



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

September 27, 2016

Daniel Bridges, PE
WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff
121 West Trade Street Suite 1950
Charlotte, NC 28202

bridges@pbworld.com

RE: Addendum to Historic Structures Survey Report, Upgrade of Main Street, Huntersville,
Mecklenburg County, ER 15-2365

Dear Mr. Bridges:

We have received the above-referenced addendum from Susan Bamann with Coastal Carolina Research and offer the following comments.

The addendum contained enough information to fully evaluate the National Register eligibility of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) under Criterion C. This information included the church, interior photographs, a construction date, and comparison to other post-WWII churches in the community.

Based on the new information, we concur that the church is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as

- there is an early 1960s Colonial Revival style brick church in town with better integrity and
- a 1954 Classical Revival church in nearby Cornelius that has a somewhat higher degree of finish and better integrity than the Huntersville church.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

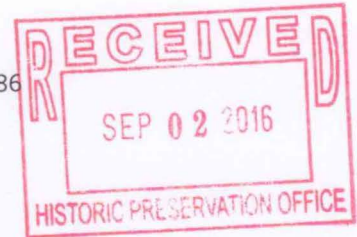
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

for Ramona M. Bartos

cc: Susan Bamann, CCR



Coastal Carolina Research
 P.O. BOX 1198, Tarboro, North Carolina 27886
 (252) 641-1444 | (252) 641-1235 fax
 www.ccrtarboro.com



August 31, 2016

Renee Gledhill-Earley
 Environmental Review Coordinator
 State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
 109 East Jones Street, Room 258
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

ER 15-2365

H
 ERL letters
 9/20/16

**RE: U-5908 – Upgrade Main Street, Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
 Submission of Architectural Survey Report, ER# 15-2365**

Dear Ms. Gledhill-Earley:

Dec 9/27/16

With respect to the project referenced above, please find enclosed the following:

- addendum report for in-depth evaluation of the 1959 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), per HPO comments from March 28, 2016 (1 copy)
- printout of the HPO survey database entry for the church, with photo proof sheets attached
- CD containing electronic versions of report, photo jpegs, the database, and the shapefile for the resource boundary

Coastal Carolina Research, on behalf of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and the Town of Huntersville, is requesting review of the enclosed materials. Your comments may be directed to:

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
 Daniel Bridges, PE
 121 West Trade Street - Suite 1950
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
 (704) 342-5404, bridges@pbworld.com

Needs to go to
 Amber to update

Yours truly,

Susan E. Bamann, Ph.D.
 Regional Director/Project Manager

encl.

cc: Brian Byfield, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
 Nicole Bennett, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
 Daniel Bridges, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

**ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, NC 115, N. MAIN STREET,
S. MAIN STREET, AND GILEAD/HUNTERSVILLE-CONCORD
ROAD, TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE, MECKLENBURG
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
TIP# U-5908; ER# 15-2365**

**ADDENDUM:
IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF THE HUNTERSVILLE ASSOCIATE
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (MK1342)**

**PREPARED FOR:
WSP | PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF
434 FAYETTEVILLE STREET, SUITE 1500
RALEIGH, NC 27601
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**PREPARED BY:
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201 WEST WILSON STREET
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**Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D.
*Architectural Historian***

NCR-0733

AUGUST 2016

ABSTRACT

The town of Huntersville proposes roadway improvements along North and South Main Streets, between their intersections with NC 115 (Old Statesville Road) in the north and south, with intersection-related improvements along Gilead/Huntersville-Concord Road and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road in the Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg, North Carolina. In September 2015, Coastal Carolina Research (CCR), a wholly owned subsidiary of Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., conducted an architectural survey of the proposed project area (Van den Hurk and Bamann 2016). As a result of the survey, two of the resources were recommended as needing further evaluation to determine their National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, Ranson House (MK1351) and the Huntersville Town Jail (MK3299) (Van den Hurk 2016). The North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) requested additional research and interior views of the ca. 1964 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, which replaced the NRHP-eligible ca. 1901 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), which was demolished between 2006 and 2009. The new church was built immediately to west of the site of the earlier church. CCR conducted fieldwork for the in-depth architectural evaluation of this resource for WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff on July 11 and 12, 2016. The current report contains the results of the intensive evaluations.

The study was undertaken in a manner consistent with compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for compliance with Section 106, codified as 36 CFR Part 800. The investigation was conducted according to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation Projects* (Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190, September 1983, P. 44716-44742, et seq.), and the current evaluation report was prepared according to project review guidelines issued by the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

As a result of the current study, the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) is not recommended as eligible for the NRHP (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of Evaluated Resources.

HPO Survey Site Number	Name	Address	Date	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
MK1342	Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church	200 N. Old Statesville Rd, Huntersville	1959	Not Eligible

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The town of Huntersville proposes roadway improvements along North and South Main Streets, between their intersections with NC 115 (Old Statesville Road) in the north and south, with intersection-related improvements along Gilead/Huntersville-Concord Road and Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road in the Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg, North Carolina (Figure 1.1-1). In September 2015, Coastal Carolina Research (CCR), a wholly owned subsidiary of Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., conducted an architectural survey of the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) (Van den Hurk and Bamann 2016) (see Figure 1.1-1). The APE was defined as including those architectural resources adjacent to or visible from North and South Main Streets as well as those resources in a broader study area encompassing the proposed improvements. As a result of the survey, two of the resources were recommended as needing further evaluation to determine their National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, Ranson House (MK1351) and the Huntersville Town Jail (MK3299) (Van den Hurk 2016). The North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) also requested additional research and interior views of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), which replaced the NRHP-eligible ca. 1901 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), which was demolished between 2006 and 2009. The new church was built immediately to west of the site of the earlier church.

