

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Waxhaw Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location portions of Main, Broad, Church, Broom, Providence,

street & number Old Providence, Brevard & McKibben streets N/A for publication

city, town Waxhaw N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Union code 179 zip code 28173

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>93</u>	<u>23</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>97</u>	<u>25</u>	objects
		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Pringle
Signature of certifying official

10-22-91
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper: _____

Date of Action _____

Function or Use	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	
Commerce: department stores	Commerce: specialty stores
Commerce: specialty stores	Domestic: single dwellings
Domestic: single dwellings	Transportation: rail-related
Transportation: rail-related	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Commercial style	foundation brick
Queen Anne	walls brick
Bungalow	wood
	roof asphalt
	other metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The small town of Waxhaw (population 1,200) is located on the western edge of Union County. The county lies at the southern tip of North Carolina's piedmont plateau and is bordered by South Carolina. Waxhaw lies twelve miles west of Monroe, the county seat. Waxhaw is named after an Indian tribe which inhabited the area before Scotch-Irish settlers began moving into the region in the mid-eighteenth century. The town of Waxhaw formed after the advent of the railroad in Union County in 1888; Waxhaw was officially incorporated in 1889.

Waxhaw is centered along the crest of a slight ridge which runs east-west and slopes gradually away to the north and south. The railroad tracks, running east-west, are laid down the middle of the main street, dividing it into North and South Main Streets. Daily freight trains rumble through town, the noise momentarily halting street conversations and eliciting a traditional wave to the engineer. Broom Street (N.C. Highway 16), which runs north-south, acts as the dividing line for east and west street designations. A picturesque elevated pedestrian bridge constructed of large timber trusses spans the tracks at Providence Street, connecting North and South Main streets.

The Waxhaw Historic District's resources comprise the oldest portions of the town's commercial and residential areas. The boundaries of the district have been drawn to include the architecturally and historically significant commercial, residential and institutional buildings and structures and to exclude recent commercial development on West South Main Street between High and Church streets, and along Broom Street north of McDonald, as well as later residential development which surrounds the district.

The irregularly shaped, compact Waxhaw Historic District encompasses 122 resources: these include 116 buildings (residences, outbuildings, and commercial buildings), four structures (a water tower, pedestrian bridge, well and well house, and railroad tracks and right-of-way), and two objects (a large earthenware jug used as street furniture and a fence). The resources date from c. 1888 to the late 1980s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 1

Ninety-seven, or 80%, of the total number of resources are counted as contributing; twenty-five, or 20%, of the total resources are counted as non-contributing. Of the ninety-five primary resources (which excludes outbuildings and objects) seventy-nine or 83% are contributing; sixteen, or 17% are non-contributing.

A compact, dense streetscape of brick commercial buildings facing the tracks extends for two blocks along East and West North Main Street and East and West South Main Street. With two exceptions, the historic district's commercial buildings are located on Main Street, or a few steps away on the intersecting Church, Broom and Providence streets; the exceptions are the George Sibley Tyson stores [#s 48 and 49], located a short distance southeast on Old Providence Road (Old Providence Road is an extension of East South Main Street). The residential areas of the historic district abut the commercial area at the east and west and extend a few short blocks along streets at the north and south. Residences, generally set in generous landscaped yards, are located on West North Main, McDonald, North Broad, North Church, North Providence, West South Main, East South Main, Old Providence, South Broom, South Providence, McKibben, and Brevard streets.

The vast majority of the district's contributing resources date from the first two decades of the twentieth century, a time of prosperity for Waxhaw, then an important cotton trading and processing center. Documentary photographs of that time and the 1925 Sanborn Insurance Map of central Waxhaw reveal streetscapes remarkably little altered. The historic district retains a varied and intact collection of early twentieth century commercial buildings and residences and includes a former livery stable, a corn and wheat mill, early hotel, two churches, and a school.

Business District:

After the Rodman-Heath Textile Mill, located just east of the historic district, ceased operations in the mid-1940s, the business district of Waxhaw experienced an extended period of decline. During this period the commercial buildings saw little alteration. Today, the historic central business district is once again the center of Waxhaw's retail economy. Since the early 1960s, a large number of antiques shops have moved into the once vacant or underutilized commercial buildings. Waxhaw has become a notable regional center for antiques. This

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 2

flourishing enterprise has contributed greatly to the preservation of the historic commercial buildings. The handsome, largely intact commercial buildings, drawing cards in themselves, display a strong feeling of their early twentieth century associations and provide fitting homes for antiques businesses.

The first, late nineteenth century, commercial buildings in town were frame structures, but these were soon replaced by sturdy brick buildings ornamented with decorative corbeling and cast iron accents. A few frame commercial buildings, dating from the early twentieth century, survive in the historic district (none are on Main Street). Two diminutive gable-front frame buildings, the 1905 former Post Office [#60] on North Church Street and the c. 1920 Harris's Store [#76] on North Providence Street may be typical of the earliest commercial buildings. Both now house antiques shops. Other frame commercial buildings of interest include the First George Sibley Tyson Store [#49] built c. 1911. Now somewhat deteriorated, this building was moved to the rear of its lot when Tyson built a new brick store building [#48] in the 1920s. Tyson's first store displays a broad gable-front roof and double-leaf main entrance. Another notable frame structure is the A.W. Heath Co. Mill [#61], built in 1905 to house a corn and wheat grist mill which operated into the mid-1930s.

The Main Street business district contains an impressive collection of brick commercial buildings. Stylistically, they are typical and representative of brick commercial buildings erected in many small North Carolina towns in the first decades of the twentieth century. They are atypical, however, in that most remain largely intact and unaltered. This is in contrast to the buildings in other commercial historic districts, which may have upper stories intact but often have first stories considerably altered by replacement storefronts, new brick veneer facades, or other incompatible replacement materials. In Waxhaw a building in the 100 block of West North Main Street [#13], and a building in the 100 block of East North Main, [#19] are the only examples in the historic district's commercial area of buildings which have been so altered as to make them non-contributing. Other commercial buildings [#s 11, 34, 35] have altered storefronts, but their essential early twentieth century architectural character survives.

Most of the brick commercial buildings in Waxhaw's historic district were constructed between c. 1905 and 1930, but a few important buildings pre-date the turn of the century. They include the handsomely restored c. 1894, two-story, R.J. Belk

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 3

Company Store [#39]. The Belk Building features an embossed metal cornice above the recessed entry and display windows, and decorative corbeling used at the cornice and to outline the arched second story windows. The A.W. Heath Company Stores complex (two buildings with a total of five storefronts; see #s 30 and 31), which occupies most of the 100 block of West South Main Street, is considered one of the most architecturally and historically significant commercial complexes in Union County. The main building is a Romanesque Revival style structure, constructed c. 1898. It displays a dramatic recessed, round-arch central entry, cast iron pilasters and cornice, round-arch second story windows, and a stepped corbeled parapet. In 1903 A.W. Heath constructed an adjoining four-unit, one-story building with corbeled name panels above each recessed entry. The original painted signage survives; the units housed "Groceries, Hardware, Furniture, and Wagons & Buggies." From 1903 until 1966, the A.W. Heath Company operated one of Waxhaw's most successful mercantile enterprises. At present three of the units house antiques stores; a hardware store has been located in one of the units since 1911; a storefront church fills the remaining unit. Other early, nearly intact commercial buildings in the historic district include the c. 1900 Weir Building [#14]; the c. 1907 Plyler Building [#16]; the c. 1915 Farmer's Ginning & Trading Company [#s 36 and 37], now adaptively reused to house a popular local restaurant; the Second George Sibley Tyson Store [#48], built in 1916 with nearly identical adjoining unit added c. 1927, which retains an original, large painted advertisement for Ballard's Obelisk Flour on the west elevation; and the c. 1900 Broome-Rodman Building [#18] which was remodeled in 1924 after a fire swept its block of North Main Street.

Other notable nearly intact brick buildings in the central business area of the historic district include a rare early hotel and two handsome churches. The McDonald Hotel [#10] was built in 1912 in the Colonial Revival style and located hard by the railroad tracks on North Main Street (building now in use as private residence). The Waxhaw United Methodist Church [#2], located one block north of Main Street at the intersection of McDonald and Church streets, was built in 1928 in the late Gothic Revival style. It replaces an earlier frame church, constructed soon after the congregation organized in 1888. The Waxhaw Presbyterian Church [#6], constructed in 1929 in a combination of Classical Revival and late Gothic Revival styles and located in a residential block of North Main Street, also

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 4

replaces a frame church constructed when the congregation organized in 1888.

Residential Areas:

The residential architecture in Waxhaw is notable for the large number of surviving late nineteenth century dwellings; a good, representative variety of popular styles including Queen Anne, vernacular houses with Triple-A rooflines, bungalows, and Colonial Revival; and for its overall intact condition. The replacement siding salesmen seem to have made few inroads here, and the citizens take great pride in preserving their historic residences.

Fifteen houses constructed between c. 1888 and 1900 survive in the historic district. The Duncan McDonald House [#3], c. 1888, is traditionally considered the oldest house in Waxhaw, but the Ralph J. Belk House [#84] may pre-date it by a few years. The McDonald House is a vernacular one-story frame house with a Triple-A roofline and cornerboards which rise to a wide friezeboard, both commonly found decorative features on Waxhaw's residences. The Belk House is an intact c. 1885 two-story Queen Anne style frame house with wraparound porch and an ornate main entrance with elaborate applied molded ornamentation set in a paneled, molded surround with diamond-shaped corner blocks. Two-story houses are relatively rare in Waxhaw, and most of the ones in the district were built before 1900. The Massey-Collins House [#54] is probably the best example of a two-story Queen Anne style house. Originally located on North Main Street when constructed c. 1897, the house was moved in 1919 to a large lot at the end of North Broad Street. The asymmetrical house is dominated by an ornate wraparound porch with a lattice frieze. The main entrance has a colorful multi-pane sash set above a decorative molded panel. Other good two-story examples of the Queen Anne style include the c. 1890 Hugh Wilson Broome House [#7] which features scalloped shingles in the gable ends and a clipped bay ornamented with sawn brackets; the former Presbyterian Manse [#4], c. 1901, with an elaborate Eastlake style main entrance and sawn shingles in the gable ends; the McCain-Coffee-Eargle House [#28], built c. 1890 and remodeled in 1933 (documentary photos reveal the original two-tier porch had fanciful sawnwork trim); the c. 1900 Adams-Davis House [#79] with flush boards sheathing the porch face and a double-leaf main entrance; the c. 1889 John Lafayette Rodman House [#80], with a c. 1895 main block, a projecting polygonal

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 5

bay and two-tier porch. Another notable late nineteenth century Waxhaw residence is the c. 1897 Walkup-Gamble House [#74]. This unusual house features a high hip roof with a large central gable which contains a recessed porch, unique in Waxhaw. (The original appearance of the 1909 George Sibley Tyson House [#47] was quite similar to the Walkup-Gamble House and they may have been constructed by the same builder. The recessed second story porch does not survive on the Tyson House; it was enclosed at an undetermined date.)

In addition to cornerboards and wide friezeboards, there are other notable recurring decorative features found throughout the historic district which probably reflect the hands of as yet unidentified builders, or an unidentified popular millwork factory. These features include decorative ventilator covers, both elaborate sawn circular covers [see #s 26, 68, 94] and those with unusual scalloped rectangular frames with semi-circular caps [#s 58, 79, 93]; elongated diamond-shaped vents [#s 28, 66]; and sunburst pattern gable treatments [#s 24, 26].

Most of the houses in the Waxhaw Historic District were constructed between 1900 and 1925. Vernacular one or one-and-one-half story houses with Triple-A rooflines, bungalows, and Colonial Revival style houses predominate. The earliest example of the Triple-A house is the c. 1890 Starnes-Steele House [#24] on West South Main Street which displays the basic three-bay wide, single-pile form, identifying gable-side roof with decorative center gable, and hip-roof attached porch. Here the gable ends are ornamented with radiating sunburst pattern woodwork. Late Victorian style elements are present in the crossetted and splayed molding which frames the main entrance, further highlighted by sidelights and transom, and in the projecting side bays. One of the most intact, and best representative examples of the basic Triple-A house is the c. 1910 Nisbet-McWhorter House [#94] on Brevard Street. In addition to its signature roofline, the three-bay wide, single-pile house displays returns in the gable ends, chamfered cornerboards rising to a wide friezeboard, a hip-roof wraparound porch carried by chamfered posts, and decorative arched sawnwork ventilator covers. Another early, intact example is the c. 1905 Charlie Haigler House [#59] which has a hip-roof porch carried by Tuscan columns. Other examples of the basic Triple-A house form include the c. 1910 Lucy Belle Craig House [#50] on Old Providence Road which has an attached hip-roof porch carried by turned posts, and a main entrance flanked by sidelights; and the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 6

McGuirt-Anderson House [#72], constructed c. 1910 on North Providence Street which retains its original screen door ornamented with spindles and a replacement mid-1920s bungalow or Craftsman porch. One of the earliest, largest and best detailed of the Triple-A houses is the c. 1900 Will Steele House [#77] on South Providence Street. The house is sheathed with plain clapboards, except for the center gable and porch face where German siding is used, and has chamfered corner boards, a spacious hip-roof wraparound porch carried by chamfered posts, and a projecting gabled entry bay.

A popular local variation of the Triple-A house is found throughout the district. Rather than having a single, center gable on the main elevation, these houses have twin gables. Examples of this type include the Howie-McCall House [#41], c. 1910, on East South Main Street which later received a shed-roof dormer between the twin gables; the c. 1905 Collins-Blythe-Over house [#68] with pointed-arch louvered ventilators in the gable ends; the McWhorter-Guion-Howard House [#85]; and the c. 1910 Nisbet-McWhorter House [#94] on Brevard Street which has ornamental circular ventilator covers in the front, side, and rear gables.

Several excellent examples of the bungalow are found in the historic district. Two classic examples are neighbors on North Broad Street, the Wolfe-Niven-Gamble House [#55] and the Olin Niven House [#56], both constructed in 1922. The broad, low silhouette of the Wolfe-Niven-Gamble House is characteristic of this popular early twentieth century type. The house also displays the typical exposed rafter ends, bracketed gables and shady, full-width engaged porch. The Olin Niven House displays many of the same features, as well as a gabled dormer on the main elevation. Other good examples include the Shannon House [#53], the John Davis House [#71], and the Weir-McCain House [#86], all c. 1900 houses remodeled in the 1920s and 1930s as bungalows; the Steele-Gribble-Haynes House [#75] c. 1920 with shed roof dormers and a porch carried by grouped, tapering posts set on brick plinths; and the 1933 Luther Baker House [#88] which is dominated by a wide gable-roofed entry porch with exposed rafter ends, triangular brackets and brick pier supports.

The Colonial Revival style is represented in the historic district by the W.C. Gamble House [#5], originally built in 1900 and remodeled in 1940. The symmetrical main elevation is distinguished by an arched pedimented portico carried by Tuscan columns. The Dr. William Robert McCain House [#81], constructed in 1914, is an interesting example of the Colonial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 7

Revival style. This two-story brick house is dominated by a monumental single-bay, two-story portico supported by tapered posts which are covered with imbricated sawn wooden shingles. The portico also features a shingled, pedimented gable with fanlight, denticulated cornice and a small second story porch. Other Colonial Revival style features on the house include fluted posts at the side porch and segmental arches above the windows. The two-story brick former McDonald Hotel [#10] also displays such typical Colonial Revival style features as denticulated cornice, Tuscan porch columns, and relieving arches atop the windows.

