



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

August 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Vanessa Patrick, Architectural Historian
NCDOT/PDEA/HES

vepatrick@ncdot.gov

From: Renee Gledhill-Earley 
Environmental Review Coordinator

Re: Improvements to S.R. 1336 (Henderson Drive) from N.C. Highway 53 (Western, Boulevard) to
S.R. 1308 (Gum Branch Road), R-5703, PA 16-08-0013, Jacksonville, Onslow County, ER 17-1229

Thank you for your June 27, 2017 submission of the Historic Structures Survey Report, prepared by CALYX Engineers and Consultants for the above referenced project. We have reviewed the submittal and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Northwoods United Methodist Church (ON 1059) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the presence of large incompatible modern buildings located on the property.

The Dudley Family Cemetery United Methodist Church (ON 1060) was documented, but not evaluated as it lies outside of the area that the project is expected to impact:

Please note that the figure numbers (Figures 3-49) referenced in the text do not match the figure numbers in the captions below each figure.

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 any questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919/807-6579.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT

mfurr@ncdot.gov

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

U-5903, Improve S.R. 1336
Onslow County
WBS# 44684.1.1

Prepared for:
Human Environment Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

Prepared by:
 CALYX
CALYX Engineers and Consultants
6750 Tryon Road
Cary, North Carolina, 27518

JUNE 2017

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JUNE 2017



Sarah Woodard David, Principal Investigator

June 15, 2017

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improving Secondary Road (S.R.) 1336 (Henderson Drive) from N.C. Highway 53 (Western Boulevard) to S.R. 1308 (Gum Branch Road). The project's Area of Potential Effects (APE) as defined by NCDOT extends approximately 500 feet from either end of the proposed 1.12-mile project length (NE-SW) and 200 feet to either side of the S.R. 1336 (Henderson Drive) centerline (NW-SE), as well as 600 feet along S.R. 1308 (Gum Branch Road) SE of S.R. 1336 and 1400 feet along N.C. 53 (Western Boulevard) SE of S.R. 1336 and 200 feet to either side of both their centerlines (NE-SW). The APE also expands to the NW of S.R. 1336 (approximately 600 feet) at the Western Boulevard end. Figure 2 illustrates the APE. The project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007). NCDOT architectural historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that one property greater than 50 years of age warranted further investigation.

No other resources within the APE that are greater than 50 years of age appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and no resources within the APE that are less than 50 years of age appear to meet Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years.

An architectural survey of Onslow County, overseen by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO), was undertaken 1987 and partially updated in 2000-2001. Northwoods United Methodist Church has not been recorded in any previous architectural survey.

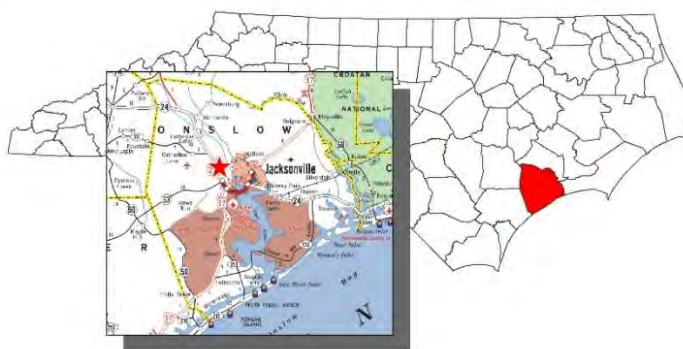
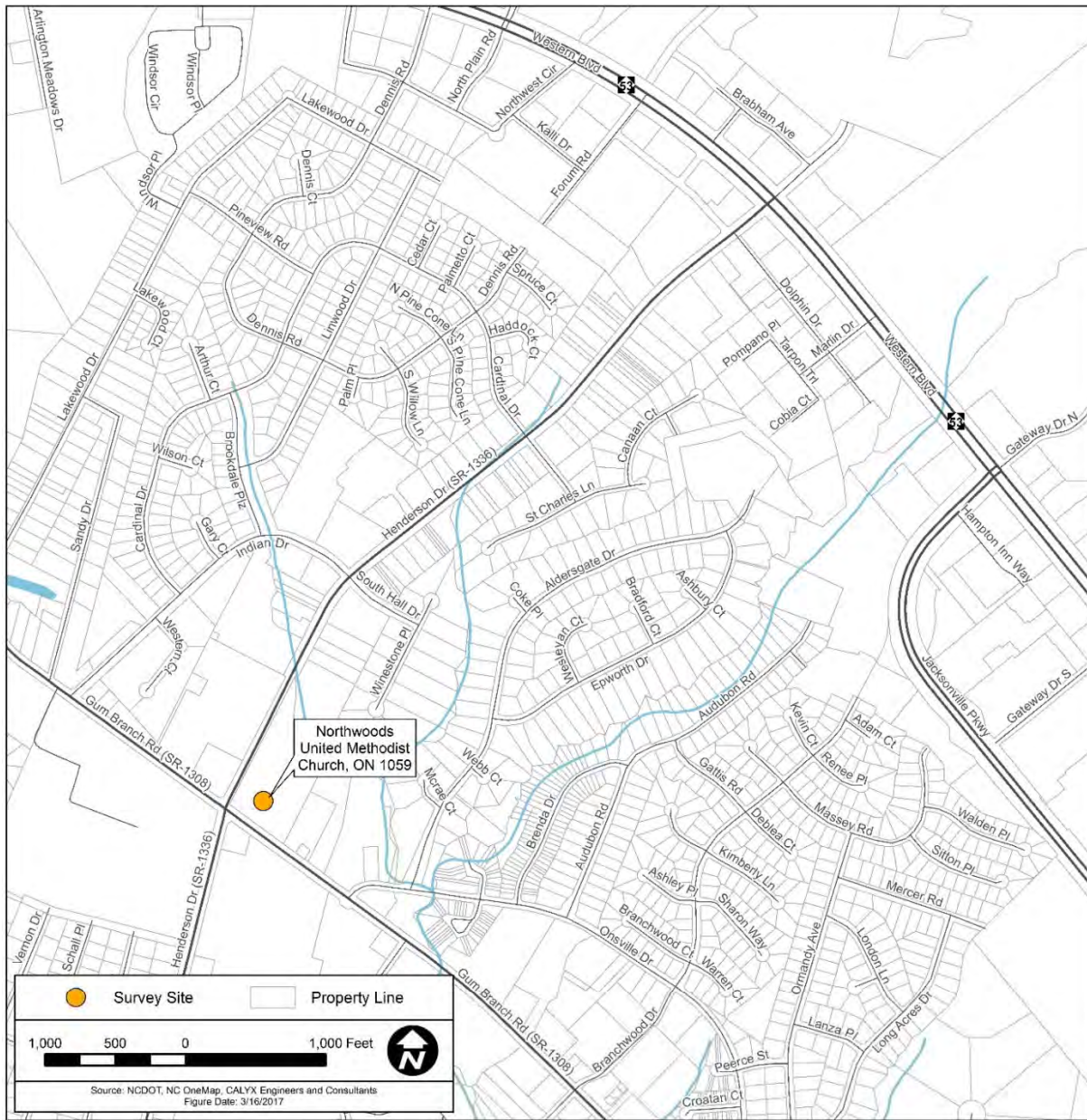
In February 2017, NCDOT requested that CALYX Engineers and Consultants (CALYX) complete research, an intensive-level historic field survey, and a NRHP evaluation for the property. During investigations, the consultant also documented a small family cemetery on the Northwoods United Methodist Church property. NCDOT historians made the decision not to evaluate the cemetery because it is beyond the area that the project is expected to impact. It is, however, described and given an NCHPO Survey Site Number as part of this project.

Based on the field survey, background research, and the evaluation documented in this report, the recommendations for the NRHP are as follows:

Property Name	NCHPO Survey Site Number	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Northwoods United Methodist Church	ON 1059	Not Eligible	
Dudley Family Cemetery	ON 1060	Not Evaluated	

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	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
	ONSWLOW COUNTY <i>Improvements to SR 1336 (Henderson Drive) from NC 53 (Western Boulevard) to SR 1308 (Gum Branch Road)</i> STIP No. U-5903 / WBS No. 44684.1.1
Figure 1 - Project Vicinity	

Figure 1: Project Vicinity

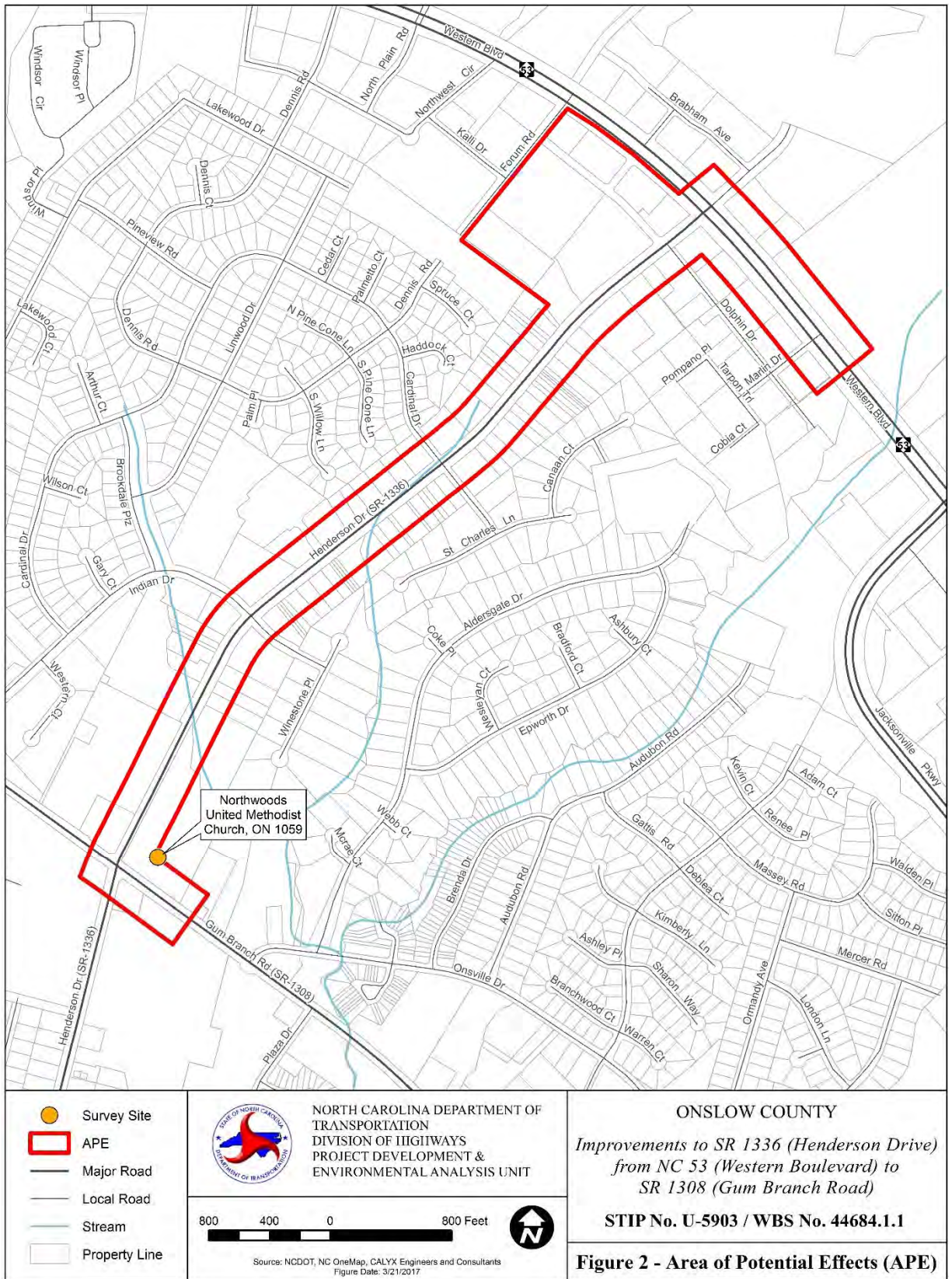


Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects

Methodology

On March 3 and March 10, 2017, CALYX Architectural Historian Sarah Woodard David visited Jacksonville and completed photo documentation of Northwoods United Methodist Church. The investigator undertook research at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the North Carolina State Library, and at the North Carolina State Archives. The investigator also used online research tools and resources, including the Onslow County Register of Deeds online index, Onslow County GIS Mapping, the website findagrave.com, and the web-based subscription services ancestry.com and newspapers.com. The investigator drove the city of Jacksonville on March 3 in search of comparable churches.

CALYX conducted all fieldwork, research, and evaluations to meet the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, as well as NCDOT's *Guidelines for the Survey Reports for Historic Architectural Resources*.

Evaluation: Northwoods United Methodist Church

Resource Name	Northwoods United Methodist Church
HPO Survey Site Number	ON 1059
Street Address	1528 Gum Branch Road (SR 1308)
PIN	437818412370
Construction Dates	1962, 1965, 1981, ca. 2000, 2008
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 3: Northwoods UMC, northeast elevation

Description

Jerry Lewis, pastor, and Elizabeth Soukup, church secretary, provided all construction dates during interviews on March 3, 2017 and March 7, 2017, respectively.

Northwoods United Methodist Church is a Modernist church located in suburban Jacksonville, about three miles north of Jacksonville’s downtown. The church stands at the east corner of the intersection of Gum Branch Road (SR 1308) and Henderson Drive (SR 1336), both of which are broad, five-lane thoroughfares. A Wallgreens drug store, built in the late twentieth century, occupies the north corner. Jacksonville High School occupies the west corner and dates from the 1960s. A suburban gas station built before 1993 is located on the south corner.

The Northwoods United Methodist Church parcel is a rectangle with a jagged northeast edge that follows an unnamed tributary of Mill Creek. The front two-thirds of the lot is flat and open, punctuated by a large magnolia toward the parcel’s west corner, a sizeable hardwood tree (probably a maple) standing in the property’s south quadrant, and a group of three Modernist buildings composing the church complex. Bradford pears are located in the planting strip along Gum Branch Road, along with Crape Myrtles along both Gum Branch Road and Henderson Drive. Paved driveways and asphalt-paved parking extends from Gum Branch Road along the property’s southeastern edge and then around and behind the church complex connecting to Henderson Drive.

To the north of the church complex is a playground, a one-story, gabled “church annex,” a garage, and a small family cemetery that pre-dates the church. Beyond these areas, to the northeast, the property is wooded and slopes slightly to an unnamed creek and the north property boundary.

The earliest building on the property dates from 1962 (indicated as 1 on figure 3; see figures 4 through 8). Known as the Education Building, it is a low, one-story, Modernist building with a gabled roof that projects forward from each gable end, creating a flared eave that widens closer to the apex. In the

southwest gable end, the front entrance comprises two pairs of tall, white, solid doors symmetrically situated in a recessed, glass bay flanked by brick bays. On this façade, long aluminum windows are located toward both outside corners. The side elevations are identical with five pairs of full-length aluminum windows with concrete sills punctuating the tan brick walls. The northeast or rear elevation features a pair of aluminum windows above solid aluminum panels flanked by recessed, single-leaf doors. A flat metal canopy shelters one door.

The next building constructed in the complex is the Modernist Fellowship Hall, consecrated in 1965, and expanded in 2008 (indicated as 2 and 2A on figure 3; see figures 9 through 26). It was built to be a fellowship hall but also to serve as the congregation's initial sanctuary. The Fellowship Hall is a tall one-story building with a low-pitch gable roof on a northwest-southeast axis, parallel to Gum Branch Road. The building does not have a traditional front elevation with an entrance; instead, the main entrance is located in the building's 2008 sanctuary addition.

The Fellowship Hall's northwest gable end projects in a shallow triangular bay. Methodist cross-and-flame symbols are mounted on each face of the bay. Wings with nearly flat roofs run along each side elevation and across the northwest gable end, where the wings flare out and then follow the angular bay of the gable end. The wings are clad in a light-colored brick while stucco covers the wall space above the wings.

Structural beams project along the deep eaves. Windows above the wings and within the wings are situated to correspond to the projecting beams along the eaves. The windows are metal-framed and composed of pairs of vertical panels containing three lights each, for a total of six lights per window. The upper-level windows are divided in half by the interior beams. Where the wing projects on the northwest end, sliding, metal-frame casement ribbon windows are set in stucco panels.

To the rear, or south, of the Fellowship Hall, a one-story hyphen connects the hall to a nearly-square sanctuary built in 2008. This section of the building takes some design cues from the Fellowship Hall: a tan brick base rises about mid-way up the exterior, to the height of the Fellowship Hall's brick wings. A stucco watertable caps the brick and stucco covers the building from the watertable to the eaves. The gabled roof runs on a northwest-southeast axis, like the Fellowship Hall's roof, but a roof gable enlivens the southwest elevation. In this gable and in the southeast gable end, the brick base is extended vertically to the apex of the gable. A pair of tall windows with muntins that create crosses occupy these gables. The glass in these windows is a rich, jewel-tone, solid green. Round attic vents occupy the gable ends.

A steeple is centered on the main roof ridge. The steeple comprises a square base with a molded cap, a lantern with green glass and pointed arches, and a slender pyramidal spire that rises to a cross.

Inside, the Fellowship Hall is a lofty, open room with a cathedral ceiling. The upper windows create a clerestory. At the lower level, the walls are exposed, tan brick, matching the exterior. At the upper level, walls clad in sheetrock trimmed with unpainted wood molding are spaced vertically to create panels. The building's structure is exposed: wood posts extend up from the floor, at the depth of the upper

level, creating a space between the posts and the lower wall; at the upper level, the posts make contact with the wall. The posts arch gently into roof beams. The ceiling is clad in finished plywood panels.

The space between the Fellowship Hall and the 2008 sanctuary is simply finished with sheetrock and narrow baseboards. This area houses a vestibule or lobby, a kitchen, bathrooms, and the church office. The sanctuary is a square room lit with the large, green-glass windows. Plain finishes include sheetrock, the absence of molding, and chairs rather than pews.

The third building in the church complex is the Second Education Building, dating from 1981 (indicated as 3 on figure 3; see figures 27 through 30). Like the 1962 Education Building, the one-story, gable-front building incorporates a projecting roof ridge on each gable end so that the eaves are wider at the apex. This building features a central glass bay with a pair of tall, solid, white doors. Shallow brick wing-walls project from the wall plane, separating the central glass bay from blank brick walls. Wing-walls repeat toward the outer corner and separate the blank brick wall section from aluminum, full-height corner windows. Four pairs of windows, highlighted with wing-walls, are located on each side elevation. A double-leaf door with plate glass sidelights and a transom is recessed in the center of the northeast gable end.

To the northeast of the church complex is the Church Annex (indicated as 4 on figure 3; see figures 31 and 32). It is a one-story, gabled house-like building clad in vinyl siding. Windows are modern, one-over-one sash windows. Doors are paneled, modern doors. This building replaced an earlier version that burned down around 2000.

Adjacent to the Church Annex is a one-story, vinyl-clad garage (indicated as 5 on figure 3; see figure 33). This building was also constructed around 2000.

To the south of the Church Annex is a family cemetery enclosed by a chain-link fence (indicated as 6 on figure 3; see figures 34 through 39). The cemetery contains early nineteenth century markers for Christopher and Margaret Dudley, who died in 1828 and 1827, respectively, and were the parents of nineteenth-century North Carolina governor Edward Dudley. The cemetery's other marked grave is that of Christopher P. D. Hill, the Dudley's grandson, who died in 1816. According to findagrave.com, another Hill grandson, Thomas, died in 1820 and is also buried in the plot. No marker for Thomas Hill was visible.

The Dudley markers are matching marble slabs, laid on the ground and covering the length of the grave. The Christopher P. D. Hill marker is on the ground but was originally a standing tablet. The diminutive marble marker features a refined scrolled-top edge. All three markers are clearly the work of a professional carver.

It appears that additional unmarked graves exist. The investigator noted at least three.

In 1984, the cemetery was cleaned and fenced, and mortar was applied in an effort to repair the two Dudley slabs, which had cracked. This was an Eagle Scout project for a local Boy Scout.

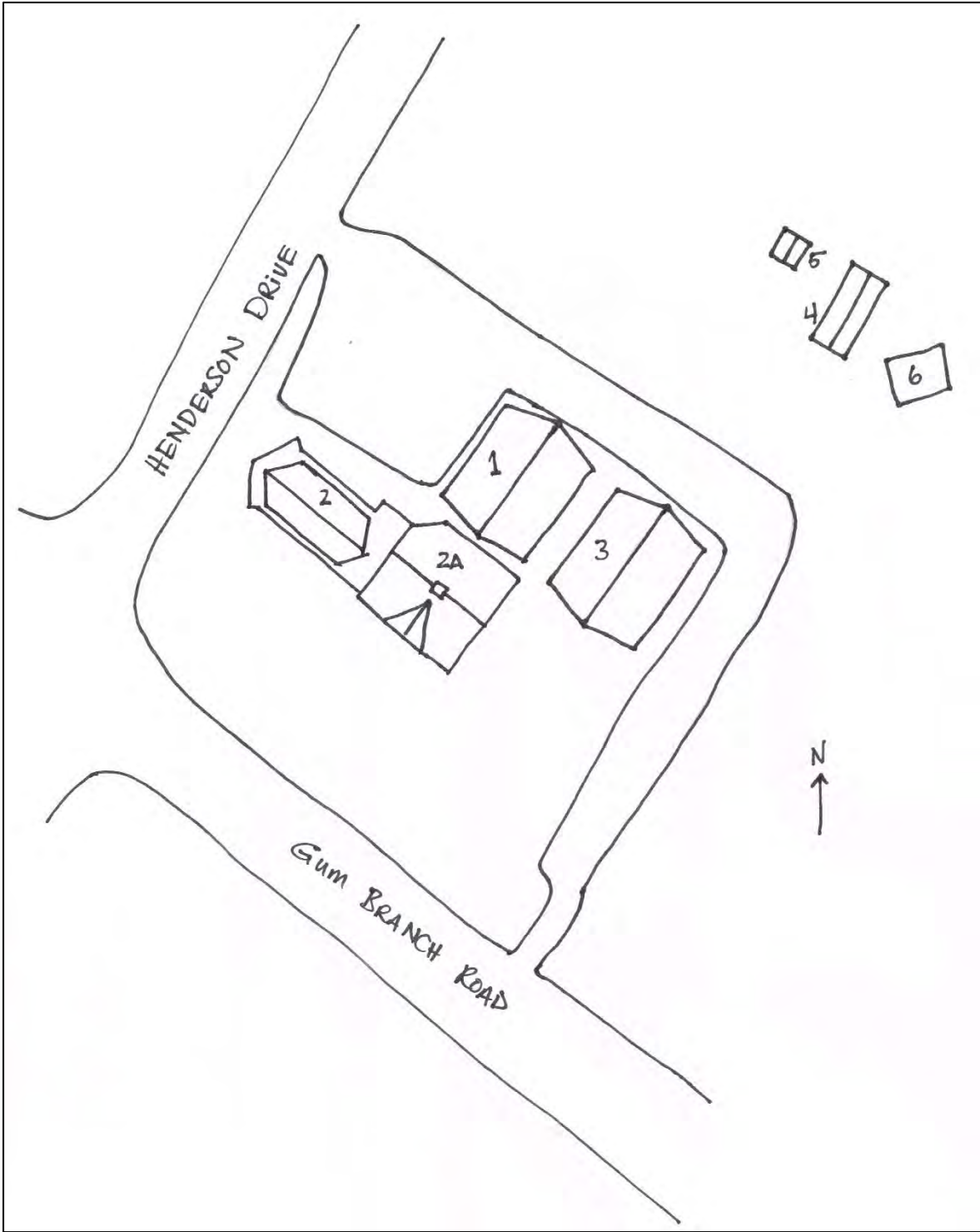


Figure 4: Northwood UMC Site Plan, no scale



Figure 5: Northwoods UMC, Education Building, north corner



Figure 6: Northwoods UMC, Education Building, northwest elevation



Figure 7: Northwoods UMC, Education Building, west corner



Figure 8: Northwoods UMC, Education Building, southwest elevation



Figure 9: Northwoods UMC, Education Building, northeast elevation



Figure 10: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall, west corner



Figure 11: Northwoods UMC, northwest elevation



Figure 12: Northwoods UMC, southwest elevation



Figure 13: Northwoods UMC, southwest elevation, from Fellowship Hall toward 2008 sanctuary



Figure 14: Northwoods UMC, southwest elevation, 2008 sanctuary



Figure 15: Northwoods UMC, southwest elevation



Figure 16: Northwoods UMC, south corner



Figure 17: Northwoods UMC, southeast elevation



Figure 18: Northwoods UMC, southeast elevation with Education Building



Figure 19: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall, northeast elevation



Figure 20: Northwoods UMC, north corner and northeast elevation



Figure 21: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall exterior detail



Figure 22: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall, northeast elevation



Figure 23: Northwoods UMC, north corner



Figure 24: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall interior, facing southeast with doors connecting to the 2008 addition



Figure 25: Northwoods UMC, Fellowship Hall interior, facing northwest



Figure 26: Northwoods UMC, lobby in 2008 addition



Figure 27: Northwoods UMC, 2008 sanctuary interior



Figure 28: Northwoods UMC, Second Education Building, south corner



Figure 29: Northwoods UMC, Second Education Building, northeast elevation



Figure 30: Northwoods UMC, Second Education Building, northeast elevation



Figure 31: Northwoods UMC, Second Education Building, north corner



Figure 32: Northwoods UMC, Annex and Garage, facing northeast



Figure 33: Northwoods UMC, Annex, west corner



Figure 34: Northwoods UMC, Garage, southwest elevation



Figure 35: Northwoods UMC, Dudley Family Cemetery, facing north



Figure 36: Northwoods UMC, C. P. Dudley grave, 1828



Figure 37: Northwoods UMC, Christopher P. D. Hill grave, 1816



Figure 38: Northwoods UMC, Christopher P. D. Hill grave, 1816



Figure 39: Northwoods UMC, Margret Dudley grave, 1827



Figure 40: Northwoods UMC, Dudley Family Cemetery

History

Northwoods United Methodist Church was established in 1958, during a period of rapid growth in Jacksonville. Jacksonville originated in the first half of the eighteenth century and became known as Wantlands Ferry in the 1750s when it was named as the county's seat. In the 1840s, leaders renamed the town Jacksonville in honor of President Andrew Jackson, but the seat remained a small, courthouse town until the beginning of World War II.¹

Major changes came to Jacksonville in 1941 when the Federal government established Camp Lejeune and Camp Davis adjacent to the town. As the Marines outgrew their bases at Quantico, Virginia, and Parris Island, South Carolina, construction at Camp Lejeune intensified. By 1944, the camp had its own railroad, electrical plant, hospital, schools, library, and newspaper.²

Camp Davis was shuttered after World War II, but Lejeune continued growing and with it, Jacksonville. In 1940, before Camp Lejeune was established, Jacksonville's population stood at 873, but the military quickly became the single-most influential factor in economic and population growth. In 1944, a company called the Chaney Development Company anticipated continued growth and made its first purchase of land in Jacksonville: a large tract on Chaney Creek, just north of downtown Jacksonville, and throughout 1945 and 1946 the company sold hundreds of lots.

Having bet successfully on Jacksonville's growth, Chaney Development Company made another substantial real estate purchase in 1955 and swiftly began subdividing over 1,200 acres north of Jacksonville.³ Chaney Development Company's work was part of a wave of construction: Between 1953 and 1957, residential building permits were issued in excess of \$4.5 million, and between 1958 and 1959 alone, over 300 new residential units were constructed. Concurrently, the city's population had exploded from fewer than 1,000 inhabitants in 1940 to over 14,000 by 1960.⁴

Specifically along Henderson Drive and Gum Branch Road, Chaney Development Company and another company called New River Homes were major players in suburban development, with both companies selling vast numbers of residential and commercial lots during the late 1950s.⁵

One of the subdivisions was called Northwoods, and it was originally platted in 1954.⁶ In 1958, Northwoods property owners, James and Georgia Jones, sold lot number 40, located on River Road to

¹ Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 225.

² Alan D. Watson, *Onslow County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1995), 133, 135.

³ D. L. and Louise Phillips to Chaney Development Company, Onslow County Deed Book 256, page 18, April 12, 1955.

⁴ Joseph Parsons Brown, *The Commonwealth of Onslow: A History* (New Bern, NC: Owen G. Dunn Company, 1960), 345.

⁵ Chaney Development Company and New River Homes, Onslow County Register of Deeds, Grantor Indexes.

⁶ Onslow County Plat Map Book 5, page 2.

the Methodist Church in North Carolina.⁷ This property is just over a mile south of the present-day location of Northwoods Methodist Church, and it became the church's parsonage. This parsonage was the location of the congregation's initial meetings, and the congregation became known as Northwoods Methodist Church.

Meanwhile, Chaney Development Company also sold land to two other churches on Henderson Drive: St. Anne's Episcopal and Brookwood Baptist. Also in the same vicinity are Jacksonville High School and Northwoods Elementary School, both of which are late-1950 or early-1960s campuses that supported the Chaney and New River Homes developments.

In March 1961, the Chaney Development Company donated land at the corner of Gum Branch Road and Henderson Drive to the Methodist Church for a place of worship, and in July of that year, the denomination turned over the property to the Northwoods congregation. This lot was part of the acreage that Chaney Development Company had acquired from D.L. and Louise Phillips in 1955.⁸

By 1962, the Northwoods congregation had completed the Education Building, which was the first of three buildings that create the campus' primary complex.

Northwoods United Methodist Church is at the geographic and historical edge of Jacksonville's post-war suburban development. To the southwest, development is obviously part of the post-war boom with large numbers of houses built in the 1950s, but to the north along Gum Branch Road and farther northeast along Henderson Drive, most of the development appears to date from the very late twentieth century and early twenty-first century. Northwoods United Methodist Church was constructed with the post-war boom's last breath at the very edge of the city. Almost as soon as the first two buildings were complete, large troop deployments began periodically stalling the military-dependent economy. This stagnation is evidenced in the church's inability to finish their complex with a sanctuary until 2008, and it is further illustrated by the general gap in construction visible between the 1950s development to the southeast and the turn-of-the-twenty-first century houses being built to the north and northeast as steadily decreasing unemployment has fostered an increase in residential construction at the fringes of Jacksonville.⁹

Architectural Context

Following World War II, Americans continued gravitating toward the Colonial Revival style, which had gained popularity beginning in the early 1900s. Compared to early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival

⁷ James and Georgia Jones to Board of Missions, North Carolina Annual Conference Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, Inc., Onslow County Deed 278, page 17, August 22, 1958.

⁸ Chaney Development Company to Board of Missions, North Carolina Annual Conference Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, Inc., Onslow County Deed Book 298, page 436, March 22, 1961; Board of Missions, North Carolina Annual Conference Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, Inc. to Trustees of Northwoods Methodist Church, Onslow County Deed Book 306, page 135, July 10, 1961; and D. L. and Louise Phillips to Chaney Development Company, Onslow County Deed Book 256, page 18, April 12, 1955.

⁹ Watson, 136, and Jacksonville unemployment statistics accessed via the Bureau of Labor Statistics website, www.bls.gov.

designs, post-war Colonial Revival architecture was generally more of an academic endeavor with architects studiously copying and interpreting Georgian, Federal era, and even Greek Revival buildings. Unlike the earlier, freer interpretations that mixed Colonial references with Queen Anne design, post-war Colonial Revival produced an array of designs from grand, symmetrical Georgian Revival institutional buildings and residences to modest but historically-accurate Cape Cod cottages.

Modernism, too, had pre-war roots, but did not ascend in American popular culture until after the war. Relishing its role as a forward-thinking, technologically advanced, new leader in the world, the country started accepting and even favoring modern and, sometimes, futuristic, design. Architects sought honesty and often revealed a building's structure, but, particularly in residential construction, they also wanted to harmonize with nature. Houses were built with a horizontal orientation, and the surrounding landscape or topography was given great consideration. Designers joined sleek modern materials, including glass and aluminum, with wood and stone to blend Modernism's sometimes-Spartan ethos with natural "honest" materials.

As Jacksonville's population surged during and after the war, churches grew, too. Existing congregations built new sanctuaries while entirely new congregations, such as Northwoods, blossomed. Local architects, builders, and congregations chose new designs from one of the two primary trends: Modernism and Revivalism.

Most of the city's largest congregations chose Colonial Revival designs for their new buildings. Colonial Revival drew upon monumental Greek and Roman architecture, making its components well-suited for large-scale projects. Jacksonville Baptist Church, whose congregation dates to the late nineteenth century, and which was located downtown originally, built a new Colonial Revival sanctuary in 1951. In 1956, Trinity United Methodist Church, the city's oldest Methodist congregation, erected an imposing edifice with a towering, pedimented portico with fluted Corinthian columns. Brookwood Baptist Church was, like Northwoods, a new suburban congregation that built a sanctuary in the mid-1950s. Their Colonial Revival building features a broad façade with a pedimented portico and Ionic columns and a scrolled broken pediment over the central front entrance.

Modernism in churches tended to spring from residential Modernism, which emphasized horizontal forms and a combination of sleek and natural materials, rather than from commercial Modernism which usually highlighted the movement's colder materials such as polished stone, metal, and glass. The resulting sanctuaries are often far less imposing, by design, than the monumental Colonial Revival edifices employed at other post-war churches in Jacksonville.

Three notable examples of Modernist church architecture survive in Jacksonville today. Infant of Prague Catholic Church (figure 40) is a cruciform-plan building with a striking multi-faceted roof over the central intersection. Infant of Prague dates from 1957. First Presbyterian's membership had grown ten-fold in the 1940s, and they dedicated a new, Modernist sanctuary in 1958 (figures 41 and 42). The stark, fortress-like building is a brick rectangle with a flat roof. A one-story, concrete portico with glass walls fronted by a metal screen extends across the front elevation and from this rises a square, incised concrete belltower. A chevron cornice tops the belltower which features an open belfry and a slender metal cross applied on the tower's front elevation. Long stained glass windows with concrete casings

and concrete panels below the windows march down each side elevation. Close to Northwoods United Methodist Church is St. Anne's Episcopal Church, also dating from the mid-1950s (figures 43 and 44). St. Anne's is a gable-front building whose steep roof nearly creates an A-frame structure. Like Northwoods, the gable end eaves project forward so that the eaves are wider at the gable's apex. The brick façade is broken by a central concrete bay upon which a cross is mounted. Next to the sanctuary and connected by a hyphen at the back of both buildings is a smaller version of the sanctuary building that serves as the parish hall.

Northwoods United Methodist Church was built in phases, with the earliest two buildings dating from 1962 and 1965, and the choice of modern design reflects the popular preference for Modernism among some congregations. That a brand-new, fully suburban congregation decided to apply Modernism to their sanctuary demonstrates the congregation's desire to advertise its youthful outlook and forward-thinking ideals about the promise of the American suburban dream. The church displays classic Modernist principals with exposed structure and a combination of aluminum, glass, and sleek, simple lines with warm, rich wood and a low-slung, approachable, horizontally-oriented exterior.

Comparable Examples

As mentioned in the architectural context, Infant of Prague (figure 40), First Presbyterian (figures 41 and 42), and St. Anne's (figures 43 and 44) are the largest and most fully-realized Modernist churches in Jacksonville. Other considerably smaller and less high-style churches that display some expression of Modernism are found throughout Jacksonville, and these appear to date from the very late 1950s into the 1970s (figures 45 through 48).



Figure 41: Infant of Prague Catholic Church (1957), 220 Marine Boulevard



Figure 42: First Presbyterian Church (1958), 400 North Bayshore Boulevard



Figure 43: First Presbyterian Church, 400 North Bayshore Boulevard



Figure 44: St. Anne's Episcopal Church (mid-1950s), 711 Henderson Drive



Figure 45: St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 711 Henderson Drive



Figure 46: Grace Baptist Church, 114 Roosevelt Road



Figure 47: Church of Christ, 111 Roosevelt Road



Figure 48: Bell Fork Church of Christ, 321 Bell Fork Road



Figure 49: Coastline Baptist Church, 104 Drummer Kellum Road

National Register Evaluation

Integrity

Northwoods United Methodist Church retains integrity of location along a primary suburban artery. Both Education Buildings and the Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary, retain integrity of workmanship, materials, design, and feeling. Vinyl siding has been applied to the eaves and soffits of both Education Buildings, but because that application is minimally visible, it does not detract from the buildings' integrity. The Fellowship Hall section of the Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary building retains its integrity of workmanship and materials, and the interior also retains integrity of design, but its overall design and feeling as a Modernist building has been overpowered by the large 2008 sanctuary addition which dominates the original Fellowship Hall. The Annex and Garage are later additions to the property. The entire campus retains integrity of overall feeling, setting, and association in terms of being in a suburban setting. However, because the immediately adjacent properties were not built out until the later twentieth century, with the exception of Jacksonville High School, which is set far back from the intersection, the church's setting is more closely related to the late twentieth century which dilutes its integrity of feeling and association with suburban development in Jacksonville during the 1950s and 1960s.

Criteria Evaluations

Northwoods United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with any aspect of the history and development of suburban Jacksonville. Other churches, namely St. Anne's Episcopal and Brookwood Baptist, have undergone less alterations and are, therefore, better examples of suburban churches in Jacksonville. Additionally, the suburban residential development surrounding St. Anne's is contemporary with the church, creating a setting with greater integrity than Northwoods Methodist. While Northwoods United Methodist Church was built on land subdivided during the same era, the immediately surrounding land was not built up until later in the twentieth century and with the exception of Jacksonville High School, across the intersection from the church property, Northwood United Methodist Church is surrounded by much newer buildings.

Northwoods United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past. No historically important association was identified during background research.

Northwoods United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The dominating addition of the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall detracts significantly from the Fellowship Hall's architectural character and from the complex as a whole. Without the sanctuary addition, the complex is an architecturally cohesive unit adhering to Modernist principals. Even the 1980s building incorporates Modernist concepts, but the sanctuary dominates the complex with its height and marks an incompatible departure from Modernism. Furthermore, St. Anne's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church are significantly better Modernist designs fully realized through a complete grouping of architecturally compatible and unified buildings.

Northwoods United Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history. A small family cemetery is located on this property, but the graves are of relatively prominent people whose lives can be better documented through other avenues of research.

Northwoods United Methodist Church does not meet Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties. Because Northwoods' Modernist design has been significantly compromised, the property is not significant for its architectural or artistic distinction. The church buildings also do not have historical importance. Therefore, the church fails to meet Criteria Consideration A.

Works Cited

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