciduous trees, evergreens, and a variety of shrubbery and other landscaping elements are prevalent throughout

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 3

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

the neighborhood and contribute to the overall residential character of the district.

In summary, the Central School Historic District is a substantially intact group of historic resources that reflect the community planning and development in Kings Mountain during the late nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century. The district retains the integrity of its setting and exhibits traditional patterns of land use.

All buildings within the district are described in the following section, and are arranged by address. A complete list of property owners is included with the nomination. Each property description is listed by address with the original owners' name or historic name for the building. Date of construction (or estimated date based on available records) and contributing/non-contributing status for each resource are also listed as follows:

INVENTORY LIST

The following bibliographic references were used in preparing the inventory list: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office architectural survey files for Cleveland County; published local histories and local surveys; and information from local residents.

The inventory list is organized on a street-by-street basis. North-south streets are listed first followed by east-west streets. On both the north-south streets and the east-west streets, the list moves in chronological order from south to north, listing the even numbers first followed by the odd-numbered properties.

Key

C= Contributing Resource
N= Non-contributing Resource
OB= Outbuilding
S= Structure

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

<u>List</u>	<u>St.#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description /original owner-occupant (if known)</u>	
West Side, North Battleground Avenue				
C	1	201	1925	Second Southern Railway Depot; one-story brick passenger station with subtle Italianate influence in the low-pitched hipped roof with vergeboards and scroll sawn brackets; grouped four-over-four sash windows; three interior ridge chimneys.

West Side, North Battleground Avenue

CS	1a	N/A	c.1870	Railroad Tracks; two hundred and fifty feet (250') of modern creosote-lined railroad ties with accompanying iron line owned by Norfolk Southern Railway.
----	----	-----	--------	---

East Side, North Battleground Avenue

C	2	104	c.1870	First William Andrew Mauney House; one-and-one-half story frame dwelling with weatherboard cladding and wood shakes on the side-gabled roof; three-quarter width open porch with shed roof supported by plain wood posts; one-story rear ell.
C	3	106	c.1877	Second William Andrew Mauney House; two-story frame Victorian dwelling; hipped roof with two cross-gables with cornice returns; full-width open porch with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

jigsaw details and scroll-work; one-over-one sash windows with wood lintels and frames; two interior brick chimneys.

C 4 108 c.1935 **Cline-Rippy House;** one-story frame cottage with side-gable roof; the centered entrance is sheltered by a gabled pedimented entry porch, and flanked by single, one-over-one sash windows with wood shutters. An enclosed entry porch with gabled roof is located on the north elevation.

East Side, North Battleground Avenue

COB 4a 108 c.1935 **Outbuilding/Privy;** Small, frame building with a shed roof, single door entrance, and small side window.

West Side, North Piedmont Avenue

C 5 107 c.1877 **Jacob S. Mauney House;** one-and-one-half story frame Victorian dwelling with gable front and wing plan (L-plan); open wraparound porch is supported by narrow wood columns on brick piers and has a pedimented entrance; porch on northwest corner is enclosed with grouped six-over-six windows; gable front has deep cornice returns and one-over-one sash windows; three-sided bay is located on the east elevation.

COB 5a 107 c.1877 **Outbuilding;** frame storage building with gabled center bay flanked by lean-to additions with shed roofs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 6

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

CS 5b 107 c.1877 **Retaining Wall.** Granite retaining wall with granite posts.

C 6 115 c.1915 **William Kemp Mauney House;** Two-story frame house with side-gabled roof, two gabled dormers, and four-over-one double-hung sash windows; full-width open porch has narrow wood columns resting on brick piers.

West Side, North Piedmont Avenue

COB 6a 115 c.1915 **Outbuilding;** one-and-one-half-story weatherboard building with gabled roof and stone accents.

CS 6b 115 c.1915 **Fence.** Wrought-iron fence composed of iron bars set between stone posts in a stone base.

C 7 119 c.1900 **The Reverend John D. Mauney House;** one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne dwelling with weatherboard cladding and brick foundation; steeply-pitched hipped roof with two-story turret and gabled dormer; full-width, open, wrap-around porch has paired and single wood columns and a pedimented entrance; most windows are six-over-six double-hung sash in various sizes; a two-story wing with gabled roof and one-story lean-to with shed roof are located at the rear of the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

COB	7a	119	c.1940	Garage. one-story frame garage with gabled roof and two bays containing paneled wood doors.
COB	7b	119	c.1900	Outbuilding. one-story frame building with gabled roof and exterior end chimney.
CS	7c	119	c.1900	Fence. Wrought-iron fence with decorative posts and a brick base.

West Side, North Piedmont Avenue

C	8	201	1921; 1950	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; Neo-Gothic style brick church composed of a small sanctuary or chapel that faces Ridge Street to the south and was constructed in 1921; this section has a gabled roof with front-facing gable and parapet and small entry porch; a larger sanctuary faces North Piedmont and was built in 1950; this section features a large bell tower with gothic spires and gothic arches; banks of gothic-arched windows line the north and south elevations; a large carved stone, arched entrance faces Piedmont.
C	9	203	c.1900	Rufus Lawrence Mauney House; two-story Colonial Revival style Foursquare with weatherboard cladding and low pitched hipped roof; symmetrical façade fenestration; centered, gabled portico over primary entrance; paired and single eight-over-one sash windows; a one-story enclosed porch and one-story porte-cochere with turned balustrades along

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 8

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

the flat roofs flank the primary building; semi-attached, combination deck and carport is located on the northeast elevation.

West Side, North Piedmont Avenue

C	10	205	1907	A.E. Cline House; two-story frame Victorian house with cross-gable plan, and two one-story wing sections; open porch on façade has hipped roof supported by wood posts and is joined by a one-story, enclosed porch; single four-over-one sash windows with vertical muntins on southeast façade (enclosed porch)-all others are one-over-one double-hung sash windows; double interior brick chimneys.
---	----	-----	------	--

C	11	207	1925	Commercial building; one-story brick building that contains three separate shops; very subtle Art Moderne influence in the stepped, parapet roofline and use of large, plate-glass storefront windows.
---	----	-----	------	---

East Side, North Piedmont Avenue

C	12	100	1874	Walton Garret House; large two-story frame house with Mansard roof and dormers; wide, bracketed cornice; decorative, corbelled brick chimneys;
---	----	-----	------	---

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 9

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

open wrap-around porch with spindle-work and cutwork balustrade; all windows are one-over-one double-hung sash in wood frames.

COB 12a 100 c.1900 **Shed/Storage Building;** frame, side-gabled roof building with two sliding doors and a single hinged door.

East Side North Piedmont Avenue

C 13 108 1916 **Dr. J.E. Anthony House;** two-story frame Foursquare with hipped roof, two interior end brick chimneys, hipped dormer, and brick foundation; full wraparound porch has paired and single columns resting on brick piers and has a gabled, or pedimented entrance; a screened porch also features wood columns on brick posts; a second-story sleeping porch is enclosed by grouped, six-over-six double-hung sash windows; all other windows have a one-over-one configuration.

