

PROPOSAL OF
1907 ALBERT F. AND CORA B. HAND HOUSE
BELMONT, N. C.
TO THE GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES LIST
AUGUST 2009

GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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Lucy Penegar, V. Chrmn.
Wilma R. Craig, Sec.
Suzanne Deal, Treas.
Robert Carpenter
Danny Wilson
Jim Love, Advisor
Dr. Alan May, Advisor
January Porter, Advisor
David Williams, Staff

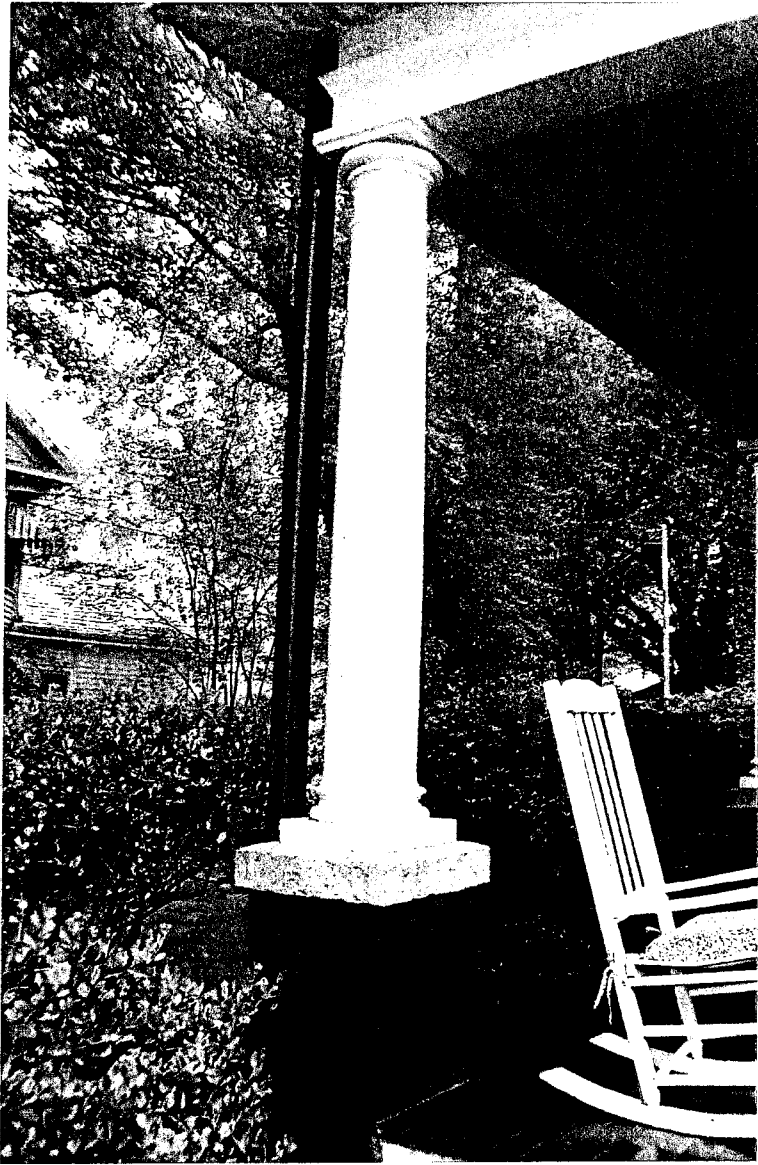
ALBERT F. and CORA B. HAND HOUSE

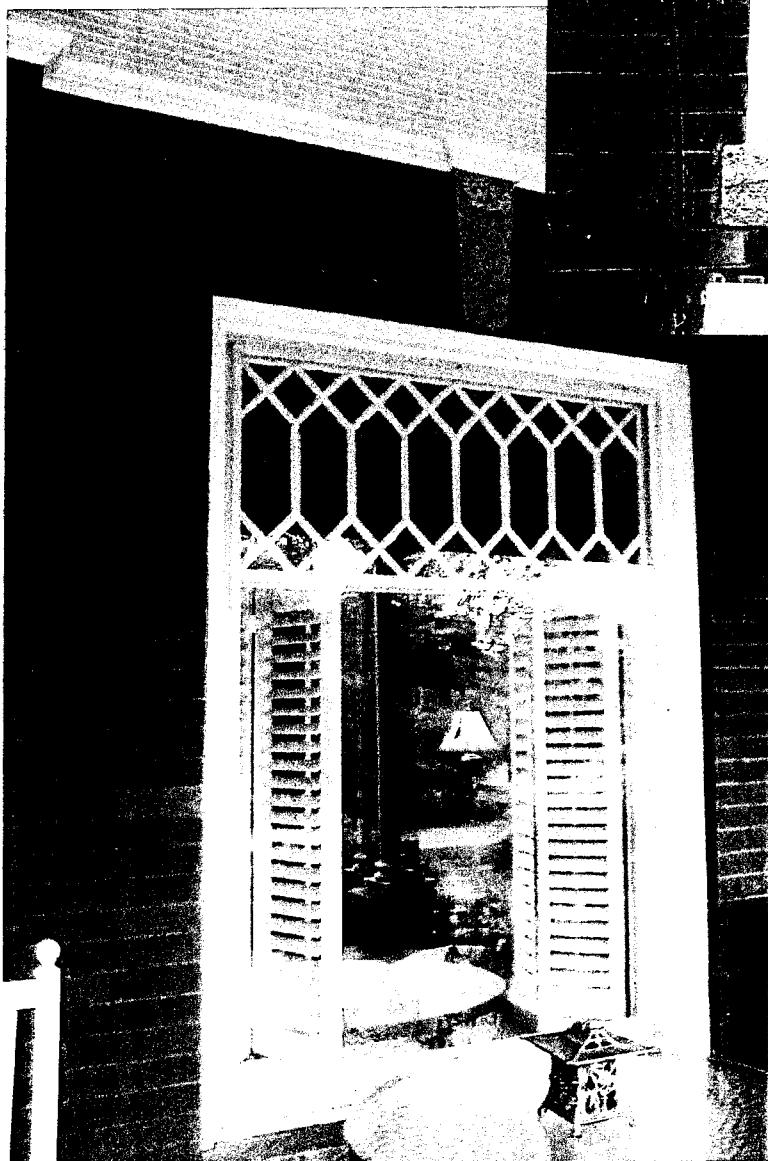
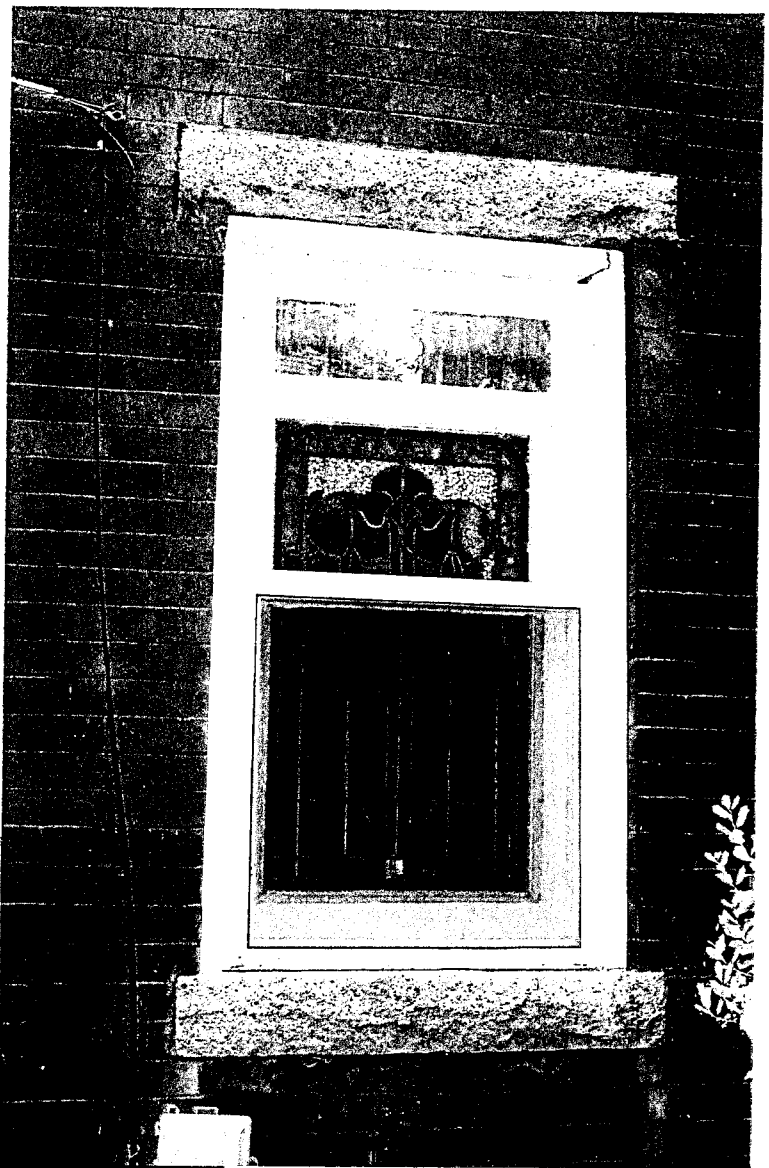
1. Name and location of the property. The property known as the Albert F. and Cora B. Hand property is located at 211 N. Main Street, Belmont, South Point Township, Gaston County, North Carolina.
2. Name and address of the present owner of the property. The property is owned by Thomas R. and Shirley Causby, P. O. Box 46, Belmont, N. C. 28012.
3. Photographs of the property.
4. Maps depicting the location of the property. A tax map identifies the property as #125412 containing 0.83 acres.
5. Current deed reference of the property. A chain of title is included prepared by Lucy Penegar of the commission. A legal description of the property is also included.
6. Historical sketch of the property. The report contains a historical sketch prepared by Lucy Penegar of the commission.
7. Architectural description of the property. The report contains an architectural description prepared by Jason Harpe of Lincoln County.
8. Reaction from the N. C. Department of Archives and History.
9. Documentation of why and in what ways the property meets the criteria set forth in N.C.G.S. 160A-399.4. The Historic Preservation Commission believes that the 1907 Albert F. and Cora B. Hand House warrants historic designation because it is a fine example of Neo-Classical architecture that exemplifies and illustrates the growth and sophistication that accompanied the development of picturesque, historic Belmont. It also demonstrates how the use of a structure can be adapted to survive the times.

