

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bolick Historic District
other names/site number Bolick Buggy Shop; Bolick Family Houses

2. Location

street & number E & W sides First Ave. S. btwn. U.S. 64/70 & 12th St. N/A not for publication
city, town Conover N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Catawba code 035 zip code 28613

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic & Architectural Resources of Catawba County, N.C.
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fris June 4, 1990
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

 Manufacturing

 Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction:

 Manufacturing

 Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

 Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ brick
 walls _____ brick
 _____ tin
 roof _____ slate
 other _____ stone
 _____ wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated at the southern edge of Conover, the Bolick Historic District comprises the remaining buildings of the Jerome Bolick & Sons Company buggy works and four houses with accompanying outbuildings which were erected by members of the Bolick family. The location of the district is in a transitional area in two senses -- first because it lies both within the city limits of Conover as well as to the south of those limits, nearly abutting the northern boundary of Newton, and second because it is at the point where a residential area (which spreads westward from the district) meets an industrial area (which spreads to the south and east). The district itself contains both industrial and residential structures related by family ties.

The Bolick Historic District straddles Conover's busy First Avenue South (Hwy. 16), which becomes North Main Avenue where it enters Newton just to the south. This street is the main artery joining the two towns. The district is bounded on the north by US 64/70, which crosses beneath First Avenue South and separates the historic area from the rest of Conover to the north. Catawba Street forms the eastern boundary of the district, and just east of this street are the tracks of the Southern Railroad, beyond which are various industrial properties. The most recent buildings of the buggy works form the southernmost portion of the district, south of which is a mixture of commercial and industrial concerns. Southwest of the district are scattered houses of later construction and no relationship with the history of the district. Not far west of the rear property line of the Oscar Bolick property (the westernmost point in the district) is US 321 with its accompanying commercial development.

An unusual combination of buildings is found within the Bolick Historic District. The most significant, as well as the oldest, structure is the original Bolick Buggy Shop, a well preserved one-story brick and stone building located in a wooded area at the northwest corner of Catawba Street and SR 1743 (known variously as 11th Street or 31st Street.) On the south side of SR 1743 are later buildings associated with the buggy works. Most of the frame and metal structures which once stood on the

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site have been recently destroyed, and those which remain are now used for warehouse purposes. The other buildings in the district -- all domestic structures -- lie to the north of the industrial complex. The James Bolick House at the north end of the district is a two-story frame late Victorian-Colonial Revival house probably built during the early years of the twentieth century. South of the James Bolick House are the D. Edgar Bolick House on the east side of First Avenue and the second Oscar W. Bolick House on the west side of the street. Both are two-story brick Colonial Revival dwellings built around the 1930s. The second Oscar Bolick House, located on an unusually deep wooded lot, is accompanied by a rustic cabin and family bowling alley, built at the same time as the house. The fourth house, located just north of the second Oscar Bolick House, is the first Oscar Bolick House, a one-and-one-half story brick veneer and frame bungalow built in 1920. All of the houses are on large wooded lots, creating a handsome streetscape.

Inventory List

The following is a descriptive listing of all properties within the Bolick Historic District, keyed by number to the accompanying district map.

Jerome Bolick & Sons Company

North & South sides SR 1743 between First Avenue South and Catawba St.

The Jerome Bolick & Sons Company manufactured buggies from the 1880s until circa 1920 when the demand for buggies declined due to the automobile. Thereafter truck bodies were manufactured and repaired, and after 1929 school bus bodies were also built. The Bolick firm became a leading manufacturer of school bus bodies in the South. In 1953 the company dropped the bus business to concentrate on truck bodies, and in 1978 the business closed.

1. **Bolick Buggy Shop**
1883
Contributing

This is believed to be the original building of the Jerome Bolick & Sons Company. It is a one-story structure, one bay wide and four deep. The lower third of the building is constructed with cut stones, while the upper two thirds of the walls are of

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brick construction laid in common bond. The building is covered by a broad, metal-sheathed gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves. East and west gables are weatherboarded. The east and west gable ends of the building each have a central entrance with double leaf, five-panel doors set within a segmental arched opening. The four large six-over-six sash windows on north and south sides of the building have been boarded up. The interior of the buggy shop consists of one large space with exposed brick and stone walls and wooden roof system and a row of heavy wood support posts down the center. The buggy shop is located in the wooded southeast corner of the D. Edgar Bolick House lot, across SR 1743 from the remaining Bolick Company buildings, and is not in use at present.