COB 13a 108 c.1920 **Garage;** frame building with a low-pitched shed roof.

C 14 112 c.1875 **Captain Freno Dilling House;** one-and-one-half story frame house with a gable-end and wing (L-plan) and gabled roof; one interior end chimney and one exterior end chimney; single gabled dormer on side-gable roof of the façade above a screened porch; multiple-paned bay window with hipped roof; four-over-one sash windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|--------|---|
| COB | 14a | 112 | c.1940 | Garage; frame, two-car garage with side-gabled roof. |
| C | 15 | 114 | c.1920 | Second R.S. Sugg House; two-story frame bungalow with side gable roof and three-bay shed dormer above a full-width open, wraparound porch with pedimented entrance and narrow wood columns that rest on brick piers; raised brick foundation; two interior end chimneys; single eight-over-one double-hung sash windows. |
| C | 16 | 118 | c.1880 | Captain R.S. Sugg House; large two-story frame Colonial Revival style dwelling with a massive, full-height portico with Chinese-Chippendale style balustrade and Doric columns; symmetrical, three-bay façade fenestration with six-over-six sash windows and a paneled wood door with sidelights and transom; originally built as an I-House, the portico and rear wing were added in 1940; wing addition has gabled roof with gabled dormers.
A large, one-and-one-half-story frame garage with side-gabled roof and three gabled dormers is connected to the house by a one-story, frame hyphen. |
| C | 17 | 200 | c.1940 | St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Rectory; one-and-one-half story brick house with subtle Tudor Revival elements, such as the extended eave on the façade gable-end, the gabled entry porch, and the |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

exterior façade chimney; gabled dormers;
all windows are single or paired one-
over-one sash.

COB 17a 200 c.1940 **Garage;** brick garage with side-gabled
roof.

East Side, North Piedmont Avenue

C 18 202 c.1900 **Charles Peterson House;** two-story frame
cottage with a hipped roof and slightly
projecting bay on the southwest corner;
three-quarter-width, open, wraparound
porch with shed roof is supported by
wood columns resting on brick piers with
a turned wood balustrade; three-sided
bay is located on north elevation;
partially exposed brick basement.

C 19 204 c.1930 **Locier W. Barrett House;** one-and-one-
half-story frame bungalow with lapped
siding and a low-pitched side-gable
roof; two large gabled dormers; gabled
entry porch; five grouped windows with
six-over-six configuration are sheltered
by a metal awning; exterior end chimney.

C 20 206 c.1920 **Garland Still House;** one-and-one-half
story Craftsman style bungalow with
weatherboard cladding, a low-pitched,
side-gable roof, and a large, gabled
dormer with three windows with
horizontal muntins in the upper sash;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

the roof flares slightly and extends over the recessed open porch with a centered entrance with concrete steps and wingwalls.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|--------|--|
| C | 21 | 208 | c.1930 | Lloyd R. Houser House ; one-and-one-half story bungalow with primary side-gable and one-bay front-facing gable end with cornice returns; shed dormer with single window; three-quarter width open porch with square wood posts on brick piers. |
| NOB | 21a | 208 | c.1985 | Garage ; frame gable roof garage with vinyl siding. |
| C | 22 | 210 | c.1935 | House ; one-story frame bungalow with double front-facing gable-ends; smaller gable end contains screened porch; simple rectangular plan; paired and single one-over-one sash windows with horizontal muntins. |
| C | 23 | 214 | 1932 | House ; one-and-one-half-story brick cottage with multi-gabled roof with clipped, front-facing gable-ends; entrance has three arched openings on entry porch; paired and single six-over-one double-hung sash windows; one-story rear wing with gabled roof; exterior wall chimney. |
| COB | 23a | 214 | c.1932 | Garage ; one-story brick building with clipped gable roof and three paneled wood doors. |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 13

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

West Side, North Gaston Street

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|--------|---|
| C | 24 | 105 | 1919 | Arthur Hay House; one-and-one-half-story Craftsman style bungalow with weatherboard cladding and wood cornice molding; double front-facing gable ends with full-width open porch supported by square brick pillars; exterior wall chimney; two gabled wall dormers on the north and south elevations. |
| COB | 24a | 105 | c.1935 | Garage/Outbuilding; frame building with weatherboard cladding and gable roof; entrance on gable end. |
| C | 25 | 107 | 1890 | First William A. Ridenhour House; two-and-one-half-story Victorian dwelling with hipped roof and cross-gable plan consisting of a front-facing gable-end, hipped section, and side-gabled section; roof has cornice returns on gable end; gabled dormers; full-width open porch with scroll-sawn brackets and turned balustrade; second open porch with similar treatment on the upper north corner of the façade. |

East Side, North Gaston Street

- | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|--------|--|
| C | 26 | 100 | c.1930 | First Baptist Church Parsonage; one-story brick cottage with cross-gable plan; paired and single six-over-six double-hung sash windows with metal awnings; gabled entrance with shed awning over concrete stoop; exterior |
|---|----|-----|--------|--|

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 14

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

wall chimney on façade; two carports composed of metal awnings on north elevation.

C	27	102	1900	Grady King House; two-story frame house with cross-gable plan and weatherboard cladding; symmetrical fenestration consisting of single one-over-one double hung sash windows with wood shutters; three-quarter width, open, wrap porch with narrow round posts on brick piers; one-story rear wing with gabled roof.
NOB	27a	102	c.1980	Garage; contemporary frame garage with gable roof.
C	28	110	1939	Paul M. Neisler, Sr. House; large two-story brick Neoclassical Revival dwelling; three-quarter width, full-height portico with paired Ionic columns and a wide, beveled cornice; symmetrical façade fenestration with six-over-six sash windows flanked by wood shutters and a centered entrance with paneled wood door, sidelights, and transom; two exterior end chimneys; one-story rear portico with single columns; designed and constructed by Paul Neisler.
COB	28a	110	1939	Outbuilding; small brick outbuilding with hipped roof.
N	29	200	1999	House; modern, one-story brick ranch with hipped roof and gabled wing section that contains the attached garage; open, inset porch with wood balustrade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 15

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

- | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|--------|--|
| C | 30 | 204 | 1905 | Samuel Augustus Mauney House; two-and-one-half-story frame dwelling with steeply pitched side-gable roof and centered cross gable; full-height, gabled portico supported by slender, Doric columns; symmetrical fenestration on all elevations; one-over-one sash windows. |
| N | 31 | 208 | c.1970 | Lawrence Lohr House; contemporary brick house with side-gabled roof, symmetrical fenestration, and a small, gabled entry porch. |
| C | 32 | 210 | c.1930 | Aubrey Mauney House; one-and-one-half-story Tudor Revival style house with brick cladding and stone accents; steeply pitched side-gable roof with two cross gables; recessed entrance with stone surround; one-story sun porch wing on south elevation; exposed basement level on north; integrated garage at rear; Aubrey Mauney designed and built the house. |