Most of the non-contributing resources in the historic district do not meet the age criteria; these include #s 12, 20, 21, 27, 29, 43, 57, 62, 63, 82, 89, 91 and 92. Other non-contributing resources are older buildings which have been remodeled with incompatible materials; these include #s 13, 19, and 51. The Cockinos Building [#29] contributes a great deal to the early twentieth century commercial streetscape, and is counted as non-contributing solely because it was constructed in 1988. This one-story double-storefront brick building is an extraordinarily sympathetic addition to the historic district, designed by the Charlotte architectural firm of Hemphill Associates to blend compatibly with the A.W. Heath Stores [#s 30 and 31] which adjoin it. The designer simulated the cast iron pilasters found on the Heath Stores using wood, recessed the main double-leaf entrances, and topped the large display windows with blind transoms.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 8

INVENTORY LIST - WAXHAW HISTORIC DISTRICT

Numbering system: The following inventory list includes all properties located within the Waxhaw Historic District, keyed by number to the inventory map. The inventory list and map are numbered according to the following system: the principal east-west streets (McDonald, North Main and South Main) are numbered from west to east, running first along the north side then along the south side of the streets. Note: South Main Street curves southeast and after it crosses McCain Street, it is known as Old Providence Road. The principal north-south streets (Broad, Church, Broom, Providence St. and King) are numbered from north to south, running first along the west side and then along the east side. Two minor cross streets, McKibben and Brevard, located in the southeast corner of the district are numbered from west to east, running first along the north side, and then along the south side.

Assessment: All properties are coded by letter as contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) according to their relative architectural and/or historical significance within the district, and these assessments are, in turn, coded on the inventory map. Outbuildings associated with the primary resource are designated with lower case letters, and are also assessed as contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC).

Dating: Dates are based on information available from the 1925 Sanborn Insurance Map for Waxhaw; from documentary photographs; from information supplied by past and present tenants or owners; from field notes compiled by Joseph Schuchman in 1982-1983 and Patricia Dickinson in 1991 during surveys and inventories of the district (working files on deposit at North Carolina Division of Archives and history in Raleigh, N.C.); from local historians and members of the Waxhaw Preservation Society (interview notes in working files); from entries contained in ed. Suzanne S. Pickens, Sweet Union: An Architectural and Historical Survey of Union County, North Carolina (Monroe, N.C.: Union County Board of Commissioners, Monroe-Union County Historic Properties Commission, Union County Historical Society, 1990); from miscellaneous newspaper articles; and from Harry Y. Gamble's Waxhaw 100 History, a booklet compiled for Waxhaw's 1989 Centennial celebration (contains brief town history and information about early families, buildings, and businesses).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 9

Information Sources: In parentheses following each entry is an abbreviated notation citing the principal sources of information used in the inventory list. The notations are as follows:

- SM - Sanborn Map
- DP - Documentary Photographs
- O - Information supplied by property owner or tenant
- AH - North Carolina Division of Archives and History, working files compiled during 1982-1983 and 1991 inventories of portions of the Town of Waxhaw
- WPS - Information supplied by members of the Waxhaw Preservation Society or other local historians
- SU - Sweet Union: An Architectural and Historical Survey of Union County (see above). Inventory List entries excerpted or adapted from entries in this publication.
- N - Miscellaneous newspaper articles (copies in working files)
- HG - Harry Y. Gamble, Waxhaw 100 History.

McDONALD STREET:

1. C Warehouse
Northeast corner McDonald and Hicks streets
c. 1920

One-story, rectangular, gable-front frame warehouse, newly re-sheathed with wide rough-sawn unpainted pine boards. Appears on 1925 Sanborn Map as "storage warehouse," probably for the nearby Niven-Price Mercantile Co. (#11) on North Main St. Now used for storage by Unico Business Forms, located in the Niven-Price building. (SM)

2. C Waxhaw United Methodist Church
2 a. NC Fellowship Hall
200 McDonald Street
1928

The Waxhaw United Methodist Church was established in 1888, the year before Waxhaw was incorporated as a town. It was the first church established within the city limits. The original frame church, which stood approximately one block north, was moved in 1906 to the northwest corner of Church and McDonald streets, the present church location. Ground was broken for the present brick church in 1923 and the building was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

dedicated in 1928.

This handsome, late Gothic Revival style church features restrained ornamental brickwork, twin towers of uneven heights flanking the gable front main block, hip roof side wing, and beautiful stained glass windows. Both towers are crowned by battlements and have recessed entrances set in lancet arch openings. The belfry on the east tower has a lancet arch opening, as do the sanctuary windows. All of the lancet arched openings are surmounted by relieving arches with radiating voussoirs. In 1976 a Colonial Revival style fellowship hall was constructed; it is connected to the church by a covered walkway. A Memorial Prayer Garden, located between the church and fellowship hall, was completed in 1988. (SU, AH, N, HG)

3. C Duncan McDonald House
115 McDonald St.
c. 1888

This one-story frame house was constructed about 1888 by Duncan McDonald (1845-1924), one of the first men to establish a residence and business within the Waxhaw town limits. According to local tradition, McDonald arrived in Waxhaw on April 15, 1888 and "hung his coat on a tree and began clearing a place where he would build a store." He built a two-story frame building (no longer extant) on North Main Street where he operated a general store and served as Waxhaw's first postmaster. His house is perhaps the town's oldest residence. The largely intact house has a Triple-A roofline with returns in the gable ends; standing seam metal roof; decorative quatrefoil ventilators in the center and east gables; corner boards rising to a wide frieze board (a feature found on many later Waxhaw houses); a hip roof porch carried by plain wood posts (probably originally turned or chamfered posts); brick exterior end chimney; paired main entrances; and four-over-four sash. A shed roof wing was appended to the rear ell early in the twentieth century. The house is currently vacant. (SU, AH, HG)

WEST NORTH MAIN STREET:

4. C (former) Presbyterian Manse
504 West North Main Street
c. 1901

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 11

Two-story, T-shaped, frame residence constructed to serve as the manse of the nearby Waxhaw Presbyterian Church (#6). The house lot was conveyed by J.W. Price and his wife to the Trustees of the Waxhaw Presbyterian Church on August 5, 1901. The house served as the church's manse until 1959 when the church sold it to M.L. Braswell and his wife Odessa for use as their residence. Basically intact on the exterior (interior considerably altered), the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards except under the hip-roof porch where German siding is used, and ornamented with returns and sawn shingles in the gable ends and ornamental brackets at the chamfered porch posts. Four-over-four sash windows light the house. The main entrance displays an elaborate Eastlake style door with incised floral decoration and applied slender, fluted columns. Two tall brick interior chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the asbestos shingle roof. A later owner (date unknown) installed a multi-pane picture window on the main elevation but, since it is obscured by the shadows under the porch, it is not readily apparent and does not detract from the house's turn-of-the century character. Current owner/occupant is Cecilia Neal. (AH, SU, WPS)

5. C W.C. Gamble House
500 West North Main Street
c. 1900; 1940

Little is known of the earliest history of this symmetrical two-story frame house. Local historians believe it was built c. 1900, either for Thomas Secrest, a surveyor, or for Ike Blythe, a local carpenter. W.C. Gamble and his wife Emma Lee Niven Gamble remodeled the house in the Colonial Revival style about 1940. A one-story, arched pedimented portico carried by Tuscan columns shelters the main entrance which is flanked by three-pane sidelights set above inset panels. The front door features a semi-circular multi-pane window set above tall, twin raised panels. The house is lit by six-over-six sash windows. In contrast with the symmetrical main elevation, the rear elevation is asymmetrically arranged with a two-story rear ell, a shed-roof addition and a hip-roof (enclosed) rear porch. Current owner/occupant is Anna Quackenbush. (SU, AH, WPS, O)

6. C Waxhaw Presbyterian Church
416 West North Main Street
1929

The Waxhaw Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1929,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 12

replacing the original 1888 church (destroyed). The land was donated to the congregation by the Seaboard Railway Company. The one-story brick church, set on a tall, raised basement, displays a combination of classically inspired and Gothic Revival style features. The main elevation is dominated by a full-width pedimented gable portico supported by monumental cast concrete Ionic columns. Originally, the pediment was sheathed with sawn shingles; these were replaced with vinyl "clapboards" in the late 1980s. The pediment retains the original louvered Palladian style ventilator. A center double-leaf main entrance with a lancet arched tracery overlight is set in a lancet arched surround with keystone and side blocks. Lancet arched windows with tracery overlights are set in similar surrounds and feature concrete sills. Ionic pilasters frame the three bays of the main elevation; the bays on the side elevations are divided by brick piers. The church is crowned by a belfry with a bellcast roof and finial. (SU, AH)

7. C Hugh Wilson Broome House
7 a. C Storage shed
400 West North Main Street
both c. 1890

This two-story frame Queen Anne style house was constructed c. 1890 by Hugh Wilson Broome (1866-1903) and his wife, Alice Belk Broome (1868-1953). From 1887 until his death, Broome operated a general store on Waxhaw's Main St. (# 18). The asymmetrical house is characterized by a one-story, full-facade porch with turned posts, turned balustrade, and ornamental spindle frieze. The porch facade is sheathed with beaded tongue-and-groove siding, in contrast to the plain weatherboards covering the house. The presence of a second story entrance indicates that the house may once have had either an open porch or a deck with balustrade. The front and side gable ends are ornamented with scalloped shingles and feature wide cornices with returns, plain frieze boards, and diamond-shaped ventilators. The clipped bay on the main elevation is ornamented with sawn brackets. Rear ells appear contemporary with the main block; a rear porch is sheathed in horizontal tongue-and-groove siding and has turned balusters and chamfered posts with brackets. Two-over-two windows are used throughout the house; the first story main elevation windows and the double-leaf main entrance contain an upper sash bordered with square multi-colored panes. The doors also feature diagonal

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 13

tongue-and-groove panels framed by narrow molding and bulls-eye corner blocks. The largely unaltered interior follows a center hall plan. Turned balusters and a robust newel post support the shaped handrail of the open string staircase. Vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot is found on the first floor.

The Henry Stephenson family owned and occupied the house in the 1930s; Stephenson worked for the Niven-Price Co. In the 1950s, the house was rented as two apartments (one upstairs and one downstairs). The house is currently owned and occupied by John Byrum, whose mother, Sara Lynn Byrum, operated Waxhaw's first antique shop.

A small one-story frame gable-front storage shed with exposed rafter ends is located in the rear yard. It appears to be contemporary with the house. (SU, N, AH, WPS)

8. C Heath-Massey House
8 a, b. both C garage and storage shed
316 West North Main Street
c. 1890 and c. 1910

The original portion of this one-and-one-half story frame house was constructed c. 1890 by A.W. Heath (1840-1906) and his wife, Nannie Crow Heath (1850-1902). Heath was one of Waxhaw's most prominent and prosperous business entrepreneurs, operating the A.W. Heath Company Store and Mill (#s 30, 31, 61) and controlling numerous acres of county farm and timber land. Following Heath's death the house passed to his daughter, Maude and her husband, Charles Massey. Massey supervised the A.W. Heath Company and in 1937 he served in the North Carolina State Senate. The house remained in the family, occupied by Charles and Maude Massey's son, Henry, until 1982 when it was sold out of the family.

About 1908, this house became the first Waxhaw residence with electricity (on-site generator). The Masseys substantially altered and enlarged the dwelling about 1910. The asymmetrically massed house consists of a truncated hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled wings on each elevation. The wood cresting outlining the hipped roof and sawnwork brackets which decorate a side gable end suggest the original late Victorian character of the house. The existing wraparound porch, carried by shaped brick piers with Tuscan caps, was added by Charles Massey; reportedly the original porch had turned posts similar to the neighboring Hugh Wilson Broome House (#7). The curved portion of the porch was later enclosed with windows and multi-paned

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 14

transoms to create a sun porch.

The largely unaltered interior displays a center hall plan, vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot in the dining room and hall, and elaborate molding and raised panels on the living and dining room mantels. There are five fireplaces on two chimneys in the house; the dining room and library share one chimney and the other three share the second chimney. Two of the mantels appear to date from the early twentieth century renovations; each has a bracketed mantel shelf and overmantel with beveled mirror and fluted columns.

Both the two-bay frame garage and storage shed in the rear yard appear on the 1925 Sanborn map. The garage may have been the original carriage house probably built at the same time as the house. It has the same original cedar shakes under the replacement asphalt roof. Also, there is a hitching post in front of it. The current owner/occupants of the house are David and Vivian Riegelman who operate an antiques shop on South Main St. (SU, AH, SM, O, N, WPS)

9. C W.C. Massey House
300 West North Main Street
1932

This one-story brick-veneered Colonial Revival style residence, set in a well-landscaped yard, was constructed in 1932 for W.C. Massey, a grandson of notable Waxhaw merchant A.W. Heath (#8). The plans were drawn by architect Julian Starr of Rock Hill, S.C. and revised by contractor, J.C. Gordon. The timber was cut from the Heath family farms and brought to Waxhaw for processing. The house has witnessed little exterior or interior alteration; a sympathetically designed rear addition was built c. 1947. Colonial Revival motifs are used throughout the residence. An engaged porch with Tuscan columns spans the main elevation; the central porch entry is marked by a segmental arch with ornamental keystones. The porch frieze and ceiling are sheathed with tongue-and-groove boards. Semi-oval dormer ventilators are set in the gable roof. Pedimented gable ends are sheathed in flush boards and contain louvered Palladian-style ventilators. Six-over-six sash are used throughout the residence. Current owner/occupant: Bill D. Morgan family. (SU, O, AH, WPS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 15

10. C W.R. McDonald Hotel
224 West North Main St.
1912

This substantial two-story brick Colonial Revival style building was built by W.R. McDonald in 1912. Constructed to serve as a hotel, it was the residence of many teachers who taught in Waxhaw's public school. W.R. McDonald and his brother Duncan (#3) were among Waxhaw's pioneer citizens. The hotel remained in operation until 1946. Waxhaw residents still recall the tradition of Sunday dinner in the hotel dining room. The property has served as a single-family residence since the closing of the hotel.

The building has a hip roof with a center attic gable on the main elevation; nine interior brick chimneys with decorative corbeled caps; a plain frieze below the eaves of the roof; a full-facade one-story porch with denticulated cornice and Tuscan columns; and two-over-two sash windows with sills composed of a single row of projecting brick headers and relieving arches atop the first story windows. The porch originally wrapped around the east side to include the existing Queen Anne style conical roof at the front corner; the porch flooring was removed from under the conical roof (date unknown) to make it a porte-cochere. The interior boasts notable ornamental woodwork, ornate mantels, pine floors, wide central halls on both floors, and eight second story bedrooms. Current owner/occupants: Rayo C. Holston family. (HG, AH, SU, WPS)

11. C Niven-Price Mercantile Company
216 West North Main Street
1913-1914

This tripartite brick commercial building was constructed in 1913-1914 for John Malcom Niven (1861-1933) and B.F. Price, owners of the Niven-Price Mercantile Company. Niven and Price had formed a partnership in 1909 and initially housed their store in a frame structure (no longer extant) which stood at the northwest corner of North Main Street and Providence Road. About a year later the business moved across the street to the Broome-Rodman Building (#18), where the store operated until completion of their new headquarters.

