



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

August 19, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kate Husband
Office of Human Environment
NCDOT Division of Highways

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

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, R-5772, Upgrade SR 1001 from US 421 to NC 268,
PA 19-02-0016, Wilkes County, ER 19-2317

Thank you for your July 15, 2019, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the following properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454)** is eligible under Criterion C as an excellent and highly intact example of a Neoclassical-style dwelling from the mid-20th century. Although the consultant was not permitted access to the interior, the exterior displays a remarkably high degree of architectural integrity, and, in this case, it is appropriate to err on the side of eligibility. The boundaries as illustrated on page 106 appear appropriate
- **James Calloway Harris House (WK0455)** is eligible under Criterion C as an excellent and intact example of a Craftsman-style bungalow in Wilkesboro. While the consultant was not permitted access to the interior of the dwelling, the exterior displays a remarkably high degree of architectural integrity and, in this case, it is appropriate to err on the side of eligibility. Enough evidence has been provided to substantiate a claim for eligibility under Criterion A for its African American heritage association. Due to the Harris family's work in the construction field, that this association is adequately covered under Criterion C. The boundaries as illustrated on page 121 of the report appear appropriate.

We concur that the following properties are not eligible for listing in the National Register for the reasons outlined in the report.

- Carrigan House (WK0012)
- East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450)
- 300 East Main Street Commercial Block (WK0451-0453)

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. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, mfurr@ncdot.gov

Received: 07/23/2019

State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

ER 19-2317

July 15, 2019

Due -- 8/14/19

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

H- 2 letters
8/7/19 page

FROM: Kate Husband
Architectural Historian
NCDOT Division of Highways

SUBJECT: R-5772 Upgrade SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road) from US 421 to NC 268
(East Main Street), PA 19-02-0016, Wilkes County

Enclosed please find the Historic Structures Survey Report, survey site database, and additional materials for the above referenced project for your review and comment per 36CRF.800. Please contact me by phone (919-707-6075) or email (klhusband@ncdot.gov) if you have any additional questions or comments.

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Location:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE RD
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Historic Structures Survey Report
TIP No. R-5772, WBS No. 44692.1.1, PA No. 19-02-0016
Upgrade SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road)
from US 421 to NC 268 (East Main Street)
Wilkes County, North Carolina
S&ME Project No. 4213-19-107

PREPARED FOR:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598**

PREPARED BY:

**S&ME, Inc.
620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

July 2019



**Historic Structures Survey Report
TIP No. R-5772
Upgrade SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road)
from US 421 to NC 268 (East Main Street)
Wilkes County, North Carolina**

**FINAL REPORT
WBS No. 44692.1.1, PA No. 19-02-0016**

Prepared for:

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:

S&ME, Inc.
620 Wando Park Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

S&ME Project No. 4213-19-107

Heather J. Carpini

July 5, 2019

Heather Carpini, M.A.
Principal Investigator, S&ME, Inc.

Date

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

Date

July 2019



Management Summary

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), S&ME, Inc. (S&ME) has completed a historic architectural analysis of six individual resources and one potential historic district located within the project area for upgrades to SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road) from US 421 to NC 268 (East Main Street), within the boundaries of the town of Wilkesboro, in Wilkes County (TIP No. R-5772, WBS No. 44692.1.1, PA No. 19-02-0016) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

This project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/United States Forest Service (USFS) 2015). An NCDOT architectural historian established an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project, which extends 200 feet from either end of the proposed 1.4-mile project length and 200 feet to either side of the existing centerline to encompass anticipated construction activities, and conducted a preliminary assessment to identify resources of approximately fifty years of age or more within the APE. One previously recorded structure, the Carrigan House (WK0012), one potential historic district (WK0450) located along East Main Street, east of its intersection with Oakwoods Road, and five previously unrecorded structures (WK0451, WK0452, WK0453, WK0454, and WK0455) warranted an intensive National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation and are the subject of this report. NCDOT Architectural Historians determined that other properties and districts are not worthy of further study and evaluation due to lack of historical significance and/or integrity.

In May 2019, S&ME conducted a historic architectural analysis and eligibility evaluation on the above referenced properties (Table 1.1). Fieldwork revealed that the Carrigan House (WK0012) is no longer extant. S&ME recommends the Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), a late-1950s Neoclassical residence, as eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for its architecture, and the James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), a circa 1910 Craftsman residence that was owned by well-known African-American craftsman James C. Harris, under Criterion A, for its association with the African-American community in the Wilkesboro area and under Criterion C, for its architecture. The remaining resources, the East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450) and the 300 East Main Commercial Block (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453), are recommended as ineligible for the NRHP because of integrity issues.

Table 1.1. Summary of property surveyed in the R-5772 project area.

Property Name	NC-HPO Survey Site No.	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Carrigan House	WK0012	No Longer Extant	N/A
East Wilkesboro Historic District	WK0450	Not Eligible	N/A
300 East Main Commercial Block	WK0451, WK0452, WK0453	Not Eligible	N/A
Julius A. Rousseau House	WK0454	Eligible	C
James Calloway Harris House	WK0455	Eligible	A and C



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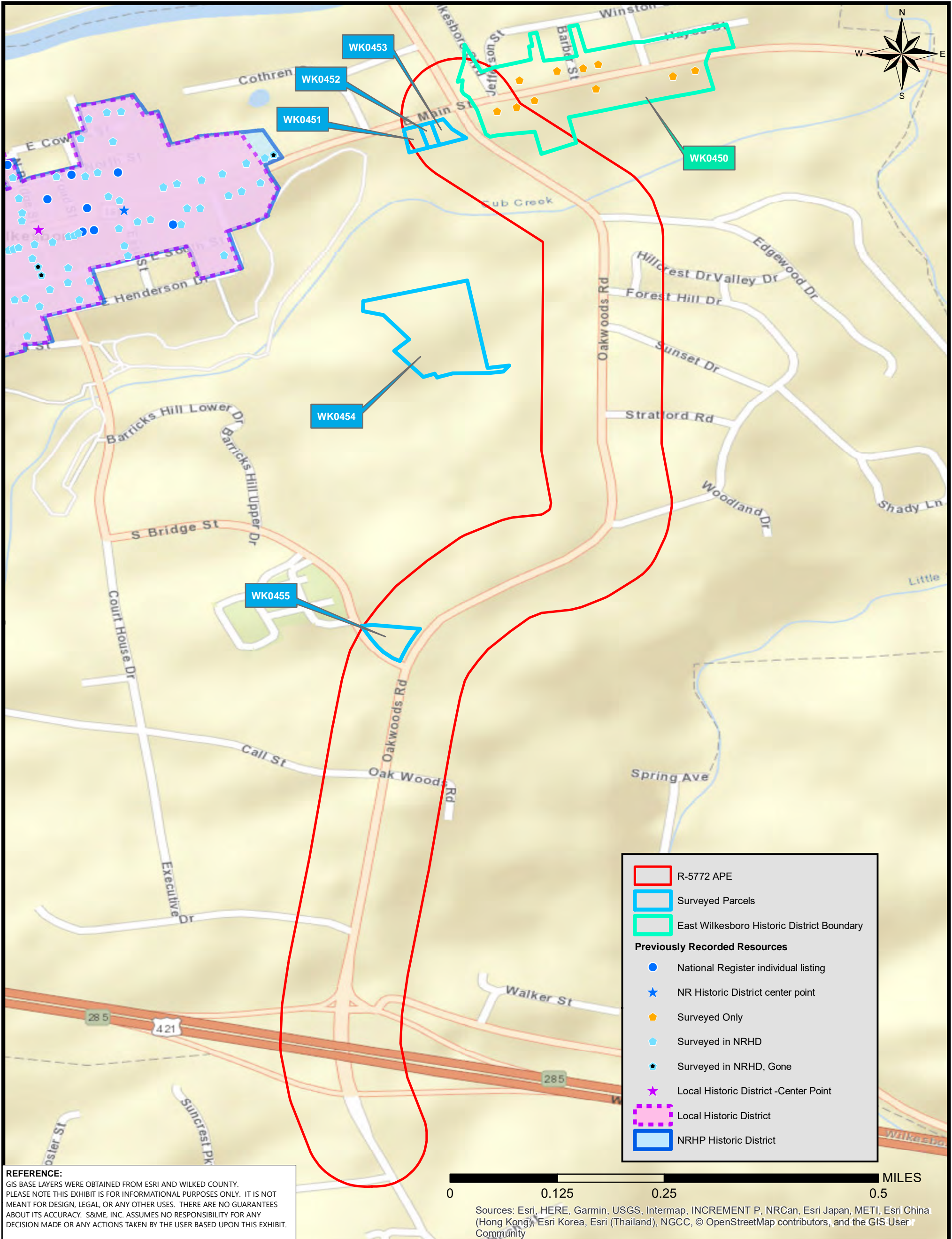
1.0 Introduction (Methodology)

On behalf of the NCDOT, S&ME completed a historic architectural analysis of six individual resources and one potential historic district located within the project area for upgrades to SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road) from US 421 to NC 268 (East Main Street), within the boundaries of the town of Wilkesboro, in Wilkes County (TIP No. R-5772, WBS No. 44692.1.1, PA No. 19-02-0016) (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). Work was completed under Limited Services Contract Number 7000019086, dated February 5, 2019, and conducted in general accordance with the agreed-upon scope, terms, and conditions presented in Proposals No. 42-1800497, dated May 10, 2018, and 42-1801244 Rev. 1, dated January 28, 2019, and Purchase Order Number 6300057976, dated February 18, 2019.

NCDOT architectural historians established an APE for the project, which extends 200 feet from either end of the proposed 1.4-mile project length and 200 feet to either side of the existing and proposed centerlines to encompass anticipated construction activities. NCDOT identified one previously recorded resource, the Carrigan House (WK0012), one potential historic district (WK0450) along East Main Street, east of its intersection with Oakwoods Road, and five previously unrecorded structures (WK0451, WK0452, WK0453, WK0454, WK0455) within the APE that warranted further evaluation to determine its NRHP eligibility. No other properties and districts within the APE are worthy of further study and evaluation due to the lack of historical significance and/or integrity. The project is subject to review under the Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects (NCDOT/NC-HPO/FHWA/USFS 2015).

The historic architectural analysis included surveying, analyzing, and evaluating the historic property according to NRHP criteria. Fieldwork for the project was conducted in May 2019, by Senior Architectural Historian Heather L. Carpini, who completed photography, mapping, research, and authored the report. Research was conducted at the Wilkes County Register of Deeds and at the Wilkes County Public Library. Additional information was compiled from survey records of the NC-HPO survey files and additional research was conducted using online federal census data, historic maps, and other county records.

This report has been prepared in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended; the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1979; the Department of Transportation regulations and procedures (23 CRF 771 and Technical Advisory T 6640.8A); procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR Part 800); 36 CFR Parts 60 through 79, as appropriate; NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Report Products* (2015); and NC-HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (2015).



REFERENCE:
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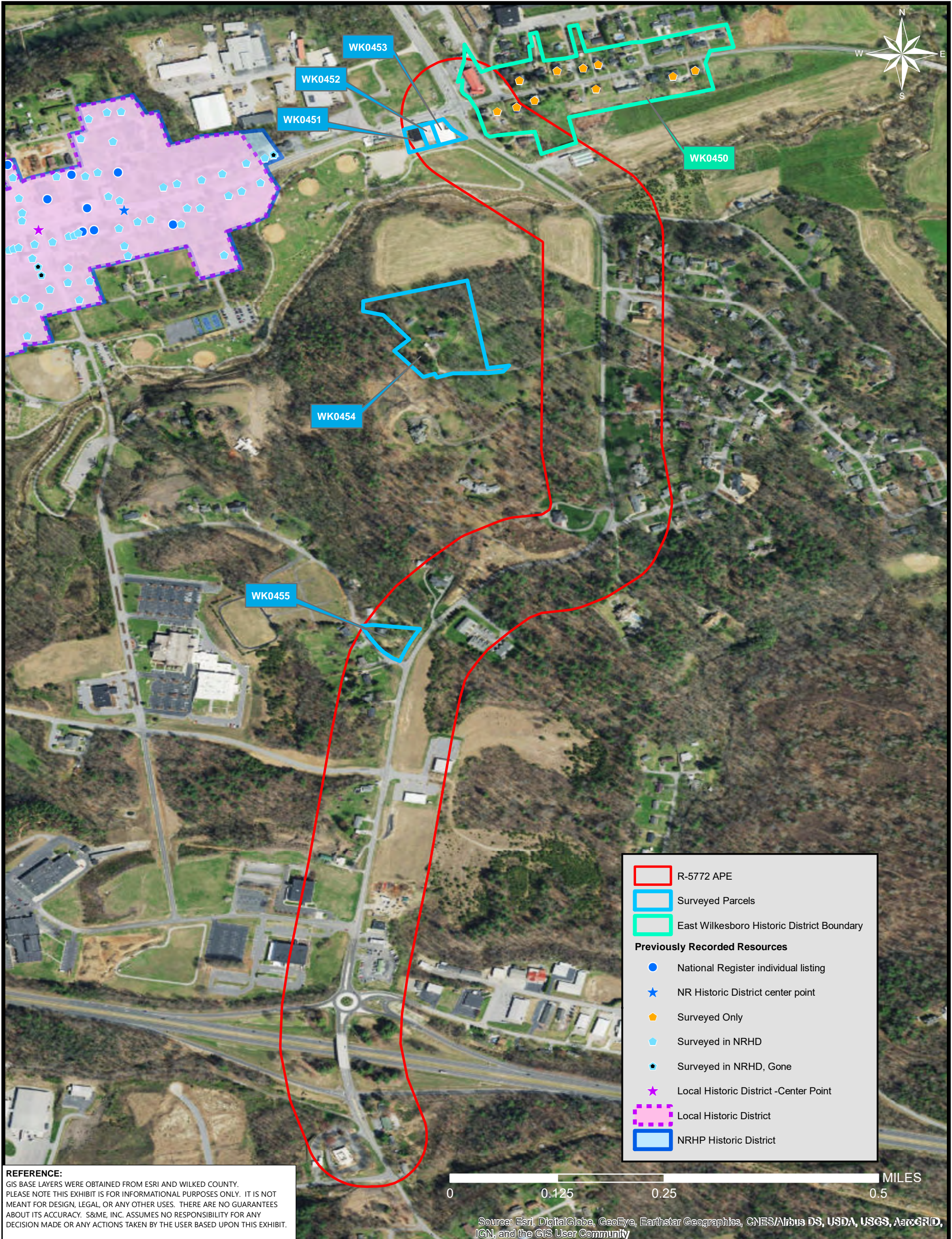
SCALE: 1 inch = 556 feet
 DATE: 6/10/2019
 DRAWN BY: HLC
 PROJECT NO:
 4213-19-107



Street Map
 R-5772 - APE and Surveyed Properties
 Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, North Carolina

EXHIBIT
 NO.
1.1

Drawing Path: J:\GIS\R-5772\Figure 1-1 - Street.mxd plotted by H.Carpini 06-10-2019



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Aerial Map

R-5772 - APE and Surveyed Properties

Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, North Carolina

EXHIBIT
NO.
1.2

Drawing Path: J:\GIS\R-5772\Figure 1-2 - Aerial.mxd plotted by HCaripini 06-10-2019

2.0 Eligibility Evaluation

2.1 Carrigan House – WK0012

Resource Name	Carrigan House
HPO Survey Site #	WK0012
Street Address	405 East Main Street
PIN	3868-60-9355
Construction Date(s)	Circa 1900
NRHP Recommendation	No Longer Extant



Figure 2.1.1. Location of the Carrigan House (WK0012), facing south.

The Carrigan House (WK0012) was recorded during the architectural survey of Wilkesboro in 1979; it is identified as being located at 405 East Main Street, east of the intersection of East Main Street and Oakwoods Road (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The survey files show a one and one-half story house with a vernacular form and Victorian detailing. The house, which had a steep pyramidal roof with front and side projecting gables and a hip-roofed dormer, was dated to around 1900. At the time it was the residence of Ida Carrigan. Fieldwork determined that the Carrigan House (WK0012) is no longer extant (Figure 2.1.1). Information in Wilkes County Tax records indicates that the house was damaged by fire in 2015 and demolished (Figure 2.1.2). A modern metal carport, which currently stands on the parcel, was built in 2017 (Figure 2.1.3).



Figure 2.1.2. Wilkes County Tax Assessor photograph, 2015.



Figure 2.1.3. Metal garage located on Carrigan House (WK0012) parcel, facing south.



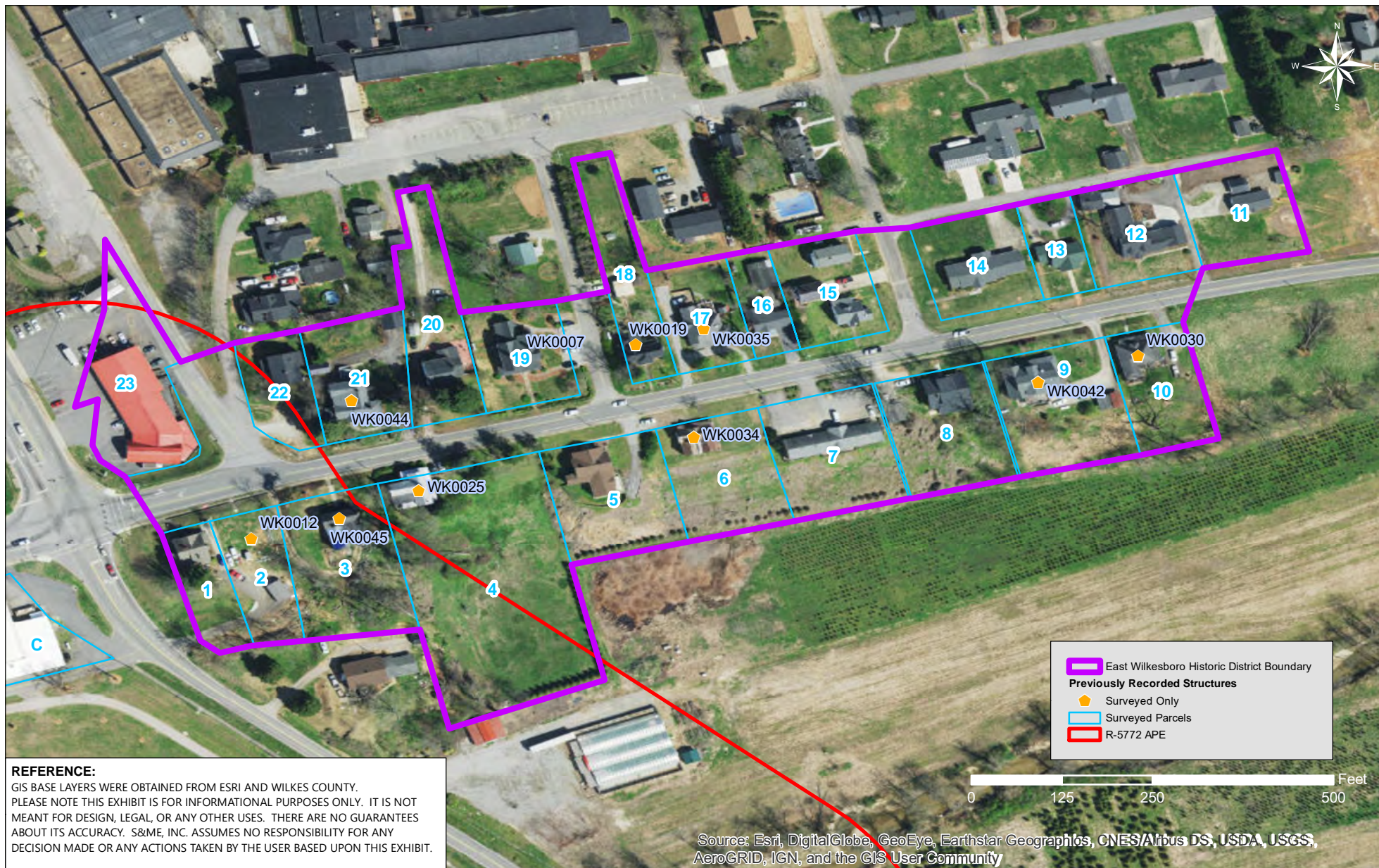
2.2 East Wilkesboro Historic District – WK0450

Resource Name	East Wilkesboro Historic District
HPO Survey Site #	WK0450
Street Address	400–600 blocks of East Main Street
PIN	3868-60-8393, 3868-60-9355, 3868-70-0367, 3868-70-2316, 3868-70-3446, 3868-70-4560, 3868-70-5592, 3868-70-7523, 3868-70-8555, 3868-70-9566, 3868-80-0853, 3868-70-9881, 3868-70-8758, 3868-70-7765, 3868-70-6701, 3868-70-5629, 3868-70-4658, 3868-70-3860, 3868-70-2666, 3868-70-1671, 3868-70-0680, 3868-60-9691, 3868-60-8536
Construction Date(s)	Circa 1880 to 1970s
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 2.2.1. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), facing east.

The East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450) is located along East Main Street (NC 268), east of its intersection with Oakwoods Road (SR 1001), east of the town center of Wilkesboro (Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2.1). The proposed district is comprised of 23 tax parcels that each have frontage along East Main Street (Figure 2.2.2). It is primarily residential in nature, although there are two commercial structures, and most of the houses within the proposed district date from the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth centuries. The residential lots are integrated into the sloping terrain of the area, with some of the houses being located on raised lots, above the roadbed. Of the 23 parcels within the district boundaries, ten include resources that have been previously surveyed during the architectural survey of Wilkesboro in 1979 (Figure 2.2.2).



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SCALE:	1 inch = 186 feet
DATE:	6/10/2019
DRAWN BY:	HLC
S&ME PROJECT NO.	4213-19-107

Aerial Map
 R-5772 - East Wilkesboro Historic District Parcels
 Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, North Carolina

EXHIBIT NO.
2.2.2

Parcel 1 (Culler House): The Culler House is a circa 1910 one and one-half story residence that is located at 403 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.3 and 2.2.4). The house has a cross-gabled roofline, with a three bay front elevation, the eastern portion of which is recessed beneath a porch that is beneath the main roofline of the front-gabled section, which is supported by a brick pier at the corner; an extension to the porch is located beneath a hipped-roof, supported by a brick pier, and wraps around to the east of the house. Both sections of the porch have a decorative masonry balustrade. The entry door is centered in the front elevation and has an arched opening, with a fanlight transom. Above the door is a pedimented hood, supported by triangular brackets, with an open arched underside. Centered above the doorway, in the front-gabled end, is a single four-over-four, double-hung, vinyl sash window with a fanlight. The remaining fenestration on the front elevation is paired six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The western elevation of the house, which has a visible basement level because of the slope of the lot, has a hipped roof addition to its basement and first stories; the lower level of the addition has a garage door and the upper level has single and paired six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The main portion of the house has single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the first story and paired six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the second story. The eastern elevation of the house has a secondary entry door under the porch extension, as well as small single and paired six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the first story. The upper story has a paired six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash window and an upper exit door, accessed by a metal fire escape. The rear elevation of the house has a large shed-roofed dormer. The house is frame construction with brick veneer; the roof is covered with composition shingles and there is a large, interior brick chimney visible along the roof ridge. The gable ends have cornice returns and the front-facing gable has a slight flare at its eave. The Culler House exhibits elements of several contemporary architectural styles from the early-twentieth-century, including Tudor Revival in the arched doorway opening, doorway hood, and flared eave; Craftsman in the brackets supporting the doorway hood; and Colonial Revival with its fanlights and cornice returns.



Figure 2.2.3. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 1, Culler House, facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.4. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 1, Culler House, facing southwest.

Parcel 2 (Carrigan House – WK0012): The Carrigan House (WK0012), a circa 1900 frame residence that was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey, was formerly located at 405 East Main Street (Figure 2.2.5). The house was damaged by fire in 2015 and was subsequently demolished. The parcel on which it stood is currently empty, except for a modern metal garage that is associated with the Culler House to the west (Figure 2.1.3)

Parcel 3 (C. Y. Miller House – WK0045): The C. Y. Miller House is a circa 1870 two-story residence that is located at 407 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.6 and 2.2.7); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey. The house is a vernacular I-house style, with Victorian detailing that exhibits influences from other late-nineteenth-century architectural styles. The main portion of the structure is a two-story, side-gabled, structure of frame construction on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled. The three-bay front façade is asymmetrical, with the eastern two bays being closer together. The entry door is paneled, with two tall arched panes in the upper section, giving the impression of a double door, which was popular in the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles of the mid-to-late-nineteenth century; the door surround has three-pane sidelights and an upper transom that has been covered with wooden paneling. The windows on both the first and second stories of the front elevation are single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sashes. There is a hipped-roof porch that spans most of the front elevation; it is supported by turned posts with intricate scrollwork brackets; the porch frieze has decorative sawn trim, also indicative of a Gothic Revival influence. The western elevation of the house is one-bay deep, with a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the first story and a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the second story; a diamond-shaped attic vent is centered in the gable. The rear of the house has a single story, rear ell addition, which sits on a concrete block foundation. The visible fenestration on this portion of the house is single and paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The eastern elevation of the house has an exterior brick chimney, flanked by single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the first story.



Figure 2.2.5. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), Carrigan House (WK0012), 1979.



Figure 2.2.6. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 3, C. Y. Miller House (WK0045), facing south.



Figure 2.2.7. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 3, C. Y. Miller House (WK0045), facing southeast.

The house is covered with vinyl siding; the roof of the main portion is asphalt shingle, while the roof of the rear ell is standing-seam metal. Comparison with survey photographs from 1979 indicates that the C. Y. Miller House has undergone multiple alterations in the past 40 years. In addition to the replacement windows and siding, the support posts on the front porch have been replaced and an interior chimney has been removed.

Parcel 4 (Greenwood-Hayes House – WK0025): The Greenwood-Hayes House is a circa 1895 two-story residence that is located at 409 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.8 and 2.2.9); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to circa 1910. The house is a two-story, gable-front-and-wing form with a three bay façade. The eastern portion of the front elevation is a projecting front-gabled bay, with a single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on both the first and second stories; a diamond shaped attic vent is centered within the gable end. The side-gabled section is two bays wide; on the first story, the entry door is located next to the front-gabled projection and the remaining windows on the first and second stories are single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows. The door surround is a classic Colonial Revival style, with fluted pilasters and a decorative crown; the windows each have a crown molding hood. A hipped roof porch, supported by fluted square columns and having denticulated molding along the cornice, wraps around the front-projecting gable. A single story addition to the east holds a secondary entry door, beneath the porch roof. The eastern elevation is three bays deep, with a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window in the addition portion and a glassed sunroom behind it; there are three single one-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash windows on the upper story. The western elevation has an exterior brick chimney centered within the gable end, flanked by a single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window on either side, on both the first and second stories. A two-story, shed-roofed rear addition is visible along this elevation. The house is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard siding and has a tin shingle roof; in addition to the exterior chimney, there are two interior brick chimneys visible along the roof ridge of the front-gabled section. Comparison with survey photographs from 1979



Figure 2.2.8. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 4, Greenwood-Hayes House (WK0025), facing southwest.



Figure 2.2.9. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 4, Greenwood-Hayes House (WK0025), facing southeast.



indicates that the Greenwood-Hayes House has undergone changes to its porch roof, which was flat and served as an upper deck with an ironwork balustrade.

Parcel 5 (Barber House): The Barber House is a circa 1920 one-and-one-half story residence that is located at 411 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.10 and 2.2.11). The house has a Craftsman-style form; it is of frame construction and rests on a raised foundation that has been covered in stucco. The main section of the house is side-gabled, with a dominant front-gable that is recessed below to create a full-width porch, supported by simple square posts. The façade is three bays wide, with a central door, flanked by tall, slender sidelights, that has a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window to the east and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window to the west. The upper story of the front-gable has a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The western elevation is two bays deep, with a single and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. A side-gabled addition has been attached to the rear portion of this elevation. The eastern elevation has a three-bay, projecting picture window and a small one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the first story and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the upper story. A one-story, gabled, rear ell projects from the southeast corner of the house and is accessed by a wooden deck; it has an entry door beneath a gabled projection and a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles. Two interior brick chimneys are visible above the roof ridge. The only remaining original detail left on the exterior of the house are the triangular brackets that are visible in the front-projecting gable and the side-gable ends.

Parcel 6 (House – WK0034): An unnamed House (WK0034), a circa 1910 Triple-A, frame residence that was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey, was formerly located at 501 East Main Street (Figure 2.2.12). The house was demolished sometime after the most recent available aerial imagery was taken in March 2018; the house was removed from the county tax records for the parcel in 2019. The parcel on which it stood is currently empty (Figure 2.2.13).

Parcel 7 (Hicks Building): The Hicks Building is a one-story commercial structure, located at 503 East Main Street, that was built around 1965 (Figure 2.2.14). It is a one-story, frame construction building that has elements of the styled Tudor tradition that was popular during the mid-twentieth century. The building is laterally oriented to the road, with a jerkinhead roof that has half timbering in each of the ends. The central entry is located beneath a projecting porch with a jerkinhead roof and half timbering and decorative masonry, which is supported by square columns; a rectangular window with diamond faux leaded glass is centered in this projection. There are four bays on either side of the entry door, one of which is located beneath the porch. To the east are two two-part casement windows with diamond faux leaded glass, a two-part casement vertical casement window with eight panes on each section, and a two-part casement window with ten panes on each section; to the west is a two-part casement window with ten panes on each section, a projecting wooden gabled bay window with three rectangular windows with diamond faux leaded glass, and two two-part casement windows with diamond faux leaded glass. The building is one of only two commercial structures within the boundaries of the district and is significantly newer than most of the residential structures in the district.

Parcel 8 (Henderson House): The Henderson House is a circa 1920 one and one-half story residence that is located at 505 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.15 and 2.2.16). The house is a Craftsman-style residence of frame construction with a side-gabled roofline and three bay front façade; the central door, which has a two paneled bottom and three-pane top section, has sidelights with two vertical panes and is flanked by a tripartite window, with a central four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window and two two-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash windows, on either side. The front elevation is spanned by a full width porch that is integrated beneath the main roofline



Figure 2.2.10. East Wilkesboro Historic District, parcel 5, Barber House, facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.11. East Wilkesboro Historic District, parcel 5, Barber House, facing southwest.



Figure 2.2.12. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), unnamed House (WK0034), 1979.



Figure 2.2.13. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 6, location of unnamed House (WK0034), facing south.



Figure 2.2.14. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 7, Hicks Building, facing southwest.

and is supported by tapered square columns that rest on brick piers. A shed-roofed dormer, with a central one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window that has vinyl siding on either side, presumably where other windows completed the window ribbon, is centered within the front roofline. The east elevation of the house has two bays on the lower story, with the same tripartite windows as the front elevation, and two single, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the upper story. A shed-roofed, one-story addition that is covered with vinyl siding is visible at the southeast corner. The western elevation has the same window configuration as the eastern elevation. The house is sheathed in faux brick paneling and the roof is covered with composition shingles. There are triangular brackets along the gable ends of the house, as well as along the shed roofline of the dormer; formerly visible raftertails along the front porch roof and dormer has been partially hidden by gutters and trim.

Parcel 9 (J. F. Jordan House – WK0042): The J. F. Jordan House is a circa 1900 one-and-one-half story residence that is located at 601 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.17 and 2.2.18); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to around 1910. The house is an example of the Colonial Revival style, with a gambrel roofline on the main section of the house, which is oriented laterally to the road. The front elevation has a front-projecting cross-gable at the western corner, with a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window; to the east of the cross-gabled section is the entry door and two paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. There is a large gabled dormer, with a ribbon of three one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows roughly centered within the roofline. A hip-roofed porch, supported by square posts, wraps around the front and eastern elevations. The western elevation of the house has three bays, with both single and paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. An exterior brick chimney is partially visible behind the front-facing gable on this elevation. The eastern elevation has two additional entry doors and two single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the lower level and two single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the upper level. The house is covered with aluminum siding and the roof is composition shingles. In addition to the



Figure 2.2.15. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 8, Henderson House, facing south.



Figure 2.2.16. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 8, Henderson House, facing southwest.



Figure 2.2.17. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 9, J. F. Jordan House (WK0042), facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.18. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 9, J. F. Jordan House (WK0042), facing southwest.



exterior chimney on the western elevation, there is an interior brick chimney visible along the roofline to the east of the dormer. Comparison with photos from the 1979 survey indicates that the two-over-two wooden sash windows have been replaced with modern vinyl windows.

Parcel 10 (House – WK0030): An unnamed House, located at 603 East Main Street, is a circa 1920 one-and-one-half story residence (Figures 2.2.19 and 2.2.20); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to around 1910. The house is a one and one-half story residence of frame construction with a pyramidal roof; it rests on a raised foundation that has been covered with stucco. The front elevation is three bays wide, with a modern central door that is flanked by a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on either side. A hip-roofed dormer, with a three-pane vinyl-framed casement window, is centered within the front roofline. A full-width, hipped-roof porch spans the front elevation of the house; it is supported by chamfered square posts. A pedimented projection, supported by scrollwork brackets, provides access to the porch and corresponds to the location of the door. Along the eastern elevation, the front façade steps backward, suggesting that the porch may have originally wrapped around to the eastern elevation but was enclosed before 1979. The east elevation has three bays, each with a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The basement level has a two-pane horizontal sliding window. An interior brick chimney is visible along the juncture of the main structure and enclosed porch portion. The western elevation of the house is also three bays deep, with a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window, a paired one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash window, and a smaller paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles. The lot on which the house sits is sloped, with a brick retaining wall and concrete stairs in front of the house. Comparison with photographs from the 1979 survey indicates that the wooden weatherboard siding has been replaced with vinyl siding, the four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash windows have been replaced, a second interior chimney at the southwest corner of the house has been removed, a door in the enclosed section of the porch has been removed, additional windows have been added to the enclosed section of the porch, and a secondary porch entrance to the east of the main entrance point has been enclosed when a modern balustrade was added to the porch. A shed-roofed frame garage that was attached to the southeastern corner of the house has also been removed.

Parcel 11 (Parker House): The Parker House is a modern, one-story residence that was built around 2008; it is located along the north side of and fronts onto East Main Street, however its address is 611 Winston Street (Figure 2.2.21). The house is a simple, side-gabled, frame residence with a three-bay front elevation. The entry door is central, located beneath a gabled portico that is supported by square vinyl posts; the door is flanked by a single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash window on either side. The eastern elevation has a modern, fiberglass double door. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is asphalt shingles. Aerial photographs indicate that the house was constructed between March and November 2008.

Parcel 12 (Garza House): The Garza House is a circa 1935 one-and-one-half-story residence that is located at 604 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.22 and 2.2.23). The original portion of the house is three bay Colonial Revival-style house, which has been added onto multiple times. The main section of the house has a central door, with a surround that has fluted pilasters, located beneath a gabled portico that is supported by square posts; the door is flanked by single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on either side. There are two symmetrical gabled dormers along the front roofline, each having a single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash window and cornice return on the gable end. To the east of the main section of the house is a one-story, side-gabled hyphen and a one-story, front-gabled wing, which has two single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows and cornice returns to mirror the gabled dormers. The east side of the wing has two single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl



Figure 2.2.19. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 10, unnamed House (WK0030), facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.20. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 10, unnamed House (WK0030), facing southwest.



Figure 2.2.21. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 11, Parker House, facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.22. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 12, Garza House, facing north.



Figure 2.2.23. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 12, Garza House, facing northwest.

sash windows. There is a single story rear ell addition that is attached to the northwestern corner of the house. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles.

Parcel 13 (Hayes-Parker House): The Hayes-Parker House is a circa 1925 one-and-one-half-story residence that is located at 602 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.24 and 2.2.25). The house is a side-gabled, Craftsman-style residence of frame construction. The front elevation has a large, projecting, front-gabled section that originally created a partial-width front porch, which has been enclosed with wooden paneling and large windows; the central door in the enclosed porch indicates that the original door position is likely central as well. The upper story of the front gable has a ribbon of three four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash windows. On either side of the enclosed porch on the front elevation is a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The eastern elevation of the house has two single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the first story and a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the upper story. The western elevation has a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window and a one-story, side-gabled addition. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles; there is an interior brick chimney visible behind the roof ridge to the west of center. The gable ends and the front-facing gable retain the triangular brackets along the eaves, although they have been enclosed with vinyl siding.

Parcel 14 (Jones-Parker House): The Jones-Parker House is a circa 1965 one-story residence that is located at 600 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.26 and 2.2.27). The house is a Colonial Revival Ranch residence with a side-gabled roof and brick veneer exterior. The house has four parts: a primary section, two stepped back hyphens, and a carport. The main section is five bays, with a central door located beneath a gabled portico, which is supported by paired columns; flanking the door are two single six-over-nine, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. Each of the hyphens, which are located on either side of the main section, are a single bay with a single six-over-nine, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The easternmost section, which is stepped back along the façade from the eastern



Figure 2.2.24. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 13, Hayes-Parker House, facing north.



Figure 2.2.25. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 13, Hayes-Parker House, facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.26. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 14, Jones-Parker House, facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.27. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 14, Jones-Parker House, facing northwest.



hyphen, is an attached carport; the front elevation of the carport has two single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows and likely encompasses an enclosed storage area. The open portion of the carport is on the north (rear elevation) and the roof is supported by single columns that rest on a brick knee wall. The western elevation of the house has two, small, single six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows; the rear elevation of the house also has small single six-over-six windows. Generally in Ranch style houses, these smaller windows signify private interior spaces, such as bedrooms. A gabled ell is roughly centered within the rear elevation and is an enclosed sunroom, with sets of fixed windows with three vertical panes each. The gable ends on the carport portion of the house, as well as the gabled portico and the rear sunroom addition, are covered with vinyl siding. There is a wide frieze band with a denticulated molding trim along the eaves of the house, the portico, and the sunroom. The roof is composition shingles and there is a large, interior brick chimney visible along the ridge line.

Parcel 15 (Forrester-Hayes House): The Forrester-Hayes House is a circa 1930 one-and-one-half story residence that is located at 506 East Main Street; in addition to the main house, there is also a 1930s garage that has been converted to living space and a secondary early-twentieth-century residential building on the property (Figures 2.2.28–2.2.32). The main house is a frame residence that rests on a brick pier foundation; its form aligns it with the Tudor Revival style, although much of the original detail has been altered. The house has a front-facing gable with a side-gabled wing; the façade is three bays wide. The central doorway is located within the front-facing gable, beneath a gabled portico that creates a nested gable that is common in Tudor Revival architecture; the gabled portico is supported by square vinyl posts. The doorway is flanked by paired one-over-one, double-hung vinyl sash windows on either side. The upper story of the front-facing gable has a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window centered within it. The western elevation of the house has a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the lower level, along with three smaller one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows, and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the upper story. The eastern elevation has a side-gabled addition, which has ribbons of jalousie windows on each of its three sides and an entry door on its rear elevation. The east side of the main structure has a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the lower story and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the upper story. A brick chimney is visible between the main house and the addition. The rear elevation has a shed-roofed addition and a gabled dormer. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles.

To the northwest of the house is a two-story garage structure that tax records date to the 1930s; the second story of the garage has been converted into an apartment. The building is front-gabled, with the two garage bays facing Salem Street to the east; on the upper story of this elevation are two single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The south elevation of the garage has a lower level entry door and a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window; the upper story has a single and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. A wooden stairway is located along the southwestern corner of the garage and allows access to a shed-roofed rear addition that serves as the entry to the apartment. The garage is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles.

To the northeast of the house is two-story residential structure that is dated to 1940 by tax records. The house has a front-gabled roofline and rests on a concrete block foundation. The front elevation, which faces Salem Street, is two bays wide; the southern bay is the entry door, which is located beneath a gabled portico supported by slender square posts, while the northern bay is a 20-pane picture window located in a shed-roofed projecting bay. The upper story has two single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows. The northern elevation has one set of paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows on the first and second story, along with three single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on each level. The south elevation has two sets of paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on each story and a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash



Figure 2.2.28. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 15, Forrester-Hayes House, facing north.



Figure 2.2.29. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 15, Forrester-Hayes House, facing west.



Figure 2.2.30. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 15, Forrester-Hayes House, garage apartment, facing west.



Figure 2.2.31. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 15, Forrester-Hayes House, garage apartment, facing north.



Figure 2.2.32. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 15, Forrester-Hayes House, additional residential building, facing southwest.

window between the stories, presumably in a stairwell. An interior brick chimney is visible above the roofline. The secondary residential structure is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles.

Parcel 16 (Fracassi House): The Fracassi House is a circa 1928 one-story residence that is located at 504 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.33 and 2.2.34). The house is a frame residence, with a basic Triple-A form with a low-pitched central gable. The main side-gabled section is three bays wide, with a central door located beneath a gabled portico that is supported by turned posts; the door is flanked by a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on either side. The western elevation has a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window and a shed-roofed addition off a rear ell that is visible along the northwestern corner. The east elevation of the house has a secondary entry door, a single one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window and a small paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The rear ell, which includes a modern entry door, one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window, and six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash window, is visible at the northeastern corner. An open carport, supported by metal posts, is attached to this elevation. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is asphalt shingles.

Parcel 17 (Pharr House – WK0035): A previously unnamed House (now the Pharr House), located at 502 East Main Street, is a circa 1915 one-and-one-half story residence (Figures 2.2.35 and 2.2.36); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to around 1910. The house, which has a steep pyramidal roof with cross gables, has a Victorian form; it is of frame construction and rests on a brick pier foundation. The front elevation is three bays wide, with a central doorway flanked by a single one-over-one, double-hung, metal frame window on either side. The front-facing cross gable has a paired sixteen-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window centered within it. The house has a hip-roofed porch that wraps around from the front elevation to the eastern elevation, supported by turned posts and carved brackets. The east elevation has a single one-over-one, double-



Figure 2.2.33. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 16, Fracassi House, facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.34. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 16, Fracassi House, facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.35. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 17, Pharr House (WK0035), facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.36. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 17, Pharr House (WK0035), facing northwest.



hung, metal sash window beneath the porch roof and a paired one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash window behind it. The eastern cross gable has a paired four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window centered within it. The western elevation has a central cross gable, with a louvered rectangular vent centered within it. On the lower story are two single and one paired one-over-one, double-hung, metal frame windows and a smaller one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window. The house is covered with vinyl siding, as are the undersides of the roof eaves; the roof is composition shingles. An interior brick chimney is visible behind the eastern cross gable. Each of the gable ends has cornice returns, reflecting a Colonial Revival influence from the early twentieth century. Comparison with photographs from the 1979 survey shows that the house has undergone alterations to the porch supports, which were previously Doric columns, also an element of the Colonial Revival style; the removal of a second chimney along the interior near the western cross gable; and the installation of vinyl siding and a new roof.

Parcel 18 (Dr. Erwin House – WK0019): The Dr. Erwin House is a circa 1890 one-and-one-half story residence that is located at 500 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.37–2.2.39); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to around 1880. The house is an eclectic mixture of architectural styles, reflecting multiple contemporary styles from around its construction period as well as having details that may have been added during the early twentieth century. The frame residence has a Folk Victorian form, reminiscent of the popular Triple A house, but the central front gable and both end gables are clipped, creating a jerkinhead roofline. The central door has two lower panels and two tall glazed upper panes, which reflects a Gothic Revival or Italianate influence. It is flanked on either side by a single, tall, two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window; a single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window is centered within the upper story. A one-bay, hip-roofed portico that is supported by chamfered posts covers the central portion of the first story, below the central clipped gable. A wide frieze trim band is located along the raking cornice of the central clipped gable and triangular brackets are located at the corners of this central section; the wide trim band may reflect the Colonial Revival style or may be a substitute for the bargeboard used in Victorian architecture, while the triangular brackets align with the later, twentieth century, Craftsman tradition. The house has an L-shaped plan, with a two-story rear ell extending back from the main side-gabled section. The western elevation has two clipped-gable sections, there are three single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows on the first story, while the second story of each clipped-gable section has a decorative window with a central pane surrounded by smaller panes on both the upper and lower sash. A small, one-story, hipped roof addition projects out slightly from between the two gabled sections; this addition has a small, four-pane window located in it and another four-pane window is located between the two gable sections, potentially in a stairwell. An interior brick chimney is visible between the two gables. Each clipped-gable section has the same wide frieze and brackets as the front gable. On the east elevation, there is a single clipped-gable section that is one bay deep. The upper story has a single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window. The lower story has a three-sided projecting bay with two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash windows on two sides and a decorative herringbone wooden pattern on the central section; above the windows are small diagonal pattern wooden panels and carved brackets. This detailed projecting bay fits into the Victorian tradition of the late nineteenth century. The gable end on the eastern elevation also has the wide trim and brackets as the other elevations. The north (rear) elevation of the house is a single bay, with clipped-gable roof that has the wide trim and brackets; a single two-over-two, double-hung, wooden sash window is located on both the first and second stories. A hipped roof porch is inset between the front side-gabled section and the rear ell, at the northeast corner of the house. The house is sheathed in horizontal wooden weatherboard siding and the roof is composition shingles. Comparison with photos from the 1979 survey show that two additional porch supports, near the center of the porch, and a balustrade have been added to the house but little else has changed on the exterior.



Figure 2.2.37. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 18, Dr. Erwin House (WK0019), facing north.



Figure 2.2.38. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 18, Dr. Erwin House (WK0019), facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.39. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 18, Dr. Erwin House (WK0019), facing northeast.

Parcel 19 (Barber House – WK0007): The Barber House is a circa 1900 two-story residence that is located at 406 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.40 and 2.2.41); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and dated to around 1880. The house is a two-story, gable-front-and-wing form with a three-bay façade and Victorian detailing. The western portion of the front elevation is a projecting front-gabled bay, with a single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window on both the first and second stories; a pedimented attic vent is centered within the gable end. The side-gabled section is two bays wide; on the first story, there are two entry doors on the first elevation, as the house has been divided into two apartments, while the windows on the second story are single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash. A hipped roof porch, supported by turned posts with scrollwork brackets and with an intricately carved balustrade, spans the front elevation and wraps around the front-gabled section to the western elevation; a rear section of the porch on the west elevation has been enclosed. The western elevation is two bays deep, with a single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window on both the first and second stories. The eastern elevation of the main portion of the house is one bay deep, with a single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window on the lower story and a smaller window on the upper story; a pedimented attic vent is centered within the gable. A two-story, gabled rear addition, with a single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window on the upper story and a three-sided projecting bay window on the lower story, is visible along this elevation. A single story, gabled rear addition extends from the two-story rear ell. The house is covered with vinyl siding and has a composition shingle roof; two interior brick chimneys are visible along the roof ridge of the side-gabled section. Comparison with survey photographs from 1979 indicates that the Barber House has had vinyl siding installed, which has removed a trim band along the raking cornice of the gable ends, and has had one of its lower story windows on the front elevation converted to a door when the house was split into two apartments; the roof has also been replaced.



Figure 2.2.40. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 19, Barber House (WK0007), facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.41. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 19, Barber House (WK0007), facing northeast.



Parcel 20 (Ballinger House): The Ballinger House is a circa 1935 two-story residence that is located at 404 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.42 and 2.2.43). The house is of frame construction and has elements of the Neoclassical style that was popular during the early twentieth century. The front elevation is three bays wide, with the entry door, with a single pane transom, at the eastern bay and two single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows to the west; the upper story has three single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows. The house has a monumental two-story porch that is located beneath an extension of the main side-gabled roofline that is supported by square columns; the columns of the porch have an arched band beneath the roof eave, which has been covered with vertical vinyl paneling. The west elevation has an engaged exterior brick chimney, with two single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows on each story behind it; an octagonal attic vent is centered in the gable end. The eastern elevation has an exterior brick chimney and an octagonal attic vent, but no visible window openings. A single story, side-gabled wing has been attached to this elevation and has a single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window on its south elevation and two single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows on its east elevation. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles.

Parcel 21 (McNeill-Hayes House – WK0044): The McNeill-Hayes House is a circa 1895 two-story residence that is located at 402 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.44 and 2.2.45); it was recorded in 1979 as part of the Wilkesboro survey and was dated to the 1890s. The frame residence has a side-gabled roofline and three bay front façade. The central door, which has three-pane sidelights, is flanked by paired nine-over-nine, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on either side. The upper story has the same configuration as the lower story, with the upper doorway leading to a balcony that is supported by triangular brackets. The central bay of the house has a monumental gabled two-story porch, supported by Ionic columns and has denticulate trim along the frieze and the raking cornice. These Neoclassical elements postdate the original construction of the house and were part of a circa 1930s remodel. The original section of the house has symmetrical exterior end chimneys that remain visible above the additions on either side. The eastern elevation has a two-story, hipped roof addition that has a ribbon of three six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on both the first and second stories of the south elevation and a ribbon for four six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on both stories of the east elevation. The western elevation has a two-story porch that is supported by Ionic columns. A large, two-story gabled rear addition connects to another side-gabled section of the house along the northwest corner. The house is covered with aluminum siding and the roof is composition shingles. Comparison to photographs from the 1979 survey show that the house has undergone little exterior change in the past four decades.

Parcel 22 (Greene House): The Greene House is a circa 1940 two-story residence that is located at 100 Jefferson Street (Figures 2.2.46 and 2.2.47). The house, which has road frontage along East Main Street but is oriented toward Jefferson Street, has a side-gabled roofline and rests on a brick foundation. The front elevation has three bays, although there is an added entry door at the southwest corner of the house; the central entry door is flanked by paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on either side. A one-story, hipped roof porch, supported by square posts, spans the façade. The upper story has three evenly spaced, paired, six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sashed windows. The northern elevation has a single and paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash windows on the lower story and a single and paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows on the upper story. A shed-roofed rear porch, which has been enclosed along the first story, is visible at the northeast corner of the house. The south elevation has a paired one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window on the lower story and a paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window on the upper story. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the roof is composition shingles; the gable ends have cornice returns, which are the lone architectural detailing, and an interior brick chimney is visible along the roof ridge.



Figure 2.2.42. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 20, Ballinger House, facing north.



Figure 2.2.43. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 20, Ballinger House, facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.44. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 21, McNeill-Hayes House (WK0044), facing north.



Figure 2.2.45. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 21, McNeill-Hayes House (WK0044), facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.46. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 22, Greene House, facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.47. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 22, Greene House, facing southeast.

Parcel 23 (Myers Tire): Myers Tire is a circa 1970s one-story commercial building, with a mid-1990s addition, that is located at 400 East Main Street (Figures 2.2.48 and 2.2.49). The 1970s section of the building is the two-story portion with the gambrel roofline that is oriented to the front of the building, diagonally away from the corner of East Main Street and Jefferson Street. The three-bay front elevation has a modern double entry door, with two tall vertical fixed window panes. The lower portion of the front elevation has a brick veneer, while the portion beneath the roof-wall juncture has vertical wooden siding; the gambrel portion of the house overhangs the first story slightly and is covered with vertical metal panel siding. The vertical fixed pane windows, brick veneer, and wooden paneling continue along the southwest elevation of the building. A side-gabled hyphen, with two tall vertical fixed window panes, links the main structure to the later additions. The additions consist of two concrete block masonry, side-gabled sections with rooflines of slightly different heights. The southern addition has a single entry door and three large plate glass display windows. The northern addition has five garage door bays. The entire structure has a standing-seam metal roof.



Figure 2.2.48. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 23, Myers Tire, facing north.



Figure 2.2.49. East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450), parcel 23, Myers Tire, facing south.

2.2.1 History

The East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450) is located along East Main Street, on a ridge above Cub Creek. The district includes residences that were built in the late-nineteenth century, as well houses from the early and mid-twentieth century. Although not far removed from the main section of Wilkesboro, located approximately 0.2-mile from the eastern boundary of the Wilkesboro Historic District, a section of land along Cub Creek that did not allow for development creates a distinct separation of the East Wilkesboro Historic District from downtown Wilkesboro. Additionally, the section of East Main Street to the east of Oakwoods Road is less heavily travelled than the section to the west of Oakwoods Road, creating a feeling of a quiet, residential street rather than a main thoroughfare.

The East Wilkesboro Historic District was originally an option for building a residence that was located outside of the growing downtown area of Wilkesboro. A handful of prominent local businessmen chose to build their houses in this area of town, along the road that provided a ford across Cub Creek, which eventually became East Main Street. Later, the area would be incorporated into a planned residential development that would be annexed to Wilkesboro.

A description of Wilkesboro as he remembered it from childhood, by Dr. Fred C. Hubbard who was born in 1893, identifies some of the early-twentieth-century residents of the East Wilkesboro area (Hubbard 1988). Along the south side of East Main Street, beginning near the eastern edge of the district, was “a rather nice, small, painted, frame house” belonging to carpenter Wiley C. Lewis and his wife, Ida Somers Lewis (Hubbard 1988:5); census records indicate that the Lewis family lived in Wilkesboro in 1900 but had moved to Surry County by 1910 (United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910). The next house identified belonged to the Smith family, Jeff and Mattie



Rousseau Smith and their children; however, in 1900, the Smith's were renting a house in another portion of town (United States Census Bureau 1900). The house that formerly stood where the office building is currently located at 503 East Main Street, was the home of Harrison Lewis, brother of Wiley. The final house identified on the south side of the street was the Leckie House; John Leckie worked for a wholesale grocer and he and his wife Martha had six children. However, they did not move to the Wilkesboro area until sometime between 1900 and 1910 (Hubbard 1988:5–6; United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910).

Across the street, north of East Main Street, Dr. Hubbard identified Mrs. Ellen Erwin, widow of Dr. Thomas G. Erwin and her two daughters, who lived in the house from sometime before 1900 until the 1930s; this is the house at 500 East Main Street (WK0019) (United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930). The next house to the west, located at 406 East Main Street (WK0007) was identified by Hubbard as the home of lawyer William Barber, his wife Mariana, and their four children; the house may have been built shortly after 1900, as the Barber family was living there by 1910 (United States Census Bureau 1910). The next identified house, located at 402 East Main Street (WK0044) was owned by Reverend Milton McNeill in the early-twentieth century but was later purchased by Judge Johnson J. Hayes, who updated the house to include elements of the Neoclassical style (Hubbard 1988:7–9).

Back along the southern side of East Main Street, Hubbard identifies the house at 409 East Main Street (WK0025) as the house of Reverend W. W. Phelps, but later the home of tanner Joseph Kunkle, his wife Dora, and three children from her first marriage, who were living in the house in 1910 (United States Census Bureau 1910). The daughter of Mrs. Kunkle, Willa Jean Harless, married Judge Johnson J. Hayes and moved into the house across the street (Hubbard 1988:8–9). The house at 407 East Main Street (WK0045) was identified by Hubbard as belonging to Claude Miller; Miller, who lists his occupation in census records as a marble and stone cutter, a salesman for a marble works, and a carpenter, but who Hubbard identifies as a tombstone merchant, lived in the house along East Main Street from 1900 through his death in 1935; afterwards, his second wife and their children continued to live in the house (United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940). An 1895 newspaper article indicates that this house, possibly before it was later enlarged, was occupied by Addison L. Rousseau before Claude Miller, while he was building his large farmhouse (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 11 April 1895). The house next to Claude Miller was 405 East Main Street (WK0012), which is no longer extant; it belonged to cobbler John Carrigan, who lived in the house from at least 1900 until 1920, and then his widow and children moved back into the house before 1930 and lived there until at least the 1940s (United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940). The final house, 403 East Main Street, was occupied by Robert and Sallie Culler, who purchased the property in 1902 and lived there until Sallie, then a widow, sold the property to Ila Kinlaw in 1922 (Hubbard 1988:9–11; United States Census Bureau 1900, 1910; Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1902 DB39:413; 1922 DB138:503).

The land that encompasses the portion of the East Wilkesboro Historic District north of East Main Street was part of an annex to the town of Wilkesboro, identified as the "East End of Wilkesboro", "Property Lying East of Wilkesboro", and "East Wilkesboro" in the annex property records. The area was developed by the Winston Land and Improvement Company and accepted by the Town Commissioners in June 1893 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1893 DB18:130-131). The annex included land that was divided into six blocks, designated as Blocks 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8, each with between 10 and 14 lots, although some of the blocks are partial blocks (Figure 2.2.50). The lots in Block 1 on the north side of East Main Street and the first two lots (Lots 9 and 10) on Block 2 were designated on the original plat as "reserved", which may have indicated that they were already owned by private owners and may have already had residences on them.

A number of the properties within the East Wilkesboro Historic District that are located along the north side of East Main Street retain the references to the original Blocks and Lots within the East Wilkesboro annex. For



instance, 402 East Main Street (WK0044), 404 East Main Street (No Survey Number [NSN]), and 406 East Main Street (WK0007) are identified as "Part of Block 1"; 0 East Main Street (WK0019) is "Lot 10 of Block 2"; 502 East Main Street (WK0035) is "Lot 7 and part of Lot 5, Block 1"; 504 East Main Street (NSN) is "parts of Lots 3 and 5, Block 2", and 600 East Main Street (NSN) is "Lots 11 and 13, Block 3".

The Winston Land and Development Company was the business of investor Willard Franklin Trogden of Greensboro and G. W. Hinson; it was incorporated in November 1890. Trogden and the development company became a driving force in the planning and economic development of North Wilkesboro (The Chronicle [Wilkesboro, North Carolina] 10 December 1890:1, 17 December 1890:4). Throughout the 1890s, the Winston Land and Development Company advertised lots for sale in both North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro, which presumably included the East Wilkesboro properties that had been annexed into the town (North Wilkesboro News 26 October 1893:3, 12 April 1894:2, 8 August 1895:1; The Chronicle [Wilkesboro, North Carolina] 14 December 1893:1, 19 April 1894:1).

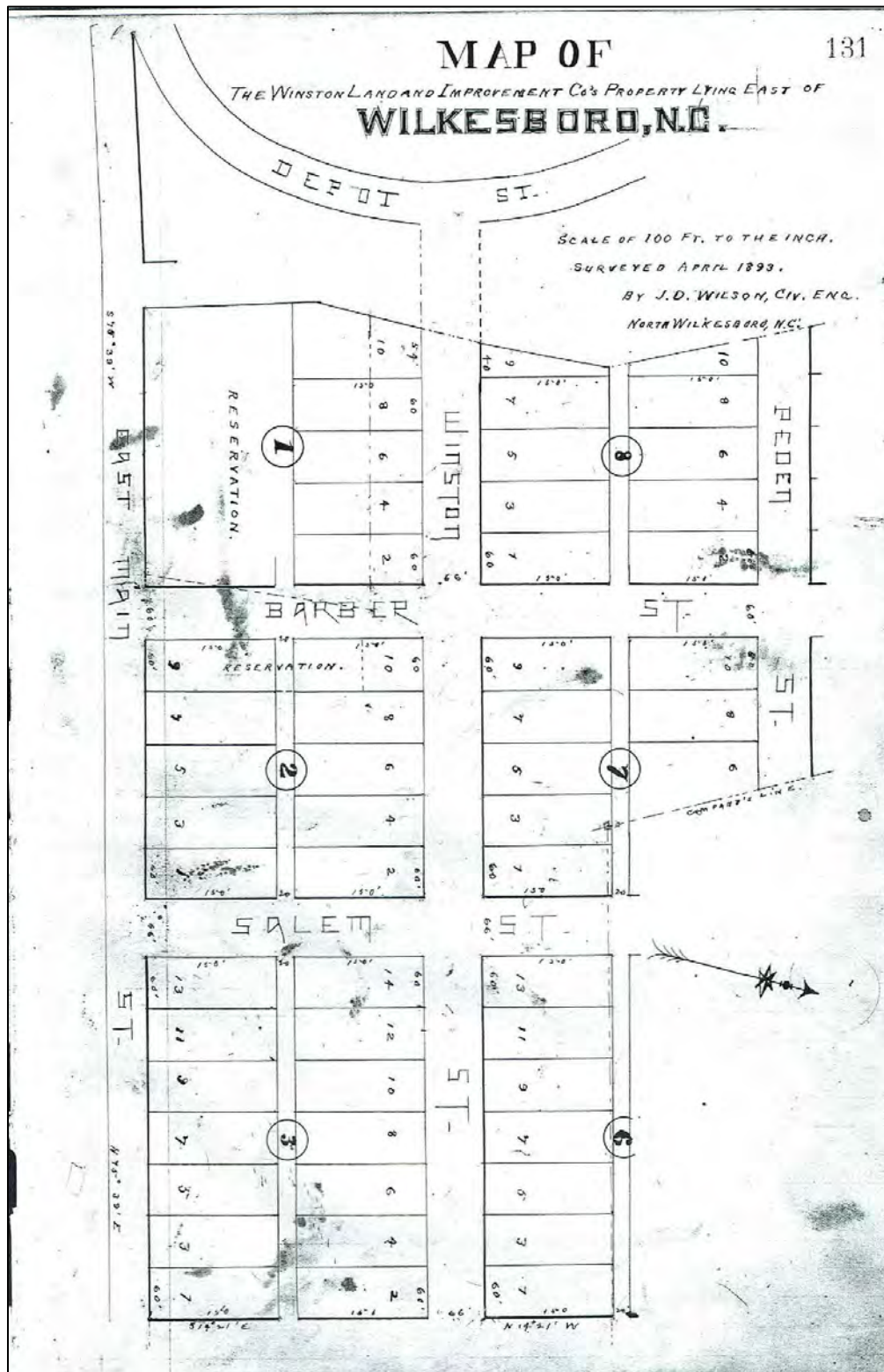


Figure 2.2.50. Plat of East Wilkesboro, 1893 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1893 DB18:131).



Around the turn of the twentieth century, at least eight residences had been built within the East Wilkesboro Historic District, with additional houses constructed during the first decades of the century. Based on property records and interviews with area residents during the 1979 survey, the owners of the houses within the East Wilkesboro Historic District included some of prominent residents of the area, like United States District Court Judge Johnson J. Hayes and lawyer William Barber, as well as middle class laborers, like John Carrigan, Joseph Kunkle, and Claude Miller. Newspaper excerpts from the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth century indicate that a number of the houses changed hands or came up for rent; revealed the names of some of the owners, as the residences changed hands; and discussed some of the social events in the neighborhood. For instance, in 1898, a “new, four room cottage, on main street, East Wilkesboro...the healthiest portion of either town and convenient to both” was offered up in *The Chronicle* (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 29 June 1898:1). In 1902, Milton McNeill offered for sale a “ten room house in East Wilkesboro...practically new, modern conveniences, two acre garden lot, splendid water” (*The North Wilkesboro Hustler* 7 October 1902:1). In 1913, electricity was run to Wilkesboro via power poles through East Wilkesboro (*The North Wilkesboro Hustler* 19 December 1913:1). In the early 1920s, Mr. J. R. Henderson remodeled the house he owned in East Wilkesboro, John Carrigan sold his house to W. L. Yates, and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Moore moved to the neighborhood (*Carter's Weekly* [North Wilkesboro] 10 December 1920:5; 10 August 1922:5; *The North Wilkesboro Hustler* 1 August 1923:1). Also during that decade, East Wilkesboro was the location of social parties and entertainment by its residents, including Annie Lewis hosting her friends for cards and dessert and Mrs. William Barber and her daughter Elizabeth also hosting Rook and Bridge card games while serving ice cream and mints (*The North Wilkesboro Hustler* 22 October 1920:8; 19 September 1923:1).

The circa 1910 United States Postal Service (USPS) rural delivery map shows six structures south of East Main Street and four to the north of the street within the East Wilkesboro Historic District (Figure 2.2.51). By 1918, when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) map was drawn, the number of structures south of the road had increased to eight (Figure 2.2.52). Aerial photographs show that the portion of East Wilkesboro along East Main Street changed little between 1950 and 1976, except for the addition of the two commercial structures (Figures 2.2.53–2.2.55).

2.2.2 *Architectural Context*

Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro are the two principal towns, with residential concentrations surrounding a commercial center, in this area of Wilkes County, with Wilkesboro being established first, in the mid-nineteenth century, and North Wilkesboro growing following the development efforts of William F. Trogdon, beginning in the 1890s. Generally in both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, the commercial buildings were built together in a business district, with residences generally located on the surrounding cross streets, which were narrower and less busy than the main thoroughfares. In Wilkesboro, the earliest residential development surrounding the commercial area is located both north and south of Main Street, while in North Wilkesboro, the commercial district developed near the railroad corridor and the residential portions began developing to the north of Main Street, along the numbered and lettered grid streets. Residential structures in these portions of both towns span the time period from the mid-nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century, with the houses in Wilkesboro beginning to appear in the mid-1800s, while the later development of North Wilkesboro resulted in the first major building period occurring in the late-1800s (Phillips 2002; Phillips 2008). Like the East Wilkesboro Historic District, the residential districts in each of these towns contain houses that exhibit a number of different popular architectural styles from their construction periods, as well as some vernacular structures that have had contemporary architectural ornamentation added, and eclectic houses that exhibit a mixture of architectural styles from transitional periods between highly popular styles. Additionally, each of these areas has some vacant lots



Figure 2.2.51. USPS rural delivery route map (circa 1910) showing the East Wilkesboro Historic District.

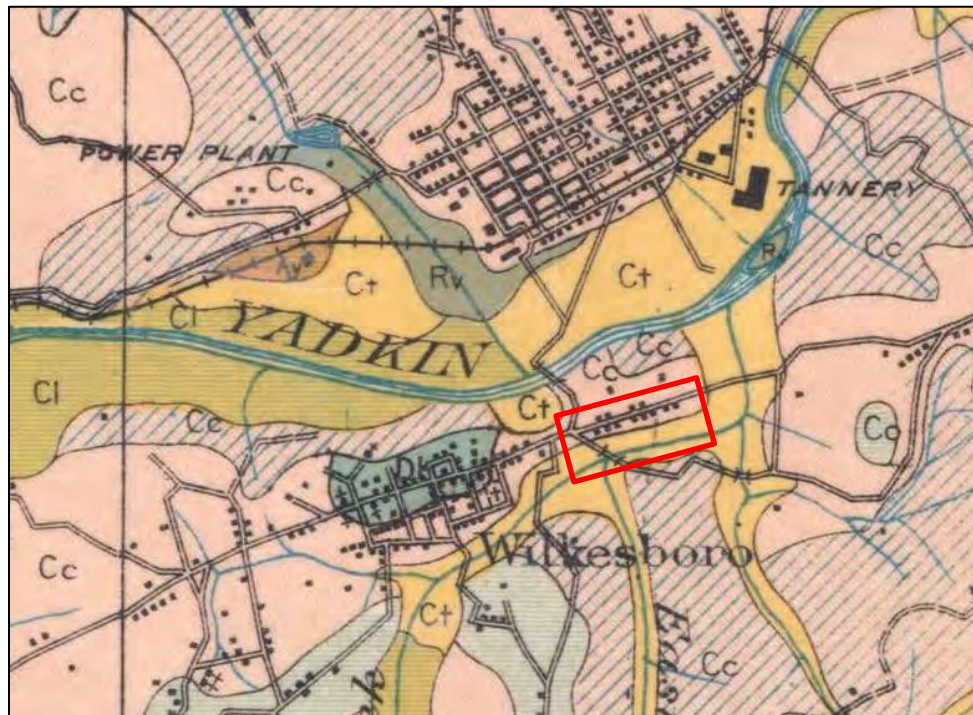


Figure 2.2.52. USDA soil survey map (1918) showing the East Wilkesboro Historic District.



Figure 2.2.53. United States Army aerial photograph (1950) showing the East Wilkesboro Historic District.

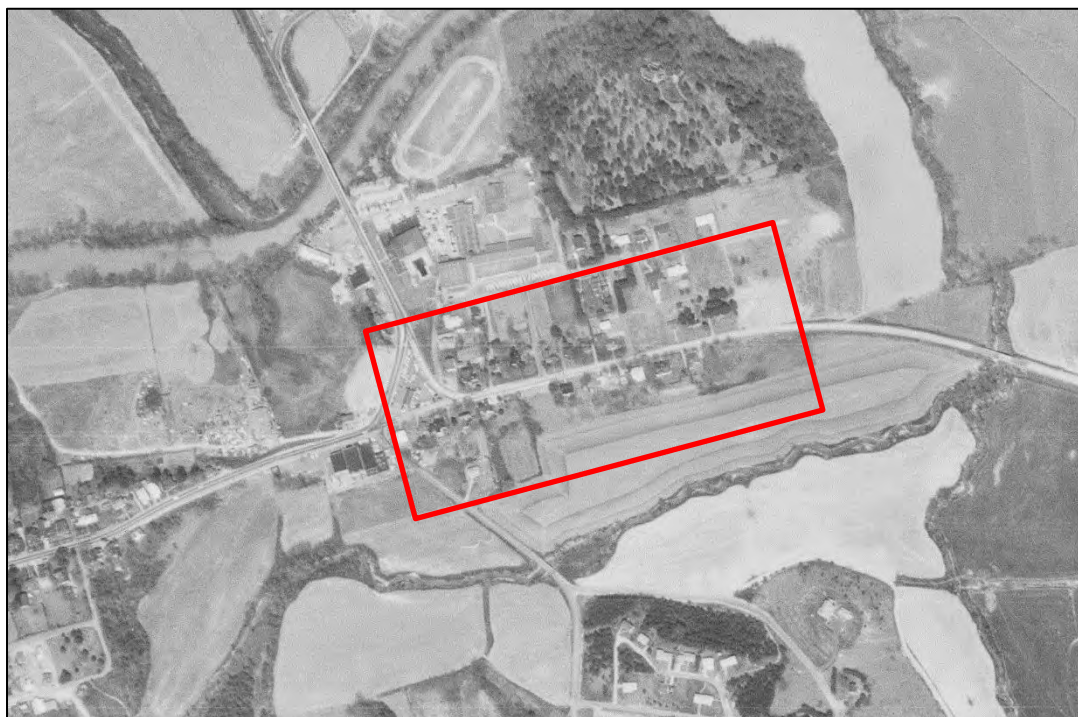


Figure 2.2.54. USGS aerial photograph (1963) showing the East Wilkesboro Historic District.



Figure 2.2.55. USGS aerial photograph (1976) showing the East Wilkesboro Historic District.

and infill structures, generally from the mid-twentieth century, that have filled in along the edges of the original residential areas, as the population of each town has expanded. These residential areas also feature landscaped lots, often with walls to prevent erosion on sloped lots and to demarcate the public sidewalk from the private residential area; universal setbacks among the houses along a street; and mature trees and vegetation that have grown as the neighborhood ages. Similar streetscapes are evident in both Wilkesboro (Figure 2.2.56) and North Wilkesboro (2.2.57).

In Wilkesboro, the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District, which has a period of significance from 1835 to 1959, has residential sections along Cowles and North streets to the north of Main Street, Bridge Street to both the north and south of Main Street, and Corporation, East, South, and West streets to the south of Main Street. Like the East Wilkesboro Historic District, they are a collection of architectural styles and many of them have undergone later alterations from the earliest incarnations. In general, the residential areas of Wilkesboro retain their continuity and connections, with few empty lots within the historic district. Examples of architecture from the mid-to-late-nineteenth century within the district, some with later additions and renovations, include the Lassiter-Green House (WK0024), the Johnson-Hubbard House (WK0040), the Somers-Bumgarner House (WK0232), the Jesse T. Ferguson House (WK0021), the Davis-Crysel House (WK0016), and the W. Carter Winkler House (WK0057) (Figures 2.2.58–2.2.63). Five of these structures are contributing resources to the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District and the Johnson-Hubbard House is also individually listed in the NRHP; modern alterations to the Somers-Bumgarner House have made it a non-contributing structure to the district. Elsewhere in Wilkesboro, residential structures from the early decades of the twentieth century were constructed as the town expanded, creating residential neighborhoods with later architectural styles outside of the NRHP-listed historic district. These include the 1920s houses at 300 and 304 Woodland Boulevard, which are examples of Craftsman and Colonial Revival architecture (Figures 2.2.64 and 2.2.65).



Figure 2.2.56. Streetscape, South Street, facing west from Bridge Street, Wilkesboro.



Figure 2.2.57. Streetscape, 6th Street, facing north from E Street, North Wilkesboro.



Figure 2.2.58. Lassiter-Green House (WK0024), facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.59. Johnson-Hubbard House (WK0040), facing south.



Figure 2.2.60. Somers-Bumgarner House (WK0232), facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.61. Jesse T. Ferguson (WK0021), facing northeast.



Figure 2.2.62. Davis-Crysel House (WK0016), facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.63. W. Carter Winkler House (WK0057), facing east.



Figure 2.2.64. House at 300 Woodland Boulevard (NSN), facing north.



Figure 2.2.65. House at 304 Woodland Boulevard (NSN), facing north.

In North Wilkesboro, which dates its significant periods of growth to the 1890s and the early-twentieth century, earlier residential architecture styles are less common, but examples from the first three decades of the 1900s are more common and often higher-style examples of particular architectural trends. There is no residential historic district, or a residential component of a mixed-use historic district, in North Wilkesboro, but some of its historic architecture resources have been surveyed. For instance, the house at 502 E Street dates to 1887 and is an example of a Folk Victorian structure, with a similar L-shaped plan and porch, but hipped roofline instead of gabled, as structures within the East Wilkesboro Historic District (Figure 2.2.66). A circa 1900 house at 705 D Street (WK0132) presents elements of the Colonial Revival style (Figure 2.2.67), while two circa 1930s residences at 906 F Street (WK0129) and 404 D Street (NSN), also show common vernacular forms with added details.

In general, although there are structures that have undergone some modern alterations to materials and workmanship in the residential areas of both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, as there are in the East Wilkesboro Historic District, these areas both retain greater continuity and connectedness and less loss of design integrity than the East Wilkesboro Historic District.



Figure 2.2.66. House at 502 E Street, North Wilkesboro, (NSN), facing north.



Figure 2.2.67. House at 705 D Street, North Wilkesboro, (WK0132), facing southeast.



Figure 2.2.68. House at 906 F Street, North Wilkesboro, (WK0129), facing northwest.



Figure 2.2.69. House at 404 D Street, North Wilkesboro, (NSN), facing northeast.

2.2.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450) are as follows:

- Location: High

The East Wilkesboro Historic District remains in its original location.

- Design: Medium

The East Wilkesboro Historic District generally retains its design as a whole. East Main Street remains in the same location and has the same configuration of cross streets as it has since the late-nineteenth-century. The lot sizes, setbacks, and building sizes are also generally similar to the early-twentieth-century appearance of the district. The composition of the district remains mostly residential, although there are two commercial structures that are currently within the boundaries.

In terms of individual properties, the 23 parcels within the district have variable levels of integrity of design. Two properties no longer have extant resources. Most of the structures have at least one addition, although some of these date to the early-twentieth-century and have obtained significance along with the original portion of the structure, as is the case with the McNeill-Hayes House (WK0044, Parcel 21). At least one property, the Garza House (NSN, Parcel 12), has undergone significant exterior alterations and additions that have compromised its integrity of design; the Barber House (WK0007, Parcel 19) has been converted into two apartments, as evidenced by the two front entry doors with different addresses, which suggests that major changes to the interior design and layout have occurred. In contrast, the structures with the



highest integrity of design are the Dr. Erwin House (WK0019, Parcel 18) and the Henderson House (NSN, Parcel 8). Overall, however, the majority of the structures within the district retain a moderate level of design integrity.

- **Setting:** Medium

The setting surrounding the East Wilkesboro Historic District has undergone additional commercial and residential development since the early-twentieth-century, when the majority of the houses within the district had been constructed and the area had become a residential enclave located between Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. The commercial block at the southwest corner of East Main Street and Oakwoods Road was built in the 1940s, while the area north of East Main Street, between Oakwoods Road and the central area of Wilkesboro has undergone modern commercial development. In the 1950s, Wilkes Central High School was constructed north of Winston Street, near the western portion of the district, and additional residential development occurred east of Salem Street, to the north of the eastern part of the district, between 1950 and 1963. Wilkesboro Avenue's intersection with East Main Street was reconfigured between 1993 and 1998. The large expanses of undeveloped land near the Yadkin River and Cub Creek, however, have remained largely open space.

- **Materials:** Low to Medium

The East Wilkesboro Historic District retains the limited district-wide historic materials associated with residential development, including mature trees that have been part of the district since its original development. The road, which was originally gravel, has been paved but this likely first occurred in the early-twentieth-century. Overhead power lines, which date from the 1920s, remain, although they have likely been upgraded since they were originally installed.

In terms of individual properties, the 23 parcels within the district have variable levels of integrity of materials. Two properties no longer have extant resources. All but two of the non-brick structures, the Greenwood-Hayes House (WK0025, Parcel 4) and the Dr. Erwin House (WK0019, Parcel 18) have had their original wooden siding replaced with either vinyl or aluminum. Roofing on most of the structures has been replaced with modern asphalt or composition shingles. The majority of the houses also have at least some replacement windows, with notable examples of original windows on the Dr. Erwin House (WK0019, Parcel 18), the Greenwood-Hayes House (WK0025, Parcel 4), and most of the windows on the Henderson House (NSN, Parcel 8). In examples such as WK0030 (Parcel 10), almost all of the original exterior materials have been replaced.

- **Workmanship:** Low to Medium

The integrity of workmanship within the East Wilkesboro Historic District generally applies to individual properties within the district, although original landscaping, if part of a designed landscape plan, may contribute to the workmanship of the district, if there was evidence of such planning. Like the integrity of materials, the properties within the East Wilkesboro Historic District exhibit a wide range of integrity of workmanship. For instance, although original siding and windows are no longer evident on the Barber House (WK0007, Parcel 19) and the C. Y. Miller House (WK0045, Parcel 3), original workmanship of some remaining decorative elements is evident; the same is the case with the McNeill-Hayes House (WK0044, Parcel 21), which retains workmanship from both its original construction, in the chimneys, and its circa 1930s remodeling, in the monumental porch and denticulated detailing. The Dr. Erwin House (WK0019, Parcel 18) retains excellent workmanship and architectural detailing.

- **Feeling:** Medium



The East Wilkesboro Historic District retains its feeling of a late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century residential area that is slightly removed from the main downtown section of Wilkesboro. Although there are currently two mid-to-late-twentieth-century commercial structures within the district boundaries, the district as a whole remains primarily residential. Despite changes to material and workmanship on many of the houses, the forms of the structures within the district continue to evoke a feeling of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architecture.

- Association: Low to Medium

The East Wilkesboro Historic District continues to have an association with the development of the Town of Wilkesboro and the area between Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. A portion of the district was owned and platted by the Winston Land and Development Company, which played a significant role in the growth and development of North Wilkesboro during the late 1900s. The area retains the original grid plan and rectangular lot configuration as it had when it was originally annexed to Wilkesboro by the company, although the development of the entire East Wilkesboro area did not fill in until the mid-to-late-twentieth century. The majority of the houses within the district have lost their association with the significant figures in their ownership history, as there have been alterations to design, materials, and workmanship of the structures since they have passed out of the original ownership families.

2.2.4 *Eligibility*

The East Wilkesboro Historic District (WK0450) is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A. Although it has a strong association with the expansion and development of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, as the area between the two towns became a desirable residential location during the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth-century, the loss of two structures and the significant alterations and loss of integrity in many of the houses within the district boundaries compromises this association. It is ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have an association with a prominent person; although many of the owners of individual structures within the district were people of prominence in Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, including Johnson J. Hayes, Milton McNeill, and William Barber, the majority of the houses in the district have lost their association with these individuals due to later alterations to the structures. The East Wilkesboro Historic District exhibits a variety of late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century architecture styles and is a representative example of the development of a residential neighborhood with mixed contemporary styles. However, the loss of two structures along the southern side of East Main Street and the significant alterations and loss of integrity of a number of other structures detracts from the architectural value of the district. However, although outside of the scope of work for this project, the Dr. Erwin House (WK0019, Parcel 18) appears to deserve evaluation for individual NRHP eligibility under Criterion C, for its architecture. The East Wilkesboro Historic District and the structures within its boundaries are unlikely to yield important historical information about construction methods utilized during the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth-century, so the district is recommended ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.



2.3 300 East Main Commercial Block – WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453

Resource Name	300 East Main Commercial Block
HPO Survey Site #	WK0451, WK0452, WK0453
Street Address	309, 327, 331 East Main Street
PIN	3868-60-5232, 3868-60-6205, and 3868-60-6296
Construction Date(s)	1945-1946
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



Figure 2.3.1. 300 East Main Commercial Block (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453), facing southwest.

The 300 East Main Commercial Block consists of three adjacent structures (WK0451, WK0452, WK0453) and tax parcels, which create a commercial block along the south side of East Main Street, west of its intersection with Oakwoods Road. The three structures are currently addressed as 309, 327, and 331 East Main Street (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The three buildings were originally constructed beginning in 1945, with the easternmost building (331 East Main Street) being erected first, followed by the adjoining structures. The commercial block presents a symmetrical appearance, with a two-story central block flanked by a single story structure with a parapet roof on either side (Figure 2.3.1). The lot on which the commercial block sits slopes away from the frontage on East Main Street, leaving each structure with a lower level that is accessible from the rear of the lot (Figure 2.3.2). Currently, the central structure is unoccupied, with the eastern and western buildings holding commercial businesses.



Figure 2.3.2. 300 East Main Commercial Block (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453), facing northeast.

The westernmost structure in the commercial block is 309 East Main Street (WK0451). This structure is a one-story, concrete block masonry building, with a brick veneer façade (Figure 2.3.3). Like the other two buildings in the block, the topography of the parcel and parking lot reveal a second, basement-level story on the west side and rear (north) elevations (Figure 2.3.4). The front elevation has a central stepped parapet with a centered sign marquee below it, which is comprised of buff-colored brick and outlined with rowlock courses above and below and headers along the sides. The lower portion of the facade is asymmetrical. The eastern bay is a roll-up garage door and a main, modern metal and glass entry door is located beneath the western side of the central parapet. Between the two entry bays is a large display window that has been divided into five panels with metal-framed windows; each panel has a tall lower window and a smaller rectangular transom. The westernmost bay is a large window with two metal-framed panes, with a wooden panel covering the area where transoms may have originally been. The main entry door has a flat metal canopy, supported by metal brackets, above it; a similar bracket for a larger canopy remains on the west side of the sign marquee and the attachment points for other brackets are visible to the east of the sign marquee. The smaller display window has a modern cloth awning supported by metal brackets.

The western elevation of the building shows the concrete block masonry construction of the building (Figure 2.3.4). The upper level has five evenly spaced window openings, each with metal framed windows consisting of two lower panes and an upper transom. The lower, basement level, has three of these windows and a larger, garage door-sized opening that has been covered with corrugated metal. Along this elevation, the flat roofline steps down away from the front façade. The rear elevation of the building is covered with standing-seam metal sheeting with vertical orientation (Figures 2.3.5 and 2.3.6). The roof on this elevation has a parapet with two steps. The central bay is a modern garage door, with a modern metal entry door to the west and a raised modern entry door to the east. The lower story also has a single, six-pane, metal casement window. The upper story has two



Figure 2.3.3. WK0451, 309 East Main Street, facing south.



Figure 2.3.4. WK0451, 309 East Main Street, facing southeast.



Figure 2.3.5. WK0451, 309 East Main Street, facing northeast.



Figure 2.3.6. WK0451, 309 East Main Street, facing north.

windows, one at each corner; the western window is the same metal frame with two lower panels and an upper transom as the side elevation, while the eastern window is a wooden frame, nine-over-nine, double-hung sash, which is likely original. An exterior brick chimney rises along the eastern corner of the rear elevation; original gutter boxes are located along the second story, near each corner, and are attached to modern metal downspouts.

The interior of 309 East Main Street is laid out as a modern commercial business (Figure 2.3.7). There is a late-twentieth century counter structure along the west wall and display shelves oriented parallel to the large display window. The interior walls are modern gypsum board, the floor is vinyl commercial tile, and there is a drop-ceiling with a metal frame. Behind the main display area, the remainder of the building is used as warehouse space and was inaccessible at the time of the survey.



Figure 2.3.7. WK0451, 309 East Main Street, interior, facing southeast.

The central structure in the commercial block is 327 East Main Street (WK0452). This structure is a two-story, concrete block masonry building, with a brick veneer exterior (Figure 2.3.8). Like the other two buildings in the block, the topography of the parcel and parking lot reveal a third, basement-level story on the west side and rear (north) elevations (Figures 2.3.9 and 2.3.10). The building has a flat roof, with a centered sign marquee on the front elevation, which is outlined with rowlock courses above and below and headers along the sides. The second story has eight evenly spaced windows, each with a 15-pane, metal-frame casement window. The lower portion of the facade is asymmetrical. The eastern portion consists of a small storefront, with a single-pane, metal framed display window and a roll-up, garage door bay; above the entire storefront is a rectangular transom, divided into three sections, that has been covered with wooden panels. A modern fabric awning spans this storefront. A modern metal and glass entry door, with single pane transom, separates the eastern storefront from the western storefront. The westernmost storefront retains the original chamfered shape of the display window, although the window openings

have been enclosed with vinyl siding and modern, one-pane, vinyl frame windows – three on each of the front faces and one on each of the entry hallway sections. The double entry door, with single-pane transom, is modern metal and glass. The large rectangular transom above the entire storefront has been covered with vertical wooden paneling and a modern fabric awning spans the storefront. A metal and wooden sign for a former business is located above the awning. Attachment points and one metal bracket for a large canopy are visible between the first and second stories.

Structure WK0452 spans further back on the lot than WK0451 to the west, revealing two bays of its western wall from the rear of the lot (Figure 2.3.9). The upper story has the same 15-pane, metal frame, casement windows as the front elevation, while the lower two stories each have two, evenly spaced, six-pane, metal frame, casement windows. The south (rear) elevation has seven 15-pane, metal frame, casement windows along the uppermost story, with the central window having a metal fire escape attached. The basement story has a central roll-up, garage door bay; to the west are two 36-pane, metal frame, casement windows and to the east is a single six-pane, metal frame, casement window and a smaller, roll-up, garage door bay. The second level has a central opening, potentially originally a door, that has been covered with vertical wooden panels. To the west of center are three window bays, two with six-pane, metal frame, casement windows and the third with a modern one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl sash window; to the west of center is a five-panel wooden door and two six-pane, metal frame, casement windows.

The building is currently vacant and the interior was not accessible, but the front portion was visible through the display windows (Figure 2.3.11). The ceiling of the western portion is original metal paneling, while the dividing walls are late-twentieth-century construction with wooden paneling. The wooden paneling is continued in the stairwell that is accessed by the door between the two storefronts (Figure 2.3.12).



Figure 2.3.8. WK0452, 327 East Main Street, facing south.



Figure 2.3.9. WK0452, 327 East Main Street, facing northeast.



Figure 2.3.10. WK0452, 327 East Main Street, facing north.

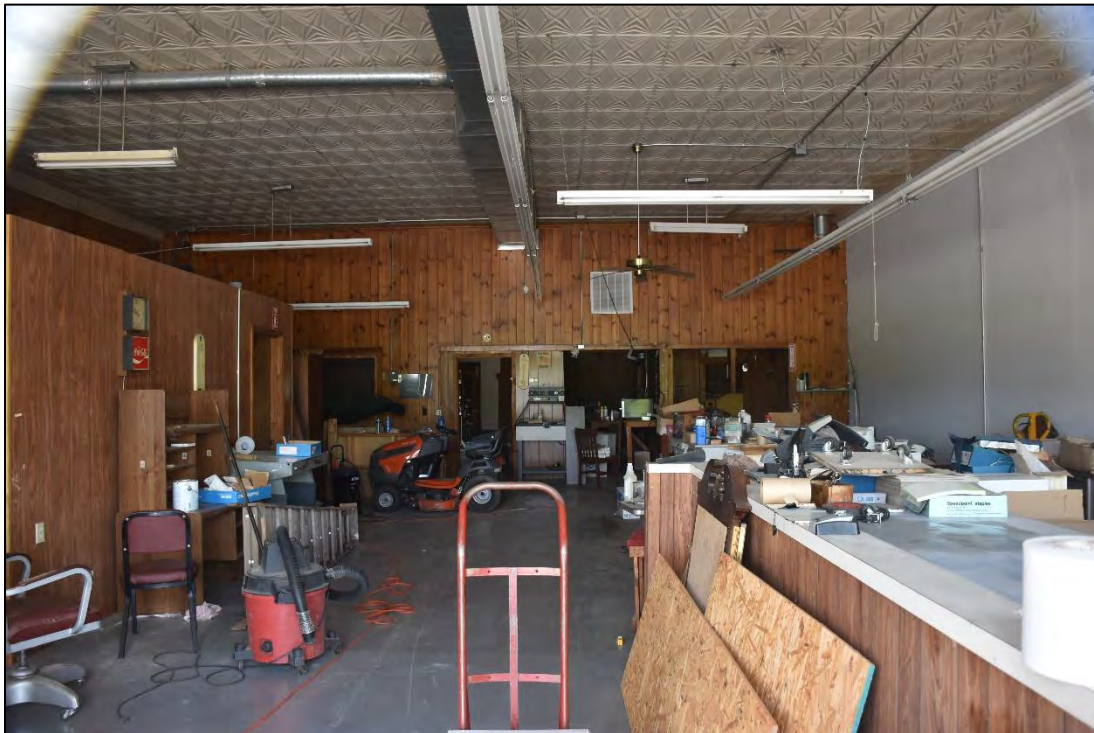


Figure 2.3.11. WK0452, 327 East Main Street, interior, facing south.

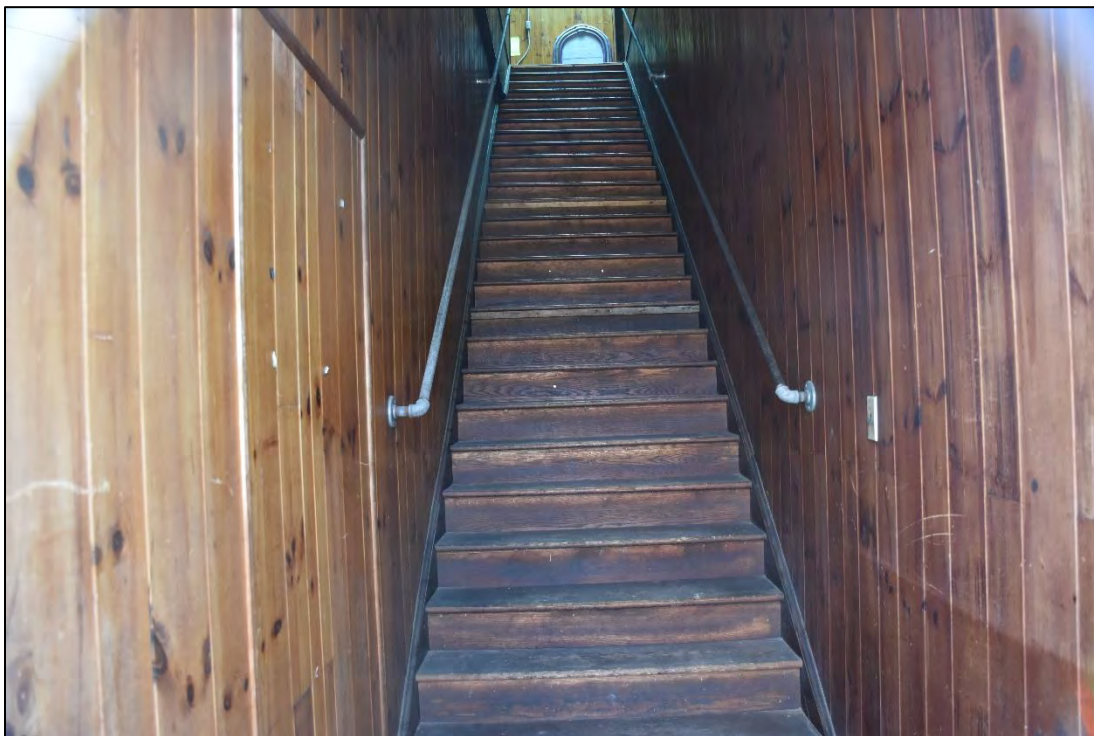


Figure 2.3.12. WK0452, 327 East Main Street, interior, facing south.

The easternmost structure in the commercial block is 331 East Main Street (WK0453). This structure is a one-story, concrete block masonry building, with brick veneer (Figure 2.3.13). Like the other two buildings in the block, the topography of the parcel and parking lot reveal a second, basement-level story on the east side and rear (north) elevations (Figure 2.3.2). The façade shape of WK0453 is the same as WK0451, suggesting that they were designed around the same time, potentially for a similar original purpose. The front elevation has a central stepped parapet metal coping along the edge; unlike WK0451, there is no sign marquee below the parapet, but there is ghost signage that provides evidence of former painted commercial signs. The lower portion of the facade is symmetrical. The central doorway is modern glass with a metal frame and it includes a transom light; a steeply pitched metal awning shades the entryway. The large rectangular display windows on either side of the doorway, which still bear evidence of a rectangular transom, have been covered with vertical wooden paneling.

On the east elevation, there are three window openings of various sizes, each covered with vertical wooden paneling (Figure 2.3.14). A roll-up, garage door bay has also been partially enclosed by wooden paneling to make it smaller than its original size. A flat-roofed metal carport, supported by metal posts, has been attached to the rear portion of the eastern elevation; this canopy provides a parking area that is on top of a lower, basement level (Figure 2.3.15). Beneath the canopy, three 15-pane, metal frame, casement windows are visible. The parking canopy also extends south, past the rear wall of the main structure, and is supported by a steel-frame floor that originally served as a canopy over then rear lower level (Figures 2.3.15 and 2.3.16). A part concrete block masonry and part frame upper story addition has been added to the rear of the main building, abutting the carport area, also supported by the steel-frame canopy; this section has four modern six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash windows evenly spaced along its south elevation.



Figure 2.3.13. WK0453, 331 East Main Street, facing south.



Figure 2.3.14. WK0453, 327 East Main Street, facing southwest.



Figure 2.3.15. WK0453, 327 East Main Street, facing northwest.



Figure 2.3.16. WK0453, 327 East Main Street, facing north.

The basement level of the building located beneath the steel canopy, which is supported by metal posts in concrete bases, contains a number of access points. The eastern two bays are wooden, multi-panel, garage door bays, located beneath the front portion of the carport (Figure 2.3.17). The walls of the garage door openings show the concrete block masonry units that comprise the structural portion of the building; metal supports for the metal canopy are located on either side of each garage bay. The central bay was originally another garage door opening, but it has been enclosed with vertical wooden paneling; adjacent to this garage door is a man-sized entry door, which is comprised of wood, with three lower panels and three horizontal window openings in the upper portion (Figure 2.3.18). West of the central garage door bay is a single 5-pane, metal frame, casement window and a former door opening that has been covered over with plywood.

The interior of the building, which was accessible but not photographable, has been converted into a small commercial space. A modern dividing wall has been placed to the west of the entry door, creating an open office/service counter; the eastern portion has display shelves and racks. The ceiling is a modern, metal grid, dropped ceiling and the walls are wooden paneling.



Figure 2.3.17. WK0453, 327 East Main Street, facing northwest.



Figure 2.3.18. WK0453, 327 East Main Street, facing northwest.



2.3.1 *History*

The 300 East Main Commercial Block was built around 1945 on a section of land formerly owned by Lila Rousseau. The Rousseau family owned large tracts of land around Wilkesboro, including the property on both sides of Oakwoods Road, north of Bridge Street and south of East Main Street, during the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. Lila G. Rousseau was the wife of James Parks Rousseau and the Rousseau family was a large family with many notable members in the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro area. In addition to their own homeplace, Lila and James P. Rousseau were real estate investors, who purchased tracts of land totaling several hundred acres; before his death in 1905, James P. Rousseau transferred his interest in portions of the property to his wife, making her the primary controller of much of their real estate holdings, but she had been a landowner in her own right since the 1890s (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1891 DB13:427).

Following Lila Rousseau's death in 1942, her four sons, Julius A., James R., James P., and William A. were named as trustees for a five-year termed trust, which controlled her landholdings and was tasked to "manage[d] and control[led]...them as in their judgement and discretion seems best" (Wilkes County Will Book 9:417). In 1945, the Rousseau brothers took an approximately 0.7-acre parcel, with 220 feet of frontage along East Main Street, located at the southwest corner of East Main Street and Brushey Mountain Road (now Oakwoods Road) and created the "Midway Block". The block was divided into 12 lots, 11 of which were 20 feet along East Main Street by 130 feet deep, with Lot 1 being a small triangular parcel east of Lot 2 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1945 PB2:4). When the block was originally plotted in 1945, there was a small frame structure located on Lots 2 and 3, within the right-of-way for Brushey Mountain Road; this building was the Midway Service Center, a gas and service station (Figure 2.3.19). Shortly after the block was platted, in August 1945, Lots 4 through 12 were sold. Lots 9, 10, 11, and 12, which correspond to 309 East Main Street (WK0451) were purchased by Joe R. Barber and James H. Somers; Kyle Hayes purchased Lots 6, 7, and 8, which correspond to 327 East Main Street (WK0452); and C. A. Johnson and E. L. Beshears purchased lots purchased Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, corresponding to 331 East Main Street (WK0453) (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1945 DB217:212; DB222:355, 356).

In 1947, the town commissioners of Wilkesboro rejected the original plat of the Midway Block because of the 20-foot public alley located behind the lots (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1947 DB268:470). In response to this rejection, the Rousseau brothers revised the original plat of the block, changing the depth of the lots to 135 feet and making the alley smaller (Figure 2.3.20); this plat was accepted by the Wilkesboro town commissioners in April 1947 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1947 PB2:11; DB268:470). The following year, the Rousseaus again revised the plat of the Midway Block, adding additional 25 feet to the rear of each lot and dedicating a new 20-foot alley to the south of the new rear boundary of the lots; the new plat was accepted by the town commissioners in March 1948 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1948 PB2:90; DB240:132; DB241:407). This additional square footage was agreed upon by the property owners and the deeds transferring the land had been executed shortly after the new plat was accepted (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1947 DB240:129). The new plat of the block shows that the Midway Service Station building was no longer standing on Lots 2 and 3, but it does show that three buildings had been constructed on the Midway Block and identifies their original owners/tenants (Figure 2.3.21). An aerial photograph from 1950 shows that the three structures that make up the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453) had been built; subsequent aerial photographs show changes to the building and surroundings to 1976 (Figures 2.3.22–2.3.24).

The westernmost building of the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, currently addressed as 309 East Main Street (WK0451), was purchased by Joe Barber and James Somers in 1945. By May 1946, Barber and Somers had constructed a two-story building on the lot, as they entered into a party wall agreement with Kyle and Margaret

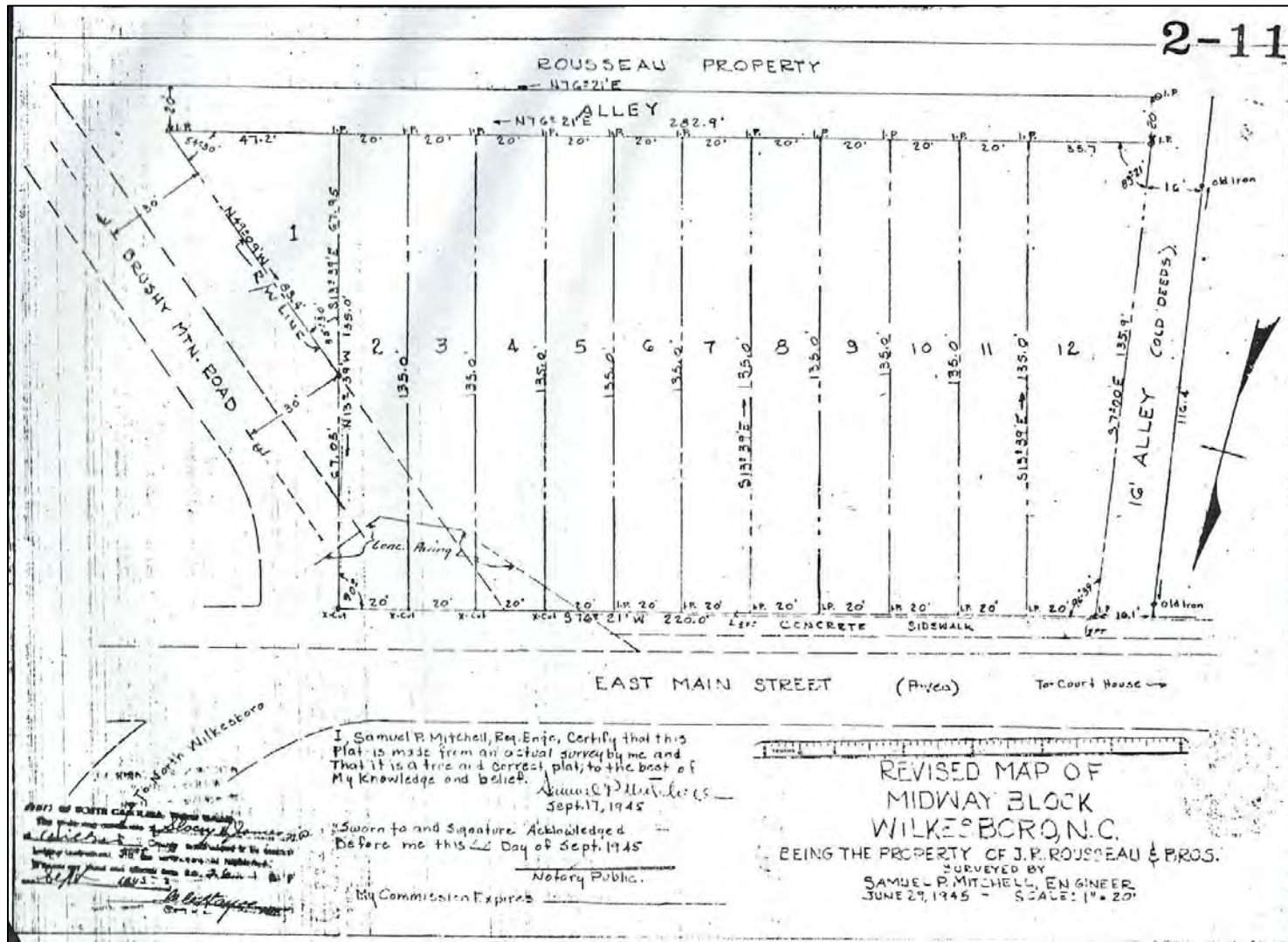


Figure 2.3.20. Plat of the Midway Block, 1947 (Wilkes County Plat Book 2:11).

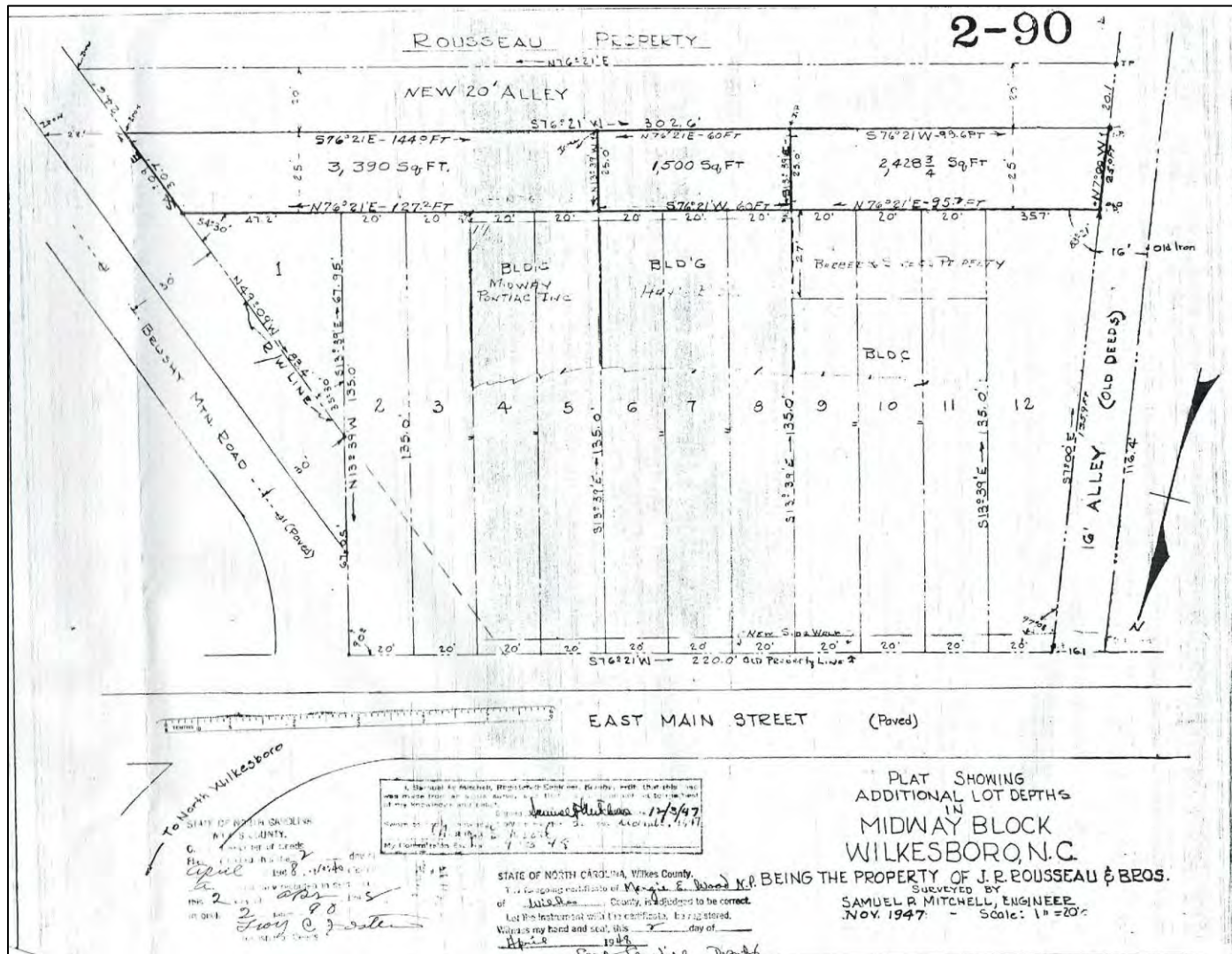


Figure 2.3.21. Plat of the Midway Block, 1947 (Wilkes County Plat Book 2:90).



Figure 2.3.22. U. S. Army map (1950) showing the 300 East Main Commercial Block.



Figure 2.3.23. USGS aerial photograph (1963) showing the 300 East Main Commercial Block.



Figure 2.3.24. USGS aerial photograph (1976) showing the 300 East Main Commercial Block.

Hayes, owners of the lots to the east, which correspond to 327 East Main Street (WK0452) (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1946 DB217:535). The earliest business located in the 309 East Main Street Building was Barber-Somers Motor Company. Sometime before 1956, James Somers had sold his interest in the property to Joe Barber; in 1956, Joe Barber sold the property and the existing building to E. Height Helms and Ben F. Marsh (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1956 DB316:426). Two years later, E. Height Helms sold the property and building to Ben F. Marsh (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1958 DB337:180). In 1991, the parcel and the building were purchased by Kyle Hayes, but were transferred out of Hayes family ownership following Kyle Hayes's death in 1994.

The central building of the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, currently addressed as 327 East Main Street (WK0452), was purchased by Kyle and Margaret Hayes in 1945. In May 1946, the Hayes's entered into a party wall agreement with their neighbors to the west, Joe Barber and James Somers (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1946 DB217:535). This agreement indicated that a two-story wall had been constructed on the property line dividing Lots 8 and 9 of the Midway Block, with one-half of the wall on Hayes property and one-half located on Barber and Somers property; it specified that the Hayes's were to pay \$1,500 for their portion of the wall and that they wished to extend the wall an addition 25 feet back on the lot and raise it another story, to make a "two-story building above the street on his lot" (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1946 DB217:535). Although Kyle Hayes owned the building, he was a local real estate investor and likely did not occupy it with a business of his own, but rather rented it other business tenants. In 1947, Garwood Piano Company was located in the eastern portion of the building, "next to Midway Pontiac"; although a newspaper article from August 1947 touted the opening of Rollerdome, a roller skating facility, on the top floor of the "Farm Center building, between Midway Pontiac company and Barber Motor company between the Wilkesboros, in December of that year, Clevenger Business College began occupying that portion of the building (*The Journal-Patriot* 28 August 1947:1; 12 October 1947:12;

4 December 1947:4; 8 December 1947:5). In 1951, Garwood Piano Company and Clevenger Business College still occupied the building owned by Kyle Hayes (Figure 2.3.25).

The easternmost building of the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, currently addressed as 331 East Main Street (WK0453), was purchased by C. A. Johnson and E. L. Beshears in 1945 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1945 DB217:212; DB238:31). By 1947, when the plat of the Midway Block was revised to add the additional 25 feet at the rear of the lots, Johnson and Beshears had sold the property to the Midway Pontiac Company (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1947 DB 240:129). Before 1946, Midway Pontiac had been known as the McNeill Motor Company, and prior to that the Wilkes Motor Company. After buying half the interest in the business in 1940, M. B. McNeill moved the dealership to the Midway Block six years later. The new Midway Pontiac building was an “ultra-modern building, designed to be a car dealership...the ground level contained sales, service, and parts, and a body shop was in the basement” (Brown 2005:109) (Figures 2.3.26 and 2.3.27). In 1959, Gene McNeill, M. B. McNeill’s son joined the business and during the years the dealership also sold various other models besides Pontiac, including Studebaker, Hudson, and Subaru. In 1960, Midway Pontiac, Incorporated, sold the property to M. B. and Blanche McNeill (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1960 DB358:138). Midway Pontiac moved out of the building at 331 East Main Street in 1979 (Brown 2005: 113). In 1990, the heirs of M. B. and Blanche McNeill sold the property to Kyle Hayes (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1990 DB684:227).



Figure 2.3.25. Clevenger Business College Yearbook, 1951.



New Plant and Salesrooms, MIDWAY PONTIAC, Inc., East Wilkesboro, now under construction.



M. B. McNeill,
President.



R. R. Church,
Secy-Treas.

Located in their spacious and modern new plant in East Wilkesboro, the MIDWAY PONTIAC, Inc., are displaying the new models in Pontiac Automobiles and Mack Trucks.

Complete Sales and Service
With Full Stock of
Repair Parts



The NEW PONTIAC



MACK TRUCK

Figure 2.3.26. Midway Pontiac Building, circa 1945 (Brown 2005:110).



Figure 2.3.27. Midway Pontiac Building, circa 1950 (Brown 2005:112).

In 1948-49, the businesses and residents on Main Street, Wilkesboro were listed in the street directory portion of the city directory, but they were listed alphabetically with no street numbers. However, based on the ownership records, Barber-Somers Motor Company, which sold and repaired DeSoto and Plymouth vehicles, was located at the present-day 309 East Main Street and Midway Pontiac was located at 331 East Main Street (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory 1948-1949:107, 260*). The inhabitants of buildings on Main Street, Wilkesboro were also listed alphabetically in the 1953-54 directory; the three identifiable businesses are Midway Pontiac, Inc., which was located at 331 East Main Street; Clevenger College of Business Administration, which occupied the upper floor of present-day 327 East Main Street; and Barber Motor Company, which continued to sell and service DeSoto and Plymouth cars under the ownership of Joe Barber, was located in the present-day 309 East Main Street (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory 1953-1954:107, 243*). In 1962-63, the addresses of structures on East Main Street were included in the street directory and the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block encompasses the addresses 319-325-327-331 East Main Street. Physician William C. Hayes had his office in 319 East Main Street; Wilkes Farm Center was located at 325 East Main Street, with Ben F. Marsh as the manager; the Mark Down Furniture Company, managed by Morgan Roope, was located at 327 East Main Street; and Midway Pontiac was located at 331 East Main Street (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory 1962-1963:289*).

By the mid-1990s, the three structures were owned by Kyle Hayes. Hayes was a lawyer, who practiced law for half a century in Wilkesboro; he was also a very successful real estate investor who, at the time of his death in January 1994, had an estate worth \$24,000,000 and reportedly owned one quarter of the buildings in Wilkesboro (*New York Times* 4 December 1994). A more local newspaper article on Hayes cited his ownership of 31 buildings within Wilkesboro, as well as 69 buildings in North Wilkesboro, unincorporated Wilkes County, surrounding counties, Virginia, and Tennessee (*News and Record [Greensboro]* 1 December 1994). After his family contested Hayes's will,



his large holdings were sold off at auction, including the three structures within the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block.

2.3.2 *Architectural Context*

Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro are the two principal commercial centers in this area of Wilkes County, with Wilkesboro being established first, in the mid-nineteenth century, and North Wilkesboro growing following the development efforts of William F. Trogdon, beginning in the 1890s. Generally in both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, the commercial buildings were built in concentrations along a main road that is generally centrally located within the town; in North Wilkesboro, the commercial district developed near the railroad corridor that led to the earliest growth and development of the town. For commercial structures built during the early part of the twentieth century, accessibility to pedestrians was a key consideration in the location of buildings and most commercial structures were placed close to the sidewalk or right-of-way along the main commercial road. As the twentieth century progressed, and automobile ownership became more common, the necessity of parking and creating room for cars to enter became an important consideration to the placement of newer commercial structures. Materials for commercial structures, especially during the World War II era, changed from brick masonry to concrete block masonry with brick veneer on the façade. The advent of electricity and artificial lighting allowed for these buildings to have less window openings on their upper stories and secondary elevations, which was a direct contrast to the many, large window openings that are usually evident on older buildings (Phillips 2002; Phillips 2008).

Main Street in Wilkesboro has a collection of one and two-part commercial buildings, spanning from Woodland Boulevard to the west to East Street to the east; another small concentration of commercial buildings is located on Bridge Street. These structures, which are located within the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District, range in construction from the late-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The Wilkesboro Building and Loan Association Building (WK0219) is a two-story, brick veneer commercial structure that was built in 1958 but was extensively remodeled in 2000 (Figure 2.3.28); the modern alterations, including windows and storefront, have made it a non-contributing resource to the historic district. The Commercial Building at 101 West Main Street (WK0246) was built in 1956; the two-story, brick veneer structure has similar metal windows to the building at 327 East Main Street (WK0452), but, unlike the three structures that make up the 300 East Main Commercial Block, it retains the original configuration and windows on its storefront (Figure 2.3.29). The structure is a contributing resource to the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District. The Gray Brothers Furniture Company Building (WK0253), at 125 West Main Street, is contemporaneous to the three structures in the 300 East Main Commercial Block, being built in 1946 (Figure 2.3.30). Like the 300 East Main Commercial Block buildings, it is located on a sloped lot and is taller in the rear (four stories) than in the front (two stories); the brick veneer structure has similar metal windows to those on 327 East Main Street (WK0452) and, although the storefront has more modern Colonial Revival detailing, the original configuration of the storefront area remains the same. The Gray Brothers building is a contributing structure to the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District. The Northwestern Bank Building (WK0239) is located at 105 East Main Street, along a section of the street with a mostly continuous commercial block that contains buildings that span multiple decades (Figure 2.3.31). Built around 1947, the former bank building, which is two-stories and has brick veneer and upper story metal-frame windows, has had the central portion of its front elevation altered from its original configuration, of a central door and two large circle windows, to a modern plate-glass storefront. The Northwestern Bank Building is a non-contributing resource to the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District, because of the alterations to its first story front elevation.



Figure 2.3.28. Wilkesboro Building and Loan Association Building (WK0219), facing southwest.



Figure 2.3.29. Commercial Building, 101 West Main Street (WK0246), facing southeast.



Figure 2.3.30. Gray Brothers Furniture Company Building (WK0253), facing southwest.



Figure 2.3.31. Northwestern Bank Building (WK0239), facing southeast.

In North Wilkesboro, like Wilkesboro, a large number of commercial buildings that span from the late-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth-century are located within the main downtown business district, which is located along Main Street/B Street and C Street, between 10th and 5th Streets, and along some of the numbered cross streets, primarily 9th and 10th streets. The section of Main Street, between 10th Street and 8th Street, is listed in the National Register as the Downtown Main Street Historic District, with its period of significance from 1891 to 1952. Located east of the historic district boundaries are two commercial structures that were built during the period from 1940 to 1950 that exhibit similar characteristics as the structures that make up the 300 East Main Commercial Block. Both the buildings at 515-519 Main Street and 527 Main Street are two-story commercial structures, built of concrete block masonry construction, with brick veneer on the front façades of 515 and 529 Main Street, while 519 Main Street has a more modern metal and fiberglass covering on its upper story (Figures 2.3.32 and 2.3.33). Like the building at 309 East Main Street (WK0451), the concrete block masonry is visible along the secondary elevations on each of these buildings. The building at 515 East Main appears to have a more modern, metal-frame storefront and replacement windows on the upper story, while 519 East Main Street may retain its original lower story storefront, with display windows and transoms, but its upper story has been covered. The building at 527 Main Street has newer storefront display windows on its front elevation, but its recessed doorway remains; its upper story windows are 16-pane metal frame casements, which were a popular choice for mid-century commercial buildings in the area.



Figure 2.3.32. Commercial building, 515 Main Street, North Wilkesboro (NSN), facing southwest.



Figure 2.3.33. Commercial building, 527 Main Street, North Wilkesboro (NSN), facing southwest.

2.3.3 Integrity

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the 300 East Main Commercial Block (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453) are as follows:

- Location: High

All three of the structures that comprise the 300 East Main Commercial Block remain in their original locations.

- Design: Low to Medium

Each of the three buildings that are part of the 300 East Main Commercial Block retain moderate integrity of design in their general forms and exterior elements. The size and massing of each structure from the front elevation remains the same as when it was originally constructed, as do design elements such as the parapet rooflines on 331 and 309 East Main Street and the window openings and marquee sign box on 327 East Main Street. The covering over of original display windows, notably on the entire façade of 309 East Main Street and the western portion of 327 East Main Street, has also altered the original design of the structure somewhat, although it appears that at least the original openings remain beneath modern alterations. Additional alterations to the original designs have occurred on the side and rear elevations, including the covering over or enclosing of entry locations and windows, which is evident at the rear of 331 East Main Street and the large rear and side additions that have been attached to 309 East Main Street. On the interior of 309 and 331 East Main Street, which both served as automobile dealerships and service centers during their earliest years, conversion into modern commercial businesses has completely altered



the open space layout and display space that would have been necessary for these types of businesses, resulting in smaller, enclosed spaces in the front, public, portion of the building. At 327 East Main Street, it appears that at least some of the original open commercial spaces remain.

- **Setting:** Medium

The setting surrounding the 300 East Main Commercial Block has been altered by some additional commercial development the north side of East Main Street, to the west of the resource, which began in the 1970s. To the east, the area remains primarily residential, as it has since the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block was constructed. Although converted to a park, the land to the south of the resource remains as mostly open space, as it has traditionally been. At some point before 1950, an earlier frame structure that stood to the east of 303 East Main Street was removed, creating a larger parking lot and access area for the building; later, between 1993 and 1998, the northern side of the intersection of East Main Street and Oakwoods Road was reconfigured.

- **Materials:** Low

Each of the three structures that are part of the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block retains most of its original structural material, including concrete block masonry beneath a brick veneer exterior. However, the majority of the material on other aspects of the buildings have been replaced. This includes the removal and replacement of original display windows along the front elevation of all three and the replacement of original entry doors. The 327 East Main Street building retains slightly more integrity of materials, since its original upper story and side windows remain. The interior of all three structures have experienced significant loss of historic fabric as the result of remodeling and reconfiguration for new commercial purposes.

- **Workmanship:** Low

Each of the three structures that are part of the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block retains the workmanship associated with the original construction of the building, specifically the masonry substructure and brick veneer exterior, with minor decorative detailing associated with the sign marquees. However, the majority of the workmanship associated with other original finishes has been lost through remodels and renovations, including alterations to main front display openings. Additionally, the interiors of each building have lost most of their historic finishes, including wall coverings, moldings, and flooring, although it appears that 327 East Main Street may retain an early metal panel ceiling.

- **Feeling:** Medium

The 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, although it has undergone some changes to its interior and exterior, remains recognizable as a set of commercial structures that were built in the first half of the twentieth century. However, because of the changes to the display windows and interior spaces, recognizing 309 and 331 East Main Street as former car dealerships, which was their original function, is difficult. The structure at 327 East Main Street remains recognizable as a multi-unit storefront with an upstairs space, as it was originally constructed and used.

- **Association:** Low

The 300 East Main Street Commercial Block retains its association with the commercial development of the "midway" area, between Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. However, each building within the resource group has lost its association with its original owner and purpose, as the significant changes to interior



configuration and significant exterior aspects, such as display windows and commercial entryways, occurred since the buildings have passed into new ownership.

2.3.4 *Eligibility*

The 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, comprised of 309, 327, and 331 East Main Street (WK0451, WK0452, and WK0453) is ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A. Although it retains its association with the expansion of commercial development past the original boundaries of downtown Wilkesboro, the multiple changes to each structure have significantly compromised the block's integrity and its ability to convey the types of individual business that were originally located in these buildings. It is ineligible under Criterion B, as it does not have a significant association with a prominent person; although a number of the owners of each of the buildings were prominent members of the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro communities, they are not the primary structures associated with each of these people and the multiple alterations made in the late-twentieth-century have compromised these associations. The three structures that make up the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block are examples of commercial construction from the first half of the twentieth century. In an area that was experiencing growth during the early part of the twentieth century, there are numerous examples of this type of commercial architecture; since there are multiple integrity issues with the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block, other examples can better illustrate the architecture of this type and period of building. Therefore, it is ineligible under Criterion C. None of the three structures within the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block is likely to yield important historical information about construction methods utilized during the 1940s, so the 300 East Main Street Commercial Block is recommended ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.

2.4 Julius A. Rousseau House – WK0454

Resource Name	Julius A. Rousseau House
HPO Survey Site #	WK0454
Street Address	250 Oakwoods Road
PIN	3867-69-6077
Construction Date(s)	Circa 1957
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible; Criteria C



Figure 2.4.1. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), facing south.

The Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454) is located west of Oakwoods Road (SR 1001), approximately 0.3-mile south of its intersection with East Main Street (NC 268), east of the town center of Wilkesboro (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The house sits approximately 0.15-mile from the road and is accessed by a long driveway that also provides access to two additional houses to the south. It overlooks Cub Creek, which is located approximately 0.15-mile to the north of the house, and is set upon a hilltop, with the lot sloping down towards the creek. The house was built around 1957 and is an example of the Neoclassical style that was popular during the early-to-mid-twentieth-century (Figure 2.4.1). The two-story, frame structure has a brick veneer exterior. The main portion of the house is three bays wide by two bays deep, with a single story wing attached to the eastern elevation and a one-story, rear ell, both of which date to the original period of construction. The front elevation of the house is dominated by a monumental, full façade, two-story, flat-roofed porch, which is supported by four fluted Corinthian columns and has a band of denticulated molding at the cornice line; two engaged Corinthian pilasters are located where the



Figure 2.4.2. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), porch detail, facing southwest.

porch meets the house (Figure 2.4.2). The central doorway has an elaborate fluted surround, with a heavy cornice and denticulated molding, sidelights, and a transom (Figure 2.4.3). Flanking the door on either side are paired 15-pane French doors, with decorative surrounds featuring denticulated molding. The upper story has three evenly spaced eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash windows, with exterior storm windows and non-functional shutters. The front of the house is accessed by a set of brick stairs that spans the width of the porch.

The eastern elevation of the house has a one-story, front-gabled wing that is attached via hyphen, obscuring the rear portion of this side of the house (Figures 2.4.5 and 2.4.6). The northern bay, which is visible, has an eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash window on both the first and second stories. A faux chimney stack breaks the gabled roofline, which has deep cornice returns and denticulated molding. Centered within the attic story is a single-pane casement window, flanked by a single rectangular attic vent on either side (Figure 2.4.5). The single story wing is attached to the main house via a side-gabled hyphen, which has a paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window. The front-gabled portion of the wing has a central entry door, accessed by a stoop and brick stairs. To the west is a single, eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash window; to the east is an enclosed porch that is covered with horizontal wooden siding and has a casement window with four vertical panes. The gable portion of the wing, which has a two-pane, wooden-frame casement window centered within it, is covered with horizontal wooden siding and has the same deep cornice returns and denticulated molding as the main portion of the house (Figure 2.4.6). The enclosed porch portion of the wing wraps around to the eastern elevation, continuing with horizontal wooden siding and casement windows with three vertical panes (Figure 2.4.7). An interior chimney is visible along the roof ridge. The rear portion of the front-gabled wing has a modern entry door and eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash window on the lower floor and a single six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window in the upper story (Figure 2.4.8).



Figure 2.4.3. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), door detail, facing south.



Figure 2.4.4. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), door/window detail, facing south.



Figure 2.4.5. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), facing southwest.



Figure 2.4.6. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), wing, facing south.



Figure 2.4.7. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), facing west.



Figure 2.4.8. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), house, facing northwest.



The northern elevation of the house presents a non-symmetrical appearance, in contrast to the front of the house (Figure 2.4.9). There is a single story, gabled, rear ell projection, which has a projecting bay with curved, standing-seam metal roof and three six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash windows. The hyphen that connects the eastern wing to the main house continues past the southeastern corner of the main structure, connecting to the rear ell and creating a recessed opening for a rear entry door, at the easternmost bay of the main portion of the house; the hyphen also has a paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window on its rear elevation. The remainder of the fenestration on the southern elevation of the house consists of primarily eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash windows and a small, six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window near where the rear ell meets the main house. The ornate molding treatment and deep cornice returns continue along the rear of the house and on the rear ell.

The western elevation of the house is symmetrical, with two eight-over-eight, double-hung, wooden sash windows on each story (Figure 2.4.10). These windows flank a faux chimney, that has a projecting exterior section on the first story and breaks the peak of the house's gable. A single-pane casement window is centered within this faux chimney, in the attic level, flanked by a single rectangular vent on either side. The roof of the house is covered with composition shingles. S&ME attempted to gain interior access to the structure but the request was denied.

To the northeast of the house is a modern, frame, gabled garage structure (Figures 2.4.11 and 2.4.12). The garage has a brick foundation and is covered with vinyl siding; the roof is composition shingles. The eastern bay on the garage has two garage doors and a single, man-sized entry door. West of the house is a late-twentieth century, metal carport (Figure 2.4.13). The house is accessed by a long driveway, which ends in a circular turn around (Figure 2.4.14). The center of the circle drive has a landscaped vegetative area, with a single tree surrounded by a low brick wall. The lot on which the house stands is terraced, sloping downward to the north of the house (Figure 2.4.15). To the south and west of the house, the lot slopes upward, with the area to the west of the circular driveway containing a grape arbor (Figure 2.4.16).



Figure 2.4.9. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), facing northeast.



Figure 2.4.10. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), facing east.



Figure 2.4.11. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), modern garage, facing northwest.



Figure 2.4.12. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), modern garage, facing west.



Figure 2.4.13. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), modern carport, facing north.



Figure 2.4.14. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), circle drive, facing southwest.



Figure 2.4.15. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), house, facing north.



Figure 2.4.16. Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454), house, facing west.



2.4.1 History

The Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454) was constructed around 1957 on land that was part of a large tract that was known as the Lila G. Rousseau homeplace by the mid-twentieth century. The Rousseau family owned large tracts of land around Wilkesboro, including the property on both sides of Oakwoods Road, north of Bridge Street and south of East Main Street, during the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. Lila G. Rousseau was the wife of James Parks Rousseau and the Rousseau family was a large family with many notable members in the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro area.

Lila Rousseau (1861-1942) had been born in Georgia, where she met and married James P. Rousseau in 1882. James Parks Rousseau (1852-1905) was the son of Addison Lafayette and Cynthia Parks Rousseau; A. L. Rousseau was a notable area farmer and Mason and served as the Wilkes County Treasurer for four years, from 1870 to 1874 (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 11 April 1895:1). James P. Rousseau was a farmer and businessman in the Wilkesboro vicinity and a Mason, like his father (*The Charlotte Observer* 28 October 1905:3; *The Western Sentinel* [Winston-Salem] 2 November 1905:8; *The Farmer and Mechanic* 7 November 1905:7). The couple returned to Wilkes County, J. P. Rousseau's childhood home, sometime after their marriage, likely by the early 1890s, based on property records. By 1895, J. P. and Lila Rousseau had moved into a house south of Wilkesboro and two years later, the Rousseaus were renting out the old A. L. Rousseau farm (*The Chronicle* 12 December 1895:4; 15 September 1897:4). In the late 1890s, Rousseau's farm included livestock production, as he was actively purchasing hogs and notably slaughtered a 675-pound hog (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 13 January 1897:1; 1898 September 28:1). In 1900, the family was living in Wilkesboro Township, in a home that they owned with a mortgage. James Rousseau was identified as a farmer and, along with Lila, the household included the couple's seven children, aged three to 16 (United States Census Bureau 1900). By 1902, J. P. Rousseau was operating a hardware store in North Wilkesboro, advertising numerous items, including window screens, nails, axes, hammers, tire-benders, plows, and stoves (*North Wilkesboro Hustler* 19 August 1902:3; 12 September 1902:3; *The Chronicle* 23 July 1902:1).

By 1910, Lila Rousseau was a widow, who continued to live in Wilkesboro Township on the mortgaged farm; her occupation was listed as farmer and six of the couple's children remained living in the house, along with Martha Williams, a black cook who worked for the family. The oldest daughter, Nellie, was a music teacher; the oldest son, James Rogan, was identified as a farmer; and the third son, William A., worked as a salesman at a wholesale grocery store; the remaining three children were attending school (United States Census Bureau 1910). By 1930, Lila Rousseau had moved to a house on Kensington Avenue in North Wilkesboro, worth \$15,000, which she owned. Along with the widow Rousseau, three of her children: Nellie, who was a teacher; James R., who was a tax collector; and William A., who was a retail merchant at a grocery store, and the cook, Martha Williams, lived in the house (United States Census Bureau 1930). By 1940, only Lila Rousseau, her son J. Rogan Rousseau, who worked for the State of North Carolina, and Challenga Earl, a black maid for the family, were living in the Rousseau household, which was located on B Street in North Wilkesboro, worth \$12,000, and owned by the family; it is likely that was the same house as the 1930 census, as the family was identified as living in the same house in 1935, and Kensington Avenue and B Street intersect, suggesting that the house was on the corner (United States Census Bureau 1940).

In 1891, Addison Lafayette Rousseau, the father of James Parks Rousseau, sold Lila Rousseau approximately 230 acres of land, located south of the Yadkin River, for \$3,500 (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1891 DB13:427). In 1900, five years after the death of his father, J. P. and Lila Rousseau purchased the approximately 400 acre A. L. Rousseau old homeplace, on which they were residing, from the other heirs of A. L. Rousseau; three years later, they mortgaged the property through a deed of trust to J. E. Finley, which was eventually satisfied in 1938 (Wilkes



County Register of Deeds 1900 DB38:469; 1903 DB38:474). Around the same time, J. P. Rousseau sold his interest in the 400-acre parcel to Lila, presumably since his health had been declining over the previous couple of years (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1903 DB42:401). During this period, the Rousseaus were also buying and selling a large amount of property within Wilkes County, often advertising their sales in the local newspapers (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 25 April 1900:5; 20 May 1903:1). When James P. Rousseau died in 1905 with no will, his widow, Lila Gilbert Rousseau, inherited the remainder her husband's property, broadening her landholdings in Wilkesboro and the surrounding area.

Lila Rousseau continued to hold the Rousseau family land in the Wilkesboro area until her death in 1942 (North Carolina Death Certificates July 1942:171). In Lila Rousseau's will and codicil, probated in August 1942, she divided her personal and real estate property among her children. Specifically, her real estate holdings were willed to James Rogan, Julius Addison, William Archibald, and James Parks Junior, with the specification that the property "be held in trust...for a period of five years from the date of my death, to be managed and controlled by them as in their judgement and discretion seems best" (Wilkes County Will Book 9:417). In 1947, the four Rousseau sons, exercising a clause in their mother's will, renewed the trust for her property for an additional five years (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1947 DB231:436). In 1954, after the expiration of the second five-year period of the trust, the three living trustees, J. R. Rousseau, J. A. Rousseau, and J. P. Rousseau, transferred their three-fourth's interest in the property to a new trust, which was created for a 25 year period (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1954 DB268:379). The following year, the trustees transferred a 5.22-acre parcel to Julius A. Rousseau, with some specific conditions enforced until 1965, with the option to extend them for an additional 10 year period. These included that the land shall be used for residential purposes, that no structures other than single-family dwellings and related support structures shall be erected on the land, that all dwellings built on the property shall cost at least \$35,000 to build, and that no animals, outside of normal household pets, be allowed to live on the property (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1955 DB326:102).

Julius Archibald Rousseau (Senior) was the fourth of seven children of James P. and Lila Rousseau. He attended Belmont Abbey College and then law school at the University of North Carolina; in 1913, he became licensed to practice law and opened a law practice in North Wilkesboro (*Statesville Record and Landmark* 17 May 1958:1). In 1923, he married Gertrude Hall and the couple had four children. In 1930, J. A. Rousseau was elected as the mayor of North Wilkesboro and served for four years; in 1934 he was elected as a North Carolina Superior Court Judge, a position he held until his death, and for which he was preparing for another candidacy in 1958 (*Statesville Record and Landmark* 17 May 1958:1). In 1930, Julius A. Rousseau, along with Gertrude and their three children, as well as Flutis Watkins, a 21-year-old black cook for the family, were living in a house at 813 D Street in North Wilkesboro; they owned the house, worth \$10,000, and Julius Rousseau identified his occupation as a lawyer in a general law practice (United States Census Bureau 1930). In 1940, the house at 813 D Street was worth \$6,000 and was occupied by J. A. and Gertrude Rousseau, their four children, and Marvin and Daisy Bostian, who were lodgers in the house. Julius A. Rousseau's occupation was listed as Superior Court Judge (United States Census Bureau 1940). In the 1939-40, 1948-49, and 1953-54 city directories, Julius A. Rousseau was identified as a judge/Circuit Court Judge/Superior Court Judge and was listed as living in the house at 813 D Street (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1939-1940:188; *Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1948-1949:199; *Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1953-1954:184).

In May 1958, Julius A. Rousseau died suddenly of a heart attack (North Carolina Death Certificates, May 1958:15087; *Statesville Record and Landmark* 17 May 1958:1; *Asheville Citizen-Times* 18 May 1958:1; *Watauga Democrat* [Boone] 22 May 1958:1). Rousseau's obituaries noted that he was preparing to move into a brand new home shortly, which was most likely the Julius A. Rousseau House, built on the property he had just purchased

from his siblings. In his will, dated 1951, and subsequent codicil, dated 1957, J. A. Rousseau devised to his wife, Gertrude, “for life, the tract of land known as Mrs. Lila G. Rousseau’s Homeplace consisting of 5.22 acres more or less,” and specified that “in order to make myself clear and that there will be no misunderstanding, I want my wife to have the 5.22 acres for life and free of debts” (Wilkes County Will Book 10:443); presumably, the construction of the house had begun when the codicil was written and Rousseau wanted to verify that the construction of the house was paid for by his estate when his wife inherited it. In the 1962-63 directory, Gertrude Hall, widow of Julius, is listed as living at 236 Oakwoods Road, which, based on the street directory description, roughly corresponds to the current location of the Julius A. Rousseau House, although the house now carries the 250 Oakwoods Road address (*Miller’s North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory 1962-1963:215, 292*). In 1985, Gertrude Hall Rousseau, her four children, and their spouses, sold the 5.22-acre property and the house upon it to Kirby B. and Margaret Reeves Lowe, reserving the same covenants as the 1955 deed (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1985 DB633:323). The following year, the Lowe’s sold the property to Joe D. and Gail B. Hamby, the current owners, with the deed specifying the same covenants as the earlier deed records (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1986 DB645:412).

Aerial photographs from the mid-to-late-twentieth century show that the Julius A. Rousseau House was constructed between 1950 and 1963, supporting the circa 1957 construction date identified through other sources (Figures 2.4.17–2.4.19).



Figure 2.4.17. U. S. Army aerial photograph (1950) showing the location of the Julius A. Rousseau House.



Figure 2.4.18. USGS aerial photograph (1963) showing Julius A. Rousseau House.

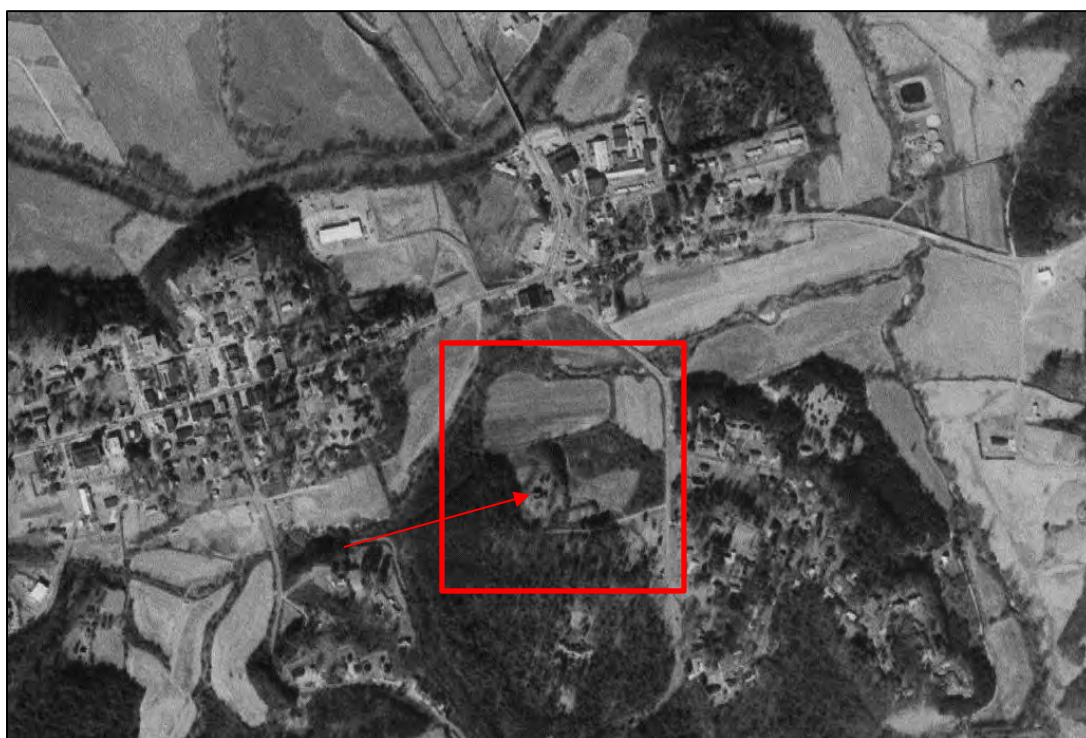


Figure 2.4.19. USGS aerial photograph (1976) showing Julius A. Rousseau house.



2.4.2 *Architectural Context*

The area of just south of Wilkesboro, along Oakwoods Road (formerly Brushy Mountain Road) has historically been made up of large parcels of land with relatively few residences that were spread out from one another. As the twentieth century progressed and residential development in the area around both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro increased, the larger tracts were increasingly subdivided to provide land for new housing. The large expanses of Rousseau land holdings began to be divided and sold off, first to relatives and then later to non-family buyers, during the mid-twentieth-century. During this period, two primary architectural trends seem to dominate the residential construction in the area – the Neoclassical style, with its large structures that dominated the landscape and attracted attention, and the Ranch style, which presented a form that had lower heights and was built to blend in with the surrounding environment. While the streets that run parallel to East Main Street in East Wilkesboro and the Forest Hills neighborhood, located east of Oakwoods Road from the Julius A. Rousseau House, exhibit the Ranch style, in its multiple stylized incarnations, the Julius A. Rousseau House presents a stark contrast, with its large size, pronounced detailing, and prominent hilltop location. Although in the early part of the twentieth century, in the western North Carolina counties “the Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles were popular, but they did not dominate as strongly as in eastern North Carolina”; however, in Wilkes County the Neoclassical style gained popularity in the middle decades of the century, following the state trend of “suburban growth and...construction of a new breed of immense, eclectic residences” (Bishir et al 1999:55, 83). No information was found on an architect or architectural firm responsible for the design of the Julius A. Rousseau House, but research into a connection between the multiple Neoclassical-style structures built during the 1930s to 1960s in the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro area might provide additional insight into the adoption of this style for residential structures in the area.

Although examples of residential adoption of the Neoclassical style are relatively numerous in the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro area, and many of these houses are large buildings with dominant architectural details, the architectural survey of the area was conducted in 1979 and, because of their mid-twentieth-century construction dates, many of these resources were not surveyed during this survey. Two notable examples of previously surveyed Neoclassical residences are the Johnson J. Hayes House (WK0044) and the W. F. Trogden House (WK0169). The McNeill-Hayes house, located on East Main Street in Wilkesboro, is a circa 1930s renovation of an earlier house that added contemporary, dominant, Neoclassical details, such as the monumental front porch (Figure 2.4.20). Based on Johnson J. Hayes’s occupation as a lawyer and United States District Court Judge and Rousseau’s time as a lawyer and Circuit Court Judge, it is likely that the two men traveled in the same professional circles and that Rousseau had seen Hayes’s house, which may have influenced his decision in choosing the Neoclassical style for his new residence. The W. F. Trogden House is located at the northwest corner of D Street and 8th Street in North Wilkesboro; this house, which was built around 1908 but has a dominant Neoclassical porch that may have been added later, sits on a terraced lot, above the street level below (Figure 2.4.21). Based on addresses, Julius A. Rousseau’s North Wilkesboro home, at 813 D Street, would have been along the same block as the W. F. Trogden House and his daily view of the house on the hill may also have influenced his choice of architectural style and lot placement for his new residence.



Figure 2.4.20. Johnson J. Hayes House (WK0044), facing north.



Figure 2.4.21. W. F. Trogden House (WK0169), facing northwest.

Other examples of Neoclassical architecture in the surrounding area include both residences that were originally built in the Neoclassical style and some that were renovated to add Neoclassical details, generally monumental front porches, to earlier styles. The previously unsurveyed house at 700 Salem Street, located on a hilltop above the East Wilkesboro portion of Wilkesboro, is a circa 1935 brick residence that has the same side-gabled form and two-story porch as the Julius A. Rousseau house, although its columns are square; it also has a side wing and a decorative Neoclassical door surround (Figure 2.4.22). The circa 1935 Ballinger House, located at 404 East Main Street, was also built with a side-gabled form and dominant front porch; however, this frame residence has been altered by modern materials and renovations (Figure 2.4.23). Another residence that was located near Julius A. Rousseau's house on D Street, North Wilkesboro, is the house at 607 9th Street, which is approximately two blocks northwest of the 800 block of D Street. This house, built around 1939, also features a side-gabled form, faux engaged end chimneys, and a dominant two-story porch, although this example has a gabled roofline instead of a flat roofline (Figure 2.4.24). The house at 405 Woodland Street, in Wilkesboro, was built around 1948 and has a side-gabled roofline, side wings, Neoclassical door surround, and a dominant front porch with a gabled roofline (Figure 2.4.25). The house at 1524 Dogwood Drive in Wilkesboro is a slightly more modern example, dating from around 1965, that has a side-gabled form, flat-roofed porch, six-over-nine windows on the lower level, and side wings, one of which was built as an attached garage (Figure 2.4.26).



Figure 2.4.22. House at 700 Salem Street (NSN), facing north.



Figure 2.4.23. Ballinger House (NSN), facing north.



Figure 2.4.24. House at 607 9th Street (NSN), facing southwest.



Figure 2.4.25. House at 405 Woodland Boulevard (NSN), facing southwest.



Figure 2.4.26. House at 1524 Dogwood Drive (NSN), facing north.



2.4.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454) are as follows:

- **Location: High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House remains in its original location.

- **Design: Medium to High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House retains its original 1957 design. The massing and plan of the house remain the same on the exterior; the most significant change is the enclosure of the porch on the eastern wing of the house. However, since interior access was not granted, the interior design integrity could not be assessed.

- **Setting: Medium to High**

The setting surrounding the Julius A. Rousseau House has been altered slightly by increased residential development along Oakwoods Road, specifically the two modern houses located to the southwest of the house and accessible via the house's driveway. However, these developments are not visible from the house, except when traveling along the driveway to enter the property. The setting and view from the front of the property, along the terraced lot overlooking Cub Creek, remains the same as it was when the house was constructed.

- **Materials: Medium to High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House retains much of its original material. The house has its framing and brick veneer exterior, along with original windows, doors, and porch supports. One significant alteration to the exterior is the enclosure of the porch on the eastern wing using modern materials; it is unknown what materials these replaced. The interior of the house was not accessible; therefore, material integrity of the interior was not assessed.

- **Workmanship: Medium to High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House retains much of its original workmanship. The construction techniques used in the framing and brick veneer remain, as do the decorative elements, including molding details and the detailed Corinthian columns. The interior of the house was not accessible; therefore, integrity of workmanship for the interior was not assessed.

- **Feeling: High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House continues to evoke the feeling of prominent residence from the mid-twentieth-century. The choice of architecture style and its location on hill, overlooking Cub Creek, set back from the road, reflect the choices of its owner to indicate his prominent position in Wilkesboro society.

- **Association: High**

The Julius A. Rousseau House continues to have an association with Rousseau family, the original owners of the house. Although no longer owned by the family, the house has undergone little visible change since its original construction and, therefore, retains its association with the family. Additionally, because of its Neoclassical architecture, the house has an association with the mid-twentieth-century architecture movement and its popularity among prominent citizens in the area.

2.4.4 *Eligibility*

The Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454) is recommended as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A. The house does not have a significant association with a specific event or a broad pattern of history. It is ineligible under Criterion B. Although the house was commissioned and built by prominent local judge and North Wilkesboro mayor Julius A. Rousseau, Rousseau died before he moved into the house; additionally, since he spent the majority of his public life living in North Wilkesboro, his house there would have a more significant association with him. The Julius A. Rousseau House is a noteworthy and prominent example of Neoclassical architecture from the mid-twentieth-century and retains its important form, massing, and architectural elements. Its adherence to the style characteristics of Neoclassical architecture, significant design elements, and retention of integrity make it an excellent example of this style. Therefore, it is eligible under Criterion C. The house is unlikely to yield important historical information about construction methods utilized during the mid-twentieth-century, so the Julius A. Rousseau House is recommended ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.

2.4.5 *Boundary Justification*

The National Register boundary for the Julius A. Rousseau House includes the house and 5.22-acre property (Figure 2.4.27). Although the significance of the resource is for the architecture of the house, the situation of the house on the lot, located on a hill overlooking Cub Creek, is an important representation of the mindset behind the Neoclassical style choice and the prominent place that it should occupy in the built environment. Therefore, the terraced lot and natural view of Cub Creek reflects the revival of the early American country home that the Neoclassical style was adopted to represent. The landscape, including the circle drive and terraced lot, are contributing elements; however, none of the other structures within the boundary (the modern garage and carport) contribute to the eligibility of the property.



Figure 2.4.27. NRHP boundary for the Julius A. Rousseau House (WK0454).

2.5 James Calloway Harris House – WK0455

Resource Name	James Calloway Harris House
HPO Survey Site #	WK0455
Street Address	616 South Bridge Street
PIN	3867-67-3157
Construction Date(s)	Circa 1910
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible; Criteria A and C



Figure 2.5.1. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing east.

The James Calloway Harris House (WK0455) is located at the northwestern corner of Oakwoods Road and South Bridge Street, approximately 0.5-mile north of the intersection of Oakwoods Road and US 421, southeast of the town center of Wilkesboro (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). The house is a one-and-one-half story, frame construction Bungalow, which is three bays wide by two bays deep (Figure 2.5.1). The central front door is flanked by a single four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window, with exterior storm window, on either side. There is a full-width front porch that is incorporated beneath an extension of the main side-gabled roofline, supported by four square columns. Centered within the front elevation is a large shed-roofed dormer, with a central four-pane, wooden casement window flanked by a single four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window on either side. The main portion of the house's façade is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard and the dormer is sheathed in wooden shingles. There are visible raftertails along the eaves of the dormer and carved triangular brackets at the front corners (Figure 2.5.2); the exposed raftertails along the porch roof are hidden beneath metal gutters. The house has a composition shingle roof and there is an interior brick chimney visible above the dormer.



Figure 2.5.2. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing northeast.

The south elevation of the house has two single, four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash windows on both the upper and lower story (Figure 2.5.2). The lower portion of the house is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard siding, while the upper portion, including the extension of the main roofline to create the porch roof, is covered with wooden shingles. A pair of rectangular attic vents are located in the gable end (Figure 2.5.3). A shed-roofed extension of the main roofline, which was originally a porch at the southeastern corner of the house, has been enclosed with vertical wooden paneling and screening. The foundation along this portion of the house has been covered with plywood.

The eastern elevation of the house has a large shed-roofed dormer that encompasses much of the rear roofline (Figure 2.5.4). It has three evenly spaced four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash windows and is covered with wooden shingles. There are visible raftertails along the eave line of the dormer. A set of wooden stairs accesses a central entry door, which is part of the enclosed porch area. To the north of the door, another enclosed section of the porch, likely done earlier than the southern portion, has horizontal wooden weatherboard and a paired six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash window (Figure 2.5.5). A shed-roofed, plywood sided storage addition, with two doors, has been added to the northeastern corner of the house.

Along the northern elevation, the enclosed porch portion has a single four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash window; the upper portion of this section is covered with wooden shingles while the lower portion is covered with horizontal wooden weatherboard. An exterior concrete block masonry chimney and an interior brick chimney are visible. At the roof-wall junctures at the enclosed porch corners are carved triangular brackets (Figure 2.5.6). On this elevation, the western bay is a slightly projecting, side-gabled section, with a single four-over-one, double-



Figure 2.5.3. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing northwest.



Figure 2.5.4. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing west.



Figure 2.5.5. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing southwest.



Figure 2.5.6. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing southeast.

hung, wooden sash window in both the upper and lower story. On the main house section, the lower story has two, single, four-over-four, double-hung, wooden sash windows located close to each other, while the upper section has a single four-over-one, double-hung, wooden sash window. The northern elevation and projecting bay continue the pattern from the other elevations of the house, with horizontal wooden weatherboard on the lower section and wooden shingles on the upper portion (Figure 2.5.7). The wide eave overhang with decorative brackets also continues along this elevation. The original foundation of the house, which is brick piers infilled with newer brick, is visible along a portion of the northern elevation.

S&ME was unable to obtain interior access to the house.



Figure 2.5.7. James Calloway Harris House (WK0455), facing southeast.

2.5.1 *History*

The James Calloway Harris House dates to around 1910 and is located on land purchased by James Calloway (Jink) Harris from the Rousseau family, who owned large tracts of land around Wilkesboro, including the property on both sides of Oakwoods Road, north of Bridge Street and south of East Main Street. In 1903, Harris purchased approximately two acres of land from James Parks and Lila Rousseau, abutting the road leading to J. P. Rousseau's house and the graded road, which was the old alignment of Bridge Street/Brushy Mountain Road (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1903 DB30:324). Seven years later, Harris purchased an additional 2.85 acres from Lila Rousseau, who was a widow at that time (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1910 DB141:269). Small purchases of surrounding parcels, consisting of 7500 square feet from C. M. and Nora Sheets in 1918 and approximately 0.4-acre from L. B. and Augusta Swanson in 1922, completed James C. Harris's land purchased in the area (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1918 DB141:268; 1922 DB141:270). Presumably Harris built his house sometime around the purchase of the large pieces of property, likely completing it around 1910.



James C. Harris was the son of James (Jim) Harris, a local painter and farmer who owned a house on "Harris Hill", near Cub Creek, just outside of Wilkesboro (Absher 1982:243). In 1880, James and Martha Harris were living in Wilkesboro Township with their nine children; they were identified in the census records as mulatto (United States Census Bureau 1880). The Harris family was descended from Molly Harris (later Mitchell) who came to Wilkes County from Culpepper County, Virginia in the late eighteenth century. The Harris children intermarried with many notable families in Wilkes County, including Jehue Harris's marriage to Clarissy Chavers, who became the parents of Jim Harris (1830-1893). In both census records and family tradition, Jim Harris is described as an "outstanding painter and decorator", whose sons "William (Will) and James Calloway (Jink) continued to carry on the painting trade" (Absher 1982:243).

James Calloway Harris (1873-1951) married Addie Virginia Harris (1881-1955), a second cousin in 1899 (*The Chronicle* [Wilkesboro] 12 July 1899:1). In 1900, the couple was living in Wilkesboro Township and Harris was identified as a painter; both James and Addie were characterized as black in the census records (United States Census Bureau 1900). By 1910, James and Addie Harris had four living children and were living in a house that they owned in Wilkesboro Township, along with a 14-year-old servant and a 14-year-old niece; given his land purchases earlier in the decade, it is likely that the house was the current James Calloway Harris House (United States Census Bureau 1910). James Harris was identified as a house painter and the family was characterized as mulatto. By 1920, James and Addie Harris's residence, which they still owned, was identified as being on "Mountain Road" and their family had grown to include seven children; James's occupation remained house painter and the racial characterization of the family was black (United States Census Bureau 1920). In 1930, James C. Harris was identified as a "house contractor" and his son James Roy was working as a house painter; the family, which included Addie and seven of the couple's nine children, was put into the "negro" racial category and remained living in the house that they had owned since at least 1910 (United States Census Bureau). In 1940, the family remained in the same house and included James, Addie, and six children; James and two of his sons, James Roy and Leander, were identified as painters/house painters (United States Census Bureau 1940).

Newspaper records also describe James Calloway (Jink) Harris and his family as a tradesmen. In 1908, he was paid \$0.60 for hanging shades in the county courtroom (*The North Wilkesboro Hustler* 7 February 1908:3). When his son, James Roy, was married in 1949 he was described as being "engaged in the painting and decorating business in the Wilkesboros", as were his father and brother (*Journal Patriot* [Wilkesboro] 7 July 1949:5). City Directory information from the 1930s through the 1960s further supports the Harris family's involvement in the painting and decorating business. In the 1939-1940 directory, James C. Harris, along with his sons Leander and J. Roy were all identified as painters, living on Harris Hill; other members of the extended family, including James C. Harris's brother Will, are also identified as painters (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1939-1940:146). In the 1948-49 directory, James C., J. Roy, and Lee A. Harris were all identified as painters living on Oakwood Avenue; the street directory indicates that there were nine people living in James C. Harris's house on Oakwood Avenue at the time (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1948-1949:151, 302). In the 1953-54 and 1962-63 directories, Roy Harris remains the only member of James C. Harris's family listed as a painter in the area, with his residence in the 1960s shows as being in Bridge Street (*Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1953-1954:145; *Miller's North Wilkesboro, North Carolina City Directory* 1962-1963:160). James C. Harris also served on the Wilkesboro first colored school district commission (*The Chronicle* 17 July 1907:1; *Journal Patriot* [Wilkesboro] 26 June 1933:4).

James Harris died in June 1951; his occupation on his death certificate was listed as painter (North Carolina Death Certificates 1951:24836). His widow, Addie, continued to live in the house until her own death, in 1955; in 1954, her children transferred their interest in their father's property to her (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1954

DB298:548). Following Addie's death, the living Harris children inherited the property and, in 1976, five of the children and their spouses transferred the 0.84-acre parcel containing the James Calloway Harris House to their four siblings, Grace L. Harris, Ruth C. Harris, Leander Harris, and Robert V. Harris (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 1976 DB545:140). After the death of Robert V. Harris, the sole remaining heir of the property, the living grandchildren of James Calloway and Addie Harris inherited the property and, in 2017, transferred their interest in the house and land to Billy Vaughn and Ruth T. Harris (Wilkes County Register of Deeds 2017 DB1249:236).

The James Calloway Harris House is shown on both the 1910s USPS rural delivery route map and the USDA soil survey map from 1918, but the later realignment of the road (present day Bridge Street) places it south of the right-of-way in these early maps (Figures 2.5.8 and 2.5.9). The house is shown on a 1950 aerial photograph, which also shows the location of both the old road and the new road; it continues to appear on aerial photographs and maps from the 1960s through the present with no visible change (Figures 2.5.10–2.5.12).

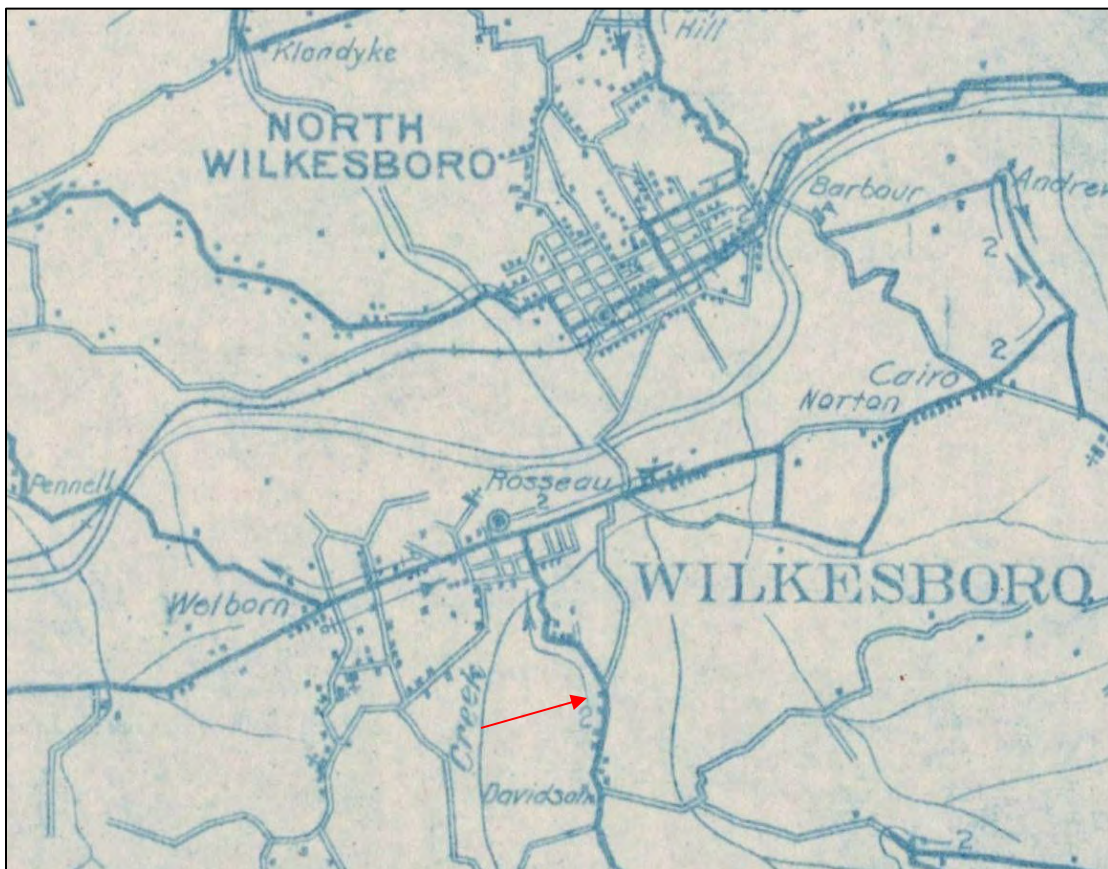


Figure 2.5.8. USPS map (1910s), showing the location of the James Calloway Harris House.

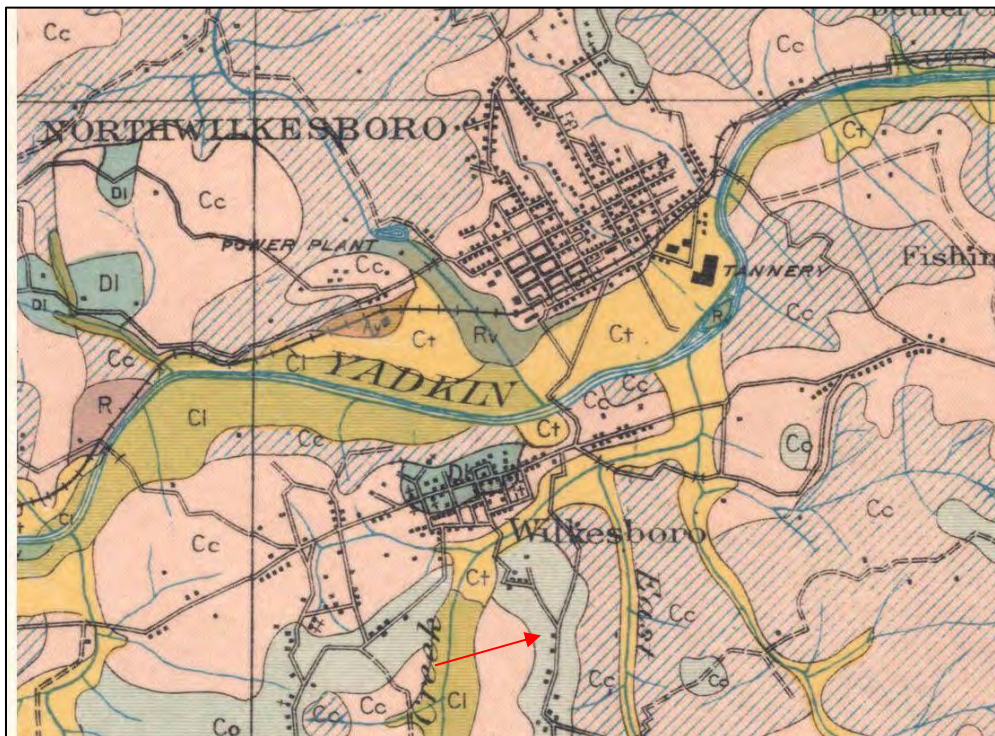


Figure 2.5.9. USPS map (1910s), showing the location of the James Calloway Harris House.



Figure 2.5.10. United States Army aerial photograph (1950) showing the James Calloway Harris House.



Figure 2.5.11. USGS aerial photograph (1963) showing the James Calloway Harris House.



Figure 2.5.12. USGS aerial photograph (1976) showing the James Calloway Harris House.



2.5.2 *Architectural Context*

The area of just south of Wilkesboro, along Oakwoods Road (formerly Brushy Mountain Road) has historically been made up of large parcels of land with relatively few residences that were spread out from one another. At the beginning of the twentieth century, increased residential construction in the area around both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro led to some of the larger landholdings being divided and lots sold off for new houses. During this period, there was widespread use of a “myriad [of] renditions of the Craftsman bungalow and other Craftsman-detailed houses, large and small” (Bishir et al 1999:55). Building plans in the Craftsman style were widely available in the area, based on the number of examples extant within the area, and it is possible that a local craftsman or builder constructed the house with the help of the Harris family, who were involved with the building and decorating trades, possibly in exchange for painting or other trade services on their own projects.

Examples of Craftsman style residences are relatively numerous in the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro area, ranging from small cottages to larger, more decorative examples. The one and one-half story, side-gabled plan with a full-width front porch and shed-roofed dormer was a commonly used variant of this style, although the James Calloway Harris House is a relatively early example of the style. The early-to-mid-twentieth-century construction dates of most of these structures, and likely the number of resources extant at the time, resulted in only a small percentage of examples being recorded during the 1979 architecture survey of the Wilkesboro area.

In Wilkesboro, the Bumgarner-Bullis House (WK0243), which contributes to the Downtown Wilkesboro Historic District, at 203 East Main Street, was built in 1927 and exhibits the same side-gabled roof, full-width porch, shed-roofed dormer, and eave brackets (Figure 2.5.13). In contrast to the James Calloway Harris House, the windows are a decorative Victorian style and the porch supports are tapered columns. At 300 Woodland Avenue in Wilkesboro is a circa 1920 Craftsman residence that is one and one-half stories tall with a side-gabled roofline (Figure 2.5.14). Despite the tapered square columns on stone piers as porch supports and the different window configuration in the dormer, the house does have four-over-one windows, decorative brackets, visible raftertails, and shingles in the upper story gable above the wooden weatherboard on the lower story. Three houses in North Wilkesboro also conform to the one and one-half story, side-gabled form with a full-width front porch: 229 D Street, 309 D Street, and 507 C Street. The circa 1925 house at 229 D Street, despite a similar form, has a much larger dormer on the front elevation, its porch supports are tapered square columns on brick posts, and it is missing eave brackets; however it does have three-over-one, Craftsman-style windows and visible raftertails (Figure 2.5.15). At 309 D Street, a circa 1930 house displays the same gabled extension along the side elevation and smaller shed-roofed dormer as the James Calloway Harris House, although the porch supports are tapered square posts on brick piers; although the house has been converted to a duplex, its windows have been replaced, and its original siding and eave brackets have been covered with modern materials, the house is recognizable as being built using a similar pattern as the Harris House (Figure 2.5.16). At 507 C Street, an earlier, circa 1900 example of the Craftsman style is visible; the roof, where it joins the porch, flares slightly and the porch supports are tapered square columns on brick piers, but the general feeling of the architecture is the same; the C Street house has lost its original windows, but retains the shingle siding in the upper level above wooden weatherboard on the lower level and the eave brackets (Figure 2.5.17). Outside of the limits of both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, in a similar setting as the James Calloway Harris House, the circa 1925 duplex at 500 Moravian Falls Road is a scaled down version of the style and form, with less decorative detail, but a similar configuration of porch and dormer; the first story windows remain four-over-one sashes, despite the application of mid-century fiberboard siding (Figure 2.5.28).



Figure 2.5.13. Bumgarner-Bullis House (WK0243), facing south.



Figure 2.5.14. House at 300 Woodland Boulevard (NSN), facing north.



Figure 2.5.15. House at 229 D. Street, North Wilkesboro (NSN), facing southeast.



Figure 2.5.16. House at 309 D Street, North Wilkesboro (NSN), facing southeast.



Figure 2.5.17. House at 507 C Street, North Wilkesboro (NSN), facing southwest.



Figure 2.5.18. House at 500 Moravian Falls Road (NSN), facing north.



2.5.3 *Integrity*

Evaluation of the seven aspects of integrity required for National Register eligibility for the James Calloway Harris House (WK0455) are as follows:

- **Location: High**

James Calloway Harris House remains in its original location.

- **Design: Medium**

The James Calloway Harris House retains much of the original circa 1910 design. The original form of the house is still evident and intact. The most significant design alteration that is visible from the exterior of the house is the enclosure of the rear porch. However, the original footprint of the porch structure remains and the northern portion of the porch enclosure occurred in the early-twentieth-century and was part of the evolution of the house under the Harris ownership. The interior of the house was not accessible, so the interior layout and design was not assessed.

- **Setting: Medium**

The immediate setting surrounding the James Calloway Harris property remains primarily residential, as it has been since the early-twentieth century. Large sections of forested, undeveloped land, with houses located on large parcels, are located to the north and east of the house. The nearby Mountain Park Cemetery, along Bridge Street to the northwest, has grown since its earliest burials and became a municipal cemetery, with a larger footprint, in the 1990s. To the west of the cemetery, the Wilkes County Jail and Wilkes County Courthouse have been constructed during the past two decades. However, much of this new development is shielded from the view of the James Calloway Harris House.

- **Materials: Medium to High**

The James Calloway Harris House retains much of its original material. The house has its original framing and combination of weatherboard and shingle siding, along with original windows and porch supports. One significant alteration to the exterior is the enclosure of the rear porch, but the enclosure of the northern portion has materials to match the original section of the house and the plywood enclosure of the southern portion likely covered, rather than removed, original materials. The interior of the house was not accessible; therefore, material integrity of the interior was not assessed.

- **Workmanship: Medium to High**

The James Calloway Harris House retains much of its original workmanship. The construction techniques used in the framing and exterior sheathing remain, as do windows and decorative elements, including porch supports, rafter tails, and triangular brackets along the roof eaves. The interior of the house was not accessible; therefore, integrity of workmanship for the interior was not assessed.

- **Feeling: High**

The James Calloway Harris House continues to evoke the feeling of a modest early-twentieth-century residence. With few changes to the design, materials, and workmanship of the structure, it is readily recognizable as a Craftsman-style house.

- **Association: High**

The James Calloway Harris House retains its association with its original owner, James Calloway Harris, as it has undergone little visible change since his ownership and occupation of the house. It also retains its association with early-twentieth-century residential architecture traditions.

2.5.4 *Eligibility*

The James Calloway Harris House (WK0455) is recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A, for its association with the African-American community in the Wilkesboro area during the early-to-mid-twentieth century and a successful African-American trade tradition. It is not eligible under Criterion B; although it is associated with James Calloway Harris, a relatively well-known African-American painter and decorator in the Wilkesboro area, Harris did not achieve prominence greater than most other residents of the area during his lifetime. The James Calloway Harris House is a good, intact example of Craftsman-style architecture from the early-twentieth-century that exhibits many of the hallmark architectural details of this style. Therefore, it is eligible under Criterion C. The house and outbuildings are unlikely to yield important historical information about construction methods utilized during the late-eighteenth through mid-twentieth-century, so the James Calloway Harris House is recommended ineligible under Criterion D, for building technology.

2.5.5 *Boundary Justification*

The National Register boundary for the James Calloway Harris House includes the house and 0.8-acre parcel on which it stands (2.5.19). The significance of the James Calloway Harris property is multifaceted, including both its architecture and association with James Calloway Harris, a local African-American painter and decorator who successfully worked his trade in the Wilkesboro area during the first half of the twentieth-century. The entire parcel is associated with Harris and his ownership of the property and, therefore, creates the NRHP boundary.



Figure 2.5.19. NRHP boundary for the James Calloway Harris House (WK0455).



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