2-5. Other Jerome Bolick & Sons Company Buildings

Second quarter of twentieth century, remodelled 1983

This complex is now used as warehousing for G.S. Fibers, a textile manufacturer. The lot on which the buildings stand is covered with dirt and granite gravel and is surrounded by a chain link fence. Several buildings in the complex, including a planing mill, warehouse, lumber shed, boiler house and office, as well as a 7,000 gallon water tank, all on the site prior to 1932, were demolished during the 1983 renovations of the site undertaken by the present owner.

2. **Office** (noncontributing). This 1947 frame office is a small, square, one-story structure with German siding, pyramidal roof, brick chimney on north side, glass and wood paneled doors on west and south sides, and six-over-one sash windows. A shed-roofed drive-through is attached to the south side.

3. **Garage** (noncontributing). Built post 1932, probably in the 1950s, corrugated metal-sheathed frame building with shed roof and nine garage bays opening to the south.

4. **Manufacturing Building** (contributing). The largest remaining building of the complex, built prior to 1932 (shown on 1932 Sanborn Map), this is a steel frame structure with great open space on the interior. The building is sheathed in corrugated metal, which according to local tradition is galvanized tin and was intact in 1924. It has large sliding doors on all four sides and three-light windows surrounding the building. The broad gable roof is topped by a monitor roof lined with six-light windows.

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5. **Warehouse/Manufacturing Building** (noncontributing). This corrugated metal sided frame structure, built post 1932, likely in the 1940s, has a shed roof and large sliding doors on the north side. The building was originally more than double its present length, but was reduced in size during the 1983 remodeling.

6. **Dorsey Edgar Bolick House**
1007 First Avenue South
1938
Contributing

Dorsey Edgar Bolick, a son of Jerome Bolick, was general manager of the buggy works. He purchased his brother James' house next door in 1911 and lived there until building this house for himself in 1938. It replaced a small frame house owned by another brother, Marshall Loy Bolick, who moved to Hickory. It is a large, two-story brick veneer Colonial Revival style house with a combination of features derived from the Georgian and Federal periods. The main body of the house is three bays wide with exterior end chimneys, tile shingled gable roof with molded and boxed cornice, and quarter circle louvered vents in the gable ends flanking the chimney stacks. Windows are eight-over-eight and six-over-six sash with louvered shutters. A two-story semi-circular porch decorates the west facade. It has fluted columns with Tower of the Winds capitals, a full entablature and an ironwork balustrade surrounding the roof deck. The front entrance has a six-panel door with Federal style sidelights and fanlight transom. Above the entrance is an ironwork balcony. Projecting from the south side of the house is a one-story wing with gable roof and front porch, while a gable-roofed garage projects from the northeast corner of the house. The interior of the Dorsey Edgar Bolick House has a center hall with graceful Federal style stair with spiral newel, slender turned balusters, ramped handrail and modified Owen Biddle type brackets. Round arched paneled doors lead to large rooms to the north and south of the hall. Other interior details include six-panel doors, a heavily molded cornice, and Georgian Revival mantels. The house was updated by previous owners during the 1970s. It is situated on a large lot surrounded by trees -- two magnolias in the front near the street and numerous oaks elsewhere. (Note: the 1883 buggy shop is on the southeast corner of this lot.)

