

Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report  
Phase II (Abridged)

Tate Boulevard Extension and Widening  
from SR 1468 to I-40,  
Hickory-Conover,  
Catawba County, North Carolina  
TIP No. U-2414

November 18, 1994

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Report Prepared by Clay Griffith

Clay Griffith  
Principal Investigator

Nov. 18, 1994  
Date

Barbara H. Church  
Historic Architectural Resources  
Section

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### Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to extend and widen Tate Boulevard (SR 1692) from SR 1468 to I-40, Hickory-Conover, Catawba County. The project involves the widening of existing Tate Boulevard (SR 1692) to either a four-lane divided section with 14 m (46 feet) median or five-lane undivided section within existing right of way from SR 1468 to SR 1476 (Fairgrove Church Road), construction of a new five-lane curb-and-gutter connector from SR 1476 (Fairgrove Church Road) to SR 1007 (Highland Avenue), and widening existing SR 1007 (Highland Avenue) to five lanes from the connector to I-40. The new roadway will connect with SR 1007 between SR 1479 (GE Plant Road) and SR 1622. The total length of the project is 7.4 km (4.6 miles).

The area of potential effect (APE) for historic architectural resources was determined by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and delineated on the attached map (see Figure 1).

### Purpose of Survey and Report

This survey was conducted and report prepared in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies conducted by NCDOT and documented by an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report is prepared as a technical addendum to the EA and is part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment.

### Methodology

This survey was conducted and report compiled by NCDOT in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Phase II (Abridged) Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT.

Catawba County received a comprehensive survey in the late 1970s and early 1980s and the survey site files at the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) in Raleigh were reviewed. The comprehensive survey resulted in the publication of Catawba County: An Architectural History (Halma 1991). Additional background research was conducted at the Elbert Ivey Memorial Library in Hickory, Catawba County Courthouse and Catawba County Historical Museum in Newton, and the North Carolina State Library in Raleigh. The field survey was conducted July 25-27 1994, by car and on foot. Several property owners and residents were consulted.

#### Summary Findings of the Phase 1 Survey

The Phase 1 survey of historic architectural resources for the subject project identified twenty (20) properties over fifty years of age located within the APE. No properties listed on the National Register or on the State Study List are located in the APE for the subject project. The George Huffman House, a National Register-listed property noted in the December 22, 1993 memorandum from NCHPO to NCDOT, is located outside the APE to the south of Tate Boulevard (SR 1692) and east of SR 2348. 20 750  
No NR/SL

On September 8, 1994, representatives of NCHPO met with representatives of NCDOT to review properties that NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had determined were not eligible for the National Register. The NCHPO concurred that nineteen (19) of the identified properties were not considered eligible for the National Register. One property, the Miller House, was evaluated in the survey report. Photographs of the properties not eligible for the National Register are included as an appendix to this report.

*needed  
further  
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#### Properties Considered Not Eligible for the National Register

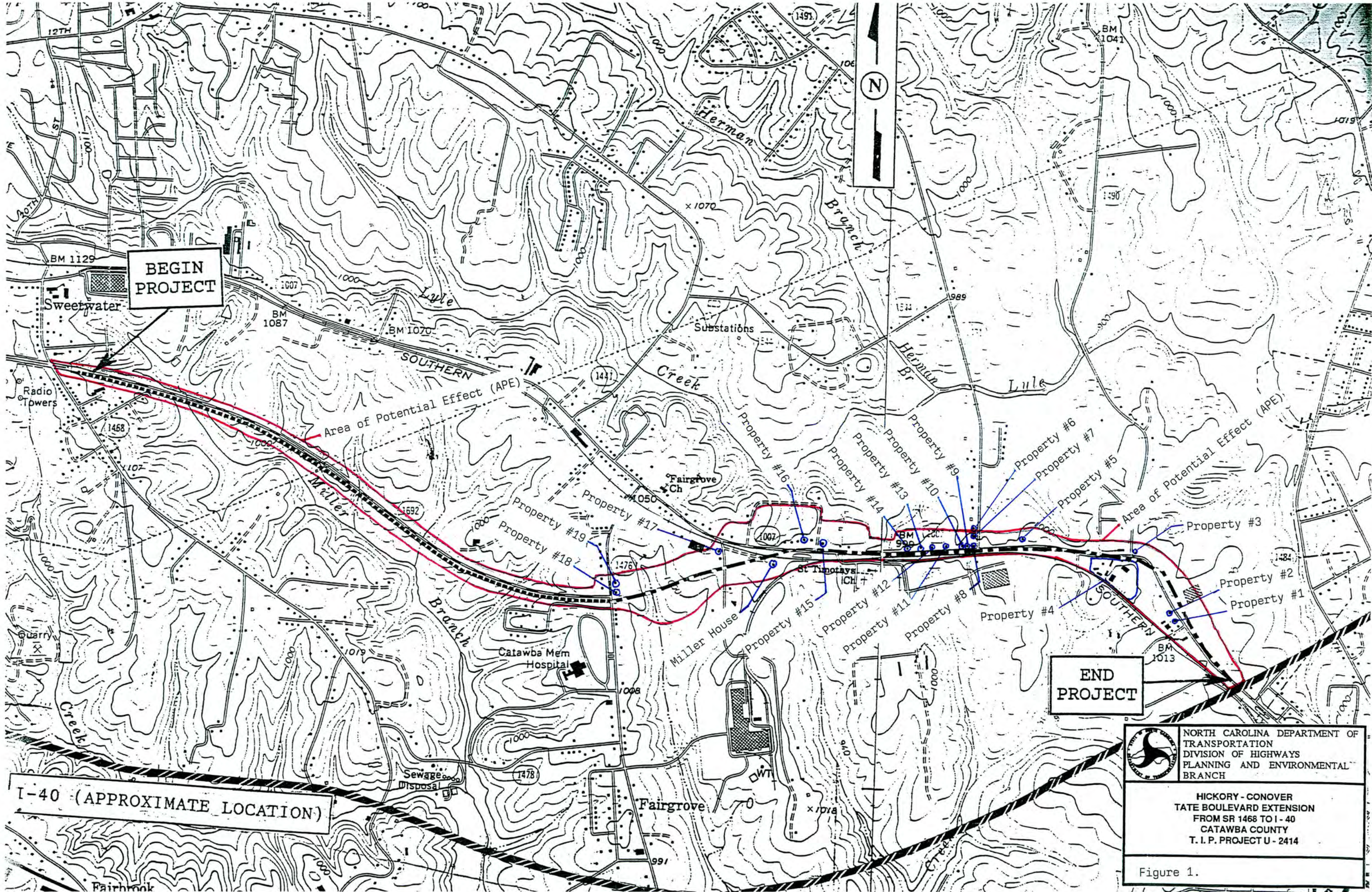
1. House No. 1 (Pay Day Auto Sales). This property does not possess historical or architectural significance.
2. House No. 2 (Rockett House). This well-maintained bungalow was built in 1931 for Ray and Eula Rockett. The property does not possess historical significance and is common example of the nationally popular bungalow style. The property type is found throughout Catawba County including the Kenworth Historic District in Hickory. The integrity of the property's setting has been severely compromised by the encroachment of a large shopping center and several industrial facilities.
3. Store/commercial building. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to its deteriorated condition.

