

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

July 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelby Reap
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report for Improvements to Intersection of US 52/NC 89
and NC 103/SR 2432, Mount Airy, PA 15-12-0032, Surry County, ER 16-1038

Thank you for your letter of June 9, 2016, transmitting the report for the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and **do not concur that the Reeves Community Center (SR0900) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places** under either Criterion A for recreation or Criterion C for architecture.

The building's integrity has had major exterior alterations on most of the west façade and the north and south elevations of the original gymnasium building. Apart from the main entrance and the window immediately to the south, many of the original window openings on the façade and a portion of the south elevation have been filled in with concrete panels, with only a short band along the base of the opening still glazed. It is assumed that these changes took place during the 1980s renovation. The window openings on the north and south walls of the gymnasium building also appear to have been altered and are now covered with a newer opaque material. It is very likely these changes also took place after 1966. Finally, the interior has also been altered, including the entrance lobby and the enclosed indoor pool. With these alterations, and the modern building additions, the building does not retain sufficient integrity to be a good representative example of Modern design in Mount Airy, or to reflect the recreational history of the facility.

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

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov



PAT McCRORY
Governor
NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

June 9, 2016

Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

ER 16. 1038
not eligible
7/8/16
+ Ann S 2/5/1
Dec 7/11/16

Dear Ms. Gledhill-Earley:

RE: **Historic Structures Report** TIP# W-5601AV, PA# 15-12-0032, Improvements to Intersection US 52/NC89 (Renfro St) and NC 103/SR 2432 (Pine Street) in Mt Airy, Surry County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached one hard copy and one digital copy of the Historic Structure Report, as well as a Survey Site form, digital images, and GIS data. The report meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. If you have any questions regarding the accompanying information, please feel free to contact me at 919-707-6088 or sreap@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Shelby Reap
Historic Architecture Group

Attachment



**National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the Reeves Community Center
(SR0900) for
Improvements to the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103
SR 2432 (Pine Street)
Surry County, North Carolina**



Historic photo courtesy of Reeves Community Center, no date

TIP# W-5601AV
PA# 15-12-0032
WBS# 50138.1.49
Limited Services Contract No. 7000016561

Prepared for NCDOT

Report submitted to:
North Carolina Department of Transportation, Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1598

Report prepared by:
Mary Ruffin Hanbury
Hanbury Preservation Consulting
123 West Park Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

June 2, 2016

**National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the Reeves Community Center (SR0900) for
Improvements to the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103 SR 2432 (Pine
Street)**

Surry County, North Carolina

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123 West Park Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

June 2, 2016

Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Principal Investigator Hanbury Preservation Consulting

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor Historic Architecture Section NC DOT

Date

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps to existing sidewalks and pedestrian signals on all four approaches at the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103/SR 2432 (Pine Street) in Mount Airy, Surry County. NCDOT architectural historians conducted a preliminary investigation, and proposed additional study and eligibility evaluation for one property, the Reeves Community Center (SR0900).

NCDOT contracted with Hanbury Preservation Consulting via Vaughn & Melton in March 2016 to complete an assessment of the Reeves Community Center (SR0900)'s eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Architectural historian Mary Ruffin Hanbury, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications for architectural history (36 CFR Part 61) conducted the fieldwork in March 2016 and prepared this study. Primary source investigation included research through the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, the Mount Airy Public Library, and Surry County Register of Deeds.

The field work and study comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products*; and the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (HPO)'s *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/ Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*.

As a result of this study, Hanbury Preservation Consulting recommends that the Reeves Community Center (SR0900) is eligible for the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A for entertainment/recreation and Criterion C for architecture.

Property Name	Survey Site Number	Eligibility Recommendation	Criteria
Reeves Community Center	SR0900	Eligible	A-- Entertainment/Recreation It was the product of a concerted local fundraising effort and is a significant local recreational facility. C-- It is a good local example of Moderne style architecture by regional architect Fred Simmons.

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I. METHODOLOGY

The NCDOT is proposing to install ADA curb ramps to existing sidewalks and pedestrian signals on all four approaches at the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103 SR 2432 (Pine Street) in Mount Airy, Surry County. NCDOT defines this project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as 70 feet on north, 120 feet south, 55 feet east and west of the center of the intersection of NC 86 and NC 103 (Figure2). NCDOT Architectural Historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that one property greater than 50 years old warranted further evaluation: Reeves Community Center (SR0900). This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2015).

NCDOT architectural historians established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for each project and conducted a preliminary investigation, identifying resources warranting additional study and eligibility evaluation. In March 2016, NCDOT requested that Hanbury Preservation Consulting, as a subcontractor to Vaughn & Melton, survey the Reeves Community Center (SR0900) and prepare a report assessing the property's eligibility for the NRHP. The property was previously undocumented by HPO and was assigned the survey site number SR0900 for this project.