1.2 COMPLIANCE

The study was undertaken in a manner consistent with compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for compliance with Section 106, codified as 36 CFR Part 800. The investigation was conducted according to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation Projects* (Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190, September 1983, P. 44716-44742, et seq.), and the current cultural resources report was prepared according to project review guidelines issued by the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

1.3 PROJECT STAFF AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CCR conducted fieldwork for the in-depth architectural evaluation of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church for WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff on July 11 and 12, 2016. Jeroen van den Hurk, Ph.D., was the architectural historian and principal researcher and author, D. Allen Poyner assisted with GIS recordation, and Susan E. Bamann, Ph.D, was the project manager. Commonwealth acknowledges the assistance from Heidi Reckard, the church administrator at the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in obtaining the construction date of the current sanctuary, and Jenna Bennett at the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library for the construction date of the old Gothic Revival-style church.

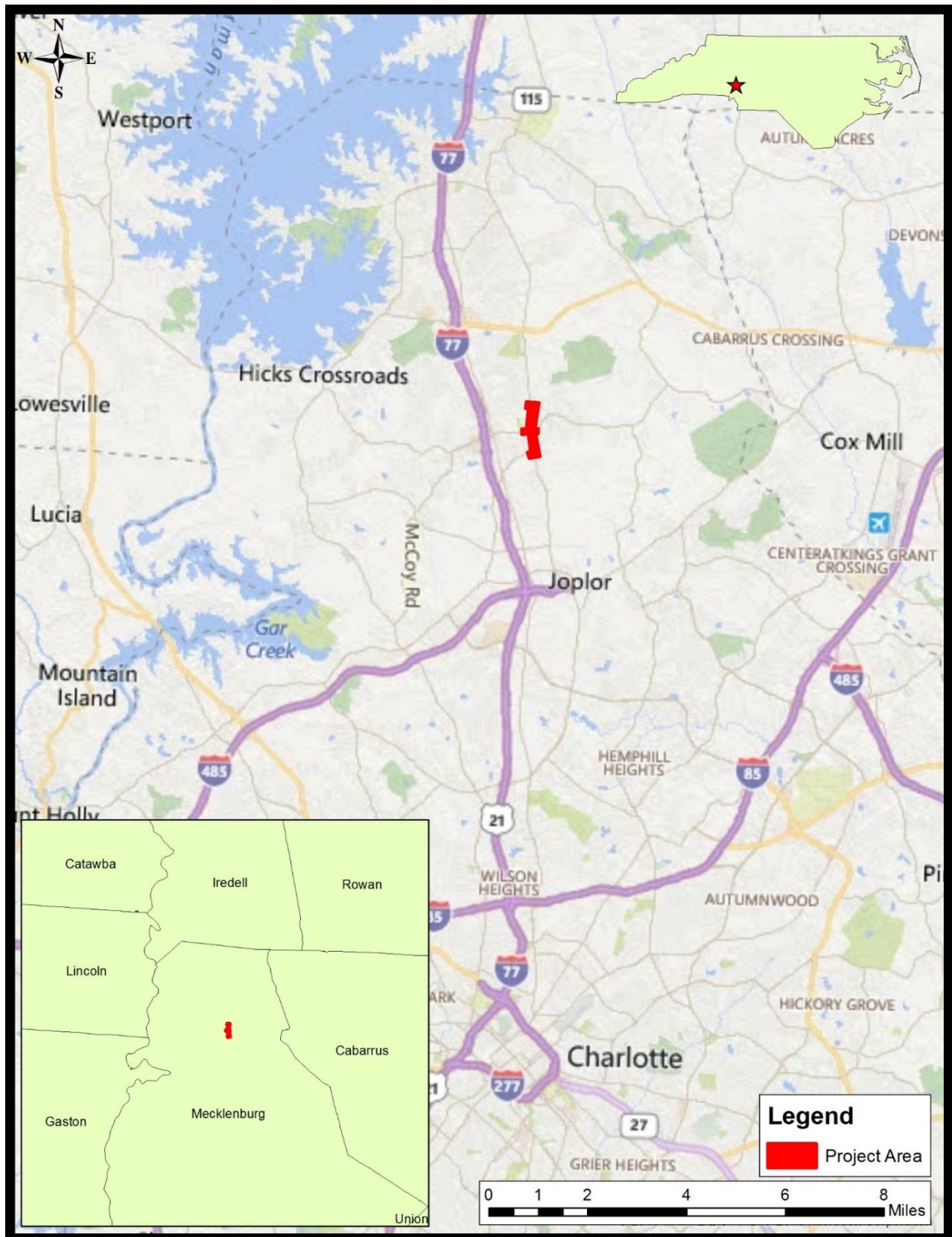


Figure 1.1-1: General Location of the Project.