North Side, East King Street

- | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|------|---|
| C | 33 | 105 | 1939 | Dilling House; brick, L-plan house composed of a one-and-one-half-story section and a two-story wing; moderately-pitched, hipped roof; interior center chimney and exterior end chimney; small, open porch with hipped roof and plain wood posts; single and paired six-over-one sash windows. |
|---|----|-----|------|---|

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 16

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|--|
| C | 34 | 107 | 1950 | Patrick House; one-story Colonial Revival style brick house with side-gabled roof on the center section, flanked by two hyphens, followed by gable end sections; eight-over-one sash windows with louvered shutters; double exterior end chimneys; cornice returns; symmetrical fenestration, hyphenated plan; and entrance with fanlight and sidelights. |
| C | 35 | 111 | 1936 | First Presbyterian Church; Neo-Gothic Revival style brick church with weatherboard cladding in upper gable ends; cross-gabled, L-plan; banks of single, arched, multi-paned windows on both first and second stories; large stained glass windows on the King Street elevation; three-story bell tower at junction of the "L." |
| C | 35a | 111 | 1950 | First Presbyterian Church Recreation Building; one-story, brick building with a U-plan and gable roof; single, four-over-four sash windows; chimneys located on the exterior wall, exterior end, and interior. This building is located at the northwest corner of the church parcel. |

North Side, East Ridge Avenue

- | | | | | |
|---|----|-----|------|---|
| C | 36 | 105 | 1933 | Central High School; two-story, Colonial Revival style, brick school building composed of a center section with side-gabled roof flanked by slightly projecting ells with flat roofs; center section has pedimented center bay and |
|---|----|-----|------|---|

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 17

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

symmetrical fenestration consisting of banks of multiple paned windows; arched opening with stone accents leads to recessed primary entrance; concrete beltcourses. A two-story ell with parapet roof predates the front section (1925) and is located behind the main school building and connected to the rear elevation via a small, one-story hyphen.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|--------|--|
| C | 36a | 105 | 1938 | Central School Gymnasium; large brick auditorium/ gymnasium with barrel-vault roof, parapets, and banks of multi-paned windows; two one-story ells with flat roofs and garage doors flank the east and west elevations; located behind the school on the same property. |
| N | 36b | 105 | c.1980 | Garage/Maintenance Facility; one-and-one-half-story metal shop/garage with gable-end entrance and two windows is located on the east side of the gymnasium. |
| C | 36c | 105 | c.1940 | Ancillary Building; single-story brick building with low-pitched hipped roof that connects to the school via a covered walkway. |
| N | 36d | 105 | c.1980 | Ancillary Buildings; two, elongated, corrugated metal buildings with very low-pitched gable roofs and garage doors are located behind the rear ell and most likely provide additional storage space. |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 18

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

South Side, East Ridge Avenue

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|------|--|
| C | 37 | 104 | 1909 | Dorus Carl Mauney House; large Colonial Revival style stucco dwelling with seven bays containing six-over-six double-hung sash windows; center bay has a slightly projecting, front-facing cross-gable; two exterior end chimneys; one-story section on south elevation. |
| COB | 37a | 104 | 1909 | Outbuilding/Garage; formerly a carriage house; one-and-one-half-story frame building with side-gable roof and upper story utilized for storage/living space; lower level contains garage. |
| C | 38 | 108 | 1926 | Second William A. Ridenhour House; large, two-story Colonial Revival house with hipped roof and brick cladding; wide cornice with scroll-sawn brackets beneath the extended eaves; symmetrical façade contains nine-over-one sash windows and a centered entrance with pedimented portico; a one-story porte-cochere and a one-story open porch, both with brick posts, walls, and concrete caps, flank the center section. |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 19

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Central School Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development, and transportation. The collection of resources contained within the nominated boundaries of the Central School Historic District exemplify the interactive relationship between transportation and community planning that is evidenced by the proximity of the small commercial building, school, churches and railroad terminal located within the neighborhood. In addition, the Central School Historic District is eligible under Criterion C for architecture as an intact collection of residential properties representing the evolution of domestic architecture in Kings Mountain during the late nineteenth and early-to mid-twentieth centuries. The houses, as well as the school and churches, are significant examples of small-town building types. The proposed Central School Historic District contains properties that reflect the development of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, from 1870 to 1950.

The period of significance begins in 1870, the approximate year that the oldest dwelling, the First Andrew Mauney House, was built, and extends to 1950 with the construction of the Patrick House which is in keeping with the character of the rest of the district. The four non-contributing resources in the district were built after 1970 and clearly do not fit the historic character of the neighborhood. During this span of eighty years, the town of Kings Mountain emerged as one of the most powerful mill towns in not only Cleveland County, but also in the entire Piedmont region of North Carolina. The Central School Historic District contains many homes that were once the primary residences of the town's founding fathers, textile magnates, and prominent merchants. Therefore, the Central School Historic District illustrates the architectural evolution of domestic buildings in the southwest region of Cleveland County, North Carolina and the resources are clearly linked to community planning and development that occurred around a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 20

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

neighborhood educational facility. Historically, a school has been located on the same block of Ridge Street and has always served the surrounding residential area. The present Central School was built in 1933 to replace an earlier building.

Historic Background/Community Planning and Development, and
Transportation Contexts

The area that would eventually emerge as Kings Mountain was originally known as White Plains, named for the abundance of minerals in the soil, which gave the ground a whitish hue. The first settlement in the area can be traced to the discovery of gold circa 1830 which attracted hundreds of prospectors and led to the establishment of the Kings Mountain Gold Mine in 1834. A small boomtown emerged near the site of the mine and by 1895, this mine had yielded one million dollars in gold. However, the gold rush was short-lived and as the amount of gold declined, the prospectors ventured off to other areas in search of fortune.¹ The gold mines eventually flooded and since the technology of the time could not develop pumps to move the water, the mines were abandoned in favor of other enterprises. White Plains may have remained a tiny mining community surrounding by farms had the railroad bypassed the town. Instead the construction of the railway was largely responsible for the development of present-day Kings Mountain.

Like the nearby communities of Shelby and Belmont, Kings Mountain developed in conjunction with the arrival of the railroad and later became a prominent textile mill town. Prior to the completion of the rail line in 1872, Kings Mountain was no more than a small crossroads community and consisted primarily of farms and other agriculturally-based enterprises. The Charlotte-Atlanta Railway (later Norfolk-Southern) was constructed from 1870 to 1872 and provided the catalyst for the transformation of this small farming community. This branch of the railroad was routed through Kings Mountain from "High Point" because of the gradual grade to Spartanburg. Shelby and Dallas (Gaston County) were considered as

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 22

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

consisted of a factory and accompanying mill village and was built on the site of his sawmill.⁴ In 1892, Erskine Falls built Enterprise Mill and village. The following year, Dilling established the Dilling Mill and village.⁵ This momentum continued into the new century and in 1900, three more mills were established in the town. These included Dilling's Cora Cotton Mill and village; Philip Sylvanus Baker's Lula Mill; and W. A. and J. S. Mauney's Bonnie Mill and village.⁶ Kings Mountain's economic potential was further advanced by the establishment of a state chartered bank in January 1900. By July of that year, the bank received its federal charter, giving it the distinction of being the first nationally chartered bank in Cleveland County. The founding officers of the newly christened First National Bank of Kings Mountain were William A. Mauney, President; Jacob S. Mauney, Vice President; R. Lawrence Mauney (**203 N. Piedmont Ave.**), Cashier. In addition to serving as president of the bank, William Mauney was elected state senator in 1907.⁷

Economic prosperity continued unabated throughout the 1910s as more textile mills were erected in Kings Mountain. In 1910, W. A. and J. S. Mauney established Pauline Mill and village while W. A. Mauney's son-in-law, C. E. Neisler, built Margrace Mill and village in 1914. Around 1919, the Phenix Mill and village began operations.⁸ During this decade, W. A. Mauney furthered his political career, serving as a county representative during North Carolina's 1917 General Assembly.⁹ In addition to their political power, the Mauneys and their allies effectively controlled Kings Mountain's financial resources and her economy.

As the Mauney Brothers grew older, they groomed their children for the inevitable task of perpetuating the family's various enterprises. In 1920, Larkin Kiser and J. S. Mauney's son, Dorus Carl Mauney (**104 E. Ridge St.**), founded yet another textile mill, the Sadie Mill and village. The construction of all of these mills and villages contributed greatly to the town's rise in population, which, from 1920 to 1930, jumped from 2,800 to 5,632, an increase of 49 percent.¹⁰

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 21

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

alternate routes, but the towns refused to grant the railroad rights-of-easements.

In 1873, the postmistress of White Plains, Mrs. James Wright Tracy, was asked by railroad officials to name the new town and depot. She chose the name Kings Mountain in honor of the Revolutionary War battlefield located just across the line in neighboring South Carolina.² Subsequently, on February 11, 1874, the town of Kings Mountain was officially established and William A. Mauney was elected mayor. The commissioners for the new town were James Tracy, W. A. Mauney, Freno Dilling, and D. C. Beam.³ Both Dilling and Mauney built homes contained within the boundaries of the proposed district.

The railroad provided a more efficient means of exporting and importing goods, substantially affecting Kings Mountain's economy. Captain Dilling (**112 N. Piedmont Ave.**) owned and operated a sawmill that along with the rail line, provided two of the necessary ingredients for the development of a new town. Dilling's sawmill supplied dressed lumber for both residential and commercial enterprises in Kings Mountain for developing neighborhoods such as the Central School Historic District. The railroad and its small depot provided a vital link to markets throughout the South and connected White Plains with Charlotte and Atlanta. Although the original depot is gone, a second depot was constructed in 1925 (**201 N. Battleground Ave.**). This extant depot represents the importance of the railroad to both the commercial and residential development of the town.

By the 1880s, enough citizens had moved to the area to support the expansion of existing commercial enterprises as well as initiating new ventures. The year 1888 proved to be pivotal for the new town. Recognizing the enormous potential of the railroad to supply raw materials and to transport finished products to major markets in the South and throughout the nation, Captain Dilling joined forces with W. A. and J. S. Mauney to organize the Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company. This, the town's first textile mill,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 23

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Like the nearby mill towns Shelby and Belmont, Kings Mountain epitomizes the development of a town heavily dependent on the textile industry. This industry bolstered the economy of the Piedmont from its inception in the late-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Similar to most industries, the textile industry relied upon the railroad for its survival. Freight trains allowed manufacturers to transport their finished products to markets throughout the United States, effectively linking once-isolated hamlets like White Plains (now called Kings Mountain) and other villages throughout the Piedmont with the rest of the nation. Thus, textile towns such as Shelby, Belmont, and Kings Mountain owe their existence to the railroad.

The influence of the railroad is evident in the actual layout of the town, which illustrates the symmetrical plan, in which the commercial core flanks the railroad tracks and all residential development borders this central business district. The Central School Historic District lies northeast of the railroad tracks and the main commercial district and is bounded on the south by Kings Street (the old Shelby Road) a historic route that linked Kings Mountain with both Shelby and Gastonia. The district is bounded on the west by State Highway 16 (Battleground Avenue) which is parallel to the railroad tracks and connects Kings Mountain with South Carolina to the south and Gaston County to the north.

The Central School Historic District is located on land that was platted as part of the original town of Kings Mountain and was laid in a typical grid pattern with uniformly sized blocks in the same manner as the other early sections of town. In contrast to the early street plans, later neighborhoods located on the periphery of town feature curvilinear streets and cul-de-sacs as opposed to the symmetry of the grid pattern.

Like most mill towns, many of Kings Mountains' historic residential neighborhoods consist of worker housing which is comprised mainly of simple three and four room frame dwellings. The Central School Historic District differs from these worker neighborhoods in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 24

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

several ways. From an economic perspective, the original residents were either mill owners, executives, professionals, or members of the emerging merchant class. Geographically, the district varies from the other neighborhoods in that the houses are set back further from the street and the streets themselves are much wider and enhanced by trees and curbs. Finally, the houses within the district are much larger than those found in the mill villages and therefore are situated on larger lots.

Historically, the district has been viewed as a distinctive neighborhood where many of the town's most significant and influential citizens resided. In addition to Captain Dilling and William Mauney, the Central School Historic District neighborhood was originally populated by prominent members of the Kings Mountain community. As in the Shelby Historic District and Belmont Historic District, the historic homes in this district are associated with people who made significant contributions to the town's development and economy. Following the arrival of the railroad, entrepreneurs from other parts of the county and surrounding area saw the opportunity for real estate development associated with the railway. R.Y. McAden of Charlotte purchased large tracts from landowner Robert Falls with the intent to subdivide the parcels. A.V. Falls and W.A. Mauney also bought land from Robert Falls and their acreage became the city block now bounded by Piedmont Avenue, King Street, Battleground Avenue, and Ridge Street.¹¹

Among the earliest contributors to the town's development were a number of residents of the Central School Historic District. William A. Mauney and his brother, Jacob S. Mauney (**107 N. Piedmont Ave.**) established the town's first store on North Battleground Avenue next to William Mauney's first house (**104 N. Battleground Ave.**).¹² Other early settlers to the area included I. W. Garrett (**100 N. Piedmont Ave.**) and his brothers, Richard, John, and Frank. Along with their kinsman, R.S. Sugg (**118 N. Piedmont Ave.**), these

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 25

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

enterprising young men migrated to White Plains from Edgecombe County, South Carolina in the early 1870s. On their land, the Mauneys, Garretts, and Sugg laid out the grid pattern street design for the city. In addition, they built two stores along the railroad tracks at the corner of West Mountain Street and Railroad Avenue.¹³

The Central School neighborhood, a primarily residential district, has historically surrounded an educational facility on Ridge Street at the same site as the present Central School. The first schools in Kings Mountains were held at the private home of Richard Garrett (not extant, but formerly located on Gaston Street north of Kings Street) and at a simple, two-room building on the corner of South Piedmont and Kings Street (now the site of the Mauney Library) which also served as a place of worship prior to the construction of churches in town.