Background research included review of primary source material concerning the Reeves Community Center at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, the Mount Airy Public Library, and Surry County Register of Deeds. Secondary sources primarily consisted of architectural survey reports and information about the architect Fred Simmons, both of which provided historic and thematic contexts that establish a framework in which to assess the significance of the property.

Fieldwork was conducted on March 14, 2016, and complied with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, other state and federal regulations, and NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* and the HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/ Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina*. The survey included completion of a survey form for the identified historic resource. The completion of a field survey form included the documentation of the estimated date of construction, original and current use, property type, architectural style, significant architectural features, construction materials, integrity, condition, and alterations. Exterior elevations and details of all primary and secondary resources were documented with digital photography.

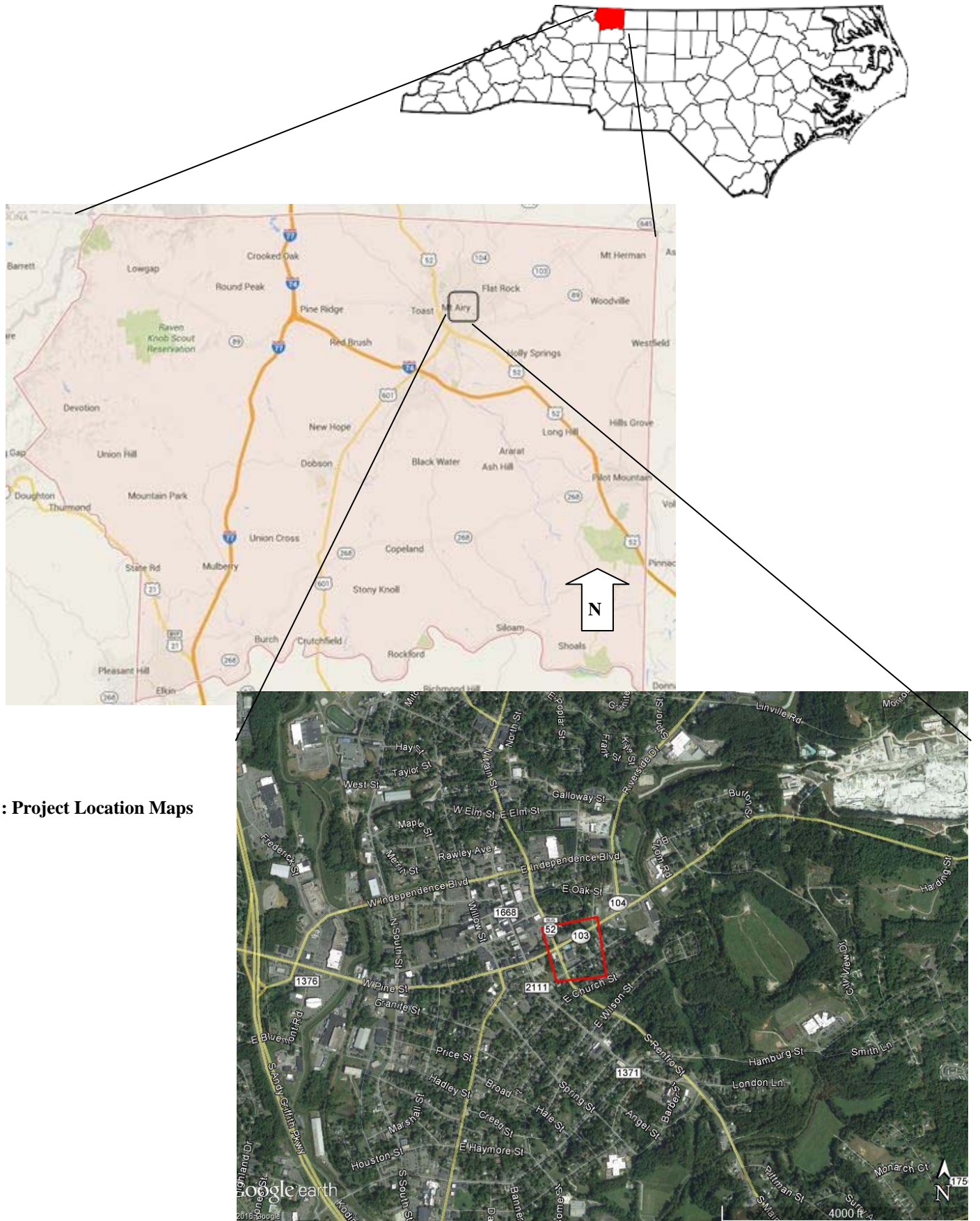


Figure 1: Project Location Maps



Figure 2: APE Map

II. NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF THE REEVES COMMUNITY CENTER (SR0900)



Name of Resource	Reeves Community Center
Survey Site Number	SR 0900
Location	113 S Renfro St. Mount Airy, NC 27030
PIN	502016842544
Dates of Construction	1951, 1983-1984, 1994
Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A for entertainment/recreation and C for architecture