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7. **James F. Bolick House**
1005 First Avenue South
ca. 1905
Contributing

James F. Bolick was the oldest of Jerome Bolick's sons, born in 1877. He was a school teacher and according to family tradition built this house shortly after 1900. Around 1911 he moved to Virginia, selling the house to his brother Dorsey Edgar Bolick. The house is located at the north end of the district and is surrounded by shrubbery and a variety of trees -- magnolia, oak, walnut, dogwood and fir. It is a two-story frame^{early} Colonial Revival house now covered with aluminum siding. A distinguishing feature of the house is the steeply pitched gambrel roof. The front (west) gambrel projects outward above the first story bay window and has large carved brackets under the corners which appear to support it. A porch with paired Doric posts set on brick plinths stretches from the center bay of the facade nearly to the rear of the south elevation. Its last bay extends outward to create a porte-cochere. Windows are one-over-one sash. The main entrance to the house, on the center bay of the west facade, has a glass and wood paneled door. Above the entrance at second story level is a large gabled dormer with a pair of windows with patterned muntins in the upper sash. The interior of the house has an irregular floor plan. Partially enclosed stairs wind upward from the south side of the central vestibule. On the north side of the vestibule, a door leads to the parlor, behind which is a sitting room, now used as the dining room. Both of these rooms have Classical mantels with colonettes and a molded mantel shelf. South of the present dining room is the original dining room with beaded board wainscot and built-in cupboard. The south end of this room has a large bay window which projects onto the side porch. Behind the original dining room is the kitchen, which also retains its beaded board wainscot. Molded baseboards and five-panel doors with molded casing remain in the house, although some other elements (walls, ceilings, etc.) were remodelled in the 1970s by a previous owner.

8. **Garage**
mid 20th century
Noncontributing

Southeast of the house is a mid-twentieth century garage. It is square, brick veneered, and has a pyramidal roof.

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9. (first) **Oscar W. Bolick House**
1006 First Avenue South
1920
Contributing

This house was erected by Herman and Sipe Builders for Oscar Whetzel Bolick in 1920. Oscar Bolick was a son of Jerome Bolick and worked for a time at the buggy shop. In 1927, however, he started Southern Furniture Company, an important Conover industry. Located on the west side of First Avenue, the house sits on a lot which slopes downward toward the rear. Shrubbery surrounds the house, while maples in the front and oaks in the back provide shade. The house is a one-and-one-half-story bungalow with brick veneered first story and wood shingled upper story. The typically broad gable roof has widely overhanging bracketed eaves and is interrupted on the front and rear by large gabled dormers, again with overhanging bracketed eaves. The front porch has ironwork posts set on brick plinths and a flat roof surrounded by an ironwork balustrade. On the north side of the house is a slightly projecting rectangular bay, while on the south side is a small shed-roofed porch sheltering the side entrance. In the rear are rooms above a garage -- possibly an addition. The sash windows are generally paired. (The owner would not permit the interior of the house to be recorded.)

10. (second) **Oscar W. Bolick House**
1008 First Avenue South
1936
Contributing

In 1936 Oscar Bolick moved from his bungalow next door to this imposing Colonial Revival house designed by Hickory architect R. L. Clemmer. Bolick's widow still resides in the house. It is a large, two-story brick veneer structure with a slate tile hipped and gabled roof. The east facade is symmetrically arranged with three major sections. The central section is three bays wide with central, six-panel door and one-story porch with paired Doric posts, full classical entablature and deck roof surrounded by an ironwork balustrade. This portion of the facade has a high hipped roof with three gabled dormers with round arched, traceried windows. A large chimney rises from the center of the roof. (The entire house roof has a boxed and molded cornice with dentil frieze.) Flanking the central three bays are two slightly projecting gabled bays, each two bays wide. Lunette windows decorate the gable ends. The north side of the house is

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also symmetrical in design. It is three bays wide and has a central entrance with semi-circular porch with slender Doric columns and full entablature. On the west side is a one-story hyphen connecting the house with the gabled garage. The rear (west side) of the house is asymmetrically arranged with projecting and receding planes. Windows surrounding the house are six-over-six sash with wood louvered shutters. The interior has a large central living room flanked by two rooms on either side -- the music room and den on the north and the dining room and kitchen on the south. Behind the living room is a transverse hall, behind which are a bedroom, bathroom and breakfast room. Five bedrooms are upstairs. Six-panel doors with three-part surrounds are found throughout the house. Particular features of note are the large living room mantel with its paired pilasters and tripartite frieze in the Federal Revival manner, the Georgian influenced den mantel, and the stair with its spiral newel, slender turned balusters and graceful handrail. The stair is nearly identical to the one in the Clyde Bost House near Newton, designed by Clemmer in 1929. The Bolick house is located on a large, unusually deep lot. The house itself is surrounded by well-kept shrubbery consisting largely of hollies, boxwoods and azaleas. Behind the house is a fish pond and a lawn with large magnolias and other trees. A grassy lane leads from the house to the wooded rear portion of the lot.

11-14 Outbuildings associated with (second) Oscar Bolick House
1936

A collection of interesting outbuildings is located toward the rear of the lot. Although this area was apparently always wooded, it is now overgrown, making it difficult to inspect some of the buildings. There are numerous pines, firs, oaks and rhododendron. In addition to the outbuildings, the property originally had a swimming pool and tennis court, but these are no longer evident.

11. **Garage** (contributing). Located along the lane closest to the house is the garage, a single bay, gable-roofed brick veneer structure.

12. **Cabin** (contributing). In the woods west of the house is a one-and-one-half-story cabin, intentionally designed to appear rustic, as if it were a mountain retreat. It has a stone foundation, board and batten siding, a gable roof, a stone chimney on the south side, a shed-roofed porch on the east facade with tree

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trunk posts, and six-over-six sash windows with batten shutters. A small ell is on the rear.

13. **Bowling alley** (contributing). Not far west of the cabin is a bowling alley with L-shaped configuration, vertical flush board siding, and a gable roof.

14. **Barbeque pit/shelter** (contributing). South of the bowling alley is a rustic barbeque pit and shelter with tree trunk corner supports and low gable roof.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1883-1939 _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Bolick, Jerome

Architect/Builder

Clemmer, R.L., Architect

Herman & Sipe Builders

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Bolick Historic District is a group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century factory buildings and houses built by the Jerome Bolick family in Conover, Catawba County. The earliest and most important building is a one-story stone and brick buggy shop built by Jerome Bolick circa 1883, and representing the beginning of a buggy industry which thrived until the 1920s. The early twentieth century metal and frame factory buildings near the buggy shop represent the shift to truck and bus body manufacturing in the 1920s when the business became known as the Jerome Bolick & Sons Company. Until the 1950s the plant was one of the major manufacturers of North Carolina school buses, and shifted into truck body production exclusively during its final phase of operation, finally closing in 1978. In addition to the factory, four residences of the Bolick sons are included in the district. These are the James F. Bolick House, ca. 1905, a two-story frame Colonial Revival style house with prominent gambrel roof; the first Oscar W. Bolick House, ca. 1920, a one and one-half story bungalow; the second Oscar W. Bolick House, ca. 1936, a two-story brick Colonial Revival style house designed by Hickory architect R.L. Clemmer and including a rustic cabin and free-standing bowling alley; and the Dorsey Edgar Bolick House, 1938, a two-story brick Colonial Revival house. The district is significant under Criterion A in association with the Historic Context "Industrial Development in Catawba County 1850 to 1939," and both the industrial buildings and the house are significant under Criterion C in association with the property types "Industrial Buildings in Catawba County" and "Houses in Catawba County: Twentieth Century." In addition, the district is significant under Criterion B for its association with Jerome Bolick, known as the "Father of Conover Industry."

See continuation sheet

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Catawba County, N.C.Historical Background

Jerome Bolick (August 1858-24 January 1938) was one of fourteen children born to Amos Elkanah and Caroline Bolch (the spelling of the name generally changed from Bolch to Bolick in the 1870s)¹ A. E. Bolch was a farmer with 317 acres.² He was also a wagonmaker and wheelwright, one of several such craftsmen in Catawba County. Bolch sold his son Jerome forty-two acres in 1879. Upon his father's death in 1880 Jerome Bolick received eighteen additional acres.³ In 1878 Bolick had married Martha Propst (March 1857-17 February 1945), daughter of Franklin and Julia Smyre Propst. He is said to have chosen to live in Conover in order that he might educate his children at local Concordia College. Jerome and Martha Bolick had eleven children -- four daughters and seven sons, five of whom were at some time associated with the buggy-making operation.⁴