The existence of Central School, which was the largest and most prominent educational facility at the time of its construction, and the location of two of the town's oldest and most significant churches within the neighborhood testify to the importance of this residential area. Central School lies near the center of the district and is bounded by North Piedmont Avenue, North Gaston Street, and Kings Street. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church lies approximately one-half a block northwest of the school at the corner of North Piedmont Avenue and Ridge Street. First Presbyterian Church also occupies a strategic corner location at the intersection of North Gaston Street and King Street approximately one block from the school.

Former Confederate Army officer Captain William T. Bell opened the Kings Mountain Military and High School in 1876 that became pride of Kings Mountain until Bell's retirement in 1886. Bell was unusual in that he held a degree from the University of Virginia in a time when most teachers had teaching certificates but little or no formal education. The military and high school attracted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 26

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

students from South Carolina and other towns in North Carolina, but it also offered excellent opportunities for local children. The academy operated on a tuition basis in which students purchased their own books and supplies and were not required to attend.¹⁴ Bell discontinued his institution in 1886 at which time it became a public school.

In 1905, the two-story frame building housed a grammar school and operated as such until it was destroyed by fire in 1910. That same year a new, brick building took its place and served as a graded school organized into eight grades utilizing a total of twelve classrooms. Shortly thereafter, in 1919, the City constructed the West End School to serve the neighborhood surrounding Watterson and Mountain streets. The Davidson School was constructed in 1925 at the corner of Watterson and Parker streets to accommodate black students. In 1932 the Ridge Street school was partially destroyed by fire, requiring a temporary relocation of students to other facilities.

The present Central School (**105 E. Ridge**) was completed in 1933 and the auditorium was constructed in 1938.¹⁵ Central School served the neighborhood until the late 1960s, when Kings Mountain consolidated the public schools and built new facilities. At present, the former school building houses the administration offices for the Kings Mountain School District while the gymnasium and auditorium are still used for public events.

While the school was a significant anchor for the neighborhood, the two churches were important features in creating a distinct community. Although the congregations for both churches were established in the early years of the town's development, their present buildings date to the early twentieth century and thus indicate their lasting presence in the neighborhood and community. As in many smaller towns, these churches were built at locations within a close proximity of the congregations' residences to allow members to walk or incur only very brief carriage rides to attend. Citizens in this area have always been predominantly Protestant in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 27

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

their theological viewpoint and therefore, it is quite logical that two churches of the Protestant faith would be erected within this neighborhood. Both the St. Matthews Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church were founded by and attended by the neighborhood's original homeowners.

For example, in addition to their civic accomplishments, the Mauney Brothers contributed to the town's religious development by assisting in the establishment of Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church in 1876.¹⁶ Prior to the construction of the first St. Matthew's church, the congregation met at the educational building on Ridge Street, at the present location of Central School. In 1878 the congregation laid the cornerstone for their church on the vacant lot on North Piedmont and finished construction in 1879-80. As the congregation grew, the building was expanded in 1921 and then by adding the present Gothic-Revival style sanctuary (201 N. Piedmont Ave.) at which time the original sanctuary became the chapel. The Rectory (200 N. Piedmont Ave.) is located directly across the street and is the last of the parsonages built by the congregation. Land owned by Mrs. Walton Garrett was donated circa 1970 to provide for the church's outdoor ministry.

The First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain (111 E. King St.) was established in 1884 and had two prior locations before the present church was built in 1937 on land donated by Mrs. C.E. Neisler. This large parcel had been previously owned by, among others, W.A. and J.S. Mauney, L.H. Long, and J.A. Neisler. Prior to the church's construction, the lot upon which the sanctuary now stands was an open cornfield aside a simple frame house. Mrs. H.C. Dwelle, whose husband owned the property from 1919 to 1927, recalled how they tried to beautify the parcel by adding trees, shrubs, and lawn in hopes that it might one day be the site for the church.¹⁷

In addition to the large church building, the property also contains the U-shaped recreational building and Sunday School that was built in 1950 at the northwest corner of the parcel. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 28

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Patrick House (107 E. King St.) and the Dilling House (105 E. King St.) are named in honor of past ministers and are currently used as auxiliary buildings for First Presbyterian Church.

Only three houses face the railroad and Battleground Avenue while the remainder of the buildings included within the Central School Historic District are oriented toward the street to form a cohesive neighborhood setting.

The Central School Historic District differs from both the Shelby Historic District (NR, 1983) and the Belmont Historic District (NR, 1996) (located in Cleveland County and Gaston County, respectively) in that the Central School Historic District does not contain a central business district within the nominated boundaries. Although the Central School Historic District contains the single commercial building and depot, it is a residential district anchored by the school and two churches. Furthermore, the Central School Historic District is significantly smaller in size than both the Shelby and Belmont districts. Belmont's district comprises seventy-one acres and contains two hundred and sixty-seven contributing resources. The Shelby Historic District nomination does not record the acreage or number of resources but an accompanying survey documents one hundred sixty-five contributing properties. By comparison, the Central School district includes twenty-one acres and a total of fifty-six contributing resources.

The three districts are similar in that they are composed of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century buildings that are situated along major thoroughfares as well as ancillary streets. Of these three districts, the Central School Historic District best represents a grid pattern of development. The houses within these districts are similarly situated on larger lots with a uniform setback depth. The Central School Historic District, Shelby Historic District, and Belmont Historic District all feature a prominent educational facility as well as churches that are pivotal to the development of the historic residential neighborhoods.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 29

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

All three districts share a common period of significance that begins with the arrival of the railroad (circa 1870) and continued development that corresponds with the success of an economy fueled by the textile mills. While the railroad played an important role in the development of each of these districts, only the Central School Historic District and the Belmont Historic District contain historic depots within their respective nominated boundaries. The Central School Historic District captures the essence of the importance of the railroad to residential development because it encompasses the depot, rail line and subsequent residential construction within the boundaries.

Architectural Context

Like the Shelby and Belmont Historic Districts, the contributing historic resources contained within the Central School Historic District date from the late-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. Specifically, the Central School Historic District illustrates the architectural evolution of domestic buildings in the southwest region of Cleveland County, North Carolina. This district exemplifies the textile manufacturing towns that developed in conjunction with the railroad in the southern Piedmont region.