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Reeves Community Center (SR0900) is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103 SR 2432 (Pine Street) in Mount Airy, Surry County. It sits on a 2 acre parcel and accessed by surface parking on an adjacent parcel to the south. A second surface parking lot, north of NC 103/SR 2432 (Pine Street) is accessed by a tunnel under the road. All of these parcels are owned by the Town of Mount Airy. West of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) is a gravel lot and a small brick commercial building. The northwest corner of the intersection of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) at NC 103/SR 2432 (Pine Street) is a two-story brick bank building (ca 2000) with a surface parking lot. To the east are residential lots.

The Reeves Community Center parcel is sloped such that at the primary entrance at the northwest corner of the lot, the building appears to be one story. However there are two levels below the entrance grade which are evident along the building's south elevation. The adjacent surface parking lot has a row of mature hollies on a grassy berm along its southern boundary. The slope along the eastern side of the parcel is also landscaped with a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees. The center has a small yard along its eastern side with grass and concrete sidewalks to the lobby entrance.



Photo 1: Facade of Reeves Community Center, West Elevation

The central mass of the complex is a tall, masonry-clad gymnasium with a flat roof that is partially wrapped by a granite-clad, single-story wing at its western and southern elevations. North of the gymnasium is the outdoor pool, while east of the gymnasium is a hyphen to the indoor pool. A masonry retaining wall extends north from the facade for the outdoor pool and continues roughly half the length of the indoor pool's exterior wall, creating a planter.



Photo 2: Façade of Reeves Community Center, oblique view of North and West Elevations

The facade (west elevation) is dominated by a parabolic awning supported by metal posts that wraps the corner of the building and is pierced by a flag pole. At the façade, the awning shelters a granite-faced planter, windows above the planter, a three-part band of windows, and double leaf glazed doors with a glazed surround.



Photo 3: Façade of Reeves Community Center, West Elevation

The south elevation is largely clad in brick and as the grade falls away reveals a bulkheaded basement entrance. Above it is a walkway that services a single leaf door to the west and double leaf doors to the east. The elevation also features an exterior brick flue, three large masonry openings (now framed in), and terra cotta coping. East of the gymnasium and set back considerably is a non-original, stuccoed masonry hyphen. It has a single leaf door with an awning above on its south elevation at grade and adjacent to the gymnasium portion of the building



Photo 4: Reeves Community Center, South Elevation



Photo 5: Reeves Community Center, Oblique Rear of Gymnasium

Situated east of the hyphen and set to the north, the indoor pool is constructed of concrete masonry units and accessed by metal double leaf doors on its south elevation. Its east elevation is largely covered by a rising grade and the interior is lit by banks of windows on the north and west elevations.



Photo 6: Reeves Community Center, Hyphen, East Elevation



Photo 7: Reeves Community Center, Pool Enclosure North Elevation



Photo 8: Reeves Community Center, Pool Enclosure and Gymnasium, North Elevation



Photo 9: Reeves Community Center, Outdoor Pool and Gymnasium, North Elevation

The entrance lobby has been altered with a new counter and reception desk to allow for controlled access to the facility as it is a membership recreation center. The vinyl tile flooring is likely original, and the suspended acoustical tile ceiling and lobby partition are more recent implementations. From the lobby, one door leads to a hall that services offices, a fitness room, aerobic room, and nursery along the facade; and a free weight room in the space that was once a balcony over the gymnasium, and a stationary bike studio. The second door off the lobby leads to a open stairwell descending to a lower level which contains a series of offices, a kids space, gymnasium area, and



Photo 10: Reeves Community Center, Underpass



Photo 11: Reeves Community Center, Lobby

locker rooms. This lower level connects with the hyphen which contains two racquetball courts, a connection the enclosed pool, and a ramped area to the basement level under the gymnasium, which formerly served as a bowling alley.



Photo 12: Reeves Community Center, Gymnasium

The lower level of the facility houses the indoor pool, outdoor pool, racquetball courts, gym, locker rooms, a large multipurpose room, and office and support spaces. The outdoor pool retains its original configuration as does the indoor pool, save for the enclosure. The locker rooms remain in their original locations but interior finishes and features have been renovated with new sinks, lockers, and tile, though some of the original concrete block walls remain. The plan is largely unchanged as are interior concrete block walls though they have been painted with bright colors. The large multipurpose room on this level has wooden floors. All the spaces on this level, save for the gym, have suspended acoustical tile ceilings with panel lights. The gym has wooden floors, concrete block walls and exposed metal trusses supporting the roof. The original collapsible bleachers have been removed and a balcony area above where the bleachers stood has been enclosed to create an upper level workout room.