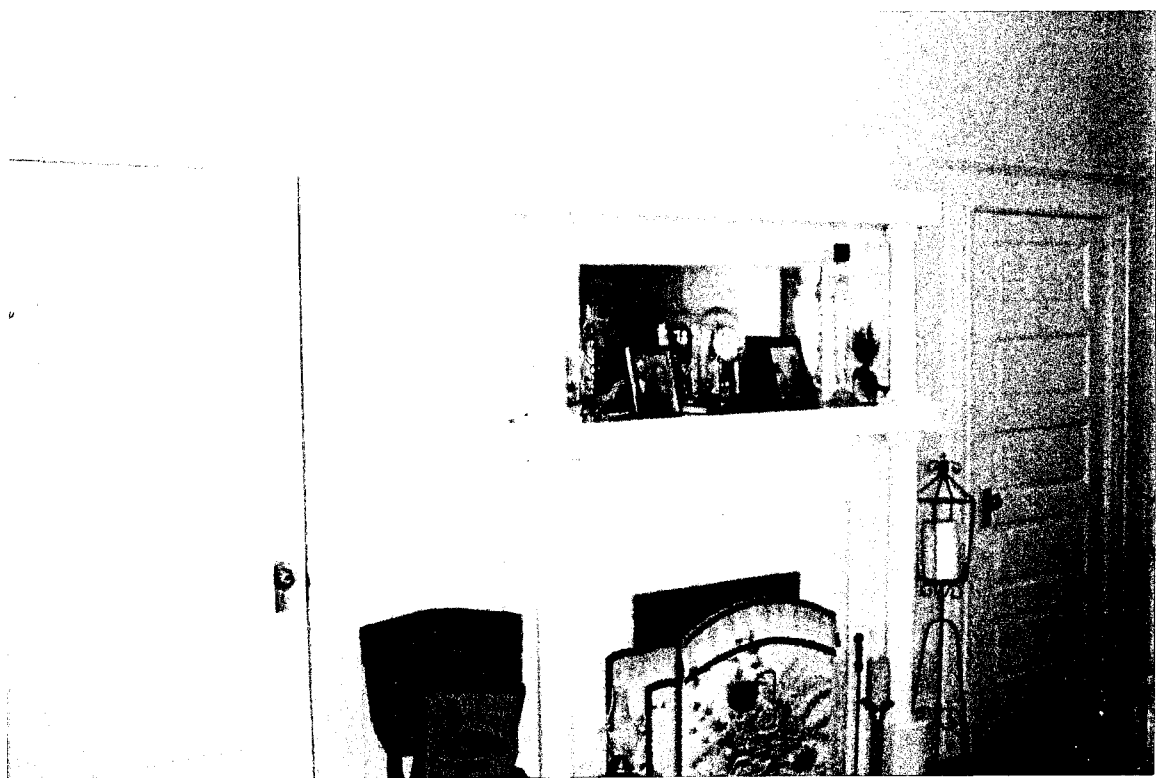
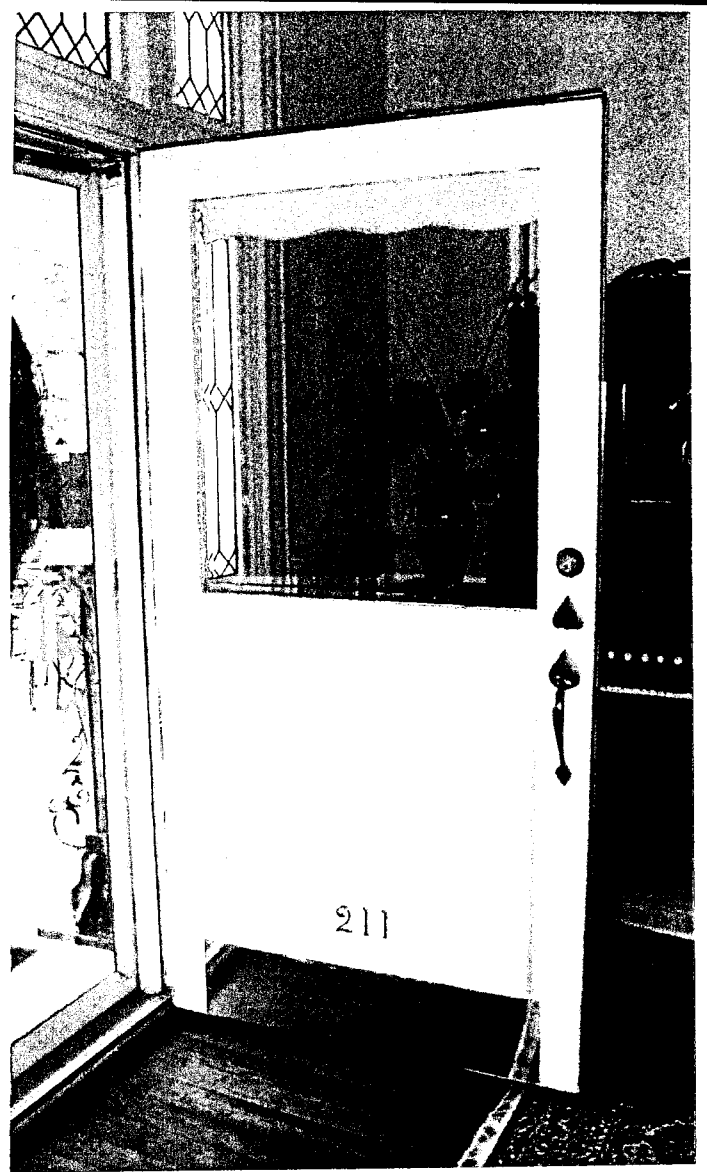


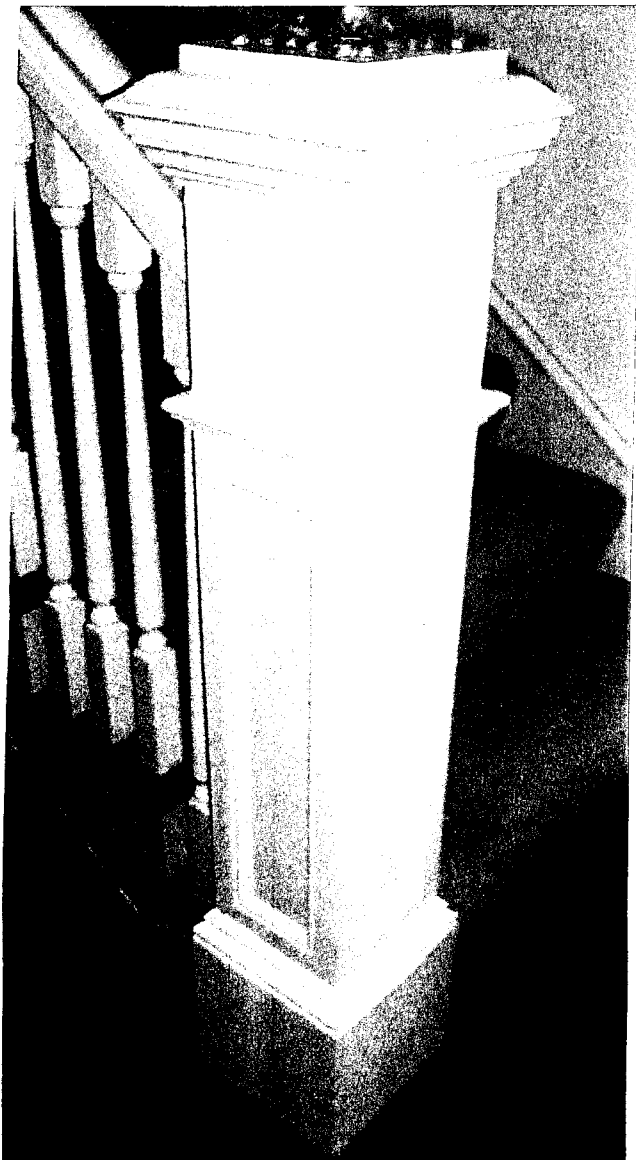
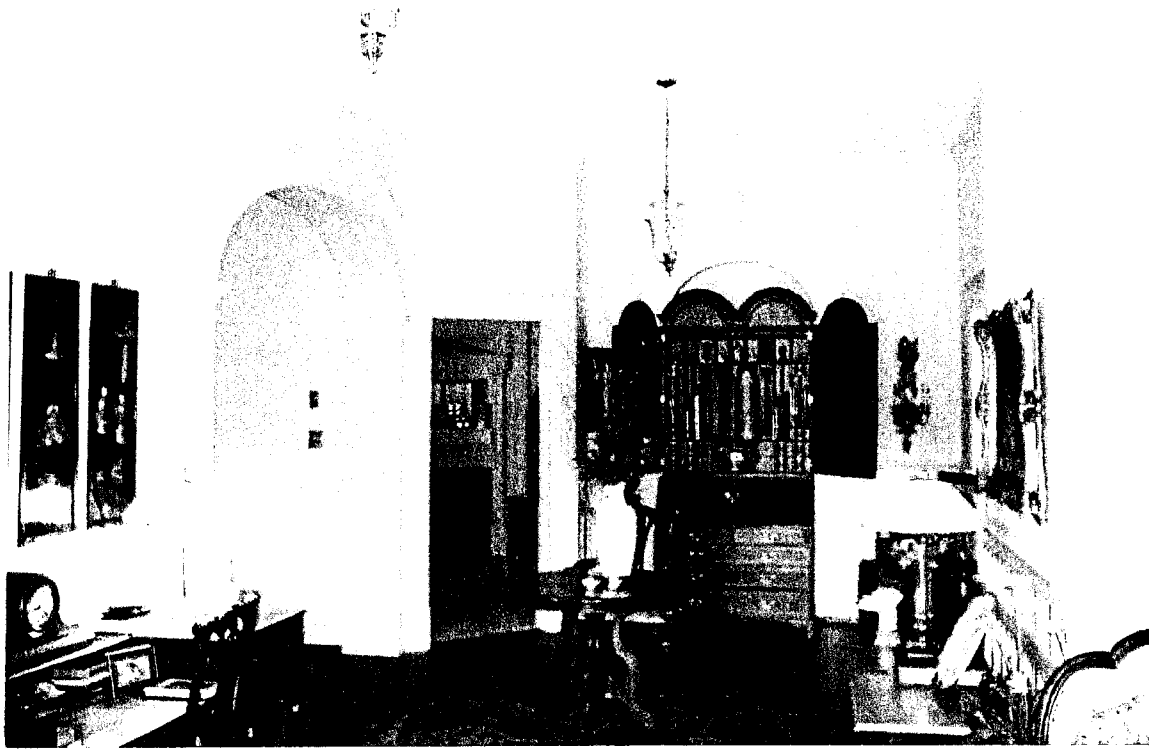
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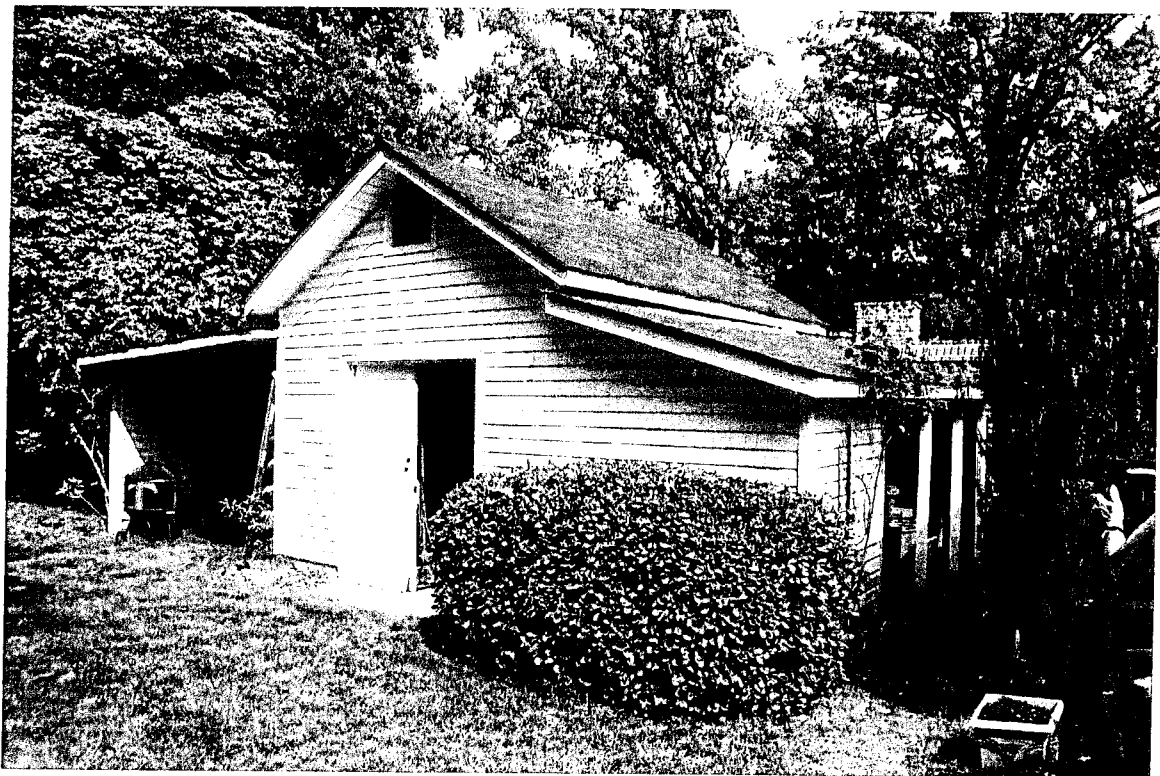
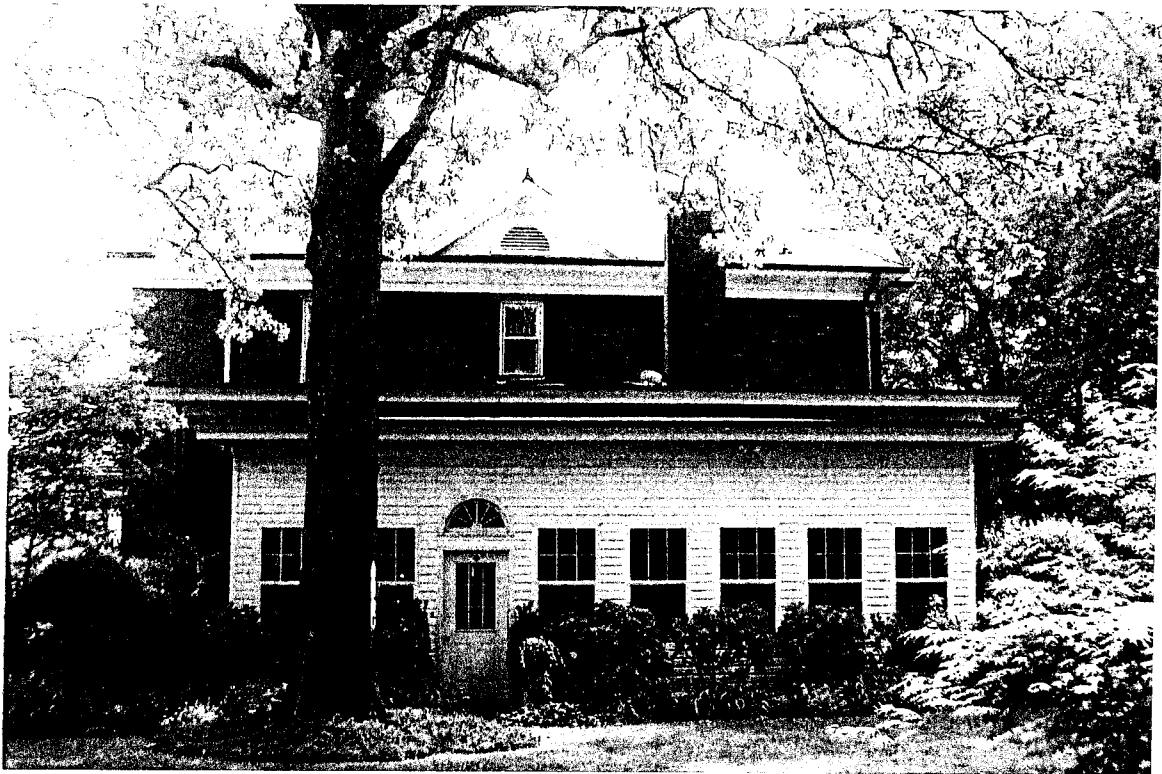


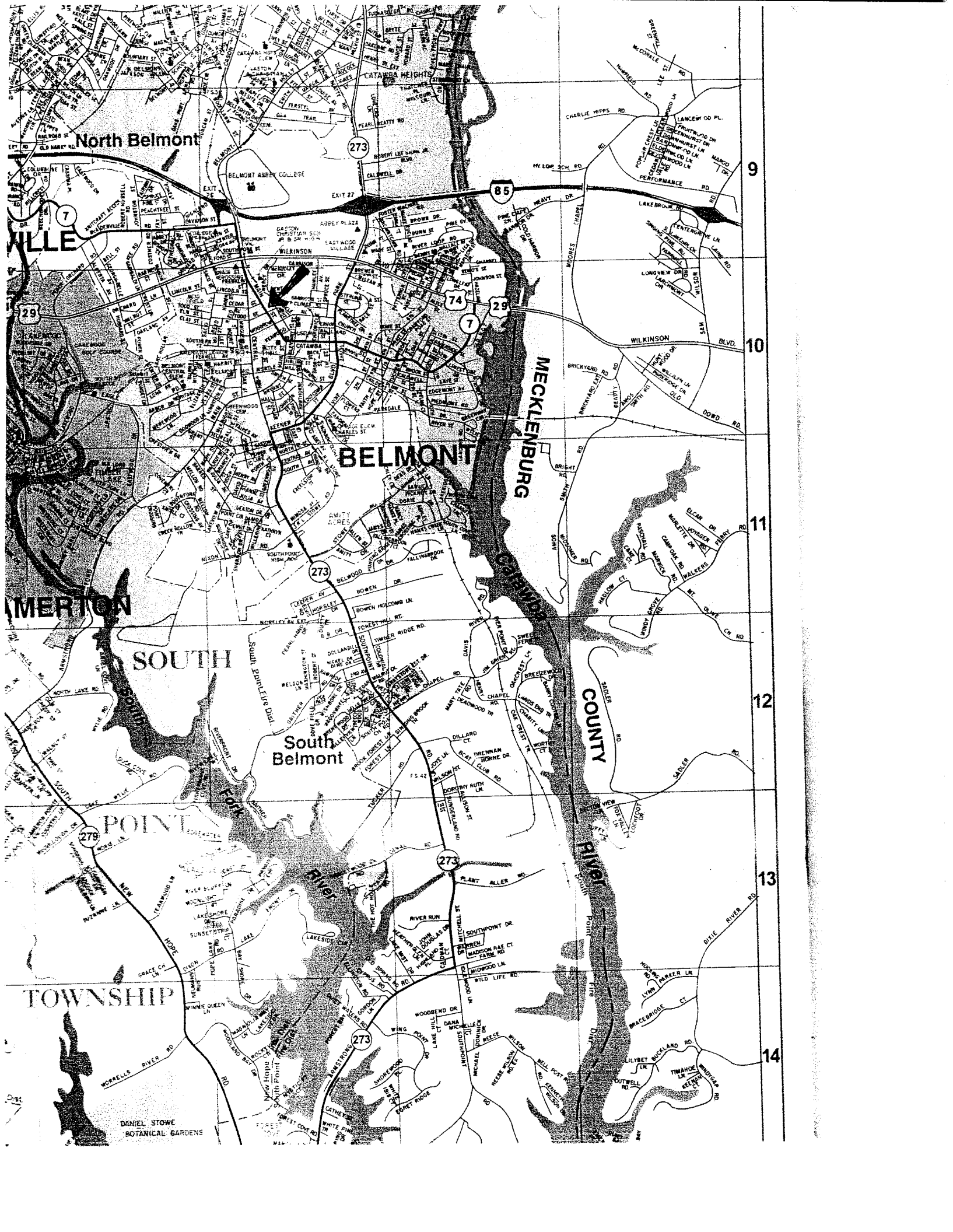












North Belmont

BELMONT

MECKLENBURG

COUNTY

SOUTH

South Belmont

POINT

TOWNSHIP

DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDENS

9

10

11

12

13

14

85

74

29

273

273

273

7

29

273

7

7

7

7

7

7

7



Gaston County, NC

Office of the Director of Revenue, GIS Division

Disclaimer: The information provided is not to be considered as a Legal Document or Description. The Map and Parcel Data is believed to be accurate, but Gaston County does not guarantee its accuracy.

Values based on last general reappraisal - 2007

Print Date: 5/1/2009



Print Scale 1:3600 or 1" = 300'



PARCEL INFORMATION

<p>PID #: 125412 PIN #: 3595-00-9880 NEIGH.HOOD #: 4B048 NEIGH.HOOD NAME: HISTORIC BELMONT</p>	<p>PROPERTY ADDRESS: 211 N MAIN ST DEED BOOK: 4451 DEED PAGE: 2364 DEED TYPE: WD SALES AMOUNT: 0 DEED RECORDING DATE: 03/04/2009 PLAT BOOK: 000 PLAT PAGE: 000 LEGAL DESC 1: . LEGAL DESC 2:</p>	<p>BASEMENT: NO # BEDROOMS: 3 # BATHS: 3 MULTI-STRUCTURES: NO ACREAGE: 0.83</p>
<p>OWNER ID #: 00416026 CURRENT OWNER 1: CAUSBY THOMAS R CURRENT OWNER 2: CAUSBY SHIRLEY MAILING ADDRESS 1: P O BOX 46 MAILING ADDRESS 2: CITY: BELMONT STATE: NC ZIP CODE: 28012-0000 JAN1 OWNER 1: CAUSBY THOMAS R JAN1 OWNER 2: CAUSBY SHIRLEY</p>	<p>STRUCTURE CODE #: R2 STRUCTURE TYPE: RESIDENTIAL 2 STORY YEAR BUILT: 1908 SQ FT: 4107</p>	<p>TAX DISTRICT: BELMONT CITY TOWNSHIP CODE: 15 TOWNSHIP DESC: SOUTH POINT TOWNSHIP VOLUNTARY AG DIST: No LAND VALUE: \$55,200 IMPV. VALUE: \$624,937 TOTAL VALUE: \$680,137 PRESENT USE VALUE ASSESSMENT: NO</p>

CHAIN OF TITLE - HAND HOUSE

1. Site willed to "my friend Albert F. Hand" by Margaret L. Tate who died on November 5, 1901. Will probated in Mecklenburg County May 3, 1905.
2. Albert F. Hand dies March 16, 1909, and property including house left to wife Cora. B. Hand in a will. Will Bk. 3, pp. 288 & 289.
3. Property conveyed by Cora Hand (widow) and R. A. Hand and wife to W. A. Dixon and wife on July 14, 1947. Deed Bk. 506, p. 82.
4. W. A. Dixon and wife to Stowe Thread Co. on September 24, 1947. Deed Bk. 506, p. 600.
5. Stowe Thread Co. to Lineberger Foundation, Inc. on March 1, 1962 for \$100. Deed Bk. 764, p. 576.
6. Lineberger Foundation, Inc. to Trustees of Holy Comforter Lutheran Church for \$1. on July 1, 1963. Deed Bk. 842, p. 1.
7. Holy Comforter Lutheran Church deeds property to Thomas R. Causby and wife Shirley G. Causby on June 1, 1989. Deed Bk. 1982, p. 758. Addition of an adjoining sliver of land containing 0.0029 acres on the north of the property from David A. and Wendy G. Hostetler on Feb. 27, 2009. Deed Bk. 4451, pp. 2364-2366.

1907 Albert F. and Cora B. Hand House

The significant Neo-Classical house at 211 North Main Street in Belmont has an interesting history that mirrors the life and growth of this picturesque historic town.

Belmont is located just west of the Catawba River, now called Lake Wylie. The entire area had been inhabited by the Catawba Indians. The earliest white immigrants had built a log fort and stockade at the junction of the Catawba and the South Fork Rivers. The area became known as the South Point section.

The construction of the Atlanta and Charlotte Railroad in 1871 spurred the growth of a little settlement called Garibaldi, named for John Garibaldi who was in charge of the construction of a water tank for the new railroad. ⁽¹⁾ This little community had a postmaster and depot agent by the name of Abram Stowe, whose house, (built just after the Civil War,) is the earliest known surviving structure here.

The area also has ties to the earlier Revolutionary War. Major William Chronicle, the son of a local land holder, had organized the "South Fork Boys", who took part in the important Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. ⁽²⁾

Another reason for the growth of this community was the existence of two Catholic educational institutions. Father Jeremiah O'Connell purchased a nearby 500 acre tract known as the Caldwell plantation in 1877. This land was donated to the Benedictine monks of St. Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania for the establishment of a men's college and religious community to be called Maryhelp Abbey (later Belmont Abbey). In 1887 the sisters

of mercy established a girls' school and convent called Sacred Heart, a little closer to town. Because of the close friendship of Maryhelp Abbey's Reverend Leo Haid, the town's name was changed to Belmont in honor of August P. Belmont of New York, a friend of Haid. ⁽³⁾

Other religious groups were in the area. The Goshen Presbyterian congregation had been established as early as 1764 west of the site that would become Belmont Abbey. The first Lutheran group was called Kastner's church (later Philadelphia Lutheran) by 1767 just west of Friday or Fraetag Shoals on the west bank of the South Fork River. ⁽⁴⁾

Belmont was incorporated in 1895 and had a population of approximately 100. That was to change quickly with the construction of three cotton mills: the Chronicle, the Imperial and the Majestic. At this point in the history of textiles, mills didn't have to be on the river for water power. They were using steam power, and soon after-electric power.

Despite the growth, Belmont was still a horse and buggy town with a livery stable. Some roads were being improvised with a bed of rock and layer of packed gravel. These "macadam" roads were quite an improvement over the rutted muddy roads that resulted after a heavy rain!

Several structures remaining today (2009) were already standing in Belmont at the turn of the century in addition to the Abram Stowe house. James P. Stowe, a confederate veteran, moved to Belmont to open a mercantile business with George Gullick. He built a house in approximately 1891 that has been moved to allow for a post office building on its site. The house still stands behind the post office. In 1899, Robert Lee Stowe, who would become one Gaston County's foremost textile magnates, built his first house on Catawba Street. It is a

richly detailed, single-story frame house. On North Main Street, a substantial two-story frame house was built for George Milton Gullick in 1898.

Albert Forrest Hand (1868-1909), was one of nine children born to Laura Gaston and Colonel Moses Hand (1812-1887) of the South Point section. He lived in Mecklenburg County for a time and was first married to Bessie D. Hand. Three children were born of this union – Leo in 1892, Lamont in 1897, and Lottie in 1899. Bessie died a few months after the third child was born. Albert married Cora Berryhill (1881-1956) of Belmont, and Royal was born in 1892. Albert was willed a lot in Belmont and decided to build a very substantial brick house just north of the town center. It is reported to be the town's first brick house. ⁽⁵⁾

At the death of Margaret L. Tate, April 1905, the Mecklenburg Estate Records say that Albert F. Hand “stood in the relation of child” to Margaret L. Tate. The same was said of his oldest son, Leo Hand. Tate willed to Albert F. Hand 293 acres plus 25 acres of the Sloan place in Mecklenburg County and in Gaston County 212 acres known as the Matthews-Leeper tract and 12 acres near the town of Belmont adjoining lands of J. Q. Hall, W. D. Davis, W. B. Puett, and others. To Leo Hand she willed 75 additional acres of the Sloan place in Mecklenburg and 10 acres in Gaston County near Belmont.

Albert Hand hired contractors Skidmore and R.F. Rankin and is said to have closely supervised their work. Mr. R.F. Rankin also built many fine houses in Mt. Holly including the

1890 frame Luther Nims house (destroyed), the 1894 brick Augusta Rhyne Cannon house, and the 1899 brick Dellinger-Nantz house. ⁽⁶⁾

The bricklaying was done by Sam Walter Moore, a prominent local African-American brick mason, cement finisher, and plaster. He considered the structure to be his masterpiece. The main walls of the house are three bricks thick. The brick is reported to have been imported from Europe. ⁽⁷⁾

The lumber for the construction of the house is reported to have been cut in the Mecklenburg County and dried for two years before being brought to Belmont by ferry and wagon teams. ⁽⁸⁾ Lonegan's Ferry crossed the river near Tuckaseegee Fork. It was operated by a local black, Larkin Hanks. ⁽⁹⁾ It is probable that Hand's lumber was seen across the river by Hanks. Evidence of the fine lumber used can be seen in the refinished heart pine flooring.

The house is very large because the household was large. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Hand were: his mother, Mrs. Laura Gaston Hand (widow of Col. Moses Henry Hand); the four children-Leo, Lamont, Lottie and Royal-and the "live-in" cook, Miss Florence Cathey. By the time the Hands moved into their home, electricity had come to Belmont, so they discarded their kerosene lamps. The water they drank was drawn from a well in the backyard.

In addition to the two catholic colleges, Belmont also had a frame school building for white children at the corner of Main Street and Central Avenue. There were five teachers. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Just down Main Street were the beginnings of a nice town. In addition to the Gullick mercantile, a fine brick Stowe mercantile company was built in 1904 (their second building). A two story brick structure built in 1907 by George M. Gullick served several uses. On the first

floor were R.L. Stowe's mill office, the Bank of Belmont, and a hotel lobby. The second story held the hotel rooms. By 1915 the Piedmont and Northern Railroad would have a spur rail to Belmont from Mt. Holly and a small train depot. On Main Street, there were three dry goods stores. The post office was in the store of J. W. Armstrong who acted as postmaster. ⁽¹¹⁾

The town's development as a textile center can be traced mainly to three men; Robert Lee Stowe, his brother Samuel Pinckney Stowe, and Abel Caleb Lineberger. By 1930, there were 30 mills here. As mill villages were built to house the employees, the population would increase greatly.

Other substantial houses of mill owners and upper management would be added to the town as well, some designed by Charlotte architects C.C. Hook and the Abbey's J.M. McMichael, and one by local architect, Hugh E. White:

The first A.C. Lineberger house, 1910, at 203 N. Main
The DaLambert P. Stowe house, 1910, at 28 W. Woodrow Avenue
The James W. Stowe house, 1910' at 210 S. Central Avenue
The second R.L. Stowe house, 1917, at 135 N. Main
The Anne Denny Hall house, 1916, at 15 S. Central Avenue
The second A.C. Linberger mansion, 1920, at 411 N. Main
The Samuel Pickney Stowe house, 1920, at 217 S. Central Avenue ⁽¹²⁾

There were three early African-American communities: the South Point Rankin Heights, Smokey Hollow west of the Imperial Mill, and Booger Town north of the center of town. This last area became the center of all of Belmont's African-American cultural life, mostly because of Reid High school and Teacherage, a Rosenwald structure. Julius Rosenwald, wealthy Sears stores executive, funded the construction of hundreds of schools across the south for African-American children. This area became know as the Reid

Community. Its close proximity to the large houses on N. Main Street explains the fact that many black ladies worked as servants here. ⁽¹³⁾

The commercial district continued to grow with more new structures. The new R.L. Stowe office building would occupy the most prominent site at the top of a small rise facing Main. Hugh E. White would design a new bank building that was completed in 1926, and in 1939 the WPA project U.S. Post Office at 115 N. Main Street (now city hall) was built. ⁽¹⁴⁾

Life for the Hand family must have been interesting there on N. Main, watching the town grow. However, the hustle and bustle of city life wouldn't be annoying through walls so thick. The wide center hall from front to back was engineered to catch breezes in the summer. In addition, two enormous columns support a portico that towers over the one story wrap-around porch with a shaded sitting area just above the main entrance.

The attention to details in the house such as intricate moldings, chair rails, and bend-board ceilings indicate a desire to entertain the town's leading families. Unfortunately, records show that Albert Hand died in 1909 at only 41 years of age, and just two years after the house was completed. Gaston County Estate Settlement papers for Albert F. Hand reveal a little about how Cora and the four children were able to carry on. At Albert's death Leo was 17 years old, Lamont 12, Lottie 10, and Royal 7. John F. Leeper was the Executor and also acted as Guardian to Leo. Inventory files showing accounts of A. F. Hand also lists ownership of 2 mules, 1 horse, 1 wagon, 1 buggy, 6 head of hogs, and 2 cows.

In 1914 Gastonia Insurance and Realty Company became the Trustee of Albert Hand's estate after the death of Leeper. In 1917 George W. Wilson, solicitor of the NC 14th Judicial District brought a case against the Hand Estate, Leo hand, and Trustee Gastonia Insurance and Realty Company for payment of inheritance taxes. In the proceedings it was revealed that W. T. Rankin was appointed to sell certain portions of the real estate in Belmont "except for the lot or parcels on which is situated the residence occupied by the widow of said Albert F. Hand and family". Leo Hand's acres were also sold and the rental and profits of the other acres would be allotted to the estate to support the family until the youngest child attained the age of 21, at which time the remaining estate would be subdivided. As a result of this case, the inheritance taxes were reduced to 50 percent, plus interest from 1907.

Cora Hand had to live through some very hard times. We learn from some stories related to the present owner that she was also able to realize some income from renting out some rooms in this large house. The Great Depression of the early 1930's must have affected her as it did all Americans. In this area the textile strikes of 1934 must have been a nervous time for her. In Belmont, two workers were stabbed in a bloody confrontation with guardsmen and one subsequently died.⁽¹⁵⁾ Records at the Gaston County Deeds office show that Cora Hand (widow) deeds the house to W.A. Dixon and wife on July 14, 1947, and two months later it was sold to Stowe Threads who kept the house for 15 years. It is believed that Cora Hand was allowed to live there and rent rooms for them. A death certificate for Cora Hand shows that she died April 12, 1956 at Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, and her home was listed at 211 North Main Street.

By the late 50's, Vera Green, working for Stowe Threads, rented the upstairs apartment to Sarah and John Truesdale and their 4 children for three years. John had been brought to the

area to work at Plant Allen. There were also 2 apartments downstairs at this time.⁽¹⁶⁾ The 1960 Belmont City Directory shows Sidney H. Strayhorn and wife Hazel at the home; 1961 Ralph W. Johnson, and 1963 Mrs. Elmer M. Foster.

On March 1, 1962, Stowe Threads deeds the property to The Lineberger Foundation for one hundred dollars. The next year, July 1, 1963, The Lineberger Foundation, Incorporated, deeds the property to the trustees of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter (following a vote of acceptance on February 18 and congregational approval on March 10.)

Renovations must have begun in 1963 to convert the home to a church parsonage. Funds were realized from the sale of the old parsonage on E. Woodrow Avenue and a loan from Belmont Savings and Loan Association.

Hand Construction Company began the work with Pastor Harry Robinson Jr. working closely with the supervisor, Tom Anderson. Pastor Robinson left shortly to assume a Durham pastorate and Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lineberger saw the work completed. The building committee was comprised of Harrell Underwood, Virgil Whitley and Bill Hollar, in addition to Pastor Robinson, Tom Anderson, and the Linebergers.⁽¹⁷⁾

In late February of 1964, Pastor Robert Shelby's family moved into the house. They had been the first family to occupy the old parsonage on E. Woodrow Avenue. Now Pastor Shelby and Mrs. Shelby and their son Bob would occupy a great house with rich historical background, just across the street from the recently built, modernist style Holy Comforter Lutheran Church, designed by noted Charlotte architect A. G. O'Dell.

A "Blessing of the Parsonage" took place on Sunday, August, 30, 1964. The Crucifier led a processional from the church to the house across the street. Following the cross were the ministers, the choir, and the congregation.

The Versicles were pronounced by Pastor Shelby and the response given by the congregation. Psalm 90 was read responsively followed by Gloria Patri. The lessons were taken from Matthew 7: 24-29 and Luke 10: 38-42. The prayers were lead by Dr. George R. Whittecar, president of the N.C. Lutheran Synod. ⁽¹⁸⁾

The Shelby family lived in the house for 18 years. The next minister to serve the Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter was Reverend Karl Michael Varn. He and his wife lived in the house for 13 years.

In 1989, Rev. and Mrs. Varn decided to buy their own house, so the parsonage was advertised for sale. Tom and Shirley Causby, who had been living just a few miles away in a new home, became interested. They report that their friends thought they were crazy. However, when the friends came to visit, their minds changed. The Causby's both grew up in large families - Shirley's numbered eight, and Tom's-twelve. They feel right at home in "this homey" but spacious house. ⁽¹⁹⁾

The Causbys had heard that another house had been built in Rutherford County that seemed to be identical. It is believed that within a few years after the completion of this Belmont house, Edgar Nollie and Grace Harton Washburn visited the Hand house and bought the construction documents. They returned home and built the same house across the road

from his Washburn Store. The Causbys have visited this house and verify the almost identical house. ⁽²⁰⁾

FOOTNOTES

1. Withers, Kim W., *Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, Commercial Printers, Gastonia, N. C. 1984. P. 253.
2. Wehunt-Black, Rita, *Gaston County, NC*, Charleston History Press, 2008. P. 37.
3. Withers, P. 253.
4. Puett, Minnie Stowe, *Gaston County, A Brief history*, The History Press, Charleston, S.C. 2008. P. 44.
5. *Gastonia Gazette* Article, "Know Your Heritage" by Sally Griffin.
6. Withers, P. 261.
7. *Lake Wylie Living* magazine, Charlotte Observer Magazine Network, March/April 2008. P.27.
8. Ibid. P. 28.
9. Sykes and Hand, *Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain*, Jostins Graphics 1997. P. 7.
10. *Gastonia Gazette* article August 20, 1964. P. 4-B.
11. Ibid. P. 4-B.
12. Withers, P.253 & 272.
13. Sykes and Hand, P.16.
14. Withers, P. 254.
15. Salmond John, *Gastonia 1929*, UNC Press, Chapel Hill, N.C., 1995. P. 183-184.
16. Phone Interview with Sarah Truesdale on May 23, 2009, by Lucy Penegar.
17. *Blessings of the Church Parsonage*, printed program, "The Holy Comforter Parsonages." P.5.
18. Ibid. P.7.
19. *Lake Wylie Living*, P. 28.
20. Interview with Tom and Shirley Causby on April 24, 2009 by Jason Harpe.

Albert Hand House

Summary of Significance

The Albert Hand House is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the most representative example of Southern Colonial Revival style architecture in Belmont, North Carolina, and is rivaled stylistically only by the C.E. Hutchinson House in Mount Holly. The Albert Hand House occupies an architectural seat of prominence among houses fashioned in the Colonial Revival, Renaissance Revival, bungalows, and Victorian architectural styles in Belmont's historic residential district. The Albert Hand House exemplifies and illustrates the growth and sophistication that accompanied the economic success of men engaged in the textile industry in Belmont during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Hand House was designed and built by noted local contractors, Skidmore and R.G. Rankin, who built ^{several} ~~most~~ of the architecturally significant dwellings in nearby Mount Holly. The Hand House maintains a sizable and appropriate physical landscape and streetscape that contributes to the house's architectural and historic significance.

Exterior Description

The Albert Hand House is situated on .83 acres in Belmont, Gaston County, North Carolina at 211 North Main Street. The property, square in shape, is bordered on the north, west, and south by residential dwellings that date from the Albert Hand's period of significance, and on the east by North Main Street. The nominated property includes the .83 acres, and includes the Albert Hand House, built ca. 1907, and two outbuildings that date to the 1970s. The current owners, Thomas R. and Shirley Causby, have occupied the house for over twenty years and have made very few changes to the house and outbuildings. They have added storm windows to cover the house's original wooden windows. They are committed to the house's current and future

preservation, and have opened their home to the general public during annual tours of downtown Belmont. The most recent deed to the Albert Hand House is listed in the Gaston County Deed Book 4451 at Page 2364. The Parcel Identification Number is 125412, and the PIN Number is 3595-00-9880.

The Albert Hand House is situated on a prominent lot in Belmont's exceptional residential section located near its downtown commercial district. It is the only Southern Colonial Revival style dwelling in Belmont, and rivaled only by Abel Caleb Lineberger, Sr. House and the Samuel Pinckney Stowe, Sr. House, both impressive Renaissance Revival style houses near downtown Belmont.¹ Albert Forrest Hand (1868-1909) hired Skidmore and R.F. Rankin to build this impressive house in 1907, and it is believed that Edgar Nollie and Grace Harton Washburn of Washburn, Rutherford County, North Carolina visited Hand within five years after the completion of his home and purchased the construction documents from Skidmore and R.F. Rankin. It is with these documents that Washburn is believed to have built his Southern Colonial Revival house across the road from the Washburn Store ~~that he built~~ in 1904.²

Albert Hand was the son of Col. Moses H. and Laura Gaston Hand, and likely lived and worked in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina as a farmer until he inherited the lot on which

¹ Catherine Bishir, Michael Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 432. Bishir, Southern, and Martin define Southern Colonial Revival style in *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* as "a primarily residential style within the broader Colonial Revival, which drew upon themes popularly associated with the antebellum plantation house but included under the broader term "Colonial." The typical "Southern Colonial" residence featured a massive, full height portico that overlapped a one-story porch or terrace that extended across the front façade and in some cases around the side (s) of the house. Houses of this style were typically fairly symmetrical, with broad center passages, and some examples retained vestiges of Queen Anne massing. The style was quite popular from the 1890s to the 1910s in N.C. and appeared in designs by many local and regional architects."

² Kim Withers Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Gastonia, N.C.: Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, 1982), 261; Thomas Causby, interview by author, 24 April 2009; Bishir, Southern, and Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina*, 185. Bisher, Southern, and Martin wrote that "Family tradition says that the form of the Southern Colonial Revival house [E.N. Washburn House] is based on a residence Washburn had seen in Spartanburg, but the house appears to be a brick version of the James D. Ledbetter house near Forest City."

he built his house in 1907.³ Access to the property is provided by a paved drive that starts at North Main Street and terminates between the house and the two outbuildings at the property's east elevation. The property retains a number of large oaks trees in the front and back yards, in addition to a large magnolia tree at the property's southwest corner, in the front yard. Well manicured natural areas with a myriad of shrubs and flowers are juxtaposed over the property's front, side, and back yards.

The Albert Hand House is a residential two-story, brick, Southern Colonial Revival style dwelling measuring 4,107 square feet. The house is three bays wide by three bays deep with a slate covered hip-roofed main block with projecting gables at the houses northern and southern elevations. The walls are finished in brick that is believed to have been imported from Europe, with the exception of brick extending from the second and third bays at the house's northern elevation. This brick was made locally. Locals have explained to the current property owner that an African-American from Gaston County laid a large majority of the house's brick walls and incised his initials on a brick in a yet undetermined location. The foundation, chimneys, and porch piers are also built of brick that resembles those imported from Europe. The house's center bay, at the eastern elevation, is dominated by a two-story pedimented portico that is supported by two Ionic columns surmounted by scrolled capitals. All of the house's windows, with the exception of the ribbon of windows on the enclosed back porch, have granite sills and lintels. The house has three interior bricks chimneys that protrude through the hipped-roof at the northern and southern elevations, and the third chimney extends from the enclosed back porch.⁴

³ Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, 261.

⁴ Thomas Causby, interview by author, 24 April 2009.

The Albert Hand House has central heating and air conditioning, four bedrooms and three bathrooms, no basement, and a back porch that was originally screened. The current property owners enclosed the back porch within the past ten years. They have made contemporary additions to the house within the past ten years in the form of vinyl siding at the house's wide overhanging eaves and the pedimented front portico. The property includes one historic resource (Albert Hand House) that contributes to the property's significance, and two contemporary, non-contributing outbuildings (a garage and storage building) that were built during the 1970s. Although the contemporary outbuildings' date of construction are outside of the Albert Hand House's period of significance, they are barely visible from North Main Street and do not diminish the house's historic and architectural significance.

The Albert Hand House has a symmetrical design with various architectural features indicative of the Southern Colonial Revival style that was popular from the 1890s to the 1910s in North Carolina. These features include a massive, full-height portico that overlaps a low balustrade with square balusters and a one-story wraparound porch with a broad center passage. The pedimented front portico has wide overhanging eaves and widely-spaced modillions. Situated in the tympan of the pedimented portico is a lunette.

The wide wraparound porch is supported by wooden classical Tuscan columns that rest on stuccoed brick piers topped by granite blocks, and the porch flooring is wide pine decking that the current property owners refinished during their occupancy. The shed-roofed porch has a wide entablature that the current owners have covered with vinyl, and the porch ceiling retains the original bead board that is painted white. Occupying the center bay of the front façade is the original single pane glass door that protects a single-pane over paneled door with original hardware. Flanking the main entry are decorative leaded muntins atop recessed panels. Set atop

the door is a decorative transom with leaded muntins. Two large windows with decorative muntins are located at the north and south of the house's main entry. Jack arches and granite keystones are located above each of these windows. The façade terminates in brick quoins at the corners of the first and second story. The windows on the façade's second story are original two-over-two double hung windows.

The southern and northern elevations of the Albert Hand House are three bays wide. The first bay at each elevation has one-over-one double hung windows. The first story windows are topped by granite keystones, and the second story windows have a granite sill and lintel. The windows at the second and third bays at the southern elevation are one-over-one double hung windows with granite sills and lintels. A single-paned window at this elevation has a granite sill and lintel and is located between the second and third bays. This elevation has broad overhanging eaves at the first and second stories that are covered with vinyl. The second bay at the northern elevation has two one-over-one windows with granite sills and lintels at the second story and the first story has a one-over-one double hung window flanked by two smaller one-over-one double hung windows. One of the windows at the third bay has ^{been} covered in brick, and the other is a two-over-one double hung window.

The Albert Hand House's western elevation has two one-over-one double hung windows at the second story and is marked by an enclosed porch at the first story. The enclosed porch has a ribbon of six-over-six vinyl windows and a modern metal door surmounted by a fanned transom. The current owners enclosed the former screened porch during their ownership and laid brick flooring at ground level. Additionally, they added brick stairs to lead into the interior kitchen.

Interior Description

The interior of the Albert Hand House retains the original wood flooring, trim, and detailing. The layout of the first and second stories has been minimally altered over the last fifty years, although two mantels have been removed and a few of the fireplaces have been closed. The first and second floor bathrooms have been remodeled with modern appliances and tile flooring and walls.

The central entry hall provides access to a dining room and living room at the northern elevation, and a living room, half bathroom, stairway, and bedroom at the southern elevation. Flooring in the central entry hall is heart pine that Albert Hand purchased from Mecklenburg County. The hall, and living room and formal dining room at the northeastern corner have paneled wainscoting. A large pilastered arch with a simple, attractive architrave stands at the base of the stairs at the rear of the central entry hall. A second pilastered arch is located on the western wall in the central entry hall and leads to a hallway and the back porch. The current owners use this hallway as a storage area, and currently have a large secretary obscuring the door to this hallway. Each of the house's rooms have raised panel doors, and three-inch thick raised panel pocket doors separate the living room at the northeastern corner from the formal dining room. All interior door and window surrounds have vertical grooves and lintels with plain friezes and cyma reversa crown molding. The first and second floor rooms have wide baseboards with molded caps and hardware.

The pilastered arch located at the southwestern corner of the central entry hall leads to a 180-degree turn staircase, which retains its original drop finial, newel post with recessed panels, and turned wooden balusters that are painted white. The balusters are topped by the original pine banister, and terminate in the original pine treads. The pine stair treads are now carpeted, and

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