The Charlotte-Atlanta Rail Line, which later became the Southern Railway, led to the development of residential neighborhoods in area towns including Shelby (county seat of Cleveland County) and Belmont in Gaston County. In the southern piedmont, the railroad

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 30

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

gave rise to national architectural styles in towns along its route. Each of the three districts contain a variety of houses that represent the types of housing that were nationally popular in the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, particularly in a small-town setting. Like Kings Mountain, Belmont Shelby features several outstanding domestic architectural styles including the Bungalow, Foursquare, Neoclassical Revival, Tudor Revival, and Victorian. Belmont, too, is heavily influenced by these styles. Collectively, they are representative of national styles on a local scale.

The Central School Historic District contains some of the oldest and most prominent dwellings in Kings Mountain. These dwellings, as mentioned previously, were built on lots that were established circa 1874 as part of the original Kings Mountain plat. Most of the district's Victorian-era houses are located along Battleground Avenue and North Piedmont Avenue which parallel and are in close proximity to the railroad. The oldest extant dwelling in Kings Mountain, the circa 1870 First W. A. Mauney House (**104 N. Battleground Ave.**) is located just east of the depot and rail line. In 1877, Mauney constructed a larger home, the Second W.A. Mauney House (**106 N. Battleground Ave.**), on the adjacent lot facing the railroad.

During the late 1870s, the larger lots along North Piedmont Avenue, one block east of the railroad, were purchased and improved with outstanding Victorian-influenced frame dwellings. Three notable examples built during this era include the I.W. Garrett House (**100 N. Piedmont Ave.**), the Captain Freno Dilling House (**112 N. Piedmont Ave.**), and the R.S. Sugg House (**118 N. Piedmont Ave.**). The latest significant example of the Queen Anne style is the Reverend John D. Mauney House (**119 N. Piedmont Ave.**). This house was constructed in 1900 and is located at the corner of North Piedmont Avenue and Ridge Street. The Victorian era houses within the district occupy the largest lots whereas those dwellings constructed from 1900 onward generally feature less square footage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 31

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

and are situated on smaller lots. As the neighborhood expanded, the remaining lots located on both North Piedmont Avenue and North Gaston Street (two blocks east of the railroad) were sold and subsequently improved with, generally speaking, modest brick or frame houses. While some of these houses adhered to the dying vestiges of Victorian architecture, those constructed in the early decades of the twentieth century tended to reflect innovative and functional new trends in American domestic architecture such as the Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and bungalow designs.

The resources contained in the Central School Historic District represent some of the finest examples of domestic architecture in Kings Mountain and the southwestern Piedmont region. The buildings are comparable to those found in both the Belmont and Shelby Historic District, particularly the dwellings found along West Marion and South Washington Streets in Shelby and along Central Avenue and South Main Street in Belmont. In comparing the Central School district to the sections of the other districts listed above, they are identical in that they were all principal residential neighborhoods inhabited by the respective town's leading industrialists, merchants and professionals. The streets all contain buildings with a mix of architectural styles, periods, and formality but share a common period of significance (i.e. construction) and are situated on lots with a uniform setback and similar landscape features.

All three districts contain dwellings and public buildings that represent nationally popular styles as well as the predominance of vernacular dwellings. The Central School Historic District encompasses resources ranging in date from circa 1870 to 1950 that reflect the transition from local building patterns to the architectural styles made widely available in conjunction with the railroad.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 32

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Two of the districts, Belmont and Central School, feature extant passenger depots alongside the rail line. Although no longer used in the original capacity, their inclusion in the districts reinforces the integral part they and the railroad played in the development of the residential areas.

Belmont's former Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot at 5 North Main Street was built in 1915 in the Mission Revival style. The second Southern Railway Passenger Station and Depot (**205 N. Battleground Ave.**) postdates by ten years but also utilizes revival style architecture in its design. Subtle Italianate Revival style elements appear in its exterior ornamentation through the extended eaves with scroll-sawn brackets and the low-pitched hipped roof of this intact resource.

Pre-1880 Dwellings:

Surviving domestic buildings built within Kings Mountain during the settlement period are rare, simply because they were intended as relatively temporary housing that would either be abandoned or remodeled as the owner's financial situation improved. These houses usually consisted of a rectangular plan with central hall or hall-and-parlor configuration, and often included a rear wing. Weatherboard cladding, stone pier foundation, and wood shingles were typical building materials. The first William A. Mauney House (**104 N. Battleground Ave.**), built circa 1870, is a rare extant example of early hall-and-parlor houses in Cleveland County. Fortunately, this outstanding survivor of Cleveland County's early settlement era is currently being restored for use as a museum and interpretive exhibit.

The First R.S. Sugg House (**107 N. Piedmont Ave.**) was built in 1877, and although it currently is best identified as a Neoclassical Revival dwelling because of the major remodeling in 1940, the original I-house is still visible despite the addition of the large portico and rear wing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 33

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Shelby's district contains three surviving dwellings from this period but they are more closely associated with the Greek Revival style. However, the house at 621 Washington Street shares the symmetry and simplicity of design featured in the first Mauney House. Belmont, too, contains two pre-1880 I-houses similar to the original appearance of the first Sugg house but they are larger and slightly more elaborate than the W.A. Mauney House that was built in the same year.

Victorian Architecture

In addition to providing pre-cut lumber in consistent, regular dimensions, sawmills made ornamentation more affordable. Turned-posts, scroll-sawn brackets, spindle-work friezes, and a variety of decorative wood features became popular following the Civil War. Railroads arrived in the county after the war, and popular national styles of architecture were more easily disseminated. Southerners who sought new and innovative styles were attracted to Victorian architecture and this particular style experienced great popularity among both middle and upper classes of society. Most Victorian dwellings had a cross-gable plan with steep or moderate pitched gable roof, sometimes with multiple gables or hipped variations. The Shelby and Belmont districts also feature houses based on one and one-half story, asymmetrical L-plan utilized by Central School district's houses such as the Second W.A. Mauney House (**106 N. Battleground Ave.**), and the First William Ridenhour House (**107 N. Gaston St.**).

Both the Reverend John D. Mauney House (**119 N. Piedmont Ave.**) and the J.T. Gardner House on West Marion Street are good examples of the late-Victorian era houses that embody elements of the Queen Anne style and were constructed during the transitional period between Victorian and Revival style architecture. Belmont also features a few Queen Anne houses including a two-story (as opposed to the one-and-one half story houses in Shelby and Kings Mountain's districts) house at 15 South Central Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 34

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Second Empire

The Second Empire style was popular from around 1870 until the end of the nineteenth century, particularly during the administration of Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877), but began to dissipate in the 1880s.¹⁸ The style had many unusual decorative elements, and typically exhibited several, if not all, of the following features: a prominent mansard roof, projecting towers, polychromatic shingles, pedimented dormers, scroll-sawn brackets (usually in pairs), and multi-sided bays. Second Empire architecture was an early symbol of the "New South" and a return to prosperity, and was also drastically different from the graceful symmetry of the Greek Revival architecture that was so prevalent during the antebellum period.

