



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

February 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Widen SR 1545 from US 25 to Mills Gap Road and replace culvert on Cane Creek Road,
U-5840, Fletcher, Henderson County, ER 17-0100

Thank you for your January 10, 2017, letter concerning the above-referenced undertaking that has two National Register-listed properties within its Area of Potential Effects. We have reviewed the information that you provided about the changes in the area, the historic properties, and their settings.

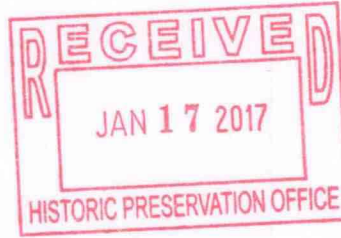
Since its listing, the nineteenth century rectory on the west side of US 25 that was included in the nomination for the Calvary Episcopal Church and Rectory (HN1059) has been demolished and replaced by a commercial development. We, therefore, agree that this area is no longer eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We will note this in our files and GIS. We also agree that the 1953 parish house and nineteen stone monuments along SR 1547 should remain outside the boundary of the church for the reasons outlined in your letter.

With regard to the boundary for The Meadows (HN0004), after discussing the numerous changes that have taken place around it, we agreed that the boundary should be reduced to include only that portion of the originally listed property owned by Michael McKnight (parcel #9653921075) and the access road known as Meadows Blake House Lane that intersects with Fletcher Commercial Drive. While the nomination lists landscape architecture as one of the reasons for listing, a review of aerial photographs shows much of the current shrubbery to postdate the nomination and several outbuildings no longer extant.

It is understood that you will prepare the materials necessary to submit a boundary reduction for The Meadows to the Keeper of the National Register and that we will be responsible for taking it through the required review process. Once this is accomplished, we will adjust our GIS mapping for the property.

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.



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL L. HOLDER
Acting Secretary

ER letters

January 10, 2017

ER 17- 0100

Ms. Ramona Bartos
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

*H ?s to Annie/Ann
1/17/17*

Michael McKnight

Parcel # 965392

1075

*Meadows Blake
Howe Gans*

Fletcher

*Cons
Dr.*

DE 1/25/17

Dear Ms. Bartos:

RE: U-5840, Widen SR 1545 (Old Airport Road) from US 25 to Mills Gap Road and replace culvert on Cane Creek Road in Fletcher, Henderson County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. The proposal is classified as a minor transportation project and qualifies for review under the 2009 (revised 2015) *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects in North Carolina*. The project is state-funded, but requires a Federal permit from the USACE and is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I reviewed the proposed project in the field and found that there are two properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that are eligible or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Calvary Episcopal Church and Rectory (HN 1059) was determined eligible for the National Register in 1995 under Criterion C for its 1938 Gothic Revival church and nineteenth century rectory. The Meadows/The Blake House (HN 0004) was listed on the National Register in 1980 under Criteria A and C as a c. 1860 Italianate summer home for wealthy low-country South Carolina planter Robert Blake. Both properties have undergone substantial changes to their settings and contributing resources that require reassessments of their respective boundaries. The map showing the APE and the current boundaries for these two properties is shown below. Detailed assessments for each property are provided as attachments to this letter.

Please provide me with your comments about these boundary revisions. If you have any questions concerning the information, please contact me at mfurr@ncdot.gov or (919) 707-6068.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
Historic Architecture Group