2.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

2.1 METHODS

The Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) was revisited and interior photographs were taken. Background information was obtained and deed research was undertaken. Deed research was conducted online at the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds.

The Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), the location of which is shown in Figure 2.1-1, was assessed against the criteria of eligibility for the NRHP. These criteria state that “the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association” and that

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. embody the distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (National Park Service 2015).

2.2 RESULTS

The Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) was evaluated for eligibility for the NRHP. Descriptions and recommendations for this resource are presented in the following section.

HPO SITE SURVEY NUMBER: MK1342

RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 200 N. Old Statesville Road, Huntersville

DATE(S): 1959

Description: The Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Old Statesville Road (NC 115) and Bigham Street. It is a tall, front-gabled Colonial Revival-style brick church on a raised basement (Figure 2.2-1). A temple-front portico with colossal Tuscan columns shelters the main entrance on the west (front) gable end. The pediment has a small fanlight window and is modestly decorated with plain modillions. A four-tiered belfry, with three square tiers and one octagonal tier, sits just behind the portico on the roof of the sanctuary. Eight-over-eight wooden sash windows flank the double entry door on the front gable end, and fluted classical pilasters flank the entry, which is topped by a classical pediment decorated with

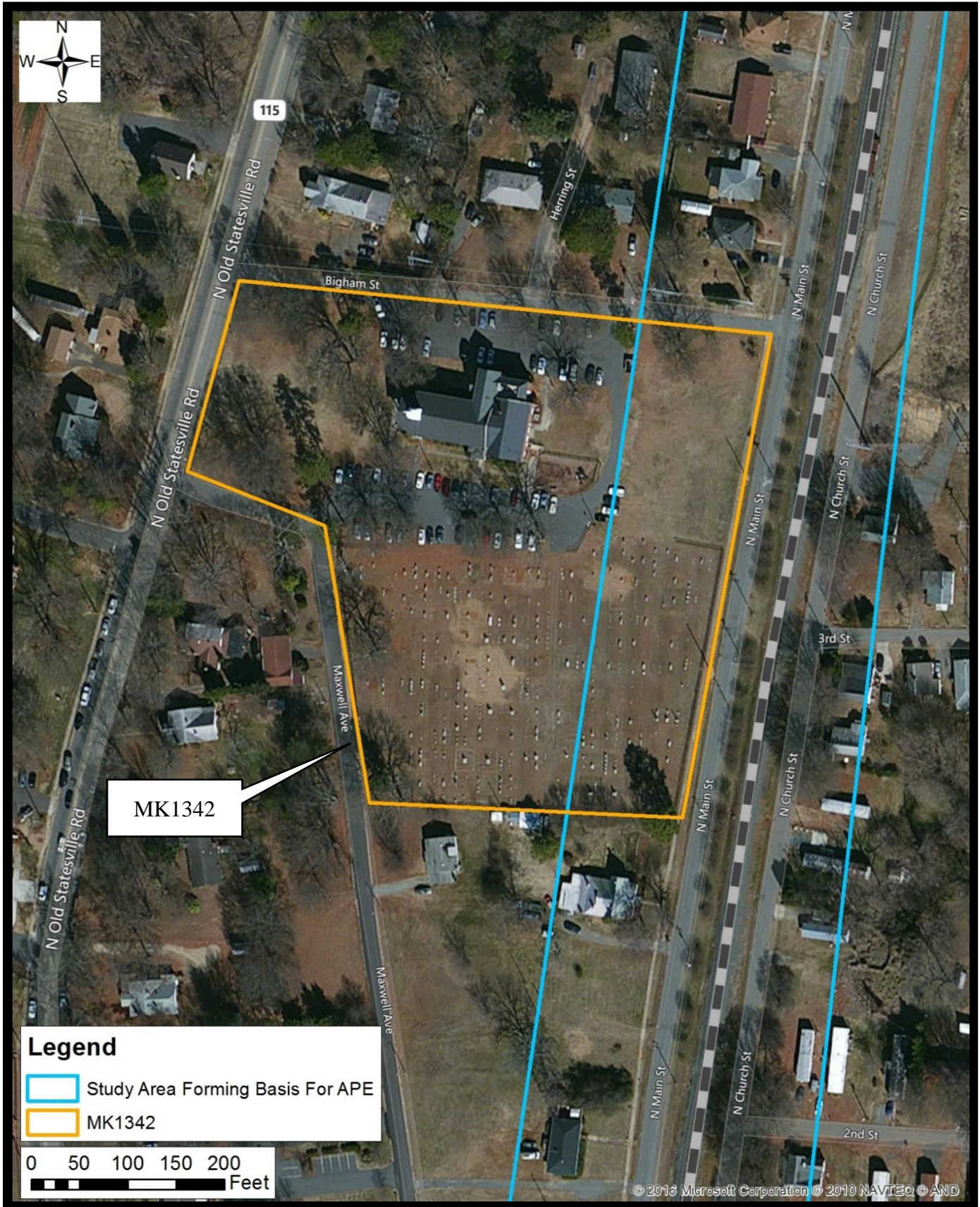


Figure 2.1-1: Location of Architectural Resource MK1342.



