

PROPOSAL OF  
THE NOAH BENJAMIN KENDRICK HOUSE, 1922  
CHERRYVILLE TOWNSHIP  
TO THE GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
REGISTER  
MAY 1993

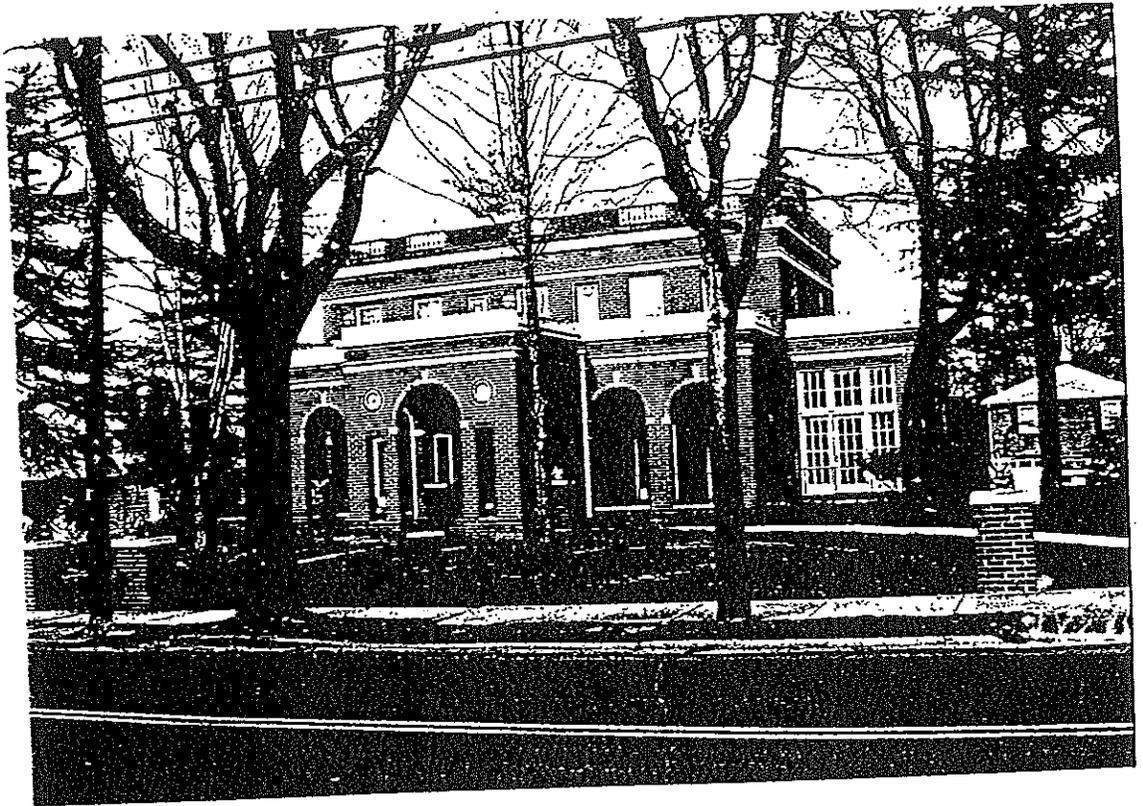


GASTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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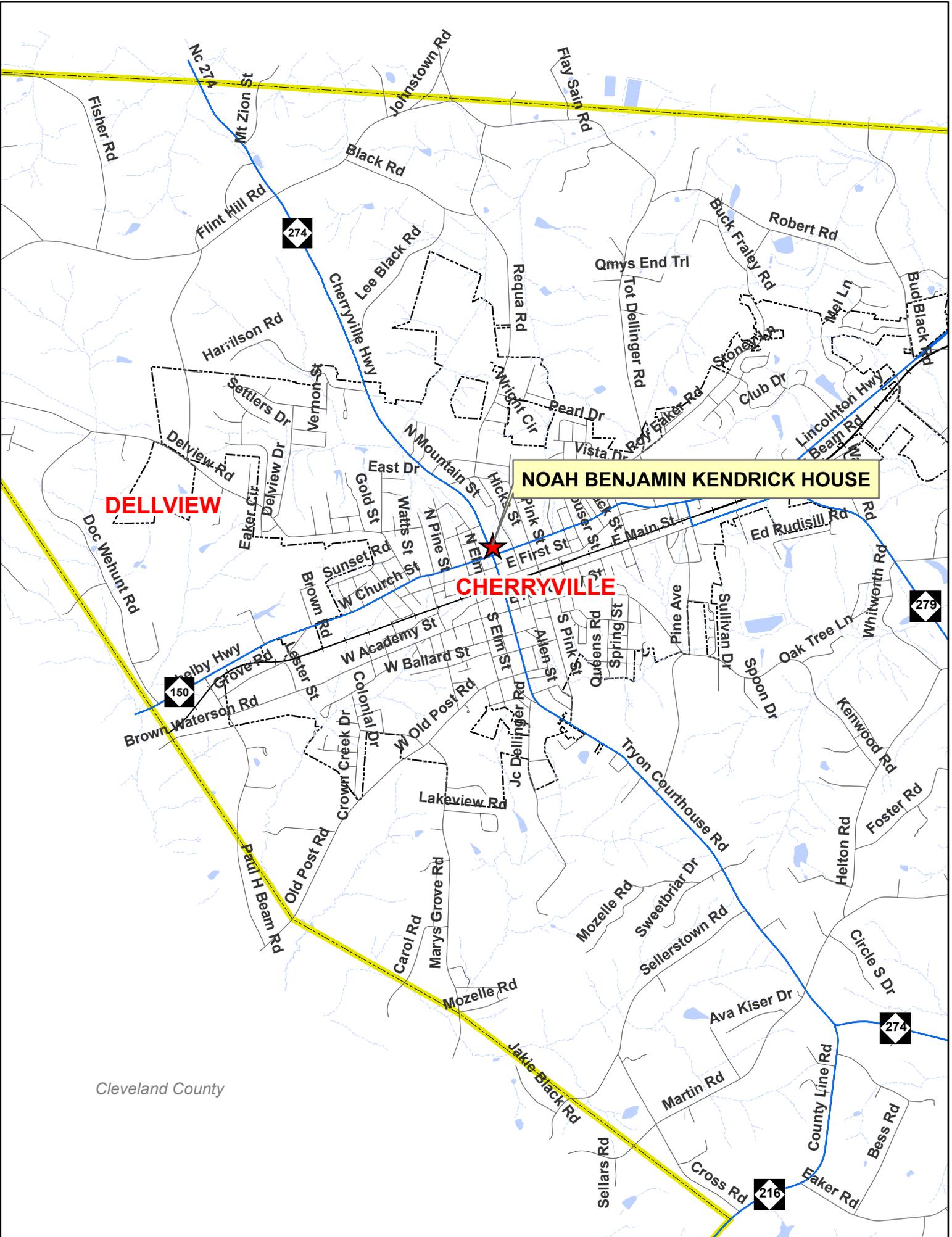






## CONTENTS

1. Name and location of the property. The Noah Benjamin Kendrick house is located at 402 North Mountain Street, Cherryville, Cherryville Township, Gaston County, North Carolina.
2. Name and address of the current owner of the property.  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo G. Lamoureux  
402 N. Mountain Street  
Cherryville, N.C. 28021  
*435-4118 Helen*
3. Representative photographs of the property.
4. Maps depicting location of the property.
5. Current deed references of the property.
6. Historical sketch of the property. This report contains a brief historical description of the property prepared by Mrs. Ann Dellinger, local historian and genealogist.
7. Architectural description of the property. This report contains a brief architectural description of the property by Mr. Alan Waufler, Director of the Gaston County Museum of Art & History.
8. Documentation of why and in what ways the property is of historical significance to the county. The Noah Benjamin Kendrick house is significant to the the history of Gaston County and to Cherryville architecturally and historically. Designed by noted Gastonia architect Hugh White to demonstrate the quality of Kendrick Brick and Tile's products, it also is a monument to the life of N.B. Kendrick who was important to the business, civic, religious, and educational life of his community and a state representative in the North Carolina House.

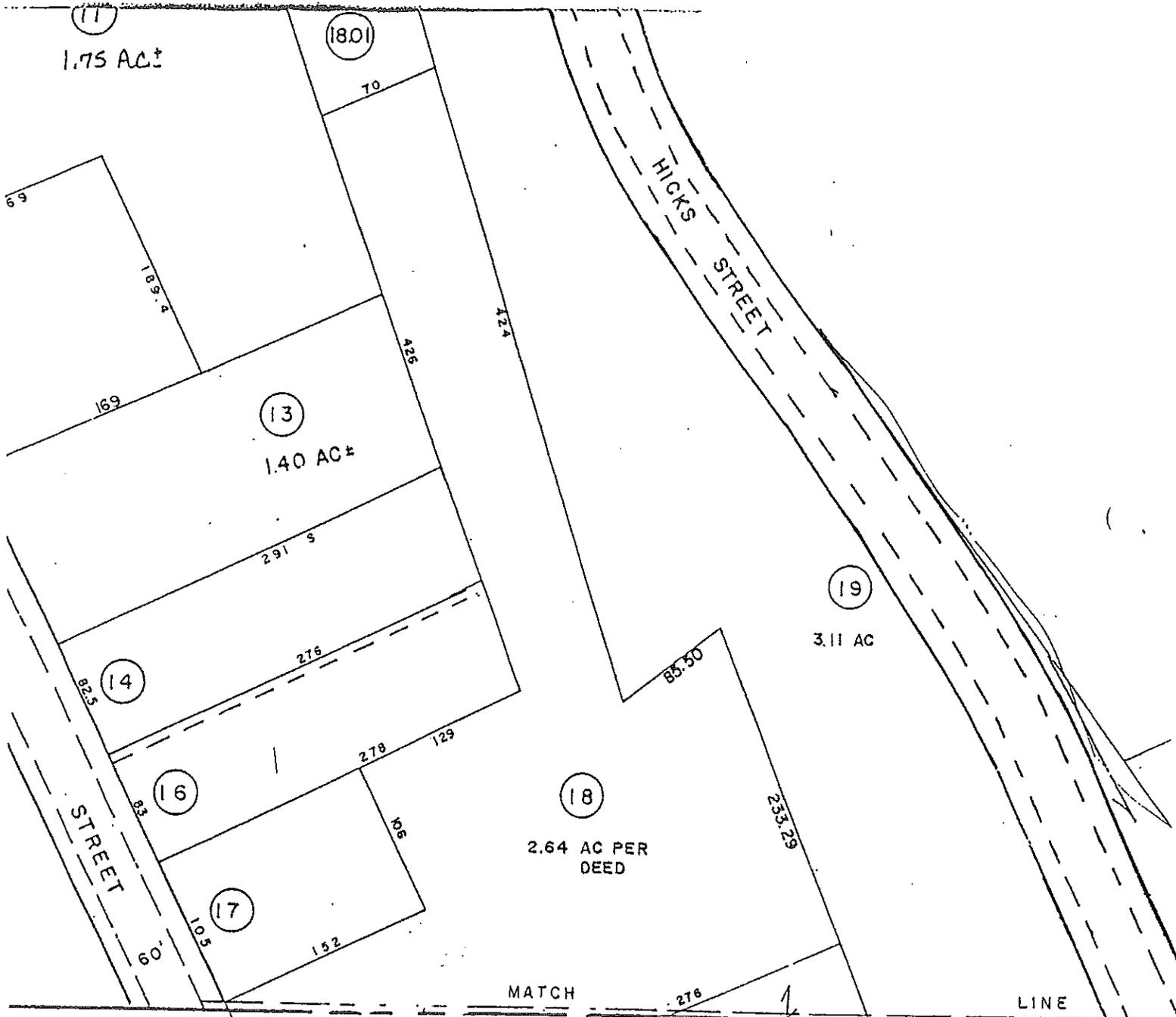


**NOAH BENJAMIN KENDRICK HOUSE**

**DELLVIEW**

**CHERRYVILLE**

Cleveland County



**LEGEND**

ROADWAY	-----	RAILROAD	-----
	-----	STREAM	-----
	-----	SCALED DIMENSION	-----
	-----	ORIGINAL BLOCK NUMBER	(13)
	-----	DEED LOT NUMBER	15
	-----	PARCEL OR INDEX NUMBER	(20)
	-----	TOWNSHIP OR CORPORATION NUMBER	(10)

1		9
2	MARCH 1971	
3	MARCH 1972	
4		12
5		13
6		14
7		15
8		16

## CHAIN OF TITLE

1. On March 13, 1922, J. W. Kendrick and his wife E. L. Kendrick conveyed to N. B. Kendrick a parcel of land containing 2 acres and 6 square rods, lying in the town of Cherryville, N. C. fronting on the east side of Main St. (now known as North Mountain St.). This deed is recorded in the Gaston County Register of Deeds in Deed Book 173 at page 529.
2. N. B. Kendrick died and his will, admitted to probate on December 1, 1933, is recorded in Will Book 5 at page 569 in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court for Gaston County. The heirs of N. B. Kendrick divided his real estate in accordance with his will. They conveyed 6 tracts of land to Lela Kendrick Hobbs which included "the Homeplace and residence of the late N. B. Kendrick and wife." This deed was made on March 18, 1954 and is recorded in Book 630 at pages 56 and 57 in the Gaston County Register of Deeds.
3. Lela Kendrick Hobbs died June 15, 1977 and her will was admitted to probate on July 11, 1977. It is recorded in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court for Gaston County in file 77-E-402.
4. Janet H. Anderson, Gwendolyn H. Putnam, Geraldine H. Welborn, Co-Executrixes of the Will and Estate of Lela K. Hobbs, each received 1/3 interest in her real estate which included her homeplace, 402 North Mountain Street. These deeds, dated Oct. 1, 1973 and Oct. 4, 1973, are recorded in Book 1274 at pages 721-723 and 733-734 in the Gaston County Register of Deeds.

5. On June 29, 1930, Janet H. Anderson and husband L. T. Anderson, Gwendolyn W. Putnam and husband Raleigh J. Putnam, and Geraldine W. Welborn and husband William Fowle Welborn conveyed to Charles A. McCuen and wife Patricia J. McCuen the above tract of land, containing 2.937 acres, known as 402 North Mountain Street. This deed is recorded in Book 1334, page 90, in the Gaston County Register of Deeds.

On February 23, 1991, Charles A. McCuen and wife Patricia J. McCuen conveyed to Leo G. Lanoureaux and wife Helen C. Lanoureaux, the property known as 402 North Mountain Street, containing 2.54 acres. This deed is recorded in Book 2090, page 123, in the Gaston County Register of Deeds. Leo G. and Helen C. Lanoureaux are the current owners and residents of this property.

### Historical Sketch of the Property

Noah Benjamin Kendrick was born near the small community of Waco, Cleveland County, North Carolina, November 22, 1869. He was the youngest of five children born to Larkin Stanhope Kendrick (1837-1871) and Mary Catherine Putnam Kendrick (1837-1902).<sup>1</sup> In the years following the death of Larkin Kendrick, the family drifted from one rented farm to another. By 1880 Mary Catherine Kendrick and her three surviving sons were settled in Cherryville township, Gaston County.<sup>2</sup> Here the boys worked at farm labor and sawmilling to help support the family.

As they reached young adulthood, N. B. Kendrick and his brother John William Kendrick formed a financial partnership which spanned a number of years and a wide range of business interests. Their first venture was borrowing, primarily on the strength of their reputation for honesty and hard work, the necessary capital to purchase a sawmill.<sup>3</sup> The brothers were soon contracting to buy timber from local property owners. In an agreement dated January 5, 1891, J. Frank Harrelson and wife Margaret, "agree to sell Kendrick Brothers all our fine timber lying north of the Flint Hill Road at \$3.00 per thousand feet delivered at the said Kendrick Brothers Sawmill."<sup>4</sup> As their lumber business prospered, the Kendrick brothers bought additional farm land and added a cotton ginning operation.

The 1890s saw the beginning of the textile industry in Cherryville. On July 20, 1897 Kendrick Brothers conveyed to the newly-organized Gaston Manufacturing Company thirty-eight acres of land on the west side of Mountain Street.<sup>5</sup> The company constructed a two-story brick mill and a number of frame houses for mill workers. Kendrick Brothers "assisted largely in the construction of the mill" in which N. B. Kendrick was a director.<sup>6</sup> In later years N. B. Kendrick continued his interest in the textile industry. He was one of the organizers of Gaston Knitting Mills, Cherryville, chartered in 1917, and served as its president.<sup>7</sup> He also served as vice president of Osage Manufacturing Company, Bessemer City, North Carolina.

In the spring of 1902 Kendrick Brothers developed an entirely different business venture. Beginning with thirty-eight subscribers, they organized a telephone exchange for the town of Cherryville. A small frame building was erected at the corner of Main and Mountain Streets and telephone equipment obtained from Electric Appliance Company, Chicago, Illinois. N. B. Kendrick served as chief electrician of the fledgling enterprise. After several years of successful operation, the Cherryville telephone exchange was purchased by Piedmont Telephone Company.<sup>8</sup>

Business interests of N. B. and J. W. Kendrick continued to expand with their establishment of Kendrick Mercantile Company on Cherryville's Main Street. The company offered

a wide variety of items for sale, ranging from groceries, fabric, notions, shoes, hats and ready-made clothing, to furniture and coffins.<sup>9</sup>

Yet another Kendrick enterprise began in 1915 with the establishment of Kendrick Brick and Tile Company, Mount Holly, North Carolina. Prior to this the Kendricks had produced brick at three separate locations; near Cherryville's Mount Zion Baptist Church, and the communities of Boiling Springs and Shelby in Cleveland County. One of their construction projects was the old Cherryville City Hall, erected in 1911 from lumber processed at the Kendrick Brothers Sawmill and brick made in their brickyard near Mount Zion Church.<sup>10</sup> The Mount Holly site afforded availability of raw materials which could be obtained from a nearby clay pit. The latest method of kiln construction was employed and the kilns tied together with an underground tunnel system. Under the direction and management of N. B. Kendrick, the company prospered and expanded, opening a second plant at Monroe, North Carolina, in 1937. Kendrick Brick and Tile became one of North Carolina's leading producers of brick and clay products.<sup>11</sup>

In addition to a very active business life, N. B. Kendrick still found time for strong involvement in political civic, and religious affairs. He served in the North Carolina House of Representatives in the sessions of 1909-1911,

1934-1936, and was Gaston County's representative-elect for the 1939-1941 session at the time of his death.<sup>12</sup> A strong supporter of public education, his personal initiative and effort helped carry the election to approve taxation for establishment of a high school in Cherryville. He also served on the board of directors for Boiling Springs School, Cleveland County, maintained by the Sandy Run and Kings Mountain Baptist associations.<sup>13</sup> A member of Cherryville's Baptist Church, N. B. Kendrick donated brick for its construction and shortly before his death gave the church a new pipe organ.

Noah Benjamin Kendrick married Margaret Julietta Mauney on February 18, 1891. They reared a family of eight children, three sons and five daughters, in a two-story frame house located at 402 North Mountain Street, Cherryville. Residing next door was the family of his brother J. W. Kendrick.<sup>14</sup>

After a decade of success with Kendrick Brick and Tile, a decade in which he promoted brick as the building material of choice for residential and commercial construction, N. B. Kendrick decided to build a new brick home for his family. The family's frame house was moved to one side. The original homeplace site was then prepared for construction of a new house.<sup>15</sup>

Chosen to design the new residence was noted Gastonia architect Hugh E. White.<sup>16</sup> Called "the central figure in

Gastonia architecture in the 1920s and 1930s," Hugh White "was commissioned to design many of the most significant commercial, public, and residential buildings in the city."<sup>17</sup> Among his designs were Gastonia City Hall, Citizens National Bank, Standard Hardware Building, Gastonia High School, and many of the most notable houses in the York-Chester neighborhood.

At its completion the N. B. Kendrick residence was to mirror not only Hugh White's reputation for quality, but also that of Kendrick Brick and Tile. Bricks used in the construction came from the Mount Holly plant and were closely inspected to assure absence of any defects.<sup>18</sup> In the coming years the stately house became a Cherryville landmark.

Noah Benjamin Kendrick died of a sudden heart attack November 25, 1938. His funeral in Cherryville's Baptist Church was attended by hundreds. An editorial in the Gastonia Daily Gazette mourned the loss of one of Gaston County's leading citizens, describing N. B. Kendrick as "a man of wide vision, unusually good sense, discriminating judgment, broad in his views and tolerant in his opinions."<sup>19</sup>

Following N. B. Kendrick's death his daughter, Lela Kendrick Hobbs, and her family moved into the house with Julietta Kendrick. Mrs. Kendrick died in 1952 and the surviving heirs deeded the N. B. Kendrick homeplace and

residence to Lela Kendrick Hobbs.<sup>20</sup> Mrs. Hobbs died in 1977 and under the terms of her will all real estate, including the homeplace, was divided equally among her three daughters.<sup>21</sup> On June 20, 1980 the heirs of Mrs. Hobbs conveyed the property at 402 North Mountain Street, Cherryville, to Charles A. McCuen and wife Patricia, who made it their home.<sup>22</sup> On February 28, 1991 Mr. and Mrs. McCuen conveyed the property to Leo G. Lamoureux and wife Helen C. Lamoureux.<sup>23</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Lamoureux are the current residents of the Noah Benjamin Kendrick house.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Hattie Bess Kendrick Boggs, niece of Noah Benjamin Kendrick, (quoting from Kendrick Family Bible), July, 1992, (hereinafter cited as Boggs)

<sup>2</sup> Gaston County census, 1880

<sup>3</sup> Boggs

<sup>4</sup> Kendrick file, Cherryville Historical Museum

<sup>5</sup> Gaston County Registrar of Deeds, Book 36, page 210

<sup>6</sup> Cleveland Star, Shelby, N. C., April 22, 1903

<sup>7</sup> Joseph H. Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County, North Carolina, 1846-1949, Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, 1949, p.173

<sup>8</sup> Cherryville Eagle, Cherryville, N. C., August 18, 1938; Interview with Howell Stroup, July, 1992 (hereinafter cited as Stroup)

<sup>9</sup> Boggs

<sup>10</sup> Cherryville Historical Society, brochure presenting 1990 capital campaign; Stroup

<sup>11</sup> Charlotte News, Charlotte, N. C., September 23, 1967

<sup>12</sup> Gastonia Daily Gazette, Gastonia, N. C., November 26, 1938

<sup>13</sup> "N. B. Kendrick," History of North Carolina, V, North Carolina Biography, Chicago and New York, 1919, p. 106

<sup>14</sup> Boggs; Interview with Blanche Harrelson McGinnis, July, 1992 (hereinafter cited as McGinnis)

<sup>15</sup> McGinnis

<sup>16</sup> Original blueprints, N. B. Kendrick House, Job 80, February 5, 1925 (in possession of current owners Leo G. and Helen C. Lamoureux)

<sup>17</sup> Kim Withers Brangle, The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, N. C., Gastonia, N. C., 1982, p. 151

## 7. Architectural Sketch of the Property

The Kendrick House located at 402 North Mountain Street in Cherryville was built for a prominent family whose fortunes came from brick making. It is hardly surprising then to find this house, driveway, walks, and outbuildings are all made of brick. The house dates from circa 1920 and is situated on a three acre site near the town's center. Originally the property contained more land which has been deeded off through the years. While the property extends back from Mountain Street some distance, the Kendrick House is positioned fairly close to the roadway, giving it an urban feeling.

The house is a Renaissance revivalist piece. While it is not executed in the highest form of Renaissance revival style, the house has significant details and good craftsmanship. The main block of the palazzo style home is surrounded on all sides by wings, giving the main block even greater emphasis. The house is a two story, five bay, block constructed of red brick laid in common bond. The front (west) facade includes a five bay arcaded porch with central port cochere which is further emphasized by its triumphal arch design. Brick piers present the effect of columns supporting entablature, a round arch with keystone, and symmetrically placed medallions. The entablature for the porch and port cochere consists of a molded architrave, brick frieze band, and molded cornice.

The triumphal arch motif of the port cochere is echoed in the main doorway which consists of a six paneled door with leaded side lights and solid panel arch above. The arch panel is decorated with a cartouche accented with cornucopias. Similarly, the arcade's four bays are replicated on the facade with French doors

south wing replicates the front with twelve light windows flanking a twelve light door. Each is surmounted by six light windows.

The rear wing contains two bays on the north and south ends and four bays on the east side, three windows and the projecting back porch which leads to the kitchen. This porch is original to the house and contains six-over-six sash, vertical wainscot paneling, and a variation of the entablature. Outside entrance to the basement is found here as is a recently added wooden deck. Since the ground falls away at the back of the house, the basement is somewhat revealed. Architectural treatment of the basement is done with a double course band of brick headers. Basement windows in well areas are eight-over-eight.

Entering the central front hall, one finds a substantial stairway which rises to a landing, turns, and proceeds to the second floor. The stairs are fairly simple in design with molded rail, delicate balusters, and simple square newels at the landing and upper levels. The newel at the bottom of the stair is created by the rail simply scrolling inward. Simple two panel doors with glass knobs are found in the hall and throughout the house. Those in the hall lead to a closet under the stairs and to the back hall. Double French doors each with twelve lights lead from the entrance hall into both the dining room and the parlor which are located on the north and south sides respectively.

The dining room is lighted by the French doors previously mentioned which lead to both the front and side porches. A heavy crown molding and molded baseboard is the only significant architectural treatment original to the house. Recent decorations

have included the decorative cornice treatment reminiscent of early twentieth century tin work.

A swinging two panel door leads to a butlers pantry lined with cabinets. A door with glass in the upper panel leads to a breakfast room. Windows here as throughout the house are set in simple surrounds. Of note here is the light fixture which was originally in the dining room and recently moved by the present owners. It is brass with silk and silk fringe decorations. Again, recent remodeling has included the raised work ceiling panels and decorative crown molding. Recent work in the kitchen itself has included removal of linoleum to reveal original narrow, oak flooring which has been refinished here and throughout the house. Otherwise the kitchen remains like it has for years with simple wooden cabinetry.

The back hall leads past the back stairs to the second floor and basement entrance. Of note in the hall is an original light fixture with individually controlled pendant lights. The back hall provides access to a first floor bedroom, bath with original fixtures, the den, and the front parlor. Den and parlor both contain fireplaces with mantels that have classical elements executed in simple style. Twelve light doors flanking the parlor fireplace lead to the sunroom which has a fireplace, again with simple, classical detailing. Sconces above this fireplace were removed for renovation work at the time of my examination.

The central stairs include a landing with doorway which opens to the back stairs to the kitchen area. The central hall and stair are lighted with a decorative window which incorporates both colored and translucent glass.

The second floor contains four bedrooms with closets and original light fixtures and crown moldings. Doors again are two paneled with glass knobs. There is one bathroom for the upper bed chambers. It contains the original fixtures (pedestal sink, commode, tub, and medicine cabinet) but has been updated recently with marble wainscoting and floors.

A door in the northeast corner of the second floor leads to a steep stair which provides access to the roof. Halfway up the stairs is a hidden storage area reached by lifting up the upper half of the stair case. The roof is flat with perimeter drains. Several of the balusters in the balustrade are in need of repair or replacement. Needed chimney work includes cap repairs, pointing, and replacement of parging stucco.

The basement is reached through a door in the back hall near the kitchen. A typical basement it is unremarkable except for two rooms. A maid's quarters with bathroom has five-panel doors and beaded board ceiling. This is located in the southeast corner. At the northwest corner is a room currently used as a hobby room. It apparently was a secure storage area in earlier days with a round arch doorway and five-panel arched-top door.

Out buildings on the property to be noted include a two story guest house with a hip roof and asbestos shingles on the upper level. The lower level is brick with coursing laid in an interesting manner. Six courses of common bond are then separated by a course that is laid header-stretcher-header. A companion outbuilding is the two story garage with hip roof. Two car stalls are on the lower level and separate quarters on the upper

level. The entire building is brick laid in common bond with a header-stretcher ratio that varies from 1:5 to 1:7. Remaining outbuildings on the Kendrick property include a corn crib with standing seam metal roof, an open sided barn with metal roof, and a shed roofed, brick storage building built somewhat crudely with an open archway for access. This is currently used by the owners to store firewood. The rest of the approximate three acres for this property is forested.



## North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor  
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Division of Archives and History  
William S. Price, Jr., Director

May 21, 1993

Lucy Penegar, Chairman  
Gaston County Historic Preservation Commission  
Rt. 1, Box 855  
Gastonia, NC 28052

Re: Survey and Research Report on the Noah Benjamin Kendrick  
House, 402 North Mountain Street, Cherryville, Gaston County

Dear Mrs. Penegar:

Thank you for your April 22, 1993, letter and the report for local designation of the property referenced above. The letter and report were received in our office April 26, 1993. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments pursuant to G.S. 160A-400.6.

We understand that the Commission is recommending that the house and its land parcel of approximately 2.64 acres be designated as a historic landmark. It was not clear whether the Commission is also recommending that significant features of the interior be included in the designation.

Built ca. 1920, the two story, five bay, red brick house is an impressive Renaissance Revival style house built for Noah Benjamin Kendrick, a prominent citizen of Cherryville.

It is our opinion that local designation of the exterior of the house, significant and intact features of the interior, and the land parcel as a historic landmark is appropriate.

We noted two apparent inconsistencies in the report. The title page states the building date as 1922, while the architectural description gives the date as ca. 1920. We recommend that one date be used consistently. The ca. 1920 date may be more appropriate if the exact date is unknown. The plat map gives the acreage as 2.64 acres, while the architectural description gives the acreage as three acres. We recommend that the more precise figure be used in



Mrs. Penegar  
May 21, 1993  
Page 2

the architectural description to help avoid any potential misunderstanding about how much land is being designated.

We would like to make a recommendation regarding the designation ordinance itself. It should specifically state exactly what is being designated, such as "the exterior of the house and the tax parcel of land containing approximately 2.64 acres." If interior features are to be included in the designation, the ordinance should specifically identify them and clearly state the nature of the Commission's jurisdiction over these features so that it is clearly established, both for the Commission members and for the owner, what kinds of interior changes will require Commission review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. This property is most worthy of the recognition and protection of landmark designation, and we support the Commission's recommendation for designation. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact me at 919-733-6545.

Sincerely,



Melinda Wall  
Preservation Planner  
State Historic Preservation Office