4. Industrial facility. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to its deteriorated condition.
5. House No. 3. This property does not possess historical significance and is a modest example of a simple Tudor Revival-style cottage.
6. House No. 4. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to physical alterations.
7. House No. 5. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to physical alterations.
8. House No. 6. This property does not possess historical significance and is a modest example of the nationally-popular Colonial Revival style.
9. House No. 7. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity.
10. House No. 8. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to physical alterations.
11. House No. 9. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to substantial physical alterations.
12. House No. 10 (Wike's Florist). The original owners of this property operated a florist shop on the premises and the remains of a greenhouse adjacent to the house are evident. The property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to interior alterations and deterioration.
13. House No. 11. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to substantial physical alterations.
14. House No. 12. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance.
15. House No. 13 (Mid-Atlantic Drainage). This property does not possess historical significance and lacks integrity of design and materials due to substantial physical alterations.
16. House No. 14. This property serves as the parsonage for St. Timothy's Lutheran Church and probably dates from the 1940s or possibly the 1950s. The modern wing of the church was completed in the 1950s and this house may

date from the same building campaign. The property does not possess historical significance and is a plain Colonial Revival style dwelling.

17. House No. 15. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to physical alterations.
18. House No. 16. This property does not possess historical or architectural significance and lacks integrity due to substantial physical alterations.
19. House No. 17. This property does not possess historical significance and is a common variant of the nationally-popular Craftsman style dwellings.






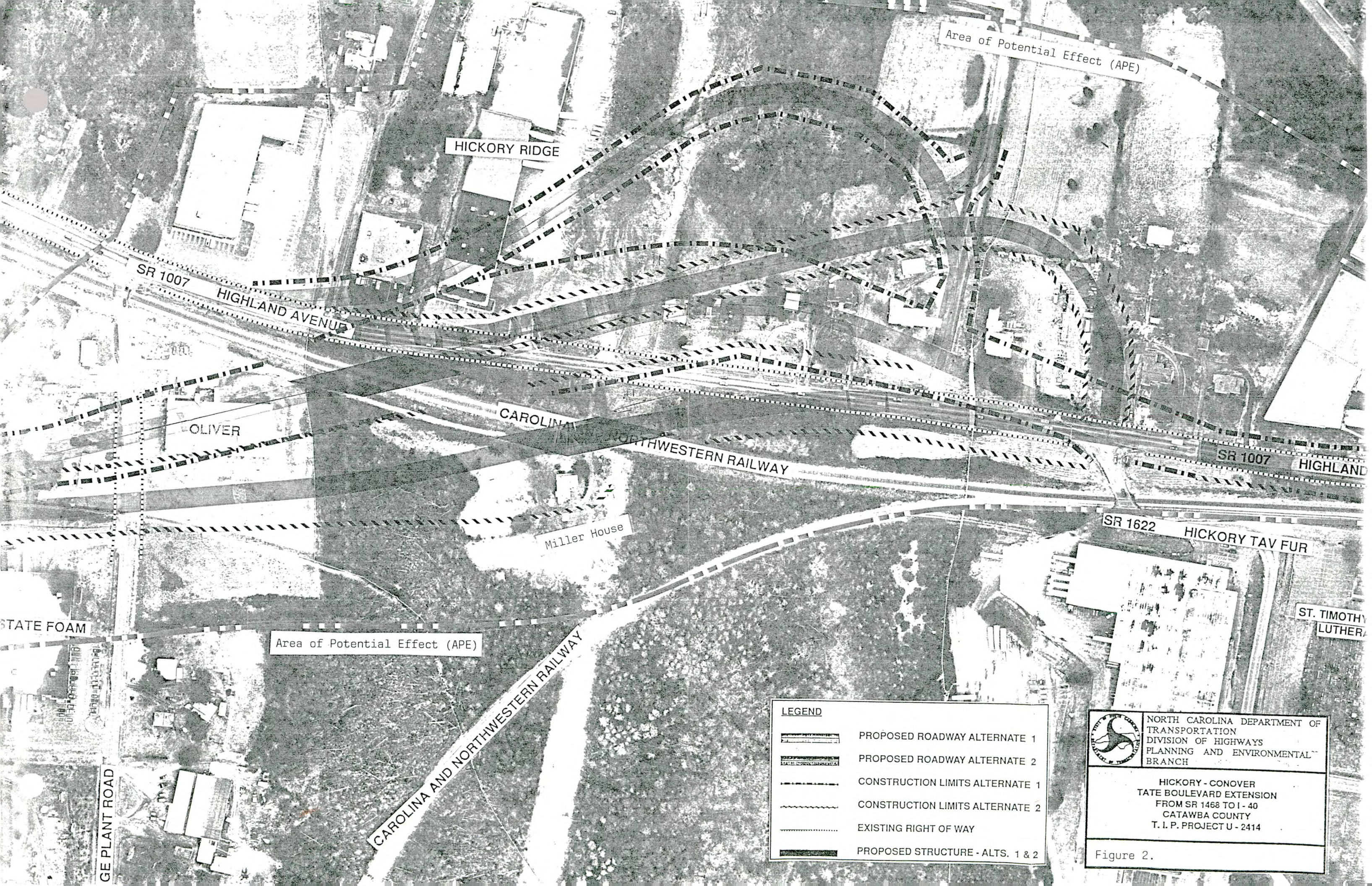
**BEGIN PROJECT**

**END PROJECT**

**I-40 (APPROXIMATE LOCATION)**

	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH
	HICKORY - CONOVER TATE BOULEVARD EXTENSION FROM SR 1468 TO I - 40 CATAWBA COUNTY T. I. P. PROJECT U - 2414
Figure 1.	





Area of Potential Effect (APE)

HICKORY RIDGE

SR 1007  
HIGHLAND AVENUE

OLIVER

CAROLINA AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY

Miller House

SR 1007  
HIGHLAND

SR 1622  
HICKORY TAVERN

STATE FOAM

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

CAROLINA AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY

ST. TIMOTHY  
LUTHERAN

GE PLANT ROAD

LEGEND	
	PROPOSED ROADWAY ALTERNATE 1
	PROPOSED ROADWAY ALTERNATE 2
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS ALTERNATE 1
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS ALTERNATE 2
	EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
	PROPOSED STRUCTURE - ALTS. 1 & 2

	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH
	HICKORY - CONOVER TATE BOULEVARD EXTENSION FROM SR 1468 TO I-40 CATAWBA COUNTY T. I. P. PROJECT U - 2414
Figure 2.	



## Property Inventory and Evaluation

### A. List of properties considered eligible for or listed in the National Register:

None.

### B. List of properties considered not eligible for the National Register:

#### MILLER HOUSE.

1. Location. South side of SR 1007 (Highland Avenue) and Carolina and Western Railroad approximately 400 yards east of SR 1479 (GE Plant Road). [See Figure 2.]
2. Description. The Miller House is a large three-by-one bay, two-story, side-gable frame house that possibly dates from the 1840s or 50s. James Theodore Miller (1850-1930) was deeded a 78 acre tract, "being the old homestead" of his father, David Eli Miller, in 1873, which he (James) occupied until his death. The house is reported to have been built around a log building, which may be the rear ell of the present structure. The main block of the house is plain in its detailing: weatherboard siding, unadorned window and door surrounds and simple end chimneys. The full-length porch is adorned by turned posts and decorative brackets.

The house differs in appearance, however, from a 1906 photograph taken during a Miller family reunion. The photograph is included in a scrapbook, "The James T. Miller Family in Pictures," assembled by James Paul Wagner and housed at the Catawba County Historical Museum. In contrast to its appearance in 1906, the Miller House is now painted, the east end chimney has been added, the plain square porch posts have been replaced, nearly all of the narrow four-over-four window sash on the facade have been replaced, and the two entry doors have been replaced by one central entrance. Furthermore, the attached entry porch and pantry on the rear ell were added after 1930 and the west and south chimneys have been rebuilt above the shoulder.