For the purposes of the 1880 manufacturing census Jerome Bolick reported that he had invested \$700 in his wheelwrighting business. He employed two men, paying them up to a dollar a day. He estimated that he used \$350 worth of raw materials per year to produce \$1,200 worth of finished products.⁵ Yet, up until he built the existing brick buggy shop, Bolick's plant was little more than an extension of a blacksmith's operation. In three successive years beginning in 1882, Bolick entered into mortgage agreements, presumably as a means of financing the new building.⁶ But it was Bolick's invention of the "perfect steel spring wheel" that propelled his business toward success. "Our new spring steel wheel is a wonder of the age in vehicle building," he claimed in a promotional tract. Bolick obtained four patents for his invention in 1888. The wheel, made of steel which was not easily bent or broken and which featured sockets which would not work loose or decay, was guaranteed to be comfortable on "rough country roads or cobble stone streets in the cities." "It comprises every quality essential to a perfect wheel -- strength, resiliency, durability," Bolick claimed.⁷ He acquired considerable fame locally for his accomplishment. "Conover has also within her gates an inventive genius, in the person of Mr. Jerome Bolick," according to a Hickory newspaper of 1890. In 1907 the invention received a first place award at the Jamestown Exhibition.⁸

Bolick's product line included a number of different buggy styles, all advertised using modern techniques. "Conover is 'Quality,' Easy Riding, Light Running," according to one ad. Of

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the Pony model, "everyone exclaims 'How Pretty.'" "If you are looking for a vehicle that will attract favorable comments wherever it goes, you have found it in the 'Quality' Dorsey." Other models included the Dixie Leader, Pattern Top Buggy, Stick Seat Flat Wagon, Basket Seat Buggy, and Extension Top Surrey. At the peak of production around 1918 the company produced twenty-eight buggies per week.⁹ The evolution of the physical plant around the buggy shop cannot be determined from existing information. It is probable that the operation was conducted primarily in the one shop for a number of years after 1883. However, the 1932 Sanborn Map shows that the Bolick Buggy Shop grounds, bounded by Highway 10 and Acme Street (now known as Hwy. 16 and Railroad Pl. S.E.), encompassed at least eight buildings as well as several lumber piles. Four of the structures were of considerable size, including the present warehouse building (#4 on attached sketch map), then used as a factory and for painting, a building used for upholstering, varnishing, and storage, a planing mill, and a warehouse. Among the smaller buildings were a lumber shed, the boiler house, and the office. Also on the grounds were an elevated 7,000 gallon water tank and a storage area for excelsior (packing material). All of these buildings, except the large warehouse, were replaced in the 1940s and 50s, or torn down in 1983. The plant, which had employed as few as two workers in its earliest days, had over thirty employees by the 1930s.¹⁰

The Bolicks' product changed with the times. The operation gradually shifted away from buggy manufacture to custom body work on trucks and buses. The buggy market began to decline in 1919 and, with the widespread use of combustion-engine automobiles, disappeared almost entirely in the 1920s. The Bolicks began modifying truck bodies in the mid-1920s and produced their first school bus in 1929. In time the Conover company became one of the largest school bus manufacturers in the South, shipping their product to Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia. Within North Carolina the company sold the buses directly to counties until the state took over such purchases in 1934. In the following years the Bolicks had annual contracts with the state, for example, supplying 250 buses in 1937. The buses, originally made of wood and steel, were by 1938 all-steel. The company was one of the last North Carolina-based suppliers of buses to the state; however, by the 1950s, the trade had been entirely taken over by out-of-state manufacturers. With the disappearance of a second market, the Bolicks once again redirected their business, this time to a concentration on truck bodies (specifically paneled trucks), vans, and soft drink

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Catawba County, N.C.trucks.¹¹

