



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

February 28, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Historic Structures Survey Report, Widen US 64 from US 64 Business west of Hayesville to NC 141, PA 18-04-0019, R-5863, Clay County, ER 18-4173

Thank you for your February 7, 2019, letter providing additional information about the Truett Memorial First Baptist Church (CY0060), located in the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the above-referenced undertaking. Having reviewed the materials submitted, we concur that the church is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to the large addition and the installation of a basketball court in the former sanctuary.

We also agree that the only historic property within the APE is the former Clay County Courthouse (CY0001), which occupies the courthouse square, and is National Register-listed and remains National Register-eligible.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

February 7, 2019

**ER 18-4173**

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley  
Environmental Review Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office  
North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources  
4617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Due -- 2/22/19

Dear Renee:

RE: Historic Structures Survey Report, Widen US 64 from US 64 Business west of Hayesville to NC 141, Clay County, TIP R-5863, PA 18-04-0019, ER 18-4173

H- ALM  
2/19/19  
2 letters  
RSE  
2/23/19

Thank you for your January 24, 2019 memorandum concerning the report referenced above. As a part of your review your office did not concur with the recommendation of our surveyor that the Truett Memorial First Baptist Church (CY0060) was not eligible for listing in the National Register. Subsequently, I conferred with Annie McDonald of your Western NC office and I contacted the church for information and interior photographs of the 1950 sanctuary. According to church staff after completion of the 1998 sanctuary the interior of the original structure was refurbished to accommodate their youth programs. The original characteristics of the temple front church have been compromised with the removal of the seating, aisle plan, altar, and pulpit. The balcony appears to remain intact, but the vestibule has been altered with the addition of a kitchen and serving bar. The wooden floors have been refinished and the stained-glass windows remain behind new plexiglass, but the installation of a basketball hoop at the center of the balcony wall and replacement of the original fixtures with fluorescent lights denotes that the current use within the space is more active than that of the original congregants. Images of this interior provided by the church are attached for your consideration. While the exterior of Truett Memorial First Baptist Church is a good example of a mid-century Neoclassical Revival church, the large 1998 addition to the west elevation and the fact that the interior does not retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship or feeling, preclude its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

In summary, at this time, our offices agree that the APE contains one property listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Clay County Courthouse (CY0001). We ask that you review the additional information on Truett Memorial First Baptist Church and provide your comments on our assessment. Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Team

Images of Truett Memorial First Baptist Church, interior of 1950 sanctuary as of February 2019