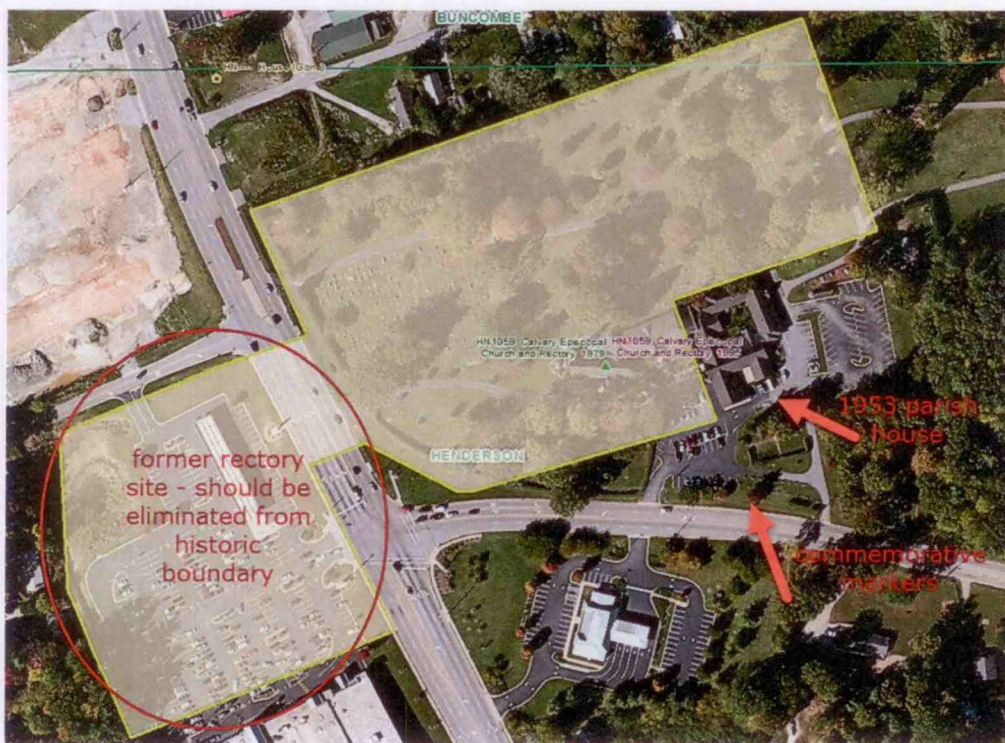
Cc: David McHenry, NCDOT Division 14



Calvary Episcopal Church and Rectory (HN 1059)

As described in the 1995 report for NCDOT's proposed widening of US 25 in Henderson and Buncombe Counties (R-2213), Calvary Episcopal Church and Rectory incorporated approximately thirty-two acres on both sides of US 25 – twenty-two acres on the east which included the church, cemetery and parish house, and ten acres on the west which was largely wooded save for the 1880s rectory. Specifically omitted from the National Register-eligible boundary were the 1953 parish house and the rows of commemorative markers along SR 1547 (Old Airport Road). At the time, neither resource was considered to contribute to the integrity or significance of the property.

Since 1995, the ten wooded acres and rectory have been sold, clear cut, and replaced by an Ingles supermarket. The twenty-two acres to the east remain undisturbed. While the parish house is now over fifty years of age, it does not contribute to the overall significance of the property since it was not built in a Gothic Revival style, or any discernable style, that would add to the architectural context of the site. The nineteen stone monuments along SR 1547 should also remain outside the boundary of the historic property. First conceived by Rector Clarence Stuart McClellan, Jr. in the 1920s to commemorate "famous sons of Dixie", the monuments were erected throughout the cemetery and honored humorist Edgar Wilson Nye, confederate Jefferson Davis, composer Francis Scott Key, Senator Zebulon Baird Vance, and other sons of the South. In the 1940s or early 1950s the markers were removed from the cemetery and reassembled along the road alongside the 1953 parish hall. While these monuments are known colloquially as the "Westminster Abbey of the South" they do not reside in their original locations, are not specifically arranged or identified as a memorial garden, and those commemorated are not necessarily related to the church. As such they do not contribute to the integrity or significance of the property and should remain excluded from the boundary.





Commemorative Markers, September 2016

Sources:

Brown, Marvin, "An Historic Architectural Survey of US 25 from St. John's Road (SR 1361) to US 25A/NC 280, Henderson and Buncombe Counties, North Carolina," July 1995.

"Westminster Abbey Of South," *Spartanburg Herald Journal* (Spartanburg, SC), September 24, 1939.

Hicklin, J.B. "Elaborate Abbey To immortalize South's Leaders," *Forest City Courier* (Forest City, NC), September 24, 1931.

Jenkins, Mark. "Historical Sketch Of Calvary Episcopal Church," (Calvary Parish, Fletcher), 1959.

"Fletcher Markers," The Historical Marker Database, HMdb.org.

The Meadows/The Blake House (HN 0004)

Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, The Meadows (also known as The Blake House) is a large Italianate style dwelling built sometime after 1860 for South Carolina planter Robert Blake. It sat on approximately 950 acres as a private dwelling until 1979 when it was acquired by a textile manufacturing firm and its boundary severely reduced (to ten acres) by an encroaching industrial park. More recently, the boundary frontage along SR 1547

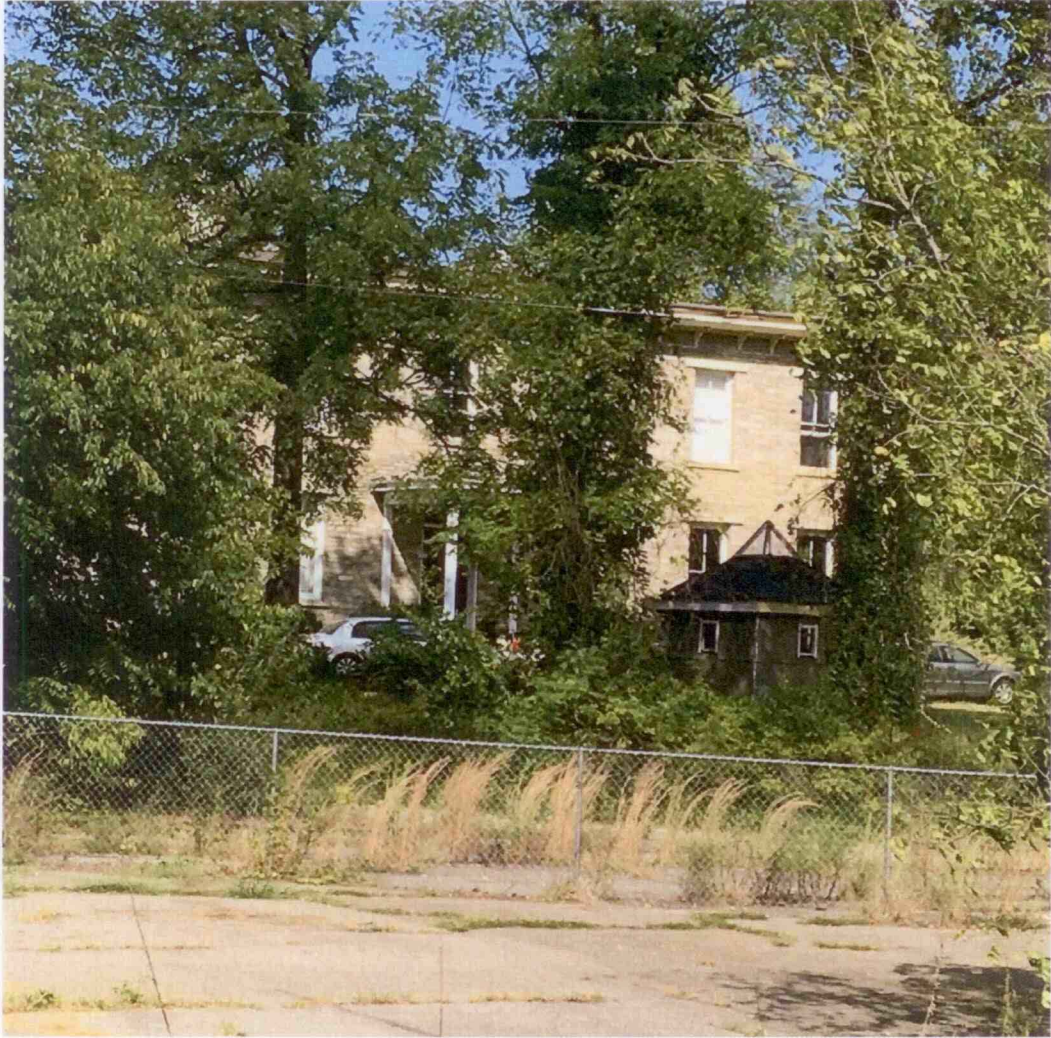
has been compromised by construction of a commercial complex. Nevertheless, access to the house remains, and in fact the structure appears to be utilized as a single family dwelling. The house is surrounded by a tall chain link fence which encompasses the main dwelling along with one outbuilding and a small amount of wooded area that shields most of the house from view. This construction has not compromised the significance of the site but the boundary should be reduced to only incorporate the wooded acreage that contains the house, outbuilding, possible remains of three additional outbuildings, and driveway.



HPOWeb



Google Maps



Dwelling and outbuilding, September 2016



Driveway, September 2016



New construction, September 2016

Sources:

"The Meadows" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, August 20, 1979.

Jenkins, Mark. "Historical Sketch Of Calvary Episcopal Church," (Calvary Parish, Fletcher), 1959.

THE MEADOWS
FLETCHER VICINITY
HENDERSON COUNTY, N.C.
AUGUST 1979

