

Country Club Estates Historic District National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form: Sections 7 and 8 (May 13, 2019)

Section 7

Summary

The Country Club Estates Historic District embraces approximately 50 acres and ___ [count to be determined] primary resources in the City of Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina. The district, which was platted adjacent to the Mount Airy Country Club in the 1920s and 1930s, is residential in character with houses in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional, International Style, Ranch, and French Eclectic styles built from ca. 1929 to ca. 1970. There is also one older resource, a dynamite shed dated ca. 1915.

Narrative Description

The district's principal street is Country Club Road, which runs the length of the district from south to north. Secondary streets are Clubview Drive and Fairway Lane and a small portion (one lot) of Greenhill Road. The district is located a short distance east of Lovills Creek and it touches on two small branches that flow into the creek. The southern part of the district is terrace-like, with a gradual rise in elevation from around 1,080 feet above sea level to around 1,120 feet (at the southernmost extent the district drops to around 1,060 feet along one of the aforementioned branches). The northern part of the district, from Fairway Lane north, is hillier, topping out around 1,250 feet above sea level.

The district has a high percentage of contributing resources, that is, resources that date to the period of significance (ca. 1929-ca. 1970) and retain sufficient architectural integrity. Among the ___ primary resources (all houses), the number of contributing houses is __ and the number of non-contributing houses is __, yielding a ratio of ___ contributing. Among all resources (___ in number), the contributing ratio is __ percent. As the strong ratios of contributing to non-contributing resources indicate, the district overall possesses a high degree of historical integrity.

The district possesses a high level of integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The majority of resources date to the period of significance and possess exterior integrity of design in that they retain their historic form, structure, and style. The area possesses integrity of setting in that it retains the residential character that developed during the period of significance. The majority of resources possess integrity of workmanship in that the physical evidence of the crafts involved in their construction and ornamentation remains evident. The majority of resources possess the materials that have characterized them since the end of the period of significance and the area as a whole conveys a sense of the particular period of time during which it was developed and gained its historic associations. The area possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical and architectural developments that formed it.

The majority of historic houses in the district are frame construction. Original cladding materials and exterior finishes include brick veneer, stone, stucco, and weatherboard. The most common modern replacement cladding material is vinyl. Roofs, which are generally gabled or hipped in form, were generally sheathed with asphalt shingles historically, a roofing material that remains common. Many houses retain historic-period wood window sashes although an increasing number have had their historic windows replaced with vinyl sashes. Common features include chimneys and flues (typically brick), dormers, front porches, and rear wings and additions. Some houses are accompanied by historic-period detached garages, although most garages are attached.

Inventory Key

The inventory is organized numerically by street number beginning with Clubview Drive and proceeding through Greenhill Road. Headings list the address, the generic or historic property name, date, and contributing status. Dates are either exact or approximate, the latter indicated by the abbreviation ca. for circa (Latin for “about”). Circa dates are determined by various historic sources, stylistic clues, and data on the Surry County Geographical Information System (GIS) website which list construction dates for buildings. Although they are presented as exact dates, these “county dates” are sometimes approximations, though generally the county dates are close to dates indicated by other sources. The status of resources as either contributing or non-contributing to the historic character of the boundary increase is indicated by “Contributing building” or “Non-contributing building,” or, less commonly, by contributing or non-contributing structure (carports are a common structure; there are no resources classified as sites or objects in the district).

Following the heading is a description of the primary resource’s height, style, construction material/method, exterior wall material, and roof form and material when these can be readily determined from the street. Other features such as windows, porches, and foundations are also generally noted, as are modern alterations. The descriptions also generally include limited historical information such as historic-period owners and/or occupants. City directories were consulted to determine early owners/occupants. Secondary resources such as garages and sheds are given a tertiary heading but their contributing status is also noted and adds to the overall count. Secondary resource description is generally brief and construction dates tend to be more approximate. For early outbuildings such as garages, form, material, style, and evidence of wear are the main indicators of approximate outbuilding dates.

Inventory

102 Club View Drive. J. D. Meadows House. Ca. 1967. SR1414. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front elevation has a staggered profile, with a gable-fronted wing at the west end, a slightly-projecting two-vehicle garage at the east end, and a recessed section between but with a living room projection with a large picture window. To the left of the living room projection is a front entry with sidelights and a wood panel door. The brick is buff in color and surfaces like the gables and garage walls are clad with what appears to be vinyl. A rectangular bay window on the

front of the front-gable wing has a concave hip roof of green color that probably indicates copper roofing. Other features include replacement windows, an interior brick chimney, skylights, a small dormer-like gable on the front of the garage, and a driveway that connects to Greenhill Road. J. D. Meadows lived at the address in 1969, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1967.

106 Club View Drive. J. W. Eggleston House. Ca. 1966. SR1415. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The garage on the east end projects slightly on the front and the front entry is contained in a recess with a board-and-batten lining. To the right of the entry, which has a louvered wood outer door, is an angled bay window. Other features include tan brick, replacement windows, an interior brick chimney, and a glassed-in porch at the rear northeast corner. J. W. Eggleston lived at the address in 1969, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1966.

110 Club View Drive. House. Ca. 1981. SR1416. Non-contributing building.

Two-and-a-half-story Neo-Victorian frame house with cementitious wood siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has a complex, irregular form and profile in keeping with the historical styles it emulates, which may include the Gothic Revival style (suggested by a steep-pitched front gable), the Second Empire style (suggested by a mansard roof detail at the southwest front corner), the Queen Anne style (suggested by beveled simulation wood shingles in the front gable and a wraparound one-story porch on the front and east sides), and the Tudor Revival style (suggested by a jettied second story at the southwest front corner). The porch has classical columns and square balusters and it shelters a front entry with sidelights and a wood-framed glass door. Other features include two gabled dormers, an interior brick chimney, one-over-one windows (apparently wood frame), a gablet on decorative brackets over the second-story window in the front gable wing, and a basement garage at the west end. The county date for the house is 1981.

114 Club View Drive. R. S. Wimbish House. Ca. 1966. SR1417. Contributing building.

One-story French Eclectic house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The brick is painted stone color and has quoining at some corners. The front entry is contained in a segmental-arched recess and has double-leaf wood doors with decoratively curved upper panels. To either side of the entry are multi-paned bow windows. Other features include eight-over-eight wood sash windows, an interior brick chimney, and a garage at the east end. R. S. Wimbish lived at the address in 1969, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1966.

122 Club View Drive. J. F. Stevens House. Ca. 1968. SR1418. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has gable-fronted projections at both ends of its long front elevation, the one at the west end containing a two-vehicle garage. The projections frame a front porch with heavy, paneled square wood columns. The porch shelters a rectangular bay window and an entry with sidelights and a wood panel door. The west projection and the house wall under the porch are clad with painted wood shingles that may be a modern replacement of an earlier material. Other features include eight-over-twelve wood sash windows, and interior brick chimney, and, at the rear northeast corner, a wood-shingled wing with multiple French doors with transoms. J. F. Stevens lived at the address in 1969, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1968.

331 Country Club Road. Carl M. Baber House. Ca. 1950. SR1419. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival Minimal Traditional house of weatherboard-sided frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front porch is unusual in form, full-façade with a gable-fronted center portion flanked by low-pitched shed (almost flat) sections. There are replacement square wood posts and balusters and a dentil-like molding runs across the front roof edge. On the east gable end is an exterior brick chimney with a single stepped shoulder and a soldier cap. The foundation is parged concrete block with a basement garage on the east side. Other features include six-over-six and eight-over-eight wood sash windows, two gabled dormers on the roof front, and a wood front door with three small windows at the top. The driveway is bordered on the west side by a parged retaining wall that gives the front yard a terraced appearance. Willard M. Moore owned this parcel in June 1946 but by March 1950 it had been acquired by Carl M. Baber. The county date for the house is 1950. Baber still lived at the address in 1962, according to the city directory of that year.

339 Country Club Road. Natt and Ruth Ferguson House (Renzo Sutter House). Ca. 1946. SR0267. Contributing building.

Natt Ferguson was the original owner of this two-story flat-roofed house, and according to former neighbor George Barney Cashwell, who remembers the house being built when he was a child, Ferguson was also its builder and likely its designer. The austere lines and blocky form of the house relate it to the International Style, which was in vogue in the late 1940s when the house was built (Ferguson acquired the lot in June 1946 and is thought to have begun the house soon after). The house is concrete block with a stucco finish and has a two-story core with one-story wings, all flat roofed. The entry porch has a shallow-sloping shed roof sheathed with Spanish tiles. The aluminum-framed windows occur in different configurations, such as singly on walls, wrapping corners, and as a ribbon across the front first story, and they have green-painted slatted shutters with heart-shaped cutouts and decorative shutter dogs. Natt Ferguson, who was a barber, and his wife, Ruth Mae Martin Ferguson, sold the property to Dr. Renzo H. Sutter in 1950. Sutter was a physician from Cuba who moved to Mount Airy by the late 1940s (he lived in the Snyder Apartments in 1949 according to the city directory of that year). The county date for the house is 1946.

411 Country Club Road. Joseph and Gertrude Prather House. 1950. SR1140. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of frame construction with log-like siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The Rustic Revival siding is modern but it appears to be an in-kind replacement of similar original siding. There is a gable-fronted wing at the front west corner with a battered exterior brick chimney. The front porch has heavy square wood posts and railings made of rounded wooden elements, possibly sections of sapling trunk. Other features include what appears to be a wood panel door, replacement windows, a cinder block interior brick flue, and a modern rear deck. According to Billee Prather Miller, her father Joseph W. Prather designed the house, which he had built.

a. Dynamite Shed. Ca. 1915. Contributing building.

Small one-story building of 1:5 common bond brick construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The building has entries at both ends (without doors) and small rectangular ventilations openings in the gables. According to former neighborhood residents Billee Prather Miller and Otis M. (Bud) Oliver, the shed was used by Midkiff Hardware, located in downtown Mount Airy, to store dynamite. The shed's remote location (before the construction of houses near it) would have been precautionary. Oliver recalls that the area around it was wooded in the 1940s (the hillside across a small creek to the south of the shed is still wooded). Miller recalls that she and her husband used the shed as a stable for their son's horse, possibly in the 1960s.

504 Country Club Road. Frank E. Baughan House. Early/mid-1940s. SR1420. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The gable-fronted porch at the south front corner extends back to cover part of the south elevation and the base of an exterior brick chimney. The porch has decorative metal supports and a metal railing. The detail is Colonial Revival, such as a dentil cornice. Other features include eight-over-eight wood sash windows, a wood panel door, what appears to be aluminum siding in the gables, and a one-story attached garage with one vehicle bay at the north end. Frank E. Baughan lived in the vicinity in 1949 and at this address in 1957. According to George (Barney) Cashwell, Baughan may have been the original owner. The county date for the house is 1945.

508 Country Club Road. Henry and Doug Johnson House. Ca. 1940. SR1421. Contributing building.

Two-story Colonial Revival house of vinyl-sided frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The dominant feature is a semi-circular portico supported by monumental Doric-influenced round columns which may fiberglass replacements of similar original columns. The

front entry has sidelights, a segmental pediment, and a wood panel door. Other features include replacement windows, an interior brick chimney, and a one-story rear wing. Henry H. Johnson lived in the vicinity in 1949 and at this address in 1957. According to Otis M. (Bud) Oliver, Henry Johnson, who was in the produce business, had the house built. His wife's name was Doug. The county date for the house is 1940.

a. Garage. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.
One-story prefabricated metal garage.

b. Garage and shed. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.
One-story frame building in two sections, a garage with one vehicle bay at the north end and a shed with double-leaf doors for lawn equipment at the south end. The building has vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof.

512 Country Club Road. Prather-Fowler House. Ca. 1929. SR1422. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Dutch Colonial Revival house of novelty vinyl-sided frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gambrel roof. Long shed dormers extend across the front and rear roof planes. The front entry, sheltered by an altered entry porch on replacement classical columns, has sidelights and a wood panel door. The porch roof is supported at the house wall by original decorative wood brackets. On the north end is a one-story porch with slender replacement classical columns in groups of twos and threes and turned balusters. Other features include a brick foundation, an exterior brick chimney on the north end, and a modern rear deck. The driveway has a retaining wall that gives the front yard a terraced appearance. According to Billee Prather Miller, the daughter of Country Club Estates developer Joseph William Prather and his wife, Gertrude Prather, this was her parents' first house in the subdivision, followed a few years later by their house at 528 Country Club. Marshall C. Fowler and his wife, Lucy B. Fowler, were early owners after the Prathers. The house was sold to Dr. Richard D. Jackson, who lived there in 1957 according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1935.

516 Country Club Road. Lucy B. Fowler House. 1956. SR1423. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of painted brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front entry is contained in a recess with a modern stone lining and has sidelights and a wood panel door. The south end of the living area, adjacent to an attached carport, has simulation shingle siding. Other features include replacement windows and an interior brick chimney. According to George (Barney) Cashwell, Lucy B. Fowler had this house built next to her residence at 512 Country Club as her residence after her husband, Marshall C. Fowler, died in April 1956. She is shown at this address in the 1957 city directory. The county date for the house is 1956.

520 Country Club Road. Oliver-Cashwell House. Ca. 1940. SR1424. Contributing building.

Two-story Period Cottage of weatherboard-sided frame construction with a steep asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The roof is broken up by a steep-pitched front gable and a shed dormer. The front entry, under the front gable, has a heavy classical surround and a wood panel door. The front south corner of the house is a glassed-in porch. A glassed-in bridge connects to a one-story addition on the south side of Ranch-like form. The wing, which has a parged foundation, may date to around 1980. Other features include four-over-four wood sash windows and an exterior brick chimney on the north side with paved shoulders and parging above the roof line. G. Barney Cashwell lived in the vicinity in 1949 and at this address in 1957. The Olivers may have lived there earlier. The county date for the house is 1920 although that date is too early. The form of the house suggests it was built in the 1930s, although its form is very similar to the house at 548 Country Club (SR1431) which is believed to date to ca. 1946.

a. Garage. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

One-story garage of vinyl-sided frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof and a single vehicle bay.

524 Country Club Road. Morris W. Monday House. Ca. 1949. SR1425. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A gable-fronted front wing has an entry with a wood panel door under a gablet supported by decorative curving wood brackets. On the north end is a sided sunroom-type wing that appears to be an enclosed porch. Other features include an interior brick chimney, replacement windows with soldier lintels, and a narrow rectangular window in the front gable. Morris W. "Turk" Monday lived in the vicinity in 1949 and at this address in 1957, according to the city directories of those years. Dorothy S. Monday, a nurse, lived with Morris Monday in 1949 and 1957. According to George (Barney) Cashwell, Morris Monday probably had the house built. The county date for the house is 1950.

528 Country Club Road. Prather-Childress House. Ca. 1930. SR1426. Contributing building.

Two-story Colonial Revival of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front entry porch has a gable roof with a barrel-vaulted ceiling finished in tongue-and-groove, standing on paneled square wood columns which may be replacements. It shelters an entry with sidelights and a replacement door, both the door and sidelights with decorative modern glass. At the two ends of the house are one-story wings faced with modern stonework. The south wing was originally a porch with a roof sleeping deck accessed from the second-floor bedroom on that end which extended from the front of the house to the back. It has a roof balustrade which is probably a replacement of the original. The north wing was made from a porte cochere. Other features include replacement windows and, on the north and south gable ends, shoulder-less exterior brick chimneys. According to Billee Prather Miller, her parents Joseph William and Gertrude Prather had this house built about 1930, moving into it from their first house in the subdivision at 512 Country Club. Billee Miller believes Joseph Prather may

have designed the house, and she notes that it has or formerly had a large mirror over the living room fireplace because her father owned a mirror factory. S. Clinton Childress lived at this address in 1957, by which date the Prathers had moved to 411 Country Club. The address on the house is 526 Country Club. The county date for the house is 1925, which is too early.

532 Country Club Road. Marvin F. Warhurst House. Ca. 1946. SR1427. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Tudor Revival Period Cottage of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. On the front is an asymmetrical gabled wing with false half-timbering in the gable and an entry with a baskethandle arch. The batten front door has small diagonally ascending window panes. Juxtaposed with the front gable wing is an exterior brick chimney with double paved shoulders on its north side. At the north end of the house is a porch with segmental-arched openings and metal railings behind screening. Other features include a small accent window to the right of the entry, false half-timbering in the porch gable, and replacement windows. Marvin F. Warhurst lived at this address in 1957 and T. Duke Wooten lived at it in 1962. The county date for the house is 1946.

536 Country Club Road. Reginald H. Schwab House. Ca. 1955. SR1428. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front entry is contained in a slight recess framed by fluted pilasters and it has a wood panel door. The entry opens onto a small concrete patio. To the right of the entry is a plate glass picture window. Other features include replacement windows and an interior brick chimney. Reginald H. "Tom" Schwab lived at the address in 1957 and 1962, according to the city directories of those years. According to George (Barney) Cashwell, Schwab was a radio announcer and part owner of the WPAQ Radio Station. The county date for the house is 1960, although this is apparently too late.

540 Country Club Road. Haven M. Britt House. Ca. 1941. SR1429. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The gabled front entry porch, which may be entirely a replacement, has aluminum columns and shelters a batten door. On the south end is a one-story wing with novelty and plain vinyl siding and an angled bay window with six-over-six wood sash windows (other window sashes are replacements). Other features include two gable dormers, a shoulder-less exterior brick chimney on the south end, an exterior brick flue on the north end, and a rear screened porch. Haven M. Britt, owner of Mount Airy's Packard automobile dealership, lived at this address in 1957 and Dr. Charles G. Robertson Jr. lived there in 1962. The county date for the house is 1941. A 1960s photograph in the Mount Airy Country Club collection shows 540 Country Club with decorative roof balustrades on the north wing and on a former front entry porch roughly the size of the current porch.

544 Country Club Road. Porter M. Hampton House. Ca. 1952. SR1430. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The south half of the front elevation has an engaged porch with square wood posts with decorative brackets. Just to the left of the porch is a window that appears to have been inserted in place of a chimney, as suggested by changes in the brickwork and roof shingles. Other features include replacement windows, a replacement front door, aluminum-sided gables, and an interior brick chimney. Porter M. Hampton, a dry cleaner, lived at this address in 1957. The county date for the house is 1952. The house is undergoing remodeling.

548 Country Club Road. J. Chester Simmons House. Ca. 1946. SR1431. Contributing building.

Two-story Period Cottage of aluminum-sided frame construction with a steep asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The roof is broken up by a steep-pitched front gable and a shed dormer. The front entry, under the front gable, has a wood panel door sheltered by an aluminum awning and flanked by small accent windows with wood muntins (other window sashes in the house are replacements). On the south gable end is a shoulder-less exterior brick chimney with random darker bricks and which is rebuilt above the roofline. Other features include a brick foundation and a one-story south wing with a separate entrance. J. Chester "Check" Simmons lived in the vicinity in 1949 and at this address in 1957. The county date for the house is 1946. The form of the house is very similar to the house at 520 Country Club (SR1424).

a. Shed. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.

One-story gable-fronted frame shed, almost impossible to see from the street, which appears to be partially sided with particle board.

b. Shed. Late 20th c. Non-contributing structure.

552 Country Club Road. John R. Lowry House. Ca. 1940. SR1432. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A gable-fronted front wing has an entry in a classical surround with fluted pilasters and a broken pediment with a center urn. In the front gable are purple-hued bricks grouped to suggest irregular broken diapering. The entry opens onto a brick and concrete terrace, and to its right is a large window. At the north end of the house is a section with wide novelty weatherboard siding, probably an enclosed porch, and attached to that is a modern carport. Other features include a front wood and glass panel door, replacement windows, an interior brick chimney, and an interior brick flue. John R. Lowry lived in the vicinity in 1949 and Lowry and Stanley M. King lived at this address in 1962. The county date for the house is 1940.

558 Country Club Road. Coy M. Clifton House. Ca. 1954. SR1433. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The south end of the front elevation projects, and between it and the north end is a recessed entry. Other features include replacement windows and an interior brick chimney. The driveway is defined on its north side by a stepped brick retaining wall. Coy M. Clifton lived here in 1957, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1954.

562 Country Club Road. T. Chester Barber Jr. House. Ca. 1954. SR1434. Contributing building.

One-story frame Ranch house with board-and-batten siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The engaged front porch has square wood posts and balusters. On the south end is a set-back wing and at the juncture of the wing and the main section is an exterior brick chimney. Other features include a front accent window with diamond-pattern muntins, a brick foundation, and replacement windows. T. Chester Barber Jr. lived here in 1957, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1954.

605 Country Club Road. James and Hallie Sitison House. Ca. 1952. SR1435. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional Period Cottage of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The prominent front gable wing has a smaller gabled projection with the front entry in a basket-handle-arched recess. The entry, which has a replacement door, opens onto a brick terrace. On the south gable end is an exterior brick chimney with a singled paved shoulder. Other features include a two-car basement garage on the west (rear) side, replacement windows, and a round louvered vent in the main front gable. James A. Sitison, a pharmacist, lived in the vicinity in 1957 and after his death his widow, Hallie M. Sitison, lived there (in 1962 and 1969, according to the city directories of those years). The county date for the house is 1952.

a. Deck and shelter. Early 21st c. Non-contributing structure.

From the north end of the house extends a deck with, at its north end, an open-sided shed-roofed shelter.

606 Country Club Road. G. Thomas Fawcett House. Ca. 1963. SR1436. Contributing building.

One-story Colonial Revival Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The pedimented front entry porch has horizontal and raking dentil cornices in the pediment and Ionic columns. It stands on a brick platform with brick steps with

metal railings that scroll at the bottom. At each end of the house are slightly lower and set-back wings. Other features include a wood panel door and replacement windows. G. Thomas Fawcett lived at the address in 1966, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1963 (the address is not listed in the 1962 city directory).

a. Garage. Ca. 1963. Contributing building.

Garage of brick-veneered frame construction with a front-gable roof with siding in the gable and a small cupola on the roof ridge.

650 Country Club Road. House. 2007. SR1437. Non-contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The middle part of the house, which has a higher roof than the flanking sections, has an engaged front porch with heavy square wood columns. The front entry inside the porch has sidelights, a transom, and a wood panel door. Other features include four gabled dormers on the roof, a porch on the north end with columns like the front porch, a one-story wing on the south end, and vinyl windows.

700 Country Club Road. I. J. Krepick House. Ca. 1962. SR1438. Non-contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Across the front is a modern glassed-in porch, or a modern enclosure of an original porch, with an angled entry porch at the north end. The north end of the house has a two-car garage and a perpendicular wing with a third garage bay. Some of the replacement windows have baskethandle arches. Other features include tan brick, interior brick chimneys or flues, and a front shed dormer. The county date for the house is 1962, although it is not listed by its current address in the 1966 city directory. I. J. Krepick lived at the house in 1969, according to the city directory of that year.

711 Country Club Road. R. B. Armfield House. Ca. 1964. SR1439. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. On the east end is a carport with brick pillars on a brick wall. The recessed front entry contains a wood panel door with sidelights. Other features include replacement windows and an interior brick chimney. The county date for the house is 1964 but the address does not appear in the 1966 city directory. R. B. Armfield lived at the house in 1969, according to the city directory of that year.

715 Country Club Road. John F. Geiger Sr. House. Ca. 1930. SR1440. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Tudor Revival house with brick veneer (probably on frame) and a front/side gable roof. The front gable is steep and has a swooping curved profile on the west side. A brick chimney with terra-cotta chimney pots rises up it, next to a gabled vestibule with a basket-handle-arched entry with a batten door with a single glass pane. Other features include replacement windows with wood lintels and rear shed dormers. The county date for the house is 1930. John F. Geiger, who claimed to be one of the last recipients of an engineering degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, lived in the house in the 1940s, according to George Barney Cashwell and Otis M. "Bud" Oliver. J. F. Geiger (Sr.) lived at this address in 1966 with J. F. Geiger Jr. listed to the rear.

725 Country Club Road. Brock-Rountree House. Ca. 1930. SR1441. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Period Cottage with Tudor Revival influence, brick-veneered frame construction, and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The brickwork is highly decorative, with sinuous irregular coursing and numerous stone accents with irregularly shaped and colored stones. The stonework frames a round-arched front entry containing a batten door with a window. The entry is set into a gabled projection which adjoins a brick chimney with a single two-step shoulder. On the east side is a porch under a slightly lower gable with brick pillars (with accent stones) and wooden beam spans. Similar beams for lintels over windows. Other features include replacement windows, a terrace behind the side porch, and a rear addition with novelty weatherboard siding, one-over-one windows, and a basement garage. The county date for the house is 1929, although Mary Brock Higgs, the daughter of the original owner, believes it may have been built in the 1930s. The original owner was Joseph William Brock, who was with Pine State Knitwear, and his wife, Mary Louise Lineback Brock. Julian H. "Jake" Rountree, a furniture company salesman, lived in the house in the 1940s, according to George Barney Cashwell and Otis M. "Bud" Oliver. J. H. Rountree lived at this address in 1966.

726 Country Club Road. Hugh L. Merritt Sr. House. Ca. 1940. SR1442. Non-contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival frame house with a stone-faced original section and flanking one-story additions with vinyl siding. The house has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, the original section with three gabled dormers. The front entry, which originally opened onto an unroofed stoop, has a modern porch with a segmental roof, smooth round Doric columns, and fluted rectangular-section Doric pilasters. The entry has a wood panel door with a transom and a paneled surround. The stone facing is formed into jack arches with keystones over the windows. The six-over-six and eight-over-eight windows are either wood sash or simulated divided light. The east end addition is a two-bay garage with a cupola on the ridge. The original section has a stone chimney that was originally exterior but is now mostly covered by the addition on the west end. Hugh L. Merritt Sr. hired Winston-Salem architect Luther Lashmit to build the house, according to Merritt's son, H. Lee Merritt Jr. The house was constructed about 1940 (the county date is 1941). Italian stonemasons from Mount Airy's granite quarry did the stonework, using sandstone quarried in the Sauratown Mountains of Stokes County (local granite was used for some details). About 1995 H. L. Merritt Jr. hired Winston-Salem architect Quinn N. Pillsworth

to make additions and alterations to the house. A bed and bath addition was added to the west end and a larger addition, replacing an original breakfast room, was added on the east side, with a garage at the far east end. An original basement garage was made into a family room and a front entry porch was added (originally the front door opened onto an uncovered stoop).

734 Country Club Road. Thomas F. Southgate House. Ca. 1957. SR1443. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A lower gable-fronted wing projects forward at the east end, and near where it joins the main section is a recessed entry with a paneled lining and a wood panel door with a transom with arched panes. To the right of the entry is an angled bay window. Other features include replacement windows and an interior brick chimney. Thomas F. Southgate lived here in 1966 according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1957.

735 Country Club Road. Joseph and Mary Louise Brock House. Ca. 1941. SR1444. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with a relatively steep asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The brick veneer, which consists of variegated red, pink, and brown brick, alternates with sections of novelty vinyl siding. The front porch engaged under a shed extension of the roof, has square posts grouped in twos and threes. Other features include an interior brick chimney, replacement windows, a multi-pane picture window under the porch that may retain its original wood muntins, a wood door with three glass panes, and a two-car attached garage at the east end. According to current owner Mary Brock Higgs, her father, Joseph William Brock, who was with Pine State Knitwear, and mother, Mary Louise Lineback Brock, had the house built about 1941.

a. Shed. Possibly late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

Frame shed with an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof and novelty siding (either wood or vinyl).

741 Country Club Road. Crockett S. Brannock House. Ca. 1960. SR1445. Contributing building.

One-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. At the west end is an attached garage with two car bays. The house wall is recessed next to it, with board-and-batten siding, a set of four vertical plate glass windows, and an entry with a wood panel door. The rest of the front elevation projects outward and reverts to brick veneer. Other features include a front bow window, fixed and casement windows, and an interior brick chimney. Crockett S. Brannock lived in the vicinity in 1949 and 1962 and at this address in 1966. The county date for the house is 1960, and longtime neighbor Mary Brock Higgs recalls that the house was built about that time.

410 Fairway Lane. C. G. Robertson Jr. House. Ca. 1966. SR1446. Contributing building.

Two-story Colonial Revival house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A pedimented porch with smooth round classical columns and square balusters shelters the front entry with its wood panel door and two narrow flanking windows, the center bay of the five-bay façade. The replacement windows have gauged jack arches and interior brick chimneys rise at each gable end. One-story wings of wood-shingled frame construction, each with a side-gabled hyphen-like element attaching to a gable-fronted end element, extend symmetrically from each gable end. The west wing has a nearly full basement level of parged masonry block construction exposed by the slope of the site. The east end has a two-car garage and a cupola on the ridge. The eaves extend over the garage bays, one of several small departures from rigid symmetry. C. G. Robertson Jr. lived at the address in 1969, according to the city directory of that year. The county date for the house is 1966.

420 Fairway Lane. House. 1998. SR1447. Non-contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival house of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The main section of the roof has three narrow gabled dormers with round-arched windows, and it engages a front porch with square wood posts. The entry inside the porch has sidelights, a transom, and a door with an oval glass panel. To the sides of the main section are slightly lower sections, the east one serving as a connection point for a gable-fronted two-car garage. The one-over-one windows have soldier lintels. At the base of the driveway is a granite cube carved with the address number, 420. The county date for the house is 1998. A house existed at this address in 1969, occupied by S. A. Hennis Jr., according to the 1969 city directory.

440 Fairway Lane. House. Ca. 1970. SR1448. Contributing building.

Story-and-a-half Colonial Revival house of painted brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The front porch has square wood posts and two-by-four railings. It shelters an entry with sidelights, transoms, and a wood panel door. One-story wings project on the east and west gable ends, the east one with a bay window. To the rear is an exterior brick chimney and a shed dormer. Other features include replacement windows, a screen porch on the east end, and a rear attached carport with brick pillars. The county date for the house is 1967. The address is not listed in the 1969 city directory.

a. Barn. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

Two-story barn of vinyl-sided frame construction with a front-gambrel roof. The front has sliding doors of vertical board construction, and in the front eaves is slatted venting. On the east and west side elevations are shed extensions for vehicle storage, the west one projecting beyond the front of the barn. Other features include a poured concrete foundation, metal roofing, and wood-framed windows, six-over-six in the front gambrel.

555 Greenhill Road. House. 2001. SR1449. Non-contributing building.

One-story house, Colonial Revival in inspiration, of brick-veneered frame construction with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The irregular front elevation has three gable-fronted projections, two of which have vinyl siding, and a round-arched entry recess. The entry inside has a round-arched fanlight and a door with decorative glass. To the right is an elliptical accent window. Other features include a jettied gabled window bay on the north side, a basement garage (also on the north side, made possible by the steeply sloping site), and a two-tier back porch that is screened on the second tier. The county date for the house is 2001.

Archaeological Statement

Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Section 8

Statement of Significance Summary

The Country Club Estates Historic District, located in Mount Airy, North Carolina, is a residential neighborhood that developed beside the Mount Airy Country Club, formed in 1927. The neighborhood contains notable examples of the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Ranch styles, as well as the ca. 1946 Natt and Ruth Ferguson House, an International Style residence that is one of Mount Airy's earliest Modernist houses. The neighborhood was one of Mount Airy's first suburban developments and among the first to feature curvilinear planning, the realization of a design by surveyor Phillip H. Haskins. The Country Club Estates Historic District is locally eligible under Criterion A in the community planning and development area of significance and under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance. Two periods of significance are defined for the district. The first is ca. 1915, the estimated date of construction of the dynamite shed at 411 Country Club Road, an unusual resource type which is assumed to predate the golf course and residential development. The second pertains to the residential development and extends from ca. 1929, the date of the oldest house in the neighborhood, until 1970, embracing the early years of the neighborhood's development.

Historic and Architectural Contexts

According to historian Helen Leonard, the Mount Airy Country Club originated in a small three-hole course laid out by local golf enthusiasts in 1926 in a field across North Main Street from

Oakdale Cemetery on the northern outskirts of Mount Airy. The enterprise was successful and inspired the incorporation of the Mount Airy Country Club the following year with the objective to develop a nine-hole course at another location.¹ In July 1927 approximately 125 acres were purchased from Andrew J. (Andy) Bondurant several miles north of Mount Airy on Lovills Creek. “An expert has been employed to have supervision of laying out the course,” reported the *Mount Airy News* on July 21, and the “first work to be started will be grading the greens and tees and getting them in shape for grassing.”² In August the paper noted fifty men were at work on the course, and the Bondurant House, which was to be remodeled as the club house, had burned, necessitating construction of an entirely new club house.³ This building, completed by June 1928, boasted “a large reception hall [for] the convenience of the members and their visiting friends, several doors opening from it to the porches that surround the building.” Another notable feature was a granite mantel donated by J. D. Sargent, president of Mount Airy’s North Carolina Granite Corporation and a vice-president of the country club.⁴

Mount Airy businessmen Joseph William Prather and F. S. Beamer owned acreage on the east side of the golf course, and in 1928 they retained surveyor Phillip H. Haskins to survey the tract into lots and streets. The July 16, 1928 survey, titled “Country Club Estates, Section One,” depicts the row of lots that ascends on the east side of modern Country Club Road from address number 504 to 562. The subdivision also included lots at the south end of the road, where it makes its turn toward North Main Street/Wards Gap Road, namely addresses 331, 339, and 411.⁵ Phillip Haskins gave himself the title of architect on the plat, a change from earlier plats from 1927 on which he listed his occupation as landscape architect or civil engineer.⁶

The Country Club Estates, Section One subdivision was primarily rectilinear, reflecting the narrow linear form of the acreage, but Haskins included a suggestion of a curvilinear street at one end. The plat depicts greens 1, 2 and 8 of the golf course and also shows J. W. Prather’s residence, located about halfway up the road. This is the house at 528 Country Club Road, the Joseph and Gertrude Prather House (SR1426), although according to the Prathers’ daughter, Billee Prather Miller (b. 1929), it was not the first house they built on the block. That was the house four houses down, 512 Country Club Road (SR1422), which they may have built in 1928 or 1929 and lived in until building the house at 528 Country Club about 1930.⁷ The Prathers intended to build a house on the block as early as September 1927 when the local paper noted, “Mr. Prather will occupy the Hale residence [on Church Street in Mount Airy] for a few months until he can have time to build a nice home on his property near the new Country Club.”⁸

Both houses, 512 and 528 Country Club, are Colonial Revival in design. The Colonial Revival style evoked the architecture of the American colonial and early national periods and was much in vogue in Mount Airy in the 1920s, as it was nationwide. 512 Country Club is a subtype of the style known as Dutch Colonial Revival on account of its side-gambrel roof form. Because of the

¹ Helen Leonard, “A Brief History of the Mount Airy Country Club” (2008).

² *Mount Airy News*, July 21, 1927; Surry County Deed Book 97, p. 59.

³ *Mount Airy News*, August 24, 1927.

⁴ *Ibid.*, June 7, 1928; Leonard, “Brief History.”

⁵ Surry County Plat A-31.

⁶ *Ibid.*; Surry County Plat A-23.

⁷ Billee Prather Miller, personal communication with the author, January 2019.

⁸ *Mount Airy News*, September 1, 1927.

restricted headroom in a gambrel upper story, the house has long shed dormers on the front and rear roof planes that effectively convert the upstairs space to a full second floor. The house is similar to certain kit houses marketed by Sears, Roebuck during the 1920s, such as the Martha Washington design, although it is not an exact match.⁹ 528 Country Club is a two-story brick-veneered frame house with a side-gable form, gable-end chimneys, and symmetrical five-bay façade, closer in character to the finer houses of the region from a hundred years earlier. It and the house at 512 Country Club share a somewhat unusual feature: a pair of smaller windows in the middle second-story bay, over the front entry.

Billee Prather Miller believes her father, who worked as an appraiser for a savings and loan, designed the house at 528 Country Club himself. He later designed his residence at 411 Country Club Road (SR1140); a house for Billee and her late husband, James Miller, on Wrenn Avenue in Mount Airy; and a log building at Raven Rock Orchard in Ararat, Virginia. Prince Worrell (1897-1972), the carpenter who built 411 Country Club and the Wrenn Avenue houses, worked for J. W. Prather in connection with his savings and loan business, so it is conceivable he was involved in the construction of the houses at 528 and 512 Country Club as well.¹⁰

Mount Airyites W. E. Merritt and W. L. Sydnor owned another tract adjacent to the golf course which they hired Haskins to subdivide. This 1933 survey, titled simply “Country Club Estates,” embraced lots along modern Fairway Lane and Club View Drive, the latter labeled Hillcrest Drive on the plat. Club View/Hillcrest Drive, which runs along the crest of a steep hillside, is curvilinear, an early local instance of such planning which gained nationwide popularity for suburban development during the period. Curvilinear planning was apparently introduced to the Mount Airy area with the creation of the Taylor Park subdivision, located between Country Club Estates and the downtown, in 1925.¹¹ Club View/Hillcrest Drive, though it was platted in the 1930s, was left undeveloped until the 1960s. The west end of Fairway Lane, located in an area that the country club had set aside for future expansion, was sold for development in 1955.¹²

The earliest known photographs of Country Club Estates were taken on October 24, 1938.¹³ Two of the three photos show the front of the Prather House, which appears in the views much as it does today, although it is unclear whether the two wings yet existed. One of the views, which looks north along the unpaved course of Country Club Road, shows what appears to be the ca. 1930 John F. Geiger Sr. House at 715 Country Club (SR1440) on what at the time was the mostly cleared hill at the north end of the historic district. A view looking southward along Country Club Road may show the tip of the roof of 512 Country Club. There is a suggestion in this southward-looking view of regularly spaced trees along the east side of the road, extending from the Prather House to the bottom of the hill. Billee Prather Miller recalls a line of trees along the road, and the 1928 plat shows regularly-spaced street trees.¹⁴

⁹ Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses by Sears, Roebuck and Company*. (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1986), 325.

¹⁰ Billee Prather Miller.

¹¹ Surry County Plat A-31.

¹² Leonard, “Brief History.”

¹³ The snapshots are in the Mount Airy Country Club collection.

¹⁴ Billee Prather Miller.

The Colonial Revival style represented by the two Prather houses was a perennial favorite with the subdivision's homeowners and their builders, used for houses through the end of the historic period and beyond. The ca. 1940 Henry and Doug Johnson House at 508 Country Club Road (SR1421) has a two-story side-gable form like the house at 528 Country Club as well as a two-story portico of semi-circular form, supported by monumental Doric-influenced columns. A sophisticated design in the style is the ca. 1940 Hugh L. Merritt Sr. House at 726 Country Club Road (SR1442), a story-and-a-half side-gable house designed by Winston-Salem architect Luther Lashmit. Lashmit, who was a lead architect with the Northrup and O'Brien architectural firm at the time, was the designer of Graylyn, the 1927-32 home of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company President Bowman Gray in Winston-Salem. The sandstone facing on the front of the Merritt House was executed by Italian stonemasons employed by the Mount Airy granite quarry. The house was enlarged with telescoping side wings in the 1990s.¹⁵ Later Colonial Revival houses include the ca. 1966 C. G. Robertson Jr. House at 410 Fairway Lane (SR1446), the ca. 1970 house at 440 Fairway Lane (SR1448), and the 1998 house at 420 Fairway Lane (SR1447).

Although the Colonial Revival style dominates the historic district, another style, Tudor Revival, was also popular in the early years. The Tudor Revival style was medievalist in inspiration, meant to evoke English architecture of the sixteenth-century Tudor era, although its sources were broader chronologically and geographically. The aforementioned ca. 1930 John F. Geiger Sr. House at 715 Country Club (SR1440) is representative of the style, at least in its form, which is characterized by an irregular composition and steep gable roofs, including a front-gabled roof with a swooping profile that engages a side wing. Next door is the ca. 1930 Brock-Rountree House at 725 Country Club Road (SR1441), which has highly decorative brickwork with sinuous irregular coursing and irregularly shaped and colored stone accents. Both the Brock-Rountree House and the Geiger House have juxtaposed front gables and chimneys, a common Tudor Revival pairing. Late for the style is the ca. 1946 Marvin F. Warhurst House at 532 Country Club Road (SR1427) which, like the other houses, has a juxtaposed front gable and chimney, but also has false half-timbering in the front gable consisting of vertical, curved, and x-form boards applied to the plaster and intended to mimic the true half-timber construction of certain European medieval and early modern houses. The Warhurst House is a type known as the Period Cottage in North Carolina, a modestly-scaled and generally less lavishly finished version of (in this case) more fully realized Tudor Revival houses. Other Period Cottages with Tudor Revival affinities are the ca. 1935 Oliver-Cashwell House at 520 Country Club Road (SR1424) and the ca. 1946 J. Chester Simmons House at 548 Country Club Road (SR1431). The two houses have front/side-gable forms and picturesque fenestration that suggest their builders may have been aware of the Sears, Roebuck Lynnhaven kit house design.¹⁶

The late 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s were a period of transition in Mount Airy's domestic architecture as the Ranch house form began to influence housebuilding. The Ranch house form was inspired by the simple side-gabled one-story houses associated with California ranches, and its influence is seen in the design of the ca. 1941 Joseph and Mary Louise Brock House at 735 Country Club Road (SR1444), which like the aforementioned Merritt House is composed of a series of telescoping side-gabled elements, although the one-story height of the house and the relatively shallow pitches of the gables are more Ranch-like than the Colonial Revival character

¹⁵ H. Lee Merritt Jr., personal communication with the author, February 2019.

¹⁶ Stevenson and Jandl, *Houses by Mail*, 161.

of the contemporaneous Merritt House. Most houses built in the district during the early years of the transition are of a type known to North Carolina architectural historians as the Minimal Traditional style, which tends to be boxier than later Ranch houses. Examples include the ca. 1940 John R. Lowry House at 552 Country Club Road (SR1432), the 1940s Frank E. Baughan House at 504 Country Club Road (SR1420), and the ca. 1949 Morris W. Monday House at 524 Country Club Road (SR1425). These are one-story or story-and-a-half in height and of brick-veneered frame construction with simple Colonial Revival detail and prominent front gables on their side-gabled forms.

Fully-realized Ranch houses typified construction in the district during the 1950s and 1960s. One, the 1956 Lucy B. Fowler House at 516 Country Club Road (SR1423), was built next door to Fowler's earlier residence (512 Country Club) shortly following the death of her husband in 1956. It has a sleek linear form with a recessed front entry and an end carport. Several Ranch houses were built on Club View Drive when that section finally developed in the 1960s. The ca. 1968 J. F. Stevens House at 122 Club View Drive (SR1418) is an elaboration on the basic Ranch theme, with a front-gable wings at the two ends (one containing the garage) that bracket a porch between. The ca. 1966 R. S. Wimbish House at 114 Club View Drive (SR1417) is Ranch-like in its linear one-story form but its hipped roof and arched entry suggest French Provincial influence. More typical of the Ranch form on the street are the ca. 1967 J. D. Meadows House at 102 Club View Drive (SR1414) and the ca. 1966 J. W. Eggleston House at 106 Club View Drive (SR1415). Construction in the district tapered off after 1970, largely because most lots had been developed. The few houses built after the end of the period of significance tend to be Colonial Revival in inspiration.

Country Club Estates includes a resource earlier than the rest: the ca. 1915 dynamite shed located behind the 1950 Joseph and Gertrude Prather House at 411 Country Club Road (SR1140). The sturdily built brick building was used to store dynamite for (it is thought) the Midkiff Hardware Store, formerly located in downtown Mount Airy. Little is known about the history of the building, other than it was known to have been used for the storage of dynamite by individuals who grew up in the neighborhood in the 1930s and 1940s. It was no longer used for dynamite when those individuals became familiar with it as children.¹⁷ Though the dynamite shed itself is poorly documented, a considerable amount of information exists on the Midkiff Hardware Store's association with dynamite, due to an explosion that occurred in the building in December 1926. According to the December 22, 1926, *Danbury Reporter*, between fifty and seventy sticks of dynamite stored in the basement of the Brannock-Midkiff Hardware Company exploded, resulting in the destruction of the building and adjacent buildings and causing \$165,000 in property damage.¹⁸ The incident led to a North Carolina Supreme Court case.¹⁹

The dynamite shed is similar in scale to documented examples from the historic period, including the dynamite shed at the Carbondale Coal Mine in Athens County, Ohio, a small barrel-vaulted brick building that probably dates to the early twentieth century, and the ca. 1915 dynamite shed at the Cherokee Brick and Tile Company plant near Macon, Georgia, a metal-

¹⁷ Otis M. (Bud) Oliver and Billee Prather Miller personal communication with the author, January 2019.

¹⁸ *Danbury Reporter*, December 22, 1926.

¹⁹ *Midkiff v. Insurance Company*, 147 S.E. 812 (N.C. 1929).

sided frame building with a gable roof.²⁰ Based on the author's thirty-plus years of survey experience in North Carolina and other states, dynamite sheds are rare (he has never encountered one elsewhere). One of the few documented North Carolina examples is the 1952 dynamite shed, apparently of cinder block construction, on Sycamore Trail at Umstead State Park in Wake County.²¹

A date of ca. 1915 is assigned to the district's dynamite shed based on its general construction and on the assumption that it was unlikely to have been built in 1927 or later when it would have presented a hazard to the golf course and residential development in the area. Why the Midkiff business would have stored dynamite at its downtown location when it had a facility for safer storage is an unanswered question, unless the quantity on the premises in December 1926 was an aberration, or was considered a small and safe amount for retail purposes. It seems remotely possible the dynamite shed was built in 1927 in response to the explosion; if so it presumably served its original function for only a brief period (it was later used as a stable by the Prather family during the main period of significance). It may also be that the association of the shed with the Midkiff business is in error, suggested by memories of the notorious 1926 explosion, and the shed was actually used by another enterprise needing remote dynamite storage. Whatever its true provenance, the dynamite shed is significant as a rarely surviving resource type.

²⁰ Coal Camp USA website (<http://www.coalcampusa.com/eastoh/hocking/hocking.htm>); Sidney Johnston, "Cherokee Brick and Tile Company" (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, ca. 2001), 9.

²¹ Helen P. Ross, "Crabtree Creek Recreational Demonstration Area" (National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1995), 5, 17.