



GSA Southeast Sunbelt Region

July 24, 2007

Mr. Peter Sandbeck
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archives and History
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

Re: New United States Courthouse (CT),
Charlotte, Mecklenburg County,
ER 06-2443

Ref#

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2006 regarding the New U.S. Courthouse (CT) project in Charlotte. We truly appreciate your interest and help as we further develop our plans for the forthcoming CT. Enclosed are two final copies of the Cultural Resource Assessment for the proposed CT for your records. We look forward to working with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office as we move forward with this project. Additional copies of the Cultural Resource Assessment are being sent to the North Carolina State Archaeologist and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. Please contact me by telephone at (404) 331-0060 or by e-mail at audrey.entorf@gsa.gov if you have any questions about the project.

Sincerely,

Audrey L. Entorf
Regional Historic Preservation and Fine Arts Officer

Enclosure(s)

cc: Stephen R. Claggett, State Archaeologist, North Carolina
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission

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Cultural Resource Assessment
PROPOSED FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES

PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

Cultural Resource Assessment Proposed Federal Courthouse, City of Charlotte

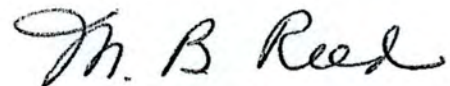
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Report submitted to:

BAT Associates, Inc • 5151 Brook Hollow Parkway • Norcross, Georgia 30071

Report prepared by:

New South Associates • 6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue • Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083



Mary Beth Reed – Principal Investigator

Christina Olson – Historian and Co-Author
Christopher T. Espenshade, RPA – Archaeologist and Co-Author

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a Cultural Resources Assessment undertaken by New South Associates under subcontract with BAT Associates for the General Services Administration (GSA), which proposes to construct a new U.S. Courthouse on a site located in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. GSA requires that a CRA be conducted for this proposed undertaking to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The project area is located at 501-531 East Trade Street. The project site is defined by East Trade Street on the southwest, North Caldwell Street on the northwest, East Fifth Street on the northeast, and North Davidson Street on the southeast. The project's area of potential effect (APE) includes buildings, districts, structures, or objects that are adjacent to, abut, or located within the project area. This would include building frontages along East Trade Street on the southwest – including portions of the northwest and northeast elevations of the Old Charlotte City Hall, North Caldwell Street on the northwest, East Fifth Street on the northeast, and North Davidson Street on the southeast. The project area is currently a commercial parking lot, surrounded by commercial and institutional buildings.

Background research was conducted in February 2006 to identify previously recorded archaeological and architectural resources located in the APE. Ten previously recorded archaeological resources were located in the general project vicinity but no archaeological resources had been previously identified in the project area. Archaeological reconnaissance survey conducted for this CRA suggests that the project area may have a high potential for archaeological remains associated with the early nineteenth-century residential households that were located on the project area. A Phase II archaeological study is recommended.

Only one architectural resource, Charlotte City Hall, was identified in the APE through background research and survey. Charlotte City Hall, at 600 East Trade Street was designated by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmark Commission in 1980 as a historic landmark. As a result of this assessment, it is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A, B and C at the state and local level of significance. An Assessment of Effect was conducted for this NRHP-eligible property and a recommendation of No Adverse Effect is provided.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

New South Associates would like to extend sincere gratitude to the following individuals for assisting in the research for this report: the staff at the Office of State Archaeologist in Raleigh; Chandra Burch and Jennifer Spivey at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Survey and Planning Branch; Dr. Dan Morral, Randy Robinson, the special collections and archives staff at the UNC Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Library; the Reference Librarians in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Public Library; and the clerks at the Mecklenburg County Tax Office.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	iv
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
II. THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS.....	5
Physiography.....	5
Geology.....	5
Climate.....	5
Vegetation.....	6
Fauna.....	8
AREA Prehistory.....	9
"Pre-Clovis" Occupation in the Eastern United States.....	9
The Paleoindian Stage (circa 10,000-8000 B.C.).....	10
The Archaic Stage (ca. 8000 - 500 B.C.).....	11
Early Archaic (8000 - 6000 B.C.).....	11
Middle Archaic (6000-2500 B.C.).....	12
Late Archaic (2500-500 B.C.).....	12
The Woodland Stage (500 B.C. - European Contact).....	13
Early Woodland (500 B.C.-A.D. 800).....	13
Middle Woodland (A.D. 800-1200).....	13
Late Woodland (A.D. 1200-European Contact).....	14
European Contact/Historic Period.....	14
historic Overview.....	15
Site History.....	19
III. METHODS.....	29
Archaeological Methods.....	29
Architectural Methods.....	29
IV. RESULTS.....	31
Archaeological Background research.....	31
Archaeological Survey Results.....	32
Architectural Results.....	32
NRHP Evaluation.....	38
V. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	41
Archaeological Recommendations.....	41
Architectural Recommendations/Assessment of Effect.....	42
REFERENCES CITED.....	43
APPENDIX A.....	51
NC SURVEY FORM FOR CHARLOTTE CITY HALL, AND 1980 SURVEY REPORT PREPARED BY THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION	

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Project Area and APE Location	2
Figure 2. Project Area and APE circa 1877	21
Figure 3. APE in 1911	23
Figure 4. APE in 1929	24
Figure 5. APE in 1963	25
Figure 6. Site Plan and Photographs Showing Disturbance Made by ALTURA Environmental in 2002	33
Figure 7. Charlotte City Hall Building, East Trade Street (northeast) Elevation	34
Figure 8. Project Area View Shed from the Charlotte City Hall Building	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Charlotte City Directory Information	26
Table 2. Previously Recorded Sites on the Charlotte East Quadrangle.	31

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Cultural Resource Assessment (CRA) undertaken by New South Associates under subcontract with BAT Associates for the General Services Administration (GSA), which proposes to construct a new U.S. Courthouse at 501-531 East Trade Street, City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. GSA requires that a CRA be conducted for this proposed undertaking to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The project area is an approximately three-acre surface parking lot, located on the city block bounded by East Trade Street on the southwest, North Caldwell Street on the northwest, East Fifth Street on the northeast, and North Davidson Street on the southeast (Figure 1). Currently, the west and northwest sections of the site have a gravel surface, the southeastern section is paved, and some former building foundations are present.

This CRA provides the identification and evaluation of historic properties on and adjacent to the project area in consultation with GSA and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (NCSHPO). The project's area of potential effect (APE) encompasses prehistoric and historic sites, buildings, structures or objects that are adjacent to, abut, or located within the project area. The APE is roughly bounded by the building frontages along East Trade Street on the southwest, including portions of the northwest and northeast elevations of the old Mecklenburg County Courthouse, which is now the Charlotte City Hall; North Caldwell Street on the northwest; East Fifth Street on the northeast; and North Davidson Street on the southeast. The project area is located in a commercial area, surrounded by commercial and institutional buildings, including a Federal Reserve Bank, the Charlotte Bobcats Arena, a Bell South and AT&T administration building, the Mecklenburg County Child and Family Services administration building, a parking garage, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and the Mecklenburg County Courthouse

Background research conducted at the State Site Files identified ten previously recorded archaeological sites within four or more kilometers from the project area. None of these resources are located within the APE. A literature search at the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files, as well as the North Carolina Architectural Survey records, located in the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, revealed no previously recorded architectural resources within the APE. A literature search at the local level revealed that the Charlotte City Hall, located at 600 East Trade Street within the APE, is a locally designated historic landmark. Listed in 1980, the municipal building is considered to be one of the best examples of the beaux-arts Classicism style in the city and county. It was designed by noted Charlotte architect Charles Christian Hook.

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted to locate archaeological remains within the APE. Based on the archival record and the conditions observed during the field reconnaissance, the APE is considered to have a high potential to contain significant archaeological remains. It is recommended that an intensive Phase II archaeological survey be undertaken to determine if the Courthouse site contains archaeological resources that are eligible for the NRHP.

An architectural survey within the APE was conducted. One resource was identified, the locally designated Charlotte City Hall. This survey recommends that the Charlotte City Hall be considered for listing on the NRHP. Given this recommendation, an assessment of effect is provided, which recommends that no adverse effect is anticipated for the building.

This report discusses these findings within six chapters including this Introduction. Chapter II discusses the environmental setting of the project area and provides a prehistoric and historic cultural overview; Chapter III examines the survey methodology. Chapter IV presents the project results and Chapter V provides recommendations and summary. Appendix A contains the NC survey form and 1980 report compiled by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission on the Charlotte City Hall.

The Principal Investigator for the survey was Mary Beth Reed. Christina Olson served as historian/architectural historian and co-author. Chris Espenshade, RPA served as the project archaeologist and report co-author.

II. THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS

This section provides information on the natural and cultural setting of the project area. Pertinent information presented in this section includes the physiographic setting of the project area; a discussion of microenvironments, such as flora, fauna, geology, and soils; pertinent climatic history; and prehistoric and historic resource (e.g., lithic, water, and soil resources) potential in or near the project area.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

The project area is located in the upper Piedmont physiographic province of North Carolina. In general, the Piedmont region is bounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Appalachian Highlands to the west and the Coastal Plain to the east. The Piedmont region is characterized by gently rolling hills, which range in elevation from 300 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at the Fall Line to approximately 1,500 feet (AMSL) within the Uwharrie Mountains. The average elevation is approximately 1,000 feet (AMSL). Narrow v-shaped stream valleys surrounding small order drainages generally characterize the landscape. The study area lies within the Yadkin-Pee Dee River drainage. Most of the upland landforms have been subjected to varying levels of dissection from past land use practices (mainly deforestation and agriculture) and subsequent erosion.

GEOLOGY

The Charlotte Belt, lies northwest of the Carolina Slate Belt and is about 64 km (40 mi.) wide. This belt dates to the Early Acadian orogeny or 400 Ma and is characterized by a variety of low to medium-grade metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks including granitoid and mica gneiss, granite, gabbro, pyroxenite, norite, and syenite (Butler 1991). Raw materials suitable for prehistoric tool making are available from widely dispersed, small outcrop locations such as dikes, sills, and fault-lines.

CLIMATE

The present climate of Mecklenburg County is described by the Koppen classification as humid mesothermal, consisting of short, mild winters and relatively long, hot and humid summers. Daily minimum and maximum temperatures average 32° F and 53° F in January and 68° F and 89° F in July. Annual precipitation averages 47 inches with the greatest rainfall coming in the months of July and August. Snowfall occurs nearly every year with significant amounts coming between the months of December and March. Prevailing winds originate from the northeast in the autumn and winter and from the southwest in the spring and summer (Cawthorn and Jenkins 1964).

Present climatic conditions have changed dramatically from those in the early Pleistocene and Holocene Periods. The Wisconsin glaciation began about 70,000 B.P. and was characterized by a process of fluctuating expansion that reached its maximum extent at about 18,000 B.P.

At this point, the Laurentide ice sheet of eastern North America had migrated as far south as southern Indiana and Ohio. Climatic conditions were much colder and drier than today and plant species were depressed considerably south of their present ranges (Whitehead 1973). A series of environmental changes initiated around 14,000 B.P. are now well documented in the paleoenvironmental record, and provide evidence for a major climatic warming trend and the ushering-in of the Holocene, or modern period.

The period between 14,000 B.P. and 10,000 B.P. is considered transitional between the Late Wisconsin full glacial and the Holocene and is commonly referred to as the late-glacial period of the Late Wisconsin (Watts 1980). It is inferred from sedimentation patterns and vegetation associations that the late glacial was cooler, but also wetter than today, while the early Holocene marks a period of warmer and drier conditions. During this period, the major continental ice masses began to retreat, ocean fronts shifted poleward, the area of sea ice contracted, sea level rose, and certain middle latitude lakes became dissected. By approximately 10,000 B.P. global ice volumes reached minimum levels, the North American continental ice sheets had disappeared, most plant species had reached the poleward limits of their migrations, and modern atmospheric circulation patterns were firmly established (Kutzbach 1983).

The date of 10,000 B.P. is rather widely accepted as the beginning of the Holocene. A rather steep gradient of warming temperatures is hypothesized for the early and middle Holocene, with maximum summer radiation peaking between 7,000 B.P. and 5,000 B.P. when temperatures averaged 2°C to 3°C higher than today. This climatic optimum corresponds to the hypsithermal or altithermal episode, which was continental in scale and possibly time-transgressive by latitude (Wright 1978). After the climatic optimum temperatures appear to have gradually cooled, although they remained above modern levels until the Little Ice Age, dated between A. D. 1450 and A. D. 1850 (Davis 1983).

VEGETATION

The climatic changes that occurred during the late Pleistocene and Holocene periods had a profound affect on the biogeographic structure and composition of plant and animal communities throughout the world. In the Southeastern United States, the trajectory of change moved from a full-glacial vegetation of pine-spruce parkland, through a wide range of mesic deciduous forest assemblages during the late-glacial period, and an oak-dominated deciduous forest peaking during the hypsithermal (Watts 1980). These changes were time-transgressive, with analogous shifts in assemblage composition occurring earlier at more southerly latitudes and at lower elevations.

Detailed mapping of dated pollen spectra from paleoenvironmental sites throughout the eastern United States has recently demonstrated that the poleward migration of plant species during the late-glacial-early Holocene warming trend was accomplished on an individual basis and migration rates differed according to seed dispersal patterns, tolerance ranges of individual species, and the locations of refugia (Delcourt and Delcourt 1987). Consequently, the modern forest types, which represent "true" Holocene climax associations, did not appear until the trajectory of climatic and

environmental change had stabilized in the middle Holocene. Prior to this period the palynological record is characterized by a bewildering array of ephemeral species associations, along latitudinal and elevational gradients, that have no modern analogs and are best referred to as vegetation assemblages rather than forest types or formations.

The modern vegetation patterns of the Southeast, in fact, did not emerge until the hypsithermal episode, when sea level began to stabilize and high water tables allowed the expansion of swamps and the establishment of the pine-dominated Southern Coniferous Forest along the Atlantic Coastal Plain (Watts 1980; Webb 1987).

Contemporary descriptions of local variation in Southeastern Piedmont plant communities have commonly drawn contrasts between bottomland and upland vegetation (Shelford 1963). Recent studies have focused on the more subtle differences, which emerge as a result of microenvironmental variation in topography and soil drainage conditions. Barry (1980:55-92) recognizes eight separate forest types in the South Carolina Piedmont which can generally be applied to the neighboring North Carolina Piedmont province: 1) alluvial fresh water forest, 2) flood plain forest, 3), cove forest, 4) mid-slope forest, 5) ridge top forest, 6) flat rock forest, 7) chestnut oak-heath forest, and 8) old field pine forest. Forest types most relevant to the study of Fries Site can be condensed into just three groupings: 1) flood plain, 2) mid-slope, and 3) ridge top.

Flood plain forests (i.e., bottomland forests) primarily occur along the narrow flood plains and terraces of the smaller rivers and drainages in the project area. The arboreal dominants of the river's edge consist of a wide range of large mesic hardwoods including water oak (*Quercus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus americana*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), hickory (*Carya spp.*), hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and slippery elm (*Ulmus fulva*). Smaller trees comprising the overstory of this environment are red maple (*Acer rubrum*), boxelder maple (*A. negundo*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and black willow (*Silax nigra*). In the understory, muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), papaw (*Asimina triloba*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), maple leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*), and poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) are all present. While the understory plant diversity is reduced away from the water's edge, additional overstory species thrive and include sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and basswood (*Tilia heterophylla*) trees (Barry 1980:64,72).

Mid-slope forests occupy sloping terrain and support slightly different configurations of species due to soil moisture conditions. All, however, represent minor variations of oak-hickory climax vegetation and are very similar to one another in overall species composition and diversity (Barry 1980:78-79). While white oaks (*Quercus alba*) are present in all slope conditions, the red oak (*Q. rubra*) are more restricted to the mesic lower slopes and the black oaks (*Q. velutina*) are restricted to the xeric upper slopes. On slopes exhibiting extreme xeric conditions, southern red oaks dominate. Trees commonly associated with the oaks in mid-slope forests include black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), post oak (*Q. stellata*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and various hickory species (*Carya spp.*). Under more mesic conditions, Tulip-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) flourishes along with dogwood (*Cornus florida*), musclewoods (*Carpinus caroliniana*), holly (*Ilex opaca*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), blackhaw (*V. prunifolium*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus*

quinquefolia), and wild grape (*Vitis spp.*) species. In the more protected coves and hollows of the major river valleys, a diverse and rich plant community similar in many respects to the cove forests of the southern Appalachians may occur.

In these few areas, sweet-gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), share dominate status in the overstory with willow oaks (*Q. phellos*), red oaks (*Q. rubra*), white oaks (*Q. alba*), overcup oaks (*Q. lyrata*), and the southern sugar maple (*Acer saccharum spp. floridanum*).

Barry (1980:83) identifies ridge top forests as the most xeric adapted forest in the region occurring over the driest upland landscapes including south and west-facing slopes. Dominant arboreals consist of white oak, post oak, black oak (*Q. velutina*), and Blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*). Persimmon, black gum, mockernut hickory (*C. tomentosa*), and pale hickory (*C. pallida*) are included in this forest type, but in lesser numbers. The presence of shrubs and vines are usually sparse in these environments, however, deerberry (*V. stamineum*), low blueberry (*V. vacillans*), spotted wintergreen (*Chimphila maculata*), muscadine, greenbrier (*Smilas bona-nox*), and blackberry (*Rubus argutus*) do occur in limited abundance.