The I. W. Garrett House (100 N. Piedmont Ave.) is one of two remaining examples of the Second Empire style in Cleveland County. Built in 1874, the house is characterized by a pressed tin mansard roof above a decorative cornice supported by scroll-sawn brackets, and a three-sided bay tower. Distinctive interior features include a prominent staircase with beveled banister, beaded spindles, and scroll-sawn cut-outs as well as a cased opening with intricate beaded spindles. The other, slightly more ornate house in this style is the Banker's House (NR) located in the Shelby Historic District. Both dwellings capture the opulence and enhanced use of detail associated with this type of architecture.

Craftsman and Bungalow Architecture

Shortly after the turn-of-the century, popular architecture was greatly influenced by the Craftsman movement, and a rejection of the overly decorated, complicated designs preferred during the previous few decades. The bungalow, or bungalow cottage, became an extremely popular and prevalent architectural form that was applied to very small dwellings and large houses alike. Common features associated with this style are exposed rafters, knee-brace brackets, flared porch posts, low-pitched gable roofs with gabled or shed dormers, and multi-paned windows with vertical muntins.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 35

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Interior plans tended to be simple and open, with built-in cabinets, bookcases, and window-seats to create a more streamlined living space. Several houses on North Piedmont are representative of the Craftsman bungalow, including the Second R.S. Sugg House (114 N. Piedmont Ave.), the Garland Still House (206 N. Piedmont Ave.), and the brick bungalow with distinctive clipped gables (214 N. Piedmont Ave.). There are groups of bungalows found on both South Washington and West Marion Streets in Shelby and a representative example is the Van Waginen House at 615 West Marion Street. Likewise, South Central Avenue in Belmont is populated with bungalows like the one at 203 South Central Avenue which embodies the low, broad profile with bracketed eaves and engaged porch that identify the bungalow style.

The American Foursquare

One of the most popular house types during the early twentieth century was the Foursquare, a two story brick or frame dwelling that easily adapted itself to a variety of architectural influences, including the Prairie, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, and Mission styles. Other identifying features consist of a moderate to low-pitched roof, often with hipped or gabled dormers; symmetrical fenestration and a centered entrance sheltered by a small portico, entry porch or full, open porch; and one-story ells, often consisting of screened/enclosed porches or porte-cocheres. A good example of a typical Foursquare is the J.E. Anthony House (108 N. Piedmont Ave.) which demonstrates the use of both wrap and second-story sleeping porches to increase living space. Other Foursquare dwellings found in the district exhibit decorative elements associated with popular revival styles and are discussed in the next section.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 36

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Revival Styles

Early twentieth century architecture, particularly domestic, benefited from a revival of popular nineteenth century architecture, including the Gothic, Colonial, Greek, Neoclassical and Tudor Revival styles. These movements reflected a desire among many homeowners for a return to traditional styles.

In the 1920s, advances applying brick and stone veneer made this treatment more affordable for balloon-frame houses. For the first time, modest cottages could incorporate brick cladding or stone accents reminiscent of European and Early American domestic architecture. Large and small porticos incorporated pediments and columns, and columns also frequently appeared on open porches. Centered doors generally had narrow sidelights and either a fanlight or transom above the door.

Of all the revival styles, the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical variations were most predominant, but examples of all the above are found in the district.

While the O. Max Gardner House on South Washington in Shelby and the James W. Stowe House at 210 South Central Avenue in Belmont are a very high-style academic interpretations of the Colonial Revival style, the D.C. Mauney House (**104 E. Ridge St.**) in Kings Mountain is a more restrained example. This is a pristine, triple-A house with a seven-bay facade and central entrance topped by a broken pediment and one of the best examples of this more vernacular type found in the three districts. All three were constructed between the years 1907 and 1910.

A good example of a four square house with Neoclassical elements is the Second William Ridenhour House (**108 E. Ridge St.**) which features a low-hipped roof and three-bay facade with central entrance featuring a paneled wood door topped by a fanlight while the adjoining portico is supported by Ionic columns. The Captain

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 37

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

R.S. Sugg House (118 N. Piedmont Ave.) and the Paul M. Neisler House (110 N. Gaston St.) both feature a full-height portico with tall Ionic columns which exemplify Neoclassical Revival architecture.

Another later adaptation of the Colonial Revival style is the Patrick House (107 E. King St.) which incorporates the traditional entrance with fanlights and sidelights, symmetrical fenestration, and also features small hyphens to connect the center bay with two gable end sections.

The Central High School (105 E. Ridge St.) is an excellent example of Colonial Revival stylistic elements applied to a public building. As mentioned previously, this school building was erected in 1933 to replace the former school that burned in 1932. Like many other early-twentieth century schools, the building adheres to a corridor plan with banks of windows to allow both light and ventilation. This otherwise plain brick building embodies Colonial Revival elements such as the tripartite configuration, multiple-paned windows, and recessed central entrance adorned with an elliptical motif and slight returns.

By contrast, both the public schools found in the Shelby and Belmont districts, although constructed around the same time, reflect the popularity of Art Deco and Art Moderne architecture.

Tudor Revival

The Tudor Revival movement coincided with the Colonial Revival movement and was another extremely popular style for domestic architecture. These houses resembled English cottages and often featured half-timbered gable ends, sloping or flared eaves, arched openings, casement lights, and multiple-gabled rooflines. The Aubrey Mauney House (210 N. Gaston St.) is the best example of this style in the district, and features stone accents around the arched entry porch, steeply pitched gable roof with multiple gable ends,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 38

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

and multiple-light casement windows. While both the Lewis House at 304 South Central Avenue in Belmont and the W.J. Roberts House at 521 West Marion Street exemplify Tudor Revival dwellings, the Aubrey Mauney House is a more vernacular, and therefore more restrained representation of this style. Nonetheless, it is a significant example of the application of particular stylistic elements to a basic architectural form.

Neo-Gothic Revival

All three districts contain religious buildings designed in the Neo-Gothic style. This type of architecture was typically limited to churches in particular but was often used in large public buildings as well. Both the St. Matthews' Lutheran Church (201 N. **Piedmont Ave.**) and the First Presbyterian Church (111 E. King St.) incorporate key elements such as towers, spires, and massive, arched doorways. Stained glass and leaded glass windows with gothic arches are also present on both buildings.

The First Baptist Church on South Washington Street in Shelby, while clearly Gothic Revival in style, is unusual in that it utilizes yellow brick rather than the ubiquitous red brick used in the Belmont and Kings Mountain churches.

