

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(former) Ridgeview Public Library

Hickory, Catawba County, CT1076, Listed mm/dd/2011

Nomination by Beth Keane

Photographs by Beth keane, April 2010



Façade view



Rear view

**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 (former) Ridgeview Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 415 First Street, SW not for publication N/A

city or town Hickory vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Catawba code 035 zip code 28601

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.)

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Name of Property

Catawba County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls brick
other _____

Narrative Description

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

(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Name of Property

Catawba County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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)

EDUCATION

BLACK ETHNIC HERITAGE

Period of Significance

1951-1961

Significant Dates

1951

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Landis, Bobbie – designer

Crouch Lumber Company - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Name of Property

Catawba County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 469340 3953500
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date October, 2010

street & number 6073 Gold Creek Estates Drive telephone 828-328-8147

city or town Hickory state NC zip code 28601

12. 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 InterFaith Housing Development Corporation, President: Michael Watkins

street & number P.O. Box 3547 telephone 828-459-3335

city or town Hickory state NC zip code 28603

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 1

(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1951 (former) Ridgeview Public Library is located at 415 First Street, SW, in Hickory, the largest city in Catawba County. Hickory is located in the northwest quadrant of the county and about ten miles northwest of Newton, the county seat. The west-facing building is situated several blocks south of the central business district and one and one-half blocks north of its original location on a slightly sloping lot at the southwest corner of Seventh Avenue, SW (formerly Third Avenue) and First Street, SW (formerly Thirteenth Street). The building faced east toward First Street at its original location. The one-story brick veneer library building was moved to its current location in 1998 after being sold to the InterFaith Housing Development Corporation to stave off its demolition while making room for a newer regional-city library built to replace the 1951 building. Similar to its original location, the former library sits on a rectangular lot with a slight slope, minimal landscaping, and with approximately the same set back from the road. Because the building was moved only one-tenth of a mile from its original location within Ridgeview, a historically African American neighborhood, it remains surrounded by a mix of modest early to mid-twentieth-century houses, several commercial buildings, a recreation center, and several churches. In addition, modest infill houses have recently been constructed on some of the vacant lots in the neighborhood.

Measuring forty-seven feet wide by twenty-five feet deep, the side-gable building is five bays wide and two bays deep with a single-shoulder, exterior brick chimney centrally positioned on the north elevation. A series of rectangular air vents puncture the building's brick foundation on all four sides. The symmetrical façade features a small central gable over a recessed front entrance with a wood Colonial Revival-style door surround consisting of flanking, reeded pilasters, a flat frieze, and a broken pediment. Although the front door is currently covered with a board for security, the original two-panel wood door with upper light remains intact. Five modern brick steps rise from the ground to the front entrance. Two sets of flanking six-over-six windows with wood window frames and projecting brick sills are positioned near the top of the wall, just under a flat wood cornice that spans the front and rear elevations.

Six-over-six double-hung sash windows, similar to those on the façade, flank the central chimney on the building's north elevation. The window west of the chimney is currently boarded over. The south elevation features a central eight-over-eight window with a smaller square attic window positioned directly above it. Five six-over-six windows of two different sizes are positioned on the rear (east) elevation of the building. The two smaller windows are symmetrically positioned between the three larger windows and all sit at the cornice. The gently-sloped roof is protected by asphalt shingles.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Continuation Sheet
Section 7 Page 2**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

The interior layout consists of an open, spacious U-shaped room with a stairwell, an office, a small bathroom and closet centered on the rear (east) wall. The bathroom and closet are accessed from the office. The floor is covered with wall-to-wall carpeting, while the ceiling consists of acoustical tiles applied directly to the attic floor joists. Fluorescent panel lights, as well as some track lighting, are attached to the ceiling.

The walls in the main library room, the office, the bathroom, and the closet are clad with the original knotty pine paneling. Original pine baseboards consist of a toe molding with an approximate three-inch flat baseboard surmounted by a decorative cavetto molding. Crown molding in a modified ogee pattern is also intact. The library's bookshelves remain in place on the side and rear walls in the principal library room. Original six-panel pine doors open into a former stairwell and the interior office to the south of the stairwell. Similar, but narrower, doors open into the bathroom and closet. The door and window frames consist of simple flat boards outlined by a slightly projecting narrow slat. The stairs, which once led to a basement meeting room at the original site, have been removed from the stairwell, but there is a small dug-out dirt basement with concrete block walls. The small windows on the east elevation provide illumination for the stairwell and the bathroom.

A brass plaque attached to the outer wall of the office, opposite the front door, reads:

HICKORY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
THIS LIBRARY WAS MADE POSSIBLE
THROUGH THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF
HICKORY CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE
HICKORY ALTRUSA CLUB

"A GOOD BOOK IS THE PRECIOUS LIFEBLOOD
OF A MASTER SPIRIT" John Milton

An open book-shaped exterior metal sign for the library has also been retained and is stored in the building. It reads: "HICKORY PUBLIC LIBRARY" and displays the emblem of the City of Hickory. The original wood shutters for the windows are also stored in the building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The (former) Ridgeview Public Library meets National Register Criterion A as one of two surviving building in the Ridgeview community that relate to the education and ethnic heritage of the African American citizens of Hickory. It also meets Criteria Consideration B. Although the building has been moved one and one-half blocks north from its original location, it remains centered in the historically African American Ridgeview neighborhood on a similar site and is an important structure of the Jim Crow era in Hickory. All but the gymnasium at the Ridgeview School, which served grades kindergarten through twelve during segregation and was located a block west of the library, was demolished soon after integration took place in Hickory in 1967. Other than the school, the Ridgeview Public library was the only educational-related institution available to the African American citizens of Hickory, and it tells a more complete story than the gymnasium as a remnant of the school.

Since the library's construction in 1951 until it was replaced with a new library in 1998, the building was important to the Ridgeview community not only as an educational institution, but also as a meeting place for many of the community's organizations. In addition, the building is notable in that it was erected by a combined effort of the Hickory women's Altrusa Club, a white organization, and citizens of the African American Ridgeview community at a time when segregation was the norm.

The simple brick Colonial Revival-style structure, well preserved and carefully maintained, continues to stand as a significant and valued building in the Ridgeview neighborhood and after renovation will serve as a meeting place and heritage center for the community. The period of significance begins in 1951, when the library opened, and extends to 1961. Although the (former) Ridgeview Public Library continued to play a vital role in the Ridgeview African American community until it was replaced with the new Ridgeview Public Library in 1998, the post-1961 period is not of exceptional significance.

Historical Background and Criterion A: Education and Ethnic Heritage

Hickory, located approximately ten miles northwest of Newton, the county seat, was initially known as Hickory Tavern, named for a small tavern established near the intersection of three wagon roads. A small settlement grew around the tavern during the early nineteenth century. With the arrival of the Western North Carolina Railroad, along with the establishment of a post office in 1860, the village experienced growth as

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 2**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

a trading center. The name of the town was changed to Hickory in 1876, and in 1889 Hickory was incorporated as a city. Between 1861 and 1900, the city's population and economy expanded along with an increased development of cultural and educational facilities. Large-scale furniture plants and hosiery and textile mills were established in the early years of the twentieth century (Mohney, pp. 1-2).

Hickory's residential neighborhoods began to develop in areas removed from the vicinity of the railroad tracks, which ran in an east-west direction through the commercial downtown. By the early twentieth century, a number of the city's prominent businessmen began to acquire property and build fashionable houses northeast and northwest of the business district. Racial segregation during the first half of the twentieth century, known in the South as the Jim Crow era, dictated that blacks establish their own communities where they could live, shop, and worship apart from white citizens. The area south of the railroad tracks became a popular area for the African American population to reside and open modest businesses (Keiser, p. 13). Minority-owned grocery stores, beauty and barber shops, cafes, dance halls, pool halls, and hotels opened up primarily along the Twelfth Street corridor (now South Center Street) in the southwest quadrant of the city. The black community was known by many names: Bob Town, Colored Town, Southside, and the Hill (Freeze, p. 339).

The first school for the African American community, a wood building known as the Catawba Training Academy, was constructed in 1916 and located in the Ridgeview neighborhood one block west of the original Ridgeview Public Library site, on the southeast corner of Fourteenth Street and Third Avenue (now Third Street, SW and Seventh Avenue, SW, respectively). The building, which was expanded several times, was later known as the Hickory Graded School. That structure was destroyed by fire in the early 1930s, and replaced in 1937 with a larger, brick building, named Ridgeview School, on the same location. The school, which served grades kindergarten through twelve, quickly developed into one of the best "colored schools" in the state and served as a rallying point for the community as they celebrated the school's outstanding football and basketball teams' many victories. This building was also expanded several times, including a detached gymnasium built in 1940, a vocational shop and cafeteria completed in 1952, and a six-room high-school wing added in 1960. The school served the community until integration took place in 1967. It was torn down several years later (Freeze, p. 340).

In an effort to gain more respectability during the 1930s, some residents of the old "Bob Town" began to refer to their community as "Southside." Others favored the name Ridgeview, as the local school was a gathering point for the community. In addition,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 3**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

proponents of the new names wanted to promote a respectable image of their neighborhood and demonstrate that the core of their community was stable and civil (Freeze, p. 339)

By the 1940s, black-owned businesses in the bustling African American community included five physicians, two midwives, a dentist, three pool rooms, three taxi services, four sandwich shops, two cafes, a laundrette, four beauty shops, a movie theater, six funeral homes, a grocery, and several child care centers (Hartsoe, pp. 5-6). Many of the community's residents were also employed by the railroad and the area's textile mills and furniture factories, while others found employment as domestic servants (Freeze, p. 339).

Prior to 1940, library facilities for the African American community were severely limited. The presence of a "free" public library in Hickory began in 1893 when a group of townspeople raised money for books and established a library operated by volunteers. Relying on contributed space, the library operated in four separate locations during the ensuing years. In 1916, however, a group of Hickory citizens led by Mrs. J. Worth Elliott, applied for funding from the Carnegie Foundation to provide a permanent home for the library's collection. They were awarded a grant of \$14,000 and an additional \$3,000 was raised by public subscription. In addition, a small property tax was approved for the library's support and the new Elliott-Carnegie Library (NR 1985) was opened on August 14, 1922 (Keiser, p. 58). Although it was touted as a free public library open to all the county's tax-paying citizens, Jim Crow statutes made it all but inaccessible to the African American citizens of the county and no provisions were made for a separate "colored only" room. A 1946-47 survey of North Carolina libraries completed by the Tennessee Valley Authority revealed that only about half the African American population had access to public libraries and service to blacks was far less adequate than service to whites (Mitchell, p. 38).

The first library in Hickory's African American community of Ridgeview, known as the Twelfth Street Branch, was housed in cramped quarters in a small storefront building. Created in 1940 under the impetus of Hickory librarian Grace Patrick, with the aid of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant, the fledgling library received 420 books loaned by the WPA, while local church groups paid rent on the building. After WPA aid ceased in 1943, the facility was stocked with books from the Elliott-Carnegie Hickory Library, from Lenoir Rhyne College, and from private sources. By 1946, the room could not hold all the books and magazines, so they moved to the basement of the nearby St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church (*The Charlotte Observer*, March 29, 1998, Patrick Beaver

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 4

(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC

Memorial Library File). By 1950, the library had 3,198 books in its collection (*North Carolina Almanac and State Industrial Guide*, p. 472).

That same year, the Hickory Altrusa Club, a white woman's service organization formed in Hickory in 1945 with thirty members, mounted a fund-raising drive to raise \$10,000 for the construction of a large, permanent home for the library in the Ridgeview community. During the Christmas holiday season, club members donated 333 volumes of books. By knocking on doors and appealing to churches, businesses, and civic clubs, a small band of students, parents, and church leaders from the Ridgeview community managed to accumulate \$3,000. The City of Hickory contributed an additional \$7,000 for construction of the branch library (*The Charlotte Observer*, March 29, 1998, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library File). Prominent Hickory businessman, George F. Ivey, sponsored the construction of Hickory's 1952 Ivey Memorial Public Library, which replaced the 1922 Elliott-Carnegie Library. Ivey also promoted the construction of the Ridgeview Public Library by purchasing a lot at the southwest corner of Thirteenth Street and Third Avenue (now First Street, SW and Seventh Avenue, SW, respectively) and deeding it to the City of Hickory as a site for the proposed library (*A History of Catawba County*, p. 469).

A January 5, 1950 article in the *Hickory Daily Record* reported:

"The library would cover a space of forty-six feet by twenty-four feet, with a complete basement. Of Southern Colonial architecture, the library will be of brick construction and pine paneled throughout with steel stacks and flooring of rubber tile. Proposed plans for the library building were presented by the committee chairman, Mrs. Margaret Gaither, and the drawings which were made by Mrs. Bobbie Landis, were inspected by the twenty or more club members present for the meeting. Altrusa members commented favorably on the plans displayed by Mrs. Gaither and gave unanimous endorsement to the proposal to proceed immediately with the actual building of the library."

Work proceeded on the new library, supervised by an Altrusan committee under the direction of Bobbie C. Landis, while construction of the building was awarded to the Crouch Lumber Company, of which Bobbie Landis was part-owner. The grading of the grounds and planting of shrubbery, donated by the Howard-Hickory Nursery, was accomplished under the supervision of Hickory gardener, Burgin Finger. Upon its completion in early 1951, the books were moved from the old library quarters into the new library (*A History of Catawba County*, p. 469).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 5**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

A formal opening of the Ridgeview Public Library in January, 1951, was attended by approximately 600 people. The building soon became a popular afternoon study spot for students at the nearby Ridgeview School, since, although Ridgeview School was built in 1937, a school library was not added until the mid-1950s. Neighborhood community clubs also utilized the building's finished basement for meeting space. An August 26, 1965 article in the *Hickory Daily Record* reported:

“The Ridgeview Public Library has attained the status of a fully functioning establishment in providing reading and research material to meet the increasing demands of community needs. In addition to book circulation, records may be borrowed and story hours enjoyed. The library works closely with the school in offering reference and supplementary material. Anything needed by the Ridgeview Library can be drawn from the Ivey Memorial Library, thus greatly increasing the value of the institution to the Ridgeview Community.”

During 1966-67, the library became a branch of the Ivey Memorial Library. This took place at the same time that school integration was taking place in Hickory.

The Ridgeview Public Library almost closed due to budget cuts twice between 1976 and 1998, but residents fought successfully to keep it open. In 1976, residents successfully opposed the library director's decision to close it. The city did shut down the basement, comprising half of the library's space, in the early 1990s, because it did not meet federal accessibility guidelines for disabled patrons. A proposed merger of the city and county library systems, coupled with lagging library patronage, prompted city officials to consider closing it again in January 1994. Fifteen residents went to a city council meeting to protest. A week later, council members announced that the library would remain open for the time being (*Hickory Daily Record*, August 13, 1997, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library File).

Soon after that, the city announced plans to build a new main library. The Ridgeview Building Committee, a group of residents who have spearheaded several community improvement projects, felt the new library would be too far away for Ridgeview neighborhood children to use. They approached the city with a plan and convinced the city to spend \$500,000 for a new library in the Ridgeview neighborhood. A federal community development grant provided an additional \$100,000 and NationsBank donated \$200,000 for humanities and science and technology programs at the new Ridgeview Library. It was estimated that the new library would need an additional

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 6**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

\$50,000 to \$75,000 for books and other materials, and \$75,000 for furniture (*Hickory Daily Record*, August 13, 1997, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library File).

The city originally planned to demolish the old library because it would be too close to the new one, violating building codes. A citizen's movement led by city councilwoman, Z. Ann Hoyle, of Ridgeview, urged the city to save the building so it could house a community museum. The Hickory City Council met in April, 1998, and voted to spend \$40,000 to remove the old library from its brick foundation, transport the building to a city-owned lot on the west side of South Center Street, and place it on a new foundation (*The Charlotte Observer*, April 19, 1998, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library File).

The new 4,000-square-foot Ridgeview Public Library was dedicated on June 21, 1998. The building featured modern bathrooms, computer work stations, meeting space, and children and adult sections with a greatly expanded book selection. There was also office space for library administrators, large windows and a skylight to let in natural daylight (*The Charlotte Observer* news article, June 19, 1998, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library File).

Although the City of Hickory donated the old Ridgeview Public Library to the InterFaith Housing Development Corporation of Hickory, instead of being moved to the city-owned lot on South Center Street, the building was moved to a vacant lot on the east side of First Street, SW, purchased by the InterFaith Housing Development Corporation in June, 1998. The city paid to move the building to the site the same month (Deed Book 2090, p. 205). Although the building has been vacant for the past twelve years, the new owners have maintained it and hope to renovate it and utilize it for meeting space for community organizations.

The (former) Ridgeview Public Library is the only remaining educational resource linked with Hickory's African American Ridgeview community. Although the 1940 Ridgeview School gymnasium is still standing, the associated 1937 Ridgeview School has been demolished. As an important and popular educational institution within the community, the (former) Ridgeview Public Library remains a vital and important structure to the Ridgeview community and remains one of the last links to the neighborhood's past.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Continuation Sheet
Section 9 Page 9**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

Bibliography

Catawba County Deeds and Vital Statistic Records, Catawba County Courthouse, Newton, NC.

Catawba County Historical Association, Inc. *A History of Catawba County*. Ed. Charles J. Preslar, Jr. Salisbury, NC: Rowan Printing Co., 1954.

Ehringhaus, Mrs. J. C. B. and Mrs. Carl Goerch. *North Carolina Almanac and State Industrial Guide*. Raleigh, NC: Almanac Publishing Company, 1951

Freeze, Gary R. *The Catawban, Vol. Two: Pioneers in Progress*. Newton, NC: The Catawba County Historical Association Press, 2002.

Hartson, Drucell Sudderth. *Memories of the Ridgeview Community, The Hill, 2001*. Patrick Beaver Library, Boyd Family Local History Room, Hickory, NC.

Hickory Daily Record. Various articles: January 5, 1950; August 26, 1965; August 13, 1997.

Keiser, Jr., Albert and Angela May. *From Tavern to Town Revisited: An Architectural History of Hickory, North Carolina*. Hickory, NC: Hickory Landmark Society, 2004.

Mitchell, Thornton W. *The State Library and Library Development in North Carolina*. Raleigh, NC: NCDCCR, Division of State Library, 1983.

Mohney, Kirk F. and Laura A. W. Phillips. *From Tavern to Town: An Architectural History of Hickory, North Carolina*. Hickory, NC: City of Hickory Properties Commission And Hickory Landmark Society, 1988.

Patrick Beaver Memorial Library file on Hickory Public Libraries, Boyd Family Local History Room, Hickory, NC.

The Charlotte Observer. Various articles: March 29, 1998; April 19, 1998; June 19, 1998.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Continuation Sheet
Section 10 Page 10**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel, delineated by a dark line, consists of parcel number 370207579702 as shown on the tax map of Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lot purchased by the current owner in 1998 and to which the library building was moved the same year. The rectangular city lot is three blocks north of the building's original location but remains central to the Ridgeview community and provides an appropriate setting comparable to its original setting.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Continuation Sheet
Section: Photos**

**(former) Ridgeview Public Library
Catawba County, NC**

The following information applies to all photographs:

Name of Property: (former) Ridgeview Public Library

County and State where property is located: Catawba County, North Carolina

Address: 415 First Street, SW, Hickory, NC 28601

Name of Photographer: Beth Keane

Date of Photographs: May, 2010

Location of Original Negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

Photographs:

Photograph 1: West elevation (façade); camera looking east

Photograph 2: East elevation; camera looking west

Photograph 3: North elevation; camera looking south

Photograph 4: South elevation; camera looking north

Photograph 5: Interior, main library room, camera looking south

Photograph 6: Interior, main library room, camera looking east

(former) RIDGEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

415 FIRST ST., SW
HICKORY, NC CATAWBA COUNTY

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SERVICES
CATAWBA COUNTY, NC

Real
Estate
Search

CURRENT SITE



Parcel Summary	Printed Map Scale 1 inch = 205ft	
Parcel ID: 370207579702	Parcel Address: 415 1ST ST SW, HICKORY	
Owner: INTER-FAITH HOUSING DEV CORP OF HKY	Address: PO BOX 3547	City: HICKORY
Owner2:	Address2:	State/Zip: NC, 28603-3547
Building(s) Value: \$47,200	Land Value: \$5,600	Total Value: \$52,800

DISCLAIMER: This map/report product was prepared from the Catawba County, NC Geospatial Information Services. Catawba County has made substantial efforts to ensure the accuracy of location and labeling information contained on this map or data on this report. Catawba County promotes and recommends the independent verification of any data contained on this map/report product by the user. The County of Catawba, its employees, agents, and personnel, disclaim, and shall not be held liable for any and all damages, loss or liability, whether direct, indirect or consequential which arises or may arise from this map/report product or the use thereof by any person or entity.