The ownership and management of the firm changed with time, although it remained in the Bolick family. Jerome Bolick was in time joined in the company by five of his sons: James F. (born in 1879), Dorsey Edgar (1881), Marshall Loy (1883), Rolland K. (1887), and Oscar W. (1889).¹² With the elder Bolick's retirement the operation became known as Jerome Bolick & Sons Company. Jerome Bolick died at the age of seventy-nine on January 24, 1938, one week after suffering a stroke. He was buried at Concordia Lutheran Church. The pioneer manufacturer and inventor was called the "Father of Conover Industry" in the local paper, which noted in an editorial that he had "contributed a great deal through his own efforts and the work of his children."¹³ By the terms of his will Jerome Bolick left his house (since destroyed) and other buildings to his sons, who in turn were to retain the house for their mother Martha (she died in 1945). He left other property to his daughters but specifically excluded the sons involved in the business, noting that he had previously assisted them during his lifetime and that they were in "good financial circumstances."¹⁴ Two of the five sons had left the business some years earlier. James Bolick, the oldest, became a school-teacher and by 1911 had moved to Virginia, selling his interest in the company to his brothers.¹⁵ Oscar Bolick left to establish the Southern Furniture Company in 1927. A third brother, Marshall Loy Bolick, died on December 22, 1935, leaving his share of the company to his brothers Rolland K. and Dorsey Edgar.¹⁶

Thus, after their father's death in 1938, Rolland K. and Dorsey Edgar Bolick were left with total control of the family business. The brothers were "identified with about every progressive movement for the upbuilding of their town and county," according to a Hickory newspaper.¹⁷ Rolland K. Bolick served several terms on the board of county commissioners; Dorsey Edgar Bolick was also active in local political and civic organizations. After his brother left the business in 1945, Dorsey Edgar Bolick (1881-12 March 1963) was the sole owner. The last Bolick's property holdings were considerable. Although Jerome and Martha Bolick's house was destroyed sometime after her death in 1945, the Bolick sons had by that time built several houses on the property. (See the discussion of these houses in Section 7.) Bolick died on March 12, 1963, at the age of eighty-two, leaving his house and personal property to his wife and his business operation to his son-in-law C. Robert Wanzer.¹⁸

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Wanzer, married to Dorsey Edgar Bolick's daughter Evelyn, was born in Baltimore, educated in Charlotte schools, and graduated from Duke University. Prior to coming to Conover, he had worked for a trucking company in Charlotte. As of 1965 Wanzer had five employees with an annual payroll of \$24,000. His truck body works served an area within a 100-mile radius of Conover.¹⁹ Wanzer, like the Bolicks before him, kept an interest in buggies, stocking parts and offering to do repairs when necessary. He was proud of the fact that, despite declining business, he had not fired any employees; but rather lost them through attrition. In November 1977 officials of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration visited Wanzer and concluded that continued operation would require complete rewiring, an overhaul of machinery, and other changes. Wanzer chose instead to shut down, relieving his last employee in January 1978 and delivering the last truck body the following month. When Jerry Bledsoe of the Charlotte Observer visited him in May 1978 he was cleaning out and closing up shop. Much of the "compound of sagging sheds and rusty-roofed buildings" described by Bledsoe has since been cleared.²⁰ Since 1978 Wanzer and his wife have sold the industrial operation property; it has subsequently had several owners.²¹ The industrial site is currently owned by Gungar SoImaz of G.S. Fabrics, a local textile manufacturer, and used for storage. The Bolick houses and the 1883 Bolick Buggy Shop are owned by Jerome W. Bolick of Southern Furniture Company, and his mother, Bertha W. Bolick, widow of Oscar W. Bolick.

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¹Ninth and Tenth Censuses, 1870, 1880, Population Schedules. The "Bolick" spelling although common to North Carolina, is far less common than "Bolich" in states such as Pennsylvania. Family members using both spellings belong to the same clan. Oscar W. Bolick of Conover was an active clan member in the 1930s. Mary Margaret Bolich, The Bolich Family in America (Allentown, Pa.: Schlechter's Publishers, 1939), 138.

²Catawba County Tax Records, North Carolina State Archives; Newton Observer, 27 March 1952.

³Catawba County Deed Book 11, p. 178, and Deed Book 20, p. 394.

⁴Newton Observer, 27 March 1952; Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule.