The central, two-story block of the Niven-Price Building is flanked by one-story units. Each section originally featured

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 16

a recessed central entrance framed by plate glass windows surmounted by transoms. The center unit housed a dry goods store which was flanked by hardware and grocery stores. In 1969 the original storefronts were enclosed with clapboards. However, much original detailing survives, most notably the cast iron pilasters and the handsome corbeled brick cornices. The second story of the central block features four round-arched windows with corbeled relieving arches and four-over-four sash. All three of the units now house Unico Business Forms, Inc. (AH, N, O, HG)

12. NC Davis Building
201 West North Main Street
1953

This one-story, double-storefront, brick veneered commercial building was constructed by the Davis Family in 1953. It is located on the site of an early twentieth century frame building which, for many years, housed Miss Maggie Davis' millinery shop. This building has large angled plate glass windows and a pair of recessed double-leaf wooden doors topped by two-light transoms. At present the building is leased by Unico Business Forms (#11) for storage. (O, SM)

13. NC Commercial Building
122 West North Main Street
c. 1910; remodeled c. 1970

This early twentieth century one-story commercial building has been considerably altered by replacement windows and by filling in the original storefront with modern, striated bricks. It retains the original simply corbeled name plate and corbeling which marks the building's edges. It is thought the building was originally constructed to house a bank which apparently never operated. The 1925 Sanborn Map indicates that a drugstore occupied the building then with a small office at the rear. Waxhaw Drugs was a long-time tenant. At present the building is used for storage by Unico Business Forms. (SM, AH, SU)

14. C Weir Building
120 West North Main Street
c. 1900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 17

This two-story turn-of-the-century brick commercial building is one of the best preserved, most intact examples of Waxhaw's commercial buildings. For many years it housed the general merchandise Weir Store, perhaps the first tenant. It later housed a general store operated by Luther Baker (#88). The building is presently owned by the Masons and used as the fraternal organization's lodge. The original wood trimmed angled plate glass display windows survive intact, as do the cast iron cornice above the storefront, four-over-four sash windows with corbeled label moldings, and a decorative corbeled cornice at the second story. Star-shaped iron tie rods are both decorative and functional. (AH, SU)

15. C Wade Broome Building
118 West North Main Street
c. 1940

This rather severe one-story, double-storefront brick commercial building was built c. 1940 and replaces an earlier building which burned, according to owner Wade Broome. Broome's barber shop has been located in the eastern half of the building since 1948. An insurance company occupies the other storefront. The building has terra cotta coping at the roofline, recessed main entrances, and large angled display windows. (O, SM)

16. C Plyler Building
116 West North Main Street
c. 1907

This handsome, nearly intact one-and-one-half story brick commercial building displays a corbeled pendant cornice, brick quoins, recessed main entrance marked by slender cast iron pilasters ornamented with bulleyes, and single-pane display windows surmounted by blind transoms.

The building is associated with Jonas Sanford Plyler who was born in 1862 in York County, South Carolina. He came to Union County in 1878 and became a Waxhaw resident c. 1900 (#79). He "became a successful business man during the early decade of 1900 when Waxhaw was a thriving town and the climate for industry and business was quite favorable." About 1906 he bought the Waxhaw telephone exchange, erected this building, and moved the exchange to the upper floor. He also operated an automobile garage in a building slightly west, and at the rear, of this building. According to local historians, Plyler operated a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 18

Ford dealership in the first story until c. 1919 when he built a much larger automobile sales show room one block east at North Main and Providence streets (that building burned in 1931). Various physicians' offices were located in the Plyler Building from c. 1930-1950. Since the early 1980s, the building has housed antiques dealers. (HG, WPS, SU, SM)

17. C Water Tower

Center of block bounded by N. Main, Church, McDonald and Broom streets
c. 1930?

Steel, 75,000 gallon water tank. According to the Town Clerk the tower has been here approximately 50-60 years; it is not indicated on the 1925 Sanborn Map. A 1941 aerial photo of the town shows the tank. (interview with Bonnie McManus, Waxhaw Town Clerk, DP)

EAST NORTH MAIN STREET:

18. C Broome-Rodman Building
101-103 East North Main Street
c. 1900; 1924

The present appearance of this substantial two-story turn-of-the-century commercial building dates from a 1924 remodeling, the result of a fire which destroyed or substantially damaged all of the buildings in the 100 block of East North Main Street. During the remodeling, the height was reduced from a full two stories to a graduated height ranging from one-story at the rear to two stories at the main elevation, with a stepped parapet roofline on the side. Full-height cast iron columns on brick bases and corner brick piers support the parapet roofline, ornamented by a simple corbeled cornice and concrete coping. Brick piers divide the recessed facade into six asymmetrical bays filled with clear and opaque glass windows. The building was originally constructed for merchant Hugh Wilson Broome by contractors Jack, Ike and Tom Blythe. Broome sold general merchandise here under the name C. Broome & Sons until his death in 1903; his brother, Cecil Broome, continued the business here until 1912 when the building was leased for a short time by the Niven-Price Company while their new headquarters was being built (see #11). Sometime prior to 1918 the building was bought by J.L. Rodman, prominent Waxhaw merchant. Rodman

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 19

also operated a general merchandise store here, as well as the Roco (movie) Theatre in the eastern half of the building. A hotel was located on the second floor (iron stairs on the west side of the building survive). The hotel was operated first by a woman from Charlotte (name unknown) and later, by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Walkup. During the 1920s and 1930s, the second story hotel was operated by Sallie Stinson. She provided not only hotel accommodations, but a restaurant and a modest grocery there. The building has housed Byrum Antiques and Sybil's (women's clothing) since the 1970s. (N, HG, SU)

19. NC Commercial Building
105-109 East North Main Street
c. 1925; remodeled c. 1965

The 1925 Sanborn Map indicates that a one-story brick double-storefront building was here, housing a "store" at the west and "drugs" at the east. The present appearance of the building dates from a c. 1965 remodeling when the main elevation was brick veneered and received applied "colonial" doorways, shutters and a copper pent hoods above the replacement multi-pane display windows. At present the building is shared by an antiques store and the Waxhaw Woman's Club. (SM, WPS)

20. NC Commercial Building
111-113 East North Main Street
1953

This one-story double-storefront brick building was constructed in 1953 by Dan S. Davis as an investment commercial property. (It stands on the site of an earlier frame commercial building.) Duke Power Company rented the eastern half of the building for a number of years. At present, the building houses a dried flowers/crafts shop at the west, and an antiques store at the east. (O, WPS)

21. NC Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department
NW corner of East North Main and North Providence streets
1963

One-story, brick veneer, gable-front Colonial Revival style building (gable sheathed with clapboards) which houses the office and garage of the Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department. Until it burned in 1931, Plyler's Garage (see #16) was located here. (SM, HG)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 20

22. C Railroad tracks and right-of-way
established c. 1888
Between Jackson and Providence streets
22 a. NC Well and Well house
North side of right-of-way, near Broom Street
1989

1,750 feet of railroad tracks lined on either side between Jackson and Providence streets by fifty foot wide grassy banks. Owned and operated by the CSX Railroad Company. The well, located on the north side of right-of-way near Broom Street, was originally dug c. 1900 to serve the trains and crews. A replica of the original well house, with pyramidal roof covered with rough-sawn shakes supported by plain posts, was constructed in 1989 to commemorate the Town of Waxhaw Centennial. The structure was copied from an early 1900s documentary photograph. (DP, interview with Waxhaw Town Clerk, Bonnie McManus, HG)

23. C Providence Street Pedestrian Bridge
Spans RR tracks between North and South Main streets at
Providence Street
c. 1900

CSX Railroad Company owns and maintains this rustic truss bridge constructed of large wooden timbers. Deteriorated timbers have been replaced over the years, but bridge retains its original form, according to documentary photographs. The narrow bridge served automobile traffic until c. 1940 when it was designated for pedestrian use only. (DP, WPS, interview with Waxhaw Town Clerk, Bonnie McManus, HG)

WEST SOUTH MAIN STREET:

24. C Starnes-Steele House
609 West South Main Street
c. 1890

According to local tradition, this largely unaltered late nineteenth century one-story, three-bay wide, single-pile frame house with Triple-A roofline was constructed by J. Harvey Starnes and is believed to be one of the oldest surviving residences in Waxhaw. A crosssetted and splayed molding frames the main entrance, which is flanked by two-pane sidelights set above decorative inset panels and surmounted by a bracketed, three-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 21

light transom. A hip-roofed porch with plain replacement wood posts shelters the entrance and flanking windows. There are projecting polygonal bays on the side elevations with molded rectangular panels set above and below the one-over-one sash. All three gables have molded cornices with returns and are ornamented with radiating sunburst pattern woodwork. Originally probably sheathed with plain weatherboards, the house is now covered with German siding. Except for the projecting bays, windows elsewhere are six-over-six sash set in pedimented surrounds. A side porch along the east ell was enclosed c. 1947; shed roof rear addition built c. 1977.

With the exception of the kitchen, which is sheathed in horizontal tongue-and-groove boards, the interior is encircled by diagonal beaded wainscot topped by a chair rail. Four-panel doors are found throughout the interior. The house was purchased by James Thomas Steele (1872-1950) in 1917 and remains in the Steele family. Current owner/occupant: Margaret Steele, Postmistress of Waxhaw. (AH, O, SU, WPS)

25. C Keziah-Ledford House
605 West South Main Street
c. 1905

This one-story, three-bay wide, double-pile frame house has a moderately high hip roof broken by two interior brick chimneys and a gabled dormer on the main elevation. A shed-roof porch, with replacement wrought iron posts and a concrete floor, extends nearly the full width of the main elevation. The house also displays beaded corner boards, and six-over-six windows, some of which are replacements. Nothing is known of the early history of the house. The current owner, John W. Ledford, purchased the house from a Mrs. Bland Keziah in the late 1950s. He remodeled the interior, replacing the original beaded board walls with sheetrock, and built a small shed-roof side wing. Mrs. Keziah was responsible for the porch alterations. (O, WPS)

26. C Neely-Hudson House
601 West South Main Street
c. 1895

Little is known about the earliest history of this one-story late nineteenth century frame house. It was occupied by the Pink Neely family early in the twentieth century. Its

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 22

ornamentation is similar to the nearby Starnes-Steele House (#24), suggesting they may have been constructed by the same builder. They share the same radiating sunburst pattern woodwork and ornamental sawn ventilator covers in their gable ends. The Neely-Hudson House is L-shaped with two front-facing gables, one at the projecting wing marked by clipped ends ornamented with fanciful sawn brackets. Chamfered posts support the hip roof porch. The main entrance is typical of other contemporary Waxhaw houses. It has two-pane sidelights set above diagonal tongue-and-groove inset panels, a transom, and splayed and crosssetted surround; the original Queen Anne style door with small panes of multi-color glass surrounding a single pane survives. Rear ells appear original; a hip roof rear addition may have been a porch originally.

During the 1940s the house was occupied by the Jack Hudson family. In the 1960s the house was owned by Joseph Belk, youngest son of Ralph J. Belk. The elder Belk was the manager of the Waxhaw Belk Store (#s 39, 84). It remained in the Belk family until 1968 and then was used as rental property until the mid-1980s when it was purchased by the current occupants, the Jim Howie family. They have carefully preserved this charming house. (AH, SU, WPS)

27. NC Esposito House
515 West South Main Street
1950

This modest one-story frame house (covered with the original asbestos shingles) with front facing gable and engaged front porch was constructed in 1950 for Sal and Martha Esposito. It sits on what was originally part of the large lot for the McCain-Coffee-Eargle House (#28); a portion of the orchard and a cow barn were here originally. The Espositos enlarged the original front stoop, creating the present porch, added another bathroom and removed an interior wall when they remodeled the kitchen. (O)

28. C McCain-Coffee-Eargle House
28 a. C Smokehouse
501 West South Main Street
c. 1890; remodeled c. 1933

Nothing is known about the original occupants of this late nineteenth century two-story, gable-front frame house with a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 23

steeply pitched roof and elongated diamond-shaped ventilator in the front gable. The first documented owner is Irving McCain, a carpenter, who occupied the house at the turn of this century. The Will Hood family occupied the house in the 1920s; Mrs. Lillie Hood was a noted local seamstress. As originally built, the main block was two stories, two-bays wide and two rooms deep. A two-tier porch with chamfered posts, sawnwork balustrade, and sawn cornice trim on the main and upper levels sheltered the main elevation. The interior boasted a side hall plan, one of the rare examples of this plan in Union County.

About 1933, the house was purchased by Dr. L. H. Coffee (1875-1944), a Waxhaw physician. Dr. Coffee substantially enlarged the original house, adding a double-pile ell on the west elevation. He replaced the original porch with the present one-story, gable-front porch with tapered wood piers and plain sawtooth shingles in the gable. The Coffee family retained ownership until 1948, when Ruth Eargle purchased the house. The Eargles added a two-story garage and a one-story west ell which connects the main block and garage.

The interior is relatively unaltered. The two finest mantels, one of which was moved from the second story to a first story room, display symmetrically molded friezes and surrounds with bulls eye corner blocks. Turned posts and a turned balustrade support the shaped handrail of the open string staircase. The former main entrance door, with a Queen Anne style multi-pane window, is now used as an interior door. A brick smokehouse, which stands in the rear yard, contained a gift shop for a time, but is now used as a guest house. (DP, O, N, SU, WPS)

29. NC Cockinos Building
111-113 West South Main Street
1988

This one-story, double-storefront brick commercial building, constructed in 1988, is an extraordinarily well-designed, sympathetic addition to the early twentieth century streetscape. The building was designed by James Hemphill, Jr., principal in Hemphill Associates, a Charlotte, NC architectural firm founded in 1916 by James Hemphill, Sr. According to James Hemphill, Jr., the firm's main focus today is modern commercial architecture, but they have always maintained a strong interest in historic architecture and have designed adaptive reuse projects, as well as historic reproductions. In designing this

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 24

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

building, Hemphill "tried to fit it in with the old buildings already on the street," by "simulating the cast iron columns which adorn the old buildings and trying to blend the brick shades." The building, constructed for Charlotte businessman Frank Cockinos, is constructed of brown/beige brick with a brown mortar which blends well with the more orange tones of the neighboring building's brick. The Cockinos Building displays simple crenelated brick corbeling at the eave, which extends around the building to include the small office wing at the rear (facing Church Street); two recessed entrances with glass and wood double-leaf doors framed by transoms and sidelights; carved wooden pilasters similar to the cast iron pilasters on the neighboring Heath Stores (#30, 31); and large sixteen-light display windows topped by blind transoms. The Main Street stores are occupied at present by an antiques shop and a yarn shop; the office at the rear houses a novelty distributor. (O, interview with James C. Hemphill, Jr. 3/19/91)

30. C A.W. Heath Stores II
105-109 West South Main Street
1903

In order to provide space for his growing mercantile trade (see #31), A.W. Heath constructed this adjacent one-story commercial block c. 1903. This building was divided into four identical storefronts, all part of the A.W. Heath Company. The original signage, painted on recessed brick panels above each entry, recalls the original function of each unit: "Groceries, Hardware, Furniture, and Wagons & Buggies." The yellow/orange brick contrasts with the deep red of the adjacent two-story building. Recessed entries are flanked by plate glass display windows framed by cast iron pilasters. Patterned brickwork distinguishes each individual store unit; three of the original store fronts remain unaltered. Their rear elevations feature six-over-six sash windows with flush relieving arches and projecting brick sills.