FAUNA

The modern fauna of the study region is included in Shelford's (1963:57) oak-hickory zone of the Southern Temperate Deciduous Forest biome. The modern and pre-settlement composition of the various classes of economically important faunal species will be discussed in turn below. These discussions will be followed by considerations of the biogeographic patterning of these species within the South Carolina Piedmont region.

Fur-bearing mammalian dominants of this environment consist of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis* and *Spilogale putorius*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and the red wolf (*Canis niger*). Other important mammals include the cougar (*Felix concolor*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), marsh rabbit (*Sylvilagus palustris*), otter (*Lutra canadensis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*), and numerous mice, rats, and shrews.

Although their modern ranges do not extend into the Southeast, bison (*Bison bison*) and wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*) are reported to have lived in this region as late as the eighteenth century. The natural range of wapiti no doubt included the Appalachians and higher elevations of the Piedmont, but the provenance and ecology of the reported bison populations are not yet understood (Goodyear et al. 1979:19-20). Avian species of economic importance to early settlers and prehistoric groups include the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*), and the passenger pigeon (*Ectophistes migratorius*). The latter is now extinct, but was reported in great numbers in Georgia and the Carolinas in the early eighteenth century (Bartram 1942, Lefler 1967). Ducks, geese, and other waterfowl are not abundant in the Piedmont due to the paucity of lakes and large ponds.

Prior to historic over-exploitation and dam construction, local rivers and their tributaries supported an abundant and diverse fish population. North Carolina lies within Rostlund's (1952) Atlantic Fish Province, a particularly rich aquatic resource zone containing both local riverine species and

anadromous species. Common among the latter class of fish in the local drainage systems, as well as in adjacent Piedmont river systems, were the American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) and sturgeon (*Acipenser sp.*). These species made annual migrations up the rivers of the Atlantic Slope into the Piedmont during the spring and early summer to spawn before returning to the ocean.

The seasonal abundance of these species made them an important economic resource for both aboriginal groups and European settlers in early historic times (Lefler 1967:217-218).

With the exception of the aquatic and amphibious species whose ranges are necessarily limited by the distribution of streams, the original geographic ranges of the other animal species crosscut the upland and bottomland divisions of the project area. Shelford (1963:86-119) distinguishes a terrestrial biotic community associated with major river flood plains in the oak-hickory zone, but notes that the dominants are the same as those for the uplands and that the two divisions differ from one another only in terms of population densities. Flood plain or bottomland populations are generally denser owing to the greater availability of both plant and animal food resources. Moore (1967), for instance, estimates that carrying capacity for white-tailed deer was on the order of three to four times greater in a bottomland environment in South Carolina than it was in the adjacent uplands. The ranges of some species, of course, like the black bear, otter, beaver, marsh rabbit, and cougar, were more exclusively tied to the bottomlands, which provide some justification for distinguishing the biotic composition of furbearing terrestrial animals in the two divisions. Seasonal fluctuations in the population distributions of some species are also an important consideration in contrasting the two divisions. For instance, both white-tailed deer and turkey aggregated in the uplands during the fall to feed on acorn mast.

The pre-settlement biogeography of the Piedmont forest fauna, then, can be characterized as essentially a contrast between upland and bottomland environments. The ranges of avian and mammalian species, by and large, crosscut the divisions, but population densities of most species were much greater in the bottomlands of the major river valleys.

AREA PREHISTORY

The discussion that follows presents a generally accepted scenario of the prehistory surrounding the study area within the Piedmont section of North Carolina and is adapted from work by Lawrence Abbott and Alvin Banguilan. Archaeologists have divided the prehistory of North Carolina's piedmont region into three general stages (Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland), based for the most part on inferred economic adaptations and ceramic traditions, in the case of the Woodland. A fourth possible stage of development, the "Pre-Clovis", predates the Paleoindian and is a highly contested unit of cultural division within North and South America.

"PRE-CLOVIS" OCCUPATION IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

The existence of a pre-Clovis occupation in North America south of Alaska is a controversial topic (Adovasio et al. 1978; Haynes 1980, 1988; Adovasio et al. 1990; Whitley and Dorn 1993). Pre-Clovis sites would extend from some point in time around 11,500 B.P. to an unknown date in the more distant past. Despite the undisputed position of the fluted, lanceolate Clovis projectile point as the oldest, unquestioned, documented tool form south of Alaska, more ancient cultural materials have been reported from several archaeological sites. Few sites interpreted as containing

such occupations have withstood close examination by scholars of various disciplines. One of the best-known sites reputed to be a pre-Clovis occupation is that of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Pennsylvania (Adovasio et al. 1978); but even this site is subject to question (Haynes 1980).

Haynes (1980) points out the need for objectivity when evaluating potential pre-Clovis sites. According to Haynes (1980:12):

Only when scholars can point to replicated findings at two or more sites with similar cultural traits and similar pre-Clovis radiocarbon dates, all in a pre-Clovis stratigraphic context that is not isolated will we be able to say for certain that there were pre-Clovis inhabitants in the New World.

Haynes (1980) has addressed this problem by investigating sites in Alaska that predate the 11,500 B.P. date. He has looked at the 500 years prior to the first positive identification of Clovis in geological context. In Alaska, the Nenana Complex produced unfluted projectile points and scrapers, similar to those representing Clovis groups in regions further south, which dated to 11,000 to 12,000 years B.P. In addition, an upper Paleolithic site of Mal'ta in Siberia revealed a human burial with red ocher, bone points and lithic bifaces, which dated to 14,750 years B.P. The materials recovered at Mal'ta bear remarkable similarity to the Anzick Site in Montana where bone points, lithic bifaces, Clovis points and other tools were found in association with a child burial covered with red ocher (Haynes 1980). However, Haynes (1980) found little undisputed evidence for occupations in Alaska, which would have resulted in colonization of areas south of Alaska before the Clovis period. This notion has recently gained support from work in the Brooks Range of Alaska at the Mesa Site (Kunz and Reanier 1993). Investigations at the Mesa Site suggest that Paleoindian groups arrived on the North American mainland with their Clovis cultural traditions intact between 9730 +/- 80 to 11,660 +/- 80 B.P. The fact that no Paleoindian sites have been located in Siberia still remains somewhat of a mystery, though one that is confounded by the probability that many of the important sites lie which could shed light on this debate probably lie buried beneath the Bering Sea. No sites or data on file within the general study area appear to relate to the pre-Clovis question. This topic is likely to remain the subject of debate for years to come.

THE PALEOINDIAN STAGE (CIRCA 10,000-8000 B.C.)

The Clovis point, a fluted lanceolate projectile, characterizes Paleoindian sites in the United States. Clovis points have been recovered from many sites in the western United States where radiocarbon dates consistently place the occupations no earlier than 11,500 years before present (B.P.) (Haynes 1988). Few dates are available from the eastern United States, but similarity in tool morphology prompts the association of this date with these materials. Clovis points are found west of the Mississippi River in association with mammoth and other extinct fauna. A carved segment of mammoth ivory from Blackwater Draw (Locality I) in New Mexico revealed carving techniques similar to those employed by cultures of the Eurasian Upper Paleolithic (Saunders et al 1990).

It is impossible at present to estimate with any certainty the land-use and settlement patterns of the Paleoindian stage. Erosional and other geomorphological processes over the centuries have, in many cases, displaced the vestiges of these people. From the sparse remains collected, it has been suggested that hillsides overlooking rivers, terraces in main river valleys and ridge tops were used

during this stage (Purrington 1983:108-109). Richie (1956) suggested a foraging economy for the Paleoindian, utilizing large and small game, fish and wild plant resources. Gardner (1974) modeled the Paleoindian settlement pattern as one consisting of restricted mobility, rather than random movement, in response to game or the availability of wild edible plants.

This model placed small bands of hunters and gatherers within large, but well-defined territories, returning periodically to quarries and joining with adjacent bands when possible for resource exchange and social activities. The stage was also characterized by an economy based on the exploitation of a Late Pleistocene biome.

Clovis occupations in North Carolina were confined mainly to isolated surface finds of these characteristic points (Perkinson 1971, 1973). Because of the context of these finds, no radiocarbon dates from a stratified site were available for these materials. Despite the problems in interpretation, it has been generally accepted that Clovis points and other formal tools such as scrapers and graters represented Paleoindian cultures in North Carolina. Within Montgomery County, Perkinson (1973) reported one fluted point. None have been reported within the immediate study area. The transitional Late Paleoindian/Early Archaic was represented in the Piedmont of North Carolina by the Hardaway-Dalton point, an eared projectile point with vestigial fluting.

THE ARCHAIC STAGE (CA. 8000 - 500 B.C.)

In the Piedmont of North Carolina, the relatively high density of Archaic sites was in sharp contrast to the lack of Paleoindian sites. The material cultures of the Archaic shared great similarities across a pan-eastern spectrum (Coe 1952, 1964; Chapman 1975; Claggett and Cable 1982). This stage was most frequently defined in terms of a subsistence pattern based on the exploitation of modern plants and animals in a variety of environments. Sites were more numerous and larger suggesting a generalized increase in population density. Tool forms underwent change through time from side- to corner-notched to stemmed projectile points and the use of ground stone tools increases over time. It was the longest cultural stage in North Carolina prehistory and has been generally divided into three periods, Early, Middle, and Late, each characterized by a set of projectile point types and other tool forms.

Early Archaic (8000 - 6000 B.C.)

In North and South Carolina the Early Archaic was distinguished by the presence of a series of corner-notched, side notched and bifurcate based projectile points. The earliest manifestation was the Palmer and/or Kirk point (the distinction is not always made), a corner-notched, basally ground projectile point or knife (Coe 1964; Broyles 1971). The latest was the distinctive bifurcate based point of the MacCorkle-St. Albans-LeCroy series dating to between 6900-6000 B.C. (Chapman 1975; Claggett and Cable 1982:34; Purrington 1983). Some interpreted the Early Archaic as a set of cultural systems exploiting Holocene plant and animal resources, with specific use of white-tailed deer, hickory nuts and acorns (Abbott et al 1987:2-3). Related to these modes of subsistence was probably a settlement pattern using both floodplains and interriverine uplands. Anderson and Hanson (1988) suggested that the annual round of an Early Archaic band, probably 50 to 150 individuals, was characterized by the establishment of logistically supported base camps during the late fall and winter supplemented by foraging camps over the balance of the year along the major

drainage systems. Movement progressed from an early spring occupation of the coast into the upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Large, multi-band base camps were established near the fallline during the late fall and early winter where information, resource, and mate exchange took place.

These settlement systems apparently shifted from drainage-extensive territories to interdrainage territories as regional population increased during the late Early Archaic/early Middle Archaic (Anderson and Hanson 1988:271). Daniels (1993, 1994) has recently posed a model that departs from the drainage-based scenario discussed by Anderson and Hanson (1988). Daniels suggests a settlement pattern of "tethered nomadism" for Early Archaic groups within the North Carolina Piedmont. According to Daniels, groups probably gravitated around the rich rhyolite outcrops of the Uwharries throughout the Early Archaic crossing drainages in a composite range up to 80,000 square kilometers in area (1993:11-13).

Middle Archaic (6000-2500 B.C.)

The material culture of the Middle Archaic was characterized by the appearance of the Stanly projectile point. Other forms linked to this period include Halifax, Morrow Mountain and Guilford (Coe 1964). The broad economic trends established during the Early Archaic apparently continued, but became more generalized during this time. Greater diversity in tool kits and a wider variety of site locations suggested a broader spectrum of hunting and gathering and a more varied diet (Claggett and Cable 1982:687; Word et al. 1981:11-9). According to Ford (1974), a less specialized economy permitted population growth beyond that experienced during the Early Archaic and created the need for smaller band territories. This trend prompted the utilization of a logistical settlement strategy (Binford 1980; Tippitt and Marquardt 1984:9-3) and an increased usage of local, expedient raw materials such vein quartz and quartzite (Goodyear, House and Ackerly 1979:111; Purrington 1983; Bass 1977).

Late Archaic (2500-500 B.C.)

Between 3000 and 2000 B.C. there was a climatic shift to cooler, moister conditions, following the Climatic Optimum of the middle Holocene. This phenomenon corresponded to the beginnings of plant cultivation and the earliest appearance of ceramics in the eastern United States. The main diagnostic tools of the Late Archaic began with the broad, square-stemmed Savannah River biface and ended with a small, stemmed projectile point types including Small Savannah River and Gypsy stemmed (Coe 1964; Oliver 1981, 1983, 1985). The economic and social trends of the Middle Archaic continued to influence the cultural patterns of the Late Archaic. However, hunting and gathering gradually came to be practiced in concert with limited horticulture, represented by evidence for the cultivation of cucurbits and sunflowers (Chapman and Shea 1981). The accompanying population growth produced even smaller territories, a higher degree of sedentism, and an increase in the exchange of non-utilitarian objects (Ford 1974; Abbott et al. 1987). Soapstone vessels, grooved stone axes, elaborate ground stone tools and ornaments, and native copper have been found in sites in the eastern United States (Chapman and Shea 1981). Increased population and limited mobility encouraged the development of regional socio-technoeconomic specialization, ultimately resulting in the rich diversity witnessed during the Woodland Stage. In this sense, the Late Archaic was a critical period in the prehistory of eastern North America.

THE WOODLAND STAGE (500 B.C. - EUROPEAN CONTACT)

The Woodland Stage was defined in terms of ceramic traditions rather than specific subsistence patterns. Ceramics were first produced in the coastal region of the Southeast, well before 1000 B.C. (Clafin 1931).

By 500 B.C. cord, fabric and later net-impressed pottery had spread across much of the eastern United States. Groups dating to this period gradually became more sedentary and adept in the production of ceramics. An increasing use of horticulture to supplement hunting and gathering appeared to have also accompanied the more sedentary settlement pattern. In some areas of the southeast, there was a marked increase in mortuary ceremonialism, most prominently expressed by mound construction. Regional diversity and culture change accelerated more rapidly, when compared to the Late Archaic. As a result of this regionalization, different areas in the southeast showed very different types and rates of changes in the cultural systems. Therefore, the following discussion will focus mainly on the Piedmont of North Carolina for the Woodland Stage. As in the Archaic, the Woodland has been traditionally divided into three periods, Early, Middle and Late.

Early Woodland (500 B.C.-A.D. 800)

Early Woodland ceramics were characterized by cord and fabric-impressed, and occasionally check-stamped pottery of the Badin and Yadkin Series (Coe 1964). These ceramics were frequently accompanied by small, stemmed (Gypsy Stemmed), relatively large, crude triangular (Badin), and eared triangular (Yadkin) projectile points (Coe 1964; Oliver 1981, 1983, 1985). Economically, this period did not appear to have relied heavily on horticulture (Ward 1983:73). Hunting and gathering apparently continued throughout this period as the major mode of subsistence. The Early Woodland appeared to have followed a basically Late Archaic subsistence pattern coupled with the appearance of ceramics and the bow and arrow.

A majority of the sites identified with this period have been found in river valleys. One upland Early Woodland component was identified in Forsyth County, North Carolina with a date of 266 B.C. + 80 (Abbott et al. 1986:25; Davis 1987). Presently, very little is known about the specifics of Early Woodland cultures in the Piedmont of North Carolina. Information regarding this period awaits the recovery of additional single component sites in contexts suitable for radiocarbon dating techniques.

Middle Woodland (A.D. 800-1200)

The Middle Woodland was marked by a change in the style of ceramics from Yadkin to Uwharrie Series ceramics (Coe 1964). These two styles were similar in surface treatment and temper, with both using coarse sand and/or crushed quartz as a medium. Relatively long, straight-sided triangular projectile points accompanied these ceramics (Uwharrie) (Coe 1964:49).

Economically, the period marked an increased, almost exclusive, use of floodplains for settlements with little evidence of smaller sites in the uplands. A continuation of hunting and gathering supplemented by horticulture appeared to carry over from the Early Woodland (Ward 1983:73).

Late Woodland (A.D. 1200-European Contact)

Late Woodland ceramics were marked by the use of fine sand as a temper medium. The dominant ceramic types were the Dan River and Caraway Series (Coe 1964:33; Woodall in Abbott et al. 1987). These ceramics were generally thinner than the ceramics of previous periods, with a hard, compact paste (Coe 1964:33). Interiors were frequently smoothed, while exterior surfaces were net-impresed and plain.

The Yadkin-Uwharrie-Dan River-Caraway sequence suggested that the ceramics of the Piedmont in North Carolina represent one stylistic tradition generally associated with Siouan-speaking groups within the area at the time of European contact (Woodall in Abbott et al. 1987:2-8). These ceramics were associated with small, narrow triangular projectile points (Caraway) (Coe 1964:49). A departure from the stylistic similarity of the ceramics of this period was seen in the complicated-stamped ceramics and associated platform mound and Pee Dee culture found at the Town Creek Site in Montgomery County, North Carolina. Initially, this site was thought to represent an intrusion into the area by the South Appalachian Mississippian (Coe 1952). Recent work by Oliver (1992), however, suggests that Pee Dee cultural groups may have been in the North Carolina piedmont as early as A.D. 950. This work defines three cultural phases of the Pee Dee culture (a developmental, florescent, and terminal) ranging in time from A.D. 950 to A.D. 1600. According to Oliver (1992), Town Creek represents a separate, florescent, phase of Pee Dee cultural development in the area during the time period A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1400.