The proposed Central School Historic District contains properties that clearly demonstrate illustrate how domestic architecture directly corresponds with both regional and national trends and the buildings represent the progression of building patterns from temporary, modest dwellings to more permanent establishments that continue to serve the community. This district corresponds to not only the types and styles of architecture found in Shelby and Belmont but shares the same period of significance as these neighboring towns that also share Kings Mountains textile mill legacy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8, Notes Page 39

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Although the resources found in Central School Historic District are primarily vernacular in design, the buildings accurately reflect local, regional, and national trends in architectural form, style, and function. Although a few resources exhibit minor alterations and/or renovations, the defining characteristics remain intact and do not diminish the architectural or historical significance of the district.

NOTES

¹ Carol Perrin, Kings Mountain Historic Inventory: Project Completion report, (unpublished document, 1980), 5.

² Perrin, 6.

³ Weathers, 69.

⁴ Weathers, 68.

⁵ Perrin, 7.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Marler, 413, 417-18.

⁸ Perrin, 7.

⁹ Marler, 418.

¹⁰ Perrin, 7.

¹¹ Bonnie Mauney Summers, "Kings Mountain: Her Background and Beginning (About 1780-1920)."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, Notes Page 40

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

¹² Marler, 413.

¹³ Lee B. Weathers, The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History (Shelby: Star Publishing Co., 1956), 70-71.

¹⁴ "KM was first White Plains," Outlook Edition: Our History in The Kings Mountain Herald, Thursday, February 20, 1992.

¹⁵ "Public Education Began in 1874," The Kings Mountain Herald, Thursday, February 20, 1992.

¹⁶ Marler, 413.

¹⁷ "Historical Facts" unpublished document provided by First Presbyterian Church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 41

Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture:
Social Function and Cultural Expression. New York:
HarperCollins Publishers, 1992.

Griffin, Clarence. Essays on North Carolina History. Forest City,
NC: Forest City Courier, 1951.

Hamilton, J.G. de Roulhac. Reconstruction in North Carolina. New
York: Columbia University Press, 1987.

Leffler, Hugh Talmadge and Albert Ray Newsome. North Carolina: The
History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: University of North
Carolina Press, 1954.

Marler, James D. The Heritage of Cleveland County. Shelby, NC:
Cleveland County Historical Association, 1982.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New
York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

No Author Listed. "Centennial: Kings Mountain, North Carolina,
1874-1974." Unpublished document, September 1974.

_____. "Cleveland County, North Carolina." Scottsboro,
GA: SouthComm Publishing Co., 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9, 10 Page 42

**Central School Historic District
Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina**

Perrin, Carol Carre. "Kings Mountain Historic Inventory, Project Completion Report." Unpublished document, June 1996.

Weathers, Lee B. The Living Past of Cleveland County: A History. Shelby, NC: Star Publishing Co., 1956.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture. Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee, 1987.

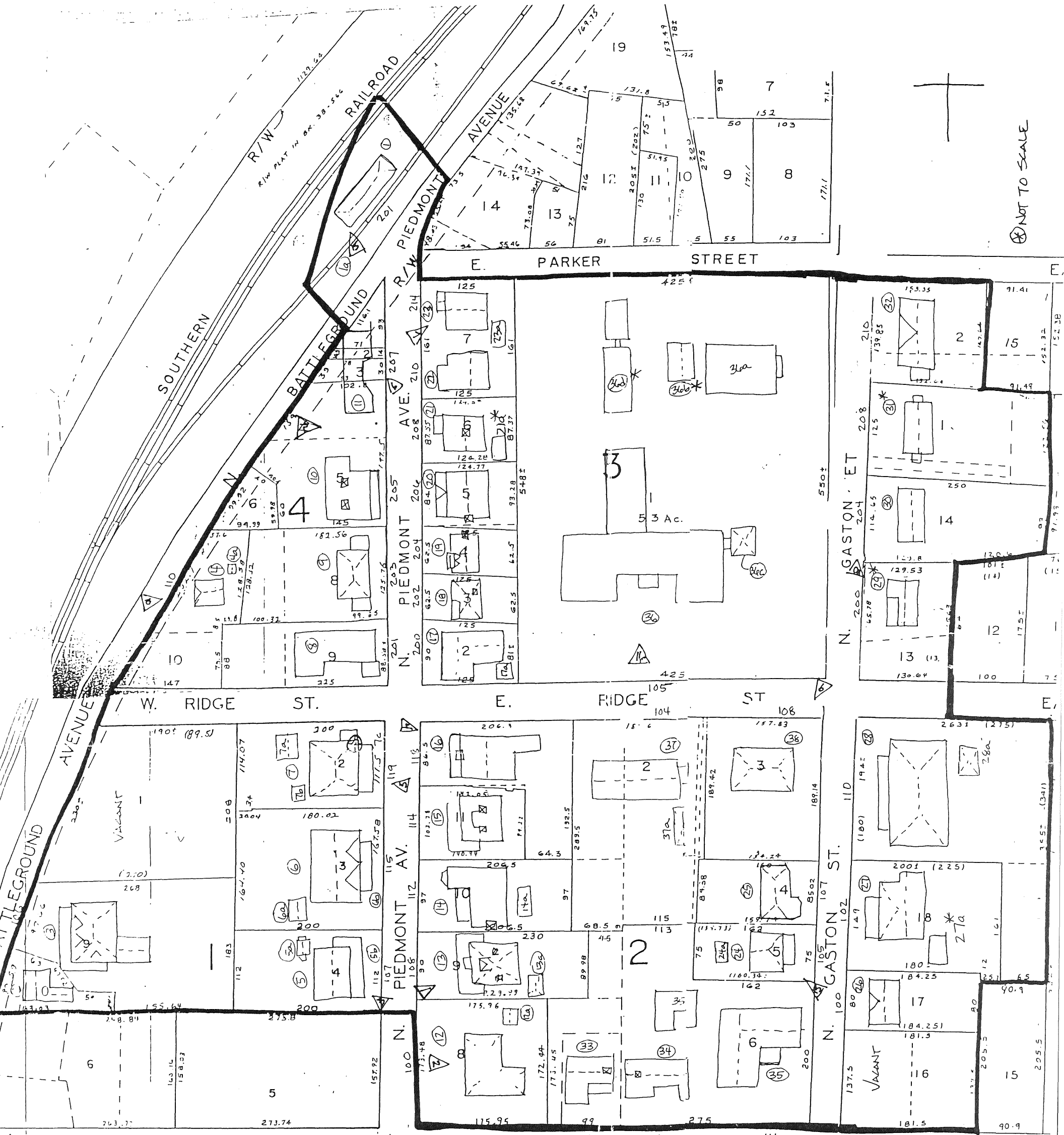
X. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Central School Historic District are delineated by the bold line on the accompanying City of Kings Mountain Tax Map drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Central School Historic District encompass the greatest concentration of pre-1950 contributing resources associated with the original community development.



⊗ NOT TO SCALE