Photo 13: Reeves Community Center, Lower Level Hall



Photo 14: Reeves Community Center, Enclosed Balcony/Fitness Room



Photo 15: Reeves Community Center, Indoor Pool



Photo 16: Reeves Community Center, Locker Room, typical fixtures and finishes

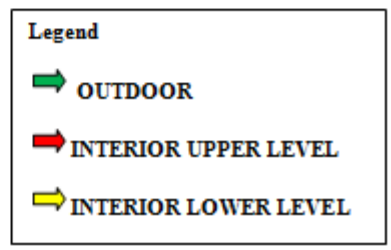
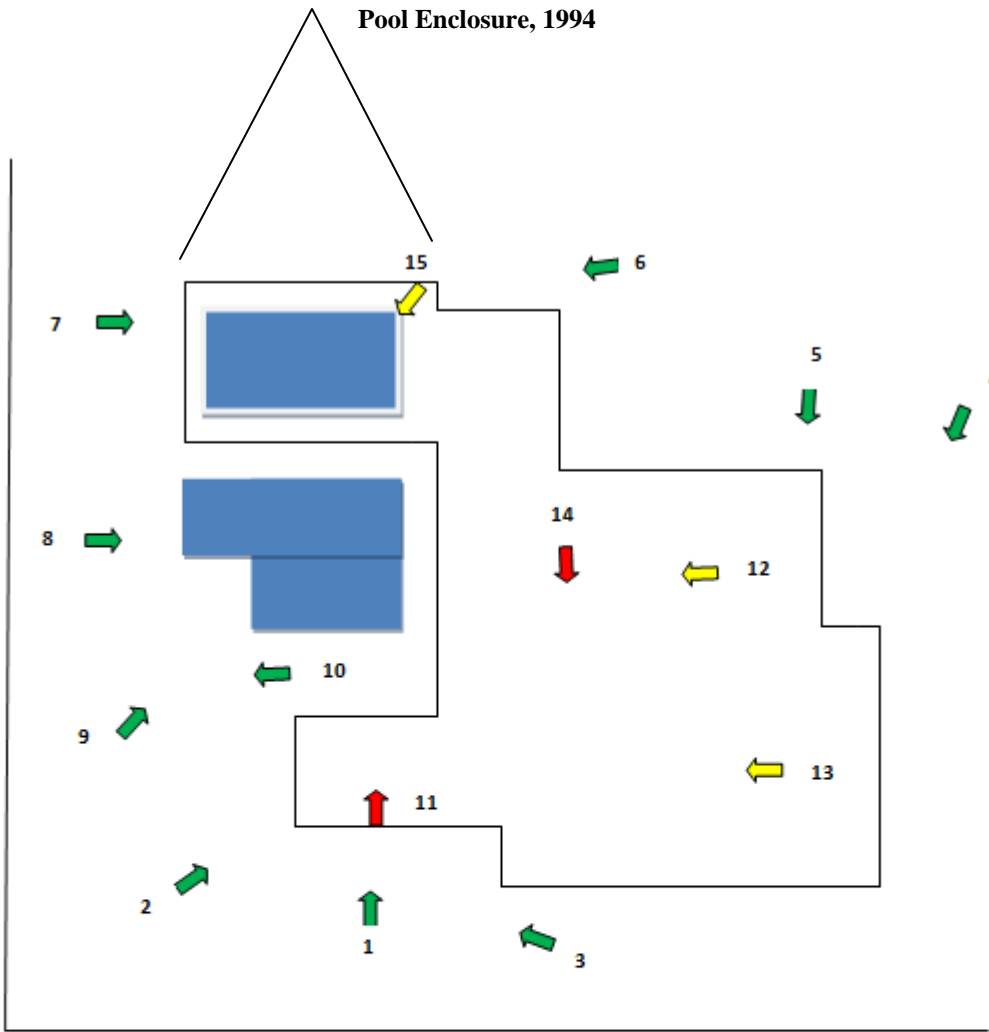


Figure 3: Photo Key

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On May 27, 1943, the board of the community foundation in Mount Airy met to discuss the creation of a community center to meet town residents' recreation needs. However, the shortage of building materials during World War II delayed construction. A 1944 article in the *Mount Airy News* detailed that donations would be held in War Bonds until the end of the war, and that the center would be faced in granite.¹

The community center was originally designed by Winston-Salem architect Harold Macklin to be a four-story building. As time passed, plans became less grandiose; in 1948, the *Mount Airy News* published a second rendering of the proposed center by an unnamed architect. The second rendering was no longer Macklin's Art Deco rendition, but remained a multi-story building.² It is not known when architect Fred Simmons and recreation planner Charles Graves were hired, but it is thought they were involved by 1949.