After Heath's death, the firm remained in operation under the supervision of his son-in-law, Charles Massey, and grandsons, William, Henry and Olin Massey. The company ceased operations in 1966. At present, the Waxhaw Antique Mart occupies the two-story building (# 31) and one unit of this adjoining one-story building. Other businesses located in the one-story block include Newco Hardware (a hardware store has been located here since 1911), Waxhaw Bible Church, and Riegelman Antiques.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 25

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

31. C A.W. Heath Store I
101 West South Main Street
c. 1898

The A.W. Heath Stores I and II (#s 30 and 31) occupy most of the 100 block of West South Main street and form one of the architecturally and historically significant commercial complexes in Union County. From 1903 to 1966, the A.W. Heath Company operated one of Waxhaw's most successful mercantile enterprises in this complex. This (main) two-story, red brick building was constructed about 1898 by McCain-King Mercantile to house a general store. In 1903 this firm merged with the Morrow Heath Company and Massey Brothers to become the A.W. Heath Company. A.W. Heath (1840-1906), one of the most prosperous merchants in the Waxhaw area, became the leading force in the company's operation. Claiming "we handle everything from a pinhook to a gatling gun," the A.W. Heath Company operated a general goods store on the first story, while the upper floor was used for office space and storage; Waxhaw's first telephone exchange was located on the second floor.

The main elevation of this Romanesque Revival style building features a recessed, round arched, central entry. Plate glass display windows flanking the entrance are framed by cast iron pilasters and a cornice. The round arched second story windows are slightly recessed, symmetrically arranged, and highlighted by a continuous arched lintel. Side and rear elevations also display symmetrically arranged windows and corbeled parapet walls. A corbeled cornice and parapet roofline crown the building. A cast iron pediment and front cornice were removed about 1910. (AH, N, DP, SU, O, HG)

EAST SOUTH MAIN STREET:

32. and 33. Both C Commercial Buildings
100-102 East South Main Street
c. 1931

This pair of identical one-story brick commercial buildings was constructed c. 1931 on the former site of the McCain Livery Company Stable which was destroyed in a 1931 fire. Central recessed entrances with double doors are flanked by plate glass display windows. The storefronts are surmounted by multi-pane transoms. Narrow corbeled bands define the spaces for business identification signs. The buildings are topped by corbeled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 26Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

cornices; partial pilasters with corbeled drip ends mark the ends of buildings and divide the two storefronts. Presently, the buildings house an antiques shop and an art gallery. (O, SM, SU, AH)

34. and 35. Both C Commercial Buildings
104-108 East South Main Street
1906 and c. 1906

A pair of very similar two-story commercial buildings with altered storefronts, but largely intact second stories. Both buildings feature four round-arched windows with brick, arched surrounds, continuous projecting brick lintels, and brick sills. Original two-over-two sash survives on the western building (#34), with twelve-over-twelve sash on the eastern building (#35). Both buildings display elaborate corbeled cornices, recessed brick panels, and partial pilasters with corbeled drip ends marking the edges of the buildings.

The building at 108 East South Main (#35) was constructed in 1906 and served as the headquarters of the Waxhaw Bank and Trust Company. J.L. Rodman, noted Waxhaw merchant, served as the bank's president from 1906 until 1918. Charles S. Massey was bank president from 1918 to 1943 and was succeeded by his son W.C. Massey, who served until the bank was acquired by the American Bank and Trust Company in 1958. American Bank Co. renovated the first story to give it a "colonial" appearance; the original display windows were replaced with multi-pane windows, a new broken pediment entrance was applied, new brick veneer was applied. The twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the second story date from this period. United Carolina Bank acquired the American Bank Company in 1969 and operated here until 1975. At present, an antiques store is located here.

The building at 104-106 East South Main St. (#34) is believed to have been constructed c. 1906 by J.W. McCain; for many years it housed the Waxhaw Post Office. The building has served a variety of commercial tenants over the years. At present, the offices of a real estate company and a contracting company are located here. (SM, N, O, AH, SU, DP)

36. and 37. Both C (former) Farmer's Ginning & Trading Company
110-112 East South Main Street
c. 1915

A popular local restaurant, The Bridge and Rail, occupies

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 27

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

this pair of brick commercial buildings (interior wall removed to create one large space), which originally held the Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company from 1919 until 1973. The Trading Company occupied the building at 112 East South Main and an associated restaurant occupied 110 East South Main. Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company was a stock-owned company supported by the farmers of the community; for most of its existence, it was directed by Maxwell McCain. McCain started work here in 1926 as a clerk and bookkeeper. In 1932 he was elected Manager and Treasurer and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1973. The business operated as a general store carrying groceries, hardware, feed and fertilizer and produce during the summer months.

Local contractor James C. Gordon is thought to have been responsible for the construction of both buildings. The handsome, largely intact one-story brick buildings are quite similar, with the main difference being the slightly more elaborate corbeling on the western half. Both display corbeled brick cornices and drip ends marking the building's division. Brick corbeling is also used to simulate quoins on 112 East South Main Street. Both retain the original recessed entrances and display windows; bracketed cast iron piers flank the entry of 112 East South Main. (DP, SM, HG, AH, O, N, SU)

38. C Commercial Building
114-118 East South Main Street
c. 1940

This tripartite, one-story red brick commercial building is set back from the sidewalk, a clue to its original use as a bus station and gas station. According to the owner, Neely Shannon, Carolina Trailways Bus Company, was the original tenant c. 1940. Sometime soon after World War II a gas station and car wash occupied the building and the western bay was filled in (originally the grease pit of the gas station) to match the other two bays, and used for a retail shop. The three bays of the building are marked by stocky piers with recessed narrow vertical panels; the piers are topped by peaked concrete caps. Three small antiques shops occupy the building at present.
(O, WPS)

39. C R.J. Belk Company Store
200 East South Main Street
c. 1894

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 28

This handsomely restored two-story brick commercial building was the second location of the R.J. Belk Store in Waxhaw. Following the successful establishment of the Belk Store in the county seat of Monroe in 1888, branch stores were opened in Charlotte and Waxhaw. Local tradition maintains that the first Waxhaw store was located in a frame structure (no longer extant) near the intersection of South Main and South Broom streets. This store, like its Monroe counterpart, was originally named the "New York Racket." It was operated by Ralph Belk, a cousin of Belk founder William Henry Belk. Today the Belk Stores form the largest department store chain in North Carolina.

This two-story brick building with parapet roofline dates from about 1894. The first story's plate glass display windows flank a recessed, double-leaf main entrance. A metal cornice with elaborate bracketed ends tops the storefront. The second story is highlighted by a quartet of four-over-four sash windows with fanlights, relieving arches, and a continuous arched lintel. A corbeled cornice extends across the main elevation. Symmetrically arranged windows the the west side and rear elevations have flush brick relieving arches and projecting brick sills.

The Belk Store operated here until 1936; a number of commercial tenants followed, including a bowling alley, greenhouse, and drug store. Badly in need of repair, the building was donated to the Waxhaw Woman's Club in 1971. A thorough stabilization effort, which included rebuilding the rear wall was undertaken in 1974. The Woman's Club uses the building as a center for community activities. (AH, SU, N, HG, WPS)

40. C Supervisor's House
40 a. and b. Both C Garage and storage shed
310 East South Main Street
c. 1899; c. 1920

This spacious, one-story frame house was originally built to house the supervisor of the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill, located directly across the street. The mill was established c. 1899 by John Lafayette Rodman and E.J. Heath. From its opening until it closed in 1946, the mill was Waxhaw's largest employer. The 1925 Sanborn Map shows the Rodman-Heath complex with the main mill, a cotton gin, a cotton warehouse, a supervisor's house, and several parallel streets of mill houses. Except for a couple

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 29

of surviving mill houses and the considerably altered mill which now houses Alisa Knitting Mills, the mill village has been demolished.

The Supervisor's House is a traditional one-story frame house with Triple-A roofline, and hip-roof wraparound porch carried by replacement fluted columns. Originally, the house had a gabled rear ell; sometime before 1925 a gambrel-roof rear wing with a hip-roof porch replaced the original ell. The main block of the house is distinguished by decorative Italianate-style brackets in the gable ends and under the wide eaves. The gables also have boxed cornices with returns. A large exterior brick chimney is located on the rear wing. The main entrance is flanked by single-pane sidelights set above molded panels. On either side of the main entrance are large single-pane windows with leaded glass transoms. The house is set on a spacious lot with mature shade trees. The 1925 Sanborn Map indicates that a small garage and storage shed were located in the rear yard. These outbuildings survive, now connected with a covered walkway and augmented with an attached carport. (SM, AH, SU)

41. C Howie-McCall House
400 East South Main Street
c. 1910

Spacious one-and-one-half story frame house with twin front-facing gables divided by a later shed roof dormer, and large hip roof wraparound porch with projecting pedimented entry bay and solid balustrade. House has an interior brick chimney, a bay window on the north (side) elevation, one-over-one sash windows, main entrance composed of a single pane set above molded panels, and an enclosed shed-roof rear porch.

William and Mittie Howie occupied the house in the early 1900s. Mr. Howie was a retired farmer from Mineral Springs (in Union County). Later, the house was occupied by a Mr. Plyer who, with his brother, operated a car dealership in Waxhaw. During the 1950s, J.W. and Mable Robinson McCall owned and occupied the house until their deaths in 1966 and 1969, respectively. Mr. McCall was the principal of Waxhaw High School. In recent years Gene and Catherine Adams did major exterior restoration; the current owners, the James Bishop family, have tastefully renovated the interior. (WPS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 30

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

42. C Luther Ernest Brown House
408 East South Main Street
c. 1900

This one-story frame house with a moderately high hip roof may have been constructed by Luther Ernest Brown (1879-1926) about the time of his 1904 marriage to Onie Lee Rodman (1844-1965), daughter of prominent Waxhaw merchant J.L. Rodman. The name Brown is inscribed in the cement walkway leading to the house. Brown was employed by the J.L. Rodman Company and resided in this house until c. 1915, when he moved to South Carolina to supervise a branch of the Rodman Company. Edwin Niven who worked for the Niven-Price Co., and M.L. Braswell, President of Waxhaw Bank & Trust Co. were later occupants of this house.

The house, typical of turn-of-the-century residences in Waxhaw in its popular basic form, exhibits some bungalow and Neo-Classical influences. A low hip roof porch extends across the full width of the main elevation and terminates in a pedimented porte-cochere at the east. The porch entry is marked by a slight, projecting curve in the frieze. Tapered wood piers on brick plinths carry the porch roof. Cornerboards on the main block and two original gabled rear ells rise to a plain frieze board. Plain surrounds frame the one-over-one sash windows.

On the interior, the front portion of the house has a two-room plan; a center hall divides the remainder of the house. The most notable of the house's mantels features Tuscan columns, bracketed mantel and overmantel shelf, and an inset oval overmantel mirror. Current owner/occupant: the Billy Shaver family. (AH, SU, O, WPS)

43. NC House
416 East South Main Street
c. 1955

Small, one-story, three-bay wide, double-pile frame cottage with a screened side porch; low-pitched gabled roof; gabled entry stoop; and small, partially enclosed rear porch.

44. C J.L. Rodman, Jr. House
500 East South Main Street
c. 1910

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 31

This one-story, L-shaped frame cottage was probably constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century by T.R. Nisbet for J.L. Rodman Jr. who lived here into the 1920s. The house has a hip roof wraparound porch with replacement railings; the porch face is sheathed with German siding. The handsome main entrance is framed by sidelights, sawnwork brackets and decorative inset panels. Ventilators in the front facing and side gables are covered with decorative pierced wooden covers. The present owner, Brian Tenny, is currently renovating the house. (O, AH, SU, WPS)

45. C George Tyson, Jr. House
516 East South Main Street
1940

One-story frame house designed and constructed by George Sibley Tyson (#47) for his son, George S. Tyson, Jr. and his bride Eulalia in 1940. The house has a clipped gable roof and a clipped gable centered on the main elevation, a design element reminiscent of earlier houses with Triple-A rooflines. The house has paired windows and is covered with replacement vinyl siding. Situated on a large lot, the house is surrounded by extensive landscaped gardens designed by landscape architect, Phyllis Herring. Plant materials include various bulbs, hollies, nandinas, ivy, and seasonal annuals. Serpentine brick paths lead to brick patios and a gazebo. (O)

OLD PROVIDENCE ROAD:

46. C Martha Tyson Richards House
600 Old Providence Road
c. 1895

One-and-one-half story frame house with high hip roof; tall, stuccoed brick interior chimney; unusually tall gabled dormer; projecting gabled wing on the main elevation; attached hip-roof porch carried by turned posts; porch face sheathed with molded siding; and main entrance composed of a door with a single pane of glass above molded panels and two-pane sidelights. It is thought John McCain, saw mill operator, lived in the house early in this century. The house has been an investment rental property for most of its existence and seen a succession of tenants. Martha Tyson Richards has owned it for the last 25 years; an antiques shop has been here for about

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 32

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

15 years. (O)

47. C George Sibley Tyson House
604 Old Providence Road
1909

Waxhaw merchant George Sibley Tyson constructed this substantial one-and-one-half story, double-pile house in 1909. The frame house displays a high hip roof; wraparound porch with turned balustrade and turned posts; main entrance flanked by three-light sidelights set above inset panels; and large center gable ornamented by a sawn and spindle bargeboard. The center gable originally held a recessed upper porch with turned balusters and ornamental gable bracing; the porch is now enclosed. Paired interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the roof. The house remains in the family and is presently occupied by Mary Belle Austin, a daughter of the builder, and her son, William T. Austin. (DP, SU, O, HG)

48. C Second George Sibley Tyson Store
608 Old Providence Road
1916 and c. 1927

One-story brick commercial building constructed in two stages; the western half of the building was built in 1916, and the nearly identical eastern half was added c. 1927. Both sections display large angled display windows topped by multi-pane transoms, recessed double-leaf entrances and a modestly corbeled cornice which extends the width of both buildings. Each structure has a stepped parapet roofline on the side elevations. The rear and side elevations are broken by six-over-six windows set in segmental arches. The ceiling of the earlier building is covered in pressed tin, while the ceiling of the 1927 portion is sheathed with tongue-and-groove boards. A painted sign advertising "Ballard's Obelisk Flour" fills the west elevation and recalls the structure's original use as a general merchandise store which offered dry goods, groceries, seed, feed, coal and furniture. The Tyson Store remained in business until the mid-1960s, and was operated, after George Sibley Tyson's death in 1943, by his sons, George and William. The building remains in family ownership and today houses an antiques shop. (SM, O, AH, SU, HG)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 33

49. C First George Sibley Tyson Store
At rear of 608 Old Providence Road
c. 1911

One-story gable-front frame store building, constructed about 1911 by George Sibley Tyson for use as a general merchandise store. A shed-roofed western wing and a large shed roof on the main elevation were added at unknown dates. The original store building features a recessed double-leaf main entrance, a louvered ventilator in the gable peak, and two-over-two sash. This building was moved to its present location, at the rear of the brick Tyson Store (#48), in the late 1920s when the eastern half of the brick store was constructed. At present the building is used for farm machinery storage and is in fair condition. (AH, HG, SU)

50. C Lucy Belle Craig House
616 Old Providence Road
c. 1910

One-story, three-bay wide, single-pile frame house with Triple-A roofline, attached hip roof porch carried by turned posts, and main entrance flanked by three-light sidelights. Constructed c. 1910 to house "Aunt" Lucy Belle Craig, housekeeper and nanny for George Sibley Tyson (see #s 47-49). In 1938 Tyson's son William Robinson Tyson and his bride Martha Abernathy Tyson, moved into this house and lived here for a number of years, adding a two-room gable-roofed addition on the west elevation in 1952. The house remains in the family and is currently occupied by H. Jerome and Martha Tyson Richards. (O, WPS)

51. NC House
700 Old Providence Road
c. 1910

One-story frame house with Triple-A roofline, now considerably altered by replacement windows, replacement front door, aluminum siding and replacement wrought iron porch posts at the hip-roofed wraparound porch.

