

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Catawba Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Main St., W. Center Ave., W. First St., W. Second Ave., portions of E. Center Ave.
street & number S. First Ave., NC 10, N. First Ave., E. Second St. not for publication

city, town Catawba vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Catawba code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (see individual forms)

street & number :

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Catawba County Justice Center

street & number Rt. 321

city, town Newton state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Catawba Historic District has a highly irregular rectangular shape containing approximately seventy acres. Extending as it does to the east and west of the core of this small community, the rural village district contains nineteenth century farmhouses and tracts of farmland with scattered outbuildings as well as village residences and a small commercial district. It provides, therefore, a now rare glimpse of small rural, late nineteenth century communities in Catawba County, and illustrates the close interrelationship between the rural and town landscapes at that time.

Catawba's streets are organized into quadrants in which Main Street and Central Avenue form the north-south and east-west axis respectively. Avenues run east-west and streets carry north-south. The district's boundary includes portions of E. Central Ave, N. Main St., E. Second St., NC 10 proceeding westward, S. Second Ave., W. Second Ave., and W. Third St. It also encompasses S. Main St., W. Central Ave., S. First Ave., W. First St., and E. First St. With the exception of Main St. and a portion of S. Second Ave. (both of which carry NC 10), the streets and avenues are two lane residential roads. Main St. has a double parking lane and NC 10 is a wider and often busy, two lane thoroughfare.

The district's topography varies in elevation from about 820 feet at its eastern edge to 880 feet on the west. A relatively flat plateau at 860 feet forms the core of the district and this gently falls some ten feet towards the south along S. Second Ave. The cut for the right of way of the Southern Railroad demarcates much of the northern boundary and the tracks carry approximately thirty feet below the banks of the surrounding landscape; a steep slope rises to meet it. More gentle changes in elevation characterize the northwestern, southwestern, and south central portions of the boundary, the latter two of which follow a small creek at an elevation of about 830 feet.

Landscaping varies widely in the district, although generally the older houses are situated amongst larger hardwoods, boxwoods, or other plant materials while those of more recent origin are not. The most striking example is that of the Bagby-Danner Farmhouse (21). Here, old and stately Oak trees, planted in 1905, envelope the house and its surrounding driveway. By virtue of the fact that the house sits some 300 feet from E. Central Ave. and is surrounded by open fields, the effect of its siting and landscape is especially significant in conveying the appearance of farms which once surrounded the town. Planned landscaping along the streets is not evident although where there are groups of older homes there is often an appearance of uniformity, as can be seen at the intersection of S. First Ave. and W. Second St. Because there are a number of larger lands around the edge of the district--the remnants of farms--open spaces--fields and meadows--contribute much to the visual character of the district. This is especially true in its eastern end, to a lesser extent, western portions. The G. Whitener Rhyne House (20) is surrounded by these open fields, yet it sits within a grove of closely spaced hardwoods. A rubble stone retaining wall at the north property

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line of the Jacob D. Little House (9) represents the only other significant stone landscaping feature in the district.

Open non historical spaces and relatively undistinguished development dating primarily from the 1950s and 1960s lie outside much of the district's boundary. The former holds true along the majority of the southern edge and to a large extent at the west, northwest, and northeast. With the exception of the two buildings north of the railroad tracks most of the remainder are mid-twentieth century one story brick dwellings. Such is the case beyond the western edge of the district and at small pockets along the southern boundary. Modest and/or altered frame houses, many of which probably date from the late 1920s, are located along the eastern end of E. Central Ave. but they lie outside of the boundary.

Although the Catawba Historic District contains its share of more recent and in some cases intrusive buildings, the overall composition is vastly different in terms of the variety of building construction and presence of place from those areas outside. This is due primarily to the fact that the district is a relatively intact catalog to the evolution of the town. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century frame and in two cases brick houses--which represent both farmhouses and village residences--form much of the building stock. They enframe one of Catawba County's most intact, albeit small, turn-of-the-century commercial districts. Combined with the presence of three churches, the Town Hall and a former high school the district conveys the growth of a small community within a larger agricultural environment.

A strong sense of the agricultural environment around Catawba is evident by the number of extant outbuildings which accompany many of the houses. Of this group of buildings the finest collection--composed of barns, granaries, a smokehouse, well house, among others -- belongs to the Dr. Fred Y. Long Farm (19). The two Ruffy family houses (69, 70) on W. First St. are situated on long fenced-in lots on which there is a small barn and a variety of sheds. Other assorted outbuildings survive with the Pitts-Little House (6) and the Thomas Walter Long House (30).

Lot sizes vary widely in the district but setbacks are generally uniform within localized areas. For example, the houses along S. Second Ave. are situated on lots of various shapes and sizes but they maintain an apparent parallel relationship in their setbacks.

The brick commercial buildings along the west side of main street establish a strong visual continuity through a uniformity in material and size. Other buildings, such as the Bagby-Danner Farm House (21) establish their own pattern and represent yet another aspect of the district's character in large part because they occupy substantial lots.

Of the seventy-three primary buildings in the district nearly fifty percent are frame buildings. Brick or more recent brick veneered buildings are generally found in clusters close to downtown, especially along the Main St. commercial block. In any case, the relative homogeneity of the district remains intact even where the two materials appear side by side.

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The surviving architectural resources in the Catawba Historic District represent many of the evolving styles common throughout North Carolina, and to some extent the United States, in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries. By their position the buildings reveal the process of development in Catawba. Early homes of merchants were built around the commercial block and farmhouses were erected in the outlying areas. Subsequent growth expanded outward from the business district into the rural landscape but was also centered at the western bounds and later spread eastward along E. Central Ave. In sum, a visual inspection of the district reveals how a small village grew and prospered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by virtue of its proximity to both the railroad and the productive agricultural community around it.

Early transportation routes/roads greatly influenced the way in which Catawba grew. A road map of Catawba County which was drawn by R. A. Yoder in 1886 shows a road coming into Catawba at the southwest corner of the present town limits and running roughly along the line of S. Second Ave., Main St., and E. Central Ave. It proceeded eastward to the Lewis Ferry across the Catawba River, about one mile distant. Another road connected this one to the Buffalo Shoals Road which ran in an east-west direction about one mile south of the village.

Main St. was part of a road that ran north toward Catfish and to an east-west road which led to the Island Ford Ferry.

Although it is impossible to say when Catawba's secondary streets were constructed, an analysis of the position of older buildings gives some indication as to when they may have been in use. Both the Catawba Baptist Church (67), and the Quintus M. Little House (63) are early to mid 1870s buildings and both face W. First St. Likewise, the Trollinger-Sherrill House (73), built about 1873, fronts on S. First Ave. At least portions of these two streets must have been in place by then. West Second St. was in use by the time that the Brawley-Lowrance House (75) was erected in the late 1890s and the Frank E. Booth House (74) occupied about 1903.

In the early 1880s the Jacob D. Little House (9) was built with its front elevation perpendicular to what is now S. Second Ave. Whether this street extended out toward Little's house at that time is unclear; by 1910, however, it served the house which stood on the site of the 1924 Pitts-Little House (6), as well as the Robert E. Carpenter (7) and Minges-Walker (8) houses.

To the east of the commercial district a portion of E. Central Ave. existed as early as the 1870s when the Methodist Church (28) and Bagby-Danner Farm House (21) were built. However, this portion of the street is older because, as mentioned above, it led to the Lewis Ferry. The connection to Main St. was certainly in use when the ca. 1892 Thomas Walter Long House (30) was built on its south side. Extensions to existing streets were made at various times, but it is clear that the basic configuration of Catawba's streets was formed by and probably well before the turn-of-the-century. North Carolina 10, which extends from US 64-70 (one

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mile north of Catawba) and continues to Shelby, follows Main St. and a portion of S. Second Ave. Catawba's oldest homes, which date from the early 1870s, are typical vernacular frame and in one case brick dwellings similar to those which can be found throughout Catawba County and North Carolina in the late nineteenth century. Two stories in height, a single room deep, and three bays wide, these traditional houses generally feature center entrances with sidelights, gable end chimneys, and rear kitchen ells of mostly one or two stories. Examples in the Catawba Historic District include the Jephtha U. Long House (36), Bagby-Danner Farm House (21), Quintus M. Little House (63), and the Howell-Coulter-Spencer House (17). Where Jephtha U. Long, J. K. Howell, and Quintus M. Little built their houses tells us much about the physical appearance of Catawba in the post Civil War era. Long built on the east side of present Main St. in the developing commercial district, and Howell built at the intersection of Main St. and S. Second Ave. to the west of Long's house where the main road - now NC 10 - made a sharp bend to the right. Although the appearance of this streetscape has as yet been undocumented, the early commercial buildings were probably of frame construction that were later replaced by more substantial and less combustible brick structures. Other houses once existed along the east side of Main St. but they have been demolished. Q. M. Little built on the street behind the small frame commercial district and he oriented his house, with its two story front porch, to face the open land to the west. It is not known if Little owned any of this open land but the siting of his house gave him a panoramic view from the front and a view of the commercial district (whether it was composed of one or two story buildings is not known) from the back. The Long House, built prior to 1872, is the most intact and still representative member of the group. Its symmetrical fenestration pattern contains six-over-six double hung sash windows (one has been modified) and narrow sidelights framing the entrance. A porch stretches across the front elevation. Single shoulder stepped gable end chimneys pierce the steeply pitched gable roof. Large two story additions to the rear of the house were made to provide for Long's large family and later during the house's use as an inn. Both the Bagby-Danner Farm House and Howell-Coulter-Spencer House have suffered alterations to their porches and siding but retain their general form and details including sidelights, end chimneys, and rear kitchen wings.

A fourth early house in Catawba was built of brick and exhibits unique variant characteristics.

The Quintus M. Little House (63), three bays wide and a single room deep, features both an interior and an end chimney as well as six doors on its principal, west elevation. The doors opened onto a two tier porch (long since removed) which stretched across the elevation and included an exterior staircase. Unlike the other houses there is no evidence here of an attached kitchen wing. Apparently it was free-standing.

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Sometime between 1873 and 1875 two handsome buildings were erected in the district which showed a decidedly Gothic influence and some fashionable ambition.

The two examples are within 100 feet of each other and they may have had the same builder, although his identity is not known. The Trollinger-Sherrill House (73) has five small steeply pitched wall dormers over each of its five first story bays on the front elevation. Within these five bays--and throughout the composition--the unusual double hung sash windows have pointed arch upper sash which match the gables. Functional blinds still remain on the house as do the end chimneys and rear kitchen wing. The door has lost its sidelights however and the full width porch has early twentieth century replacement wooden Tuscan columns.

The second building which shows the influence of the Gothic Revival is the 1875 Catawba Baptist Church(67). Very unfortunate and unsympathetic additions to both the front and rear of the church have obliterated its original configuration, but the nave walls remain undisturbed. Here, pilasters define four bays in which are set unusual ogee arched openings with later stained glass windows. The delicate brickwork and the warm hues of the bricks themselves give this portion of the building a special beauty.

There is only one extant house in the district which appears to have been built in the 1880s. The Jacob D. Little House (9), erected in the mid 1880s, is a small frame cottage which sits at the western end of the district. One story in height and three bays wide, it has a center entrance with sidelights and a transom, rear wings, and attic vents which echo the design of the Trollinger House windows.

One small frame commercial building also survives from this 1880s period. The Lowrance Shoe Shop (34) originally fronted on Main St. and stood about where the Masonic Temple (57) now stands. It was moved to the back of an adjacent lot. The one room building has a bracketed raking cornice, center paneled door and franking four-over-four double hung sash windows. It is the lone survivor of what was probably originally a frame commercial district.

Catawba's healthy economic condition in the 1890s is evident in the two large brick commercial buildings which were erected on the west side of Main Street. Built, perhaps, on the site of older frame stores the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building (46), and the Long and Company Store (47) are impressive survivors in the center of Catawba. By their design they also reveal the increasing frequency in which smaller communities throughout the state and nation were being transformed by the availability of pattern books and builder's journals. Although this is not meant to suggest that the models for these particular buildings were taken out of any particular publication they do, nonetheless, contain features which could be found in one form or another throughout the nation.

Both buildings have delicately corbeled brickwork, segmentally arched windows and multi-bay facades delineated by pilasters. The Sherrill Tobacco

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Company, erected about 1896 and the most intact nineteenth century industrial building in the county, is a large three story building which is six bays wide. It is the largest nineteenth century building in the district. Its stacked pilasters on the upper stories project prominently from the wall, and the flat arches between them are corbeled back to the surface. Large round arched windows and doorways form an arcade across the first story. Immediately to the north of the Sherrill Building and across Central Avenue is the two story Long and Company Store (erected about 1895). Less ornate than its neighbor it is, however, virtually intact from the storefront with its six pane windows and turned corner posts to the wooden cornice between the first and second stories, and the projecting central portion of the upper parapet wall.

Residential construction in Catawba in the 1890s differed from that which came before. The earlier symmetrical single pile dwellings were superseded by larger two story houses with asymmetrical silhouettes and irregular plans; characteristics which were consistently employed in the late nineteenth century. It is this feature which ties, albeit very loosely, the two surviving examples in Catawba to the Queen Anne style. The Thomas Walter Long House (30), constructed about 1892, features a porch across two thirds of its front elevation, brackets at each corner below the roof over-hang and scroll sawn gable end ornamentation. Its counterpart, the Michael Ruffy House (69), retains what is probably its original full facade porch, corbeled chimney caps, and a double pile asymmetrical plan.

After the turn of the century and prior to World War I a number of houses were erected in the Catawba Historic District. Built for the most part at increasing distances from the center of town, and into the once rural landscape, these dwellings universally reveal the national movement toward the revival of classical motifs in design. While the asymmetrical massing characteristic of the Queen Anne style persisted for a number of years, a more rigid symmetry reemerged by 1910 although in a different form than that of the 1870s and 1880s. Classical devices such as Palladian windows, pediments, and Tuscan porch columns were freely used in many of the houses in the district.

Among this group of pre-World War I houses one of the earliest is the Dr. Fred Y. Long Farm (19). Its asymmetrical plan and varied silhouette composed of hip and gable roofs represents the village's strongest suggestion of the Queen Anne style. However, the pent gable roof over one-half of the front elevation and the Tuscan porch posts are clearly of classical inspiration. The one story Minges-Walker House (8), built about 1910 at the western end of the district, also has a varied silhouette. Two gables rise over the two outer bays of the front elevation and intersect a high hip roof. A gable roof dormer with a Palladian window is situated between the front gables and the wrap-around porch features Tuscan porch columns and a pediment high-lighting the entrance bay.

Three houses built in this period are characterized by their symmetrical three bay front elevations, center dormers, and hip roofs. The Brawley-Lowrance House (75) is a pivotal building which was enlarged and

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remodeled in the first decade of the twentieth century. Its high hip roof, three bay front elevation, paired interior chimneys, and center gable roof dormer containing a Palladian window clearly define its symmetry and the preference of its owner. Houses built by Robert E. Carpenter (7) and Charles B. Rufty (70) follow this same pattern although both have hip roofed dormers without Palladian windows and the Rufty House does not have a wraparound porch. Both of these examples are loosely associated with the development of the "square house" type, a form of building design which was common just prior to and immediately after the war.

One house constructed in Catawba about 1902 deserves mention here because, while it unquestionably belongs in this group, it is unlike any other built in the district. The Frank E. Booth House (74) has a symmetrical three bay front elevation but its asymmetrical roofline is dominated by broad pent roof gables with slightly flared raking cornices. These dormers contain Neo-Palladian windows and frame a pediment located above the porch's entrance bay, and side bays.

Construction in the commercial district in this period prior to the war included two brick two story dry goods stores, an addition to the old Sherrill Tobacco Company Building, and the building of the Catawba Drug Company. J. H. Pitts, who had purchased the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building in 1902, built a small one story three bay addition on the south wall sometime after he acquired the main structure. It housed Catawba's post office for many years. Pitts also owned another lot on Main Street which had probably been improved by 1910. The brick Pitts-Carpenter Building (50) has an intact two story storefront with large display windows, a side entrance with double doors, and three segmentally arched windows across the second story. The general mercantile firm of J. U. Long and Company also made a two story addition (48) to their older building (47) sometime in the first decade of the 1900s. Its storefront has been altered but the second floor retains the four large windows with their transoms. A stamped metal cornice carries above the windows and below recessed panels which are corbeled into the parapet wall. In 1915 the Catawba Drug Company bought the lot adjacent to the Long Company addition and probably erected the building (49) now known as Musgrove's Fountain. The two story brick building features a relatively intact interior which dates from 1915 and part from the 1930s. Its vague tie to the Neo-Classical Revival style is evident in the distinct flat arches and limestone keystones above the three second story windows.

In the immediate postwar period residential construction in the Catawba Historic District took the form of the bungalow. The wide appeal of the bungalow in Catawba underscored the ever-widening impact of national trends in house design on small rural and larger urban communities alike, much as the construction of the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building and Coulter Grocery Store had earlier demonstrated this fact in commercial buildings. These houses account for more than thirty percent of the total number of residential units in the district. They were built on house lots near to and far from the core of

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the village, and are especially concentrated at the western and eastern edges of the district.

Bungalows take a variety of shapes in the district but generally share features such as dormers, purlin brackets, and porches--either engaged or attached. Many of the larger bungalows are nearly identical in both form and detail. This includes their fenestration patterns, general configurations and sheathing patterns. Pollie Bowman has been identified as the builder of both the Joseph B. Lowrance House (5) and the smaller Eugene L. Huffman House (55). In addition, Theodore D. Sigmon, who built along S. Second Ave. was a sawmill operator and his son, Ivey Glenn Sigmon, a carpenter. Whether Bowman or Sigmon were involved in constructing the Sigmon House (14) is unknown but seems very likely. The larger and more ornate examples also display a variety of sheathing material and have broad side gables that frame symmetrical construction patterns and bay windows. Of the latter, the 1923 Joseph B. Lowrance House (5) is one of the largest and finest. One and one-half stories in height and three bays wide its broad side gable roof envelopes the porch and side bay windows and features a center gable roof dormer. Replete with wood shingles in the side gable peaks and weatherboards below it also features purlin brackets and a shallow shed roofed bay window. The neighboring teacherage (4), built in 1924, is of the same height but it has an attached gable roof porch across the middle half of the front elevation and wide German siding. Smaller, one story forms include the Travis-Loftin House (23) with its three bay gable front orientation, purlin brackets, and engaged porch; the Eugene L. Huffman House (55) which features a narrow gable roof wing on the front elevation that abuts the attached porch; and the Robert L. Boggs, Sr. rental house (11), containing an attached gable roof porch framed by the main end gable and a gable roof side bay.

One house built in the 1920s was not a bungalow. Erected about 1924 on the site of an older dwelling which had burned, the pivotal Pitts-Little House (6) reflects the further evolution of the "square house" type as seen in the Robert E. Carpenter (7) and Charles B. Ruffy (70) houses. Still three bays wide and capped by a hip roof with a dormer it has a more pronounced horizontal emphasis. This is created by the lower pitch of the roof, the paired windows, and the large wraparound porch.

Catawba's growth in the 1920s is evident in the number of houses built in the community. With the rising population there was a need for new public facilities. In 1921 the Catawba High School (71) was completed; its design and scale rivaled that of the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building. Whether it was the immediate replacement for the school established prior to 1886 and located near the Methodist Church is not known. Two stories in height and seven bays wide the brick school features a hip roof, broad eaves supported by brackets, and side entrance wings. The principal door lies behind a small entrance porch which has a raking parapet wall with limestone coping. A dormer which rises in the center bay is framed by brick piers and has a

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coping treatment similar to the entrance. In 1928 a new bridge (52) was erected across the railroad right of way. The concrete span has two supports which extend to either side of the railway and four handsome lamps - resembling those used on the 1927 Catawba County Courthouse - at each corner of the paneled deck wall.

Construction in the commercial district during the 1920s moved to its present southern end. Between 1926 and 1929 two one story structures and one two story building were erected on adjacent lots. The one story Catawba Garage (41), which housed an automobile service facility and a blacksmith's shop was built at the corner of Main St. and S. First Ave. It was later altered to the present configuration of two doors and stuccoed wall finish. On the lot directly to the north G. P. Drum built a two story brick veneered auto showroom (42), now known as Abernethy Hardware Company, which was remodeled in the 1930s. About 1928 Roy Loftin erected a one story brick veneered building (43) on the lot north of Drum building. It contained two narrow stores. The construction of these buildings brought the commercial district to its present significant appearance.

The early 1930s witnessed little building in the district although by the end of the decade activity increased. In 1939 G. Whitener Rhyne built an impressive Colonial Revival house (20) on the site of an older home. More evocative of Georgian Colonial and Federal style models than its earlier antecedents in Catawba, the brick veneered house features a three bay front elevation with a fanlight and sidelights framing the center entrance, and gable roof dormers. The Catawba Water Tower (60) was erected in 1936 next to the Town Hall and still serves the community.

A number of small brick veneered houses were built throughout the district in the 1940s and 1950s including the near identical dwellings of Talmadge R. Korn (1) and Fred A. Pope (2). In 1948 the Catawba Methodist congregation completed a new brick church (28) on the site of their 1878 church building (which had been demolished). Its T-shaped plan features a Sunday School wing and a crenelated bell tower/entrance.

Several additions and some alterations have been made to the district since the 1950s. These buildings, some of which are visual intrusions, are clustered, with a few exceptions, at the southern end of Main Street. The gas station (39) at the corner of Main Street and South Second Avenue is the most intrusive of these examples, although the United States Post Office (35) on East Central Avenue also has a negative impact. At least three older homes have been lost in the recent past including the former Methodist Church Parsonage; it had been one of Catawba's most elaborately detailed late nineteenth century houses. Demolition of the original People's Bank Building and the Boggs Hardware, combined with the new bank building (51) and its remodeled annex has, for all intents and purposes, erased the historic character of the north end of the commercial block.

Despite alterations to the historic fabric and the addition of intrusive modern buildings, the density, integrity, and character of the rural village

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trading center which comprises the Catawba Historic District survives. Subdivision or development of the surrounding farm land has not been made, in large part because this property is held by established families whose ancestors lived here and farmed the land. The remarkably intact late nineteenth century commercial buildings form a strong sense of time and place along the west side of Main St. They combine with the location and appearance of dwellings and other buildings to give Catawba the unique atmosphere which it alone retains in Catawba County.

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Key to letter abbreviations in the inventory list:

- P. Pivotal. Those buildings which have special significance stemming from the level of their architectural development and/or their historical associations.
- C. Contributing. Buildings which are relatively intact, representative examples of their stylistic group, and lend themselves to forming the character of the district.
- F. Fill. More recent vernacular buildings which do not violate the character of the district.
- I. Intrusion. Modern buildings which are incompatible with their surroundings.

- 1. Talmadge R. Korn House
S. Third Ave. (NC 10)
1949
F

This one and one-half story three bay house, built by local merchant Talmadge R. Korn, features a gable on the front elevation, a side porch, and a shed roofed rear wing. The gable frames the slightly projecting center and east bays, while a picture window occupies the west bay. A porch on the west elevation has a gable roof through which rises the house's exterior chimney. The house has a high brick basement at the rear where there is a one car garage. Korn (1925-), who owns and operates the Abernethy Hardware Company (42), built the house on the reverse plan of the neighboring Fred A. Pope House (2). Elmore Construction Company of Catawba was the contractor. Korn is married to Maggie Lois (Pope) Korn (1924 -), sister of Fred A. Pope.

- 2. Fred A. Pope House
S. Third Ave. (NC 10)
1949
F

The Fred A. Pope House is a one and one-half story three bay brick veneered dwelling built on the reverse plan of the neighboring Talmadge R. Korn House (1). A broad gable on the front, north elevation frames two of the three bays and a gable roof porch is attached to the west elevation. Picture windows flank the recessed central entrance on the principal elevation. The house, built by the Elmore Construction Company in Catawba, also features an exterior chimney, a small rear wing and a one car garage in the basement. Pope is married to Talmadge R. Korn's sister. They operated a dry cleaning facility in the (former)

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Catawba Garage (41) but sold the business in the early 1960s.

3. (former) Catawba Baptist Church Parsonage
S. Third Ave. (NC 10)
ca. 1938

F

This one story three bay frame building features two gables with end returns and an engaged porch on the front, north elevation. It is sheathed in wide aluminum siding. The porch is located behind one of the gables and has one slender column and a balustrade. A second gable frames the other outside bay and the single six-over-six double hung sash windows while a trio of windows occupy the center bay. The Catawba Baptist Church acquired this and a number of adjoining pieces of land in 1938 and it is assumed that the congregation built the house soon after. It was used as a parsonage for many years until sold to Talmadge Korn in 1965. There have been a number of subsequent owners.

4. Teacherage
W. Third St.
1924

C

The teacherage is a one and one-half story three bay bungalow covered by a large gable roof porch and German siding. The porch roof occupying one-half of the east elevation, is carried by two tapered posts which rest on brick plinths. The door is slightly off center and is flanked by a single window to the north and a pair to the south. The broad side gables frame an asymmetrical fenestration pattern and are detailed with exposed purlins and woodshingles in the gable peaks. An exterior chimney with one stepped shoulder rises on the south elevation. A shed roofed wing extends across one-half of the rear elevation. The house sits on a high brick foundation/basement. Built by the Catawba County Board of Education in 1924, this house is still owned by the board and is the home of Frank Pendergrass, Principal of the Maiden Middle School.

5. Joseph B. Lowrance House
206 W. Third St.
1923

C

The Lowrance House is one of the largest and finest bungalows in Catawba and resembles the Theodore D. Sigmon House (14) in its detailing. One and one-half stories in height and three bays wide the house has an engaged porch, large center gable roof dormer, and broad side gables. It is sheathed in weatherboards and has a tin shingle roof. Four tapered posts support the porch roof. One-half of the porch is

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enclosed and one-half is screened. Behind the porch the central entrance is flanked by double hung sash windows. Three similar windows are located in the dormer which also has purlin brackets and woodshingles in the gable peak. The symmetrical fenestration pattern on the side elevations is an exact duplicate of the Sigmon House (14) even to the shed roofed bay on the north elevation. Purlin brackets are also used to support the roof's broad overhang. The rear elevation has a small gable roof kitchen wing, an enclosed porch, a shed roofed wing, a small gable roof dormer, and a high brick basement. The interior features darkly stained woodwork and typical bungalow details such as simple Craftsman style mantles, five horizontal panel doors, and an open string staircase with a slat balustrade. Joseph Butler Lowrance (1893-1970), the son of Samuel Edward Lowrance (1863-1943), was employed by the Southern Railroad. He married Miss Ira Wilson. In 1923 they bought this house lot for \$500 and contracted with Pollie Bowman to build the house. He completed it in six weeks at a cost of \$4,500. Mrs. Lowrance still lives in the house. Mr. Lowrance was distantly related to the Lawson H. Lowrance (75) Family.

6. Pitts-Little House
S. Second Ave.
1924
P

The Pitts-Little House is an intact two story three bay brick (common bond) "square house." One of the largest residences in the district, it features a wraparound porch, low hip roof (with tin shingles) and side and rear wings. The house sits on an elevated lot which commands a view to the north. Tuscan columns on brick piers support the expansive porch roof which extends across the north, front and one-half of the side, east elevation. Pairs of six-over-one double hung sash windows are symmetrically arranged across the front, north elevation around the center entrance and its sidelights. The center bay is crowned by a hip roof dormer. There are two exterior chimneys and one interior chimney. Two story wings project from the east and south elevations; the latter has a porch and abuts the one story brick kitchen wing. Darkly stained finishes highlight the central hall plan interior that has typical mantels and a finely scaled closed string staircase with a square, paneled newel post and a slatted balustrade. J. H. Pitts (1850-1930) was closely associated with Catawba's growth and development. As early as 1884 Pitts may have been involved in the lumber business in Catawba with a Mr. Irvin. By 1890, however, he was engaged in the operation of a general store. Later he erected a brick store building (50) on Main St. and subsequently purchased the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building (46). The first president of Peoples Bank, Pitts also served a number of terms as mayor (1893, 1897, 1901, 1908). He married Laura Ingold (1855-1933).

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One of their daughters, Murrill (1883-1967), married Dr. Charles Alonzo Little (1878-1969) and they subsequently occupied the house. The son of physician and early Catawba settler Quintus M. Little (63), Charles was a prominent businessman and farmer in Catawba. A graduate of the Catawba Valley Academy and the Atlanta Dental School (now Emory University), Little first established his practice in Newton for eight years. After he moved back to Catawba, Charles became a partner in the general mercantile firm of Coulter and Little, Catawba's largest. Little operated the telephone exchange, that was initially located in his father's home, for a number of years. He sold the mercantile business in 1947. Charles was a partner in the Catawba Ginning Company; was a founder and past president of People's Bank, and served on the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. He and Miss Pitts were married in 1903 in her home which stood on the site of the present building. It burned in 1923 and J. H. Pitts built this house which is still occupied by members of the family.

7. Robert E. Carpenter House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1910

C
Two stories in height and capped by a hip roof, the asymmetrically massed Carpenter House features a wraparound porch that carries across the front, south elevation, along one-half of the east elevation and along the gable roof kitchen wing which extends to the east. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. The porch has a hip roof supported by eight Tuscan columns; a portion of the balustrade remains. The two bays on the front elevation are occupied by single one-over-one double hung sash windows and the side entrance. A small hip roof dormer is positioned above and between the bays. A shallow two story wing with another door is deeply recessed to the east where the main block of the house meets the kitchen wing. This has an exterior chimney and a high basement with a window. Small gable, shed, and hip roofed wings extend to the rear of the house giving the whole a varied silhouette. Originally built on high brick piers, these wings have since received infill foundation walls. There is a bay window on the west elevation. Surviving interior features include typical Neo-Classical Revival style mantels with overmantels and a closed string staircase with a paneled outer string, turned balusters, and a paneled newel post. Robert Edwin Carpenter (1880-1962) probably built this house soon after he acquired the property from J. H. Pitts in 1910. A native of the Oxford section of Catawba County, Carpenter was the son of William and Mildred (Frazier) Carpenter. Robert was Catawba's postmaster from 1912-21 and was also active in the town's business and political life. An alderman and mayor (1941 and three terms up to 1945), he was the Catawba County Register of

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Deeds from 1930-1934, and operated Carpenter's Store (50) in Catawba. In addition, he managed the Abernethy Hardware Company (42), but when or for how long has not been determined. Carpenter married Annie Shuford (1883-1968). Five years after his death she sold the house to W. Cecil Barringer.

8. Minges-Walker House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1910

C

This one story three bay frame house is one of the most picturesque and unusual dwellings in the district. It has a lively silhouette formed by a high hip roof and numerous gables, a rear wing, side bay window, gable roof dormer, and a wraparound porch. Two corner gables on the front, south elevation frame a dormer containing a Palladian window, the porch with its Tuscan columns and pedimented entrance bay, as well as the recessed central entrance. Turned balusters are employed in the porch's balustrade; it is carried across the front and east elevations. A gable on the west elevation frames a bay window. The two tall interior chimneys with their corbeled caps complement the building's overall profile. A Neo-Classical mantel and wainscoting in one of the front rooms and a Palladian style hall divider are the lone surviving interior features. Luther Minges, who was employed in some capacity by the Southern Railway, bought this lot in 1910 from Lawson H. Lowrance (75) and probably built the house soon after. Little has been uncovered about Minges but in 1919 he sold the property to William B. Walker, cashier of Peoples Bank. Mayor of Catawba in 1919, Walker also moved away (prior to 1928) from the area and little else is known about him. Walker apparently sold the house to People's Bank who transferred it to Ross Lowrance in 1928. After his death, Lowrance's daughter, Helen, and widow, Effie B. Lowrance, sold the house to Robert J. Allen in 1976.

9. Jacob D. Little House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1884

C

The one story three bay Little House is an L-shaped cottage sheathed in weatherboards. Located at the western edge of the district, the house features both Gothic and Greek Revival style detailing. Steeply pitched roof and attic vents with pointed lintels define the former while narrow sidelights and a three part transom show influence of the latter. Replacement eight-over-eight double hung sash windows flank the doorway and similar windows are used throughout. A stamped metal roof with raised rectangular units cover the roof surfaces. The house has one exterior chimney and a single shoulder stepped end chimney on the south

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elevation. Nothing remains of the original interior due to extensive remodeling after 1966. Jacob Daily Little (1849-1932) bought this and the adjoining parcels of land between 1882 and 1887, and it is said that the house was built here about 1884. A merchant in Catawba for some fifty years, Little moved to Cleveland, N.C. about 1930 where he lived with one of his sons. Jacob was married to Marry Etta Ruffy (1861-1893), daughter of Michael and Salena Ruffy on whose farmland much of Catawba was built. Little was the present owner's great uncle. Mrs. Cramer recalls that there was an apple orchard on the property, but the house was not the seat of a farm.

10. Stanley Q. Allen House
S. Second Ave.
1984
I

Catawba's newest residence, this one story frame house has a typical ranch-type configuration with a large solar energy unit in the center of the front elevation. The house is sheathed in vertical siding, has an attached garage, and an asymmetrical fenestration pattern.

11. Robert L. Boggs, Sr. Rental House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1924
C

One story in height and three bays wide, this gable front bungalow has a large gable roof porch framed by the main gable, and a shallow gable roof side bay. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. Four square posts resting on brick plinths support the porch roof which is detailed with exposed purlins and rafter ends. The central entrance is flanked by double hung sash windows with four narrow vertical panes in the upper sash. The bay is located on the west elevation as is a prominent exterior chimney with one stepped shoulder. There is also an interior chimney.

12. Robert L. Boggs, Jr. House
S. Second Ave.
1964
F

A one story ranch-type dwelling, the Boggs House is a typical representative of the form with its brick veneer, low hip roof, and asymmetrical fenestration pattern. Boggs built the house on a lot adjacent to his father's rental house (11); the elder Boggs was a merchant in town.

13. Sigmon-Murphy House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1928

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F

The Sigmon House is a one story three bay gable front bungalow that features a gable roof porch across two bays and shallow gable roof side bays. Unfortunately, recent alterations that include a brick veneer, replacement porch posts, and a concrete block chimney and garage wing have compromised the house's integrity. Its center door is located on a recessed wall plane where it is flanked by a pair of double hung sash windows; a second pair form the other bay. The porch roof is framed by the main gable and both contain trusslike gable ornamentation. According to local tradition, this house was built by an employee of the railroad just before the Depression. He lost it soon after it was built and Ivey Glenn Sigmon purchased it. Sigmon (1903-1976) was the son of T. D. and Cora Drum Sigmon; his parents built a house (14) about 1922 almost directly across from this one. A carpenter by trade Ivey Glenn Sigmon was a member of the Catawba First Methodist Church. He and his wife apparently lived here until their deaths, and the present owner, Paul Murphy, acquired the property in 1981. Murphy added the rear wing and replaced the original sheathing material with a brick veneer.

14. Theodore D. Sigmon House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1922

C

One of the finest bungalows in Catawba, the Sigmon House is one and one-half stories in height and three bays wide. It was built about 1922 by local sawmill operator, Theodore D. Sigmon. The house is sheathed in weatherboards and woodshingles. It has an engaged porch, large gable roof center dormer and broad, well-detailed side gables that frame the double pile house. A high basement at the back is punctuated by small windows here and on the side elevations. Four square posts on brick plinths support the roof's flared eaves; a slatted balustrade stretches between the plinths. Behind this porch the central entrance is flanked by pairs of double hung sash windows. A symmetrical fenestration pattern consisting of large and small windows on the half story and paired windows below is employed on the side elevations although the west elevation also has a bay window. Purlin brackets support the broad overhang of the roof, and woodshingles are employed in the gable peaks. A gable roof kitchen wing, shed roof ells, and a shed roof dormer are all located on the rear elevation. The house also has two interior chimneys and a third in the kitchen. The interior features two Neo-Classical Revival style mantels with mirrored overmantels in the living and dining rooms, as well as a simpel mantel with a bracketed mantel shelf in one bedroom. The central closed string staircase has a blocky square newel post and a slat balustrade. Originally, the walls and ceilings were

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covered with narrow beaded boards but they now survive only in the ceilings of the living and dining rooms. Window and door surrounds are the typical wide flat boards with a raised edge strip. In 1922, Theodore D. Sigmon (1884-1953) bought this lot from C. A. Little and it is thought that the house was built soon after. Sigmon was the son of Martin and Dovie (Sherrill) Sigmon, and married Cora Drum (1879-1958), the daughter of William A. Drum. He was a farmer by trade but also operated a sawmill. Local tradition maintains that he built the house. In fact, he may have been assisted by his son, Ivey Glenn Sigmon (13) who was a carpenter by trade. The Reverend Robert L. Poindexter, the present owner, purchased the property in 1976.

15. Sims-White House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1910

F

This house is a small frame hipped roof cottage whose exterior appearance/significance was radically altered by the addition of a brick veneer in 1973. It has a symmetrical three bay front, north elevation, nearly full facade porch, center hip roof dormer, and a gable roof rear wing; the latter site on a high brick foundation. Its back half rests on a high brick foundation and the building has been brick veneered. Four square posts support the hip roof of the porch behind which is a center door and flanking one-over-one double hung sash windows. A hip roofed dormer rises on the center bay and two interior chimneys are original. The interior features five panel doors and one mantel with a bracketed overmantel shelf. The present owner of this house, Delphia White, recalls that the house was built about 1910 by Peter (P.K.) Travis (1872-1945), for a Mr. Sims. Sometime later it was sold to Charles A. Little who lived in the house (16) next to this one. In 1921, Charles A. Little (a man who owned a great deal of property in and around Catawba) sold this particular parcel--with the house--to Carl Worth Ervin (1895-1955). In 1919 Ervin married Miss Cecil Lorene Pope (1896-1956) of Catawba, and they lived here until about 1939 when J. Arthur Smith (1885-1966) bought the property. The Smiths had lived in a house (25) on E. Central Ave. that they sold in 1922 to G. Whitener Rhyne (20). How long they lived here or owned the house has not been determined although local tradition maintains that Henry Setzer (1891-1960) lived here until his death. The present owner purchased the house in 1963 and added the brick veneer.

16. Little-Ervin-Conner House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1910

F

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The Little-Ervin-Connor House is an asymmetrically massed two story frame building, built about 1909 by Charles A. Little, which is two bays wide and capped by a hip roof. Extensive exterior alterations made by the present owner include the addition of wide aluminum siding. It has a full width porch as well as side and rear wings of various configurations. The porch carries across the projecting bay on the front elevation and back to the recessed entrance. Its hip roof is supported by slender columns. Single one-over-one double hung sash windows are positioned behind the porch and in the second story. A one-story flat roofed wing with a balustrade and bay window extends to the east; one story hip and shed roof wings are attached to the rear; and a small shed roofed addition is located on the west elevation where it adjoins a modern chimney. Attempts to contact the Connors have failed and therefore the interior of the house has not been examined.

17. Howell-Coulter-Spencer House
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1872

C
Located at the intersection of NC 10 and S. Second Ave. (SR 1000), the Howell-Coulter-Spencer House is a typical two story, three bay example of the vernacular houses built in Catawba County and across the state in the late nineteenth century. Compromised by the addition of aluminum siding and alterations to the nearly full width porch the house nevertheless retains many of its original characteristics. These include the central entrance with sidelights, symmetrical fenestration pattern of six-over-six double hung sash windows, and end chimneys. The chimneys have a single shoulder stepped form. A one story kitchen wing, also an original feature, extends to the rear. The interior has not, at present, been open for investigation. In 1871, J. K. Howell purchased this lot and five additional acres of land from H. H. Robinson, and it is assumed that the house was built soon after. Howell was listed in the 1872 edition of Branson's Directory as a resident Baptist minister serving the congregations of Olivet and Providence Churches, both located south of Catawba. He was also named as one of Catawba's commissioners when the Town of Catawba was incorporated in 1872. By 1877 he apparently had left the area and in 1879 (then residing in Wake County) sold the house to Hosea A. Danner. In 1889, P. J. Pitts sold the property to his daughter, Laura E. (Pitts) Coulter (1853-1930). Her husband was John Henry Coulter (1847-1917), and he may have been the partner in the Grim and Coulter sawmill which is listed in the 1897 edition of Branson's Directory. Coulter was a former mayor of Catawba (part of 1902), but little else has been uncovered about him. After Laura's death, her heirs sold the house to one of their siblings, John J. Coulter (1886-1950). His heirs sold it in 1951 to Guy H. Spencer, and they later

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sold the property in 1961 to Craig Marion Spencer (1924-1967) and his wife, Lillie. She still owns the house.

18. Dr. Fred Y. Long Office
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1910
C

This small two room frame building was built by Dr. Fred Y. Long for use as an office. Constructed directly across the street from his house (19), the building is one story in height and two bays wide. Sheathed in German siding, it contains two paneled doors on the front, south elevation. A small chimney rises through the roof. It is still owned by Dr. Long's daughter, Corinne Long. Access to the interior was not obtained. (For biographical information, see the Dr. Fred Y. Long House.)

19. Dr. Fred Y. Long Farm
S. Second Ave.
ca. 1909
P

The Long House is a large two story frame dwelling with an asymmetrical silhouette and a wraparound porch. Built about 1909 by Dr. Fred Y. Long, it is one of the largest, most intact houses in the district and is set in front of a large and remarkably well-preserved group of farm buildings. It is sheathed in German siding. The front, north elevation is composed of the main high hip roofed central block with a pent gable roof wing projecting forward and a recessed hip roofed wing jutting from the east elevation. Tuscan columns support the screened porch which stretches across the principal elevation and along one-half of the east elevation. It has a balustrade with turned balusters. Its northwestern half projects forward from the remainder; a concession to the wing. The slightly off-center entrance has a transom and is flanked to the west by a large one-over-one double hung sash windows in the wing and a diamond pane hall window to the east. A second door leads from the porch into the east wing. Four-over-one double hung sash windows are arranged across the second story. Two interior chimneys with corbeled caps rise through the roof. A bay window which lies below a gable, is attached to the west elevation and one and two story hip and shed roof wings extend to the rear of the house where there is a third interior chimney. The house's interior could not be investigated at this time. The property contains a number of outbuildings including a barn, crib, a brick well house, a smoke house, and a small frame storage house with two-over-two double hung sash windows on either side of a center door. These buildings are only part of those which local sources remember as being on the property. There were also dog and pig pens, a chicken house,

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granaries, and a carriage house. Long's small farm was tended to by hired help. Fred Y. Long (1875-1965) was born in Catawba, the eldest of eight children born to J. U. Long (36) and Laura (Yount) Long. A graduate of Baltimore Medical College and North Carolina Medical College he began his practice at age twenty-three in Davidson but moved back to Catawba County about 1902. At that time he was in practice with his brother-in-law, T. Walter Long (30), and subsequently took over his practice. In 1909 Long married Carrie Belle Davis (1888-1967) of Statesville and probably built this house about that time. A member of the Catawba Methodist Church and a Mason, he was former president of the Peoples Bank (Catawba), an honorary member of the State Medical Society, and was named Doctor of the Year in 1957 by the Catawba County Medical Society. His daughter Corinne still occupies the house.

20. G. Whitener Rhyne House

E. Second St.

1939

F

The Rhyne House is the finest Colonial Revival dwelling in Catawba. Two stories in height and five bays wide, the brick veneered house has a single bay entrance porch, a side porch and porte-cochere, and a hip roof. The house's central entrance is graced by sidelights and a fanlight, and is situated behind a flat roofed porch supported by four fluted columns. Six-over-six double hung sash windows are symmetrically arranged across the front, west elevation. An enclosed porch is attached to the north elevation, a porte-cochere on the south elevation, and a kitchen wing with a porch extends to the rear. The interior finish is composed of wide flat window and door surrounds most of which have been painted. In the living room, a large Colonial Revival style mantel frames a black tile fireplace surround. Pine wainscoting and trim is employed in the den which is joined to the living room by French doors. George Whitener Rhyne (1894-1973) built the house in 1939 on the site of the John Sherrill House. The house was designed by Hickory architect Q. E. Herman. Prior to building here Rhyne lived on E. Central Ave. in the Smith-Rhyne House (25). Born in Lincoln County to Henry and Maggie (Rhyne) Rhyne, George W. Rhyne was a graduate of North Carolina State University and was a veteran of World War I. He retired in 1959 after more than forty years as a rural mail carrier in Catawba and Claremont. His wife was Gordie Lowrance (1892-1963), daughter of Richard and Julia (Sigmon) Lowrance. Rhyne's son, Whitener Rhyne, still lives in the house.

21. Bagby-Danner Farmhouse

E. Central Ave.

ca. 1878

C

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Situated amongst magnificent oak trees and surrounded by open fields, the Bagby-Danner Farmhouse conveys the relationship between Catawba's central business core and the once numerous outlying farms which it served. The two story three bay frame house, although extensively altered (including the application of asbestos siding), retains many of the characteristics so typical of mid to late nineteenth century farmhouses in North Carolina. A porch built in the early 1900s dominates the front, north elevation and is composed of four tall brick posts and a broad gable roof. Behind this porch the house retains its central entrance and sidelights as well as the six-over-six double hung sash windows (on both stories). A standing seam metal roof is employed on all roof surfaces. Two end chimneys made of oversize bricks feature a single stepped shoulder. Local tradition holds that the bricks were made at the edge of the field which extends across the back. The original rear kitchen wing remains although it has been enlarged. The interior was remodeled after 1916 and now has an asymmetrical floor plan, replacement brick mantels, and a new staircase. Upstairs, two vernacular Greek Revival mantels and two two-panel doors survive. Wesley M. Bagby purchased a twelve acre parcel of land, of which this property is a part, from Manuel Robinson in 1878, and probably built this house soon after. Bagby was a Methodist preacher and the first pastor of Catawba's United Methodist Church (1873-76). In 1895, after he had moved to Guilford County, Bagby sold the twelve acre tract of land to J. H. Pitts. John L. F. Danner (1844-1928), a Confederate veteran, bought it in 1916 from J. H. L. Coulter. Danner moved his family to Catawba after the 1916 Flood of the Catawba River ruined his farm located elsewhere in Catawba County. He remodeled the house soon after he purchased it. Three of Danner's daughters, Susie, Mae, and Edna still live there.

22. John S. A. Danner House
E. Central Ave.
1948
F

The Danner House is a one and one-half story, three bay brick veneer dwelling. It has a projecting gable roof entrance bay, a side porch, and a gable roof rear wing. The entrance is located slightly off-center and is flanked by single double hung sash windows. Two brick posts support the roof of the side porch. The rear one story wing stretches across all but a small portion of the elevation. The back portion of the house rests on a high basement. There is one interior chimney. John Samuel Alexander Danner (1906-1975) was the son of John L. F. and Effie Mae (Cody) Danner. He was a mayor of Catawba (1950-1956), an employee of the post office, a merchant, and a farmer and carpenter. Danner built this house near his parent's home (21). His wife was Blanche Elizabeth

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Smyre (1904-1980); they were members of the Catawba Baptist Church. Mrs. Danner lived in the house until her death when it was purchased by the present owner, Charles Ramsey.

23. Travis-Loftin House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1924
C

This small one story three bay bungalow has a gable end orientation, an attached porch, and is sheathed in weatherboards. Four tapered posts support the hip roof of the porch; it is framed by the gable that is detailed with purlin brackets. The central entrance is flanked by single double hung windows, and there are a pair in the gable peak. A one story kitchen wing extends across the rear elevation and there are two interior chimneys. Local tradition maintains that Reuben Travis built this house in the mid 1920s on a lot he bought from John L. F. Danner (21). Sometime later he sold it to Lee Loftin. No biographical information has been uncovered about the house's two early owners as they moved away from Catawba.

24. G. Whitener Rhyne Rental House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1922
C

According to local tradition, G. Whitener Rhyne (20), built this small one story frame building for rental purposes on property he acquired in 1922 when he lived in the adjacent Smith-Rhyne House (25). The building features a gable roof porch, three bay front elevation and one interior chimney. Single double hung sash windows flank the off-center door; they are located behind the porch and its three square posts. Mrs. G. Whitener Rhyne, Jr. stated that the materials used to build this small house came from the old John Sherrill House, a late nineteenth century dwelling which Rhyne pulled down to build a Colonial Revival house (20) on the site.

25. Smith-Rhyne House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1910
C

The Smith-Rhyne House is a one story three bay frame dwelling that has a varied silhouette framed in part by a pent roof dormer and an expansive wraparound porch which terminates in a porte-cochere. Its basically square double pile shape is capped by a high hip roof from which decorative blind gables project on both side elevations and a third center dormer is set into the roof of the front elevation. Nine widely

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spaced Tuscan columns support the porch's hip roof and gable roof entrance bay. The porch envelopes a bay window on the west elevation and terminates in a porte-cochere on the east elevation. Behind the porch the central entrance is framed by wide sidelights and flanked by single replacement windows. Other features of the house include the ornamental pendants and sawn cornice treatment over the bay window and a one story rear kitchen wing. The interior was not available to view. Local tradition maintains that the house was built by J. Arthur Smith, although his acquisition of the property has not been documented. Smith is said to have worked at the local lumber plant which was located on E. Central Ave. just to the west of the First United Methodist Church (28). In 1922 Smith sold the house to G. Whitener Rhyne who apparently lived here until he built a Colonial Revival house (20) in 1939. Rhyne built a small house (24) on the adjacent lot. It was owned by a number of people since 1939.

26. Jones-Gantt House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1925
C

One story in height and three bays wide, this frame bungalow features a clipped gable roof and clipped gable front and side porches. It is sheathed in German siding. The front porch which is framed by the gable front is supported by replacement wrought iron posts and is detailed with purlin brackets. Behind it the central entrance is flanked by paired double hung sash windows. The triple pile side elevations have asymmetrical fenestration patterns, a single shoulder stepped chimney on the west side elevation, and a smaller version of the front porch on the east side elevation. There is one interior chimney and the gable ends feature purlin brackets. Although the first owner of this house has not been positively identified, J. E. Jones was acquiring lots along this section of E. Central Avenue between 1918 and 1928. He may have built this house on one of those parcels of land in the late 1920s. In 1935 he sold the house to Charles W. and Virgie L. Gantt who appear to have occupied the house until it was sold in 1980 to Harold and Joan Saine. The Gantts operated a small store on E. Central Ave. which catered to the nearby textile mills. The Saines conveyed the property to Harry Christopher in 1982 and he transferred it to Larry D. Christopher in 1983.

27. Manson L. Wilkinson House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1920
P

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This large one and one-half story three bay bungalow features a broad gable roof porch and large center dormer on the front elevation and expansive side gables. Viewed from either side elevation the house has a varied silhouette. Sheathed in weatherboards and replacement asphalt shingles in the gable ends, it is detailed with purlin brackets and exposed rafter ends. Four square posts support the porch roof from which the dormer rises. Single double hung sash windows with four narrow vertical panes in the upper sash flank the door, and a trio occupy the dormer. A one story gable roof bay is attached to the west, side elevation and two wings of unequal size--one of which is the kitchen--extend to the rear of the house. The house's interior finish includes typically simple and flat window and door surrounds as well as craftsman style mantels with heavy bracketed mantel shelves. This property was conveyed to Manson Lee Wilkinson (1888-1960) in 1919, and therefore it is assumed that the house was built soon after. A life-long resident of Catawba County, Manson was born in the Mountain Creek section of the county to Marion and Amanda (Drum) Wilkinson. According to local tradition he was a merchant in Catawba but the nature or location of his business has not been determined. Wilkinson married Miss Jessie Bandy (1892-1966). The property has changed owners many times since the Wilkinsons' death. The present owner, John R. Crawford, has lived here since 1979.

28. Catawba First United Methodist Church and Cemetery
E. Central Ave.
1948

The First United Methodist Church is a brick veneered T-shaped building which features a crenelated bell tower and ante-room and a two story Sunday school wing. A gable roof porch announces the entrance into the bell tower which rises, off axis, above the roof of the nave. Round arched memorial stained glass windows are arranged across the lower part of the tower and the adjoining flat roofed wing. Similar windows in pairs occupy the six bay nave walls and double hung sash windows are symmetrically arranged on both stories of the Sunday school wing. The present building was erected on the site of the congregation's first church built in 1878. That small brick temple form building was one of a group of similar church buildings constructed throughout Catawba County in the 1870s. The Methodist congregation in Catawba was organized in 1876 although its history extends somewhat further back to Smyrna Church which was located about one mile southwest of Catawba. Organized in the Academy, a private school located near the present church, the congregation's trustees were J. U. Long, J. W. Sigmon, G. W. Cansler, W. H. Aderholt, and C. M. Lowrance. The Rev. Wesley M. Bagby was pastor from 1873-76, followed by J. C. Hartsell in 1877. From

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1876 the church was part of the Newton Circuit in the South Carolina Conference. In 1885 the Catawba Circuit was organized and this consisted of Catawba, Bethlehem, Pisgah, Hopewell, and Concord. The church was accepted into the Western North Carolina Conference in 1890. Remodeling of the original church in 1924 was followed by its demolition about 1946, and the construction of a new--the present--church during the pastorate of the Rev. A. G. Lackey. The cemetery which adjoins the church was probably established at about the time of organization in 1875. It appears to have been established as the village cemetery and is administered by the church. Nearly every person who contributed to Catawba's growth and development is buried here. It is therefore a marker to the families who built the town. For the most part, the graves are marked by relatively simple stones, however, there are many exceptions. Those families most prominent in Catawba's growth and development have the most conspicuous markers. The list includes many of the people who built the houses and stores which are included in the district. The Long Family stones are prominent as are those of the Pitts, Littles, Booth's, Lowrance's Coulters, Sherrill, Aderholdts, and the Ruftys. Most impressive are the two large markers to the J. B. Bridges Family. A few family plots are delineated by granite or concrete edges, and some plots have large slabs of poured concrete. There are a number of short obelisks and two tall ones. Of the latter, one of marble marks the grave of James T. Long (1864-1881) and was made by Webb and Son of Statesville, NC. Older stones in the cemetery are generally executed in marble while the more recent additions are grey granite. There is no landscaping to speak of.

29. Catawba Cotton Gin

E. Central Ave.

ca. 1890

C

This long one story frame building is the last reminder of Catawba's once thriving cotton ginning industry. With its machinery long since removed, the building is now a warehouse for the adjacent Elmore Construction Company. Sheathed in weatherboards, it has a central door and four nine-over-nine double hung sash windows asymmetrically arranged across the front, south elevation. The building is covered by a standing seam metal roof. There are two later open shed roof storage wings which have been added to the south and east elevations. Local tradition maintains that this cotton gin was built in the 1890s and operated by the partnership of S. H. Abernethy, J. H. Aderholdt (54), and J. W. Lowrance. Aderholdt and Abernethy sold their interest about 1900 to Lowrance. He sold the business about 1918 to the Catawba Ginning Company. The Catawba Ginning Company had been formed by Oscar Sherrill and C. A. Little. Sherrill, the son of James H. Sherrill,

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organizer of the Sherrill Tobacco Company, was manager of J. U. Long and Company, and was director of Catawba's Peoples Bank. Little was a partner in the general mercantile firm of Coulter and Little and was also a director of Peoples Bank. Cotton ginning operations continued in this building until about 1960, when cotton ceased to be raised as a cash crop;

30. Thomas Walter Long House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1892

P

The Thomas Walter Long House is an asymmetrically massed two story frame dwelling which, when built, reflected a grander, more ornate scale of residential construction than Catawba had previously seen. Although both exterior and interior alterations (including asbestos siding) have compromised its integrity, many significant details on both surfaces survive. The house's T-shaped plan features a central hall plan, a gable roof wing at the front, and a two bay porch supported by Tuscan columns stretching to the east. Two-over-two double hung sash windows are used throughout. There are two interior chimneys. Brackets detail the corners of the house immediately below the roof overhang and ornate scroll sawn ornaments grace the gable ends. A one story kitchen wing extends to the rear of the house and there are two outbuildings remaining on the property. Many interior details have survived. They include molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, a closed string staircase featuring a paneled outer string, wainscoting above the inner string and ornate newel posts. Five panel doors and mantels with brackets and fluted pilasters or columns also survive as does an elaborate mantel with mirrored overmantel. The latter is similar to those which appeared in late nineteenth century pattern books or trade catalogs. Thomas Walter Long (1858-1916) was a son-in-law of Jephtha U. Long whose house (36) stands to the west along Main Street. He bought this lot in 1892 and probably built the house soon thereafter. Long was a physician who had established his practice in Catawba sometime between 1884 and 1890. He maintained his practice at least until 1902 but by 1910 had relocated to Newton. Fred Y. Long (19) (J. U.'s son) subsequently took over his Catawba practice, and Walter and his wife Daisy Long (J. U.'s daughter) (1873-1923) sold the house in 1904 to L. C. Skinner. J. U. Long acquired the property in 1910 after he sold his house on Main Street. His heirs sold it to William Musgrove about 1928. Prior to 1940 he moved the house approximately one hundred feet to the east and built a new house (32) on the original site. Musgrove's daughter, Jo Ann Jackson, now lives here.

31. Hewitt-Gantt House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1902

C

This small one story frame house is three bays wide, two rooms deep,

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and is capped by a T-shaped cross gable roof. Built about 1902 by W. B. Hewitt, it has had a number of owners. Sheathed in weatherboards, the house has a porch across three-quarters of the front, south elevation and one end chimney. Four square posts support the porch roof behind which is a center door flanked by double hung sash windows with three vertical panes in the upper sash. The gable roof of the broad rear wing is slightly taller than the principal wing thereby giving the roof a somewhat varied silhouette. One addition to the rear of the house has been incorporated below the roof and a second shed roofed wing is attached to the rear elevation. The gable end chimney has a single stepped shoulder. In 1901, W. B. Hewitt bought this house lot from J. N. Brown for forty dollars. Hewitt had erected the house prior to selling the property to E. O. Isenhower in 1908 for \$850. Isenhower transferred it to Ralph R. Boggs in 1915 (1886-1956) who occupied a house next door (since removed). Boggs transferred the house that same year to Manson L. Wilkinson (1888-1960). Wilkinson sold it to the nearby Catawba Ginning Company in 1917 and that company sold it to J. Daniel Gantt in 1918. Gantt (1881-1936) was married to Pearl (Wike) Gantt (1886-1958). Her will left the house to her son, John D. Gantt, Jr. (1927-1964). His brother, Kenneth, now owns and occupies the house.

32. William M. Musgrove House

E. Central Ave.

1940

F

This one and one-half story brick veneered dwelling features a symmetrically arranged five bay front elevation with a gable over the recessed center entrance and two gable roof dormers. The house has broad side gables and a dormer on the rear elevation. A compound round arch frames the door which is flanked by six-over-six double hung sash windows. About 1939, William McKinley Musgrove (1898-1975) moved the Thomas Walter Long House (30) some one hundred feet to the east and had this house built on its site the following year. The son of George and Jane (Harris) Musgrove, William bought the Catawba Drug Company (49) and operated it until his retirement. Musgrove was a mayor of Catawba (1945-1948), and was a member of the First Methodist Church. He served as chairman of the church's building committee during the period when plans were made to erect the present parsonage. William's wife, Christine (Reaves) Musgrove (1897-1981) lived in the house until her death, and it is now owned and occupied by a daughter, Virginia Musgrove. Plans for the house were prepared by Carl Ervin and it was built by the Yount Lumber Company of Newton.

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33. Thomas E. Harwell House
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1927

C

The Harwell House is a one and one-half story bungalow, three bays wide. It is sheathed in a brick veneer and aluminum siding. A gable roof porch stretches across the front elevation and the broad side gables frame shed and gable roof bays. Two tapered posts and two replacement wrought iron supports carry the porch roof behind which are the central entrance and flanking pairs of six-over-one double hung sash windows. A shed roof bay is attached to the side, west elevation where it is located below the bracketed gable and its broad eaves. Attached to the east elevation is a gable roof wing with an exterior chimney; it abuts a trellis that projects over the terrace stretching to the front. Another gable roof wing extends to the rear. There is one interior chimney. Access to the house's interior was not granted. The present owner of the house has suggested that it was built by Tom Harwell about 1927. Harwell (1873-1965) was a former mayor (1935-41) and postmaster (1900-14, 1922-34) in Catawba. Born to James T. and Margaret (Sherrill) Harwell, Thomas attended Catawba College and Smith Business College in Richmond, Virginia. In 1922 Harwell married Miss Jessie Lowrance (1883-1966), a teacher at Catawba High School. Jessie was distantly related to the locally prominent Lawson H. Lowrance family of Catawba. After her death, the house was sold by her estate to C. Grady Abernethy. Abernethy and his wife still live here.

34. Lowrance Shoe Shop
E. Central Ave.
ca. 1880s

C

The Lowrance Shoe Shop is a small one room frame building which is probably Catawba's oldest commercial building. Once located on the east side of Main St., it stands as a representative of the first generation of commercial buildings erected in Catawba that were later replaced by larger brick stores. The shop's central two-leaf paneled door is flanked by four-over-four double hung sash windows, and the elevation is framed by a gable roof with a bracketed raking cornice. The building is covered with asphalt shingles. Inside, it is fitted with racks for shoes and some of the equipment used to make them. Strong local tradition maintains that Bart A. Lowrance established a shoe shop in this building, but no proof of his owning it has been uncovered. He arrived in Catawba Station between 1890 and 1900 and was still here in 1924. Lowrance left sometime thereafter and is not buried in the town cemetery. However, it would seem that the structure predates Lowrance's occupation of it. Extensive research has not identified who built it or what it was originally used for

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although some sources suggest that it was a Post Office. Its use after Lowrance left is uncertain. Before the building was moved in the early 1960s to its present location, it was located just to the north of the present Masonic Temple (57).

35. United States Post Office
E. Central Ave.
1970

I
Dedicated in 1970, Catawba's post office is an intrusive one story flat roofed brick veneered building situated in the midst of dwellings. Its nearly windowless brick walls are capped by a broad overhanging cornice. There is an entrance and small window on the front, north elevation, and a loading dock on the west elevation. A post office was established at Catawba Station in 1859, having been moved here from Chestnut Grove in Iredell County. It had been located in a number of buildings prior to the construction of the present structure. Up to 1970 there had been nineteen postmasters, many of whom had been actively involved in Catawba's growth and development.

36. Jephtha U. Long House
Main St.
ca. 1870, enlarged in the 1880s and after 1908

P
J. U. Long, a merchant and active contributor to Catawba's late nineteenth century growth, was occupying this three bay, two story frame house as early as 1872. Gable end chimneys and a porch survive from the original building, whereas two story wings were added to the back. An attached hip roof porch supported by four slender chamfered posts stretches across the entire front, west elevation. Behind this porch, the center entrance is framed by narrow sidelights and flanked by six-over-six double hung sash windows. Originally, there was flush boarding here. Similar windows occupy the outer bays on the second story but the center window has been replaced by a smaller one. The steeply pitched gable roof, covered in tin shingles, has broad eaves punctuated by single shoulder stepped end chimneys. Large two story gable roof wings extend to the rear of the building and contain interior chimneys. The wings were built as the building's use changed. An original kitchen wing probably extended to the rear of the house, but whether it was the present two story wing is not clear. The two story wing which extends from the south end of the rear elevation appears to be an 1880s addition that Long used in his boarding house. M. L. Sherrill probably added the flat roofed wings after his acquisition of the property in 1908. All significant interior details have been lost to numerous remodelings of the space in use as apartments. The history of

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this building is deep, but full of ambiguities. Jephtha U. Long (1843-1928) bought this parcel of land and its formerly large lot in 1872. The deed to the property specifically stated that it was the lot on which J. U. Long lived, and therefore at least the front portion of the house probably dates to some time before 1872. Long was a veteran of the Civil War and had been wounded at Gettysburg. He apparently had not moved to Catawba (at that time Catawba Station) prior to the 1870 census, although by 1880 his occupation was that of a merchant in town, and by the 1890s, the J. U. Long & Company Store (47) had been built. A former mayor (1894, 1902, 1907), Long married Miss Laura C. Yount (1848-1930), and one son, Dr. Fred Y. Long (19) established a medical practice in Catawba. Their daughter, Daisy, married a physician, Thomas Walter Long, and before they moved to Newton, they built a large house (30) in Catawba just to the east of J. U. Long. Local tradition holds that Long built this house for boarders, and while he may have provided rooms at various times it would appear that the building remained principally his residence. In fact, when the property was sold in 1908, the deed mentioned that the grantor (J. U. Long) lived there. By that time, however, the property was being referred to as the "Long Hotel and Livery Stables;" the North Carolina Yearbook for 1905 listed the Catawba Inn and its proprietor, J. U. Long. Minnie J. Sherrill (1859-1935) bought the property in 1909 and it remained the Catawba Inn with Walter L. Sherrill (1853-1939) as proprietor at least until 1915. Their heirs sold the property to John L. Lyerly in 1945. In 1960, he transferred it to Talmadge R. Korn and others; this group still owns the rental property.

37. Catawba Restaurant and Grill
Main St.

ca. 1945, 1960s addition

F

Erected along the East side of Main Street amongst a group of mid to late twentieth century buildings, the Catawba Restaurant and Grill is one story in height and has a remodeled front. An awning carries across the front of the building behind which are a side entrance and three rectangular windows. The north half the building was erected soon after W.W.II, and the cement block southern half is a 1960s addition by the present owner. Willie Setzer and Glenn Crawford built the original section and there they operated a restaurant. Troy and Talmadge Korn have owned the business since 1957.

38. First Federal Savings and Loan Bank
Main St.

1969

I

Built just north of the Gas Station (39), this one story bank building

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reveals no uncommon late 1960s and early 1970s design in such structures. This includes the large expanse of windows, standing seam bell cast mansard roof, and substantial corner brick piers. A parking lot is situated to the south of the building. Built in 1969 and opened January 1, 1970, the bank was designed by William P. Reinhardt of Newton and erected by the Elmore Construction Company of Catawba.

39. Gas Station

Main St.

ca. 1980

I

This one story gas station and convenience store is an intrusive complex at the south end of Main Street. Its pumps are shielded by a detached metal awning and the building, itself, clad in aluminum, sits at the back of the large paved parking area.

40. Redeemer Lutheran Church

Main St.

1960

F

The Redeemer Lutheran Church is a tall and long edifice which sports a steep gable roof crowning the central mass of the nave and broad shed roofs that extend below to envelop the remainder of the building. A long row of clerestory windows separates the two roof planes. A flat roofed Sunday school wing is attached to the northwest corner and a breezeway stretches between it and a shallow wing attached to the side of the nave. Redeemer Lutheran Church was organized in 1915 by the Rev. G. E. Mennen, a professor at Concordia College, Conover, and a number of Catawba's residents. The English District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod provided funds for the construction of a church building. This brick church had an offset bell tower, lancet arched windows, and had a basic form not unlike the older Catawba Baptist Church (67) and First United Methodist Church. It was pulled down in 1959. Reverend Robert P. Lail was installed as first pastor in 1916 and served until 1922. Subsequent pastors included Rev. W. P. Hunsucker, Rev. Fred Rockett, Rev. C. O. Smith, Rev. Carl A. Koerber, Rev. R. P. Sieving, and Rev. David L. Luecke. Under the pastorate (1959-1961) of Rev. Luecke the present edifice was built. Members of the building committee were J. C. Medlin, George Stewart, Claude Miller, Melvin Little, J. W. Gilleland, James Murray, David Hunsucker, J. W. Wesson, Troy Korn, and Craig Sigmon. The building was designed by Allen Bolick Associates and built by Young Lumber Company. Southern Desk Company supplied the furnishings. It was dedicated on September 25, 1960.

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41. (Former) Catawba Garage
Main St.
ca. 1925
F

A one story commercial building, the Catawba Garage was built as an automobile service facility but its use has been changed. In that alteration (probably during the late 1930s) the walls were stuccoed and the front, east elevation received two doors as well as windows. One door is flanked by pairs of large windows and the other, located at the east-northeast corner, is situated next to a smaller window. In 1925 John Troutman purchased a sizable lot on Main Street and it is likely that he built a garage, and according to one source, a blacksmith's shop on part of that lot soon after. By 1928 when Troutman sold the adjacent lot to G. P. Drum, reference was made to the Catawba Garage Lot. The building is now part of the Abernethy Hardware Company. It has also been used for two smaller shops, as the front portion is at present.

42. Abernethy Hardware Company
Main St.
ca. 1928
C

The Abernethy Hardware Company is a two story brick veneered commercial building built about 1928 for use as an auto showroom. Its principal, east elevation contains a slightly off-axis center entrance flanked by large display windows. A second door, which probably leads to the upper story, is located at the south corner of the elevation. Paired one-over-one double hung sash windows are symmetrically located on the second story. A door at the southeast corner of the elevation leads to the second floor. The Masonic Lodge used the space until about 1952, and lately it has been a storage area. In 1928, John Troutman, owner of the adjacent Catawba Garage (41) sold the lot on which this building was built to Garland P. Drum. Local tradition maintains that he built an automobile showroom and then leased or rented it to Ralph Boggs. Although the round arched windows on the rear elevation might suggest an earlier date of construction, there is no evidence, either in the deeds to the property or in local tradition, to support the idea that the store existed prior to 1928. Boggs had a Chevrolet dealership until the early 1930s. In 1937 Claude Abernethy acquired the property from the Savings and Loan Insurance Company and established the hardware store which continues in operation here to the present. Talmadge R. Korn purchased the store in 1969 and still owns and operates it.

43. Loftin-Goodman Building
Main St.
ca. 1928
C

The Loftin-Goodman Building is a one story brick veneered two storefront

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commercial structure. Both stores have recessed central doorways flanked by display windows. The patterned brickwork panels above defines the two storefronts. A. L. Loftin acquired this and the adjacent store lot in 1921 from the dry goods firm of Coulter and Little. He sold this lot to his son Roy in 1928 and the building was erected soon after; Loftin operated a cafe in the northern half and rented the other half to a grocery store. Mrs. Clyde Goodman, the present owner, acquired the property in 1944 from Frank E. Booth. For many years a beauty parlor has occupied the north half and a laundry facility the south half.

44. (former) Catawba Feed Store
Main St.
ca. 1902
C

According to local tradition, this one story brick (common bond) commercial building was originally used as a feed store. The building's asymmetrical fenestration pattern features segmentally arched openings of various sizes (one of which replaced an older, narrower unit) including a large four-part recessed entrance. Here a set of double doors is situated below a large transom and between angled wall panels and windows. The lot on which the building stands was acquired by J. H. Pitts in 1902; it was part of a larger parcel which included the Quintus M. Little House (63) and lots to the north and west. Local tradition is vague on when the structure was erected or what it was used for, although one source recalled that it was the Catawba Feed Store. The brickwork suggests a turn-of-the-century date of construction and therefore Pitts must have built it either to rent or for use in his general mercantile business which was housed in the Sherrill Tobacco Company building. Pitts transferred all of the property in this block to J. H. L. Coulter and C. A. Little in 1919 and they utilized their building until 1921 when it was sold to A. L. Loftin. What Loftin used the building for is unclear; he may have continued to operate the feed store. Numerous subsequent owners have used the building for various things and at present, it is an office.

45. (former) Catawba Post Office
Main St.
ca. 1902
C

Joined to the south elevation of the Sherrill Tobacco Factory building (46), this brick (common bond) building was, according to local tradition, built for use as an office and Post Office. One story in height and four bays wide, its features include the principal center entrance, flanking paired windows (originally one-over-one double hung sash units) and a

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later side door. The double main doors are topped by a transom, and all of the openings except the later side door are set within segmental arches. A simple corbeled cornice stretches across the top of the elevation. Although there is a local tradition that this building was constructed by Coulter and Little when they operated their mercantile business in the former tobacco factory, the masonry work appears to pre-date 1919. Therefore, it seems reasonable to speculate that J. H. Pitts, who acquired the Sherrill Tobacco Company building in 1902, probably built it. Although Pitts operated a general store (50) in Catawba prior to 1902, he probably moved into the old tobacco factory and at some point built this structure which local sources remember as being the Post Office at one time. Subsequent owners have incorporated it into the tobacco company building and it is now treated as one property on the tax maps.

46. Sherrill Tobacco Company Building
Main St.
ca. 1896

P
The Sherrill Tobacco Company Building is Catawba's most impressive commercial building, even though it has suffered recent alterations. It is also one of the finest commercial buildings in Catawba County. Three stories in height and six bays wide the brick (common bond) building features large round arched windows on the first story, segmentally arched windows above, and intricately corbeled brickwork above the third story windows and at the cornice line. Two entrances, occupying the second and fifth bays, are located on the first story. Their paneled doors with large windows lie below round arched windows (since replaced by red opaque glass). Originally paired one-over-one double hung sash windows below round arched windows occupied the remaining bays but this arrangement has been recently replaced. The arches which surround these doors and windows are highlighted by corbeled brick bands which spring from boldly projecting brick imposts. Each wall panel below the imposts is decorated with geometric designs in the brickwork of Greek crosses and vertically arranged brick set at forty-five degree angles to the wall surface. A broad but simple cornice stretches across the elevation and above the arches thereby defining the first story. The identical windows on the second and third stories are set between stacked pilasters. Their flat arches are corbeled back to the principal wall plane. Corbeled brackets introduce the cornice which rises into the patterned parapet wall; the latter features vertical extensions of the wall over both entrance bays. The side, north elevation has one window on the first story (located toward the rear) and five six-over-six double hung sash windows on each of the upper stories. They are set within segmental arches. Corbeled brickwork forms the coping on the stepped side

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parapet walls. A later addition, part of which rises above the roof, extends to the rear of the building. The building's interior features large open spaces punctuated by heavy posts and a number of heavily molded five panel doors. The Sherrill Tobacco Company was formed in May of 1896. Judging by the impressive building erected at this time to house the operation, the founders had a great deal of optimism in the future of the local tobacco industry. James H. Sherrill (1845-1927) and J. W. Blackwelder (1855-1925) formed the company. Here they produced plug tobacco under the names "Little Marian," "Ten Cent Cotton," "John's Ox," and "16 to 1." By 1900 the company had stopped production and in 1902 the building was sold to J. H. Pitts (1850-1930). Pitts moved his general merchandise store from an older building and apparently stayed here until he retired. In 1919 Pitts sold the business to his son-in-law Charles A. Little (1878-1869) and Little's cousin, John H. L. Coulter (1869-1943). The general mercantile firm of Coulter and Little used all three floors of this large building. Their slogan, as fondly recalled by Little's daughter, was "Dealers in Everything for Everybody From the Cradle to the Grave" (coffins were sold on the third floor). The firm remained in business until about 1947 when Little sold the property to the Dorsett Manufacturing Company. In 1962 the U. S. Hosiery Corporation purchased the building and later it was used by the Ward Furniture Company. At present, it is a restaurant; the owner altered the windows and sandblasted the woodwork on the first story.

47. J. U. Long & Company Store
Main Street
ca. 1895

P

This two story brick (common bond) commercial building is one of two well-detailed late nineteenth century stores which have survived virtually intact in Catawba. Its three bay principal, east elevation is composed of a recessed entrance between large store windows and brick pilasters separating the three segmentally arched windows on the second story. The remarkably intact storefront features large panes of glass set within chamfered mullions and muntins. They are framed above by three rows of small square panes and molded panels below. Turned half-posts form the corner leading to the two tall double doors which are set below a multi-square-pane transom. Two-over-two double hung sash windows on the second story are positioned above a wood cornice which caps the storefront. The upper portion of the elevation features a corbeled belt course at the second story ceiling level, a narrow recessed wall panel and a delicately corbeled cornice with a dentil string at the top of the elevation. The center bay is capped by a corbeled crest with corner piers which rises above the parapet wall. The long south elevation, which fronts on W. Central Ave., is detailed with seven pilasters defining

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recessed bays. They vary in height with the change in the parapet wall as it descends following the slope of the flat roof. Three small windows and one doorway are set in the elevation. Nothing is visible from the original interior if anything survives at all. Plain shelves exist from its most recent use as a grocery store. The second story has had a number of tenants and was once a pool room operated by John Phillips. Jephtha U. Long (see the Jephtha U. Long House), acquired this property in 1894 and it is believed that he built this store soon after. J. U. Long and Co's General Store had been in operation in Catawba as early as 1890. In 1909, and at the age of sixty-six, he sold the property to W. B. Huitt (who in 1910 was the chief of police in Catawba). C. A. Little, another Catawba merchant and operator of the telephone exchange, bought the store in 1913 and probably operated it until he and his cousin, J. H. L. Coulter, moved to the old Sherrill Tobacco Company Building. C. W. and Cecil L. Ervin acquired it in 1921, and John P. and Zella C. Coulter purchased the property in 1940. They ran Coulter's Grocery Store here until about three or four years ago. It is now vacant.

48. Long and Company Dry Goods Store
Main St.
ca. 1905
C

This two story brick store building is, with the exception of its remodeled storefront, one of Catawba's most intact and well-detailed early twentieth century commercial structures. Composed of two recessed doors at the east-southeast corner the storefront also has modern glass windows to the north. Above this are four large windows with transoms. A narrow cornice delineates the top of this second story. Five corbeled panels below one long one introduce the parapet wall which is capped by limestone. The general mercantile firm of J. U. Long and Company built the adjacent store building (47) about 1895. Sometime later the firm erected this second building on one of their adjacent lots. According to one source this building housed their dry goods department. J. U. Long's heirs sold the building to Carl W. Ervin, Sr. in 1940. He operated a general store here and his heirs sold it in 1959 to the present owner, Clyde Maguire. It is now vacant. Whether J. U. Long & Company used or rented the second story of the building is not known, but it later housed a beauty parlor and apartments.

49. (former) Catawba Drug Company
Main St.
ca. 1915
P

The (former) Catawba Drug Company is a remarkably well-preserved two story commercial building which retains both its early twentieth century

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pressed tin ceiling, counters, and display cases, as well as the booths from a 1930's remodeling. Large single pane windows frame the recessed double doors; the whole unit is capped by a transom of three narrow windows. A five panel door immediately below an unusually tall transom leads to the second story where a pair of one-over-one double hung sash windows are flanked by single units. Each has limestone sills and keystones. Above them is a slightly recessed narrow limestone band which stretches across all but a portion of the elevation. The store's original interior furnishing features darkly stained half-wall display cabinets and free standing cases. Some of the moldings show a Neo-Classical Revival style profile while the booths at the back of the store have round stepped edges evoking the Art Deco Style. In 1915, J. H. Pitts, who operated the adjacent Pitts-Carpenter Store (50), sold this lot to the Catawba Drug Company. The store was probably built thereafter. Partners in the company were F. N. Long, Vernon Long, Glenn Long, and William Walker. The Long brothers were sons of Jephtha U. Long, founder of the general mercantile firm of Long and Company and an active force in Catawba's development. By the early 1920s, interest in the Catawba Drug Company had been sold to various other persons. In 1931 William Musgrove began to acquire some of these shares and eventually became the sole owner. After his death in 1972, the business passed to his daughter, Mrs. Jo Ann Jackson, who still operates it under the name of Musgrove's Fountain.

50. Pitts-Carpenter Store
Main St.
ca. 1895
C

The Pitts-Carpenter Store is a remarkably well-preserved late nineteenth century brick commercial building, two stories in height and three bays wide. Its intact storefront features a deeply recessed six panel door leading to the second floor, double doors set at an angle that give access to the first floor, and two display windows each of which is composed of four large panes of glass. A narrow bracketed molding stretches across the elevation and immediately above the storefront. Three segmentally arched two-over-two double hung sash windows are arranged across the second story. The building's interior has been remodeled by subsequent owners. The second story was apparently rented to a number of tenants throughout the structure's history. J. H. Pitts, long identified with Catawba's late nineteenth and early twentieth century business community, bought this lot in 1895. It is assumed that he built this general store building sometime thereafter, although he had been in business in Catawba as early as 1890. In 1922 Pitts sold the store to Robert E. Carpenter who had previously been Catawba's postmaster, and built the Robert E. Carpenter House (7). Carpenter managed Carpenter's

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Store here until about 1932 when the building was sold to the Junior Order of the American Mechanics Council. They owned it until 1975. The store is vacant.

51. Peoples Bank
Main St.
1969, 1969 remodeling

I

Peoples Bank is a trio of substantially altered one and two story brick commercial buildings situated at the north end of the commercial block. The one story buildings with unequal parapet walls are older but have been totally changed while the larger was built in 1969. Awnings extend out from the southernmost two story block and the center building; they cover a trio of windows in the former and a recessed entrance and two large windows in the latter. Two windows occupy the northernmost building which also reveal a recessed panel across its elevation and stepped sidewalls. Peoples Bank was formed in 1911 and incorporated with an authorized capital stock of \$25,000. Many of its former officers have been prominent members of Catawba's business community including Jephtha U. Long, Dr. Fred Y. Long, Frank E. Booth, and W. B. Walker. The bank's first building, on this site, was replete with corbeled brickwork and a Neo-Palladian window in the center bay and double hung sash windows in the outer bays. It was demolished in 1969 and replaced by the present two story building.

52. Catawba Overhead Bridge
Main St.
1929

C

Erected in 1928 by the North Carolina State Highway Commission (project number 824), the Catawba Overhead Bridge spans the east-west tracks of the Southern Railroad. The concrete bridge is remarkably well-preserved even to the four lamps which crown concrete lamp posts at the bridge's four corners. These are very much like the lamps used at the 1927 Catawba County Courthouse, although on a smaller scale. Three paneled sections (one of unequal size) form the structure which has a paneled deck wall and four concrete piers. The octagonal lamps feature cresting and geometrically designed lamp bases as well as panes of amber glass.

53. Deal & Smith Leather Shop
NW of Highway 10 Bridge
ca. 1920

C

A remnant of the post World War I growth in Catawba, the Deal & Smith Leather Shop is a small one story frame commercial building. Located at

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the northwest corner of the district the building, according to local tradition, housed both the leather shop and Leonard's grocery store. Sheathed in weatherboards, the structure has a shed roof, front and rear doors flanked by now obscured windows, and it rests on short brick piers. The south end of the building has paired center board and batten doors flanked by windows while the north end has a small opening with a single board and batten door also flanked by windows. Extensive research and interviews with residents of Catawba has shed little light on the history of this small business. One informant recalled that Marion Deal operated the leather shop where he made small leather products. Zeb Leonard ran the grocery store. Mr. Smith has not been identified. The duration of the business here has not been uncovered.

54. J. H. Aderholdt House
Main St.
ca. 1920
C

The Aderholdt House is a one and one-half story three bay bungalow with an engaged porch, shed roof dormer, and gable roof rear wings. It is sheathed in weatherboards and woodshingles. Four tapered posts support the house's flared eaves behind which is a center entrance flanked by paired double hung sash windows. The broad gables form the double pile block, and a shallow shed roof bay on the south elevation; they are detailed with purlin brackets. A one story kitchen wing with an interior chimney as well as a one and one-half story wing project to the rear. There is also a small rear porch. The interior has not been investigated. J. H. Aderholdt (1853-1938) is said to have built this house, and its form suggests that it was erected about 1920. Aderholdt was the son of John and Annie Aderholdt of Catawba County, and was a large land owner in and around Catawba. He was one of the original partners in Catawba's Cotton Gin (29). He married Cordelia Bridges (1858-1946). Their daughter, Pearl (Aderholdt) Rufty later occupied the house after their deaths and later it was sold out of the family.

55. Eugene L. Huffman House
Main St.
ca. 1930
C

The Huffman House is an intact one story gable front bungalow which is not unlike other small houses built in this period of Catawba's growth. Sheathed in German siding, it has a four bay west, front elevation featuring a prominent gable roof wing at the west-northwest corner and a shed roofed screened porch across the remainder. The gable ends are detailed with purlin brackets and the porch roof is supported by two square posts. Small six-over-six double hung sash windows are employed

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throughout. There are two interior chimneys and a shed roofed rear wing. There are no notable interior features. Eugene L. Huffman (1899-1974) had been a barber in Catawba for fifty-eight years, from about 1926 to his death in 1974. The son of William C. and Rena Hunsucker Huffman, Eugene married Miss Lena Kale. Her father, Noah Kale, was also a barber and taught Huffman his trade. The Kales lived in an older (now demolished) house located near the house and gave Huffman the lot on which he built a barber shop (56). The Huffman House was built on the site of an older house which Eugene and Lena occupied before they built this one. Pollie Bowman, builder of the Joseph B. Lowrance House (5) was their carpenter. Huffman was a former mayor (1948-49), alderman, and a director of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Conover and Catawba. Mrs. Huffman still lives here.

56. Huffman's Barber Shop

Main St.

ca. 1928

C

Huffman's Barber Shop is a small, one story commercial building constructed specifically for the business which it has served. Its stuccoed sidewalls and brick front elevation frame a building which is approximately fifty by seventeen feet in dimension. Two large windows flank a central door, and a metal awning projects over them. Eugene L. Huffman (1899-1974) bought this small lot from his father-in-law, Noah Kale, in 1928 and built his barber shop soon thereafter. Huffman had been trained by Kale (1863-1944), one of Catawba's first barbers who had operated out of his nearby house (now demolished). Huffman was a barber in this building for fifty-eight years. After Huffman's death, his widow (the present owner of the shop) sold the contents and rented it to a beauty shop. At present, it is used for storage.

57. Masonic Temple

Main St.

1961

F

Completed in 1961, the Masonic Temple is the northernmost structure along the east side of Main Street that reflects the mid to late twentieth century non-domestic building campaign in the district. Two stories in height, the square brick building features a large central entrance and four short windows on the second story. Both side elevations are blind and the rear elevation has one door each on the second and first story and one small window. A parking lot is located to the north and a vacant space to the south.

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58. Grady's Barber Shop

Main St.

1962

F

Grady's Barber Shop is one of two small brick commercial buildings in Catawba which have been built specifically as barber shops. One story in height, the shop has a flat roof, metal awning, two side entrances and two large single pane windows. It is operated by Grady Abernethy, the present mayor of Catawba; he built the structure. The north half is rented as a small office.

59. Catawba Town Hall

W. First St.

ca. 1920, 1960s addition

C

Catawba's Town Hall is a narrow, three bay, one story brick building attached to the original two stall fire hall and its later addition. It has a stepped raking parapet wall and projecting corner buttresses which rise above the flat roof. The coping is cast concrete. A similar design caps the slightly projecting central entrance which is flanked by large one-over-one double hung sash windows. Two large overhead doors are located on the wall which extends to the south of the Town Hall itself, and a third is located on the north elevation. The 1960s addition to the rear is a two stall fire engine garage. The Town of Catawba had acquired this parcel of land in the 1890s and had probably erected a frame building on the site, but it is not known where it stood. Records have not been found which document when the present building was constructed.

60. Catawba Water Tower

1936

F

The Catawba Water Tower, which is situated to the southeast of the Catawba Town Hall (59), rises some sixty feet above ground level. Its cylindrical holding tank is supported by four steel legs and the central pumping shaft. The structure was built by the Chicago Iron and Bridge Works and erected in 1936. A small brick pumphouse stands some twenty feet to the west of the tower; the town hall and fire department stand to the north.

61. (former) Telephone Office

W. Central Ave., behind Centel Bldg.

ca. 1947

F

Although it is now a part of the present Central Telephone Company Building (62), the (former) Telephone Office is an obviously different

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structure. Composed of one (front) and two story (rear) flat roofed blocks the brick (common bond) building has a three bay front, east elevation. The latter features a door at one edge and two six-over-six double hung sash windows to the north. Above these elements, the original sign is still readable. The two story block at the rear has typical 1920s windows with narrow vertical panes in the upper sash and an exterior staircase. Catawba had obtained telephone service as early as 1919. At that time, the exchange was operated by the mercantile firm of Coulter and Little and was housed in the Quintus M. Little House (63). About 1947, the Central Telephone Company erected this small building and moved the exchange to it. In the 1960s, the present Centel Building (62) was built to house the expanding service.

62. Central Telephone Company Bldg.
W. Central Ave.
ca. 1960

I

This two story brick (common bond) building has a recessed front elevation with a single door and flanking casement windows. Above them is a windowless second story wall painted white. A stainless steel cornice caps the building's stark walls. Although, executed in brick, the building's large unarticulated wall surfaces contrasts sharply with the eclectic and surrounding brick commercial, governmental, and residential structures.

63. Quintus M. Little House
W. First St.
ca. 1873

P

Built about 1873 by Quintus M. Little, a physician, this two story three bay single pile house is Catawba's oldest brick building. The house's brick walls are laid in common bond with segmentally arched openings. These arches show one of three voussoir patterns: tall vertically placed stretchers; a row of headers below horizontal stretchers; or headers only. On the front, west elevation the door and window openings (all their fittings have been replaced or removed entirely) are set within segmental arches. At one time, a two tier porch stretched across the elevation but only holes in the brick denote where its beams were joined with the house. One interior chimney, now partially fallen, has a corbeled cap. An exterior chimney located on the south elevation has paved shoulders and a corbeled cap. Entrance to the second story is said to have been achieved through an exterior enclosed staircase which appears to have been located on the porch. Six doors led from the porch to the rooms. Only the simple window and door surrounds and some two panel and four panel doors survive in the four room house. Quintus M.

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Little (1847-1907) married Eva L. Powell (1854-1937) in 1873, the same year in which he purchased this village lot for \$130. The house was probably built soon after. Little was the son of Peter Little, III (1813-1899) and came to Catawba where he established a medical practice. A deed registered in the Catawba County Courthouse in 1902 was made to the heirs of Nancy Trott in place of a deed made to W. H. and Nancy Trott in the spring of 1878 and subsequently lost. It is not clear whether the Littles rented the house thereafter or moved to another house in town. However, they were still living in Catawba when the 1900 census was taken. W. H. Trott operated a hotel in Catawba as early as 1884 but whether this house was used for that purpose is unclear. In 1902, W. W. Trott, Nancy's heir, sold the property to J. H. Pitts. Local tradition holds that Pitts rented the house after he acquired it. When Pitts sold his general mercantile firm to J. H. L. Coulter and C. A. Little (Q. M.'s son) in 1919 the house became Catawba's telephone exchange. It functioned as such until about 1947 when the Central Telephone Company erected a new exchange (61). After C. A. Little sold his general mercantile firm in 1947 the house became, and remains to this day, a storage building for the manufactories which located to the Sherrill Tobacco Company Building (46).

- 64. Reid-MaGuire House
W. First St.
ca. 1920
C

The Reid-MaGuire House is a one story gable front bungalow with a shallow gable roof bay on the north elevation and brick additions to the front, rear, and south elevations. Its original sheathing pattern features a brick veneer on the first story and woodshingles in the gable ends. What was probably an open porch on the front elevation has been replaced by a brick porch with numerous windows. This and a new living room with a fireplace that extends from the south elevation were built about 1960. Original details include purlin brackets, the center entrance and two interior chimneys. In 1914 C. A. and Sallie Reid conveyed a town lot to Z. B. Reid which extended from Main St. to W. 1st Ave. Judging by the form and design of this dwelling, Reid probably built it sometime thereafter. No information has been uncovered about Reid, but in 1925 he sold the very same parcel to John Troutman for \$1,200. Troutman built an automobile service facility (41) on that part of the lot which fronted on Main St. and in 1928 sold the back portion to Garland P. Drum (although no mention was made of a house being there). Drum also built a store (42) on Main St. but his period of ownership of the house lot has not been determined. Clyde G. MaGuire bought the house in the 1950s and she still lives here.

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65. Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage

W. First St.

1947

F

The parsonage is a one story brick veneered dwelling built as a parsonage in 1947. It has an irregular cross gable roof configuration and a gable roof entrance porch. A steeply pitched gable roof wing on the front, west elevation frames the entrance porch gable that rests on wrought iron lattice posts. Another wing extends across one-half of the rear elevation, there is one exterior chimney, and the north elevation has a hip roofed porch. The Elmore and Mackie Construction Company built the parsonage at a cost of \$9,975.00. It continues to be the church parsonage.

66. Mrs. Robert L. Boggs, Sr. House

W. First St.

ca. 1970

F

This one story ranch-type house assumes general proportions of the style including the brick veneer, low pitch of the roof, asymmetrical fenestration pattern, broad eaves, and an engaged one car garage. Frances (Sherrill) Boggs (1908-1977) was the daughter of Oscar and Gretta (Long) Sherrill and the granddaughter of James H. Sherrill, founder of the Sherrill Tobacco Company. She married Robert L. Boggs, Sr. (1907-1969) who was a merchant in Catawba. They lived in a large frame house which stood at the corner of Main St. (NC 10) and S. Second Ave. It was pulled down and the lot was paved for use as parking for the Redeemer Lutheran Church. Mrs. Boggs then built this house on the back of that lot.

67. Catawba Baptist Church

W. First St.

1875, 1950s addition

C

Although drastically altered by the addition of brick wings to the front and rear, the original nave of the Catawba Baptist Church has been preserved with its unusual Ogee arched windows. The present configuration of the front of the brick (common bond) church consists of a large three bay engaged porch below a broad gable roof and narrow two story gable roof wings projecting to the north and south. Two tall square posts and a pair of pilasters articulate the porch behind which are three pairs of doors. Memorial stained glass windows are located above the doors and on either side of the porch. A large two stage bell tower crowns this elevation which dates from the 1950s. The original nave side walls survive from the 1875 building program. Its four bays are recessed

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behind pilasters linked by a modest cornice with brick corbeling. The church's most significant feature, however, are its ogee arch windows, four on each nave wall. They contain memorial stained glass windows which were inserted in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Similar arches were located above the two entrances on the original front elevation. A two story hip roofed Sunday School wing containing an interior chimney has been added to the rear of the building. The Catawba Baptist Church was organized in 1875 out of Providence Baptist Church located near Catawba. In that year they erected a small church in the village. Rev. Mr. Yates of Raleigh dedicated the building in the fall of 1875, and in 1876 the church became a member of the South Yadkin Association. In 1880 the congregation purchased a bell and in 1887 the church became a member of the South Fork Association.

68. Catawba High School Gymnasium, Auditorium, and Lunchroom
W. First St.
ca. 1940s, 1953

I
These three brick buildings, linked together, were erected after the Catawba High School (71) was built in 1921. The rectangular gymnasium features a hip roof with broad eaves and walls punctuated only by occasional windows. In 1953 the architectural firm of Clemmer and Horton of Hickory designed the auditorium and lunchroom. The former has an irregular configuration with tapering walls and roof. Buttresses divide the expansive brick walls into bays; there are no windows. The lunchroom is one story in height and is well lit by banks of windows. (This property is treated separately from the school as it is still owned by the School Board.)

69. Michael Ruffy House
W. First St.
ca. 1890

C
The Ruffy House is a two story asymmetrical massed dwelling featuring an attached porch across the front elevation and two gable roof rear wings. A two story gable roof wing extends to the front of the house and the porch carries across it and the recessed wall to the south. Seven tapered wood posts support the porch's hip roof. The central entrance is flanked on both stories by windows, now boarded over. Both two story gable roof rear wings, one of which precedes a one story kitchen wing, give the house a varied silhouette. Two interior chimneys have corbeled caps. The house is covered by a tin shingle roof. Both this and the adjoining Charles B. Ruffy House (68) stand on large lots which are enframed by a fence. Outbuildings and a badly deteriorated barn are located to the west of the houses. They are surrounded by the remnants of what was probably the family garden patch and a small field.

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According to local tradition, Michael Rufty (1823-1906) owned most of the land on which the village of Catawba was built. In the 1870 and 1880 census, Rufty gave his occupation as a merchant, but was not listed as such in the 1884 Branson's Directory. He is next listed as a farmer in 1890 and as the operator of a gold mine in 1896 and 1897. A Confederate veteran, Rufty and his wife, Salena (1841-1923) apparently built the house about 1890 judging by its stylistic development. About 1910 their son, Charles, built a house (70) next door. Now vacant, it is still owned by the family.

70. Charles B. Rufty House
W. First St.
ca. 1910

C

Two stories in height and three bays wide, the Rufty House is an intact "square house" sheathed in weatherboards and capped by a high hip roof. It was built about 1910 by Charles B. Rufty on a portion of his father's house lot. A hip roofed porch stretches across the front, east elevation and a dormer is located on axis with the center bay. Four Tuscan columns support the porch roof. Behind it the center door is flanked by single windows, now boarded up as are those on the whole house. Two interior chimneys rise through the roof and a one story hip roofed kitchen wing with an interior chimney extends to the rear. Charles B. Rufty (1870-1954) was the son of Michael and Salena Rufty. The Rufty family has been associated with Catawba's history from the beginning. According to local tradition, much of the village was built on Michael Rufty's farmland, portions of which his family continued to cultivate after the turn of the century. In 1910 Charles purchased one-half of his father's "residence lot," and it is assumed that he built there soon after. The house, now vacant, is still owned by the family but they live in Newton.

71. (former) Catawba High School
S. First Ave.
1921

P

The (former) Catawba High School is one of the largest, most intact, and architecturally impressive buildings in the village of Catawba. Two stories in height and nine bays wide, the brick (common bond) schoolhouse has an attenuated Greek Cross plan and is capped by a low hip roof. Its front, south elevation features a projecting central entrance surround: it is stepped at the corners. A limestone lintel carries the name of the building and the double doors have six panes of glass each above three horizontal panels. They are surrounded by a transom. The original windows are single nine-over-nine double hung sash although a

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trio of six-over-six are positioned above the entrance. Prominent brackets support the broad overhang of the roof, in the center of which is a decorative parapet dormer. This feature is distinctive in that it is an extension of the wall plane below. It has a pediment treatment similar to the entrance between large corner piers which rise upward. Two story stairhall wings project from both the east and west elevations. Each has a shed roof porch and a transom above the double doors. Two exterior chimneys rise on the rear elevation. The relatively spare interior is highlighted only by the pressed metal ceilings and wide cove molding which carries along the top of the walls. Eight rooms are symmetrically arranged around the T-shaped hall on the first story and transverse hall on the second story. Completed in 1921 at a cost of \$27,000, the school building continued in use until the early 1970s when students were transferred to Oxford Elementary School. At present, it is vacant and owned by the neighboring Catawba Baptist Church. Little has been uncovered about the construction of the school or who may have designed it. Records which the County Administrative unit has do not shed any light on the campaign to erect a new facility in the village. The detached gymnasium was probably added in the 1930s, and both the auditorium and the lunch room buildings were erected in 1953, and are still owned by the school district. They were designed by the architectural firm of Clemmer and Horton in Hickory. When the county school system was consolidated in 1954, the high schools in Claremont, Catawba, and Oxford merged to form Bunker Hill High. The Catawba School was then used as an elementary school until closed.

72. Shuford-McCoy House
S. First Ave.
ca. 1890

C

Two stories in height, one room deep, and three bays wide, this typical late nineteenth century house features an attached porch and end chimneys. The house is clad in aluminum siding. The shed roofed porch carries across all but a small portion of the front, north elevation and features turned posts and scroll sawn brackets. A pair of two-over-two double hung sash windows are positioned west of the center entrance and a single window is located to the east. Three windows are symmetrically arranged across the second story and a large, pent gable frames the center bay. Before it was sided the tympanum featured a round decorative attic vent. The end chimneys have a single stepped shoulder and they rise through pent gable ends. A one story gable roof kitchen wing with an interior chimney extends to the rear of the house. Local tradition maintains that this dwelling was once located on the site of the present school auditorium and faced W. 1st St. Local sources are sure that the house had been moved by the late 1930s. Sources also recall

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that it was once occupied by Thomas F. Shuford although no record of his ownership has as yet been located. A deed that dates to 1902 identifies the lot on which the house originally stood as the W. H. Lowrance lot and also as the Brown lot (there is confusion in the wording of the deed as to whether one name was earlier than the other). Lowrance did acquire the lot in 1872 and it apparently became a part of his estate upon his death in 1879. The next transaction which has been identified is between T. B. and Lula A. Rufty of Madison County to J. S. and J. Bridges in 1902. They may have been acting as trustees of the adjacent Catawba Baptist Church (as they were in 1913 in a deed to another piece of property), but this is unclear. Rufty's acquisition of the lot, however, is still a mystery. The house has had numerous occupants prior to the present owner's acquisition of it in 1972.

73. Trollinger-Sherrill House

S. First Ave.

ca. 1873

P

The Trollinger-Sherrill House is one of the most unusual houses to be found not only in Catawba, but in the county itself. Built about 1873 on the common two story single pile form with a one story rear wing and front porch, this dwelling features five small steeply pitched wall dormers arrayed across its front, north elevation and two on the rear elevation. Each gable frames a six-over-six double hung sash window which have pointed lintels and heavy moldings. These are accompanied by functional matching blinds. Similar windows are found on either side of the single shoulder stepped end chimneys at both levels and flanking the center first story entrance which is positioned behind the porch. Six Tuscan columns support the replacement porch roof. The Gothic motif is carried to the chimneys where lancet arched panels adorn the narrow shaft faces above the roof; the roof is clad in standing seam metal. The house has been unfortunately compromised with the recent addition of aluminum siding. Two one story gable roof wings, which are perpendicular to each other, are located at the rear of the house. The southernmost of the two has an attached porch. The lone interior feature of note is a simple traditional vernacular Greek Revival style mantel which has plain pilasters carrying a modest entablature. In 1873 Jacob H. Trollinger bought two town lots at a commissioner's sale for \$91, and he probably built the house soon after. As written in the deed this was "...sterile and unproductive..." land owned by Lilly Sherrill, a minor, and was part of a larger tract whose worth emanated from the fact that it was near Catawba Station. Jacob H. Trollinger (1841-1927) established a general store in Catawba Station sometime between 1872 and 1877 and was still in business in 1890. By 1896, however, he was no longer listed in Branson's. Perhaps he had removed by then to a cottage in Black Diamond, which

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the Newton Enterprise had noted in March 8, 1888. Trollinger was married three times: to Fannie L. Sherrill in 1869; to Eunice B. Oakley (1851-1894) in 1882; and to Martha A. Huitt in 1894. Trollinger and his wife, Eunice, obtained a mortgage for \$620 in 1887 from B. I. Nicholson and used the "lots that (his) store house and dwelling house stand(s)" as security. In 1897 a commissioner's deed to the property was made to Nicholson to settle a judgment in the case of Nicholson v. Trollinger. Nicholson conveyed the property in 1897 to James H. Sherrill. James H. Sherrill (1845-1927) was one of the founders of the Sherrill Tobacco Company (46), a business which existed in Catawba between 1896 and about 1902. Listed in the 1890 edition of Branson's Directory as a farmer, he was still engaged in this work in 1911 when the Catawba Soldier of the Civil War was published. A veteran of the Civil War, Sherrill served as mayor of Catawba in 1911-12. He married Mary J. Davidson (1849-1920). Sherrill lived here until his death. The property was left to his daughter, Eula S. Sherrill (1881-1931) whose heirs sold it to Charles A. Little in 1946. Little conveyed the property that same year to Lorene Leonard. She apparently occupied the house until 1973 when it was sold to the present owner, Joseph Sigmon.

74. Frank E. Booth House

W. Second St.

ca. 1902

P

The Booth House is a large two story, three bay dwelling which features an unusual roof configuration and an impressive wraparound porch. A high hip roof with a broad overhang covers the central block of the house. Above it extend gable roof bays and dormers whose raking cornices are flared at their lower ends. The broad porch pediment that introduces the entrance behind the porch is framed by an attic dormer which crowns the front, east elevation. This pediment projects slightly from the porch and is supported by paired brackets. Pairs and trios of simple Tuscan columns on brick piers carry the porch across the front and along one-half of the south elevation. Two-over-two double hung sash windows are arranged on either side of the central entrance--itself detailed with a colored glass Queen Anne window--and across the second story. Neo-Palladian windows are situated in the dormers found on the east, south and north elevations; the latter also has a bay window. The original configuration of the house includes a shed roof wing and a gable roof kitchen ell while a shed roof porch has been added recently. The relatively intact interior contains Neo-Classical mantels, two craftsman style mantels (which are probably later replacements), molded window and door surrounds with round headblocks, and a closed string staircase. The front door is identical to that used on the nearby Brawley-Lowrance House (75). In 1902 Frank Everton Booth bought this house site from L.

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H. Lowrance whose home was on the adjoining lot. The house was probably built soon after. Booth (1870-1954) was born in Cary, Wake County to the Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Booth. His career as an agent with the Southern Railway began in 1890 and lasted until he retired in 1937. Between 1901 and 1937 he was the railroad's agent in Catawba where he was a member of the Catawba Baptist Church. Booth married Lillian G. Sheuman (1871-1944). The house passed to their children who sold it to Edgar Elmore, the present owner, in 1973.

75. Brawley-Lowrance House

S. Second St.

ca. 1897, later remodeling and expansion

P

The Lowrance House is a two story, three bay early Colonial Revival building which was, according to local tradition, extensively remodeled and enlarged. Sheathed in weatherboards, the house also features a wraparound porch. The house's slightly irregular plan is composed of a single pile front block and a slightly narrower rear wing; the whole unit is capped by a high hip roof over broad eaves. On the front, east elevation, the screened porch which is supported by Tuscan columns, carries across the entire east facade and along the entire south elevation; its balustrade has turned members. A pediment introduces the central entrance which dates from the earlier building. The door here has Eastlake style sawn and turned applied ornament, ornate hardware, and colored glass window panes; it is identical to one found on the nearby Frank E. Booth House (74). Two-over-two double hung sash windows, an arrangement used throughout, flank the door. A center gable roof dormer with end returns and a Palladian window graces the roof. Two one story wings extending to the rear of the house have hip and shed roofs and a third has a pediment. Interior features of the house date from both periods of construction; the latter were, according to tradition, designed by C. H. Lester, a Catawba County architect. The closed string staircase has turned balusters, a paneled newel post with a covered urn cap, a paneled outer string, and sheathed wainscoting above the inner string and on the spandrel framing. Molded window and door surrounds with corner blocks and five panel doors (both vertical and horizontal panels) are found throughout the first story and probably date from the older building. One mantel from the remodeling has an overmantel with an oval mirror, an overmantel shelf supported by columns, and a mantel shelf with brackets. A second has a rectangular mirror and columns supporting both shelves. One other mantel has two long brackets and a wide shelf. Mack Brawley, who bought this lot in 1897, is said to have enlarged a small cottage which was on the site. Brawley paid \$250 in 1897 to Michael Rufty for lot #8 in Catawba, but it is not clear whether there was in fact a house here. Between 1897 and 1901

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Brawley may have enlarged the house because he sold the same lot to Lawson Henry Lowrance (1862-1910) in 1901 for \$700. Although portions of the interior finish suggest a late nineteenth century date of construction, it should be noted here that nearly identical features appear on the adjacent Frank E. Booth House (74), built about 1902. Lowrance was the son and only child of Carlos Elfonse Lowrance (1830-1863) and Anna M. (Martin) Lowrance. He married Essie Long (1877-1968), daughter of J. U. Long (36), and became associated with his father-in-law's general mercantile firm, J. U. Long and Company (47). Lowrance was an alderman at the time of his death. Two of his daughters, Miss Virginia Lowrance and Miss Aileen Lowrance, and his son, Carlos, still own and occupy the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-1930 **Builder/Architect** Various/Unknown (See inventory list)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic district in Catawba is significant as a remarkably intact example of a small railroad and commercial center of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, composed chiefly of commercial buildings, residences, and churches dating from the 1870s through the 1920s. The Western North Carolina Railroad constructed the station at Catawba in 1858 as part of an important link between Salisbury, in the western Piedmont, and Asheville, in the mountains. In 1893, the town of Catawba Station acquired its present name, an indication of the community's increasing importance as a center of trade. Although some industry, including a tobacco factory and small textile mills, at times provided employment for the several hundred inhabitants of Catawba, the condition of local cotton and grain farms had a greater impact on the town's development.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- A. The Catawba Historic District, comprising the major portion of the village and its buildings, is associated with and demonstrates the evolution of the place as a small railroad and commercial center of the later 19th and early 20th centuries in Catawba County. It alone, of all its like contemporaries, survived intact and preserves in its buildings and rural setting an example of rural village life unique in the county.
- B. The district is associated with the lives of numerous people important to the growth of the village and eastern Catawba County including: Jephtha U. Long (1843-1928); J. H. Potts (1850-1927); Jacob Trollinger (1841-1927); and Dr. Fred Y. Long (1875-1965); and members of the Lowrance, Carpenter, Little, Sigmon, Coulter, Pitts, Long, and Ruffy families among others who lived in the houses in the districts and worked in its factories and stores and other commercial operations.
- C. The brick and frame buildings making up the Catawba Historic District represent an important and intact collection of commercial buildings, factories, houses and associated farm outbuildings which reflect village life in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, and which are substantial examples of their type. The housing stock includes traditional two story frame houses of varying degrees of elaboration and a large collection of bungalows from the 1910s and 1920s together with other houses of a more modest or ambitious scale. The commercial buildings including the J. U. Long and Company Store and the Sherrill Tobacco factory are among the most important and intact 19th century buildings of their type in the county and together with several houses including the Trollinger-Sherrill House and the Fred & Long House (Farm) possess high individual importance and significance.
- D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the study of late 19th and early 20th century village life in Catawba County.

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Catawba originated about 1858 as a station along the Western North Carolina Railroad and developed primarily as a center of trade for the east-central section of Catawba County. Spurred by the railroad, farmers' need of a commercial outlet, and, to a lesser extent, by the textile and tobacco industries, Catawba Station grew during the nineteenth century into an incorporated town bearing its present name. Development continued during the first quarter of the twentieth century, but the remarkably intact historic district, composed chiefly of early twentieth century commercial buildings and dwellings that span a half century of the town's history, reflects Catawba's lack of significant change during the last fifty years.

The development of the Western North Carolina Railroad, a manifestation of North Carolina's antebellum prosperity and interest in internal improvements, led to the establishment of Catawba Station. During the 1840's and 1850s, North Carolina shared the nation's increasing economic well being. Agricultural reform and development of mining, fishing, and manufacturing enterprises--including textile mills--facilitated this growth of material wealth. Railroad construction, including lines financed in part by the state, also contributed to the favorable conditions. In 1855, the General Assembly chartered the Western North Carolina Railroad and the state purchased two-thirds of its stock. Planned as a link between Salisbury and Asheville, the railroad stretched to a point thirteen miles east of Morganton by the summer of 1860.²

The company completed work in the vicinity of Catawba Station between 1858 and 1860. The engineer reported in August 1858 that the station house at the Catawba River was being constructed. By the end of the year, grading had been completed from Statesville to the river, and the bridge spanning the Catawba lacked only one pier.³ A year later, trains traveled as far as the river and additional track awaited completion of the bridge. At that time, the three granite piers had been erected and workmen were framing the bridge.⁴ The chief engineer told the company in August 1860 that "The Catawba River bridge has been completed, notwithstanding the many prejudicial reports to the contrary, and I challenge a comparison with any other bridge in the Union, of similar construction, either for stability, workmanship, architectural skill, or symmetrical portion."⁵

The construction of the new station led the United States Government to establish a post office at Catawba Station, but the Civil war prevented additional development that might otherwise have occurred. A post office, which had opened in 1856 at Chestnut Grove in Iredell County, was moved to Catawba Station in December 1859. Gilbert M. Sherrill served as the first postmaster.⁶ The Civil War halted railroad construction and resulted

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in deterioration of the Western North Carolina Railroad. Although tracks finally reached Old Fort in 1869, financial problems prevented the important East-West link from fulfilling the goals of its original proponents until about 1880.

Completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad and other rail facilities coincided with and fostered North Carolina's recovery from the economic hardships caused by the Civil War. During the 1870s and 1880s, the tobacco and cotton textile industries expanded, and production of furniture emerged as a significant enterprise. The state's industrial revolution stimulated rapid growth of cities and a significant increase in per capita wealth. In Catawba County, two textile mills located on the Catawba River near Catawba Station were in operation in 1867. The Long Island plant, owned by the firm of Powell and Shuford, had been established long before the war. Powell and Tate managed a mill at Granite Shoal. Production in North Carolina of such crops as oats, cotton, and tobacco reached pre-war levels by the 1880s, but high taxes and interest rates, generally low prices for crops, unfair railroad practices, and a lack of inexpensive labor often prevented farmers from sharing the state's increasing wealth. After the war, Catawba County's farmers emphasized the production of corn, wheat, oats, and cotton; by 1884, the county ranked as one of the state's most productive wheat-growing areas.

After the war, Catawba Station, buoyed by its rail facilities, slowly developed as a trade center for the surrounding farm country. The growth that had taken place prior to 1872 led the General Assembly that year to incorporate the community as Catawba Station. Lawmakers established corporate limits one-half of a mile in every direction from the train depot which stood north of the present historic district. At that time, three general stores located in or near the town filled some of the needs of townspeople and area farmers. In addition, Frank Powell operated a tannery. By the beginning of the next decade, Catawba Station had grown to include 142 persons who lived in 24 households. Among them were merchants Jephtha U. Long, Henry D. Lequent, Michael Rufty, Alexander H. Houston, Jacob H. Trollinger, and William H. Trott. Quintus M. Little maintained a medical practice, and Alfred M. Yoder worked as a carpenter. Hosea A. Damer made shoes, and Sidney Reinhart, a Negro, labored as a blacksmith. Noah Fry, a carriagemaker, fulfilled the community's transportation needs. Additional residents included Henry F. Powell, a shoe merchant; sewing machine agent William L. Moore; and a number of farmers, farm laborers, and Negro household servants. John E. Forney and James Phillips, two of several boarders in town, worked as telegraph operators--probably at the train depot.

Events during the 1870s undoubtedly gave Catawba Station an air of permanence. Dr. Q. M. Little and general store owner J. H. Trollinger built substantial two-story homes south of the train depot (63 , 73). The Baptist Church organized a congregation in 1873 and subsequently erected a church (67). In 1874, the Methodists established their church.

Influenced by the railroad, changing agricultural conditions, and the increasing importance of the tobacco industry, Catawba Station developed erratically during the remainder

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of the century. Considerable growth occurred in the 1880s. By 1884, Jephtha U. Long and John W. Blackwelder, both inhabitants of Catawba Station, had established sawmills, and William H. Trott had opened a hotel.¹⁵ A school had been built northwest of the Methodist Church prior to 1886.¹⁶ A spirited correspondent of the Newton Enterprise claimed in December 1887 that the town was very lively and that business had been good. Splendid crops had lifted the spirits of area farmers. The Rev. Mr. Cooper, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, had bought a lot and was building a nice cottage. The Methodist Church planned to build a parsonage on its newly acquired lot in the near future.¹⁷ Several residents sought lots on which to build dwellings. The following spring the Newton Enterprise noted the arrival of a new guano agent, the delivery of lumber for the Methodist parsonage, and J. H. Trollinger's work on a neat cottage in Black Diamond.¹⁸ A year later an enthusiastic observer claimed that "Catawba has awaked from her long sleep, wiped her eyes and gone to work. She is on a boom."¹⁹

Perhaps the most significant manifestation of the "boom" was the creation in 1889 of a syndicate for the manufacture of tobacco products. Beginning in the 1870s, a few farmers in Catawba County and a warehouseman in Hickory had promoted tobacco as a solution to the area's agricultural woes which had been caused in part by low prices for cotton and other crops. During the 1870s and 1880s, farmers in the western Piedmont and the Blue Ridge Mountains grew increasing quantities of leaf. This trend coincided with the proliferation of large tobacco factories in such cities as Durham and Winston, as well as smaller concerns in other communities.²⁰ Investors, including James H. Sherrill and John W. Blackwelder, organized the Sherrill Tobacco Company in the spring of 1889 with the intention of competing with factories in Durham and Winston. Subsequently the firm erected on Main Street a three-story brick building in which to manufacture plug tobacco for chewing (46). Their brands included "Ten Cent Cotton," a reflection of low cotton prices of the period; "16 to 1," a reference to the controversy concerning the coinage of gold and silver;²¹ and "Little Marian," named for the daughter of a local physician. The company failed prior to March 1900 when the factory building was being considered as the location for cotton spinning machinery. The Sherrill Tobacco Company, like a host of other small firms in North Carolina, could not compete with the powerful American Tobacco Company.²²

Another large company, the Southern Railway System, apparently had a more consistently positive effect on Catawba Station. The state, in the 1880s, sold the Western North Carolina Railroad to the Richmond and Danville Railroad. That company, in turn, became a part of the Southern Railway in 1894. While in the hands of the latter system, Catawba Station developed as a center of distribution for railroad crossties.²³ The railroad hired additional employees who boarded or established residences in Catawba Station. In 1900, railroad laborers included John B. Gibbs, William Asbury, and Clora Shuford. Ten year later, seven railroad workers lived in Catawba Station: a Negro cook, three "operators," a section forman, an engineer, and a Negro brakeman.²⁴

During the 1890s, the railroad undoubtedly reinforced Catawba's continued emergence as a commercial center. Perhaps in response to the town's gradual metamorphosis as a commercial center south of the depot, the General Assembly in 1893 incorporated it

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as Catawba and established town limits one-half of a mile in every direction from the store operated by J. D. Little. This²⁵ act soon led to tangible civic improvements, including new streets and sidewalks.

New business enterprises and services changed the built environment and gave Catawba a more progressive, energetic air. Among several new structures was the two-story brick store built about 1895 by J. U. Long at the northwest corner of Main Street and Central Avenue (47). The Newton Enterprise in 1896 noted Catawba's three dry goods stores, two shoe stores, barber shop, and two tanyards. The large tannery of Smith and Price manufactured large quantities of leather, shoes, saddles, harnesses, and horse collars. The Abernethy family of Newton installed a small telephone exchange in Catawba in 1898. Several doctors opened offices prior to 1900. Charles A. Little, son of surgeon Q. M. Little, practiced dentistry, and Thomas W. Long, a surgeon, lived in town by the turn of the century. Jephtha Long's son, Fred Y. Long, also began a medical practice. Later he erected a two-room office and a two-story residence on opposite sides of South Second Avenue (18 , 19).²⁶

Despite these improvements, Catawba's population, which was 196 in 1890, had dropped to 169²⁷ by 1900. The townspeople lived in 32 dwellings, an increase of only 8 since 1880.

Conditions in Catawba, like the rest of North Carolina, improved during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Farmers experienced greater prosperity, and the development of hydroelectric power and improved rail facilities and highways fostered considerable expansion of the textile, tobacco, and furniture industries. An increase in the number of banking institutions also reflected the more favorable economy.²⁸ In Catawba, the prosperity was manifested by a slow increase in population, establishment of new businesses, construction of residences and institutional buildings, and civic improvements.

Catawba experienced a slow increase in population during the first decades of the century. By 1900 the number of residents, 222, surpassed that of 1890. Among the new townspeople were Bart A. Lowrance, a shoemaker, who operated his business in a small frame structure facing East Central Avenue (34), and Edgar M. Crider, a house plasterer. A number of railroad workers, merchants, and farmers also lived in town. One of these farmers, a Negro woman named Mira Shuford, was a middle-aged widow. Catawba's citizens lived in forty-nine dwellings, an increase of seventeen in ten years. Among the new or remodeled houses was that of dry goods merchant L. H. Lowrance, located near the high school in the southwestern part of town³⁰ (75).²⁹ The population continued to rise, reaching 250 in 1920 and 340 by 1930.

Development continued at a somewhat accelerated pace during the 1910s and 1920s. New enterprises and services reinforced the town's role as a center of trade. Investors opened Catawba's first financial institution, Peoples Bank, in a two-story brick building about 1912 (51³¹). J. H. Pitts served as president, and W. B. Walker assumed the position of cashier. Catawba Inn, which had been established by J. U. Long as early as 1905, added a livery stable prior to 1912. J. H. L. Coulter and Charles A. Little formed the partnership of Coulter and Little as early as 1912, and in 1919

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purchased the old tobacco factory property, to which they moved their general store. They sold clothing, shoes, staples, sewing machines, furniture, floor coverings, country produce, and other goods. By 1922, the company also offered undertaking services.³² Catawba Drug Company, formed in 1915 by F. N. Long, Vernon Long, Glenn Long, and W. B. Walker, soon constructed a two-story building on Main Street (49).³³ Additional enterprises included a farm machinery and supply house operated by R. R. Boggs and Catawba Ginning Company, established about 1915.³⁴ The firm of Coulter and Little maintained the town's telephone exchange in the former home of Q. M. Little after 1919, when they acquired the property.³⁵ By 1916, Catawba supported two dentists and a lawyer, Mayor Oscar Sherrill.³⁶

A variety of construction activity during the 1920s reflected Catawba's prosperity. Dr. Charles A. Little erected a two-story brick dwelling in the southwest part of town (6). A masonry bridge built in 1928, which bore handsome lamps, undoubtedly impressed travelers approaching Catawba from the north (52). Locals expressed considerable pride in their two-story brick school, which was completed in 1921 at a cost of \$27,000. One resident proudly stated that

...we shall always look upon (the school) as the very best investment we have ever made....Because we have come to believe that our assets primarily do not consist of lands and gold and bonds and automobiles, but that the greatest gift that God ever gave man are the children that bless his home.³⁷

Additional civic improvements enhanced the quality of life in Catawba. Electric lights were installed in 1925.³⁸ The town acquired paved streets and sidewalks, beginning in 1927 and 1928.

Although Catawba experienced slow population growth and acquired small industries and some new houses within and outside expanded corporate limits, the built environment and atmosphere of the town underwent little change in the half century after the 1920s. The number of residents rose to 504 by 1960. New enterprises, including several hosiery mills,³⁹ two building contractors, and a furniture plant provided employment at various times. Nevertheless, today most business activity still takes place in Main Street's early commercial structures, many of the town's citizens inhabit dwellings that date from the 1870s through the 1920s, and open fields punctuate the landscape--facts that underscore Catawba's slow development from a railroad stop to a small commercial center.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: The History of a Southern State (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, third edition, 1973), 391-402, hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina.

²Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 380.

³Fourth Annual Report of the Western North-Carolina Railroad Company, Executive and Legislative Documents, Session 1858-1859, Document No. 18, p. 13; Reports of the President and Chief Engineer of the Western North-Carolina Railroad Company, [1858], Executive and Legislative Documents, Session 1858-1859, Document No. 34, pp. [1], 4. Catawba Station was located on land owned by Michael Rufty, who supposedly operated a general store. Hickory Daily Record, April 7, 1966.

⁴Report of the Western North Carolina Rail Road Company, for 1859, Executive and Legislative Documents, Session 1860-1861, Document No. 20, pp. 9, 36. The bridge consisted of 4 spans of 135 feet each, 2 abutments, and 3 granite piers.

⁵Proceedings of the Western North-Carolina Railroad Company, August 30th, 1860, Executive and Legislative Documents, Session 1860-1861, Document No. 21, p. 29.

⁶Charles J. Preslar, Jr. (ed.), A History of Catawba County (Salisbury: Catawba County Historical Association, 1954), 382, hereinafter cited as Preslar, History of Catawba County.

⁷Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 515. It is interesting to note that the railroad kept hogs at Catawba Station. In 1866, the railroad's inspector found about 100 hogs, many of them small, that subsequently produced 4,500 pounds of pork. [Report of the Western North-Carolina Railroad Company], Executive and Legislative Documents, Session 1866-1867, Document No. 23, pp. 42, 46.

⁸Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 503-513; Bransom's North Carolina Business Directory, for 1867-8 (Raleigh: Bransom & Jones, Publishers, 1867), 27; Preslar, History of Catawba County, 110, 188. Dr. A. M. Powell was one of the owners of the Long Island facility.

⁹Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 521-525; Preslar, History of Catawba County, 64.

¹⁰Private Laws of North Carolina, 1871-1872, c. 101, 134. The seven commissioners charged with organizing local government were A. M. Powell, A. D. Shuford, Frank Powell, George Powell, J. H. Trollinger, William Laurence, J. K. Howell, and J. W. Long.

¹¹Bransom's business directory for 1872 listed Bridgers & Roseman, A. H. & R. B. Houston, and Powell and Long as owners of general stores. At that time, however, Bransom's directories listed all firms served by a particular post office--not just

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those within town limits. Nevertheless, persons named as town commissioners in 1872 and listed in the 1880 census of Catawba Station justify the conclusion that the firms of A. H. & R. B. Houston and Powell & Long probably were located in Catawba Station. L. Branson (ed.), The North Carolina Business Directory (Raleigh: J. A. Jones, 1872), 54-55; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Catawba County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 427-428, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Tenth Census, 1880, with appropriate schedule and page number. Hereinafter, the Division of Archives and History will be cited as DAH.

¹²Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule, 427-428.

¹³Research notes that tend to support the claim that these two houses were constructed during the 1870s can be found in Catawba Historic District files, Survey and Planning Branch, DAH.

¹⁴Preslar, History of Catawba County, 116, 118.

¹⁵Levi Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 197, 200; Tenth Census, 1880, Population Schedule, 428.

¹⁶R. A. Yoder, Map of Catawba County, North Carolina (Newton: R. A. Yoder, 1886), hereinafter cited as Yoder, Map of Catawba County.

¹⁷It is unclear why the paper referred to Methodist Episcopal and Methodist churches. Newton Enterprise, December 22, 1887. The paper reported also that Catawba might soon have a sawmill. This suggests that there was not one located in town in 1887. Perhaps the two mills listed in Branson's 1884 directory were located outside the town.

¹⁸Newton Enterprise, March 8, 1888. The writer was unable to determine the location of Black Diamond.

¹⁹Newton Enterprise, May 3, 1889. The paper noted that businessmen were contemplating the erection of a roller mill on the river bank below the bridge and the establishment of a canning factory.

²⁰Newton Enterprise, May 3, 1889; Nannie May Tilley, The Bright-Tobacco Industry, 1860-1929 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1948), 138-140, hereinafter cited as Tilley, Bright-Tobacco Industry; Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 510, 524. Most of the small firms sought to supply tobacco products for local markets.

²¹Observer-News-Enterprise (Newton, May 14, 1974), hereinafter cited as Observer-News-Enterprise; Observer-News-Enterprise Catawba Report (Newton), January, 1969; A smaller brick structure adjacent to the factory was used for drying tobacco.

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²² Newton Enterprise, March 9, 1900; Tilley, Bright-Tobacco Industry, 593-607.

²³ Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 516; Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965.

²⁴ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Catawba County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Catawba Precinct, Sheets 1-2, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Archives, DAH, hereinafter cited as Twelfth Census, 1900; with appropriate schedule and sheet number; Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910: Catawba County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Town of Catawba, Sheets 1-3, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Archives, DAH, hereinafter cited as Thirteenth Census, 1910, with appropriate schedule and sheet number.

²⁵ J. H. Pitts served as Catawba's first mayor. He opened a general store prior to 1897. The assembly appointed A. H. Houston, L. H. Lowrance, J. D. Little, and E. R. Bost as commissioners. Avery M. Cobb held the position of marshal. Private Laws of North Carolina, 1893, c. 274; Levi Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1897 (Raleigh: Levi Branson (ed.), Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1897 (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1897), 168; Newton Enterprise, March 13, 1896.

²⁶ Catawba Historic District files, Survey and Planning Branch, DAH; Newton Enterprise, March 13, 1896, June 17, 1898; Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule, Catawba Precinct, sheets 1-2. It is unclear what the Newton Enterprise meant when it referred to new streets and sidewalks. Presumably they were not paved. The paving of streets and sidewalks took place, perhaps for the first time, in 1927 and 1928. Catawba News-Enterprise (Newton), September 19, 1939, hereinafter cited as Catawba News-Enterprise.

²⁷ U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900 (Washington: United States Census Office, multivolume series, 1902), I, 288; Twelfth Census, 1900, Population Schedule, Catawba Precinct, sheets 1-2. The decline in population may have been related to farmers' financial difficulties during the period. For a discussion of the plight of North Carolina's farmers at this time, see Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 520-529.

²⁸ Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 576-587.

²⁹ Thirteenth Census, 1910, Population Schedule, Town of Catawba, sheets 1-3, hereinafter cited as Thirteenth Census, 1910, with appropriate schedule and sheet number. The high school existed as early as 1897, when E. M. Brawley purchased the lot later acquired by L. H. Lowrance. M. and Salena Ruffy to E. M. Brawley, July 2, 1897, Catawba County Deeds, Book 51, p. 552, microfilm copy, Archives, DAH, hereinafter cited as Catawba County Deeds; E. M. Brawley to L. H. Lowrance, May 8, 1901, Catawba County Deeds, Book 63, p. 249. The difference in purchase price suggests that Brawley may have built a house on the property. Local tradition maintains that Lowrance extensively remodeled the structure.

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³⁰ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population Schedule, Catawba County, North Carolina, Catawba Precinct; Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population Schedule, Catawba County, North Carolina, Catawba Precinct.

³¹ The North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, 1912 (Raleigh: News and Observer, 1912), 160, hereinafter cited as North Carolina Year Book, with appropriate date; Catawba News-Enterprise, July 25, 1922.

³² North Carolina Year Book, 1905, 163; North Carolina Year Book, 1912, 160; North Carolina Year Book, 1910, 136; J. H. and Laura I. Pitts to J. H. L. Coulter and C. A. Little, January 1, 1919, Catawba County Deeds, Book 212, p. 263; Catawba News-Enterprise, July 25, 1922.

³³ J. H. and Laura Pitts to F. N. Long, Vernon Long, Glenn Long, and W. B. Walker, July 21, 1915, Catawba County Deeds, Book 124, p. 303.

³⁴ Catawba News-Enterprise, July 25, 1922.

³⁵ Hickory Daily Record, February 15, 1962; J. H. and Laura Pitts to J. H. L. Coulter and C. A. Little, January 1, 1919, Catawba County Deeds, Book 212, p. 263.

³⁶ The dentists were P. B. Pate and W. C. Raymer. North Carolina Year Book, 1916, 160.

³⁷ Catawba News-Enterprise, July 25, 1922.

³⁸ Catawba News-Enterprise, September 19, 1939.

³⁹ Hickory Daily Record, September 11, 1965; [Map of the] Town of Catawba, N.C. (Newton: Joe F. Robinson, 1969).

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see attached sheets)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property — Approx. 70 acres

Quadrangle name Catawba, N. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A	1 7	4 9 2 6 6 5	3 9 5 1 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 7	4 9 3 6 7 0	3 9 5 1 7 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 7	4 9 3 8 0 0	3 9 5 1 1 2 0
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D	1 7	4 9 2 7 0 0	3 9 5 0 8 7 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet. Map of district is enclosed; boundaries are marked in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk Mohney

organization Survey and Planning Branch date July, 1985

street & number 109 E. Jones St. telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. King

title State Historic Preservation Officer date February 4, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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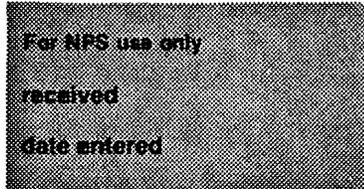
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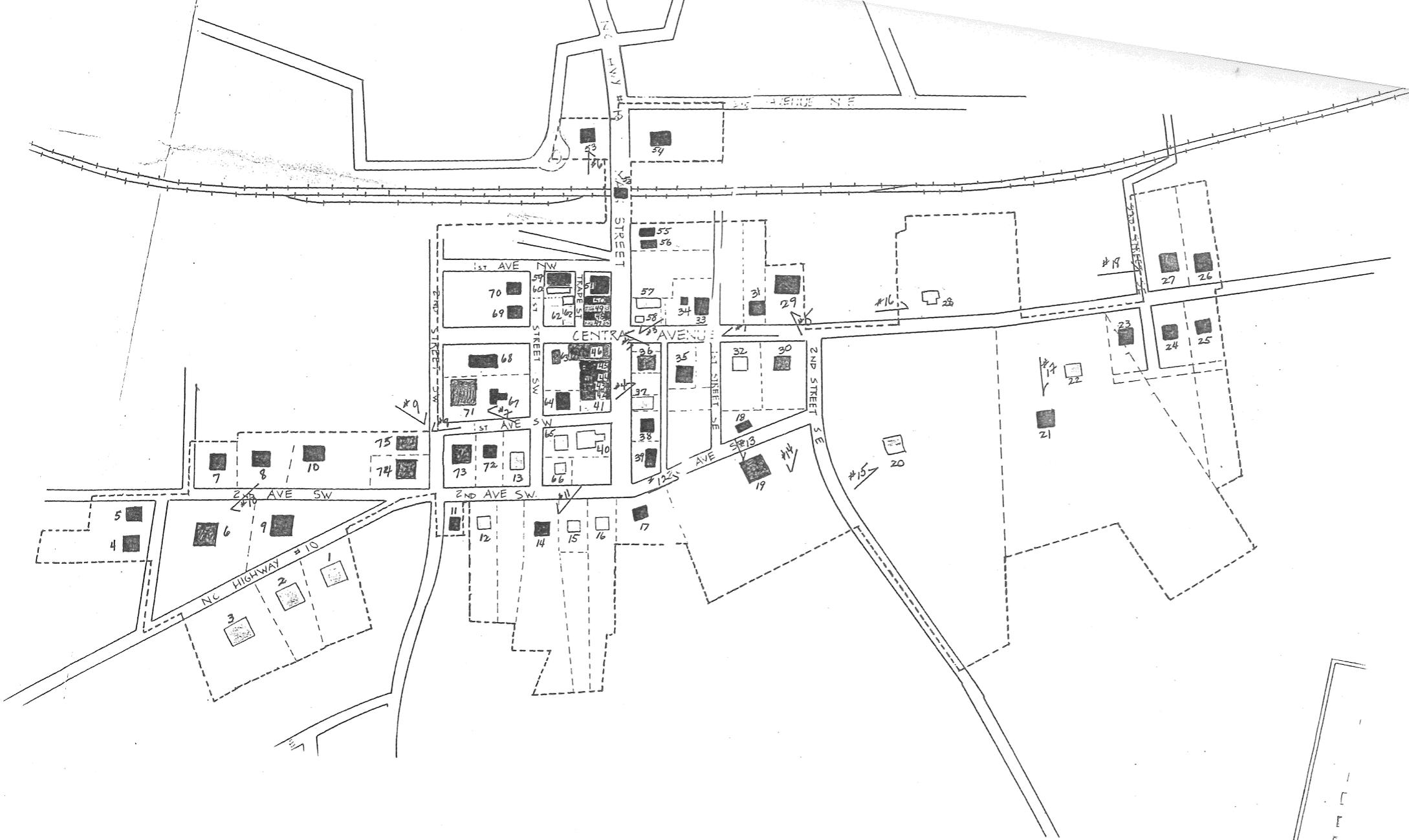
Boundary description:

The boundary of the Catawba Historic District is very irregular. The district is bounded roughly by the properties on the north side of Central Avenue to the north and including the depot and the properties on either side of Main Street at the junction of Second Avenue NW; the east side of Third Street SE to the east, the properties on the South side of Second Avenue SW to the south, and the properties on either side of Second Avenue SW and NC 10 to the west and south.

A copy of a map of the town of Catawba, Map A1 of one, dated June 2, 1985, is enclosed and shows the exact boundary of the district.

Boundary justification:

The property being nominated consists of the central core of the town of Catawba centered on the intersection of Main Street and Central Avenue at the railroad tracks. This area constitutes the original village of Catawba in 1870 and includes its growth through about 1930. It includes domestic and commercial fabric as well as scenic vistas which define the rural character of the district and provide a cohesive, intact unit.



TOWN of CATAWBA
NRHD