The Miller House was once the center of a modest farm with a full complement of outbuildings. However, no agricultural outbuildings survive and only one remaining outbuilding is contemporary to



the house. The structure housing a wooden threshing machine is reported to have collapsed within recent years and the parts of the building and machine that could be salvaged were sold.

Although the Miller House is not presently occupied the house lot remains well maintained. The house is surrounded by several mature trees and attractive plantings. The house is owned by Howard and Paul Reinhardt, grandsons of James T. Miller.

3. Historical Background. The Miller families of Catawba County are primarily the descendants of Wendell Miller, who immigrated from southern Germany to Pennsylvania before moving south with his son Frederick to Rowan County sometime prior to 1745. John Miller (1763-1822), son of Frederick, established a farm near the source of Lyle's Creek after his marriage to Christina Bolick of Conover. Nearly all of John Miller's thirteen children lived in Catawba County near Hickory and Conover. John's son, David (1794-1874), also settled and farmed on Lyle's Creek and was a devout Lutheran who read the Bible in German.

David Eli Miller (1827-72), son of David, lived and farmed on "the old Mehaffey place" which later became the parcel given to his son, James. The elder David Miller purchased 129 acres adjoining land owned by the Miller, Huffman, and Herman families from Thomas Mehaffey in 1844. David Eli was a Civil War veteran and also a devout Lutheran who read the Bible in both English and German.

James T. Miller (1850-1930) taught school in Conover before his marriage to Frances Sarah Ann Fry in 1874. After his marriage, James concentrated on farming. Miller was a charter member of the St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (located several hundred yards east of the Miller House) which formed in the mid-1880s. Miller completed the seminary course at Concordia College in Conover but subsequent changes to the requirements for ordination discouraged Miller from pursuing the ministry further. He remained on the farm and an active member of St. Timothy's Church. The Miller House passed on to the Miller's daughter, Mabel, and her husband Clarence Reinhardt after her parent's deaths. Mr. Reinhardt was killed at the railroad crossing in front of the house. Mabel's two sons, Howard and Paul, presently own the house.

Architecturally, the Miller House is one of



numerous examples of the popular type of dwelling found in Catawba County. Sidney Halma, author of Catawba County: An Architectural History states that "Catawba County farmhouses of [the antebellum] period have a remarkable homogeneity. The dominant surviving house type during this period is the two-story, three-bay, side-gable house...constructed of log or frame, with exterior end chimneys and a one-story front shed porch" (Halma, p. 20). This type of house is similar to the "I" house, a three-by-one bay, two-story, side-gable frame structure often with a one-story rear ell, the "overwhelming vernacular style" found in the County during the last three decades of the twentieth century (Halma, p. 22). Numerous examples of both the antebellum farmhouses and late-nineteenth vernacular "I" houses remain in Catawba County. 2 1976

4. Evaluation. Background research of this property within the context of the history of Catawba County has enabled its consideration and evaluation to National Register criteria. The property is not associated with historical events or important themes and thus is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A. The architectural component of the property has not and is not likely to yield information important to history; it is therefore not eligible under Criterion D.

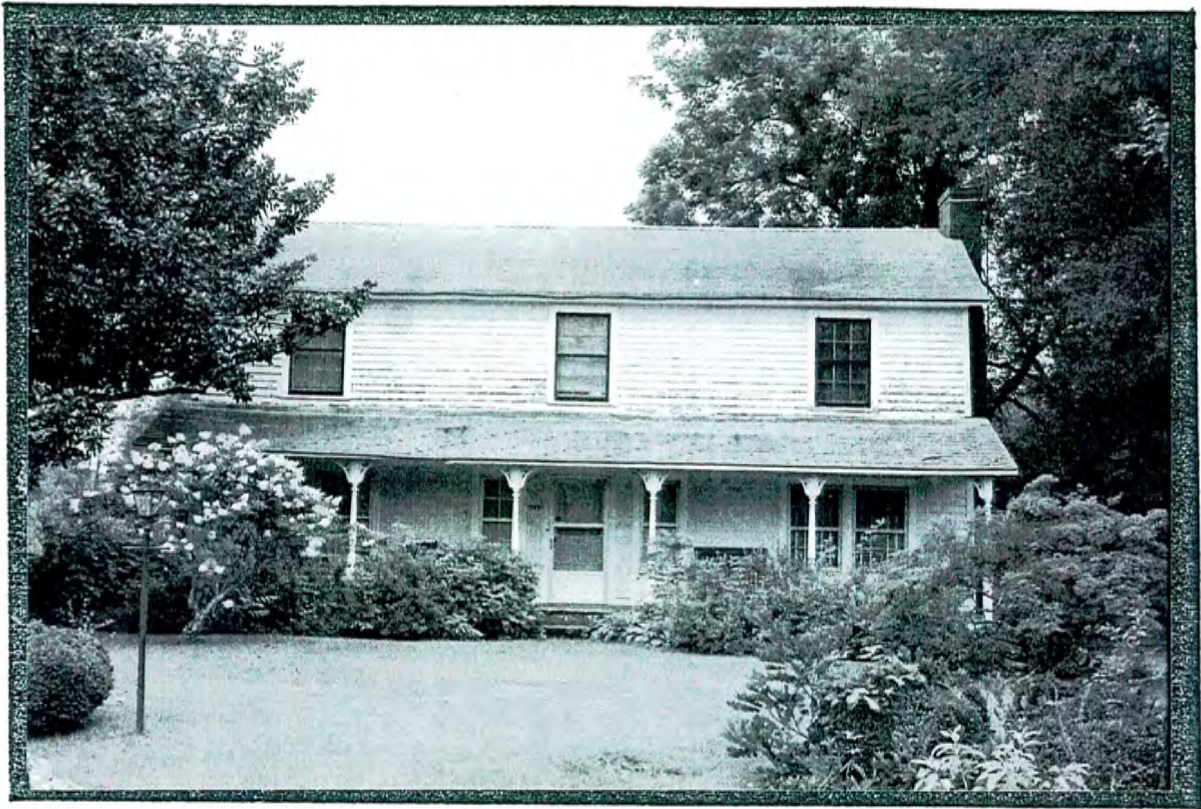
The Miller House is closely associated with James T. Miller, one of many descendants of John Miller in Catawba County. Although the Miller clan is a large and well-established family, James T. Miller's contributions and activities are neither distinguished nor justifiably significant within the context of the area. As such the Miller House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for association with the lives of significant persons.

Furthermore, the Miller House does not possess special architectural significance and has lost integrity through substantial alterations to its exterior. The re-configuration of the facade severely compromises the integrity of the house. Numerous other examples of properties, similar in age and detail, are found throughout Catawba County. Among these other examples are the National Register-listed George Huffman Farm and Alexander Moore Farm. Two additional examples of mid-nineteenth century houses with late-nineteenth century modifications which retain high levels of integrity are the Seabring-Sherrill House (Terrell Crossroads) and the Frederick Smith House (north-



east of Conover). Due to its loss of integrity and the presence of architecturally superior examples elsewhere in the county, the Miller House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture.