52. C McNeely House
702 Old Providence Road
c. 1900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 34

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Members of the McNeely family have occupied this one-and-one-half story frame house since 1910. Parlie B. McNeely, a Waxhaw mail carrier (d. 1940) was the first family member to live here. He shared the house with two bachelor brothers, disabled World War I veterans. The house is currently owned by his grandson, Gibbon E. McNeely, and occupied by Gibbon's niece, Jane McNeely. The house displays a complex roofline; the main block features a high hip on gable with an additional gable centered on the main elevation. Shed and gable-roofed wings extend from the side and rear elevations; the first addition was constructed c. 1941, and a portion of the hip-roofed wraparound porch with Tuscan columns was enclosed c. 1957 to create a small apartment. The house is lit by two-over-two windows and retains the original main entrance with a glass and molded panel door. Plain weatherboard sheathes the house except for the area under the porch which is covered by narrow beaded boards. (O, WPS)

53. C Shannon House
c. 1900; remodeled 1935
53 a. C House, now used for storage
c. 1895
701 Old Providence Road

The present appearance of this classic bungalow dates from a 1935 remodeling by John Herman Shannon of a late Victorian house, similar to the Richards House (#46), located across the street. This bungalow displays a gable roof with center gabled dormer; two interior brick chimneys; triangular brackets and exposed rafter ends at the wide eaves; paired four-over-one windows; and a shady, recessed porch carried by tapered wood piers on brick plinths. According to John H. Shannon's daughter, Anelia, who now owns the property, the house was remodeled by Tom Blythe, a local builder/contractor. He extended the house to the east and raised and rebuilt the roof in its present configuration. The earliest known owner of the property was J.W. McCain, prominent Waxhaw merchant and founder of the Waxhaw Real Estate and Insurance Co. Early in this century he sold the property to John Cephus Shannon; the property passed to his son, John Herman Shannon, and later to John Herman's daughter, Anelia Shannon.

Anelia Shannon recalls living in the small frame house, located on the same large lot and now used for storage, while the bungalow remodeling was underway. This three-bay wide,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 35

double-pile frame house has an offset main entrance; four-over-one windows; engaged porch with chamfered posts; exposed rafter ends and crude triangular brackets at the eaves; and a small shed-roofed rear addition. After the Shannon family moved into the bungalow, this small house was used as rental property for a number of years. At present it is vacant, somewhat deteriorated, and used for storage. (O, HG)

NORTH BROAD STREET:

54. C Massey-Collins House
315 N. Broad Street
c. 1897

According to local tradition, this vernacular Victorian residence was constructed c. 1897 by Charles S. Massey and his wife, Maude Heath Massey. The house was originally located on a lot at the intersection of West North Main and Hicks streets, and stood adjacent to the residence of Mrs. Massey's father, the noted Waxhaw merchant, A.W. Heath (see #s 30, 31). In 1919 the Masseys sold the house to William Henry Collins and his wife, Della. The house was placed on rolling logs and pulled by mules to its present location. Collins was the manager of the A.W. Heath Real Estate Company and also operated the W.H. Collins & Sons Stable on South Broom Street (#65).

The Massey-Collins House is set back from the street on a large, well-landscaped lot. The striking two-story asymmetrical house features an ornate wraparound porch (rebuilt when the house was moved) carried by chamfered posts set on brick bases, and ornamented by a denticulated cornice and a lattice frieze. Two-over-two windows are set in plain surrounds. The main entrance is composed of a Queen Anne style multi-pane sash set above an ornate molded panel. Raised, molded panels and a two-light transom enframe the main entrance. The interior displays a center hall plan. Walls are sheathed in flush horizontal board. Tongue-and-groove wainscot is used in several rooms; floors are of pine.

The house remained in the Collins family until 1972, when it was purchased by William and Susan Hardage who successfully restored this fine house. Current owner/occupants: Ray and Mary Orsick. (SU, AH, O, WPS)

55. C Wolfe-Niven-Gamble House
301 North Broad Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 36

1922

Carl Wolfe, a pharmacist, had this residence constructed in 1922; Wolfe was the owner of Wolfe's Drug Store, located on Main Street. In 1924 Wolfe sold the house to John Malcom Niven, a cotton buyer, merchant and co-owner of the Niven-Price Company (#11). After Niven's death in 1933, the house was purchased by his daughter Helen Niven Gamble, the present occupant, and her late husband, Henry.

The long, low silhouette of this little-altered house is characteristic of the bungalow style, as are the exposed rafter ends, bracketed gables, and the broad recessed porch. The porch is carried by grouped tapered wooden piers on brick plinths. A brick exterior end chimney pierces the wide, overhanging eaves at the north elevation; there is also an interior brick chimney. Both chimneys have corbeled caps. The spacious interior features a broad arch accenting the south end of the main parlor. (SU, AH, O)

56. C Olin Niven House
215 North Broad Street
1922

This good example of a bungalow was constructed by John M. Niven for his son Olin Niven in 1922, according to Olin's sister, Helen Niven Gamble, who lives next door (#55). The lumber used to construct the house was salvaged from the Waxhaw Normal and Collegiate Institute, which was torn down in 1922 and replaced by a new school. Olin Niven, Jr., the next owner of the house, lived here with his wife and two daughters. The house was sold to the Pfister family who partially remodeled the interior. The present owner/occupant is Doug Boyd. The one-and-one-half story bungalow features a gabled dormer on the main elevation; triangular brackets and exposed rafter ends in the broad eaves; paired, four-over-two windows; and two interior brick chimneys. The original screen door with spindles survives. The broad, recessed porch was screened in at an undetermined point. (interview with Helen Niven Gamble, 3/19/91)

57. NC Sims House
201 North Broad Street
1980

One-story brick veneered ranch house with attached garage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 37

set in a large, neatly landscaped lot. Constructed in 1980 for Connie Sims. (0)

NORTH CHURCH STREET:

58. C Ghant House
315 North Church Street
c. 1910

One-story, L-shaped frame house with six-over-six sash windows; gable ends with returns and louvered ventilators framed by sawn scalloped surrounds; full-width hip-roofed porch with replacement posts; paired six-over-six windows; and main entrance of six-light window above molded horizontal panels. Nothing is known of the early history of this house; it has been owned for a number of years by Clyde Ghant and used as a rental property. (interview with Bonnie McManus, 4/3/91)

59. C Charlie Haigler House
301 North Church Street
c. 1905

Basically intact one-story frame house with a Triple-A roofline; hip-roof attached porch supported by wooden Tuscan columns; four-over-four sash windows; and main entrance composed of single pane of glass set above horizontal raised panels and flanked by three-light sidelights. Corner boards rise to a wide frieze board, a feature common to many of Waxhaw's early residences. The house is sheathed with plain clapboards, except for the area under the porch which is covered with flush boards. The house was the long-time residence of Charlie Haigler, a Waxhaw blacksmith. The house, vacant for nearly two decades and suffering from neglect, is owned by one of Haigler's grandsons who lives in Charlotte. (WPS)

60. C (former) Waxhaw Post Office
101 North Church Street
1905

This diminutive frame building was constructed in 1905 to house the Waxhaw Post Office. It is not known how long the post office occupied this structure; the 1925 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that the post office had moved to another location on South Main Street. According to some local historians, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 38

building housed a silent movie theatre early in this century. After standing vacant for a number of years, the building was renovated in 1983 to house a gift shop. The gable front building has returns in the gable ends, a louvered ventilator framed by a sawn, scalloped board, and large eight-over-eight windows flanking a replacement main entrance. Current owner: Dan Davis family. (WPS, AH)

SOUTH CHURCH STREET:

61. C A.W. Heath Company Mill
103 South Church Street
c. 1905

Substantial, two-story gable-front frame structure, resting on a rough stone foundation, roofed with standing seam metal, and sheathed with rough sawn clapboards. Constructed c. 1905 by A.W. Heath to house a corn and wheat grist mill. The mill operated until the mid-1930s. The building has been used for storage for a number of years. At present it serves as a warehouse for the novelty distributing company located next door in the Cockinos Building (#29). (AH, O)

NORTH BROOM STREET (east side):

62. NC Log Building
62 a. NC Log outbuilding
112 North Broom Street
1981

Two contemporary log "kit" buildings assembled in 1981-1982 as demonstration buildings for a log kit franchisee. The larger of the buildings is a two-story house and the smaller building was probably designed to be a garage or other storage outbuilding. Both buildings are in commercial use. (O)

63. NC Commercial building
100 North Broom Street
c. 1987

Small, one-story frame commercial building constructed c. 1987. The building has housed a variety of commercial tenants including a crafts shop and video arcade. In late 1990 the building was attractively renovated to house a restaurant. (O)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 39

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

SOUTH BROOM STREET:

64. C Commercial Building
101 South Broom Street
c. 1940

Diminutive, rectangular one-story frame building with gable end roof behind a prominent false parapet. The building was reportedly covered with metal sheathing at some early point in its history, but was covered with German siding some years ago. An incongruous cinder block side wing was added in recent years. The building has housed Hancock's Brass, Inc. since 1989. According to Mr. Hancock, the structure was originally used as an ice house and for coal storage for one of the commercial buildings on nearby South Main Street. (O)

65. C W.H. Collins & Sons Stables
121 South Broom Street
c. 1930

Large, two-story gable-front barn with projecting gable at the peak which shelters the hay bale hauling equipment and the haymow door. The barn is roofed with tin over widely spaced wood rafters; the walls are also covered with corrugated metal panels. The barn was constructed c. 1930 for William Henry Collins who used the building for his horse, mule and cattle trading business. Collins operated the business with his son John Collins until early 1950s. According to local historian, Harry Y. Gamble, the stable "was a popular place for farmers or anyone interested in horses. It was also a gathering place for the town's leading checker players. John Collins was an expert in the training of horses." The Collins Estate owned the building until c. 1966; subsequent owners used the structure for an auto repair garage, a pool room, and welding shop. At present the building is used for storage. (HG, AH, SU)

66. C Collins-Mullis House
300 South Broom Street
c. 1910

The earliest known owner of this one-story L-shaped frame house was John Collins, who, with his father W.H. Collins, operated the stable a short distance north on Broom Street (#65). The four-bay wide, single-pile house features a projecting gabled

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 40

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

wing on the main elevation; large diamond-shaped louvered ventilators in the gable ends; a center chimney with corbeled cap; six-over-six windows; a wraparound porch carried by slender chamfered posts; shallow rear ell; and aluminum siding. Midge Mullis purchased the house from Collins c. 1950 and continues to live there today. She renovated the house, covering the original wooden ceiling with sheetrock and adding the house's first bathroom. (0)

67. C House
304 South Broom Street
c. 1910

Modest, one-story, four-bay wide, single-pile with rear ell frame cottage with Triple-A roof; pointed arch louvered ventilators in the side gable ends; interior brick chimney; six-over-six windows; and hip-roof porch with replacement wrought iron posts. The porch face is sheathed with flush boards; there are two main entrances. Current owner/occupant: Eula Johnson.

68. C Collins-Blythe-Over House
c. 1905
68 a. NC Garage
c. 1980
308 South Broom Street

Handsome, sensitively renovated one-story frame house characterized by twin gables on the main elevation, two interior brick chimneys (one retains original decorative corbeled cap), spacious wraparound porch, and pointed-arch louvered ventilators in the gable ends. The ventilators are ornamented with decorative, sawn covers like those found elsewhere in the neighborhood. A new garage was constructed on the site of an earlier outbuilding.

According to the present owners, Alan and Ann Over, the house is thought to have been built by a member of the Collins family c. 1903-1905. The Blythe Family were the next owners. The Overs purchased the property from Lennie Blythe in 1980. With the help of neighbor Ray Bigham (#70) the Overs renovated the interior. The kitchen was updated, and the ceilings lowered and sheetrocked (original 12' pine board-sheathed ceilings survive under the sheetrock). A rear porch and side wing were added in the late 1980s. A Plexiglass viewing port offers a glimpse of the 4"x4" heart pine framing members and the original

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 41 Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

tongue-and-groove wall sheathing. Ann Over, a professional artist, painted a landscape mural on the walls of the master bedroom and marbelized the original pier-and-lintel mantels. (SM, O)

69. C Hartis-Worrall House
303 South Broom Street
c. 1910

One-story, three-bay wide, single-pile frame house with Triple-A roofline, interior chimney, six-over-six windows, pointed arch louvered ventilators, and rear ell. The house is currently under renovation by the present owners, Robert and Sybil Worrall. Mr. Worrall has rebuilt the dilapidated hip-roofed front porch with a slightly higher pitched hip roof; entry steps now approach the house from the side rather than the center. Broken sidelights which flanked the main entrance were replaced with single panes sand-etched with a floral pattern. The interior has been considerably altered with the removal of a wall, changing the plan from a center hall configuration to a two-room plan. Nothing is known of the early history of the house; the Worralls purchased the house from a Mr. Hartis. (O)

70. C Crow-Bigham House
307 South Broom Street
c. 1905

One-story, three-bay wide, single-pile with rear ell, gable-roofed frame house with elongated diamond-shaped ventilators in the gable ends; interior brick chimney; six-over-six windows; and nearly full-facade shed roof porch with simple curved brackets marking the entry bay.

Lotta Crow reared her family in this house during the first half of this century. She later was remarried to Dr. G.H. Burgess, a physician and editor of the Waxhaw Enterprise. The present owner, R.W. Bigham has lived here since the late 1950s. Mr. Bigham enclosed a rear porch, and lowered and sheetrocked the ceilings, and installed sheetrock on the walls (leaving the original narrow tongue-and-groove boards in place). (O, WPS)

NORTH PROVIDENCE STREET (west side):

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 42

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

71. C John Davis House
501 North Providence Street
c. 1900 and c. 1925

The present appearance of this one-and-one-half story bungalow dates from a c. 1925 remodeling of a turn-of-the-century frame house. The house was constructed for John Davis (d. 1938), Waxhaw's first depot agent. Davis family members occupied the house until the late 1980s, when it was sold to the Wright family. The house exhibits such typical bungalow features as a gable roof with triangular brackets in deep eaves, a shed roof dormer on the main elevation, and exposed rafter ends. There are hints of the earlier house in the engaged wraparound porch carried by wooden Tuscan columns, connected by a shaped handrail and turned balusters. Large one-over-one windows, and a trio of six-over-six windows in the gable ends, light the interior which is currently being remodeled. What may have been a free-standing auxiliary building in the rear yard (or a portion of the original house) is now connected to the bungalow by a gable-roofed hyphen. This rear wing rests on a new, tall brick foundation which raised the small gable-roofed building to the bungalow's height (there is a pronounced slope to the rear yard). This rear wing has cornerboards which rise to a wide frieze board, a feature found on many of Waxhaw's earliest residences. (WPS)

72. C McGuirt-Anderson House
317 North Providence Street
c. 1910

One-story frame house, three-bay wide, one-bay deep with a rear ell, Triple-A roofline with returns and diamond-shaped ventilators in the gable ends, and a small four-over-one window in the center front gable. The house retains its original main entrance composed of a door with four narrow glass panes above molded panels and flanked by three-light sidelights. The original spindled screen door also survives. A shed-roofed porch carried by tapered wood piers on brick plinths is probably a mid-1920s replacement. Little is known of the early history of this property; according to a neighbor, the McGuirt family lived there at one time; present owner is Effie Anderson. (WPS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 43

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

73. C Zedaker-Haigler-Nisbet House
315 North Providence Street
c. 1890

This one-story L-shaped frame house features a low hip-on-gable roof, a gabled front wing, corner boards which rise to a wide frieze, returns and pointed arch ventilators in the gable ends, six-over-six windows, shed-roof porch, and tall interior chimney. This charming house was built c. 1890 by C.E. Zedaker. A. Lee and Edna Mae Haigler owned and occupied the house in the 1920s. From the early 1950s to the mid-1970s, Mrs. Loma Niven Nisbet, the town librarian and widow of Dr. Taylor Nisbet, a prominent dentist, owned and occupied the house. David Gamble lived here for four to five years after Mrs. Nisbet. The present owner is Gary Underwood who lives here with his mother, Emmy Lou Haywood. (O, WPS)

74. C Walkup-Gamble House
74 a, b, c. all C Frame outbuildings
215 North Providence Street
1897

This interesting, well-maintained house was, according to family tradition, constructed in 1897 by John W. Walkup, a building contractor. The house was later sold to J.R. Walker, a Methodist minister. In 1910, Walker sold the house to James Gamble (1876-1954), a farmer and Jackson Township constable from 1906-1907. He moved to Waxhaw so that his children could attend school there. In 1908, Gamble was elected cotton weigher for the town of Waxhaw, a position which he held for six years. In 1915, Gamble was employed by the Niven-Price Mercantile Company in Waxhaw (#11). Noted local historian Harry Y. Gamble was born in this house in 1921.

Stylistically, the house is quite similar to the original appearance of the George Sibley Tyson House (#47). The one-and-one-half story frame house is dominated by a high hip roof with a large central front gable which contains a recessed porch. Originally, a Chippendale-style balustrade spanned this porch opening, and the same style balustrade was found on the hip-roofed wraparound first story porch; in recent years those balustrades were replaced by ones with turned balusters. Two tall interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the high hip roof; pairs of gabled dormers are found on the side elevations of the roof. The substantial house is further

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 44

enlarged by an original hip-roof rear ell and shed. Tall, four-over-four windows, many with original glass, light the interior. The house is sheathed with plain weatherboards except in the recessed porch and the center gable where beaded novelty siding is found. The center hall plan interior appears little altered. Walls and ceilings are covered with horizontal tongue-and-groove boards. A sitting room mantel features fluted pilasters, ornamental bases and a rectangular frieze. Pilasters on the living room mantel have rope molding; the same molding highlights the bracketed mantel shelf.

Three small, gable-roofed frame outbuildings located at the rear of the deep lot may be contemporary with the house. In somewhat deteriorated condition, they are presently used for storage. Current owner/occupant: Kemp Heinbaugh. (SU, O, AH, WPS)

75. C Steele-Gribble-Haynes House
201 North Providence Street
c. 1920

This expansive, well-maintained, early twentieth century bungalow was owned for many years by Conner Steele, a Waxhaw merchant, who may have been responsible for its construction c. 1920. The house displays a broad gable roof with triangular brackets under the eaves, a tall shed roof front dormer, an engaged porch with grouped, tapering posts on brick bases, and large four-over-one windows with molded surrounds. The main entrance is of mahogany with beveled glass panes. The interior displays a wide center hall, crystal chandeliers in the large front parlor and dining room, 10' ceilings, and pine floors. An unusual corner fireplace with elaborate mirrored overmantels is found in the dining room. The roof was extensively damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989; when it was rebuilt, the architect added two rear dormers and created four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor. The current owner/occupants are John T. and Jeanette H. Haynes. Mrs. Haynes is Waxhaw's current mayor. (SU, AH, WPS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 45

76. C Harris's Store
100 block North Providence Street (west side, south of McDonald
St.)
c. 1920

This diminutive, rectangular gable-front frame commercial building was owned by William Pinkney Harris during the early decades of this century. Harris was one of Waxhaw's early businessmen and operated a store in one or two locations on the town's Main streets before establishing a business on his own property. According to local historian Harry Y. Gamble, the W.P. Harris Feed and Seed business was located in this small building. In early spring, tomato plants were "grown in a hot-bed beside the store, and when the danger of frost was over, tomato plants were sold by the thousands. Along with seeds and groceries this small store specialized in roasted or parched peanuts." Other local historians recall that Harris's residence (now destroyed) was located adjacent to the store.

This rustic building is sheathed with wide unpainted clapboards and roofed with tin. Now housing a crafts store, the building's main elevation has an offset main entrance and a large multi-pane display window. (HG, WPS, SM)

SOUTH PROVIDENCE STREET (west side):

77. C Will Steele House
77 a. C Horse barn
400 South Providence Street
c. 1900

This nearly unaltered one-story frame house, set on a large double lot which includes a fenced pasture and horse barn, was occupied during the early years of this century by Will Steele, Waxhaw merchant, and his wife Martha, who was the town clerk. It was later owned and occupied by their son, Richard, and his wife, Belva Dare Harris Steele. Dare Steele was associated with the nearby Waxhaw School (#78), but is best known as the author of "Listen and Remember," an outdoor drama about the life and times of Andrew Jackson. Now in its 28th season, the drama, with music by Elinor McLaughlin, traces Jackson's life from his birth in the Waxhaws Settlement in 1767 to his inauguration as United States president in 1829.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 46

The one-story, one-room deep Will Steele House is one of the most intact and best detailed Triple-A roofed residences in Waxhaw. The house is covered with plain clapboards except for the center gable and porch face where German siding is used. Chamfered corner boards mark the edges of the single-pile main block. The house is dominated by a spacious hip-roof wraparound porch carried by chamfered posts; a projecting gable marks the entry bay. The house has four-over-four windows, sidelights flanking the main entrance, two interior chimneys (one retains corbeled cap, the other has been stuccoed), and a rear ell which was extended by another bay at an undetermined date.

An open, grassy pasture adjoins the house lot. This lot was originally owned by Harry Nesbit, who lived across the street (#83). A somewhat deteriorated gabled, frame barn located on the northern edge of the lot was used to shelter his horses which he pastured here.

In 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McGuire purchased the Steele House and the adjoining lot. A job transfer to Matthews, N.C. brought the McGuires to North Carolina and a desire for "more space, and [having had] enough of city living", brought the couple to Waxhaw. The McGuires painted the house and re-roofed it, but have done little else to alter the exterior. The kitchen was remodeled, the only significant interior alteration. (O, WPS)

78. C Waxhaw Elementary School
78 a, b, c, d. all NC auxiliary trailers used for classrooms
500 South Providence Street
1941

This substantial, one-story brick school building, sited at the front of a tree-shaded 12-acre tract, is located on the site of a 1922 school which burned in February, 1941. The current building was built shortly thereafter. Earlier schools in Waxhaw have included a small "country school with foot paths through fields and woodlands converging at its doors," which operated during the 1880s and 1890s on North Providence Street. This school operated for about four months each year, instructing students in the "common branches" of reading, writing and arithmetic. In 1897 a new school was constructed, the Waxhaw Institute, later known as the Waxhaw Normal and Collegiate Institute. Documentary photographs of the Institute reveal that it was a frame building dominated by a three-and-one-half story projecting central bay with a flared gable dormer. When

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 48

This well-maintained, L-shaped, two-story house is characteristic of turn-of-the-century design. Tuscan columns support a hip-roofed front porch; most of the porch face is sheathed in flush horizontal boards. The double-leaf main entrance is framed by a molded surround; molded panels are set below three-light sidelights. Symmetrical molded surrounds with corner blocks frame the six-over-six sash windows on the main block and rear ell. Ornamental scalloped ventilator covers are found in the front-facing and side gables. A weatherboarded garage and gable-roofed shed (both contributing structures) are located at the rear of the house. In recent years a log outbuilding (non-contributing, now under reconstruction) was moved onto the very large lot.

Little is known of the earliest history of the house. It is thought to have been built by John Durant Adams and later deeded to his son, Joseph Durant Adams. According to local tradition, Dr. Lemeuel Edwin Guion (1882-1926) purchased the house about the the time of this 1908 marriage to Cora Lee Howard. Dr. Guion was elected Mayor of Waxhaw, "but it is said he was so pressed with patients that he never attended a meeting." In 1918, the house was purchased by Jonas Plyler, owner of the Waxhaw Ford dealership (#16). Plyler's son Otho and his wife, Blanche, acquired the property about 1932 and owned it until 1945 when it was sold to William Davis. Under Davis's ownership, a one-story bay on the main elevation was removed and the one-story rear ell enlarged. The property remained in the Davis family until 1982, when it was purchased by Sharon and Coite Moss. Current owner/occupant: Mangrum and Carolyn Kelly. (SU, AH, WPS)

80. C John Lafayette Rodman House
80 a. C Fence
116 North Providence Street
c. 1889; 1895; 1906

This substantial, well-maintained two-story frame residence with slate roof was constructed by John Lafayette Rodman (1850-1918) and his wife Harriet Hyatt Rodman. Family tradition maintains that John Rodman erected a one-story gable-roofed dwelling, which forms the east side wing of the present house, shortly after his arrival in Waxhaw in 1889. By 1895, the two-story L-shaped main block had been constructed. Cornerboards rise to wide frieze board and molded cornices with returns

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 47

that building was torn down in 1922, the lumber was used to construct the Olin Niven House (#56). The frame Institute building was replaced by a two-story brick school with classrooms arranged around a central auditorium. When that school building burned in 1941, classes were temporarily held in the separate gymnasium building. The present 1941 building housed Waxhaw High School until 1960, when it became Waxhaw Elementary School, serving grades one through eight. In 1970, the school became a kindergarten through fifth grade school. Enrollment, now numbering approximately 520 students, has exceeded the present facility (four small free-standing "mobile" classrooms accommodate the overflow) and land has been purchased and plans drawn to erect a new facility for 750 students. The new school, to be built on a different site, is scheduled for completion in 1992. Adaptive reuse plans are being studied for the present school building.

The present one-story, ten-bay wide, twenty-three bay deep symmetrical brick (one-to-six bond) school building exhibits restrained classical influences. Two identical recessed main entrances, located at the ends of the main block, are framed by scored limestone arched surrounds with keystones; fanlights top the double-leaf entrances. Parapet ends mark the edges of the rectangular main block. Small gable-front wings, with returns in the gable ends, flank the main entrances; brick quoins mark the edges of the wings. White, concrete flat arches top the windows on the main elevation. All windows on the building are aluminum-trimmed, insulated triple-track replacements. The grade of the lot drops at the rear, allowing some basement-level rooms. A small brick hyphen connects a windowless gymnasium wing to the rear of the main school building. A playground is located at the rear of the school; the four non-contributing mobile classrooms are located on the edge of the north (side) parking lot.

(historical information excerpted from "School and Community," a 1991 report written by Waxhaw School faculty member, Jane McNeely, located in school library; DP; WPS)

NORTH PROVIDENCE STREET (east side):

- 79. C. Adams-Davis House
- 79 a, b. both C Garage and Shed
- 79 c. NC reconstructed log outbuilding
- 202 North Providence Street
- c. 1900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 49

ornament the gable ends. A projecting polygonal bay and a two-tier hip-roof porch dominate the Providence Street elevation of the house. The porches were originally carried by chamfered posts, but received replacement turned balusters and paired Tuscan columns c. 1906. That year, the main elevation was shifted from the Providence Street (west) elevation to the Gold Mine Road (north) elevation. A one-story porch with grouped Tuscan columns on wooden bases, denticulated cornice and roofline balustrade was built on the new main elevation. The new porch face was sheathed with flush boards. The projecting bay (facing Providence Street) also received a rooftop balustrade during the 1906 renovation. The east end of the new one-story front porch was enclosed as a room about 1925. (All roofline balustrades were removed by 1962.) The east end of the new one-story front porch was enclosed as a room about 1925. The house is being slowly, but meticulously restored. In recent years the balustrades between the porch supports have been replaced. Of special note are the inlaid hardwood floors in the parlor and dining room. These rooms also boast mantelpieces with unusually elegant overmantels with beveled curvilinear mirrors. The house has remained in Rodman family ownership to the present.

An unusual fence encircles the large house lot. Made of a tubular metal frame which supports decorative twisted wire fencing, the fence rests on a low brick wall and is topped by a spiky fleur de lys crest. The fence appears in a c. 1906 photograph of the house and may date from the house remodeling done that year. (SU, AH, DP, O, HG, WPS)

SOUTH PROVIDENCE STREET (east side):

81. C Dr. William Robert McCain House
81 a. C Garage
201 South Providence Street
1914

This interesting, somewhat eccentric Colonial Revival style residence with late Victorian details was constructed in 1914 by Dr. William Robert McCain (1874-1954) and his wife, Clyde Virginia Niven McCain. The main elevation of the two-story, hip-roofed brick (one-to-six bond, with glazed headers) residence is dominated by a monumental single-bay, two-story portico carried by tapered posts which are sheathed with imbricated wooden shingles. The portico also features a shingled,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 50

pedimented gable with fanlight, denticulated cornice, and small second story porch marked by turned balusters. Fanlights and imbricated shingles also highlight the gable ends of the rear and side ells. A one-story porch under the portico extends the width of the three-bay main elevation and wraps around the south side elevation. A portion of the south side porch was enclosed in 1945, incorporating the existing fluted wood posts and denticulated cornice. A projecting brick polygonal bay is located on the north (side) elevation. Windows are one-over-one sash set in brick segmental arches. Main entrances at both the first and second story levels are set in segmental arches.

The largely unaltered interior boasts a variety of fine early twentieth century style mantels, displaying carved pilasters, fluted posts, or overmantels. Rooms have vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot topped by a chair rail. Interior doors feature molded, horizontal panels set in molded surrounds. A rectangular newel post with molded recessed panels, and turned balusters support the shaped handrail of the closed string main staircase.

The 1925 Sanborn Insurance Map indicates that a garage and two other storage buildings were then located at the rear of the property. At present, a brick garage apparently built prior to World War II is located in the north (side) yard.

Dr. William Robert McCain graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1897; that year he began his medical practice in Waxhaw. He moved his practice to High Point, NC in 1923. The property was rented to attorney Hal Adams until 1928 when it was purchased by James Davis (1900-1946), a mail carrier, and his wife Lucille. (SU, AH, O, SM)

82. NC House
407 South Providence Street
c. 1970 ?

One-story gable-roofed frame house.

83. C T.R. Nisbet House
415 South Providence Street
c. 1925 and 1940

Charming, one-story house, similar in design to many early twentieth century Waxhaw houses with Triple-A roof, front gable with a pointed arch ventilator, and returns in the gable ends.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 51

The house was originally of frame construction with a wraparound porch until 1940 when it was renovated and brick veneered. It is believed that T.R. Nisbet owned the large lot on which the house was constructed. The R. Maxwell McCain family occupied the house from 1932 until 1940. McCain's daughter, Gladys McCain Kerr, was born in this house. Harry Nisbet lived here for a number of years and pastured his horses in the lot across the street (see #77). (WPS)

KING STREET:

84. C Ralph J. Belk House
508 King Street
c. 1885

This well-preserved, two-story frame house was constructed c. 1885 by Ralph J. Belk, the manager of the Waxhaw Belk Store, and a cousin to Belk founder, William Henry Belk. The house consists of an L-shaped main block with a pair of rear one-story ells. On the main elevation, paneled wood piers support a hip-roof wraparound porch; vertical tongue-and-groove siding set between a handrail and bottom rail forms a balustrade wall. The single-door main entrance displays elaborate applied molded ornamentation set in a paneled, molded surround with diamond-shaped corner blocks. The porch face is sheathed in horizontal tongue-and-groove boards. Beaded surrounds frame the two-over-two sash.

The handsome, relatively unaltered interior features a thirty-five foot center hall. Rising from the hall is a closed string, straight run stair; turned balusters and a robust turned newel post support the shaped handrail. Tongue-and-groove wainscot, topped by a molded chair rail, is used throughout the house. Simple pier-and-lintel mantels feature molded pilasters and plain friezes; the parlor mantel is more elaborate with floral ornamented piers and paired brackets supporting the shelf. (SU, AH, N)

85. C McWhorter-Guion-Howard House
407 King Street
c. 1920

One-story frame (covered with vinyl siding) house with L-gable roof and unusual additional attic gable on the main elevation, full-width hip-roof porch with solid balustrade made

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 52

of beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Two small outbuildings indicated on the 1925 Sanborn map do not survive. The house is named for a succession of families who occupied it during the twentieth century. Current owner/occupants: Jerry Jenkins family. (SM, WPS)

86. C Weir-McCain House
86 a, b, c. all C Frame outbuildings
409 King Street
c. 1900; remodeled 1920

One-and-one-half story frame house built around the turn of this century and remodeled in 1920 to its present bungalow form. The house displays a gabled center dormer, triangular brackets and exposed rafter ends, unusual 8' tall, nine-over-one sash windows on the first floor, and a quartet of nine-over-one windows in the dormer. The full-width engaged porch has four square brick piers and a brick balustrade. The interior has a center hall plan, 15' ceilings, and late Victorian woodwork. R. Maxwell McCain, manager of the Waxhaw Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company, purchased the house in 1940. Three small frame outbuildings, original to the house, stand in the rear yard. Current owner/occupant: Chris Michaelson. (SM, O, WPS)

87. C William Broom House
415 King Street
c. 1910

According to local tradition this one-and-one-half story frame house may have been constructed about 1910 by William Broom, operator of a general merchandise store. The house is crowned by a broad high hip roof broken by shed roof dormers which may have been added during a c. 1920 remodeling. The house is dominated by attached hip-roof porches which extend the length of the main and south (side) elevations; a tongue-and-groove solid balustrade connects the square, fluted porch posts. A denticulated cornice encircles the porch. The house has an elaborate front door, flanked by sidelights and set in a splayed and crosssetted surround; the surround is further highlighted by Italianate brackets and recessed decorative panels. The windows are four-over-four sash framed by plain surrounds. Plain weatherboard sheathes the house, except for the porch face on the main elevation where horizontal tongue-and-groove boards are used.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 53

The interior is little altered, retaining its flush horizontal board sheathing. Mantels on the north interior chimney display sawnwork friezes; the mantel in the parlor has fluted piers and a mirrored overmantel. An open string staircase rises from the rear of the wide center hall, which runs the length of the double-pile main block. Current owner/occupant: Grey Scheer. (SU, AH, WPS)

88. C Luther Baker House
507 King Street
1933

This one-story frame bungalow was built about 1933 by Luther Baker, owner of a Waxhaw general store. It was built to replace an earlier house on the site which burned. The focal point of the main elevation is a wide gable-roofed entry porch with exposed rafter ends, triangular brackets, and brick pier supports. Four-over-one sash windows light the five-bay wide, double-pile house. The house is sheathed with German siding. (SU, AH, SM)

89. NC House
511 King Street
c. 1985

One-and-one-half story new Colonial Revival style frame house. Built on the site of the 1903 Leonard T. McCain House, where Metta Nisbet, piano teacher and pianist at Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, lived for many years. Mrs. Nisbet's daughter, Sara Lynn Nisbet Byrum, operated the first antique shop in Waxhaw. (AH, WPS)

90. C George McCain House
515 King Street
c. 1915

Two-story frame house set back from the street on a sizable lot. The house displays a hip-on-gable roof, an elaborate paneled and molded main entrance, and a hip roof attached porch. The essential character of this early twentieth century house remains despite the application of asbestos shingle siding. George and Anna McCain probably built this house c. 1915. They boarded students who attended the nearby Waxhaw High School. Their daughter, Ruth, taught third grade at Waxhaw Elementary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 7 Page 54

School. The house remains in the McCain family. (SM, WPS)

McKIBBEN STREET:

91. 89. NC Pottery Jug
in grassy area, intersection of McKibben and South Providence
streets
installed, late 1980s

This large (approx. 4' tall, 3' diameter) brown earthenware jug originally was used to hold chemicals at the Fillo-Tex textile mill. The jug has a traditional bulbous shape and a narrow neck. It was used as decorative street furniture on North Main Street where the reproduction well is now located (#22a) and was moved to its current location in the late 1980s when the replica of the town well was constructed to commemorate Waxhaw's Centennial (1889-1989). (WPS, Town Clerk)

92. NC House
209 McKibben Street
c. 1970

Modest, one-story, gable-roofed brick veneered and frame house with attached carport.

93. C McGuirt-Burgess House
201 McKibben Street
c. 1910

Intact, one-story frame house with Triple-A roofline, returns in the gable ends, chamfered cornerboards rising to a wide frieze board, hip-roofed wraparound porch carried by chamfered posts, twin gable-roofed rear ells, and unusually decorative louvered ventilators in the gable ends ornamented by arched sawwork covers. This house is thought to have been built by Sam McGuirt who lived here early in the century. It was later sold to Dr. G.H. Burgess, physician and editor of the Waxhaw Enterprise. Current owner/occupant: Anne Maynor. (SM, WPS)

BREVARD STREET:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 55

94. C Nisbet-McWhorter House
115 Brevard Street
c. 1910

This largely intact one-story frame house displays an interesting variation on the Triple-A roofline. Here there are twin gables on the main elevation, each with returns and ornamental, circular ventilator covers. The same sawnwork ventilator covers appear on the side and rear gables, as well. A hip roof attached porch is carried by chamfered posts. The porch face is sheathed with diagonally placed narrow beaded boards. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the roof.

The house is believed to have been built by the Nisbet family. T.R. Nisbet owned and developed several building lot in the immediate neighborhood. Minnie Nisbet is the earliest known owner of this property. The house passed to Richard Nisbet who rented it to Mr. and Mrs. William McWhorter. The McWhorter's son, William purchased the house from the Nisbet Estate in 1953. (O, AH)

95. C Nisbet-Nash House
119 Brevard Street
1920

According to the present owner, Brian Tenny, this one-and-one half story frame house was built by Thomas Richard Nisbet in 1920. James Nisbet and T.R. Nisbet, Jr. lived here for an undetermined period of time. The Nash family purchased the house in 1954 and rented it to succession of teachers who taught at the nearby Waxhaw High School (#78). The Nashes owned the property for thirty-two years until Brian Tenny purchased it in 1990.

The three-bay wide, single-pile with rear ell house received a shed roof center dormer at an unknown date. The unusually wide overhanging eaves are ornamented by triangular brackets, more typically bungalow features. The house is roofed with standing seam metal and retains the original four-over-four sash windows, fifteen-light main entrance flanked by sidelights, and hip roof porch supported by turned posts. Aluminum siding currently sheathes the house. (O)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Community Development
Commerce
Transportation

Period of Significance
1888-1941

Significant Dates
1888

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
various and unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Waxhaw Historic District encompasses 122 historically and architecturally significant buildings and structures located in a compact area centered around the railroad tracks which bisect Main Street. The district's largely intact resources are associated with a significant period of growth and prosperity in Waxhaw which began with the arrival of the railroad in 1888, peaked in the 1910s and 1920s, and extended into the 1940s. The district presents a clear and consistent feeling of, and association with, its late nineteenth century origins and early twentieth century development as a locally important cotton processing and commercial center in Union County. The Waxhaw Historic District contains an impressive collection of largely unaltered vernacular brick commercial structures and a representative variety of residential styles dating primarily from the last decade of the nineteenth and first two decades of the twentieth centuries. The district's commercial structures embody the distinctive characteristics of turn-of-the-century commercial construction including the use of brick as a building material and such decorative elements as corbeling and cast iron accents. The residential structures are representative of various locally and nationally popular styles of the era including the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival style, vernacular frame houses characterized by Triple-A rooflines, and bungalows. Today, Waxhaw's central business district is recognized as a notable regional center for the retail antiques business. Many of the historic commercial buildings house antiques stores. This flourishing industry has been instrumental in the preservation and continued economic importance of the historic district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 1

Historical Background and Community Development, Transportation and Commerce Contexts

The town of Waxhaw, located sixteen miles south of North Carolina's largest city, Charlotte, is situated at the western edge of Union County in Jackson Township. Union County, established in 1842 from portions of Anson and Mecklenburg counties, is located at the southwestern tip of North Carolina's piedmont plateau and is bordered at the south and west by South Carolina.

Before the arrival of white colonists in the mid-eighteenth century, Jackson and neighboring Sandy Ridge townships were inhabited by the Waxhaw and Catawba Indian tribes of the Siouan nation. This area of North Carolina and an area which extended into South Carolina were known to the settlers as "The Old Waxhaws Settlement" (or "the Waxhaws"). The area now occupied by the town of Waxhaw (not incorporated until 1889) lay about midway between the center of The Old Waxhaws Settlement and its northeastern fringe where Andrew Jackson Sr. settled his family in the mid-1700s [Gamble, Waxhaw 100 History, p. 4]. John Lawson, a royal surveyor, traveled through this area about 1707 and wrote favorably about the hospitality and industriousness of the Waxhaw tribe and the richness of their land. He characterized the soil as "red as Blood . . . and so durable that no labor of Man, in one or two Ages, could make it poor. . . . Here were Corn-Stalks in their Fields as thick as the Small of a Man's Leg, and they are ordinarily to be seen" [Lawson, A New Voyage to Carolina, pp. 45-46].

By the 1840s the Waxhaw tribe, decimated by disease and warfare, had moved away from Union County. A steady stream of settlers, primarily Scotch-Irish, migrated from Virginia to the North Carolina back country and occupied the newly available "Land of the Waxhaws." The hardy, hard-working settlers were primarily subsistence farmers, but excess corn, wheat, and cotton became cash crops, sold in nearby North and South Carolina towns. Union County soil was well-suited for cotton growing and cotton was an important commercial crop throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. Settlers in Union County followed the typical building practices found throughout piedmont North Carolina. Building materials were readily available from the heavily forested area. The earliest residences and outbuildings were small one-room log structures with gabled roofs and exterior end chimneys. After the farm had been established, and as families grew, these residences

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 2

were often expanded with rear and side wings. None of these earliest buildings is known to survive, although several relatively unaltered log outbuildings are located in the county [Pickens, Sweet Union, pp. 18-20].

The town of Waxhaw developed along the forested crest of a rocky ridge, which begins its rise at Twelve Mile Creek (a commonly cited reference point in old Waxhaw town deeds) and descends to Rone Branch, running east-west. Local historian, Harry Y. Gamble, wrote of the town's origins:

In the 1880s a number of families were living along the scattered, winding and sometimes impassable dirt roads which led through dense woodland and stumpy new ground which shortly would intersect the old Salisbury-Charleston-Augusta trading route near the site where the town of Waxhaw now stands. One of these families was that of James W. Price who owned most of the land north of the ridge to Twelve Mile Creek. The Givens family owned much of the land lying south of the ridge [Gamble, Waxhaw 100 History, p. 4].

The pace of the town's development accelerated dramatically when the Georgia, Carolina and Northern rail line came to Waxhaw in the spring of 1888. Efforts to bring a railroad to Union County had begun in earnest in 1871 in the nearby county seat of Monroe. Local business leaders there campaigned to attract the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad to the county. For the developing towns of North Carolina's piedmont and western counties, the railroad was a symbol of progress and a way to break out of their geographic isolation. The first rail lines in North Carolina were laid in the eastern area of the state in 1840. Later, tracks extended south to New Bern and Beaufort on the coast, and west to the foothills town of Morganton. By 1860 North Carolina had 891 miles of railroad [Lefler, North Carolina, pp. 361-362]. Rail lines were laid to Monroe in 1874 and the \$60,000 bond which funded the construction was paid off by 1877 [Pickens, Sweet Union, p. 33]. In April 1888, Monroe was connected to Waxhaw by rail. In Waxhaw the tracks were laid along the crest of the ridge, and North and South Main Streets (originally called North and South Front Streets) grew up on either side of the tracks. In July 1888 the first depot, built by Seaboard Railroad, was constructed in Waxhaw on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 3

south side of the tracks between High and Church streets (depot dismantled in the 1950s).

Cotton had rapidly regained its agricultural dominance in the South during the Reconstruction years after the Civil War. With its good rail access, Waxhaw soon became a county center for the cotton growing and processing industry. A large cotton platform and several buildings for the storage of guano and cotton seeds were erected next to the depot, extending along the tracks at the west [Gamble, p.4]. Sawmills, grist mills, cotton gins and cotton warehouses were located in the small towns which grew up along the railroad tracks throughout the county. Local farmers were growing cotton in large quantities and nearby, convenient gins were a necessity. Perhaps the largest industrial venture outside Monroe in the late nineteenth century, was the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill located on the eastern edge of Waxhaw's commercial district. Established by John Lafayette Rodman [#80] and E.J. Heath of Matthews, North Carolina, the mill was Waxhaw's largest employer until it closed in 1946.

The town of Waxhaw's charter of incorporation was ratified on March 7, 1889. It specified that the corporate limits of the town extend one-half mile in each direction from the town's center, the depot, so that the corporate limits were one mile square. The charter specified that the new town be governed by a mayor, three commissioners, secretary, treasurer and a marshal. Colonel James C. Davis was appointed as first Mayor. Colonel Davis moved to Waxhaw from Scotland County, North Carolina in 1888. He was a Princeton graduate and an attorney. (Davis family descendants have long been active in the economic and social development of the community [#s 12, 20]. His granddaughter Frances Davis Thompson and her husband Collins D. Thompson reside today in a mid-twentieth century house built on the site of Colonel Davis's original homesite on North Providence Street, and across the street from the John Davis House [#71]. John Davis was Waxhaw's first depot agent.) The first town commissioners were James M. Morrow, B.F. Morrow and J.H. Starnes. Starnes's residence [#24], one of the oldest houses in town, survives largely intact.

Mercantile and manufacturing concerns sprang up in the wake of the railroad's arrival in Waxhaw. The most dramatic growth occurred in the county seat of Monroe, but the small communities along the railroad in Union County--Waxhaw, Wingate and Marshville--also grew into full-fledged towns. In Waxhaw commercial establishments grew up simultaneously along both

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

the north and south sides of Main Street. According to local tradition, one of the new town's first residents and merchants was Duncan McDonald who arrived in Waxhaw in April 1888, "hung his coat on a tree and began clearing a place where he would build a store [Gamble, p. 7]." He built a two-story frame building (destroyed) on North Main Street where he operated a general store and served as Waxhaw's first postmaster. His residence [#3] survives largely intact on what is now McDonald Street.

Both the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches were organized in 1888 and frame churches built near the railroad tracks on the north side of Church and Main streets, respectively. Both of the original church buildings were replaced by the present brick structures [#s 2 and 6] in the late 1920s. A school was in operation on North Providence Street in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In 1897, a new school [see #76] was constructed on Providence Street south of the tracks. A hotel (no longer extant), built soon after the arrival of the railroad, was located a short distance north of the tracks on North Church Street. The McDonald Hotel [#10] on North Main Street replaced it in 1912.

The wide variety of businesses and services, established at various times during the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decades of the twentieth century in the Waxhaw Historic District, reflect the vibrancy of the business community. There were general merchandise stores [#s 1, 14, 18, 19, 31, 39, 48, 49]; hardware and grocery stores [#s 11, 30, 36, 48]; a produce stand [#76]; post office [#s 34, 60]; restaurant [#18]; movie theatre [#18]; telephone exchange [#s 16, 31]; drugstore [#19]; furniture stores [#s 30, 48]; bank [#34]; automobile dealership and garage [#s 16, 35]; wagons and livery stables [#s 30, 65]; blacksmith [#59], seamstress and milliner [#s 28, 12]; and physicians [#s 16, 28, 79, 93].

A remarkable number of residences associated with Waxhaw's early businessmen and other early "movers and shakers" survive in the historic district. Among these are the homes of merchants Duncan McDonald [#3], Hugh Wilson Broome [#7], A.W. Heath and Charles Massey [#8], John Lafayette Rodman [#80], George Sibley Tyson [#47], William Henry Collins [#54], John Malcolm Niven [#55], Ralph J. Belk [#84], and William Broom [#87]. Other prominent citizens' homes which survive include those of bank manager and North Carolina legislator, W.C. Massey [#9]; Principal of Waxhaw High School, J.W. McCall [#41]; pharmacist, Carl Wolfe [#55]; Methodist minister, J.R. Walker

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 5

[#74]; and physicians Lemuel Guion [#79], William Robert McCain [#81] and Sam McGuirt [#91].

During the 1920s and 1930s cotton processing and retail trade continued to drive Waxhaw's economy, albeit at a much reduced level during the years of the Great Depression. The Rodman-Heath Mill continued in operation, even though the price of cotton plummeted. The Depression was probably more difficult for those who depended on cotton as a cash crop and on manufacturers than it was for the small farmers in the county. "A long time resident of Union County who spent her childhood on a small family farm commented that her family hardly knew there was a Depression since they had never had much before then" [Pickens, Sweet Union, p. 57]. There was some new construction in Waxhaw's Historic District during the late 1920s and early 1930s, despite the generally distressed state of the economy. New buildings included two handsome brick churches [#s 2 and 6] built in 1928 and 1929 (replacing earlier frame buildings), commercial buildings [#s 32 and 33] built on Main Street in 1931, and an addition to the Tyson Store [#48] on Old Providence Road built in 1927. One new residence, the Luther Baker House [#88] was built in 1933 in the popular bungalow style. Other houses were remodeled as bungalows during the 1930s. They include the Shannon House [#53] and the John Davis House [#71].

Today's historic district was essentially in place by the time prosperity returned in the 1940s and 1950s. However, by the late 1930s changes that would deal a death blow to the supremacy of cotton as the major agricultural crop in the south had begun [Gamble, p. 24]. Man-made polymers began to appear in the mid-1930s. In 1938 DuPont began producing nylon commercially and the demand for cotton was severely diminished. Operations at the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill slowed so much that the mill closed in 1946. (In recent years the Alissa Mills, a Division of Melville Knitwear, purchased the mill. Now it is once again one of Waxhaw's largest industrial employers along with Unico Business Forms which occupies several buildings on North Main Street [#s 1, 11, 12, 13]).

Local historian, Harry Gamble wrote of the period following the decline of the cotton industry:

Over a rather long period of time, activity in Waxhaw slowed almost to a halt. Townspeople were busy with their normal routines, but excitement in the community was minimal. Time

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 6

dragged on. Businesses closed. The hum-drum of things in general became more so. Children went to school, the farmers came into town occasionally and sat on benches within or outside store buildings and talked about whatever came up for discussion, and the buses came through, stopped briefly at the bus station [#38] and hurried on [Gamble, p. 25].

Downtown Waxhaw was dying, but not from the usual cause, the suburban shopping mall; Waxhaw's mall would not be built until the late 1980s. Retail trade was being siphoned off by the easy access to the larger markets of Charlotte, Monroe and nearby South Carolina towns. But Waxhaw's proximity to urban markets would prove its salvation. Waxhaw's present major industry, the antiques business, began almost by chance. In the late 1950s Sara and John Byrum owned a furniture store on North Main Street [#18]. They acquired, and then promptly sold, a few pieces of antique furniture. They purchased more antiques, and again sold out almost immediately. They soon began dealing exclusively in antiques. Members of the Waxhaw Woman's Club began to sponsor what soon became the popular annual Woman's Club Antiques Show. The publicity given the show interested many dealers from Charlotte and elsewhere. Antiques dealers began acquiring the stores along Main Street and opening retail shops. Over the past two decades Waxhaw has become an "antiques village" with over twenty dealers located in the largely intact early twentieth century buildings of the historic district.

Today Waxhaw is a handsome and vital community which has guaranteed its successful future by celebrating its rich past. The historic central business district is once again the center of Waxhaw's retail economy. The streets are busy and there is a general air of prosperity about the town. The flourishing antiques industry has contributed greatly to the preservation of the historic commercial buildings which have proved fitting settings for these businesses. Waxhaw has also become something of a "bedroom community" for residents who work in the major metropolitan city of Charlotte, about a thirty-minute drive north.

Architectural Context

The buildings in the Waxhaw Historic District are typical and representative of those found in many other North Carolina small towns and commercial centers in the late nineteenth and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 7

early twentieth centuries. The commercial buildings and residences represent a variety of nationally and locally popular architectural types and styles and include vernacular brick commercial buildings, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style dwellings, vernacular houses with Triple-A rooflines, and bungalows.

Typically, the earliest commercial buildings in the district were frame construction. A few of these survive, including an early post office [#60], stores [#s 49, 76], and a grist mill [#61]. The last decade of the nineteenth and first two decades of the twentieth centuries were a boom time for Waxhaw, as was the case with many other towns in North Carolina. In Waxhaw, as elsewhere, the economic vitality which characterized this era is represented today in its vernacular commercial architecture. The builders of Waxhaw's commercial buildings followed the general trend for urban construction at that time and produced a collection of handsome, durable brick buildings. Two late nineteenth century brick stores survive. They are the Belk Building [#39], recently restored to its original 1894 appearance and used now for community gatherings, and the original block of the A.W. Heath Store [#31] constructed in 1898.

An impressive group of brick commercial buildings dating from the first two decades of the twentieth century survive largely intact in the district. They are most commonly ornamented by corbeling and cast iron accents [#s 11, 14, 16, 18, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 48]. Some of the more notable buildings include the c. 1900 Weir Building [#14]; c. 1907 Plyler Building [#16]; the 1913 Niven-Price Mercantile [#11]; the A.W. Heath stores [#s 30 and 31]; and the neighboring commercial buildings [#s 34, 35] which have altered first stories and largely intact second stories; and the Farmer's Ginning and Trading Company [#s 36 and 37], largely unaltered and in use today as a restaurant.

An impressive number of late nineteenth century residences survive in the historic district. The popular Queen Anne style is well represented by the Ralph J. Belk House [#84], the Massey-Collins House [#54], the Hugh Wilson Broome House [#7] and the Presbyterian Manse [#4]. Waxhaw expanded during the 1910s and 1920s, a time of general prosperity in North Carolina. The majority of residences in the historic district were constructed during this time [see #s 41, 42, 44, 47, 50, 52, 53, 55, 55, 58, 66-72, 75, 81, 85, 86, 87, 89, 93-95]. Good representative examples of the popular frame houses with Triple-A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 8

rooflines include the Starnes-Steele House [#24], the Nisbet-McWhorter House [#94], and the Will Steele House [#77]. Several good, largely unaltered, examples of the bungalow are found in the district. These include the Wolfe-Niven-Gamble House [#55], the Olin Niven House [#56], and the John Davis House [#71]. A few Colonial Revival style houses were constructed in the early twentieth century. Perhaps the most interesting of these is the Dr. William Robert McCain House [#81] with its monumental two-story portico carried by tapered posts covered with imbricated sawn shingles.

Building activity was severely curtailed during the Depression years, but a few residences and businesses were constructed during the 1930s. These include the William Massey House, 1932, [#9] and the Luther Baker House, a bungalow completed in 1933 [#86]. Commercial structures built during the 1930s include a pair of brick stores [#s 31 and 32], built in 1931. The Collins Stables barn was built c. 1930 [#63] on South Broom Street.

The commercial area of the district changed little after the 1930s, but construction continued in the residential area in the 1940s. Two older residences, the W.C. Gamble House [#5] and the T.R. Nisbet House [#81] were remodeled c. 1940. One new residence [#43] was constructed in 1940. Its center gable, here a gambrel rather than gable, appears to echo the popular earlier Triple-A rooflines found throughout the historic district.

Some older buildings in the central business district were remodeled in the 1950s and 1960s in such ways as to make them non-contributing structures. For instance [#19], constructed c. 1925 was given a new "colonial" facade, which is not compatible with the clear, and generally consistent early twentieth century face of district. Probably the county's best example of sympathetic, new construction in an historic district is found in Waxhaw. The Cockinos Building [#29], completed in 1988, was designed to blend well with the adjoining turn-of-the century A.W. Heath Stores [#s 30 and 31] by utilizing design elements of the older stores including pilasters, recessed entries, and restrained corbeling.

Historic Preservation in Waxhaw

The Waxhaw Preservation Society was formed in April, 1990. The Society initiated and partially funded the preparation of this National Register nomination. Society members have been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 9

generous with their knowledge of the town's history and are dedicated to the preservation of this history and to the preservation of the town's historic built environment. Earlier preservation-minded activist groups in Waxhaw include the Waxhaw Woman's Club, which is responsible for the 1974 restoration of the Belk Company Store building [#39], and the Beautification Committee established in 1989 as an outgrowth of the Centennial Committee. In 1991 the Beautification Committee led a successful volunteer effort which relocated the overhead power lines in the commercial district and installed period street lighting on the commercial blocks of Main Street. In 1990 the Union County Board of Commissioners, Monroe-Union County Historic Properties Commission, and the Union County Historical Society published Sweet Union: An Architectural and Historical Survey of Union County, North Carolina. This comprehensive publication resulted from the compilation of data on the county's historic built environment from various architectural surveys conducted across the county during the past decade. During the preparation of the Waxhaw Historic District nomination, the working files for the district's buildings, originally compiled in the early 1980s, were augmented, updated, and corrected where necessary.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 71.5 acres

UTM References

A 17 52299.90 386486.0
Zone Easting Northing
C 17 52400.0 386425.0
E 17 522840 3864410

B 17 52340.0 386492.0
Zone Easting Northing
D 17 52333.0 386386.0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, Consultant
organization _____ date July 1, 1991
street & number 4606 Hunt Road telephone (919) 732-5439
city or town Hillsborough state NC zip code 27278

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 1 Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Gamble, Harry Y. Waxhaw 100 History. Waxhaw: Town of Waxhaw Centennial Committee, 1989.
- Lawson, John. A New Voyage to Carolina. London, 1709; rpt. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967.
- Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Albert Ray Newsome. North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963.
- Pickens, Suzanne S., ed. Sweet Union: An Architectural and Historical Survey of Union County, North Carolina. Monroe, N.C.: Union County Board of Commissioners, Monroe-Union County Historic Properties Commission, Union County Historical Society, 1990.
-

10. Geographical Data Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Waxhaw Historic District is shown on the accompanying map, "Waxhaw Historic District," which is drawn to a scale of 1"=100'. The map is a compilation of tax maps for the Town of Waxhaw, (Sheet #s 5-113, 5-115, 5-116) drawn by the Union County Tax Office, and last revised on January 1, 1990.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Waxhaw Historic District have been drawn to include the greatest concentration of intact architecturally and historically significant buildings, structures, and objects which contribute to the historic character of Waxhaw, and to exclude recent commercial development on West South Main Street between High and Church streets and along North Broom Street north of McDonald Street, as well as later residential development which surrounds the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 1

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following lettered list of photographs is keyed to the map of the Waxhaw Historic District. Where appropriate the corresponding Inventory List number has been indicated in parentheses in the photograph description. The following information applies to all of the photographs:

1. Name of district: Waxhaw Historic District
2. City and State: Waxhaw, North Carolina
3. Photographer: Patricia S. Dickinson
4. Date of photographs: March, 1991
5. Location of original negatives: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

-
- A. Streetscape
CSX Railroad tracks and right-of-way (100 blocks of East and West South Main streets visible in distance). Photograph taken from north side of tracks, camera pointing east.
 - B. Streetscape
100 block of East North Main Street. Camera pointing west. Waxhaw Volunteer Fire Department (#21) in foreground.
 - C. Streetscape
100 block West North Main Street. Camera pointing west. Plyler Building (#16) in foreground.
 - D. A.W. Heath Stores I & II (#s 30 and 31)
101-109 West South Main Street
Camera pointing west.
 - E. Streetscape
100 block of East South Main Street. Camera pointing east. Commercial Buildings (#s 34 and 35) at center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Waxhaw Historic District
Waxhaw, N.C.

Photographs

Section number _____ Page 2

- F. Second George Sibley Tyson Store (#48)
608 Old Providence Road
- G. John Lafayette Rodman House (#s 80, 80a)
116 North Providence Street
- H. Walkup-Gamble House (#s 74, 74a, b, c)
215 North Providence Street
- I. Massey-Collins House (#54)
315 North Broad Street
- J. Wolfe-Niven-Gamble House (#55)
301 North Broad Street
- K. Neely-Hudson House (#26)
601 West South Main Street
- L. Dr. William Robert McCain House (#s 81, 81a)
201 South Providence Street
- M. McGuirt-Burgess House (#93)
201 McKibben Street
- N. Nisbet-McWhorter House (#94)
115 Brevard Street
- O. Waxhaw Elementary School (#78)
500 South Providence Street
- P. Waxhaw Presbyterian Church (#6)
416 West North Main Street