In December 1950, the *Mount Airy News* reported that a contract had been let for the building but that a federal permit was also required. The article stated "it would be stressed before Federal officials that the new structure was a part of the city's physical education program and fits into the plan of the city's greater high school building"³ and that the facilities at Reeves were to augment those at schools, which had no recreation facilities on site. The National Production Authority, which regulated construction to reserve material for the Korean War, granted the permit for the Reeves Community Center.

After the Korean War, Surry County's population had risen rose by 9% since 1940, increasing the county's need for recreational facilities. In October 1950, a building committee awarded a contract for the recreation center to the lowest bidder, the eponymous Hickory Construction of Hickory, North Carolina.⁴

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on January 30, 1951, at which point \$417,000 of the \$447,423 budget had been raised or pledged. The effort was bolstered by a generous gift by Mount Airy native John M. Reeves of the Reeves chain of cotton mills. Though Reeves lived in New York, he provided a \$150,000 donation and as a result the center was named for him and his family. At the groundbreaking, recreation planner Charles Graves stated it would be "the largest community building in North Carolina built in the last five years."⁵ He continued that the gym would be "one of the best gymnasiums in the state with a seating capacity of 2,100."⁶

¹ "Factories and Mills to Operate Extra Hours, Funds to go for Community Center," *The Mount Airy News*, August 11, 1944, p.1A.

² "Architects Drawing," *The Mount Airy News*, November 19, 1948, p1A.

³ "Contract Awarded for Reeves Memorial Building," *The Mount Airy News*, December 1, 1950, p.1A.

⁴ "\$417,246 Bid on Community Center," *The Mount Airy News*, October 27, 1950, p1A.

⁵ "Ground Broken January 30, 1951, For New YMCA," *The Mount Airy News*, May 2, 1952, p. 16.

⁶ IBID

In February 1952, the *Mount Airy News* reported that the Mount Airy YMCA had been organized and granted a charter from the national organization. Though the YMCA operated the facility and ran the programming, the building was owned by the Reeves Community Center.⁷

The May 2, 1952 edition of the *Mount Airy News* had a special insert with articles about the staff and programming at the new center, as well as several ads from local businesses lauding the center. One such advertisement stated, "The people of Mount Airy have every right to take tremendous personal pride in the completion of the beautiful new YMCA building. It is -in every sense of the word- OUR building; a community enterprise, made possible by the individual contributors of Mount Airy men and women and Mount Airy business firms. The new YMCA structure is a magnificent and living testimonial of their faith, their work, their determination and their generosity."⁸

In the mid 1970s, local YMCAs were required to send to the parent organization more funding than the Mount Airy Center could afford. Thus ended a thirty-year relationship between the county recreation center and the YMCA.⁹ The Reeves Community Center then incorporated as a nonprofit and ran the center for several years. In 2014, the Town of Mount Airy purchased the building and continued operations at the site, keeping the community center as a local recreation facility.

⁷ "Community Center to Open Here Next Month," *The Mount Airy News*, February 15, 1952, p1A.

⁸ Workmen's Federal Savings and Loan Association advertisement *The Mount Airy News*, May 2, 1952, Insert p 9.

⁹ Byerly, Wendy, "Programs Have Changed During the Years," *The Mount Airy News*, December 7, 2001, Insert p3.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

FRED SIMMONS

The Reeves Community Center, by Fred Simmons, is a late Moderne style commercial building. Fred Martin Simmons (1915-2014) was born in Paris, Texas, he and his family moving to Cleveland County, North Carolina in 1916. Simmons graduated from Polkville High School and attended North Carolina State University. In 1937, Simmons married and moved to South Carolina, where he became Chief Engineering Draftsman at the Charleston Navy Yard. According to a listing in *The Southern Architect*, Simmons also worked for the South Carolina War Department at Fort Moultrie and also with architect Augustus Constantine. Simmons returned to North Carolina and received his architectural license in 1949 (#636).

Prior to opening his own office, Simmons worked for J.N. Pease and Associates of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1938, the firm had a portfolio in the early years heavily geared toward military clients, and combined engineering and architecture to provide a wide range of services. After World War II, the firm's aesthetic moved toward modernism. When Simmons left the firm to open his own practice, he brought with him a letter of reference from J. N. Pease extolling his talent and work ethic.

Simmons' early work shows his experience with Constantine, the Charleston architect noted for his Moderne designs. Indeed the parabolic awning at the Reeves Community Center is reminiscent of Constantine's commercial building at 229 King Street in Charleston. The horizontality of Moderne style architecture and the influence of building technology are also found in the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, whom Simmons heard speak at NCSU in 1950 and cited as a model, according to his daughter Suzanne Simmons.¹⁰

Simmons' work highlighted the intersection of design and technology: new materials, and new systems, stressing how they could make buildings more efficient and cost effective. He was an early proponent of pre-stressed concrete construction which he employed at the Sears building in Gastonia. Simmons also designed an underground house in Kings Mountain and investigated the various strategies for ventilation. His other projects included residences, commercial buildings and churches. He designed his own home in Polkville and his firm's office in Shelby. Fred Simmons retired in 2007 at the age of 92.

¹⁰ Simmons, Suzanne, Interview with author, March 30, 2016.

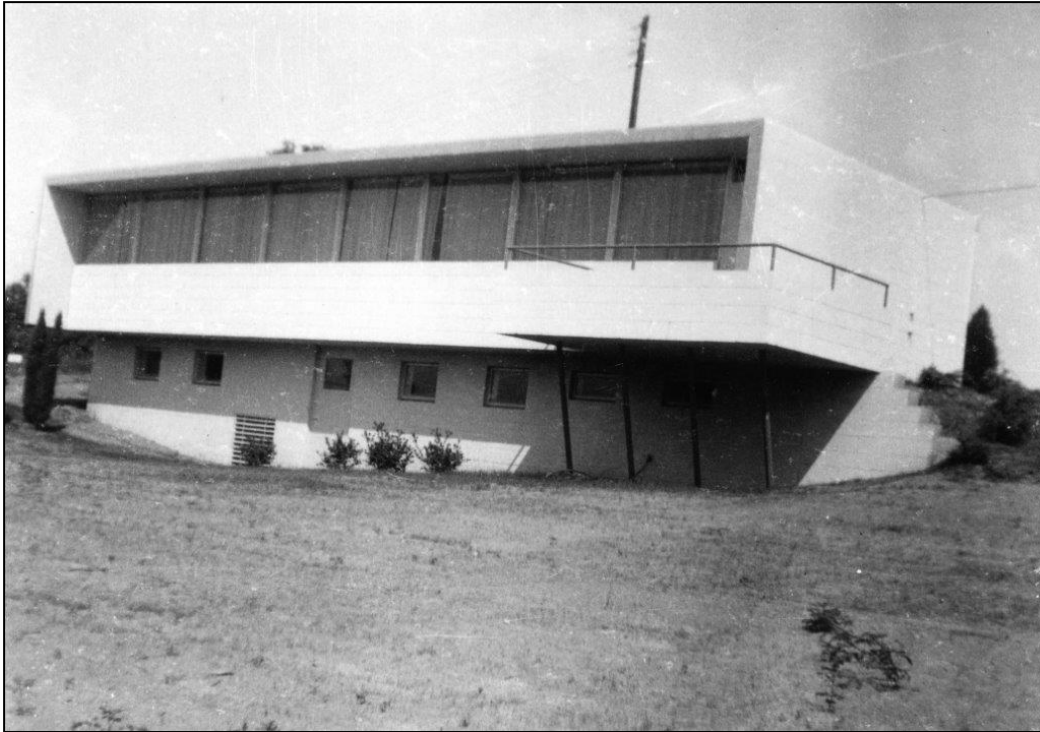


Photo 17: Fred Simmons Office, photo courtesy Suzanne Simmons



Photo 18: Fred Simmons Office, photo courtesy Suzanne Simmons



Photo 19: Sears Building, Gastonia, NC, by Fred Simmons, photo courtesy Suzanne Simmons

REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTERS, RECREATION CENTERS AND YMCAS

There are no local comparables for recreation centers in Mount Airy or Surry County. There are no extant pre-1952 purpose-built recreation centers in Mount Airy.

The NC-HPO survey database lists a number of similar recreation-based resources in the surrounding region, some of which are useful as comparables for the Reeves Community Center. Though there are many community centers in the region, for purposes of comparison, those with limited capacity for recreation and athletics that serve primarily as meeting venues are not discussed in this report.

Reeves Community Center's design is a departure from the function and aesthetic of typical YMCAs from the first half of the twentieth century. These earlier buildings were generally built downtown in the heart of the urban grid and were Beaux-Arts style brick buildings that included a residential lodging component. They reinforced the street edge as they were constructed to the front lot lines. Winston-Salem's former Spruce Street YMCA (FY0800) of 1927 by Harold Macklin typifies the formulaic early twentieth-century YMCA as described by Paula Lumpkin in her book, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern American Culture* --it is urban, it is architecturally imposing in a Neoclassical style, and includes recreational facilities, meeting rooms and a residential component.

Some aspects of Reeves' departure from the typical YMCA building formula which may be because the building pre-dated the establishment of the YMCA charter, and thus it was not a part of the building program influenced by a national organization. The YMCA formula evolved over time as well, however.



Photo 20: Former Spruce Street YMCA (FY0800)
315 North Spruce Street, Winston-Salem
Photo courtesy Forsyth County Historic Resources
Commission Files

The Reeves Community Center, though lacking residential quarters, is more similar to the Raleigh YMCA (WA4596) on Hillsborough Street designed by Leif Valand and built in 1960. This International Style building, though close to downtown and North Carolina State University, was like Reeves, outside the urban grid and had a more suburban site plan. The building was demolished in 2006.



Photo 21: Raleigh YMCA (WA4596)
demolished
Photo courtesy State Archives of North Carolina
NO_1-27-1960_NewYMCAHillsboroughSt_Fr3-400x261

The Central YMCA in Charlotte (MK2186) of 1959 was designed by Walter Hook. This modernist building likely had a residential component as well, but as with the Reeves

Community Center, is, in its current form, a departure from the early model in scale, siting, and style as typified by the Spruce Street YMCA.



**Photo 22: Central YMCA (MK2186)
400 E Morehead St, Charlotte**

Photo courtesy Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks

Located in Mayodan, the Washington Mills YMCA (RK1428) of 1954 was built for mill workers in Rockingham County. This side-gabled brick building has clerestory windows and an impressive stair hall entry. Given its siting outside of an urban grid, its lack of a residential component, and relative integrity, it is perhaps the best comparable resource for Reeves in terms of form and program, though not style.



**Photo 23: former Washington Mills YMCA (RK1428)
300 S 2nd Ave, Mayodan**

Photo courtesy Madison-Mayodan Recreation Commission

The South Main Street YMCA High Point (GF2991) was built in 1925 and expanded and altered in 1951 and could be considered a stylistic comparable.



**Photo 24: South Main Street YMCA (GF2991)
401 South Main Street, High Point
Undated Photo HPO Survey files**

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the YMCAs documented by NC-HPO turn to a modernist style and are generally low slung with large swaths of brick veneer and limited fenestration, such as the YMCA complex in Fayetteville which includes the YMCA (CD1050) and YMCA Physical Education Building (CD1106), respectively built in 1966 and 1971.



**Photo 25: South Main Street YMCA (GF2991)
401 South Main Street, High Point
2009, HPO Survey files**

One important fact to remember is that the Reeves Community Center was initiated by the local community, not by the national YMCA. The YMCA charter was established in Mount Airy in order to provide management and programming for the center. At its opening, it provided the facilities not only for local leisure recreation but also for school children's physical education as there were no other facilities to house those functions.

The Mount Airy community's effort to construct a local recreation center that compensated not only for the county's lack of recreational facilities, but also provided facilities for the local school system is notable. The perseverance of the community to raise the funds through two wars, at least two architects, and three designs, plus the demands of requiring a federal permit for construction, testifies to the building's significance to the town of Mount Airy.

MOUNT AIRY ARCHITECTURE

A few buildings in Mount Airy, dating between 1945 and 1955, show comparable characteristics of Moderne and International Style architecture. Most of these buildings are residences. They include the Dr. Renzo Sutter House (SR0267) built in 1946 a two-story International style house with corner windows and a flat roof.



Photo 26: Dr. Renzo Sutter House, SR0267 339 Country Club Road

The house at 227 Grace Street in Mount Airy has not been surveyed, but local tax records state was built in 1959. This one-story dwelling features a flat roof and awning type eaves that create a horizontal emphasis, reinforced by banks of windows, characteristics shared with the Reeves Community Center.



Photo 27: House, 227 Grace Street



Photo 28: Franklin Boyd House, SR0270 209 West Oakdale Street

The Franklin Boyd House (SR0270), built in 1952, also has a flat roof with overhanging eaves. Structural glass block, corner windows and the curved facade indicate aspects of Moderne style and International Style. A two-story building, it lacks the horizontal emphasis of the Reeves Community Center and other examples. Slightly earlier, the 1947 Guy Bondurant House

(SR0280) also combines aspects of the Moderne and International Style in a two-story dwelling. Though two stories, the house has beltcourses on the curved facade that provide a horizontal accent.



Photo 29: Guy Bondurant House SR0280 203 West Lebanon Street

The only non-residential architectural resource in Mount Airy comparable to the Reeves Community Center is the circa-1947 Derby Restaurant, at 1901 South Main Street. It has lost its smaller gas station that had a derby hat-like roof and was a good example of roadside architecture. As a one-story, masonry, commercial building with an extended structural awning, it shares some design aspects with the Reeves Community Center.



Photo 30: Derby Restaurant 1901 South Main Street

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

The National Park Service's description of criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is:

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:

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

INTEGRITY

The Reeves Community Center has not been moved, thus it retains its integrity of location. Though there has been some redevelopment on parcels north of the center, they are separated from the center by a substantial road network and diminished by topography and its impact is negligible; thus the center retains its integrity of setting. It has been adapted to meet changing needs and trends in recreation. The original basement bowling alley was removed as were a snack bar and kitchen. One of two pools was enclosed in 1994 to be an indoor pool. Locker room fixtures and finishes have been replaced, likely in a \$1.2 million rehabilitation in 1983-84. Many windows have been replaced or boarded up; however the fenestration pattern remains. The bleacher system in the gymnasium has been removed and the balcony enclosed, but the exposed trusses and athletic areas remain. However, the interior plan remains largely original. The granite facade with streamline awning/porch is generally unchanged, though lettering along the porch roof seen in historic photographs has been removed. Therefore, although somewhat compromised, it retains substantial integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. As it continues to strongly communicate the sense of a mid-twentieth-century Moderne style recreation center, thus it retains an integrity of feeling. Finally, as the Reeves Community Center continues to serve as a community recreation center its integrity of association is undiminished.

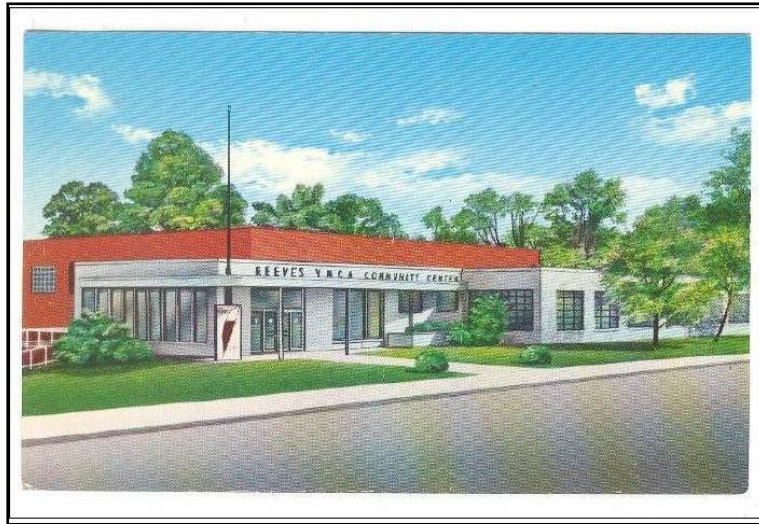


Photo 26: Historic Post Card of Reeves Community Center, no date.

Signage and fenestration are intact.

<http://www.playle.com/listing.php?i=SCVIEW151436>

SIGNIFICANCE

Given the impetus for the construction of the center from the local community foundation and the support of local elected officials and the media, it is clear that the center was more than an ordinary commercial venture. At the time of the Reeves Community Center's dedication, it was said to be one of the largest and most impressive recreational centers in the state compared to contemporary buildings, quite an accomplishment for the town of Mount Airy. It was the product of a concerted local fundraising effort, and required a federal permit for construction. It continues to be a significant local recreational facility. The Reeves Community Center is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation.

The building is named for the Reeves family, due to the sizable donation from Mount Airy native John Reeves. Despite his largess, this resource is not directly associated with Mr. Reeves in connection with his business or dwelling, thus it is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B. Fred Simmons provided a design that is a good example of the Moderne style; however his oeuvre is not such that the association with Reeves alone would qualify the building under Criterion B.

Criterion C allows for the designation of properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The Reeves Community Center is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C as a good local example of Moderne style architecture by regional architect Fred Simmons.

It is unlikely that this property would yield any information important in history therefore, the Reeves Community Center is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.

The Reeves Community Center is significant at the local level with a period of significance of 1952-1966.

RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY

The recommended NRHP boundary is that of parcel 2544 (PIN 502016842544) at the southeast corner of US 52/NC 89 (Renfro Street) and NC 103 SR 2432 (Pine Street), which contains the community center. The boundary of this parcel does not include the street, curb, or sidewalk save those that fall within the boundary on the west side of the parcel as illustrated in Figure 3. Adjacent parcels that provide parking were acquired by the community center after 1990 and thus do not fall within a period of significance.



Figure 4: Proposed Boundary Reeves Community Center SR0900

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