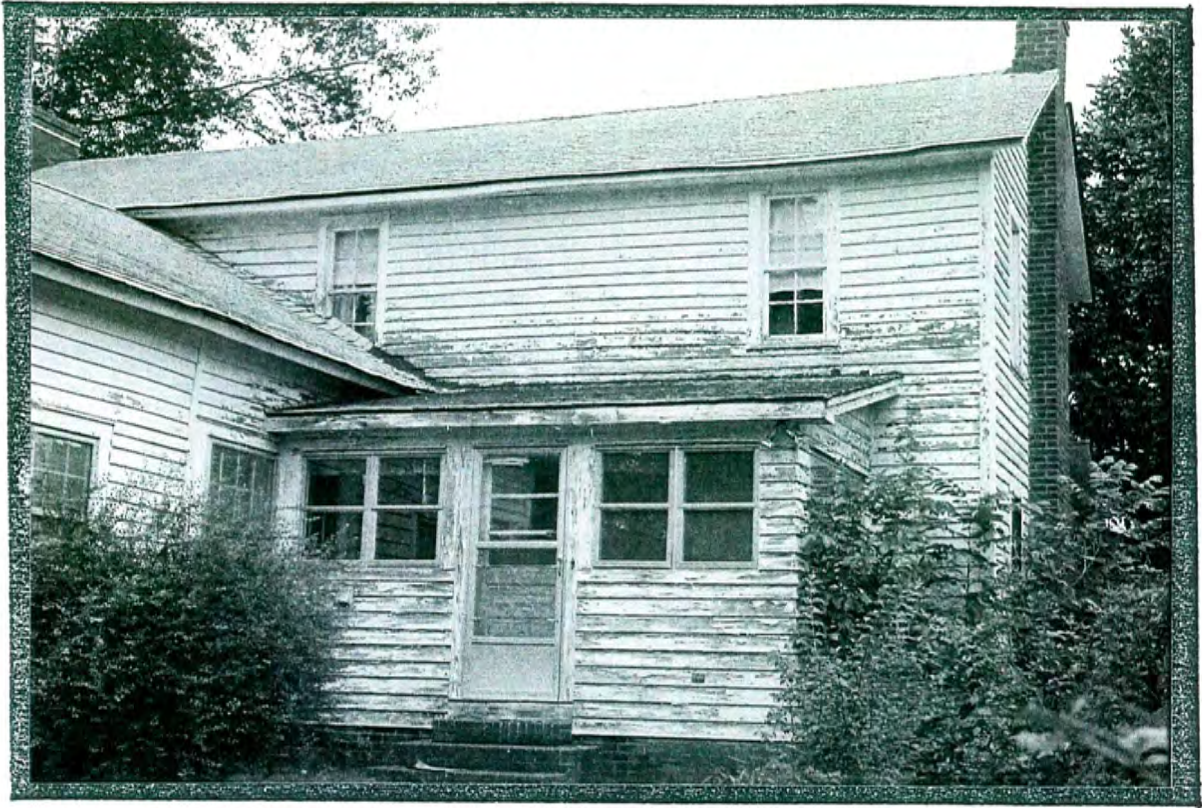


Miller House.

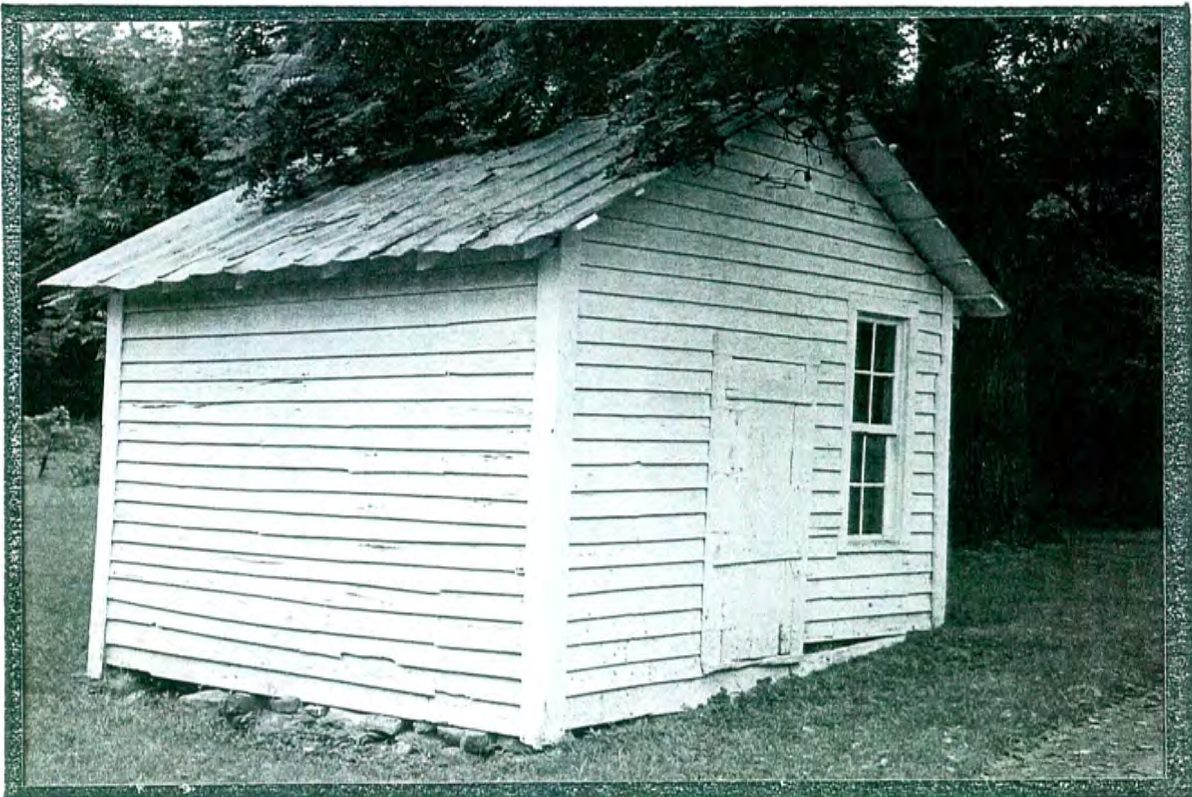


Miller House.





Miller House.



Miller House.



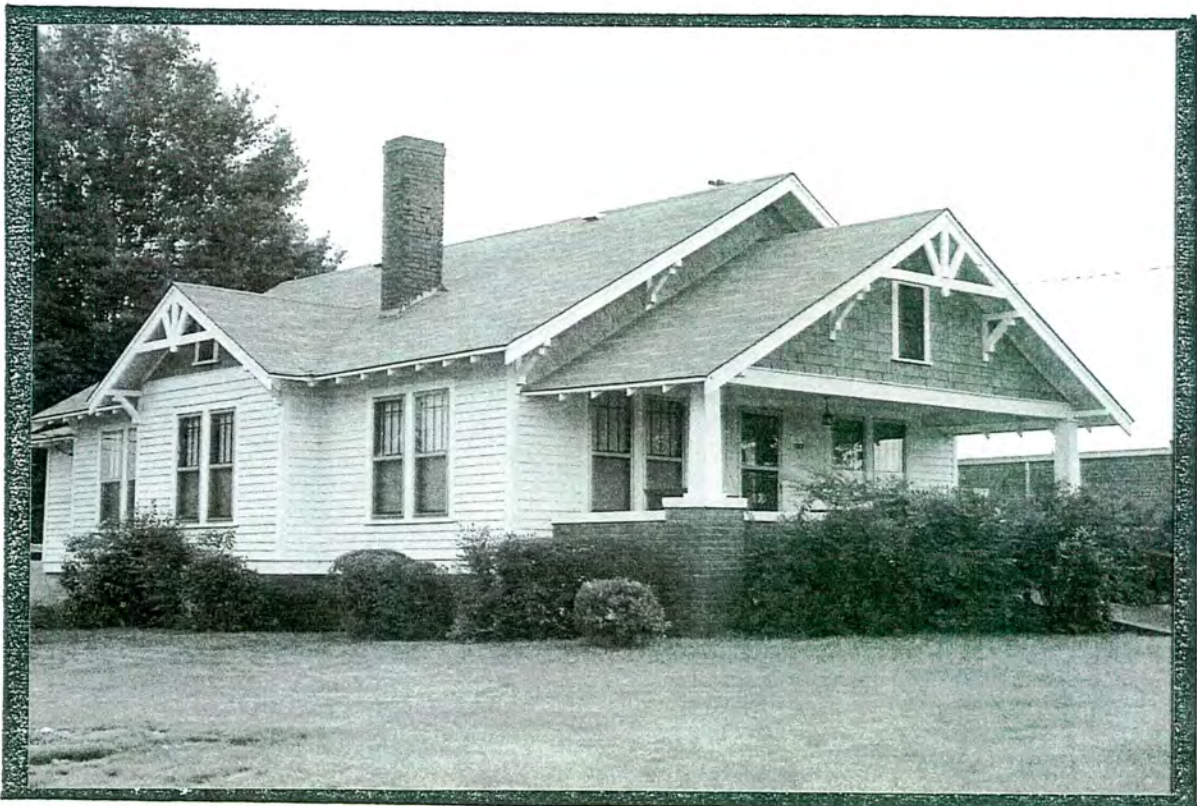
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- Wagner, James Paul. "The James T. Miller Family in Pictures." Miller Family History. Catawba County Historical Museum Archives, Newton, NC.