Figure 2.2-1: View of Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), Looking Northeast.



Figure 2.2-2: Detail of Entry of Church (MK1342).

dentils (see Figure 2.2-2). Tall thirty-two-over-sixteen wooden sash windows with rolled glass panes light the sanctuary. A tripartite sunscreen covers the windows on the exterior. The walls of the vestibule and the sanctuary are clad in brick with five rows of stretchers separated by a row of alternating headers and stretchers, and a stone, or concrete, water table indicates the first-floor level (Figure 2.2-3). The remaining walls are clad in plain stretcher bond brick. A two-story gable-roofed Sunday school/fellowship hall wing is located perpendicular to the east (rear) gable end of the sanctuary, and extends to either side. This section was initially extended to the north and included a narrow gable-roofed wing located against the north wall of the sanctuary (Figure 2.2-4). The addition contains a stairwell leading to the church offices on the second floor and an elevator that connects all three floors of the church, as well as smaller educational spaces. Between 2012 and 2013, the church was expanded to the east adding a two-story gable-roofed section with a double gable off the east (rear) elevation of the Sunday school/fellowship hall wing (Figure 2.2-5).

The interior of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is reflective of its modest exterior. A loft is located over top of the vestibule at the west end of the sanctuary, and can be accessed by a stair from the vestibule (Figure 2.2-6). The doors, a central double door flanked by two single doors with classical surrounds, give access from the vestibule into the sanctuary (Figure 2.2-7). Simple pilasters separate the window bays, and a modest entablature with dentils runs along the sidewalls of the sanctuary (Figure 2.2-8). Located behind the altar is a rectangular apse where the choir sits (Figure 2.2-9). The secular spaces of the church all have utilitarian finishes.

With the exception of the vinyl replacement windows on the south gable end of the original Sunday school/fellowship hall wing and the modern vinyl windows on the last addition, the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church retains much of its original fabric.

Located to the south of the church is the associated cemetery, which contains approximately 697 burials with the markers dating between 1874 and 2012. The gravestones are common for the period and there are no distinctive design or landscape features. No graves of persons of transcendent importance appear to be present (Figure 2.2-10).



Figure 2.2-3: Detail of North Wall of Church (MK1342), Showing Window Screen and Water Table.



Figure 2.2-4: View of Church (MK1342), Showing First Addition to the Right and Second Addition to the Left, Looking Southwest.



Figure 2.2-5: View of Church (MK1342), Showing Sunday School/Fellowship Hall at Center and Second Addition to the Left, Looking Northwest.

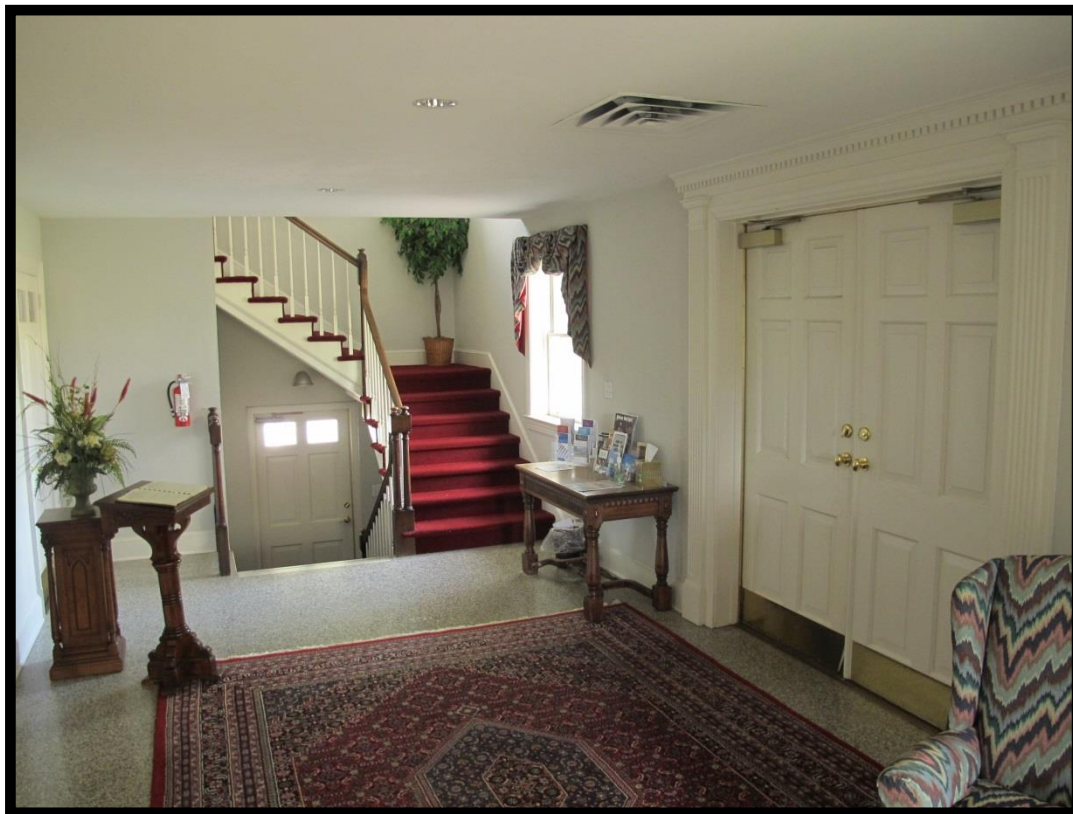


Figure 2.2-6: Church Interior (MK1342), View of Vestibule Looking Southwest.



Figure 2.2-7: Church Interior (MK1342), View of Sanctuary Looking Northwest.



Figure 2.2-8: Church Interior (MK1342), Detail of Entablature on North Wall.

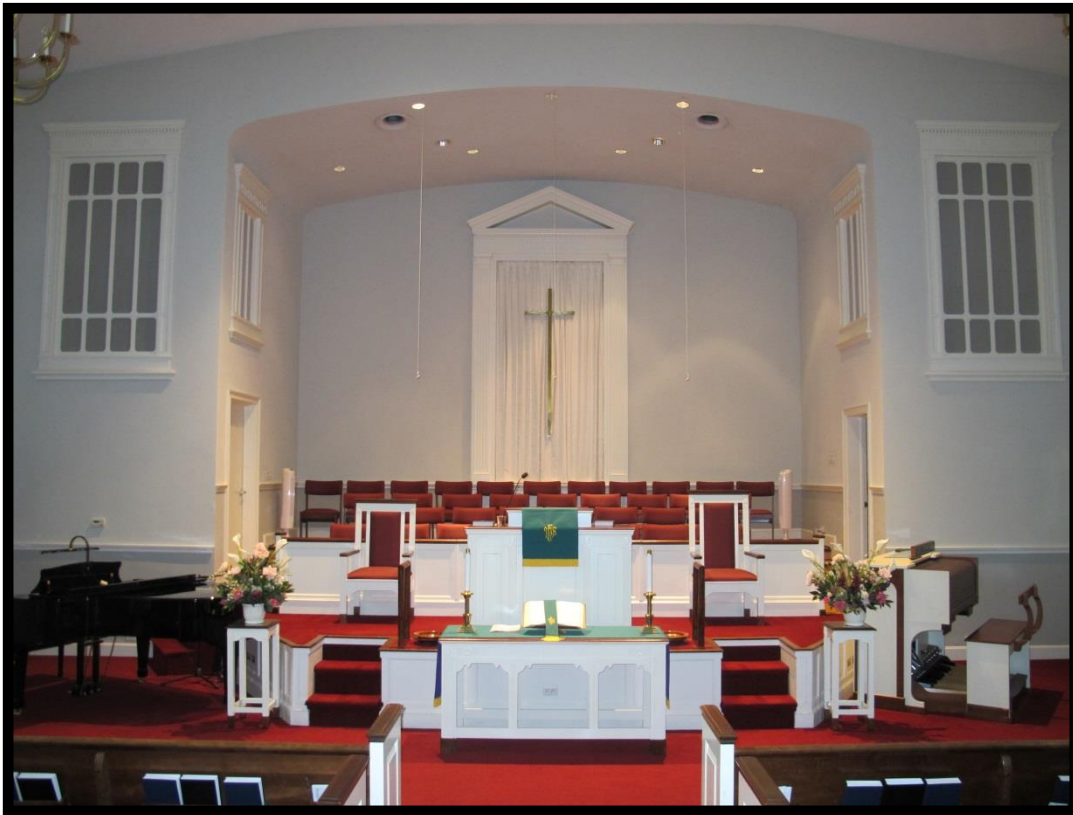


Figure 2.2-9: Church Interior (MK1342), View of Altar Looking East.