The largest Late Woodland sites were located on broad, fertile floodplains along the major waterways in the area. Corn, supplemented by beans, squash, and fruit, were grown during this time with a continued reliance on hunting and gathering (Ward 1983:73). This settlement pattern existed at the time the Native Americans encountered Europeans exploring the area.

EUROPEAN CONTACT/HISTORIC PERIOD

Spanish explorers were believed to have been the first Europeans in the vicinity of the general study area (Rights 1935; DePratter et al. 1983; Blakely and Mathews 1990). One site, 31GS30, near Gastonia may possibly be the town of Issa described by Juan de Pardo in the sixteenth century (Abbott et al 1987: 2-8). The site of Joara, also described by Pardo, has been located by DePratter on the Catawba River (Blakely and Mathews 1990). Early explorations by Lederer in the 1670's and Lawson in 1701 indicate that the general area was occupied by the historic Keyauwee, Saponi, Cheraw, Iswa, Waxhaw, Sugeree and Catawba tribes (Mooney 1894; Rights 1935; Swanton 1946; Wetmore 1975). It was generally accepted that the Trading Path from Occaneechi Town to the Catawba passed nearby the study area through the center of what was to become Cabarrus County (Myer 1928:778).

After the beginning of the sixteenth century, an increasingly generalized contact with Europeans brought about the demise of indigenous Native American cultures. Diseases that were common among the Europeans (e.g. measles and smallpox) were devastating to Native Americans, greatly decreasing their populations, often preceding actual contact. In addition, Euro-American expansionism, warfare, and general acculturation quickly erased many recognizable native cultures. Most groups moved, were killed, enslaved, deported, or assimilated by Euro-American or

Afro-American populations. By 1750 nearly all of the Native American populations had been destroyed or displaced. Notable exceptions were the Catawba and Cherokee.

Lawson encountered the Catawba in 1701 during his expedition through the area. William Byrd met the Catawba in 1728 and estimated their population at between 5,000 to 8,000 individuals. Byrd described the Catawba as "a numerous and powerful people having six large towns on the Catawba River within a distance of twenty miles" (Rights 1935:12). A map of 1747 shows three large Native American towns on the Wateree River, which were named Catapawg or Catawaas, Sabarea, and Tranfequa (Bowen 1747).

A League of Friendship was renewed between the Catawba and Governor Glenn in Charlestown in May of 1745 (Bowen 1747). Between 1740 and 1750, however, a series of smallpox epidemics greatly reduced the numbers of all Native Americans in the area, to include the Catawba. Many of the survivors from other tribal groups joined the Catawba at this time. By 1750 the Catawba Nation, once described as strong (in population) by Lawson and Byrd, numbered approximately 50 adult males and 1000 people total, counting females and juveniles (Keever 1976:49).

Formal trade relations were established between the English and Catawba in 1754. Under King Haigler, the Catawba fought with the English during the French and Indian War (Keever 1976:49). As a result of the hostile Indian attacks during this conflict, Gov. Arthur Dobbs commissioned Fort Dobbs in 1755, to be constructed on the land of Fergus Sloan in an area now encompassed by Iredell County (Powell 1989). Despite their aid during the war, the Catawba were confined to a 144,000-acre reservation along the Catawba River on the border of North and South Carolina in 1775. Through time, the Catawba managed to retain some degree of cultural autonomy and presently reside on a small remnant of their original reservation near Rock Hill, South Carolina.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Scot-Irish Presbyterians and German Lutherans arriving from Pennsylvania along the Great Wagon Road (also called the Pennsylvania Wagon Road) established an inland trading post in the 1740s, located near what would become present day Charlotte. The settlement grew up around the crossroads of the Great Wagon Road trail and another trail that connected Charleston to the Blue Ridge. These trails had been established by the Catawba tribe for trade and commerce and were adapted by European settlers for the same purpose. The Great Wagon Trail became Tryon Street, named for Colonial governor William Tryon, and the Charleston to Blue Ridge trail became Trade Street (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003). Until the 1750s, the area now encompassed by Charlotte and Mecklenburg County remained inhabited by the Catawba Tribe. The first European settlers to establish themselves within the present day city limits of Charlotte arrived in 1753 (Hanchett 2006).

Mecklenburg County was created from a portion of Anson County in 1762. Initially, the European residents of Mecklenburg County were subsistence farmers. Gradually, agriculture in the area grew to include cash crops such as flax, livestock, and grain, which was converted to liquor for ease of transit down the Catawba River to Charleston. Thomas Polk led the campaign to name Charlotte as the county seat, an honor that the city won in 1768, the same year it was incorporated. Commissioners set about the task of dividing off one hundred acres of land in half-

acre lots for residential development. An area that would encompass the entire city into the nineteenth century was surveyed in grid fashion. In the center of the grid was the intersection of Tyron and Trade streets, forming a square in which the county courthouse was constructed (Hanchett 2006).

On May 20, 1775, community leaders signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence declaring Mecklenburg County free of English rule more than a year before the Continental Congress did so (Bishir and Southern 2003). When British General, Lord Cornwallis marched on Charlotte on August 26, 1780 expecting to conscript Loyalist volunteers into his ranks, he was met with such resistance that he referred to the city as a "hornet's nest" (Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003). William R. Davie led the small band of rebel militia, taking up strategic positions under the courthouse and behind rock walls. The band was eventually defeated, but only after holding the overconfident British forces at bay and ultimately contributing to the defeat of Cornwallis' troops in North Carolina (Hanchett and Sumner 2003, Powell 1989).

After the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793, a plantation economy developed rapidly in North Carolina. While slavery was introduced to Mecklenburg in 1764, slaves made up only 14 percent of the county's population in 1790. Mecklenburg County was not subject to the development of large plantations such as those prevalent in the rich soiled low country counties. However, by the time of the Civil War, there were 30 plantations, each holding 25 or more slaves, along with dozens of smaller farms throughout the county, all of which produced cotton in varying quantities. By 1860 slaves made up 40 percent of the total population. Plantation and small farm owners had little reason to venture into Charlotte that had a population of less than 500 in 1790, aside from resolving legal issues, shipping cotton overland to Cheraw, South Carolina, to be dispersed through the Yadkin/Pee Dee river system (Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003).

In 1799, gold was discovered in Cabarrus County, about 25 miles east of Charlotte. John Reed, a local farmer, used the seventeen-pound nugget as a doorstep until 1802 when a jeweler recognized the rock as gold and the first gold rush in American history began. As discoveries multiplied in nearby counties, Charlotte became the trade center for the flourishing gold trade. In 1835, southern congressmen succeeding in passing a bill allowing the United States Treasury to begin preparations to open a branch mint in Charlotte. The mint building was completed on December 4, 1837, a Neoclassical building located near the corner of West Trade and Mint streets. Designed by William Strickland, the Charlotte mint coined nearly five million dollars in gold between 1838 and 1861, when the Confederate government appropriated the building. After the Civil War the mint reopened as an assay office in 1913. With the advent of the California gold rush of 1849, gold production in Charlotte decreased, ceasing in any capacity by the 1910s, resurging only briefly in the 1930s. In 1933 the mint building was moved to the Eastover neighborhood of Charlotte for use as an art museum (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006, Powell 1989).

The railroad came through Charlotte in 1852, with the completion of the Charlotte and South Carolina track that connected the city with Columbia. In 1854, work began on the North Carolina state-owned line from Raleigh and Goldsboro to Charlotte, finally making the community as accessible overland as Columbia and Charleston were by river. The Atlantic, Tennessee and Ohio began running lines from Charlotte to Statesville in 1860. Confederate forces later cannibalized this line to repair rail links more vital to the war effort. With four railroads crossing through the

city, Charlotte quickly grew into a center for trade and industry. By 1860, there were also two daily newspapers published in Charlotte. Paralleling commercial and industrial growth, the population of the community increased from 1,065 to 2,265 between 1850 and 1860; however, the economic mainstay of the area was still agriculture (Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003, Powell 1989).

Charlotte survived the Civil War fairly unscathed. Although Union troops raided Salisbury, Gastonia and Fort Mill, Charlotte never came under attack (Hanchett 2006). The city did become home to the Confederate Naval Yard in 1862, when it was feared that the existing Naval yard in Norfolk, Virginia, was in danger of falling to the Union.

Charlotte was a logical choice for the new Naval Ordinance Works, despite its landlocked location, due to the existing iron works and the rail lines connecting the city to the seaports. The Naval Ordinance Works, located in the 200 block on the south side of East Trade Street, employed nearly 1,500 "men and boys," many of whom settled on the north side of East Trade Street in a neighborhood called Mechanicsville, now part of the First Ward (Hanchett 2006, Kratt and Boyer 2000). A foundry, a smithy, various machine shops, a rigging loft and a laboratory among other things were housed at the Naval Ordinance Works. Not only did the naval works turn out military necessities, but also parts for the railroads and textile mills. Near the close of the war almost 1,300 refugees descended on Charlotte, including the widow of Stonewall Jackson who became and remained one of the city's leading citizens for several decades. A residence on North Tryon Street housed what may have been the last cabinet meeting of the Confederacy, held by Jefferson Davis and his advisors (Hanchett 2006).

After the end of the Civil War many of the Naval yard workers and recent refugees stayed in Charlotte, contributing to the Reconstruction era boom. Between 1860 and 1870 the population of the city grew from 2,265 to 4,470. Within the first six months of 1867, nearly 87 new buildings, commercial, industrial and residential, were built in Charlotte, financed with profits from the reopened gold mines and capitol from northern industrialists. All of these things combined established Charlotte as a leading industrial center of the New South (Hanchett 2006).

In 1872 a fifth railroad was built through Charlotte, the Carolina Central, connecting Charlotte directly to the Port of Wilmington. Even before the Civil War Charlotte had thrived as a cotton trading center, relying on the railroad network running through the city that connected it to major eastern markets. During the 1870s, the United States fell into an economic depression, which was followed by increased commercial prosperity for New South communities such as Charlotte. The Charlotte Cotton Mill was opened in 1880 at West Fifth and Graham streets in the Fourth Ward. The 1889 city directory listed four cotton mills, six industrial machinery sellers – including the Mecklenburg Iron Works and Liddell foundry - three clothing factories, two cotton gins, one cotton oil mill and a manufacturer of cotton bagging and ties. The Highland Park Manufacturing Company opened a cotton mill in 1892, and in 1893 the Atherton Mill was opened at South Boulevard and Tremont Street (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006).

Urban infrastructure in late nineteenth-century Charlotte included horse drawn streetcars, which ran along Trade and Tryon streets beginning in 1887. In 1890 the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, also called the Four Cs, bought the streetcar system and, under the personal direction of Thomas Edison, rebuilt it as an electric trolley line. Two electric trolley lines

were in operation by 1891, one running the length of Trade Street from McDowell Street to the railroad station, and the other running on Tryon Street from the Carolina Central station to Twelfth Street (Hanchett 2006). Municipal waterworks began replacing private wells and public pumps in the 1880s. By 1894 Charlotte had a sewage system, although it would be another fifty years before outdoor privies became uncommon (Powell 1989).

Mecklenburg County reached the height of industrialization at the turn of the nineteenth century, with Charlotte as the focal point. 1860 census data for the county indicates an annual production of manufactured goods worth \$257,600.00, employing 88 males and 55 females in a total of twelve factories countywide. By 1890, the number of factories had grown to 96, employing 1483 men, women and children.

1909 census numbers shows an increase in the population of Charlotte from 18,091 in 1900 to 34,014, with the number of individuals employed by industry in Charlotte topping out at 4705 in 108 factories. In 1920, the urban population for Mecklenburg County was 46,338, up from 34,014 in 1910 and 28,091 in 1900. The rural population for the county had decreased from 37,177 in 1900 to 34,357 in 1920. The number of individuals in Mecklenburg County employed by industry in 1919 was 6242, in 127 factories; 5161 of those individuals were employed in Charlotte (U.S. Census Records 1860, 1890, 1909, 1910, 1919, 1920).

Following the 1893 stock market crash, several textile mills were established in Charlotte, including the Magnolia (1899), the Chadwick (1901), the Elizabeth (1901), the Hoskins (1904), Highland Park #3 (1904), the Mecklenburg (1904), the Savona (1908) and the Johnston (1908). The textile boom lasted until World War I. Other industries, such as the Charlotte Pipe and Foundry (1900) and Cole Manufacturing (1900) were also established during this prosperous period. W.H. Belk opened a store in Charlotte in 1895, and Phillip L. Lance started the Lance snack food company in Charlotte in 1913. During this period Charlotte also became an important banking center, becoming home to institutions such as the Charlotte National Bank, Wachovia Bank and Trust, Southern States Trust and Union National Bank. In the late 1890s, James B. Duke, teamed with Dr. W. Gill Wylie, Dr. Robert H. Wylie, and William States Lee to construct the Southern Power Company, which began delivering hydroelectric power to customers in and around Charlotte in 1904. Duke also constructed Charlotte's seventh rail line, running from Charlotte to Gastonia. The Norfolk and Southern track was built in 1913 (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006).

By 1917 the city boasted nine streetcar lines. Between 1900 and 1910 the population of Charlotte grew by 82 percent, from 18,091 to 34,014. Suburbs sprang up around the edges of the city and downtown the first steel frame skyscraper, the Independence Building, was constructed in 1909. In Dilworth, Charlotte's first suburb, the Olmstead Brothers of Boston, sons to Frederick Law Olmstead, were hired to plan the Dilworth Road east and West area (Hanchett 2006). Civilian construction was slowed with the advent of World War I. Camp Green was established on Charlotte during World War I as a military training camp, closing shortly after the end of the war (Powell 1989).

The 1920s ushered in another era of prosperity nationwide. Charlotte, following the national trend, reaped the benefits of commercial growth through its position as a main distribution center for the region. Beginning in 1925, Church Street became home to the motion picture distribution center for North and South Carolina. RCA Victor chose Charlotte as a regional distribution center

for radios, phonographs and records, an enterprise that later developed into a major recording center turning out records from such artists as the Carter Family and Luke Jordan. The Ford Motor Company made Charlotte its distribution point for the South prior to World War I, and in 1925 opened an assembly plant in the city that would supply Ford's southern market. Charlotte's textile industry was thriving, too. In 1927, there were 770 mills operating in Charlotte, putting the city on the forefront of textile production in the United States (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003).

An abundance of paved highways constructed during the 1920s spurred Charlotte's importance as a major distribution center. Constructed under North Carolina's Good Roads program initiated in 1921 by Governor Cameron Morrison, the new roads cemented Charlotte's dominance as a wholesale and trucking center for the southeast.

Along with distribution, retail and banking industries continued to expand as well. By 1928, the city's boundaries had expanded to nearly 20 square miles, a significant increase from the almost thirteen square miles encompassed in 1917. The suburbs continued to expand, as did the socio-economic segregation of the growing population. By 1930 Charlotte had a population of 82,675 (Bishir and Southern 2003, Hanchett 2006).

After the stock market crash of 1929, the furniture and textile factories of North Carolina and the surrounding region were devastated. The American Federation of Labor and the Textile Worker's Union of America sent representatives to Charlotte to establish a headquarters. Tagged as alleged Communists, the labor representatives soon discovered they were not welcome and relocated, in 1931, to Birmingham, Alabama (Powell 1989). The diversity of the local economy in Charlotte kept commerce from halting altogether. Between 1930 and 1940, Charlotte's population increased by 18,224 individuals, and new housing construction continued into the early 1930s. New construction increased again near the end of the decade, falling off to nothing with the advent of World War II and federal wartime building restrictions. Returning soldiers, taking advantage of their Veteran's benefits and the Federal Housing Administration loan guarantee program, helped to create a new series of suburbs around Charlotte, beginning in the late 1940s. Most of present day Charlotte was built during this postwar period. The development of the federal interstate highway system reinforced Charlotte's position as a distribution center. In 1958, I-85 linked Charlotte with Atlanta, Durham and Richmond. In 1965, I-77 connected the city with Columbia, Roanoke and the Midwestern United States. Today Charlotte is home to the administrative offices of such corporations as Bank of America as well as the center for NASCAR racing (Hanchett 2006, Hanchett and Sumner 2003).

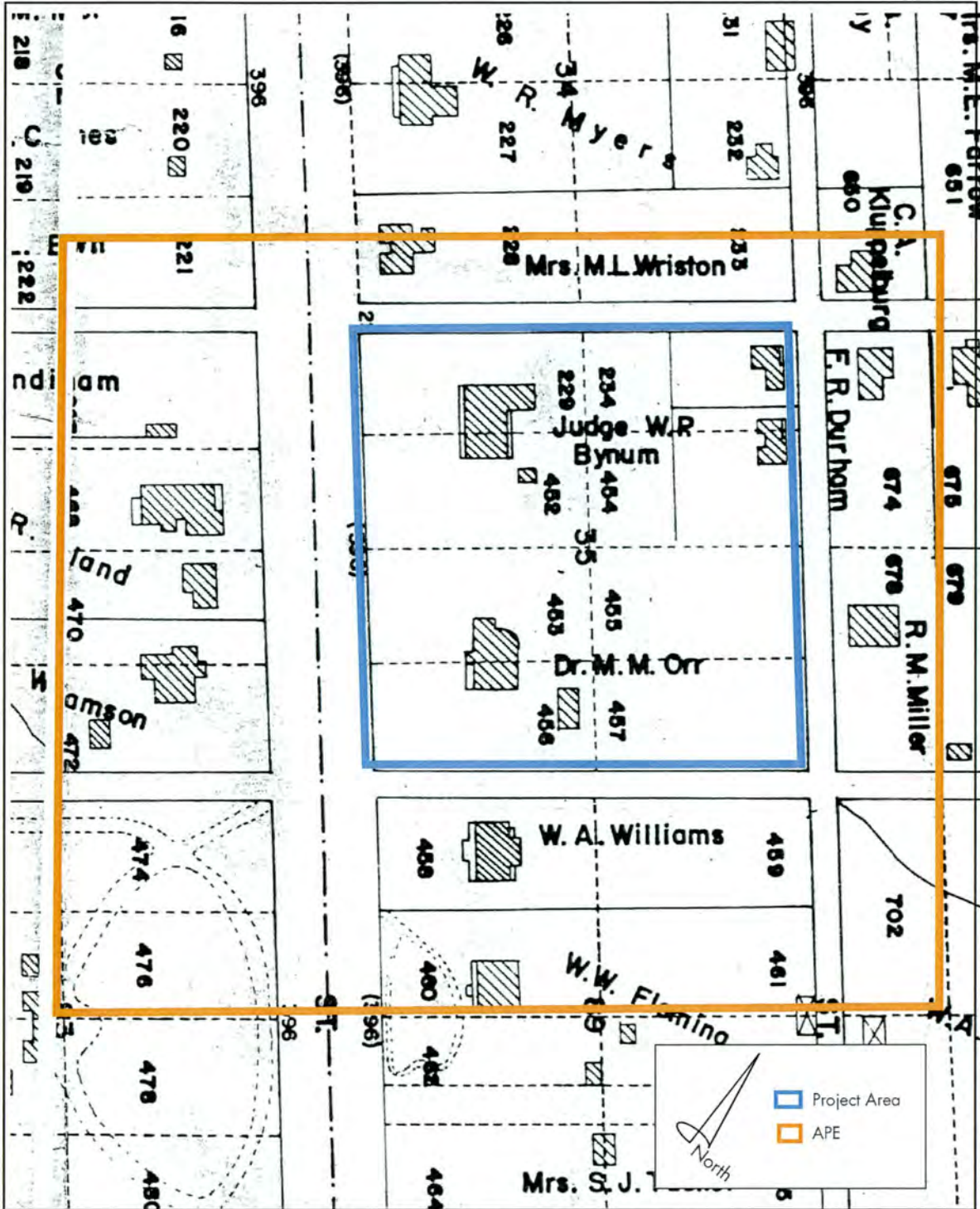
SITE HISTORY

The project area is located within Ward 1 of Charlotte, in the east quadrant formed by Trade and Tryon streets. Historic maps indicate that the area was divided into half-acre lots prior to 1781. A 1979 compilation map of half-acre lots sold in Charlotte prior to 1781 reveals that the site was divided into eight lots, with lots 229 and 234, comprising the western end of the site, owned by Adlai Osborn, but no structures are indicated on these lots (Mint Museum of History 1979). By 1862 Ward 1 had been developed residentially. Grey's *New Map of Charlotte* indicates that the site was occupied as a residential property, with Judge W. P. Bynum owning the western half (lots

229, 452, 234 and 454) and Dr. M. M. Orr owning the eastern half (lots 453, 456, 455 and 457) (Grey and Son 1862).

An 1877 map of Charlotte reveals that the site was still owned by Bynum and Orr as a residential property. Bynum's property included a main dwelling and two outbuildings along with two smaller dwellings along East Fifth Street. The buildings are in the same configuration on both the 1862 and the 1877 maps. Orr's property is depicted to include one main dwelling and one outbuilding, also in the same configuration on both the 1862 and the 1877 maps (Figure 2; Beers 1877). Available Charlotte City Directories indicate that Bynum maintained his property as a personal residence from 1884 until 1894. The prevalence of professionally occupied individuals residing in the APE suggests that this area had developed into a middle to upper-middle class neighborhood beginning in the early to mid-1800s.

Figure 2
Project Area and APE in 1877



Source: Map of Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co. N.C., F. N. Beers, 1877

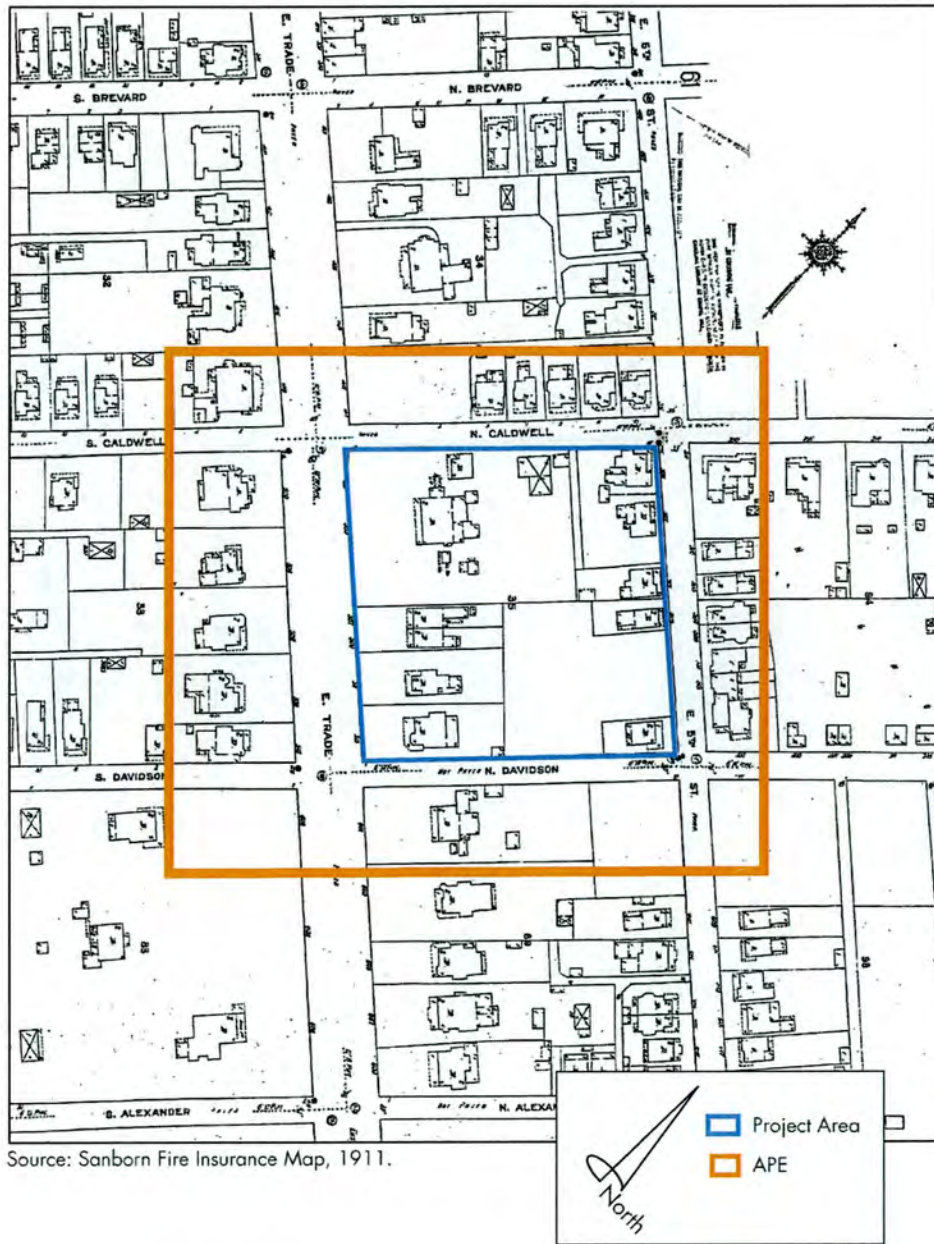
Judge William P. Bynum was a graduate of Davidson College, class of 1842. A member of the Whig party, Judge Bynum was an ardent supporter of the Union. Although his political sympathies lied with the North, he volunteered for the Confederate Army at the outbreak of the Civil War and was elected Lieutenant of the Beatties Ford Rifles, a Charlotte infantry unit. Bynam was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in 1861 by Governor Ellis and full colonel in 1862 by Governor Vance. He was elected State Solicitor for the Lincolnton district by the 1863 North Carolina legislature, a position that he held for eleven years. In 1875, Governor Caldwell appointed him Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, where he served until the end of his term in 1879. After retiring from the Supreme Court, Bynum returned to Charlotte where he resumed his law practice (Borerd 1888, Presson 1936). During this time, sources indicate that Bynum had property located on the northeast corner of the odd 500 block of East Trade Street, and also at 435 West Trade Street (Borerd, 1888, Presson 1936, Charlotte City Directory 1879/1880).

Charlotte City Directories indicate that in 1885 Dr. W. M. Orr, along with Miss Fanny Orr, Miss Laura E. Orr and Miss Mattie Orr resided at the southwest corner of the lot. Laura E. Orr is listed as a teacher. In the 1893 City Directory, the head of the residence at 505 East Trade is listed as Dr. M. M. Orr. Across the street, at 506 East Trade, resided John F. Orr, listed as a teller at the First National Bank, and his wife, Sarah. Dr. M. M. Orr is listed until 1897, after which only John F., Sarah and Laura are listed at 506 (later 508) East Trade until the late 1920s. The Orr family as a whole appears to have been fairly prominent in the development of Charlotte, especially in the evolution of certain civil services such as the Charlotte Police Department and the Charlotte Fire Department (Charlotte Fire Department 1988, Charlotte Police Department 1990).

The 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show nine residential dwellings on the site, seven of which are in the same locations as the 1862 and 1877 buildings, but have slightly modified shapes. These buildings are all frame structures. On the 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Figure 3), one of the original 1862 out buildings (originally Orr's property) has been removed, the dwelling located at 503 West Trade Street been converted into a duplex, and the dwellings located at 500 and 502 East Fifth Street have both been expanded.

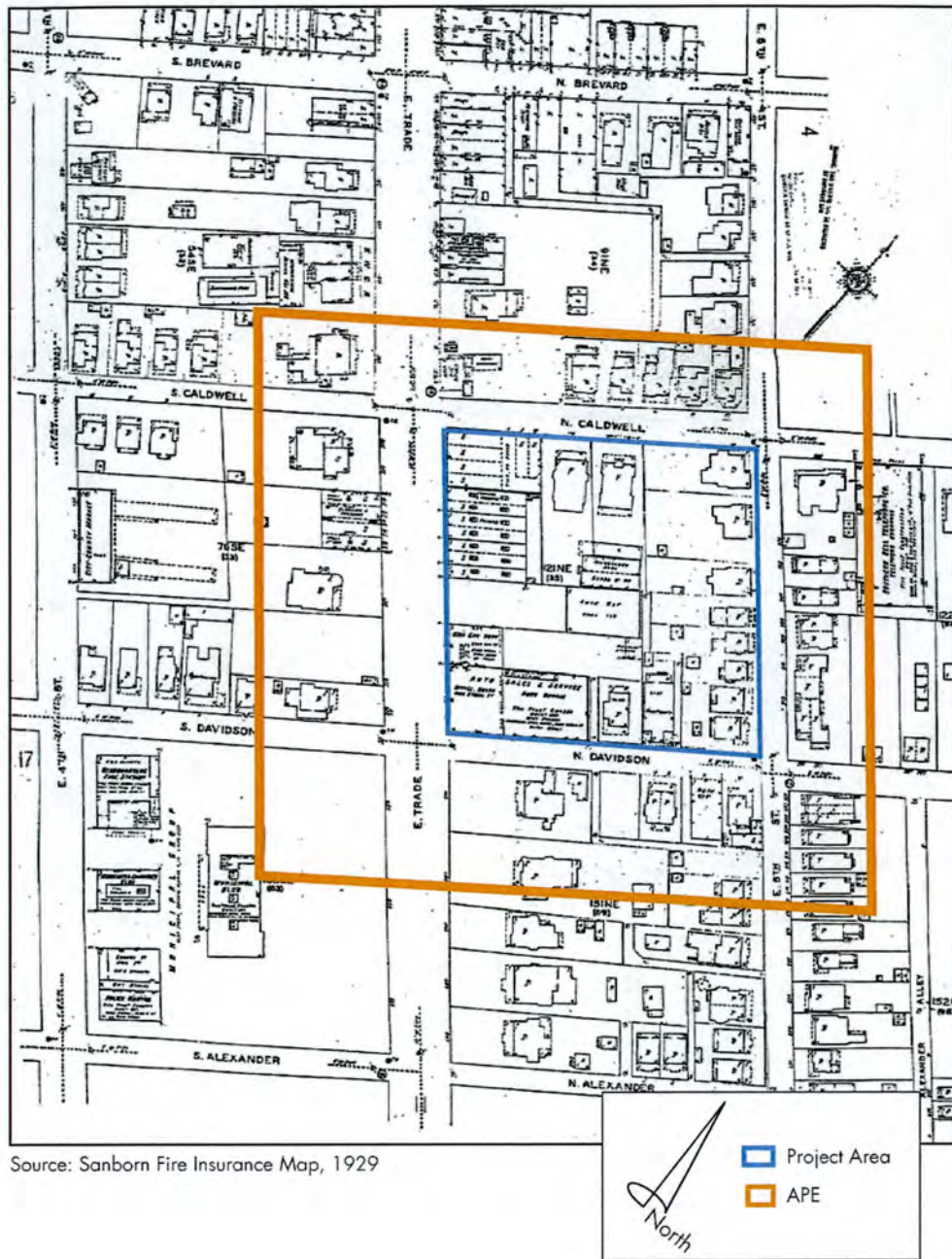
The 1929 Sanborn maps (Figure 4) show substantial change had occurred to the residential neighborhood. The southwestern edge of the site has been filled in with metal clad, frame shop buildings. Metal clad apartment buildings appear to the north and warehouse buildings to the east. The warehouse buildings have various constructions, including concrete structure with brick or stone cladding, frame structure with brick or stone cladding, and fireproof construction. City Directories indicate that the conversion of the southern corner of the lot to commercial buildings took place circa 1925, shortly after the completion of the City Hall building on the 600 block of East Trade Street. The northeastern edge of the site is lined with single dwelling, frame residences. On the 1958 Sanborn maps (Figure 5), with 1963 revisions, the shop buildings and the warehouses are still present along the southwestern and southeastern edges, while the residential dwellings have disappeared to make space for parking on the northern half of the site.

Figure 3
APE in 1911



Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1911.

Figure 4
APE in 1929



Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1929

Figure 5
APE in 1963



Beginning in 1927, the Commercial Service Company's City Directory for Charlotte lists various business located in the shops in the 500 block of East Trade Street, ranging from an electric contractor, a dry cleaner, a confectionary shop, a hardware store and motor company (Table 1). Prior to 1927, there are no listings for this block. The shop types remain consistent until the late 1960s, with La Pointe Chevy appearing in the directories until the early 1980s, after which listings for this block again disappear from the directories.

In summary, the project area was residential in character in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries affording homes to Charlotte's middle class residents. However the construction of the City Hall building in the middle of such a residential neighborhood in 1925 changed the character of the area, creating precedent for the development of a commercial and institutional district to match the downtown development to the northwest along Trade and Tryon streets. Through the mid-twentieth century, the area evolved from a middle to upper-middle class residential neighborhood into a mixed commercial and institutional neighborhood. Today the area encompasses local and county government, and financial institutional buildings as well as civic and commercial buildings. The structural type of the buildings has changed from single dwelling wood frame buildings to large masonry and steel frame buildings.

Table 1. Charlotte City Directory Information

DIRECTORY	YEAR	ADDRESS – EAST TRADE STREET
Commercial Service's Company	1927	501 – Service Electric Co., contractors 511 – Royal Pressing Club 513 – Vacant 517 – New City Hall Confectionery 519 to 521 – Matheson Hardware Co. 523 – Grooms-McAuley Co., Inc., contractors Pyramid Motor Co.
Commercial Service's Company	1928	501 – Service Electric co. 503 – Vacant 505 – Newton-Newton interior decorators 507 – Todd-Thrower tile Co. 511 – Royal Pressing Club 515 – Ezell's paints, etc. 517 – New City Hall Confectionery 519 – Simmons Hardware co. 521 – Vacant 523 – McAuley H.C., plumber Pyramid Motor Co.
Commercial Service's Company	1930	501 – Vacant 503 – Palace Barber shop 505 – Service electric Co. 507 – Vacant 511 - Ezell's Inc. warehouse 513 – Newton-Newton interior decorators 515 – Ezell's paints, etc. 517 – New City Hall Confectionery 519 to 523 – Sims Implement Co.