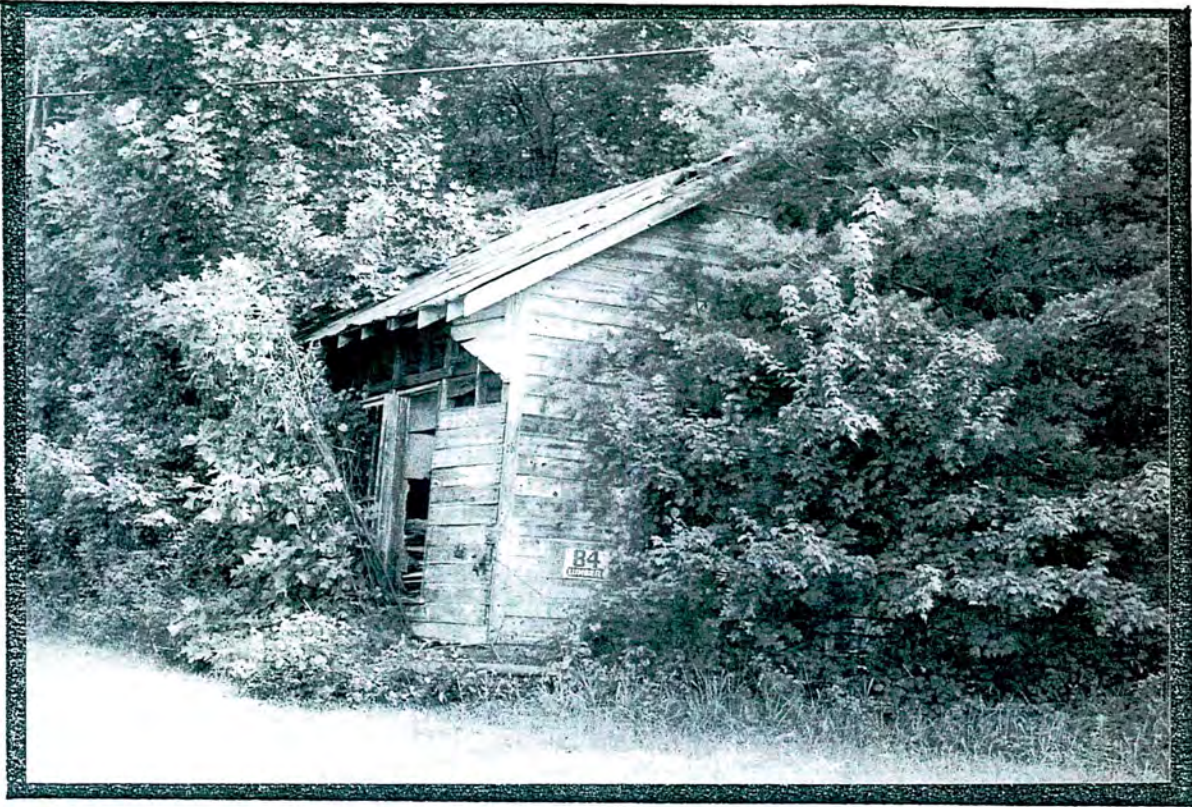


Property #1: House No. 1.



Property #2: House No. 2 (Rockett House).





Property #3: Store/commercial building.



Property #4: Industrial facility.



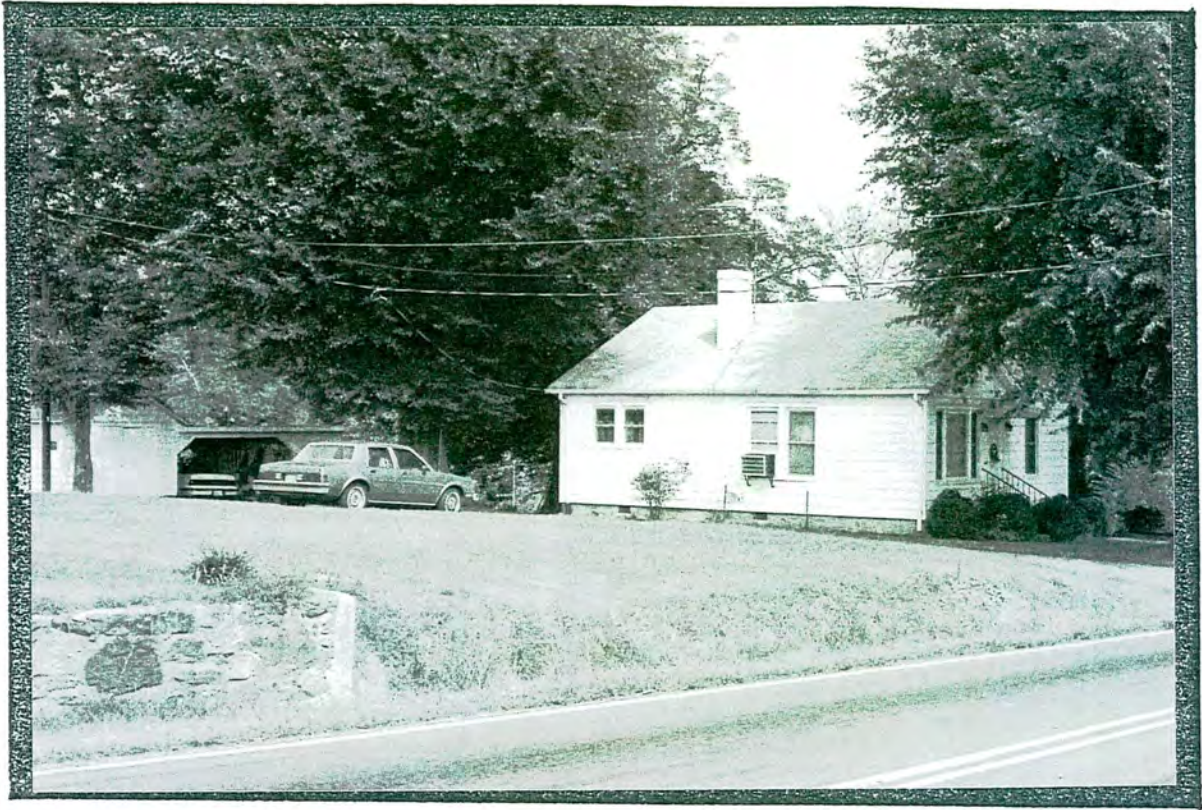


Property #4: Industrial facility.



Property #5: House No. 3.



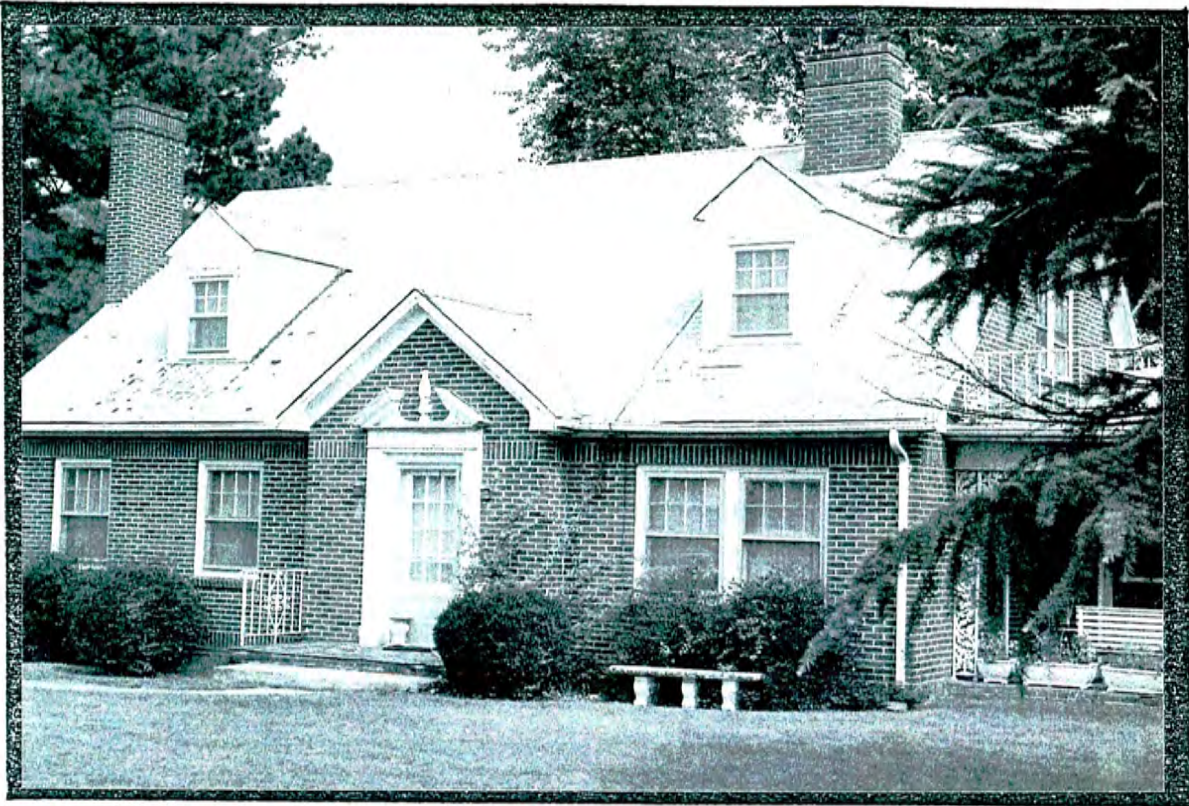


Property #6: House No. 4.

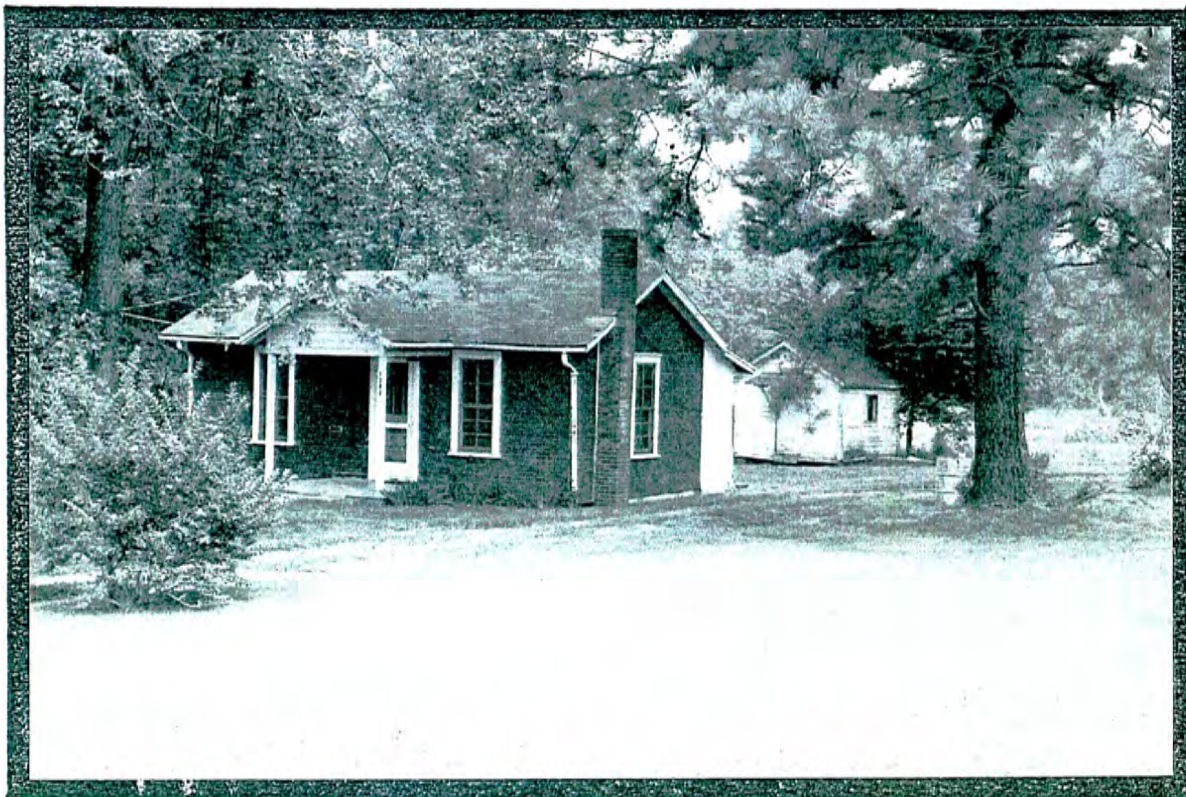


Property #7: House No. 5.



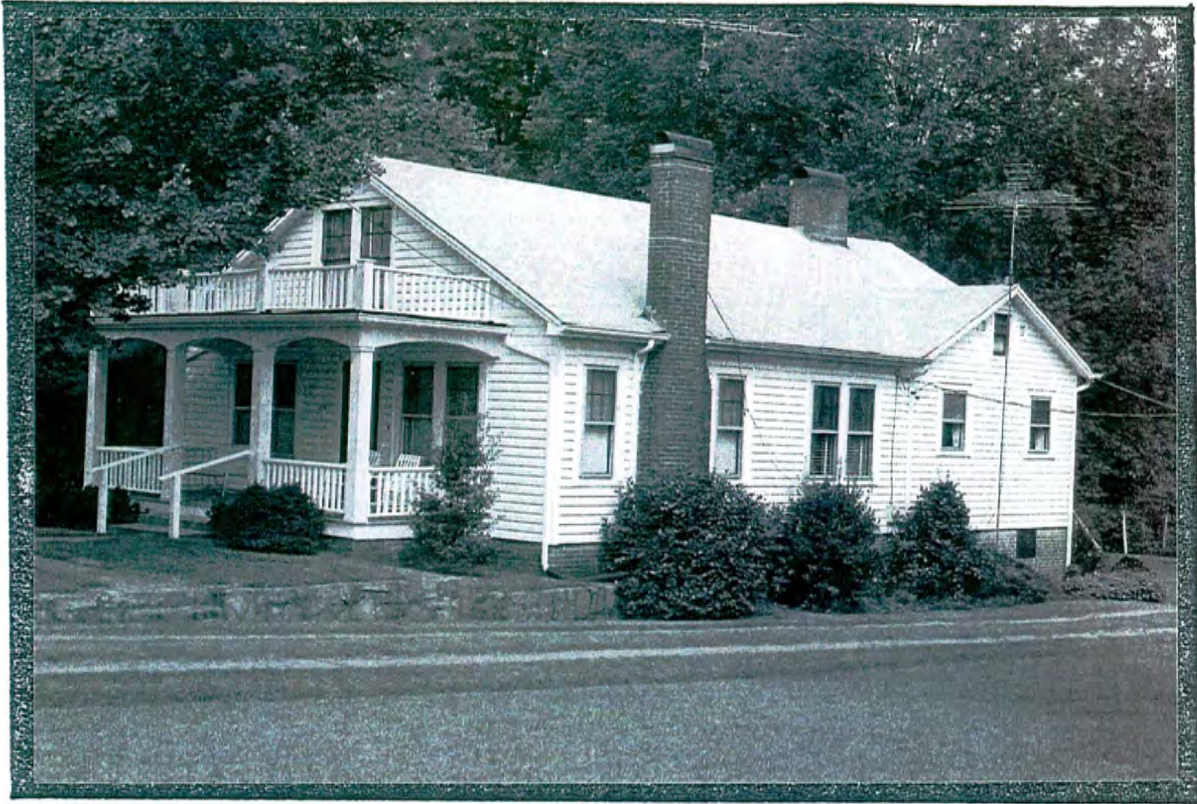


Property #8: House No. 6.



Property #9: House No. 7.





Property #10: House No. 8.

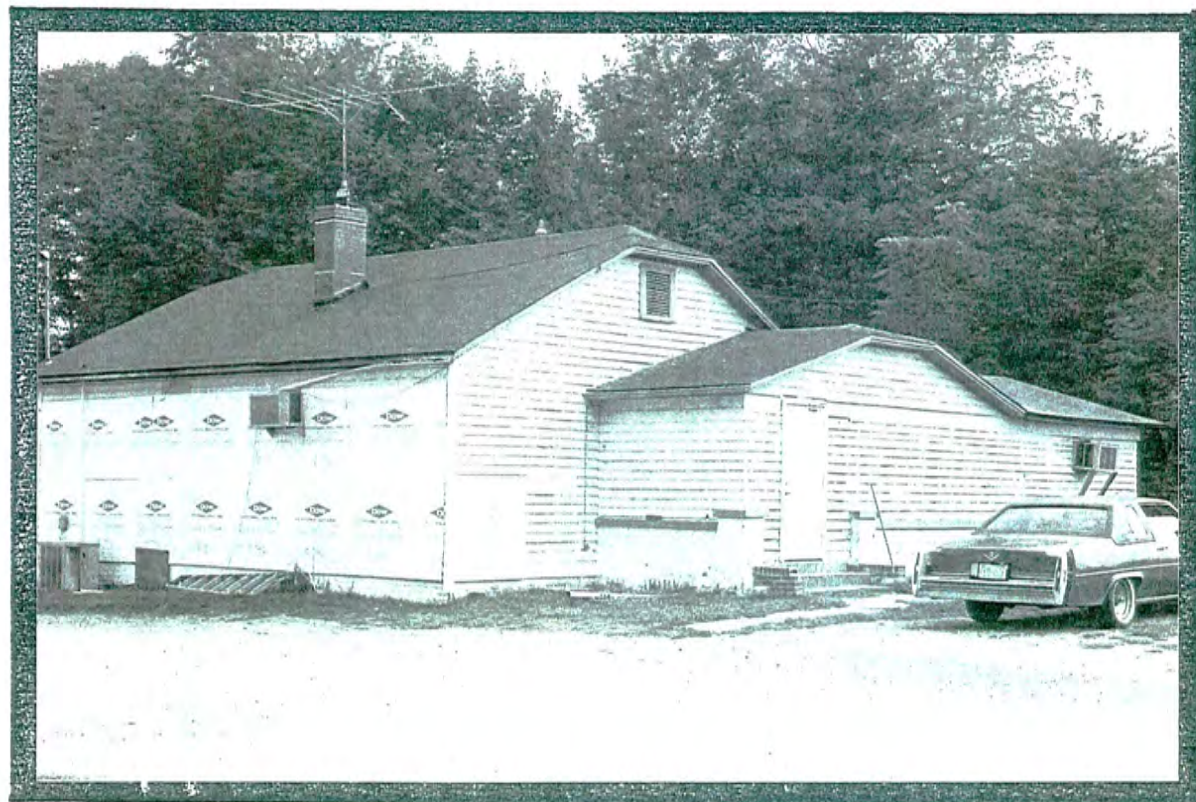


Property #11: House No. 9.



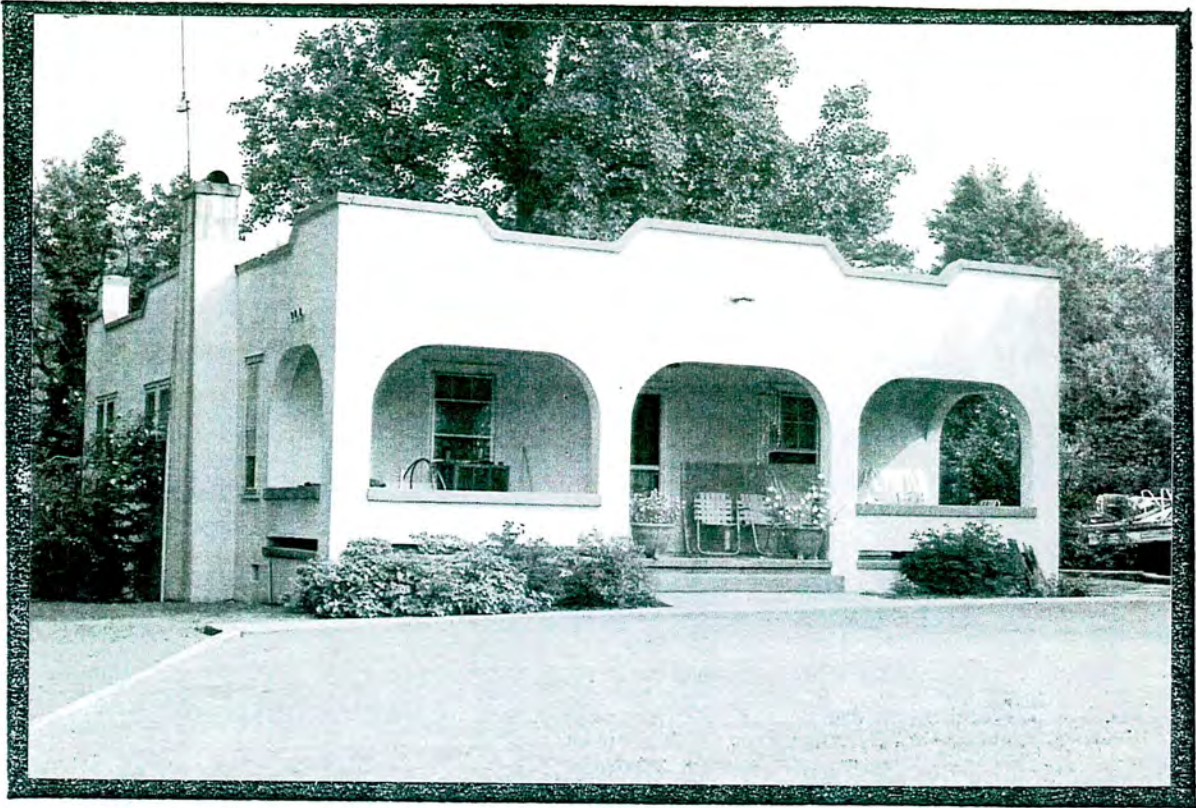


Property #12: House No. 10 (Wike's Florist).



Property #13: House No. 11.





Property #14: House No. 12.

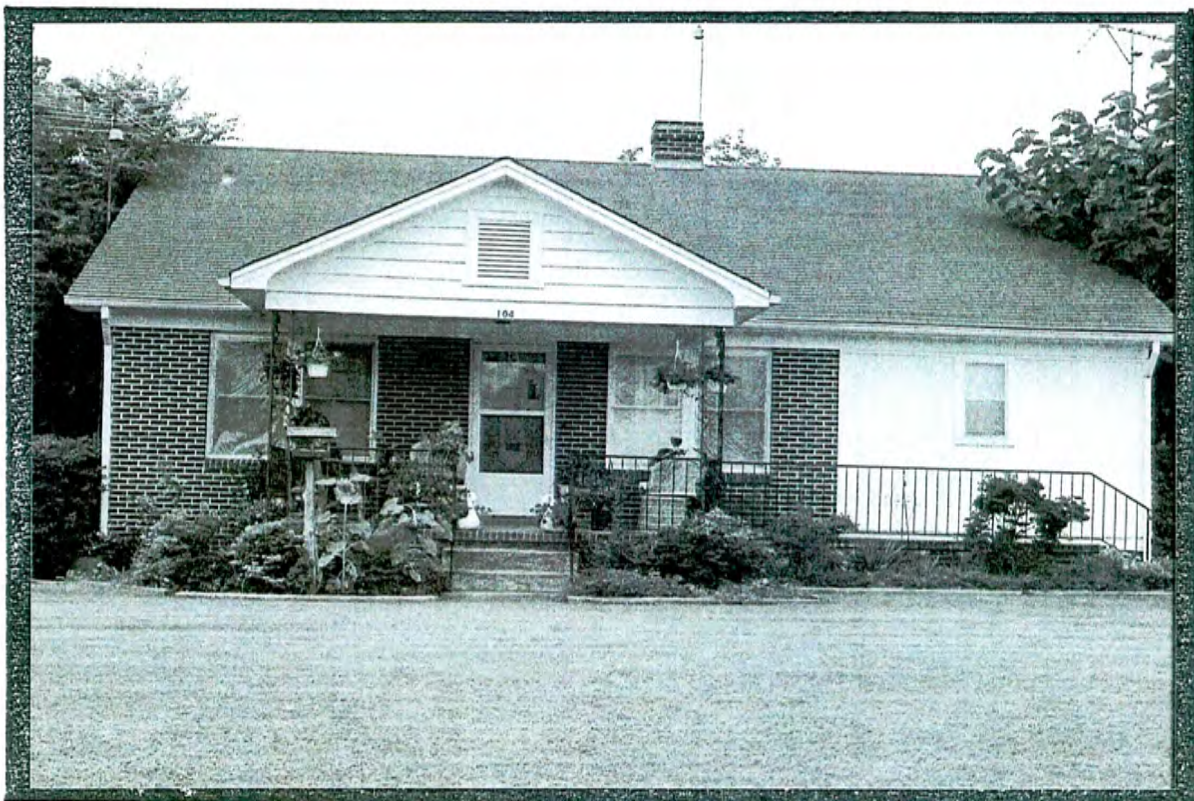


Property #15: House No. 13 (Mid-Atlantic Drainage).



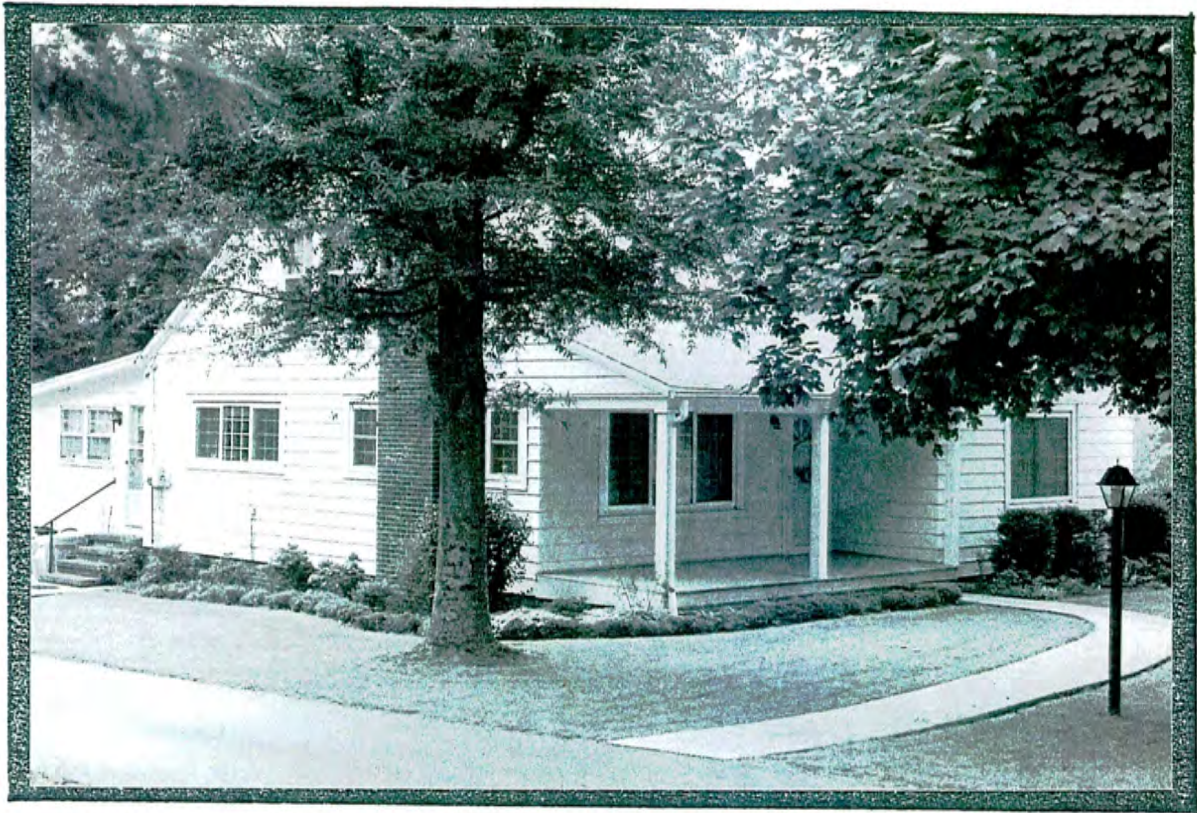


Property #16: House No. 14.



Property #17: House No. 15.





Property #18: House No. 16.



Property #19: House No. 17.