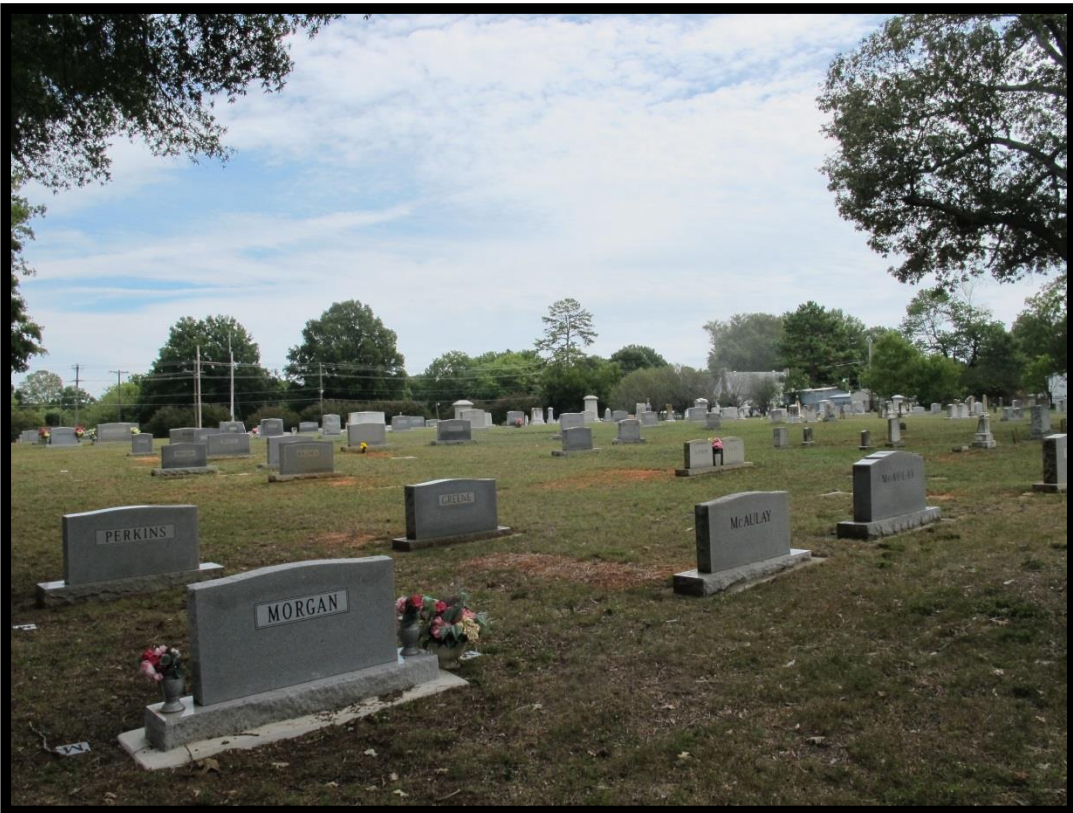


Figure 2.2-10: Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), View of Cemetery Looking Southeast.
2-8

Historic Context: The land on which the church sits was conveyed to the trustees of the First Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod in 1873 by Robert Boston Hunter and his wife Rebecca W. Hunter (Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1873: Deed Book 13:111). The Hunter family played an important role in the growth of Huntersville during the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Huntersville was initially called Craighead, after Alexander Craighead, an at times controversial Presbyterian minister who had preached in Pennsylvania and Virginia before settling in Mecklenburg County, where he died in 1766 (Morgan 1979). Craighead was renamed Huntersville in 1873, after either Joseph Nicholas Hunter or his brother Robert Boston Hunter (Gray and Lunsford 2007). The Reverend Alexander Ranson established the first formal congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Huntersville in 1875, of which Robert Boston Hunter was a member (Gray and Lunsford 2007). Around 1923 the congregation built a brick Gothic Revival-style church that stood to the east of the current church (Figures 2.2-11 and 2.2-12) (Mattson & Associates 2005). Aerial photographs suggest that by 1950 a separate Sunday school/fellowship hall was built to the west of the Gothic Revival church and connected via a hyphen (Figure 2.2-13). In 1959, trustees of the First Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Synod conveyed the property to trustees of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1959: Deed Book 2045:471). In 1959, a new sanctuary was completed against the west elevation of the Sunday school/fellowship hall (Figure 2.2-14; Heidi Reckard, personal communication 2016). Subsequently an addition was constructed to the north of the new sanctuary and the Sunday school/fellowship hall, and between 2006 and 2009 the Gothic Revival church was demolished (see Figure 2.2-12 and Figure 2.2-15). The last addition occurred between 2012 and 2013 (Figure 2.2-16).

Discussion: The current Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church retains a high level of integrity on both the exterior and interior, and the additions and alterations to the building have been sympathetic and do not necessarily detract from the design of the church especially when view from the front gable end..

Both the Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival styles were popular choices for churches during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries across the United States. Post-World War II architecture did see an abandoning of historical styles in some cases and an acceptance of the visually austere forms of International Modernism, which was viewed as the most appropriate style for the period (Gelernter 1999). Modernism was seen as rational and efficient. Despite the fact that church architecture remained predominantly traditional, Modernism did find its way in. In 1955, the annual awards given by the Church Architectural Guild of America were dominated by modern designs (The Republican Courier 1955). By the 1950s the choice was often narrowed down to two styles, either referred to as “Colonial,” which involved the use of red brick, white columns, and a steeple, or “contemporary,” which relied on new forms and materials, without excessive ornament. Both styles were viewed as “modern” by churchgoers of the time (Buggeln 2015). The choice of architecture often depended on the age and wealth of a

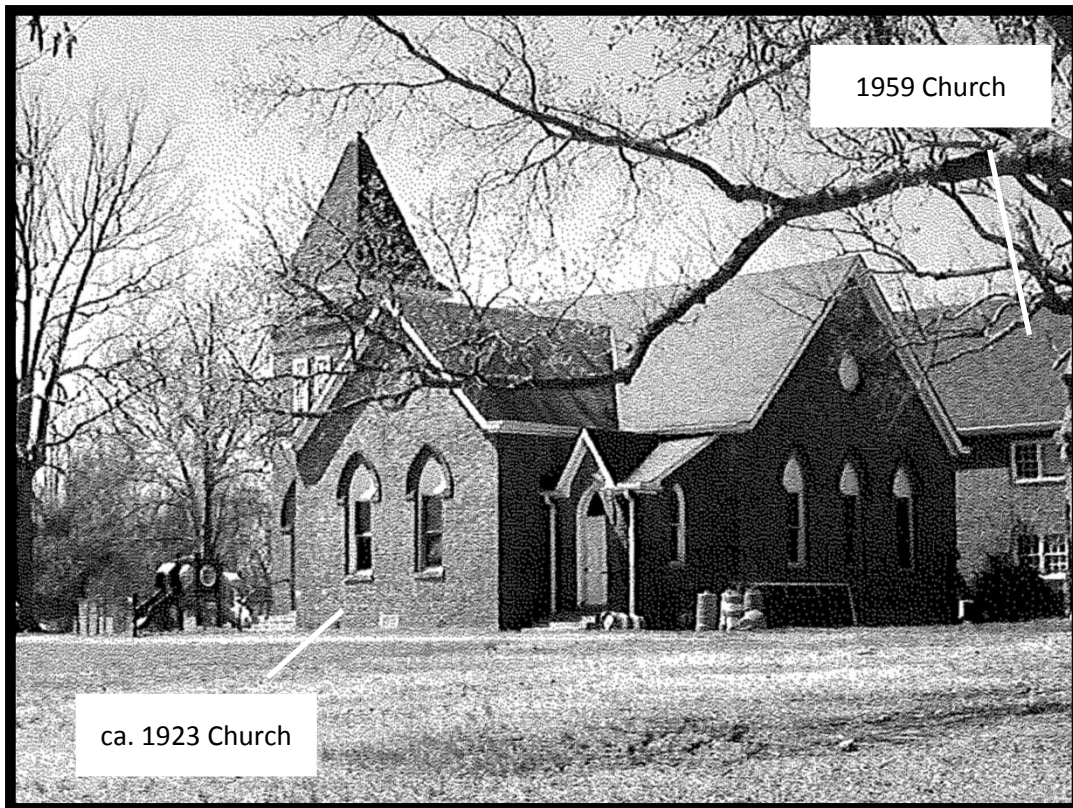


Figure 2.2-11: View of the ca. 1923 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), Looking Southwest (Mattson & Associates 2005).



Figure 2.2-12: Historic Aerial of Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342), Looking Northeast (n.d.).

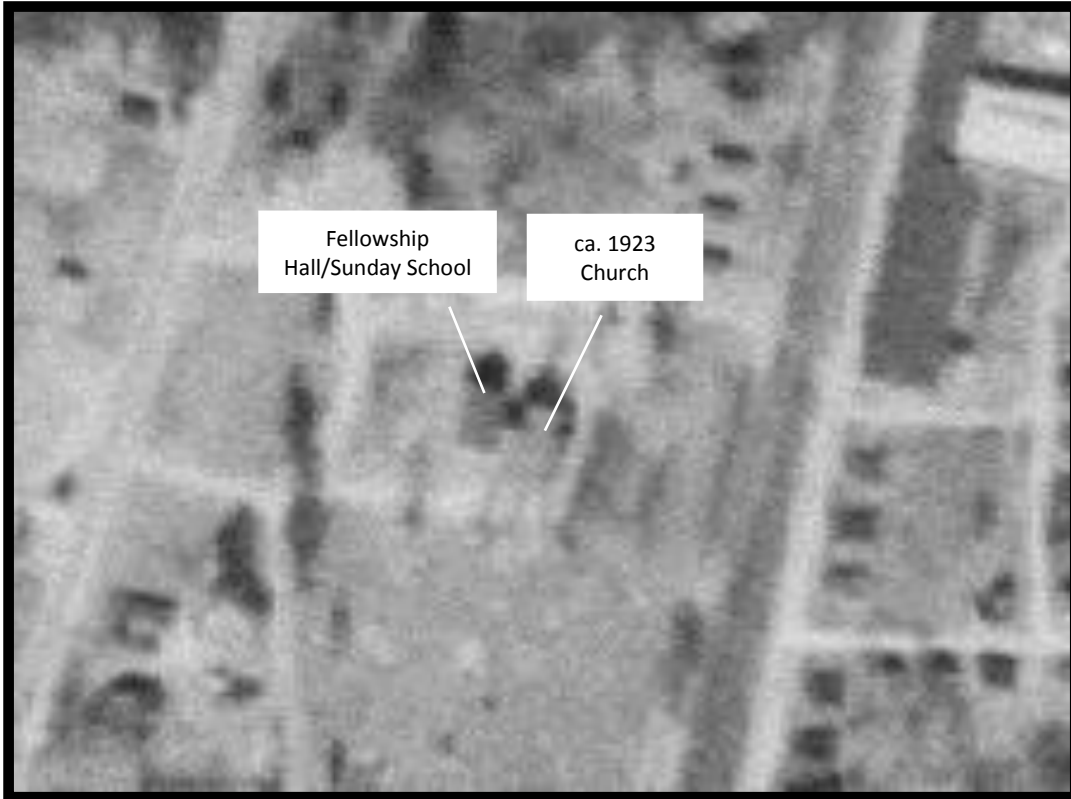


Figure 2.2-13: Detail of 1950 Aerial Showing the ca. 1923 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) (EarthExplorer 2016a).



Figure 2.2-14: Detail of 1964 Aerial Showing the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) (EarthExplorer 2016b).



Figure 2.2-15: Detail of 2012 Aerial Showing the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) (Polaris 3G 2016).



Figure 2.2-16: Detail of 2013 Aerial Showing the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) (Polaris 3G 2016).

congregation and in some cases their denomination, especially those with a strong base along the East Coast (Buggeln 2015). Thousands of Colonial Revival churches were built in the postwar years in the Southeast, where the style was linked to a pro-American, conservative, Cold War mentality that was also seen in private and public buildings during that period (Dowling 2004). The churches had often been planned before the war, but had been delayed due to wartime restrictions. Congregations were attracted by the sense of domesticity and patriotism reflected in Colonial Revival churches that were seen as a “home” in times of political, social, and cultural uncertainty after World War II (Dowling 2004).

Huntersville, and Mecklenburg County, appear to have been typical of the time and location, and several postwar Colonial Revival churches survive. A stone’s throw from the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, on the west side of Old Statesville Road, stands the First Baptist Church of Huntersville, which dates to 1962. The church lacks the typical temple front, but has a projecting bell tower on the front gable end that boasts a grand broken swan-neck pediment with a large urn marking the main entrance. Tall round-arched windows light the sanctuary and the walls are clad in brick with four rows of stretchers separated by a row of alternating headers and stretchers (Figure 2.2-17). Other churches in Mecklenburg County combined Colonial and Gothic elements, such as the Hopewell Baptist Church near Davidson, which was built in 1948 (Figure 2.2-18). It has a modest temple-front portico and a small belfry, and pointed-arch windows with stone keystones and stone springer stones light the sanctuary. A more modest example of the Colonial Revival style is the brick Reeves Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Davidson, which dates to 1965 (Figure 2.2-19). It has a bell tower on the front gable end and rectangular windows with opaque leaded glass light the sanctuary. Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Cornelius, which dates to 1954, is very similar to the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in size although its detailing is more elaborate (Figure 2.2-20) (Mt. Zion United Methodist Church 2016). It has a five-bay front-gabled end, with a portico with colossal Tuscan columns sheltering the three bays in the middle. The double entry doors have a broken swan-neck pediment and keystones top the forty-over-twenty wooden sash windows that light the sanctuary. The walls are laid in five-over-one common bond brick with a stone, or concrete, water table, and steel-casement awning-windows light the basement level. The lowest tier of the belfry is clad in brick and has a railing with urns at the four corners. Another example of a postwar Colonial Revival church similar to the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is the Back Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Charlotte that dates to 1970 (Figure 2.2-21). It is a gable-front church with a projecting bell tower that contains the double entry door, which has a broken pediment with a large urn. A temple-front portico supported by colossal Temple of the Winds columns shelters the entry and the flanking window bays. Brick pilasters separate thirty-two-over-sixteen wooden sash windows that light the sanctuary. An unusual feature of the windows are the colored-panes of glass. The 1871 church (MK1255) survives to the southwest of the modern church and is connected via a brick arched walkway. Subsequent additions were constructed to the northeast of the 1970 sanctuary in 1982 and 1995 (BCARPC Profile 2016).



Figure 2.2-17: View of the Huntersville First Baptist Church of 1962, Looking Southwest.



Figure 2.2-18: Hopewell Baptist Church of 1948, Looking West.



Figure 2.2-19: Reeves Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Davidson, ca. 1965, Looking Southwest.



Figure 2.2-20: Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Cornelius, of 1954, Looking Northeast.



Figure 2.2-21: Back Creek Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Charlotte of 1970, Looking Northeast.

Recommendation. The 1959 Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and its cemetery are recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C and D, and Criteria Consideration A and D. With respect to Criteria A and B, there are no identifiable events associated with the property that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, nor is the property associated with the lives of specific persons significant in our past. With respect to Criterion C, whereas the church embodies the typical characteristics of a postwar Colonial Revival-style church in the region and retains a high level of integrity, it lacks architectural distinction when compared to other nearby Colonial Revival examples. A survey of Colonial Revival churches in the surrounding area shows that similar churches were built after World War II with varying degrees of finishes, and that some, such as the 1954 Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Cornelius, especially embody the distinctive characteristics of the style. Furthermore, the close-by Huntersville Baptist Church dating to 1962 also embodies some of the distinctive characteristics of the style. It does not appear, then, that the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church possesses the architectural distinction to qualify for NRHP eligibility under Criterion C or Criteria Consideration A. The property does not appear likely to yield information important in prehistory or history and is not recommended eligible under Criterion D. The associated cemetery has stones that are common for the period, and there are no distinctive design features or graves of persons of transcendent importance. The cemetery would therefore not meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration D and is also recommended as not eligible for the NRHP.

2.3 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An architectural evaluation of the Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (MK1342) was undertaken for the proposed widening of Main Street in the Town of Huntersville, North Carolina. The church is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP based on evaluation under Criteria A, B, C and D, and Criteria Considerations A and D.

3.0 REFERENCES CITED

BCARPC Profile

- 2016 *Back Creek's History*. Electronic document, <http://www.backcreekchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/BCARPC-Profile-.pdf>, accessed July 15, 2016.

Buggeln, Gretchen

- 2015 *The Suburban Church. Modernism and Community in Postwar America*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.

Dowling, Dale Woolston

- 2004 *For God, For Family, For Country: Colonial Revival Church Buildings in the Cold War Era*. Ph.D. dissertation, George Washington University.

EarthExplorer

- 2016a October 14, 1950 Aerial of Huntersville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (A007105007095). Electronic document, <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed July 14, 2016.

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