⁵Tenth Census, 1880, Manufacturing Schedule.

⁶Catawba County Deed Book 16, p. 238, and Deed Book 19, pp. 9 and 508. "J. Bolch" was first listed in a directory of local businesses as a Conover carriage and buggy manufacturer in 1884, and was similarly listed in subsequent years. Levi Branson, comp., Branson's North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884-1897), 1884, p. 198; 1890, p. 171; 1896, p. 167; and 1897, p. 167.

⁷"Jerome Bolick & Sons, Conover, North Carolina," promotional pamphlet, n.d., in the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

⁸(Hickory) Press and Carolinian, Trade Edition, Volume 20, Number 1, January 1890; Newton Observer, 27 March 1952.

⁹"Jerome Bolick & Sons" pamphlet; Newton Observer, 27 March 1952.

¹⁰Sanborn Map Company, Map, Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina, 1932 (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1932); Charlotte Observer, 23 May 1978.

¹¹Newton Observer, 27 March 1952.

¹²Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule.

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Section number 8 Page 6

Bolick Historic District
Catawba County, N.C.

- ¹³Catawba News-Enterprise, 28 January 1938.
- ¹⁴Catawba County Will Book 5, p. 556, and Deed Book 292, p. 286.
- ¹⁵Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule; Catawba County Deed Book 99, p. 25.
- ¹⁶Catawba County Deed Book 265, p. 540.
- ¹⁷Hickory Daily Record, U. D. C. Edition, February 1938.
- ¹⁸Greensboro Daily News, 13 March 1963; Catawba County Deed Book 758, p. 65.
- ¹⁹Hickory Daily Record, 1 September 1965.
- ²⁰Charlotte Observer, 23 May 1978.
- ²¹Catawba County Deed Book 1225, p. 898, and Deed Book 1250, p. 534.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approx. 11 acres

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated historic district is indicated by the solid bold line on the accompanying map which is a composite of portions of Catawba County Tax Maps 10-C and 11-C, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The Bolick Historic District is comprised of the entire lot historically associated with the Jerome Bolick & Sons industrial site and the lots which are historically associated with the James Bolick House, D. Edgar Bolick House and the two Oscar W. Bolick Houses.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Kooiman, compiler; Laura A. W. Phillips, description; Michael Hill, history
organization Catawba County Historical Association date _____
street & number Rt. 1, Box 76AB telephone 704/256-3040
city or town Conover state N.C. zip code 28613

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Bolick Historic District
Catawba County, N.C.

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Section number Photos Page 1 Bolick Historic District, Catawba County, NC

The following information pertains to all photographs:

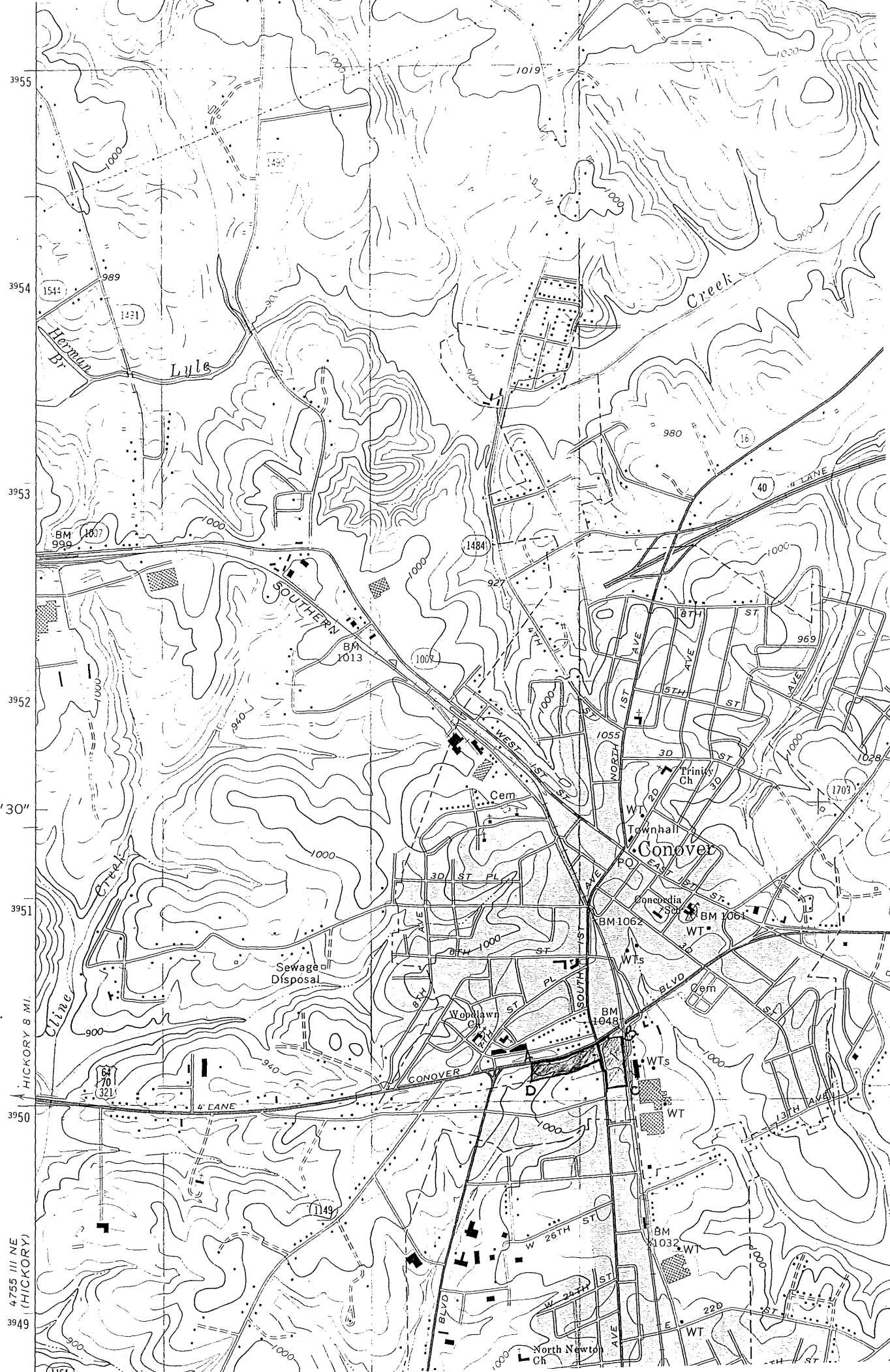
- 1) Bolick Historic District
 - 2) Conover, North Carolina
 - 3) Laura Phillips
 - 4) May 1983
 - 5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC
-
- A. 6) Buggy Shop (1), to west
 - B. 6) Office (2) and garage (3), to east. (Note: Water tank and building in background are no longer standing and their sites are outside the district.)
 - C. 6) Manufacturing building (4), to northeast
 - D. 6) D. Edgar Bolick House (6), to northeast
 - E. 6) D. Edgar Bolick House (6), interior, stair
 - F. 6) James Bolick House (7), to east
 - G. 6) James Bolick House, interior, parlor mantel
 - H. 6) 1st Oscar W. Bolick House (9), to south
 - I. 6) 2nd Oscar W. Bolick House (10), to west
 - J. 6) 2nd Oscar W. Bolick House, to southeast
 - K. 6) 2nd Oscar W. Bolick House, interior, mantel
 - L. 6) Cabin (12), to west
 - M. 6) Bowling alley (13), to west
 - N. 6) BBQ Shelter (14), to west

NOTE: All of the photos used in this nomination were taken in 1983. All resources have been thoroughly field checked by Barbara Kooiman in 1989 and have been determined to be unchanged from their appearance and condition portrayed in these photos.

NEWTON QUAD
ZONE 17

BOLICK HISTORIC
DISTRICT

- A R 479760
N 3950185
- B R 480200
N 3950310
- C R 480220
N 3950070
- D R 479760
N 3950100



3955
3954
3953
3952
42'30"
3951
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3949

HICKORY 8 MI.
4755 III NE (HICKORY)