DIRECTORY	YEAR	ADDRESS – EAST TRADE STREET
		525 – Douglas & Sing
Hill's Directory	1935	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 – Newton Calendar window shades and wall paper 505 – Banks, T.R. Radio Service repairs 505 (2) – Ross, J. Harvey electric contractors 507 – Vacant 509 to 511 – Valenteria Cling Co. 513 – Ezell's Inc. warehouse 517 to 519 – Vacant 521 – Vacant 525 to 531 – Pyramid Motor co., Inc. Pyramid Chevrolet Co., Inc. autos
Hill's Directory	1945/46	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 – Ross Electric Company contractors 505 – Pace, Roy E. gifts 505 (2) – Waters Novelty Shop 507 – McEwen Mutual Burial Assn., Inc. United Mutual Burial Assn., Inc. 509 to 511 – Superior Cleaners 513 – Ezell's Inc. warehouse 515 – Palmgren, E. Alex tax consultant 517 – Bowen Rerig Supplies, Inc. 519 – Sou Appliances, Inc. 521 – Wallace's Kosher Food Store groceries 525 to 531 – Pyramid Chevrolet Co., Inc. autos
Hill's Directory	1950/51	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 – Ross Electric Company contractors 505 – Kennedy Watch Shop 507 – Independence Mutual Life Insurance Co. McEwen Mutual Burial Assn., Inc. United Mutual Burial Assn., Inc. 509 – Cleveland Cleaners 513 – Ezell's Inc. warehouse 515 – Palmgren, E. Alex tax consultant Harvell, Wm. E. accountant Palmgren, E.A. & Assoc. tax consultants 517 – Bowen Rerig Supplies, Inc. 519 – Sou Appliances, Inc. electric supplies 521 – Wallace's Kosher Food Store groceries 525 to 531 – Pyramid Chevrolet Co., Inc. autos
Hill's Directory	1955	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 to 505 – Ross Electric Company contractors 507 – McEwen Insurance Enterprises 509 to 511 – Cleveland Cleaners 513 – Ezell's Inc. paints 515 – Palmgren, E.A. & Assoc. accountants 517 to 519 – Holliday, T.B. and Co., Inc. vending machines 521 – Wallace's Kosher Food Store groceries 523 – Pyramid Motor used cars 525 – Pyramid Motor Co. autos 531 – Pyramid Discount Corp. auto loan

DIRECTORY	YEAR	ADDRESS – EAST TRADE STREET
Hill's Directory	1960	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 – Ross Electric Company contractors 505 to 507 – McEwen Pools O’Ryan & Batchelder inc., advertisers Mt. Mitchell Acres real estate 511 – Cleveland Cleaners 513 – Ramsey Refrigerator & Manufacturing Corp. 515 – Palmgren, E.A. & Assoc. accountants 517 to 519 – Telephone Answering Service, Inc. 521 – Wallace’s Kosher Food Store groceries 523 – Allen Don Chevrolet Co. 525 to 531 – Allen Don Chevrolet Co.
Hill's Directory	1965	501 – Tabriz Persian Rug Co. 503 – Ross Electric Company contractors 505 – Mecklenburg Times (office) 507 – Patterson, C.E. Agency general insurance McEwen, Robert mfrs agent McEwen, L. Morris jr. mfrs agent Dixie Pool Supply 507 to 509 – Twin States Pool Equipment Co., Inc. 511 – Williams, Paul B. Inc., office supplies 513 – Ramsey Refrigerator & Manufacturing Corp. 519 – Telephone Answering Service, Inc. 521 – Wallace’s Kosher Food Store groceries 523 – LaPointe Chevy 531 – LaPointe Chevy
Hill's Directory	1975	531 – LaPointe Chevy
Hill's Directory	1980	531 – LaPointe Chevy

III. METHODS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS

The project began with an examination of the archaeological site files at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) in Raleigh. The locations of all previously recorded sites were plotted on the Charlotte East USGS quadrangle, and key information was recorded from the associated site forms. All Mecklenburg County reports on file at OSA were examined to determine if any previous urban archaeological investigations had been completed in the Charlotte area. Portions of reports by May (1992) and Lautzenheiser (2005) were copied. The project was also discussed with John Mintz of the OSA staff. Mr. Mintz deals with compliance projects in this portion of the state.

Historic maps, including Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, were provided by the project Historian. These were reviewed to determine the historic pattern of land use in the study block.

The field reconnaissance was undertaken to assess the potential for archaeological remains in the APE. This included a walkover of the entire tract and the placement of hand auger borings in the few unpaved or ungravelled areas of the APE. The APE was not suitable for shovel test excavation. The topography of the APE was compared with that of surrounding lots to address possible historical or modern filling or cutting. Digital photographs were produced of key views.

ARCHITECTURAL METHODS

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) files, as well as the North Carolina Architectural Survey records, located in the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Office of Archives and History, were searched for previously recorded architectural resources within the project APE. The Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission register was also consulted. Only one previously recorded property was identified, Charlotte City Hall, and that was only identified at the local level, not in the NRHP files or state survey files.

Historic maps, including Sanborn Fire insurance Maps and plat maps, and city directories of Charlotte, located at the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Public Library in the Charlotte Room, were also reviewed as well as secondary source literature.

The architectural historian surveyed the project area for previously unrecorded architectural resources fifty years or older located within the APE, which was defined as properties adjacent to the project area. One unrecorded architectural resource within the state files, Charlotte City Hall, was identified. Survey work was conducted in accordance with the *North Carolina Historic Preservation Office Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources*, and the building was recorded on the North Carolina Historic Structures Data Sheets and photographed using both black & white and digital photography.

In addition, a determination of the identified resource's NRHP eligibility was made. The NRHP is the official Federal register of properties that are historically and/or architecturally significant. Resources are evaluated under four Criteria: A, B, C, and D, as outlined in 36 CFR Part 60, National Register of Historic Places, Nominations by State and Federal Agencies and 36 CFR Part 800, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties. The four criteria are:

- A. Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
- B. Properties that are associated with lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. 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; and
- D. Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, important information in prehistory or history.

As Charlotte City Hall was considered to be eligible for the NRHP by this study, a determination of effect was completed using the Criteria of Effect and Adverse Effect (36 CFR Part 800.9).

IV. RESULTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The downtown core of Charlotte is devoid of previously recorded archaeological sites. There are no known sites in the project APE, and the closest recorded site is 4 km from the APE (Table 2). Fred Fisher of UNC-Charlotte recorded all these sites in the 1970s. His site forms routinely noted, "site destroyed by..." Fisher apparently focused almost exclusively on pre-contact sites, thereby biasing the database.

Table 2. Previously Recorded Sites on the Charlotte East Quadrangle.

Site	Location from APE	Description
31MK141	4 km SSW	Flakes and 2 projectile points. Points are possibly museum discards.
31MK142	4 km SSW	1 small triangular projectile point, 2 grit-tempered sherds, 48 flakes
31MK176	8 km NE	13 flakes
31MK177	8 km NE	27 flakes
31MK179	5 km ESE	Hardaway-Dalton perform, Randolph projectile point, 4 sherds, 180 flakes
31MK180	5 km ESE	St. Albans projectile point, short and straight-stemmed projectile point, 8 sherds, 150 flakes
31MK181	7 km NE	10 flakes
31MK200	7 km SSW	Informant report of "arrowheads and flakes," collection lost
31MK211	7 km ENE	3 Morrow Mountain projectile points, 2 Savannah River projectile points, 1 Badin projectile point, 3 mortars, 1 nutting stone, 1 ca. 1779 kaolin pipe. Possible hearth feature.
31MK251	5 km ENE	Randolph projectile point, 135 flakes

The small sample of sites is sufficient to indicate that sites from all periods are present in the vicinity of the APE. The projectile points and pottery represent transitional Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic, Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Early Woodland, Late Woodland, and unspecified Woodland period occupations.

Based on the recorded sites and on knowledge of generalized Piedmont settlement, the APE has a moderate to high potential of containing a pre-contact site. The APE is situated on high, well-drained ground overlooking Little Sugar Creek. The majority of recorded sites on the Charlotte East quadrangle are likewise situated on high ground near small streams.

The major issue in addressing research potential is the depth of disturbances during the razing of the buildings in the twentieth century. It is clear from the archival record that residences were present in the APE before city water/sewer/refuse services existed.

These houses would have had deep cultural features, such as privies and wells, in association. The question is whether or not these deep features have survived.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

The field reconnaissance suggests that significant grading or borrowing has not occurred across most of the APE. One area of disturbance was noted, on East Trade Street (Figure 6). Here, ALTURA Environmental conducted excavations in September, 2002 to remove contaminated spoils associated with hydraulic lifts that were present in this location. The removal of these contaminated soils disturbed the area shown in Figure 6 as well as any archaeological features that might have been present in this area. The remainder of the block does not appear to have received significant disturbances, other than shallow disturbances that occurred during the razing of structures once present on the block.

Our archaeological knowledge of urban Charlotte life ways in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is pitifully lacking. There have been no archaeological examinations of the city experience for Charlotte. If intact deep features remain in the APE, they have the potential to begin to fill a significant data void.

Based on the archival record and the conditions observed during the field reconnaissance, the APE is considered to have a high potential to contain significant archaeological remains from the historic period. It is recommended that an intensive Phase II archaeological survey be undertaken to determine if the APE has the attributes that would make it eligible for the NRHP. Such Phase II survey should avoid the area disturbed by ALTRUA Environmental and as shown in Figure 6.

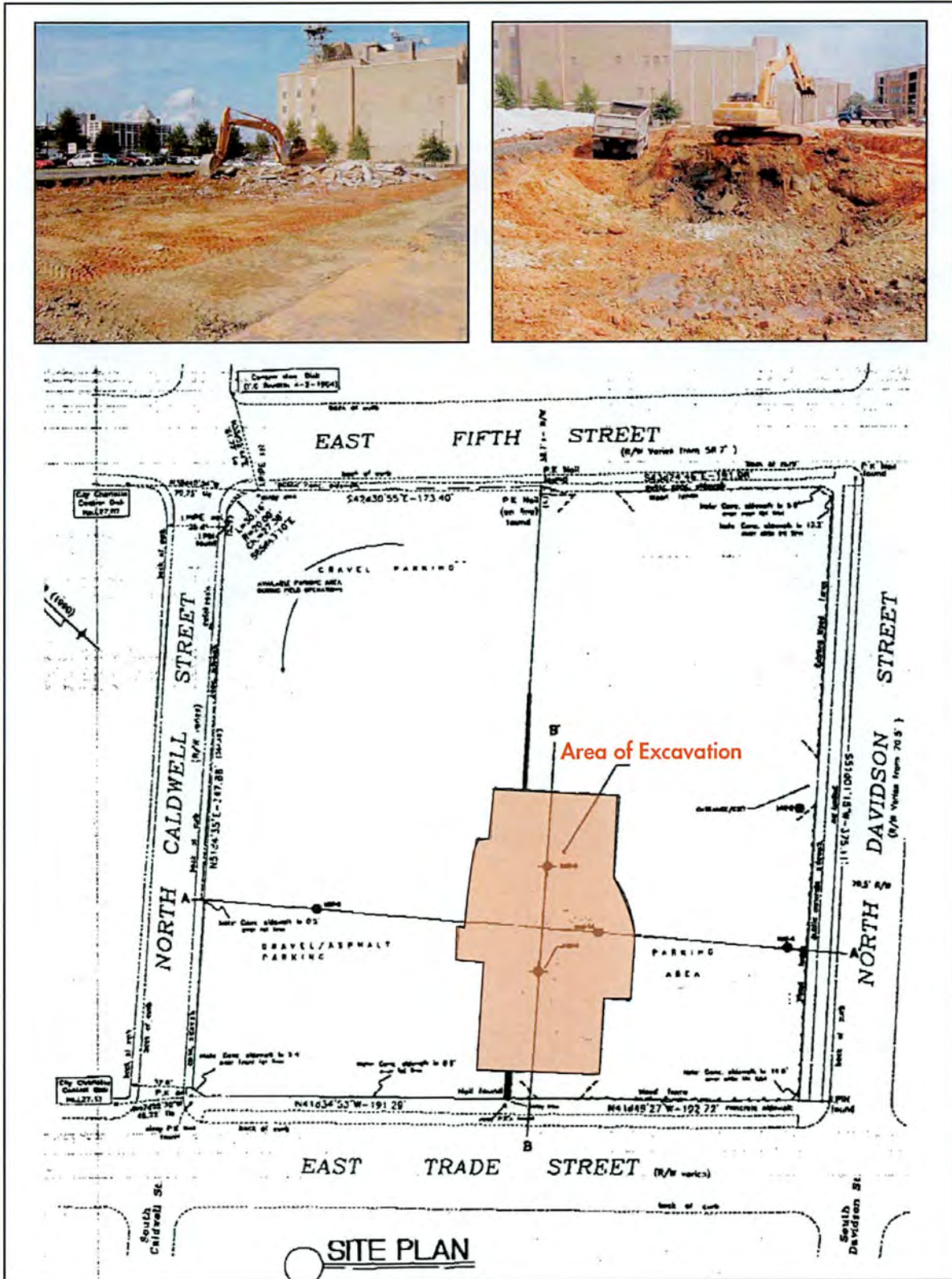
ARCHITECTURAL RESULTS

Historic maps and city directories indicate that the proposed project location was residential in nature until the 1920s, at which time commercial development along East Trade and North Davidson streets (the southwest and southeast edges of the site) began. Commercial development remained limited to East Trade and North Davidson streets, while the northern half of the site became a vacant lot used for parking. Currently the proposed project location is an unpaved commercial parking lot. The site is surrounded by a Federal Reserve Bank to the southwest, the Charlotte Bobcats Arena to the northwest, a Bell South and AT&T administration building to the northeast, the Mecklenburg County Child and Family Services administration building to the east, a parking garage and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department to the southeast, and the Charlotte City Hall building to the south (Figure 7).

The character of the proposed project location and of the APE is commercial and institutional in nature. All of the buildings, with the exception of the Charlotte City Hall building (Figure 8), have been constructed within the last 50 years.

Charles Christian Hook, credited as the first architect of Charlotte, designed the Charlotte City Hall located at 600 East Trade Street (Survey Report 1980). Although a native of Wheeling, West Virginia, Hook came to Charlotte after graduating from Washington University in St. Louis at the request of Dr. Alexander Graham, who played an role in the development of Charlotte schools. Hook taught mechanical drawing in the South Charlotte Graded School. In the early 1890s, Hook

Figure 6
Site Plan and Photographs Showing Disturbance Made by ALTURA Environmental in 2002



Charlotte City Hall Building, East Trade Street (Northeasts) Elevation Figure 7



Figure 8
Project Area View Shed from the Charlotte City Hall Building



began designing houses for the Dilworth neighborhood, a subdivision of Edward Dilworth Latta who was a prominent developer of Charlotte. In 1898, Hook joined with Frank McMurry Sawyer to form the partnership of Hook and Sawyer. At this same time he was also acting as the chief architect for Trinity College (now Duke) in Durham, a position he maintained from 1895 to 1925. In 1902 the partners published a portfolio of their work entitled "Some Designs by Hook and Sawyer." In 1903 and 1904, the partners published a series of house and floor plan illustrations in the *Charlotte Daily Observer*. These articles revealed Hook's affinity for the Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles, the latter of which (especially) became the idealized architectural reference to antebellum culture, reassuring and comforting in the midst of the rapid development of the New South. Hook gained commissions from prominent New South industrialists such as James Buchanan Duke, proprietor of Southern Utility Company, Z. V. Taylor, proprietor of Southern Power Company, and William Henry Belk who founded Belk Department Stores. As well as his residential commissions, Hook also designed several public and commercial buildings, including the Carolina Theater in 1927, the Charlotte Masonic Temple, and the 1929 Richardsonian Romanesque style fire station. Hook's work was not confined to Charlotte, but included projects in Durham, Greensboro, Concord, Greenville, Davidson, High Point, Spartanburg and Salisbury (Bishir et. al. 1990, Hankin 2006).

Construction on the Beaux Arts style City Hall building was completed in October 1925 on the lot bounded by East Trade, South Davidson, South Alexander, and East Forth streets. The previous City Hall had been a Romanesque building designed by Gottfrid L. Norrman of Atlanta, located at the corner of Tyron and Fifth streets in the commercial district of Charlotte. The decision by municipal leaders to relocate the governmental headquarters in a residential neighborhood was pivotal to the physical history of the city, creating the foundations for the current institutional and commercial district surrounding Hook's building. In 1928, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners dedicated the (then) new county courthouse on the 700 block, adjacent to the new City Hall, further establishing the process of change from a residential to a municipal neighborhood (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission 2006).

The new City Hall complex consisted of four structures: City Hall (the main administrative building), which still sits in the center of the lot, a fire station, a police station and a public health building, all of which sat to the rear of the administrative building along the southwestern edge of the property. The fire station was located on the southwest corner of the lot, the court and police department building was located on the southwest corner of the lot, and the public health building sat between the fire and police buildings. All four buildings were constructed by the J. A. Jones Construction Company. The fire station, police station and public health buildings were all designed with a classically influenced style to complement the main City Hall building. These ancillary buildings remained in used until the mid-twentieth century, after which they were demolished (Charlotte Fire Department 1988, Charlotte Police Department 1990, Survey Report 1980).

Hook placed City Hall in the middle of the block facing to the north so that could be modified if needed without increasing the height of the building or purchasing additional land. The open space in front of the building was to serve as a park-like setting for the structure as well as a public assembly area. A symmetrical curved walkway leads from the street to the granite stairway of the main entrance. The building is a steel frame and masonry structure with a symmetrical rectangular plan. The roof is flat with a full balustrade set atop an entablature with pronounced dentils that spans the full course of the roofline (Survey Report 1980).

The following is drawn from an extensive survey description of the building's exterior and interior prepared by architectural historian Caroline Mesrobian for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission in 1980 (Survey Report 1980). The discussion notes where changes have been made since that time.

The East Trade Street (main or northeast) elevation consists of eleven bays with the seven central bays recessed. The first story is clad rusticated Indiana limestone. Eleven arches symmetrically cross the entire first story façade. The central, recessed section contains five entranceways, flanked on either side by blind archways. Originally the central entrance contained a revolving door while the adjacent entrances consisted of wrought iron drill doors, all of which were replaced with steel frame, glass commercial doors, circa 1989. The two projecting sections each contain two arched windows, with sills constructed from white pine and painted white. The second story floor is marked by a belt course and balustrade and lined with wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows with double, two-light transoms. The third story is lined with wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows. Six pairs of fluted Corinthian columns span the height between the balustrade and the roofline entablature between each window, flanked on either end by single columns. The projecting side bays are smooth-walled and contain two rectangular windows on both stories, separated horizontally by floral swags crowned by rosettes.

The East Fourth Street (rear or southwest) elevation mimics the East Trade Street elevation in that it is eleven bays across with the central seven recessed; however, Corinthian pilasters have been substituted for the freestanding Corinthian columns between the second floor balustrade and the roofline entablature. The land slopes downward toward the rear of the building exposing the basement and allowing the rear entrance to be placed on the first story basement level. Like the East Trade Street elevation, rusticated Indiana limestone clads the first story, but differs in that seven wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows with double, arched, four-light transoms have replaced the seven entrance doors present on the East Trade Street elevation. The second story floor is marked by a belt course and balustrade and lined with wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows with double, two-light transoms. The third story is lined with wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows.

The South Davidson Street and South Alexander Street elevations mirror each other. The elevations are divided into five bays, with the first story consisting of rusticated Indiana limestone cladding, four arched windows and a centrally located arched doorway in which the doors have been replaced, circa 1989. A pronounced belt course marks the second story floor and five symmetrically placed rectangular windows span the second and third stories, separated horizontally by swags capped with rosettes. The second story windows are wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows with double, two-light transoms. The third story windows are wooden framed, double 4/4 casement windows.

The interior of the building has been maintained with the exception of cosmetic modifications from a 1989 remodeling of the building. The main lobby, located on the East Trade Street side, runs the length of the recessed central section of the facade. The exterior bays are defined on the interior by exposed ceiling beams, which are met by fluted, marble pilasters located both between the arched entrance openings and the service desks directly opposite them. Wide marble staircases located to

the sides of the central entrance area rise in two flights with one landing to the second and third floors. A staircase, located under the northwest stairwell gives access the basement.

The lobby continues to each side of the central service area and leads to the two side entrances facing South Davidson and South Alexander Streets.

The main floor and corridors of the main lobby are finished in pink Tennessee marble. The pilasters, arched doorframes capped with ornamental scrolls, and light colored marble has been used as wainscoting on all walls. The wainscoting is trimmed with a chair rail and baseboard of green marble, while the upper sections of the walls are plaster. The staircases consist of turned newel posts, with polished hardwood handrails and wrought iron railing painted a dark green to echo the marble work. Two arched elevators, located in the west corridor, are framed with light-colored marble and capped with scrolls. The segmental pediments are of green marble. The elevator doors were replaced circa 1989.

Four service windows, once occupied by revenue and accounting departments devoted to the collection of taxes and water and light fees, are located along the southwest wall of the main lobby. The windows have been closed in and a doorway has been placed in the center, all part of the 1989 interior modifications. Polished copper pilasters and a straight entablature frame the service windows. The copper pilasters are set on light-colored marble desks. The baseboards are trimmed with green marble. Original light fixtures hang from the high plaster ceiling bays, which are divided by rectangular panels. The crossbeams and cornices are comprised of two decorative bands, as well as a third band that contains a row of dentil work capped by egg and dart decoration.

The remaining floors were all altered from their original state and function during the 1989 remodel of the building. Entrances to the upper floors from the staircases are closed with fireproof doors. The second story and third story ceilings have been lowered, and several of the walls are sheathed in fabric. The composition floors were carpeted as well. The mayor's office at the northeast corner of the second floor is to be one of the few areas kept in its original state. The plaster ceiling is intact and is articulated with cross beams and decorative wreaths. The walls are comprised of American black walnut, while the remaining interior wood trimming consists of white pine. A fireplace rests in the south wall of the office (Survey Report 1980).

NRHP EVALUATION

The Charlotte City Hall building is recommended as eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A, B, and C at the local and state level of significance. While the construction of the building changed the nature of the traditional residential neighborhood of the area, the building has maintained integrity in the areas of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials and workmanship. The building remains in its original location and has maintained the setting, feeling and association of a municipal building standing in a mixed commercial and institutional facility district despite the loss of the ancillary buildings to the southwest. The building is surrounded by modern municipal and commercial buildings and is adjacent to the 1928 Mecklenburg County Courthouse. Only the doors on the first floors of the City Hall building have been replaced, negligibly impacting the design, materials and workmanship of the building.

Under Criterion A, the building set precedent for the development of the neighborhood from a residential area into the mixed institutional and commercial area that it is now.

The City Hall building cleared the way for the construction of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse, creating the focal point for a complex of government buildings, followed by several institutional and commercial buildings.

The building is eligible under Criterion B for its association with architect Charles Christian Hook. Hook designed the building and was a prominent force in the design and development of Charlotte's building stock, as well as designing a number of prominent buildings throughout North Carolina, including several at Duke University. His work on this building adds significance to its integrity both locally and on the state level.

The architecture of the Charlotte City Hall building make it eligible under Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Beaux Arts style. The Beaux Arts style was a significant artistic movement in the early twentieth century on an international level, making the City Hall building an important example of Charlotte Beaux Arts style in municipal architecture.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Background research and site inspection indicate that the proposed location for the Charlotte Federal Courthouse has a moderate to high potential to contain prehistoric archaeological features and a high potential to contain historic archaeological deposits. The research potential of urban residential sites is most commonly manifested in deep, shaft features including wells, privies, and cisterns, which often had a limited use span, and can represent sealed time capsules. The proposed Courthouse site has the potential to contain such features, and therefore a Phase II Archaeological Survey and Evaluation is recommended.

In reviewing the Sanborn maps, several locations were identified as having a high potential of containing deep features; all of these locations are areas that would also have potential for prehistoric deposits. It is recommended that machine-assisted scraping be undertaken in five locations, with an average exposure of block surfaces measuring 20 x 20 ft. A backhoe with a smooth bucket should be utilized to carefully remove the pavement and/or gravel. An Archaeologist would carefully monitor the scraping, and the scraping should continue until intact subsoil has been reached. If sheet midden is encountered during the scraping, it should be sampled, and its vertical and horizontal extents mapped. Once subsoil is reached, each block surface should be shovel and trowel cleaned to identify cultural features. All features should be then mapped in plan view. Feature provenience designations and forms should be completed to each feature and each should be photographed in plan view. Artifacts that are exposed on the surface of each feature should be collected for diagnostic information. Feature function should be interpreted by feature appearance in plan view, and features should only be partially excavated in the event that function and possible use span cannot be inferred from observations in plan view. Where sample excavation of features is required, each should be bisected, and one half removed and recorded in controlled fashion, including the completion of both profile drawings and photographs. Assessment of the eligibility of the site will be made on the preservation of cultural features as well as their age and function and full excavation of features will only occur in a later phase of investigation if the site is determined eligible for the NRHP. Features will be onto a site plan with a transit or total station.

The Phase II archaeological survey will also include more detailed examination of the archival record for the nineteenth century occupants of the block. Census, deed, tax, and genealogical sources will be researched to identify the occupants of the block and their social position.

No archaeological investigation is needed in the area shown in Figure 6 that has been previously disturbed by the excavations conducted by ALTURA Environmental for the removal of hydraulic lifts and soil. This area is heavily disturbed and has no archaeological potential.

ARCHITECTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS/ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT

No previously NRHP-listed or surveyed resources are located in the APE. One locally designated property as a historic landmark, Charlotte City Hall, is located within the APE and this property is recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP. The Charlotte City Hall is not located on the location proposed for the Federal Courthouse, and therefore construction of the Courthouse will not have a direct effect on City Hall.

The proposed project will have an indirect effect on this resource; however, this effect is not anticipated to be adverse. The current character of the surrounding buildings is commercial and institutional, and all of the surrounding buildings are less than 50 years of age. The proposed project is in keeping with the character of the surrounding area, and while the proposed courthouse will have a visual effect from the northwest and northeast elevations of the Charlotte City Hall building, the effect is anticipated to be congruent with the current visual, structural and social context of the existing buildings, and is not expected to diminish the historic integrity of the Charlotte City Hall building in the areas of location, setting, feeling, association, design, material or workmanship. Therefore, no adverse effect to the locally designated and NRHP-eligible Charlotte City Hall will occur as a result of the proposed construction of the Federal Courthouse on this location and no mitigation efforts should be required.

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APPENDIX A

NC SURVEY FORM FOR CHARLOTTE CITY HALL, AND 1980 SURVEY
REPORT PREPARED BY THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HISTORIC
PROPERTIES COMMISSION

County MECKLENBURG

NORTH CAROLINA HISTORIC STRUCTURE SHORT DATA SHEET

READ and USE the instruction manual to complete this form. Fill it out as completely and consistently as possible. PLEASE NOTE: not all variables are provided for each question and reference to the instruction manual will be necessary. In all cases: 0 or 00 denotes an undetermined or not applicable response 9 or 99 denotes a variable other than those provided

SURVEY SITE NUMBER _____ (To be filled in by S & P Branch unless otherwise specified)

1. SITE NAME: CHARLOTTE CITY HALL

3. ABBREVIATED LOCATION DESCRIPTION OR STREET ADDRESS: 600 E. TRADE ST., CHARLOTTE

4. NEAREST TOWN/COMMUNITY: CHARLOTTE

5. COUNTY: M K 6. DATE RECORDED IN FIELD: MONTH 04 DAY 10 YEAR 06

7. FIELD RECORDER(S): CHRISTINA OLSON

8. TAX PARCEL # (PROPERTY ID): 125-021-01 (optional)

10. OWNER NAME: CITY OF CHARLOTTE

11. OWNER ADDRESS: 600 E. TRADE ST.
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

Telephone: 704.374.2241

13. USE: Original Primary: 0907 Other: _____
Present Primary: 0903 Other: _____

Resid: Farm 0101	Resid: Non-Farm 0102	Farm Bldg 0201	School 0301	Office 0401	Bank 0402	General Retail Store 0501	Industrial 0601-0614
Transportation 0801-0831	Post Office 0902	Church 1001	Clubhs/Lodge 1501	Museum 1701	Cemetery 1802	Unoccupied 2001	

14. CONDITION: 2 Excellent 1 Good 2 Fair 3 Deteriorated 4 Ruin 5 Unexposed 6

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

19. EXPRESSION: Exterior 1 Interior 1 High/Academic 1 National/Popular 2 Regional/Vernacular 3

21. GENERAL STYLE GROUPS: Exterior: First 21 Second ___ Third ___
Interior: First 21 Second ___ Third ___

Geo 01	Geo/Fed 02	Fed 03	Fed/Gk Rev 04	Gk Rev 05	Italianate 06	Goth Rev 07	19-20c Trad/Vern 09	Queen Anne 11
Neoclas Rev 12	Col Rev 13	Misc Vic 15	Standard Com/Indust 16	Beaux-Arts 21	Tudor Rev 22	Bungalow 25	Art Deco 26	
Ranch 35	Cape Cod 38	Period Cottage 39	Minimal Traditional 40	Craftsman 41	Four-Square 44	Rustic Revival 45		

22. PLAN (DOMESTIC): 00 Other: _____
One Room 01 Hall & Parlor 02 Other 2 Room 03 Side Hall 06 Center Hall 07 Irregular 14 Square 17 Shotgun 18

23. COMMON NON-DOMESTIC PLANS & TYPES: 00 Other: _____
Churches: 1-Rm, Undefined Meeting House Nave Cruciform Auditorium Plan Akron Plan **Barns:** English
 01 02 03 04 05 06 07
 1-Crib 2-Crib 4-Crib Transverse Bank Gambrel **Schools:** 1-Room 2-6-Room Corridor Plan
 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

24. HEIGHT: 6 Other: _____
 1-story 1-story, Hab Attic 1-1/2-story 2-story 2-story, Hab Attic 2-1/2-story 3-story
 1 A 2 3 B 4 5
 3-story, Hab Attic 3-1/2-story 4 or more, Not skyscraper Skyscraper
 C 6 7 8

25. FACADE WIDTH (Main Block): 6 1-Bay 2-Bay 3-Bay 4-Bay 5-Bay 6 or More Bay
 1 2 3 4 5 6
 PTH: 3 1-Room/Single Pile 2-Room/Double Pile 3- or More Rooms
 1 2 3
 EXTENSIONS & ADDITIONS: A 0 B ___ Other: _____
 Rear Shed Rear Ell Side(s) Front Add'l Stories Orig Strt Incorp w/New Rear Other Front Ell Front Shed
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A

26. CONSTRUCTION: Primary 08 Secondary 13 Other: _____
 Log Plank Timber Frame Light Nailed Frame Load-Bearing Masonry Steel Frame Reinf Concrete
 01 02 03 05 07 08 09
 Frame Cnst, Type Unk Masonry Walls, Type Unk Brick Veneer Over Frame Cnst Boxed
 12 13 14 15

27. NOTCHING TYPE (Log and Plank): 0 Other: _____
 Full Dovetail Half Dovetail V Diamond Square Saddle
 1 2 3 4 5 6
 EXTERIOR WALL MATERIALS: Primary 34 Secondary ___ Other: _____
 Thin Weatherboard Molded/Beaded Weatherboard Brick, Common Bond Brick, Flemish Bond
 01 02 06 07
 Brick Veneer Brick, Stretcher Bond Stucco Board & Batten Stone Veneer
 10 11 13 33 36

31. NOTABLE EXTERIOR FEATURES (Non-Domestic Bldgs): 00 ___ ___
 Dec Brickwork Orig Shopfront Iron/Metal Shopfront Orig Signs Carrara Glass Glass/Metal Terra Cotta
 01 02 03 04 05 07 08
 Other: _____

32. ROOF CONFIGURATION: Primary 19 Secondary ___ Other: _____
 Gable Sides Gable Front Ped Gable Triple A "X" Gable Parapet Gable High Hip Low Hip
 01 02 03 04 05 07 09 10
 Pyramidal Gambrel Mansard Shed Flat
 14 15 16 17 19
 CODE AS SECONDARY: Belfry Steeple Cupola/Lantern Belvedere Clock Tower Widow's Walk Tower/Turret
 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

FOR STRUCTURES WITHOUT A SIGNIFICANT PORCH, GO TO #41.

34. PORCH(ES) STATUS: A 0 B ___ Original Altered Not Original Reconstruction Removed/Fallen
 1 2 3 5 6

35. PORCH TYPE: A 0 B ___ Other: _____
 Engaged Attached Recessed Stoop
 1 2 3 4

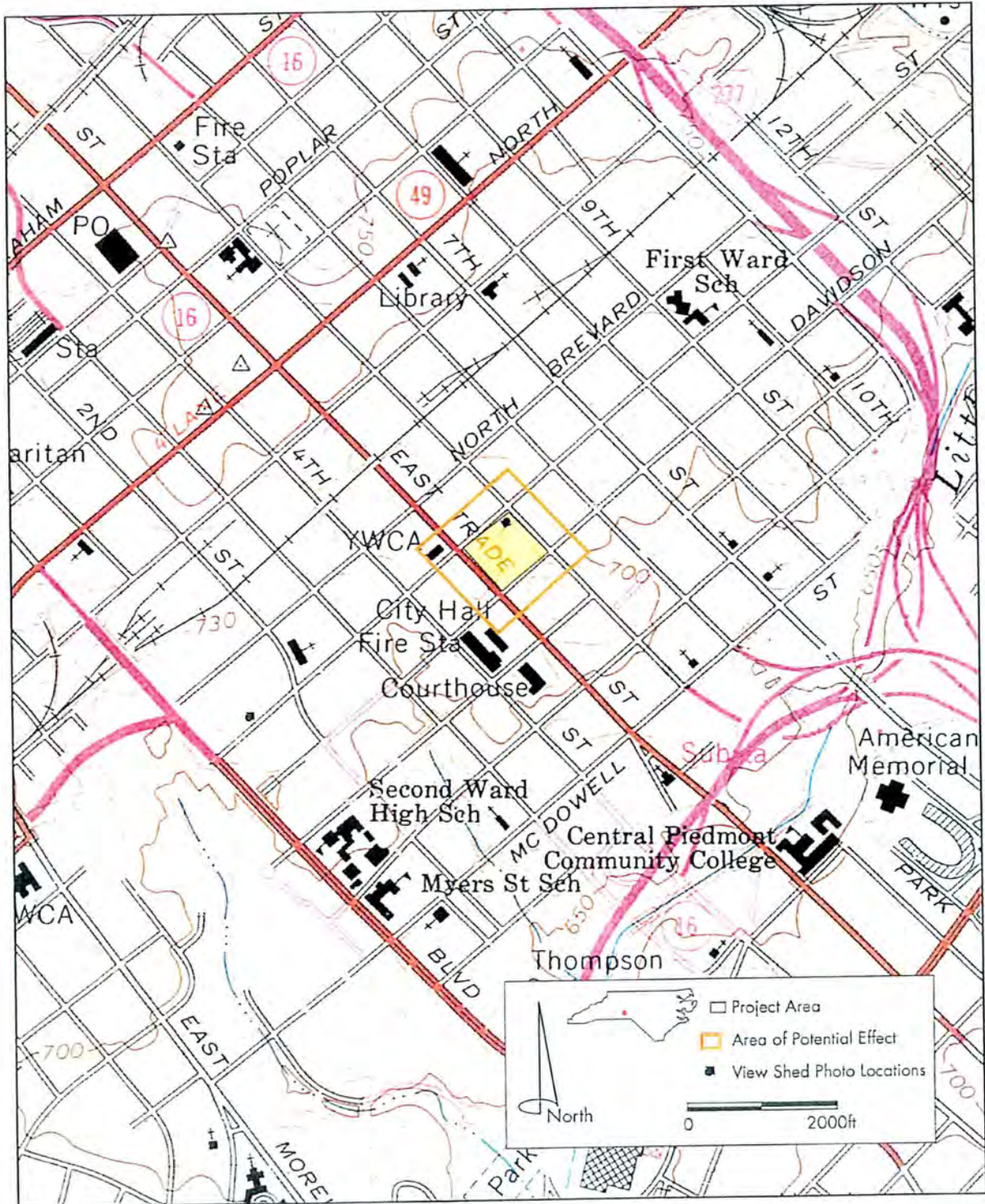
39. PORCH FEATURES: A 0 B ___ C ___ D ___ Other: _____
 Chamfered Posts Turned Posts Sawn Work/Turned Ornament Classical Flush Sheathing on Facade
 1 2 3 4 5
 Enclosed End Bay(s) Porte Cochere Square Posts Metal Supports Bungaloid Porch stair to 2nd Floor
 6 7 8 A B C

FOR STRUCTURES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT CHIMNEYS, GO TO #46

REQUIRED PLAN OR SKETCH MAP OF SITE (Indicate roadways by name and label other major topographical features).

•
SEE ATTACHED

Figure 1
Project Area and APE Location



Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Charlotte East



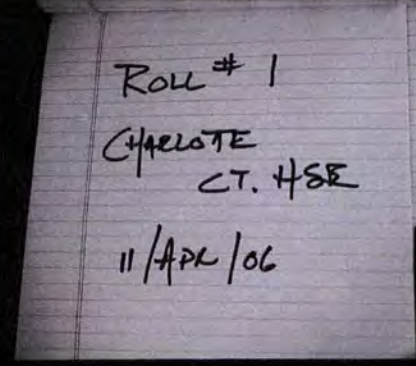
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CHARLOTTE CITY HALL
600 E. TRADE ST.
CHARLOTTE, MECKLENBURG, NC

C. OLSON, NSA

11/APR/2006

S. OBLIQUE

MILITARY MEMORIAL STATUE
SIV LAWN, CHARLOTTE CITY HALL
600 E. TRADE ST.
CHARLOTTE

MECKLENBURG CO.

C. OLSON, NSA

11/APR/2006

S. FACE

CHARLOTTE CITY HALL
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PAYMENT WINDOW

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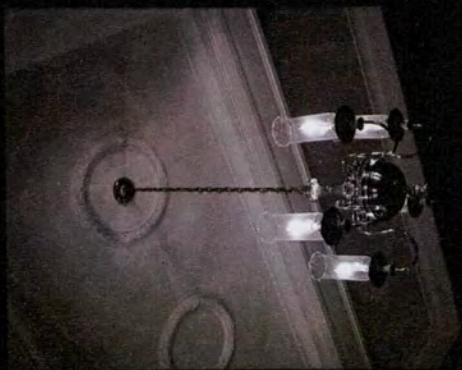
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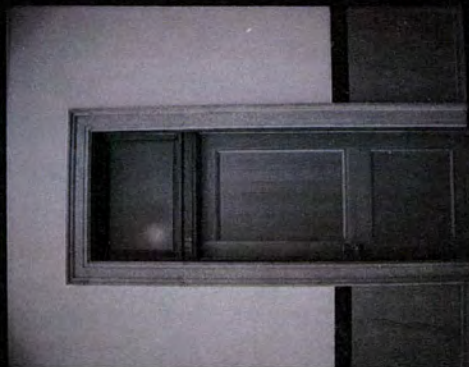
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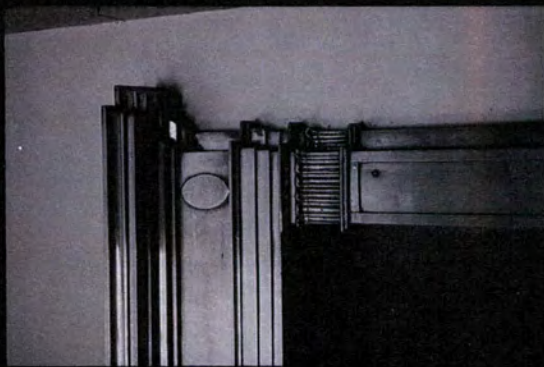
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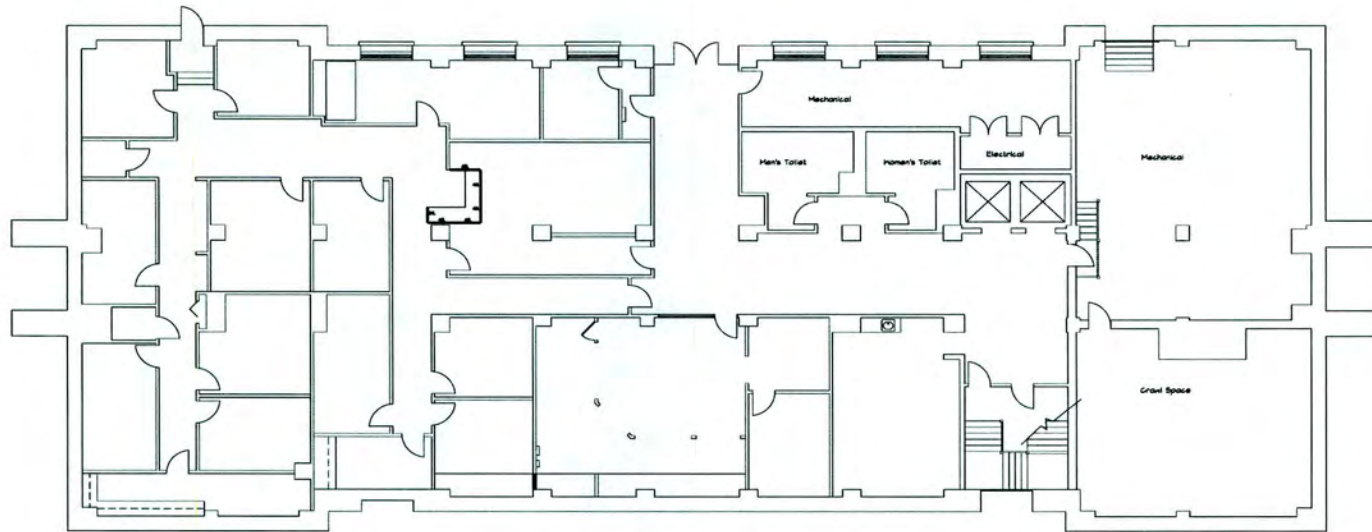
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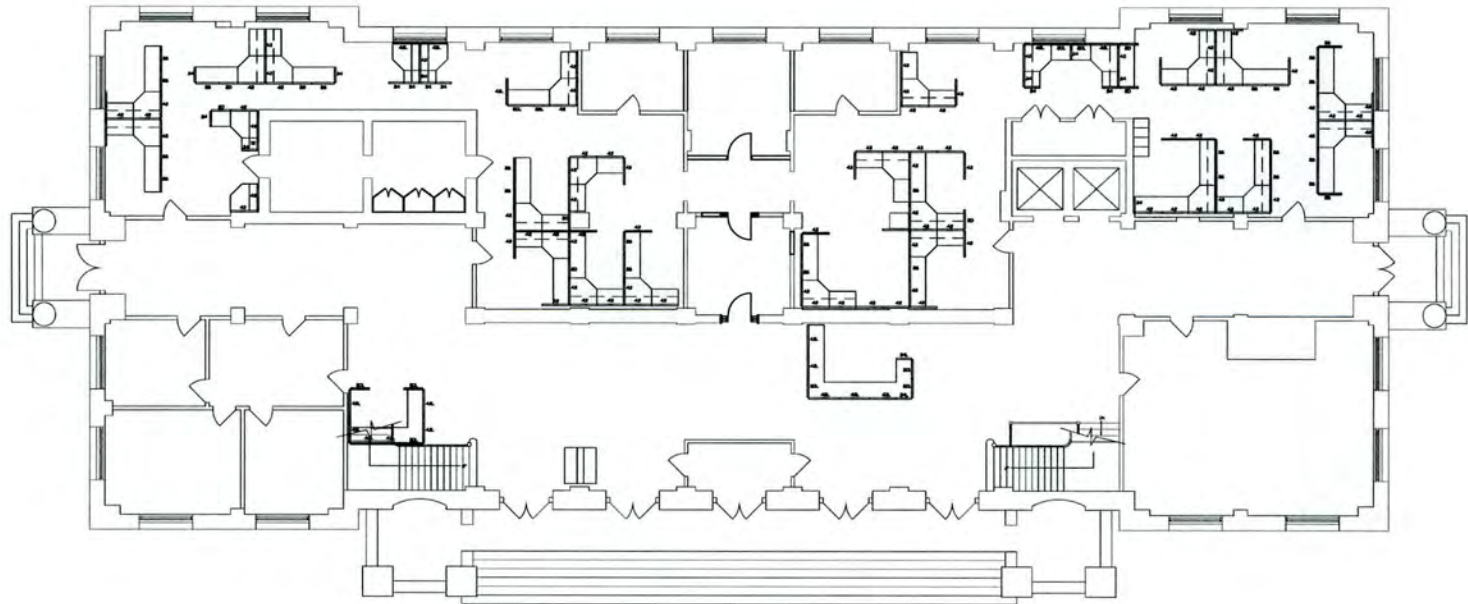
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INTERIOR, WINDOW

CHARLOTTE CITY HALL
600 E. TRADE ST.
CHARLOTTE
MECKLENBURG CO.
C. OLSON, NSA
11/APR/2006
INTERIOR, WINDOW





ARCHITECTURE • INTERIOR DESIGN
118 East Kingston Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203
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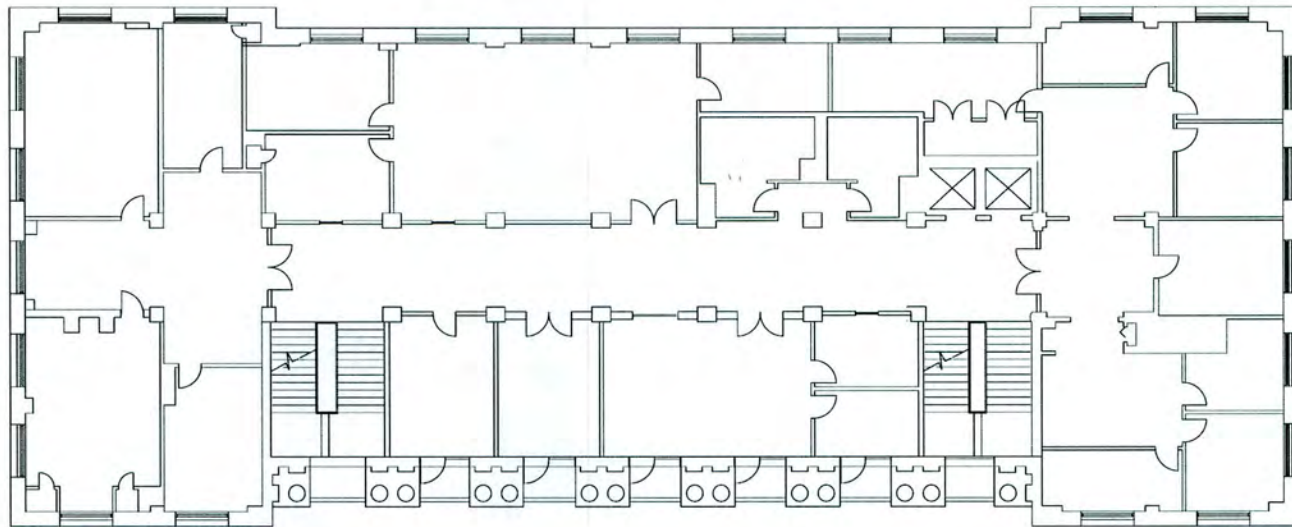
OLD CITY HALL
FIRST FLOOR FLOOR PLAN
DECEMBER 2004

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

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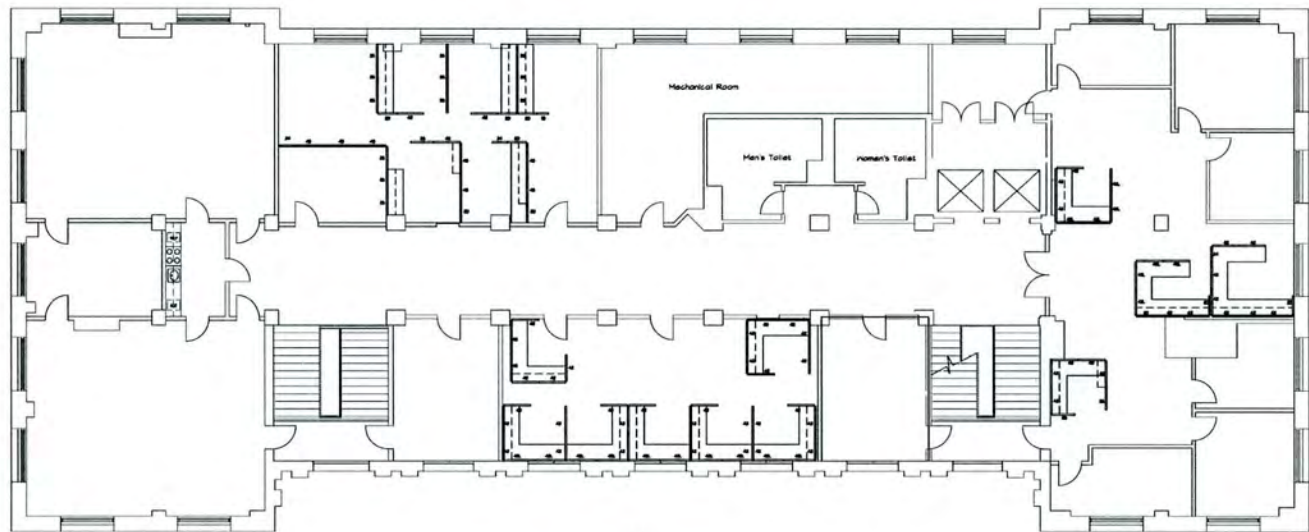
OLD CITY HALL
SECOND FLOOR FLOOR PLAN
DECEMBER 2004

SCALE: 1/16" = 1' - 0"

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DATE: 12/21/04



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**OLD CITY HALL
THIRD FLOOR PLAN
DECEMBER 2004**

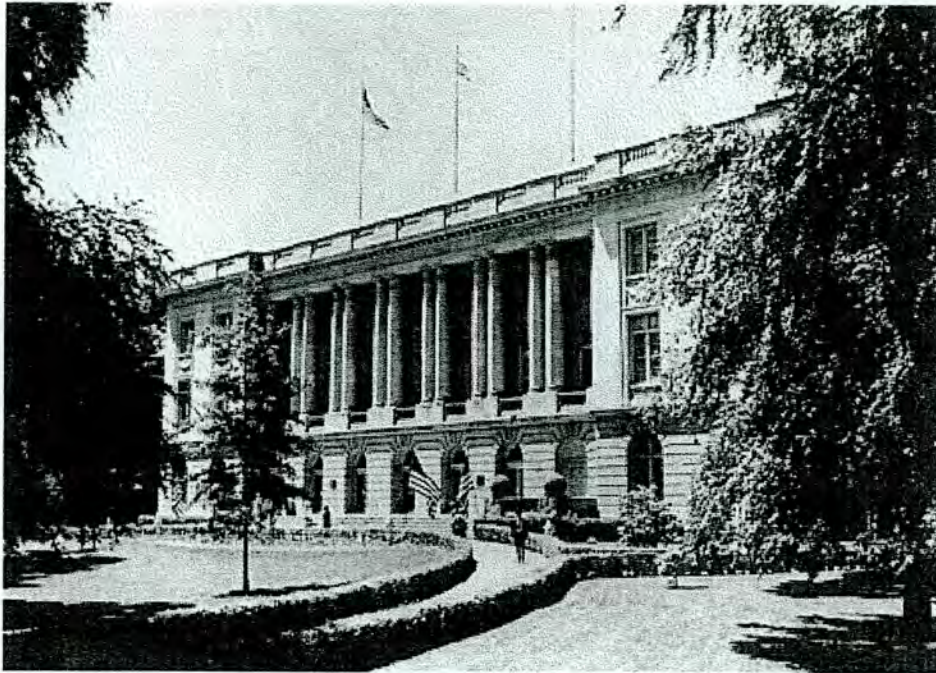
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

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12/21/04



Charlotte City Hall



This report was written on Feb. 6, 1980

1. Name, and location of the property: The property known as the Charlotte City Hall is located at 600 East Trade St. in Charlotte, N.C.

2. Name, address and telephone number of the present owner and occupant of the property: The present owner and occupant of the property is:

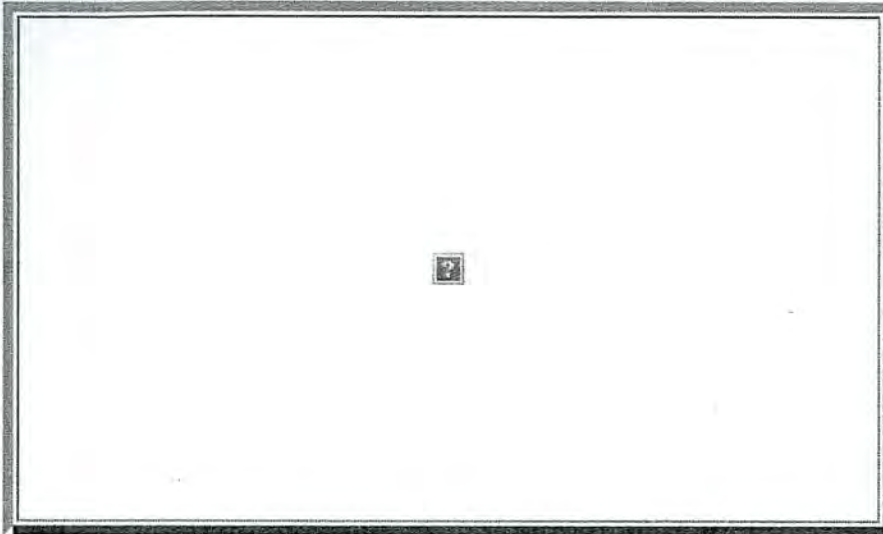
City of Charlotte
600 E. Trade St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Telephone: 374-2241

3. Representative photographs of the property: This report contains representative

photographs of the property.

4. A map depicting the location of the property: This report contains a map which depicts the location of the property.



Click on the map to browse

5. Current Deed Book Reference to the property: The current deed to this property is re-corded in Mecklenburg County Deed Book 547, Page 265. The Tax Parcel Number of the property is 125-021-01.

6. A brief historical sketch of the property:

In 1891, Charlotte erected an imposing city hall at the corner of N. Tryon and Fifth Sts. Designed by Gottfrid L. Norrman (1846-1909), the building housed all city services, including the police department and the fire department. ¹ By the early 1920s, Charlotte had outgrown this facility. Consequently, James Oscar Walker (1879-1947), who was elected Mayor on May 3, 1921, advocated the construction of a new municipal complex. The City purchased an entire block on East Ave, now E. Trade St., in the midst of what was then a fashionable residential area. ² Interestingly, the *Charlotte Observer* proposed that the Board of County Commissioners sell the courthouse, situated on S. Tryon St., and join with the City in erecting a single structure on this location. Happily for Mayor Walker, who did not favor this proposition, the citizens rejected the idea of a joint facility at the polls on July 28, 1923. ³

On January 26, 1924, City Council authorized Mayor Walker to negotiate a contract with Charles Christian Hook (1870-1938) to design the new city hall. ⁴ A native of Wheeling, W. Va., and graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., Hook was the first architect who lived in Charlotte. He moved here in 1891 to teach mechanical drawing in the Charlotte Graded School, which stood at the corner of

South Blvd. and E. Morehead St. By 1892, he was designing structures for the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, the developers of Dilworth.⁵ C. C. Hook occupied a place of pivotal importance in the evolution of the built environment of Charlotte, N.C. Indeed, he introduced the Colonial Revival style in this community and, consequently, established the aesthetic norm which dominated the architecture of the affluent suburbs of Charlotte.⁶ The Charlotte City Hall is the most imposing public building of this genre which Hook designed.

The complex consisted of four structures. An administrative building, commonly known as the City Hall, was placed in the middle of the block, thereby allowing for future expansion. A fire station, a police station and public health building were constructed along the southern edge of the property. Governmental agencies occupied the new facilities on October 30, 1925, and the initial meeting of City Council occurred there on November 1, 1925.⁷ The J. A. Jones Construction Co. erected the four structures.⁸ Mayor Walker had resigned on December 4, 1924, so that he might devote his energies more fully to the management of an automobile dealership which he owned in Columbia, S.C. The *Charlotte News* was expansive in its praise of Mayor Walker, stating that he was a man "gifted with a disposition that makes for affability." The newspaper went on to explain, however, that Mayor Walker had his share of detractors. "His have been accomplishing administrations, and, of course, as is always the case, progress and progressive policies bring about disaffections and cause sore toes," the article explained.⁹

Unquestionably, the decision to transfer municipal headquarters from N. Tryon St. to the residential district on E. Trade St., was of pivotal importance in terms of the physical history of this city. In addition to its symbolic significance, the placement of City Hall at this new location set into motion a series of forces which eroded the viability of the surrounding neighborhood. Noteworthy in this regard is the fact that the Board of County Commissioners did dedicate a new courthouse on an adjacent parcel on March 10, 1928.¹⁰ City Council selected the site on E. Trade St. for the City Hall because it was, "one of the most beautiful wooded areas of the city wooded in the city."¹¹

Notes:

¹ Henry F. Withey & Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., Los Angeles, 1970). p. 444.

² *Charlotte Observer* (May 4, 1921), p. 1. *The Charlotte News* (February 10, 1924), pp. 1 & 5. *The Charlotte News* (October 31, 1947), pp. 1A & 12A. *Charlotte Observer* (November 1, 1947), pp. 1 & 3. Mecklenburg County Deed Book 547, p. 265.

³ Jack O. Boyte and Dr. Dan L. Morrill, "Survey and Research Report on the

Mecklenburg County Courthouse" (a report prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission) April 5, 1977.

⁴ City Council Minute Book 17, Page 357.

⁵ *The Charlotte News* (September 17, 1938), p. 12. *Charlotte Observer* (April 3, 1892), p. 4. George Welch, a resident of Charlotte, did design several structures in the city in the 1870s, including Second Presbyterian Church, the opera house and the jail. Apparently, Welch was not a professional architect (*The Charlotte News* (April 15, 1901), p. 1.).

⁶ *Charlotte Observer* (Sept. 19, 1894), p. 4.

⁷ City Council Minute Book 179 p. 508. City Council Minute Book 18, p. 295.

⁸ *Charlotte Observer* (July 10, 1924), p. 6. *Charlotte Observer* (Nov. 1, 1925), sec. E., p. 5. J. A. Jones, a native of Randolph County, N.C., moved to Charlotte in the spring of 1888.

⁹ City Council Minute Book 18, p. 57. *The Charlotte News* (December 5, 1924), p. 4.

¹⁰ Jack O. Boyte and Dr. Dan L. Morrill, "Survey and Research Report on the Mecklenburg County Courthouse" (a report prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission) April 5, 1977.

¹¹ *The Charlotte News* (February 10, 1924), pp. 1 & 5.

7. A brief architectural description of the property: This report contains an architectural description of the property prepared by Caroline Mesrobian, architectural historian.

8. Documentation of why and in what ways the property meets the criteria set forth in N. C. G. S. 160A-399.4:

a. Special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and/or cultural importance: The Commission judges that the property known as the Charlotte City Hall does possess special significance in terms of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The Commission bases its judgment on the following considerations: 1) the structure has served as the seat of municipal government for approximately fifty-five years and is, therefore, the symbolic landmark of Charlotte's governmental agencies; 2) it is one of the finest local examples of the beaux-arts Classicism style; and 3) it was designed by Charles Christian Hook, Charlotte's first resident architect and an architect of regional importance.

b. Integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and/or association: The Commission judges that the architectural description included herein demonstrates that the property known as the Charlotte

City Hall meets this criterion.

9. Ad Valorem Tax Appraisal: The Commission is aware that designation would allow the owner to apply annually for an automatic deferral of 50% of the Ad Valorem taxes on all or any portion of the property which becomes "historic property." The Ad Valorem Tax appraisal on the 3.290 acres of land is \$787,710. The Ad Valorem Tax appraisal on the improvements is \$1,819,120. The property is exempt from the payment of Ad Valorem Taxes.

Bibliography

Jack O. Boyte and Dr. Dan L. Morrill. "Survey and Research Report on the Mecklenburg County Courthouse" (a report prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission) April 5, 1977.

The Charlotte News.

The Charlotte Observer.

City Council Minute Books 17 and 18.

Gravestones in Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte, N.C.

Records of the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds Office.

Records of the Mecklenburg County Tax Office.

Henry F. Withey & Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., Los Angeles, 1970).

Date of Preparation of this Report: February 6, 1980.

Prepared by: Dr. Dan L. Morrill, Director
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission
3500 Shamrock Dr.
Charlotte, N.C. 28215

Telephone: (704) 332-2726

Architectural Description

Construction of the Charlotte City Hall, located at 600 East Trade Street, was begun in the summer of 1924 after designs by Charles C. Hook. The building was occupied officially on October 29, 1925, during the administration of Mayor H. W. Moore. This municipal building was one of four edifices that were erected simultaneously on the spacious block bounded by East Avenue (East Trade Street) and South Davidson, South Alexander, and Fourth Streets. The other structures were the Fire Department on the southwest corner, the Court Building or Police Department on the southeast corner, and the Health and Welfare Department, it being placed to the rear of the central administration building.

City Hall was placed approximately in the middle of the block facing to the north so that it could be enlarged if needed without increasing the height or resorting to other purchases of land. The land in front of the building was to serve as a park-like setting for the structure as well as a place where the public could assemble for official speeches. Wide curved walkways lead from either side of the grounds to the front of the municipal building and to a massive granite stairway bounded on both sides by balustrades with turned members and ornamental, round, limestone impost blocks.

Hook chose one of the most commonly employed styles for governmental buildings during that period for the design - beaux-arts Classicism. The plan is a rather simple and symmetrical rectangle (166 feet long by 70 feet wide) typical of that style. The building, of steel frame, rises three stories with a basement and an attic space.

The entrance facade is divided into eleven bays with the seven central bays being set-back to provide a break to the otherwise continuous front plane. The first story or ground floor is articulated with rusticated well-dressed ashlar masonry of buff Indiana limestone. It is pierced by eleven symmetrically placed arched openings which have no pronounced keystone. The central, recessed section contains five entranceways, the esplanade being flanked on either side by a blind archway. The two projecting sections each contain two arched windows. Window sills are of white pine painted white. The original wrought iron drill doors to City Hall have been replaced with fireproof glass and steel frame doors, these being most incongruous with the design of the facade.

A pronounced beltcourse and balustrade divide the first story from the second. The second and third stories of the central section of the front facade are joined by colossal, fluted, Corinthian limestone columns which rise from bases in the balustrade. There are six pairs of columns flanked by a single column on either side, all of which have straight bases and standard entasis in the upper sections. The capitals of the monumental order closely resemble those of the Tower of the Winds, Athens, whose capitals are of a plain, unusual type, without volutes, the upper row of leaves resembling those of the palm. The central sections of the second and third stories are set back from the row of columns, each floor being pierced by seven rectangular windows. The bays are divided by paired pilasters flanked by single pilasters, all of which are located directly behind the free standing columns and which bear similar Corinthian capitals. The windows between the two stories are separated by plain paneled blocks. The architrave and frieze are unadorned excepting for roundels placed over each abacus.

The projecting side bays are smooth-walled and contain two rectangular windows on both stories. The spandrels are ornamented with floral swags crowned by rosettes. The cornice contains pronounced dentil work which extends the course of the building; the

balustrade also runs the extent of the edifice's flat roof. Both provide continuity and fluidity to the projecting and receding planes and to the broken rhythm of the columned center section of the facade.

The South Davidson (west) entrance is reached by granite stairs flanked by round limestone impost blocks. The rusticated limestone facade is divided into five bays, the ground floor consisting of four arched windows and a centrally located arched doorway, the door proper not being original to the building. The first story is distinguished from the upper sections by a pronounced beltcourse. Five symmetrically placed rectangular windows pierce the second and third stories; the spandrels are adorned with swags capped with rosettes. The cornice work and balustrade are continuous and unifying features of the building.

The South Alexander (east) facade of City Hall is identical to the west facade.

The land slopes downward on the rear (south) side of the building so that the basement is exposed, it containing the entrance to this facade. This seven-bayed entrance area is shielded by a copper marquise on a steel frame (now painted white). The scheme of the upper three stories of this facade is similar to the front facade. The first story is rusticated and contains a seven-bayed recessed central section with arched windows flanked by two bays containing arched windows. The second and third stories bear no free standing order but are articulated by colossal Corinthian pilasters and symmetrically placed rectangular windows. The projecting double-bayed sections of the facade are pierced by rectangular windows separated by spandrels containing swags and rosettes. Unadorned architrave and frieze, dentil work, and balustrade (closed in the central section) define the uppermost sections of the building.

The lobby, which is entered immediately from the East Trade Street side, runs the length of the central section of the facade. The exterior bays are defined on the interior by exposed ceiling beams which are met by fluted, marble pilasters located both between the arched entrance openings and the service desks directly opposite them. Wide marble staircases located to the sides of the central entrance area rise in two flights with one landing to the second and third floors. A staircase, located under the northwest set, descends to the basement, which housed the central heating plant (now offices also). The lobby continues to each side of the central service area and leads to the two side entrances facing South Davidson and South Alexander Streets.

The lobby, with the exception of the entrance doors, has been kept basically in its original state. The main floor and corridors are finished in pink Tennessee marble. The pilasters, arched door frames capped with ornamental scrolls, and wainscoting on all walls also consist of the light-colored marble. The wainscoting is trimmed with a chair rail and baseboard of verde antique marble the upper sections of the walls being plastered. The staircases, with turned newel posts, duplicate the marble band arrangement on the walls. Handrails are of polished hardwood while the railing is of wrought iron painted a dark green.

Two arched elevators, located in the west corridor, are framed with light-colored marble and capped with scrolls. The segmental pediments are of verde antique marble with round, light-colored marble indicators. The doors themselves are not original.

The four service windows and centrally located doorway (door not original) are

occupied by revenue and accounting departments devoted to the collection of taxes and water and light fees. The large windows are framed by polished copper, fluted pilasters and classical detailing carrying a straight entablature. The desks from which the pilasters rise are of light-colored marble; the baseboards are trimmed with verde antique marble.

The 15'-10" plaster ceiling bays are defined by rectangular panels into which are set the original light fixtures. The cross beams and cornices contain two decorative bands, the lower consisting of a fret motif, the upper of a stylized, foliated scroll pattern. The cross beams also bear an upper band which contains a row of dentil work topped by delicate egg and dart decoration.

The other floors of the building have been altered from their original state and function. Entrances to the upper floors from the staircases are closed with fireproof doors. The 15'-8" second story and 12'-10" third story ceilings have been lowered. Walls are often sheathed in fabric, and the composition floors are carpeted.

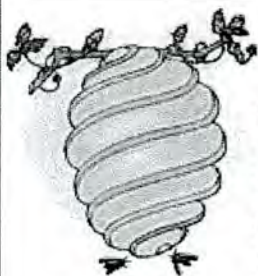
The mayor's office at the northeast corner of the second floor appears to be one of the few offices kept in something of its original state. Its plaster ceiling is intact and is articulated with cross beams and decorative wreaths. The walls are of American black walnut (all other interior wood trimming is of white pine). A fireplace with a central cartouche and floral consoles adorns the south wall of the office.

The second floor also originally housed a Confederate museum located in the north-central section as well as a veterans' assembly room in the northwest corner of the building.

Charlotte City Hall should be protected from further damage and alteration. The exterior of the structure has been well preserved (with the exception of the entrance doors) and is a fine example of a restrained and elegant use of beaux-arts Classicism. Its grounds should also be preserved as they greatly compliment and provide a park-like setting for the building. The first floor lobby with its rich marble textures and colors, the classical pilasters, ornamented cross beams and the copper-framed service windows should also be preserved.

For more information...

Essays: Charlotte City Hall



The Hornet's Nest is the symbol of Mecklenburg County. In 1780 the British army occupied Charlotte and its environs. They called Mecklenburg County a "Hornet's Nest" of rebellion because of the opposition to British rule among the local Scots-Irish settlers. It is also the symbol of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission.