

PROPOSAL OF  
THE 1928 C. W. KALE HOUSE  
TO THE GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
REGISTER  
OCTOBER, 2002



GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Mrs. Richard Penegar, Chrmn.  
Mr. Robert C. Carpenter  
Mrs. Gerald Deal  
Mrs. W. N. Craig  
Mr. Mike Peters  
Mr. John Russell  
Mrs. H.O. Williams  
Dr. Alan May  
Mr. Jim Love

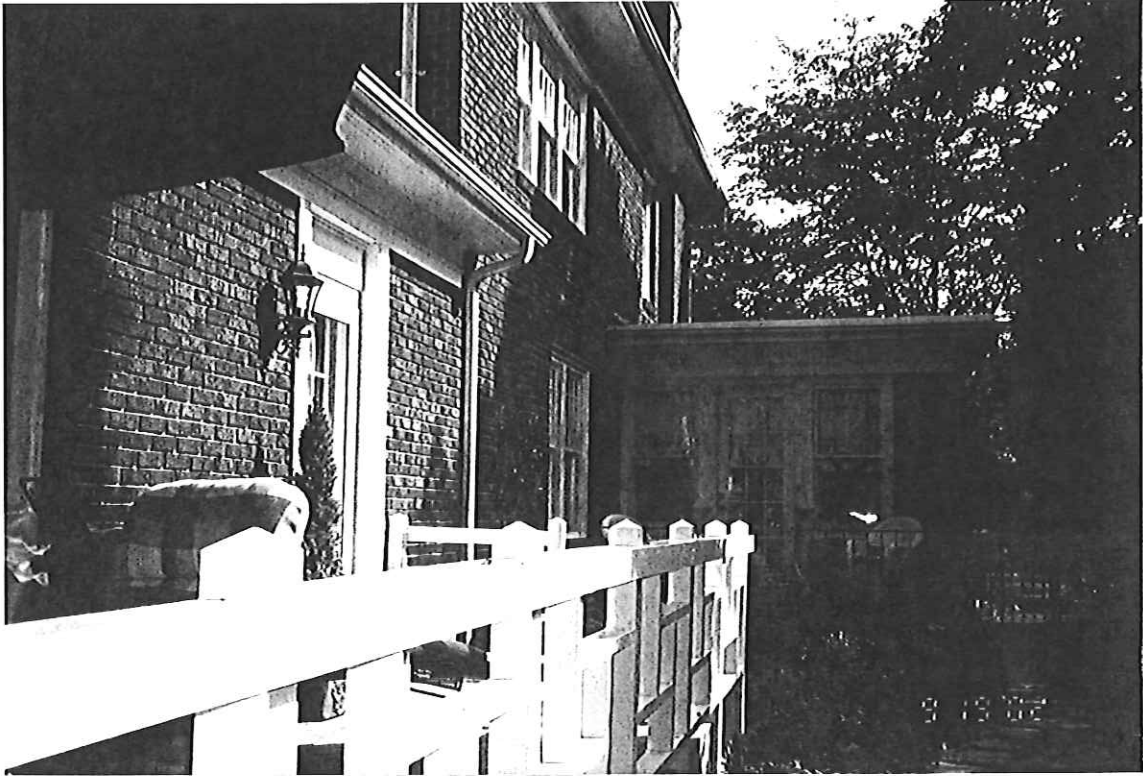
## Contents

1. Name and location of the property. The property known as the C.W. Kale house is located at 215 North Main Street, Belmont, NC.
2. Name and address of present owner of the property.  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hostetler  
215 North Main Street  
Belmont, NC. 28012
3. Representative photographs of the property.
4. Maps depicting location of the property.
5. Current deed reference of the property.
6. Historical sketch of the property prepared by David Hostetler.
7. Architectural description of the property prepared by David Hostetler.
8. Reaction from the North Carolina Department of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC.
9. Significance Statement. The fine Colonial Revival home built by Carlise Wilson Kale in the prestigious North Main Street neighborhood of Belmont is important to the history of Gaston County and specifically Belmont. This home of a mill organizer and superintendent also served the community well as the home of its Mayor for over 20 years (1925-47).

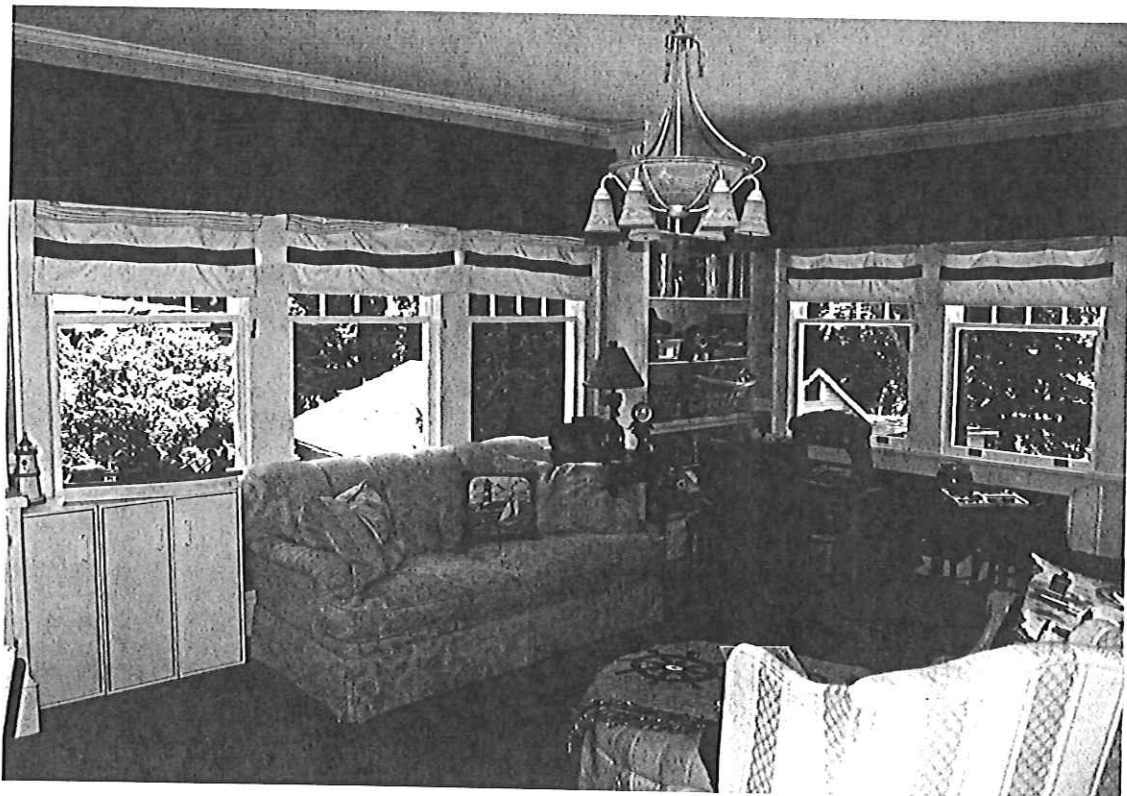






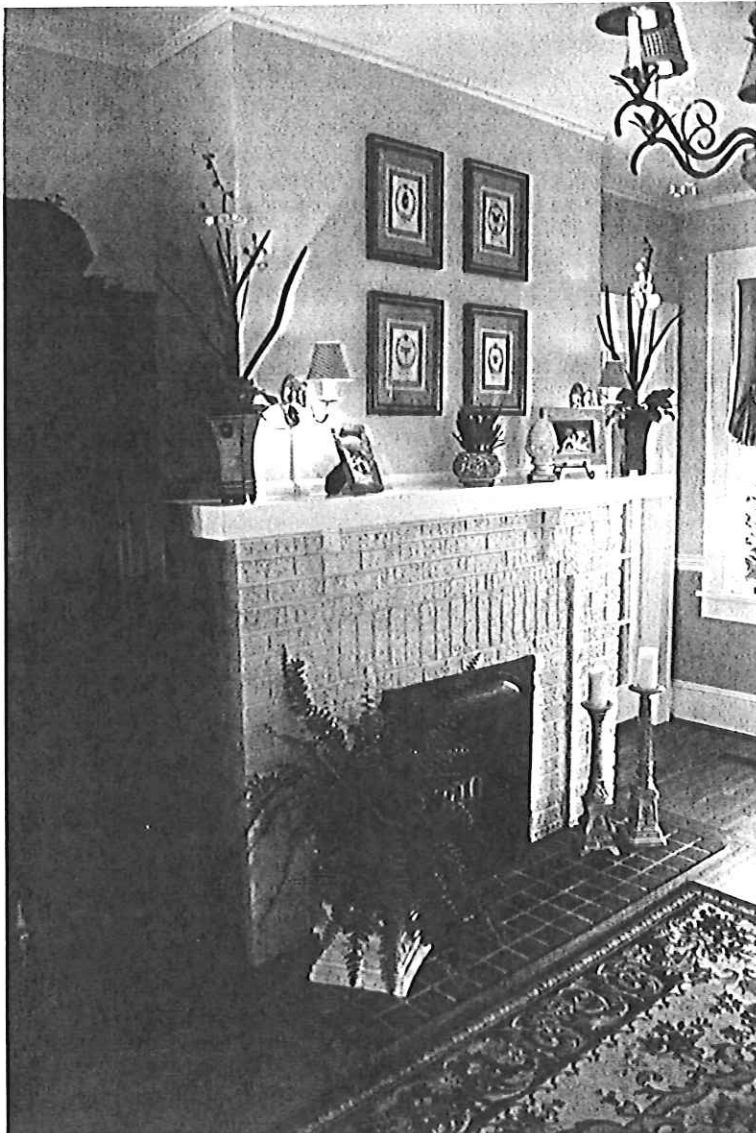




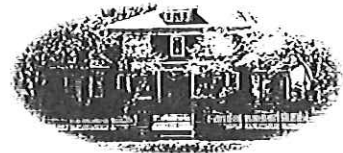








## The Historic KALE HOUSE



215 North Main Street  
Circa 1928

WELCOME  
to our home,

*The Hostellers*

*This Colonial Revival home was constructed in 1928 for the C.W. Kale family. C.W. Kale was a prominent textile executive and the Mayor of Belmont from 1925 to 1947. The Kales had six daughters and resided in the home until 1973. The house is located in Belmont's national historic district, and is currently under consideration for local historic register designation.*

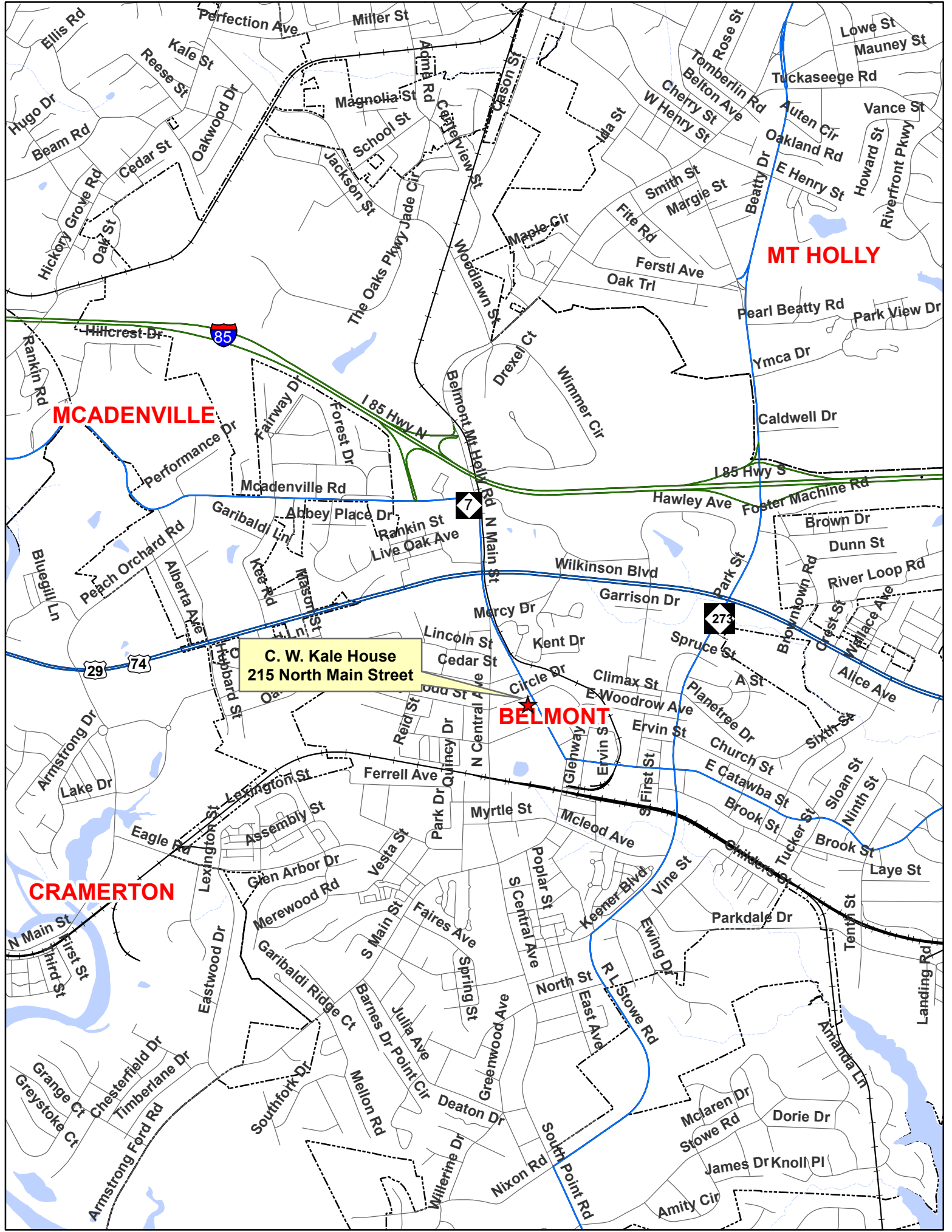
**C. W. Kale House**  
215 North Main Street

**MT HOLLY**

**MCADENVILLE**

**BELMONT**

**CRAMERTON**

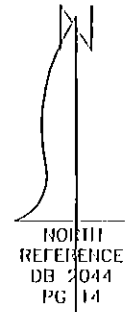
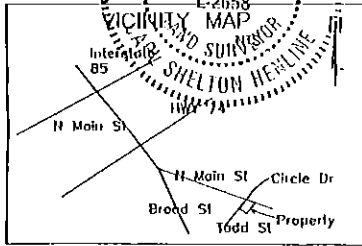


**CERTIFICATION**

I, Carl Henline, hereby that this map was drawn by me from an actual survey made under my supervision. That the error of closure as calculated by latitudes and departures is  $1/10,000 \pm$  that the boundaries not surveyed are shown by broken lines plotted from information found in deed description recorded in said Register's Office in Deed Book 2044 Page 14 that this map was prepared in accordance with NCGS 47-30 as amended.

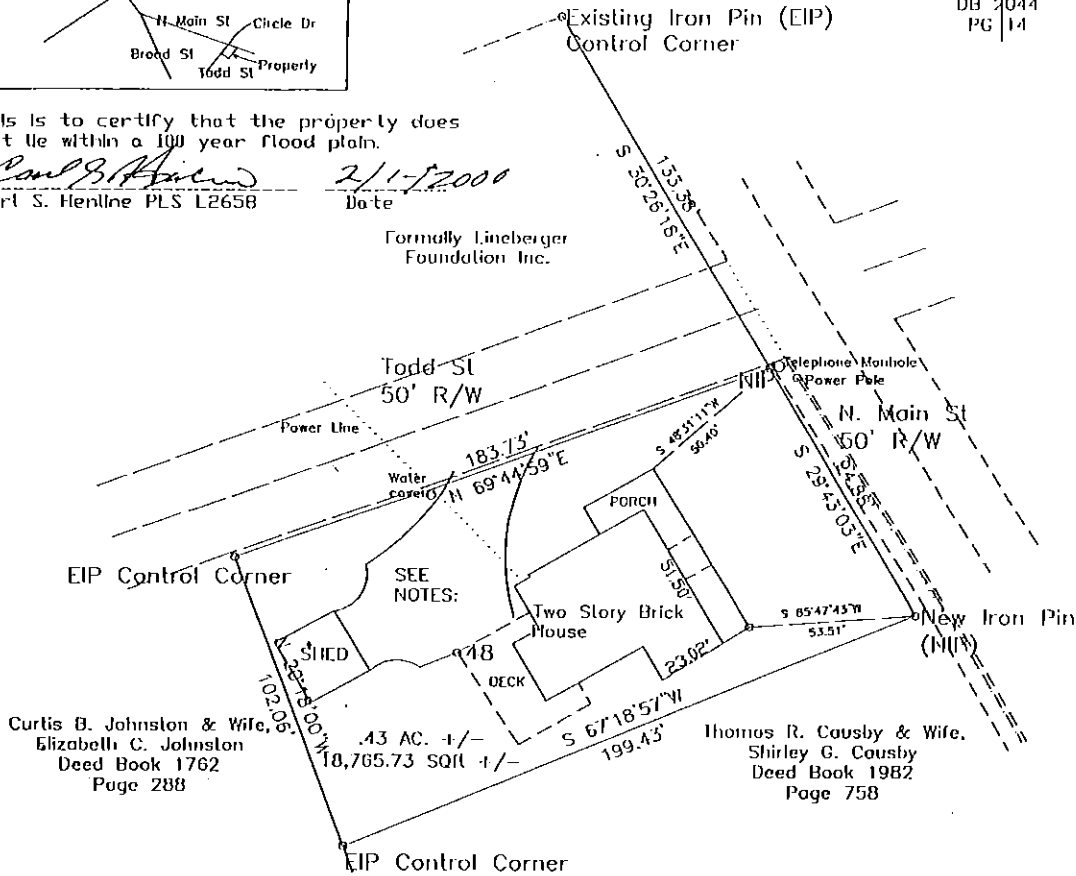
Witness my hand and seal this the 1 day of FEB, 2000

*Carl S. Henline*  
Carl S. Henline PLS L2658



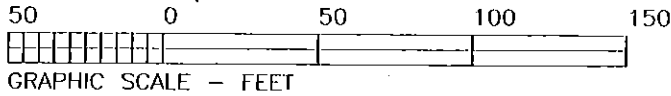
This is to certify that the property does not lie within a 100 year flood plain.

*Carl S. Henline* 2/1/2000  
Carl S. Henline PLS L2658 Date



Curtis B. Johnston & Wife,  
Elizabeth C. Johnston  
Deed Book 1762  
Page 288

Thomas R. Causby & Wife,  
Shirley G. Causby  
Deed Book 1982  
Page 758



# PHYSICAL SURVEY FOR DAVID HOSTETLER JR

Being the property of Charles R. McClure and Wife, Penny S. McClure, recorded in the Register of Deeds Office for Gaston County, North Carolina in Deed Book 2044, Page 14.

NOTE:  
Charles R. McClure & Wife, Penny S. McClure  
Deed Book 2044 Page 14  
Tax Map: Belmont #4-06-14

HENLINE INC  
107 W COURT SQ.  
LINCOLNTON, NC  
(704) 732-6797

## The Kale Family History

During the Industrial Revolution of the 1920's in North Carolina, many prominent textile magnets and businessmen chose to make their address in the prestigious North Main Street neighborhood of Belmont. One such southern gentleman was Carlise Wilson Kale who in 1928 built a traditional, two story, red brick, colonial revival style home at 215 North Main Street.

C.W. Kale needed this spacious 4000 square foot home to accommodate his wife, Dora Summers Stowe Kale, and their six daughters. He was employed as the Superintendent of Sterling-Stowe Spinning and helped organize Belmont Hosiery Mills. An employee and friend of R.L. Stowe Sr., Kale is depicted in one old photograph (1) with R.L. Stowe Sr. and R.L. Stowe Jr. being honored at a company Christmas function. Kale was definitely a company man but there is more to the story.

In addition to being a dedicated worker and tireless family man, Kale also found time to serve his civic duty. Kale was a member of the Rotary Club, Masons, and a member of First Methodist Church of Belmont (3). Furthermore, Kale served as the Mayor of Belmont from 1925 to 1947 (8). As Mayor of Belmont, Kale carefully guided Belmont's growth through 22 years of challenging and changing times such as the Great Depression and World War II. Kale's primary accomplishments as Mayor included developing a infrastructure of new paved roads and city services, such as water and sewer (4). It was



Kale's leadership and vision that helped create the infrastructure that would serve Belmont well during many prosperous years to come.

Of Kale's six daughters, only one is remaining, Clara Kale Bullard of Covenant Village in Gastonia, NC. Upon a recent visit to the home in April of 2001, Clara and her family shared many stories that helped transform this historic house into a loving home. Clara recalled the dining room at Christmas resembling an exotic candy store accessible to all the children of the house. She said her father always had exotic candies of many varieties "imported" from around the world for the holiday season. Other memories that seem somewhat extravagant today were having servants that did all the cooking and chores and commissioning craftsman to make custom furniture when needed.

Clara shared many stories of childhood mischief, like going down the laundry shoot, and also an interesting memory she had of the house as an adult. At the onset of World War II, the husbands of some of Clara's sisters were called to serve in the war. It was at this time that Clara's father called those daughters home to 215 North Main Street. Clara and her sister's lived together again in the house for the duration of the war. She remembers that during that time American flags were draped in the windows and the "blackout" shades remained closed at all times, never letting in much light (3,5). Clara and the Kale family descendents have many fond memories of their forty-five years at 215 North Main Street. These memories help shine a new light on the importance this family and their home played in the development of the close knit community of Belmont.

**Footnotes:**

- (1) Photograph, Kale, Stowe Sr, Stowe, Jr.
- (2) Documented letter from Clara Kale Bullard 4-14-01 (Hearthside Letterhead)
- (3) Documented letter from Clara Kale Bullard 4-14-01.
- (4) Documented letter to the Bullards 4-11-01.
- (5) Documented letter from E.W. Bullard 4-14-01.
- (6) Documented telephone conversation between David Hostetler and T.F. Rankin 4-01.
- (7) The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, NC by Kim Withers Brengle, 1982.
- (8) Public Record at City Hall in Belmont, NC. (704-825-5586)

## The Architecture of the Historic Kale House

215 North Main Street, Belmont, North Carolina

In 1928, C.W. Kale hired local building contractors T.F. Rankin and Tom Skidmore to construct his new two story, red brick, colonial revival residence at 215 North Main Street in Belmont, North Carolina (2). T.F. Rankin, stated in April of 2001 from a local nursing home that he remembered mixing the mortar to lay the bricks for the home. He also stated that the house was "solid" explaining that he had used steel I-beams spanning from the basement to the attic for superior support (6). These I-beams are evident today.

Rankin and Skidmore built many prestigious homes in Gaston County, including the Albert Hand House next door at 211 North Main Street. (2, 7 -pg261). According to the Kale family descendents, the Kale house was probably (to be confirmed) designed by the same architect as Robert Stowe's house at 215 North Main Street and was fashioned after a very similar home on Queens Road in Charlotte that the Kales spotted on a Sunday afternoon drive (2).

The Kale house is a spacious brick veneered, Colonial Revival dwelling with cubic form and a slate hip roof featuring hip roof dormers with ribbon windows. There is a center bay front porch with Greek ionic caps. The side elevations are symmetrical. The south wing features a flat roof and is enclosed with windows and two French doors. The north wing also features a flat roof and classical metal fluted columns with Greek ionic caps. There are two chimneys, one is a double flu located near the south wing. The other is a

utilitarian chimney located in the rear of the house near the kitchen. The attractive brick veneer is red with hues of sage green, grey, and purple with a scratched surface laid in a "running bond" pattern. There is a decorative brick sidewalk leading from the front door to the street featuring the "basket on edge" pattern on the diagonal. The eight panel walnut finished front door is approximately 8.5 feet tall and flanked by sidelights. A wide spacious brick and broken tile porch stretches the width of the front porch of the house and wraps around the north wing. Entering the home from the porch on the north wing are two French doors leading into the dining room. The windows are the original six over one wood casement and feature beautiful wavy glass. Most of the original features of the interior remain intact including all doors and door knobs, a set of crystal and pewter chandeliers and sconces in the dining and living rooms, two mantels and coal grate, staircase, a built-in china closet, and most interior trim.

The house is currently part of the recently designated Belmont National Historic District. Both the house and detached two-car garage are listed as contributing structures to the district. The garage is also constructed of scratched brick with a slate roof and features retractable and operative sliding doors with attractive windows. Also, 85% of the structures in the district are considered to be contributing structures. The district is composed of a wide variety of structures from 10,000 square foot mansions to 1000 square foot bungalows. However, the Kale house is one of only a few remaining of its style represented in the district today.



The exterior of the home remains virtually unchanged since 1928 with the exception of the addition of a rear deck. The interior has been through two major renovations one in the late 1980's and one in 2000, but the original floor plan remains primarily intact.

*Written by: David A. Hosteller, Jr. of 215 N. Main St., Belmont on February 7, 2002*



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**  
 David L. S. Brook, Administrator

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
 Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary  
 Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary  
 Office of Archives and History

Division of Historical Resources  
 David J. Olson, Director

November 18, 2002

Ms. Lucy Penegar  
 Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission  
 Route 1, Box 855  
 Gastonia, NC 28052

Re: Landmark Designation of C. W. Kale House, 215 North Main Street, Belmont, Gaston County

Dear Ms. Penegar:

Thank you for the landmark designation report for the C. W. Kale House, Belmont, Gaston County. We reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.6.

The C. W. Kale House, built in 1928, is an important representative example of Colonial Revival residential design in Belmont. As the home of Belmont's mayor from 1925 to 1947, the house is also significant for its associations with this important individual in Belmont, C. W. Kale. Also, the property is a contributing property within the Belmont Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 1996.

We think the designation report provides the Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission adequate information to deem that the C. W. Kale House has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation.

A statement of the tax parcel number should be added to the report, along with clarification that the house and entire land parcel of .43 acres are included in the designation.

There is an apparent discrepancy in the report. The address, 215 N. Main Street, is attributed both to the Kale House and to the Robert Stowe House. This discrepancy should be resolved.

Please submit photographic prints with future reports. The paper copies are not clear enough to provide photographic documentation necessary to support the text of the report.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes this building as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to the landmark buildings and property are subject to the design review procedures of the Commission. The owner may apply

[www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us)

	Location	Mailing Address	Telephone/Fax
ADMINISTRATION	507 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617	(919) 733-4763 • 733-8653
RESTORATION	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4613	(919) 733-6547 • 715-4801
SURVEY & PLANNING	515 N. Blount St., Raleigh NC	4618 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4618	(919) 733-6545 • 715-4801

Lucy Penegar  
November 18, 2002  
Page 2

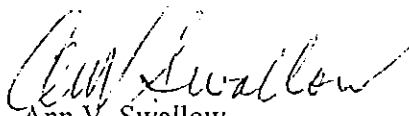
for an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for the [.43 acre] designation area for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity.

Please note that if the City Council wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only. Once the necessary public hearing or hearings have been held, the local governing board may proceed with the designation decision. When the local governing board has concluded its action on the designation ordinance, please complete and return the confirmation form enclosed with this letter.

Should you have any questions about our comments, please contact me at 919-733-6545.

Sincerely,



Ann V. Swallow  
National Register Coordinator

encl.

cc: David Williams, Staff  
Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission