

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR**  
Hickory Multiple Resource Nomination

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR \_\_\_\_\_ THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Kenworth Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Southeast Hickory: Part of 400 Block 2nd Ave.; 200 and Part of 300 Block of 5th St.; Part of 300 Block of 3rd Ave. Dr.

CITY, TOWN Hickory  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Catawba CODE 035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple owners (see individual forms)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Catawba County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY TOWN Newton STATE North Carolina

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Kirk F. Mohney

ORGANIZATION Consultant to the City of Hickory

DATE August 15, 1984

STREET & NUMBER 76 North Center Street

TELEPHONE (704) 322-2605

CITY OR TOWN Hickory

STATE North Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kenworth District is a relatively small group of buildings, primarily residential, located in southeast Hickory. It contains twenty-three primary structures in an L-shaped area of approximately nine acres. Included within the boundary are numbers 410, 420, 439, 445, and 505 Second Avenue, S. E.; the 200 block of Fifth Street, S. E. as well as numbers 304, 316 and 332; and numbers 306 and 311 Third Avenue Drive S. E. Fifth Street, lined by sixteen of the district's houses, is the principal avenue in the district. It intersects Second Avenue -- an east-west street -- as its north end and Third Avenue Drive one block to the south. Second Avenue is (now) a major one way, two lane thoroughfare which proceeds eastward from the business district. Fifth Street extends north of Second Avenue at a point offset between the Frederick O. Bock House (4) and the Bowman-Lowrey House (5). Both Fifth Street and Third Avenue Drive are residential roads, although the southern extension of Fifth Street also has a parking lane. Third Avenue extends into the western half of the district where it meets Fifth Street and Third Avenue Drive.

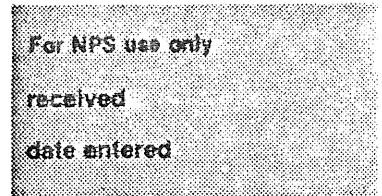
The district's geography features raised lots on the north side of Second Avenue at an elevation of about 1,185 feet, and gently sloping terrain to about 1,150 feet on a narrow ridge running north to south. The one lot at the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Third Avenue Drive is, however, elevated slightly above the streets. Rapid change in the geography occurs at the rear of the lots along the east side and most of the west side of Fifth Street; the street dissects this north/south Ridge. On the east side a broad and gradual slope at the north end turns into a steep grade behind 311 Third Avenue Drive falling some fifty feet to a stream located outside of the boundary. The change in topography is much less on the west side where a variation of five to ten feet is common. Although the landscaping is not uniform, each of the lots have some combination of trees and shrubbery. A number of lots along Fifth Street are well-landscaped with pines and/or hardwoods, especially the Nicholson-Abernethy House (6) at the southwest corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street with its numerous tall and stately hardwoods. The three elevated lots on the north side of Second Avenue taper off quickly to the sidewalk level; the middle lot located at the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street is framed by a concrete block retaining wall. Paired stone piers -- the outer ones are smaller -- flank the north end of Fifth Avenue and act effectively as an entrance into this residential neighborhood. A low stone wall defines the property line between the Nicholson-Abernethy House (6), and the Reveley-Anderson House (7).

The majority of the buildings in the Kenworth District are located at the northwest corner of the original Kenworth subdivision. However, the earliest building activity in the subdivision, surveyed in 1913, was south of the present district boundaries. Post World War I development, however was concentrated in the northwest section of the neighborhood, a fact which is readily apparent from an examination of Sanborn maps. What building took place in other parts of the subdivision was scattered over time and place, leaving the present district as the oldest, most cohesive unit.

The boundary lines of the Kenworth District are well-defined by the nature of the surrounding developments. One story ranch-type brick houses on the north side of Second Avenue, and undistinguished 1950s and 1960s residential and religious buildings on the south side form the northwest boundary. This contrasts sharply with the adjacent frame bungalows and even the brick (former) Christ Lutheran Church (1) and Kenworth School (2). Detached additions to the school and church introduce a distinct visual change from the older buildings. The large open space of the Kenworth school's recreational fields forms

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much of the west boundary. Beginning at the west-southwest corner along Third Avenue both the quality of design and scale of construction changes appreciably from the adjacent buildings in the district. A similar condition applies to the southern boundary where more recent and primarily brick construction does not lend itself to the visual cohesiveness which characterizes the district. Heavily wooded, undeveloped lots comprise the eastern boundary where the topography prevented building. Finally, the now vacant spaces and multiple roadways outside of the district's northeast corner present a marked visual contrast.

In contrast to those areas around it the district is composed of buildings which are visually cohesive by virtue of their style, type, and quality of construction, scale, and siting. All of the houses were built on lots of near equal size with uniform setbacks. As a result, even though a number of lots were never improved but eventually became part of adjoining properties, it is clear that the area developed at one time. In fact, where a house tract is actually on one and one-half lots the houses are of such a scale that the additional lawn area seems necessary and enhances the whole district. This pattern is common to the houses at the southern end of the district, although the Nicholson-Abernethy House (6) was also built on a double lot.

Building activity in the Kenworth District was, with four exceptions, confined to the period from about 1920 to 1926. During this post war boom period Hickory experienced a strong rise in its building stock which included examples of the Colonial Revival and various other contemporary styles. The bungalow was, however, the predominant house type constructed at this time. Throughout the city clusters of these buildings are still visible. The Kenworth District comprises, by and of itself, one of the finest and the most varied collections of bungalows in Hickory; here representing approximately seventy percent of the buildings. Erected within a short span of time these houses exhibit the wide diversity of the style like no other grouping in the city. The remaining structures include three Colonial Revival houses, three rather ordinary houses which are not classified according to any particular style, a large school building, and a Neo-Gothic Revival style church.

The unique identity of the Kenworth District stems, primarily, from the close inter-relationship between the fifteen bungalows. This unity is especially evident along Fifth Street, but is also strong along the north side of Second Avenue. Paired stone columns of unequal size mark the entrance to the Kenworth subdivision at the intersection of Fifth Street and Second Avenue. Passing through them one is immediately made aware of the close harmony in rhythm and texture of the houses here. This feeling is attributable to a number of factors, especially the repetition and juxtaposition of specific elements of design as well as the uniformity of scale and siting.

One of the strongest visual aspects of this group of houses lies in their form and relationship to each other. Either one or one and one-half stories in height, they were built with similar setbacks and were generally placed in the center of the equally sized lots. This affinity is developed further by the pattern of end gable roof configurations of equal slope, and the attached, gable roof porches. One's eye easily follows this pattern along the length of the street, quickly focusing on these principal characteristics without noting any radical changes in design and scale. Even where side gable forms have been employed their large, attached, gable roof porches or the conspicuous gable roofed dormers carry the rhythm from house to house. This overall impression is

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further enhanced by the cross reflection of gables on the houses on the west side of the street to those on the east side.

Porches, both engaged and attached, play an important role in defining the inter-relationship between the bungalows. Visually dominant by virtue of their size and position across two or three front bays, they enclose and involve large areas in the front of each house. The effect is to increase the apparent spaciousness of the house while pulling the building into a closer relationship with the terrain through the emphasis of the horizontal beams.

Further analysis of these houses reveals the considerable number of shared details. Purlin brackets or exposed purlins are universal, and a majority of the buildings have exposed rafter ends as well as alternating sheathing patterns of brick and wood shingles or weatherboards and wood shingles. In many examples the long sidewalls sprout shallow bays with gable or hip roofs. There are also a number of double hung sash window treatments in which the upper sash present a Queen Anne style effect through the narrow vertical panes or small border lights. The porches are almost always bordered by low stone or brick walls which support tapered porch posts. Conspicuous use of brick and especially stone in the foundations was required by the sloping terrain. The visual affect created by the juxtaposition of building materials noted above is further enhanced by this third element. This stonework is especially impressive when it appears at the intersection of Fifth Street and Third Avenue in the adjacent and pivotal Speas-Duval (12) and Clyde L. Herman (13) houses.

A brief description of seven of the bungalows located in the district will serve to illustrate not only the variation in the use of building materials, but also the obvious relationships between houses. These particular examples were chosen because they are the most impressive houses in the district in terms of their stylistic development. However, they are also representative of the district as a whole because they share with the remainder of the bungalows similar characteristics of design. Just within the stone pillars marking the entrance into Kenworth is the pivotal 1922 Nicholson-Abernethy House (6). One story in height, the end gable house has brick veneered walls and gable peaks with modest half timbering. The attached gabled porch lies off-axis with the center entrance, and is supported by short, paired posts and segmentally arched brackets. Shallow gabled wings project from both sides; the house has gabled dormers, a wraparound terrace, and a hip roofed rear elevation. One of the most impressive bungalows in the district is the Payne-Bothwell-Scheller House (21). Built about 1921 on a T-shaped plan the one and one-half story, three bay house is clad in a brick veneer on the first story and wood shingles in the gable ends. Broad flared eaves on the front, west elevation cap an engaged porch supported by two squat brick piers and two iron posts. Above it is a center gable roof dormer. Additional features include the purlin brackets, shed roofed bay on the south elevation, and the very impressive granite foundation/basement which extends below a water table into a low porch wall.

A stone foundation also appears on the 1921 Speas-Duval House (12), located at the intersection of Third Avenue and Fifth Street. An end gable bungalow, the house has an engaged porch and a projecting gabled portico with a Neo-Palladian window. Clad in weatherboards and wood shingles the dwelling has a bay window on the main, east elevation and

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gable roof bays on both the north and south elevations. The entire building rests on an impressive rubble stone foundation; the same material is employed in the exterior and interior chimneys. The Clyde L. Herman House (13) is a large brick veneered and weather-boarded bungalow with an asymmetrical silhouette. Constructed about 1922, it is one and one-half stories in height, has a large attached gable roof porch across two thirds of the main elevation, an adjacent gable roof dormer, and a large gabled roof bay on the north side wall. Prominent characteristics include the large porch posts, tin shingle roof, purlin brackets, and the impressive granite foundation and wraparound terrace wall. The Reveley-Anderson House (7), erected about 1921, is situated to the south of the Nicholson-Abernethy House (6). One story in height, its main, east elevation is composed of a broad gable enframing a small gable roof wing and the attached, wraparound porch. This porch is supported by battered cement piers and square posts, and its gable roof intersects an exposed, tapered shoulder chimney. Clad entirely in wood shingles the house also has somewhat unusual purlin brackets which consist of two horizontal members linked by two vertical ones.

Two bungalows along Second Avenue are of note for the specific details which they employ. Constructed in 1923, the pivotal one and one-half story Frederick O. Bock House (4) is a finely rendered bungalow featuring an engaged porch with tapered posts which wraps around the southeast corner. There it is capped with a pagoda-like roof, a suggestion of the Oriental, eastern source of bungalows. Additional features include the large, center shed roofed dormer, wood shingles in the gable ends, purlin brackets, and Queen Anne upper sash. The brick veneered Bowman-Lowrey House (5), built about 1924, is one and one-half stories in height, three bays wide, and has an engaged porch across two-thirds of the main, south elevation. Its roof plane is dominated by a three part dormer composed of gabled ends and a shed roofed unit linking them. An English Cottage influence can be seen in the imitation thatched roof.

The oldest building in the district is the 1913 Kenworth Elementary School (2). Two stories in height and capped by a low hip roof, the brick school features a wide recessed central entrance and two wings added in 1919 and 1952. Beside it is the district's only religious edifice, the late Gothic Revival style (former) Christ Lutheran Church of 1926. (1) This small, but well-designed brick veneered structure has a dominant flat roofed bell tower and two transepts. Raking parapet walls, buttresses, and lancet arched, stained glass windows detail the composition.

The Colonial Revival style suggested earlier by single features on bungalows, is evident in three houses. The Annie McDowell Ervin House (18) constructed about 1920, is two stories in height, three bays wide and has a low hip roof. Its front elevation is symmetrically organized around the center entrance, and a porch is attached to the south end wall. Built at about the same time the pivotal Kennedy-Setzer House (16) is a more elaborate example of the style. This building is also two stories in height, three bays wide, and has both an entrance porch and side porch. In addition, it features a hip roofed dormer, center entrance with sidelights, block modillion cornice, Tuscan porch columns, and an exterior surface clad entirely in wood shingles. The one story, five bay John N. Bohannon House (17) completes the group; it features an attached pergola framing a terrace.

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The Kenworth District features Hickory's most impressive group of bungalows. Closely related in form, type and use of materials, as well as in their siting these houses collectively establish the unique visual characteristics of the city's first subdivision.

The structures, of course, are closely related to the surrounding environment. 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. There fore, archaeological remains may well be an important compoennt 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.

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Key to letter abbreviations in the inventory list:

- P. Pivotal. Those buildings which have special significance stemming from the level of their architectural development and/or their historical associations.
- C. Contributing. Buildings which are relatively intact, representative examples of their stylistic group, and lend themselves to forming the character of the district.
- F. Fill. More recent vernacular buildings which do not violate the character of the district.

- 1. (former) Christ Lutheran Church  
410 Second Avenue, S.E.  
1926  
P

Erected and dedicated as the Christ Lutheran Church in 1926, the present Mount Zion Baptist Church is a small Neo-Gothic, brick veneered edifice. Its cross-shaped plan features two small transepts at the south end and a square, flat roofed tower which dominates the symmetrically arranged front, north elevation. A lancet arched entrance is positioned below two smaller windows and the lancet arched belfry louver. Three-stage buttresses are located at the corner of the crenelated tower. Stepped parapet walls flank the tower, below which are two stage corner buttresses and lancet arched windows. A limestone water table carries around the entire structure. Both the east and west side elevations are identical in their composition of three nave windows separated by buttresses, the transepts with stepped parapet walls, corner buttresses and traceried windows, and the single chancel windows (a portion of one is now a door) flanking a corner buttress. The rear elevation contains two lancet arched windows at the corners, a lancet arched half-window (above the altar), and a small roof vent. All of the windows have lancet arches, stained glass, limestone sills, keystones, and impost blocks. The stages and coping of the buttresses are delineated with limestone blocks. The high basement is well-lit with numerous one-over-one double hung sash. There is one interior chimney. The intact interior features a lancet arched recessed altar, ceiling lamps with Gothic motifs, and the original darkly stained pews embellished at their ends with two paneled round arches within a larger one. The double doors at the rear of the nave and the window surrounds are in their original stained finish.

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This church the (former) Christ Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, was the congregation's second house of worship in Hickory. Organized in 1903 their history dates to 1894 when Professor W.H.T. Dau of Concordia College conducted services in the city. For a number of years after 1903 meetings were held in various locations until the former First Presbyterian church building was acquired in 1908. The new church was dedicated on November 7, 1926 and it remained in use until a new edifice was built in 1971 just to the west of this site. It was apparently vacant after 1971. In 1978 the Mount Zion Baptist Church acquired the building and it was rededicated as Mount Zion Baptist Church in 1979. Formed in 1924 in the basement of Reverend O'Kelley's home on "F" Avenue, S.E. the Black congregation had met in two different buildings before they obtained the present one. Mount Zion Baptist Church is a member of the Alexander Union Missionary Baptist Association.

2. Kenworth Elementary School  
426 Second Avenue, S.E.  
1913  
P

Constructed in 1913 the two story Kenworth Elementary School is a long and narrow brick structure capped by a somewhat irregular low hip roof. The principal, north elevation is composed of the original nine bay block with a gabled, recessed three bay entrance block, a two story 1919 wing to the west, and a one story 1952 wing to the east. Designed with four corner classrooms connected to the central foyer by a transverse hall, the original block is symmetrically arranged around the recessed entrance. As the focal point of the composition it features a stepped parapet wall in addition to a projecting, flat roofed entrance porch supported by Tuscan columns and pilasters. Behind it the double door is bordered by sidelights and a large multi-pane transom, and it is flanked by narrow three-over-one double hung sash. On the second story a Neo-Palladian window is composed of a round arched window above a pair of six-over-six double hung sash. The granite voussoirs spring from long imposts which frame two single double hung sash thereby creating the Palladian window motif. Two bulls-eye ornaments, defined only by their four keystones, are located above these window posts. The flanking, symmetrical four bay classrooms have large replacement double hung sash and block modillioned eaves. Between the two floors recessed corbeled wall panels have brickwork set at a forty-five degree angle. A staircase between the original block and the 1919 wings has two round arched windows on the second story with granite voussoirs. Designed in much the same way as the older structure, the four bay wing has triple sets of replacement sash, although one



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group has been converted into an exit. Other features include a granite water table and belt course below the second floor windows, and small basement level windows. A two story staircase was added to the east elevation prior to the 1952 flat roofed library. The fenestration pattern on the rear elevation is similar to that on the front, and an exterior chimney is located at the southwest corner of the original block. Originally, the school had a balustrade on the porch, gabled dormers on the east and west elevations, a bell tower, and a stoop on the east end of the hall.

Kenworth Elementary School was built in 1913 to provide a much needed school for the growing school age population. The second graded school in Hickory's education system, it was originally known as the Hickory Graded School No. 2, and later the South School for its location in the southern part of the city. A former principal of the school recalled that the name was changed to Kenworth in 1933, reflecting its location adjacent to the Kenworth residential area. In 1919 a combined classroom and auditorium wing had to be added to the west end in order to prevent overcrowding. Subsequent additions to the complex were made in 1952 and 1956. It is still in use as an elementary school serving the southwestern part of the city. The original building was designed by J.S. Zimmerman (the location of his office has not been uncovered) and built by Moser and Bumgarner. At the time of construction of the trustees of the school board were some of Hickory's most prominent businessmen and community leaders, and included George F. Ivey, Shuford L. Whitener, A. Alex Shuford, H.F. Elliott, J. S. Leonard, and Dr. H.C. Menzies.

3. William P. Bowman House  
439 Second Avenue, S.E.  
c.1923  
C

The one and one-half story, three bay, William P. Bowman House is a weatherboarded and wood shingled bungalow built in 1923. It has an engaged porch and a large, gable roof center dormer on the main, south elevation. Four tapered porch posts rest on a low brick wall and rise to support a flared roof. The center door is flanked by triple sets of one-over-one double hung sash. The dormer likewise contains three double hung sash, with purlin brackets, exposed rafter ends, and a truss ornament in the wood shingled gable peak. Shallow shed roofed bays are attached to both the east and west elevations, and on the latter an outside stair leads to an apartment on the upper floor. A dormer similar in size to that on the front projects from the rear above a shed roofed wing (built in the 1930s) which stretches across three quarters of the elevation, and a small shed roofed entrance porch. Additional details include the single exterior and interior chimneys, the wood shingled gable ends, and the purlin brackets which support the

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broad eaves. Interior features include a corbeled brick mantel, darkly stained oak window and door surrounds, and horizontal paneled doors.

William P. Bowman (1866-1943) was a long time resident of Hickory who operated a lumber business. The son of Abel Bowman, he was born in Alexander County. Bowman was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and he married the former Laura Jane Rink. His daughter Ila Bowman and her husband built a house (4) on the adjacent lot, and his son Wade V. Bowman (1889-1972) built one (5) adjacent to it. At the time of his death Wade, a hosiery manufacturer and retired World War I officer was living in his father's house. Wade's nephew Eubert D. Bowman still owns and occupies this house.

4. Frederick O. Bock House  
445 Second Avenue, S.E.  
1923  
P

The 1923 Frederick O. Bock House is a finely scaled and crafted one and one-half story frame bungalow which has an expansive engaged wraparound porch and large shed roofed front dormer. On its main, south elevation tapered porch posts, resting on brick piers set into a low brick wall, support the slightly flared roof and the projection of the porch along the east elevation. The pagoda-shaped roof of this projection and the heavy compound purlins give the porch a decidedly Japanese flavor. Like the neighboring William P. Bowman house (3) the center entrance is flanked by triple sets of double hung sash, but these have Queen Anne upper sash. The wood shingled dormer has four double hung sash, exposed rafter ends, and purlin brackets. On the west elevation a shed roofed bay flanks an exterior chimney, and lies below the wood shingled gable end. An exterior staircase (built in 1948 and leading to the half story) is attached to the east elevation, and a four window dormer similar to that on the principal elevation is located on the rear elevation. Additional features include the use of purlin brackets on the main side gables, truss-like ornamentation in the gable peaks, and a single interior chimney. Interior finishes include a corbeled brick mantel, oak window and door surrounds, horizontal paneled doors, picture rails in the main rooms, and French doors leading into the west bay.

Frederick Otto Bock (1901-1931), a native of Florida, was associated with the Hickory Sheet Metal Company at the time of his death. A member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the Woodmen Lodge,

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he married the former Ila Bowman. Mrs. Bock still owns the house which was constructed by J. M. Sills. Her father, William P. Bowman lived in the house (3) directly to the west and her brother Wade V. Bowman had built the house (5) to the east.

5. Bowman-Lowrey House  
505 Second Avenue, S.E.  
c. 1924  
C

Built about 1924 the Bowman-Lowrey House is a one and one-half story, three bay bungalow with a brick veneer. Its front, south elevation is composed of an engaged porch across two-thirds of the facade, a segmentally arched entrance bay whose roof line projects above the main porch roof, and a large tripartite dormer. Two brick posts support the porch roof, and they rest on a low brick wall. Behind them on a recessed wall plane the center entrance has sidelights and is flanked by a large window composed of four double hung sash. A similar set of windows is located to the west of the arch. The dormer features a recessed, flat roofed unit with two small double hung sash between gabled dormers which enframe paired double hung sash. Other features include a simulated thatch roof, and a large bay window on the west elevation flanked by an exterior chimney.

Wade Vance Bowman (1889-1972), a hosiery manufacturer and retired World War I army officer, bought this lot from the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1923. Two years later he sold the house and lot to his brother Hubert E. Bowman. In 1933 Hubert sold it to Matthew M. and Corinne Lowrey. Lowrey (1874-1960) was born in Stewart County, Georgia to Allen and Nan Stathem Lowrey. In 1905 he married the former Corinne Baldwin of Perry, Georgia, and they came to Hickory in 1925. Having purchased the Chero-Cola Bottling Company (later renamed the Nehi and Royal Crown Bottling Company) Lowrey operated it until his retirement in 1954. He had also been active in the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Lowrey lived in the house until her death, after which the trustees of her estate sold it to Peggy Page Lail, the current owner and occupant.

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6. Nicholson-Abernethy House  
206 Fifth Street, S.E.  
1922  
P

This one story triple pile, gable front bungalow was erected, just inside the stone piers marking the entrance into Kenworth, in 1922. Principal features include a brick veneer, a large attached porch with a wraparound patio, and half-timbered and stuccoed gable ends. Facing Fifth Street, the principal, east elevation is composed of a broad gable-detailed with vertical strips of wood and purlin brackets-enframing the projecting gabled porch. Ornamented in much the same way as the main gable, the porch gable is upheld by a support system featuring paired posts and a segmental arch which springs from the brick piers. A low brick wall enframes the porch and patio which stretches along both the north and south elevations. The center door has leaded glass sidelights with long narrow and diamond panes. It is flanked by triple sets of one-over-one double hung sash. On the north elevation a gabled bay is located almost midway along the facade, and to the east is a gabled dormer. A larger gable roof dormer is set above the hip roofed rear elevation. A projecting gabled bay is also situated on the south elevation between two small gabled dormers. Other features include the three interior chimneys, exposed rafter ends, purlin brackets, and the bank of windows at the northwest corner of the house. The interior features boxed beams in the parlor and dining room, large French doors separating the two rooms, and darkly stained oak doors. In the dining room vertical strips of wood capped with brackets support a plate shelf, and a glazed tile mantel has a bracketed mantel shelf. Similar mantels are located in the parlor and living room, and two wooden mantels in the bedrooms have fluted pilasters. The present owner replaced the one car garage and lean-to with a hip roofed, three car brick garage. One highly unusual outbuilding on the property is a small, well-proportioned and elaborately detailed, gable front, bungalow style playhouse. Built about 1929 by the Moss Marlow Construction Company, it features an attached porch complete with a balustrade; it is clad in weatherboards and wood shingles; and has stepped purlin brackets and small double hung sash windows with vertical upper panes. Set on a brick foundation it also sports a shallow gable roof bay and a non-functional exterior chimney.

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Dr. W.H. Nicholson (\_\_\_\_-1935), a retired physician, had been associated with the business and financial community in Hickory for some twenty-five years before he moved to Henderson, N.C. in 1929. A past president of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce, Nicholson was secretary and treasurer of the Southern Desk Company, and a director of both the First National Bank and First Building and Loan Association. He was also secretary and manager of the Hickory Land and Development Company, and supervised the development of the Kenworth subdivision where he built this house. In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glenn Abernethy purchased the house. Mr. Abernethy, the son of Robert David Abernethy and Junie Ella Abernethy, was born in the Mountain View section of Catawba County and moved with his family to Hickory at age five. Abernethy had attended Lenoir-Rhyne College until he assumed management of his father's business, the Abernethy Transfer and Storage Company. He married the former Lovie Miller, daughter of William A. Miller, and Blanche Isenhour Miller in 1929. Mrs. Abernethy became vice-president and bookkeeper of her husband's firm, raised four children, was active in numerous civic, church, and school organizations, and organized a Girl Scout Troop in the Kenworth area. The Abernethys still live in the house, which, according to family tradition, had been designed by an architect in Florida. It was built by the Henry Cline Construction Company; the woodwork was purchased from the Hickory Manufacturing Company.

7. Reveley-Anderson House  
218 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1922  
C

The Reveley-Anderson House, built about 1922, is an asymmetrically massed one story, double pile bungalow clad entirely in wood shingles. Its principal, east elevation features a broad, gently pitched gable which enframes a gabled bay and intersects the side gable roof of the wraparound porch. Supported on square posts atop battered concrete piers, the porch stretches across one half of the front elevation and along one-third of the north elevation. A simple, slatted balustrade extends between the piers. The main door is immediately flanked by large twelve over -one double hung sash, and a triple set of sash are located in the projecting bay to the south. Unusual purlin brackets supporting the broad eaves are composed of two horizontal members separated by four-inch blocks. A gabled wing is located at the northwest corner and a shed roofed screened porch is attached to the rear wall. Additional details include the exposed rafter ends, and a stuccoed, single shoulder, paved exterior chimney on the north elevation. Inspection of the interior was not possible.

In 1921 R.J. Reveley, one-time principal of Hickory High School, bought this lot from the Hickory Land and Development Company. Two years later he sold the property, apparently with improvements, to W. F. and Virginia Kennedy.

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The city directories list Kennedy as a traveling salesman, but further biographical information has not been uncovered. In 1946 Edgar Ervin Anderson and his wife, the former Sue Amy Dakin, purchased the property. Anderson (1876-1950), born in Morristown, Tennessee, was the son of Orris C. and Harriet Sevier Anderson. His daughter Mildred Anderson still owns and occupies the house. Robert G. Abernethy who lives next door in the Nicholson-Abernethy house (6) recalls when his trucking firm delivered the large wooden crates in which the ready-cut componets of the house had been shipped from California. At present it is the only known mail-order house in the city, although the name of the manufacturer is not known.

8. Andrew J. Borders House  
226 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1940  
F

Built about 1940 the Andrew J. Borders House is a one story, triple pile frame dwelling with a shallow gable on hip roof and an engaged wraparound porch on its northeast corner. The two bay front, east elevation has a single six-over-six double hung sash window on the projecting southern most bay and a door bordered by sidelights on the north bay, recessed behind the porch. Supported by four square posts the porch extends across one-half of the front elevation and one-third of the north, side elevation. Exterior chimneys are located on the west and south elevations respectively. The former has a single shoulder, paved form and the latter has two paved shoulders on one face only. Other features include the exposed rafter ends and the high brick foundation at the rear of the house.

Although this lot had been purchased from the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1920 it apparently had not been improved when Borders bought it for \$600.00 in November of 1939. Before he moved his family to Charlotte in 1954, Borders (1908- ) was an engineer with the Gulf Oil Company, and had been actively involved in the First Baptist Church. His wife Ruth Calvin Borders (1901-1974) had been a teacher in the public school system. She was the daughter of Isadore and Elizabeth Thorne Cavin of Tifton, Georgia. The house was subsequently occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Goodman, and was purchased by Lynn McLucas Rowe in 1920. She married James D. Beckom in 1965 and they still own the house but do live there.

9. Nicholson-Prince House  
232 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1919  
C

Built about 1919, the Nicholson-Prince house is a one story frame, german

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sided rectangular bungalow with an attached porch. The house rests on a brick foundation. Its principal, east elevation features a broad gable overlapping a gabled wing at the east southeast corner, and the shed roofed porch. A low brick wall supports the three tapered porch posts carrying a boxed beam, and to which the exposed roof rafters are attached. Located on a recessed wall plane, the door is flanked by single eight-over-one double hung sash, and a triple group has been placed on the wing to the south. One interior chimney and an exterior chimney with a long tapered stack on the north elevation are original. A narrow bay at the northeast corner has a gabled roof with broad eaves, and its east roof plane intersects the roof of the porch. Purlin brackets and exposed rafter ends are used throughout. A large room was added to the rear of the house in the early 1960s. All of the interior woodwork has been painted, as has the unembellished brick mantel. In addition, a number of the ceilings have been lowered.

Dr. W.H. Nicholson bought this house and lot in 1920 from the Hickory Land and Development Company; apparently the house had been built by the company. According to Mrs. Robert G. Abernethy he lived here while he was having another house (6) built three lots to the north. In 1923 he sold it to Claude and Bertha Bruton. Bruton, a traveling salesman, later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. R. Glenn Abernethy current owners of the Nicholson-Abernethy house (6). A rental property for some years thereafter the Abernethy's sold it in the early 1950s to Dr. Joe Isenhour. He transferred it to James F. Prince, the present owner, in 1967.

10. Katharine Carr House  
238 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1923  
C

The Katharine Carr House is a one and one-half story, double pile, brick veneered bungalow which was constructed about 1923. A spacious attached, gabled porch stretches across the northern two-thirds of the main, east elevation, and the two brick piers which support the gable are set atop a low stone wall. Capped by cement slabs this wall extends around a small patio to the south of the porch. The off-axis door is bordered by narrow sidelights, and is flanked to the north by a single one-over-one double hung sash and a pair of similar windows to the south. Details include the exposed purlins and a pair of attic windows on the porch gable, purlin brackets on the main gables, and one interior chimney. Originally, there appears to have been an engaged porch at the northwest corner, but it has since been enclosed.

Katharine Carr (1856-1949), widow of John Sanford Carr (1855-1920), purchased this lot in 1923, and the house was built soon after.

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Mrs. Carr was born in Germany to Henry Besser. She and her family had moved to Hamilton, Ohio when she was four years old. The Carr's had moved to Hickory from Madison, Indiana, and Mr. Carr was associated with a flour milling business once located along what is now First Avenue, N.W. In 1943 Mrs. Carr's son Earl sold the house to William Henry (Bill) Duhling and his wife Netta. Duhling (1905-1965) was a native of Chatham county and the son of Milton Duhling and Sally Hopper Duhling. He and his wife, the former Nettie Verheydes, moved to Hickory in 1929 where Duhling was associated with the Hickory Auto Parts Company and later the Key City Auto Parts Company of North Wilkesboro. They moved from Hickory in 1949 but returned two years later and bought the house directly across the street from this one. This house has changed hands a number of times since then.

11. Whisnant-Reynolds House  
246 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1920  
C

One story in height and three bays wide, the Whisnant-Reynolds House is a triple pile, weatherboarded bungalow built about 1920. Its principal, east elevation is composed of the house's main gable roof recessed behind a large attached gable roof porch. This wood shingled gable is supported by three tapered porch posts; the middle one is taller than those on either side. Brick piers below these posts also frame the low brick wall which borders the porch. The slightly off-center door has wide sidelights and is flanked by trios of one-over-one double hung sash. An otherwise simple roofline is modified by a broad cross gable on the north elevation and two smaller ones on the south elevation. One of the latter rises above a small cross gabled wing at the southwest corner which extends from both the west and the south elevations. Additional features include a single interior chimney; one exterior chimney, the stack of which has been removed; exposed rafter ends; and purlin brackets in each of the gables.

J.W. Whisnant, who bought this house in 1920 from the Hickory Land Development Company for \$6,500, was an attorney and trust officer with the First Security Trust Company. Whisnant apparently left Hickory about 1924, and the house subsequently changed hands a number of times. In 1954 Melvin L. Reynolds purchased the house, and still resides there. Reynolds (1905- ) is a native of South Carolina, and had worked in Georgia before he came to Hickory in 1930. Founder of the Reynolds Blower and Metal Company, which he established in 1939, Reynolds moved to Fontana during the war, but returned to Hickory in 1945. His wife, whom he married in 1927, is the former Clara Belle Sanders of Atlanta, Georgia.



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12. Speas—Duval House  
252 Fifth Street, S.E.  
1921  
P

This one story, weatherboarded and wood shingled bungalow was built in 1921. A broad front gable roof on the main, east elevation shelters an engaged porch from which projects a smaller, gabled porch pavillion stretching across two-thirds of the facade. Square molded porch posts resting on stone piers support these gables and their broad entablatures. Other details include the slatted balustrade, purlin brackets, wood shingles in the gable ends, and a Neo-Palladian attic window and attic vent in the smaller gable. Behind the porch the door is bordered by wide sidelights, and is flanked by a three window bay to the south and a single double hung sash to the north. These windows, and the others in the house, employ narrow vertical panes of glass in the upper sash. A shallow gabled bay is located on the north elevation, and a bay window is similarly located on the south elevation. At the rear of the house is a hip roofed wing which contains a porch at the southwest corner. Additional features include one interior and one single shoulder, paved exterior rubble stone chimney, exposed rafter ends, and the high rubble foundation laid up in a coursed pattern. A large open deck is an unfortunate addition to the southwest corner. The relatively intact interior contains a number of significant details. In the hall/parlor darkly stained oak window and door surrounds accent the massive, round arched stone fireplace. French pocket doors lead into a dining room detailed with vertical strips of wood below a bracketed plate shelf (now painted). A room adjoining the hall/parlor is entered through a wide opening framed by paneled dividers, which in turn support heavy tapered posts. Numerous doors (now painted) lead from the center hall which extends through the remainder of the house.

Dr. William Paul Speas, Sr. (1884-1967), was born in Yadkin County to Louis Augustine Speas and Dorothy Elizabeth Poindexter Speas. A graduate of Yadkin Valley Academy, Wake Forest University, and the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond he initially practiced in Davie County before doing post-graduate work at the Chicago Eye, Ear and Throat College. In 1917 he came to Hickory where he specialized in eye, ear, nose and throat diseases, and built this house in 1921. Speas left in 1927 to do post graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and later settled in Winston-Salem. He married the former Nora Estelle Dixon of Mount Vernon Springs in 1912. Speas sold the house in 1927 to J.B. Duval, who was the manager and superintendent of the Brookford Mills. Duval sold the house in 1943 to Dorothy J. Chambers and others, and they currently rent the property.

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13. Clyde L. Herman House  
304 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1922  
P

Constructed about 1922, the Clyde L. Herman House is a large and impressive, asymmetrically massed bungalow with a tin shingle roof. One and one-half stories in height, and three bays wide, the brick veneered and wood shingled house has a large gable roof dormer adjacent to an attached porch on the front, east elevation. The gable roof porch, stretching across two bays, is supported by massive tapering wooden piers. These piers are in turn set on piers in a low granite wall which is laid up in a mosaic pattern and continues around an open terrace and along one-third of the north elevation. The broad entablature of the porch is ornamented with widely spaced dentil blocks in two strings of varying dimension and frequency. Stepped purlin brackets supports the broad overhang of the roof, and the wood shingled gable peak has a tripartite set of small double hung sash windows. Clad in wood shingles the dormer features purlin brackets and three double hung sash windows with Queen Anne upper sash. Behind the porch the center entrance has sidelights, and is flanked to the south by a triple set of double hung sash and to the north by a single window. The broad north gable frames a smaller projecting gable roof wing; a shed roofed bay is attached to the south elevation. On the rear elevation a gable roof dormer is positioned behind the front dormer; an original porch at the west-northwest corner has been enclosed. The high basement and foundation are granite. Purlin brackets support the broad overhang of the roof; the gable ends are clad in wood shingles; the rafter ends are exposed; and two interior chimneys are original. The relatively intact interior features simple door and window surrounds (since painted), oak paneled doors, and French doors connecting the two front rooms. The open string staircase, located behind the living room in a central hall, has a paneled newel post. A number of Colonial Revival mantels frame glazed tile and cement openings. The mantels themselves are composed of pilasters, full entablatures, mantel shelves (and a denticulated cornice on the living room mantel).

Clyde L. Herman (1895-1977) was born in Alexander County, the son of Monroe and Candace Herman. In 1905 the family moved to Hickory, and Clyde later attended Lenoir-Rhyne College. In 1918 he obtained a book-keeper's position with the First National Bank of Hickory and at his retirement in 1970 Herman was vice-president and cashier of the institution. He was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Hickory. His wife was the former Laura Anne "Lottie" Suttlemyre; they were married in 1922. The Herman's bought this lot and one-half of the adjacent lot in 1921 and 1923 respectively. They sold the house in 1963 to Elizabeth Bowman, wife of Wade V. Bowman who had built the Bowman-Lowrey house (5). In 1969 Mrs. Bowman sold it to Barbara S. Abernethy and Lucille H. Burris who transferred it that same year to Thomas L. and Barbara Meadows. The house is now for sale.

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14. Carrier-Boyd House  
316 Fifth Street, S.E.  
1915  
P

Built in 1915, the Carrier-Boyd House is a one and one-half story, three bay bungalow clad in weatherboards and wood shingles. The principal, east elevation has an engaged porch below flared eaves. Two square porch posts flanked by stone corner piers rise from a low stone rubble wall which enframes the porch. A wood shingled, center, gable roof dormer has three one-over-one double hung sash. Behind the porch the center door has a transom and double hung sash sidelights. Both the south bay and the recessed bay to the north have one-over-one double hung sash on either side of a fixed window with a transom. An exterior chimney rises on the north elevation and a carport has been added to the porch on the south elevation. On the rear elevation a small, shed roofed dormer is located in the center of the roof. In addition, a wing across two-thirds of the wall has an enclosed (1979) porch and exterior stairs covered by the overhang of the roof, itself supported by a large bracket. The gable ends are clad in wood shingles and have exposed purlins. Other features include the exposed rafter ends, corner purlin brackets, two interior chimneys, and a high rubble stone basement and foundation. The interior has a center hall which contains the closed string staircase with its slatted balustrade and a paneled oak newel post. Paneled oak sliding double doors lead into the living room and a second set connect it and the dining room. A double door leads to the parlor, and a single door with a transom opens into the dining room. Three mantels survive, one of which is brick with an oak mantel shelf, and the other two have beveled glass overmantels. A picture rail in the living room, a built-in china closet, and some original hardware are additional significant features.

Little biographical information has been located on the original owners of this house. According to city directories, however, John G. Carrier was superintendent of the Hickory Manufacturing Company. One long-time resident of the neighborhood recalled that he married Lillie Hallman, a music teacher at Lenoir-Rhyne College, but she was listed in the 1928-9 directory as a secretary at Hickory Manufacturing Company. The same source mentioned that all of the building material came from Carrier's place of employment. In 1946 the Carrier's sold the house to Bidwell W. Boyd (\_\_\_\_\_-1968) and his wife Virginia Boyd. Boyd was a feed and seed merchant. Mrs. Boyd (1882-1951,) a native of Catawba County, was the former Pinkie Virginia Sherrill, and the daughter of F. Ceborn Sherrill and Annie Whitener Sherrill. Boyd's heirs sold the property in 1969 to Fang Hon Der, operators of Fang's Chinese Laundry and Cleaners and American Restaurant. Buddy and Jacqueline Little purchased it in 1973.

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15. Lyerly-Shuford Rental House  
332 Fifth Street, S.E.  
1924  
C

This one story, three bay bungalow clad in german siding and wood shingles, was built in 1924. Its front, east elevation features an engaged porch at the north end, and a large clipped gable center dormer. The porch support is composed of a triple grouping of square posts at the east-northeast corner which rest on a low stone porch wall. An unusual fenestration pattern consists of a group of five double hung sash windows in the recessed north bay, a tripartite window in the center bay, and paired windows in the south bay. Their upper sash have narrow, vertical panes. The entrance is located on the narrow, perpendicular wall which forms the south elevation of the porch. Off-axis with the center bay, the dormer has four small windows, exposed purlins, and is covered in wood shingles. Additional features of note include the wood shingled gable peaks, the exposed purlins and rafter ends, and the high, cut stone foundation/basement. One interior chimney is original. An open deck and screened porch has been added to the rear elevation at the west-northwest corner, and the interior was remodeled in 1980. The house rests on a full stone foundation.

Luther L. Moss, a local building contractor, bought this lot in November of 1923 for \$800. In June of 1924 he sold the lot and improvements on it for \$6,000 to George, Walker, and Eubert Lyerly. The three brothers apparently rented it since at least both Walker and Eubert were living elsewhere in Hickory at that time. In 1939 it was sold to the Shuford Hardware Company which probably rented it until 1961 when Joel Miller bought it. It was later transferred in 1980 to Richard and Miriam Rogers; in 1981 to Glenn and Nancy Boyd; and in 1981 to Steven P. Gullett, who lives here.

16. Kennedy-Setzer House  
306 Third Avenue Drive, S.E.  
1921  
P

Constructed in 1921, the Kennedy-Setzer House is a two story, three bay Colonial Revival style dwelling capped by a low hip roof. The front, north elevation features a hip roofed center dormer and an entrance porch. A more expansive flat roofed porch is attached to the east elevation. Both of the porches are supported by Tuscan columns; the side porch has a slatted balustrade. The center entrance is bordered by wide multi-pane sidelights, and is flanked by triple sets of double hung sash composed of narrow six-over-one sash flanking a wider single twelve-over-one sash arrangement. A trio of twelve over-one double hung sash are symmetrically arranged across the



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Because he moved to Asheville in the late 1920s little biographical information has been uncovered in Hickory on John N. Bohannon. At present he is a financial and industrial consultant in Asheville. He bought this lot in 1921 and recalled that the house was built in 1923. Its design was taken from a magazine and altered to suit his needs. Bohannon has retained ownership of the house, and has rented it since his removal to Asheville.

18. Annie McDowell Ervin House  
253 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1920  
C

The Annie McDowell Ervin House is a two story, three bay, hip roofed dwelling clad in weatherboards. Constructed about 1920, the house has a hip roofed entrance porch supported by square posts, and a larger hip roofed side porch with a slatted balustrade and square posts attached to the south elevation. A symmetrical fenestration pattern on the main, west elevation is composed of the center entrance bordered by sidelights; paired six-over-one double hung sash on the first story; and a trio of single double hung windows on the upper story. A one story, flat roofed wing extends from the rear, east elevation. The well-preserved interior features oak door and window surrounds; French doors leading off of the center hall into the parlor and onto the south porch; a parlor mantel with fluted pilasters; and built-in corner china cabinets in the dining room. The open string staircase has a paneled newel post, a slatted balustrade, one inter-story landing, and a curved upper landing.

Miss Annie McDowell Ervin (\_\_\_\_\_ -1950) was the daughter of the Rev. Sherrod Ervin, a methodist minister and circuit rider. Originally from South Carolina the family had moved to a number of towns in North Carolina including Lenoir where they purchased Hillcrest, a sizable plantation. Annie was related to the Carson family of McDowell county, and her two elder brothers had established the Lenoir Topic. Her sister Mary Martha Ervin married William B. Menzies a prominent businessman in Hickory, and one source mentioned that Annie moved here in order to be close to her sister. In 1951 the property was sold to Clarence M. Owens, and it subsequently passed to Jewit R. Madaris in 1963, Charles and Pamela Chopin in 1978, and to the present owners James and Huguen McCall in 1981.

19. Joseph H. Hardy House  
247 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1948  
F

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The Joseph H. Hardy House, built about 1948, is a small, one and one-half story frame house. Its three bay front, west elevation has a gable roof entrance porch supported by wrought iron posts. Behind it the center entrance is flanked, in the outer bays, by paired double hung sash. Two gabled dormers with single double hung sash are situated on-axis with these first story windows. The house is sheathed in wide, and probably original, asbestos siding.

The lot on which this house was built had been purchased by Edgar L. Fox in 1936. Fox and his wife lived in the adjacent house (20), and later they sold the lot to F.F. and Ruby Cook. The Cooks sold the lot in 1948 to Joseph Hubert Hardy, and the house was built thereafter. Little biographical information has been uncovered about the Hardy family, but Mr. Hardy was listed in the 1960-61 city directory as a supervisor at Shuford Mills. As recalled by one source Mrs. Hardy was the former Rose Mary Click, daughter of J.F. Click, one of the founders and the editor of the Hickory Mercury, a local newspaper. She sold the house to Marcelle and Sheila Black, the present occupants, in 1981.

20. Fox-Duhling House  
239 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1920  
C

Built about 1920, the Fox-Duhling House is a one story, three bay, weather-boarded and wood shingled bungalow with an engaged porch. Its main, west elevation features a broad wood shingled gable end with purlin brackets supported by four tapered porch posts. A slatted balustrade stretches between the brick piers. The center entrance is bordered by narrow sidelights, and it is in turn flanked by single one-over-one double hung sash. Other features include shallow bays supported by three brackets on both the north and south elevations, one interior chimney, exposed rafter ends, and an enclosed porch at the east-southeast corner. A hip roof has been employed on the rear elevation. The house rests on a brick foundation.

Edgar C. Fox (1896-1965) bought this house from the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1920. A native of Hickory, Fox was the son of Granville Fox and Gertrude Bowman Fox. A graduate of the Asheville Business College Fox became office assistant for the City of Hickory in 1916. Thereafter he was employed by the First Savings and Loan Association where he rose to the position of executive vice president in 1951. He was on the board of directors from 1930 until his death. In 1929 he married Euphemia (Peggy) Lipford of Chester, South Carolina, and they lived in this house until 1937 when they moved into a new house on Second Avenue, N.W. (see the Oakwood Historic District). The Fox's sold the property to Walter E. Wootten in 1937.

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Wootten is the son of George R. Wootten, and during the time he owned this house was associated with the First Savings and Loan Association as assistant secretary, treasurer, and director. In 1951 William H. Duhling and his wife Netta purchased the house. They had lived in a nearby house (see the Katharine Carr house (10)) for a number of years before they moved to Mount Airy in 1949. After they returned to Hickory in 1951 Duhling was employed by a number of different firms including Merchants Distributors, Inc., Joe K. Matheson Investment Securities, and Key City Auto Parts. Robert Craig Russell, Jr. and Louisa J. Russell purchased the house in 1983.

21. Payne-Bothwell-Scheller House  
233 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1921  
P

The Payne-Bothwell-Scheller House is a large and impressive brick veneered, granite, and wood shingled bungalow built about 1921. One and one-half stories in height and three bays wide, the house features an engaged porch below flared eaves, a gable roof center dormer, and a large gable roof rear wing. On the main, west elevation the wood shingled dormer has two small double hung windows with narrow panes of glass in the upper sash, and purlin brackets. Two massive squat brick piers at the corners of the porch and two thin iron posts (later replacements?) support a broad flat arch with wood shingled spandrels. Segmental arches link the piers with the wall surface behind. Below the posts a squared stone granite wall laid up in a random range with convex mortar joints enframes the porch, and is capped by limestone. This cap is carried around the house as a water table above the stone foundation which is laid in a manner like that of the porch wall. The house's center entrance has sidelights and is flanked by triple sets of double hung windows with narrow vertical panes in the upper sash. On the south elevation the gable end is clad in wood shingles (as in the north gable), and the broad overhang of the roof is supported by purlin brackets. A single shoulder, paved exterior chimney stands to the west of a shallow shed roofed bay. The broad gable rear wing contains a screened porch at its east-southeast corner. Additional details include a single interior chimney, exposed rafter ends, and the high basement on which the house rests. All of the interior wood work has been painted, as has the corbeled brick mantel in the parlor. If there were other features such as French doors, boxed beams, or wainscoting they have been removed.

Herman Payne bought this lot in 1921 for \$1,000. As recounted by the Robert G. Abernethys, Payne was the manager of the Hickory Ice and Coal Company, but moved to Lenoir. As a result, further biographical information has not been uncovered. The house was sold to J.W. Streeter in 1922. It was purchased in



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1925 by Robert Lee Bothwell (1889-1968). A native of Milledgeville, Georgia, Bothwell was a graduate of Georgia Military Academy. In 1925 he moved to Hickory and became the general manager of the Elliott Knitting Mill. He established the Bothwell Knitting Mill in Newton in 1946. His first wife was the former Martha Durden (\_\_\_\_-1955), and after her death he married Garcie George. Bothwell sold the house in 1932 to Rudolph J. (Hans) Scheller (1904-1960). A native of Germany Scheller came to Hickory in the 1920s and was associated with the Lyerly Full-Fashioned Hosiery Mill. His wife, also of Germany, was the former Clara Reiniche. The family had moved to Greenville a few years prior to Scheller's death. The house has been owned by a number of people since the Schellers sold it in 1946, and is currently a rental property.

22. Huffman-Henry House  
227 Fifth Street, S.E.  
1921  
C

This small triple pile, one and one-half story, end gable front, frame house, clad entirely in wood shingles, was built in 1921. The principal, west elevation contains an engaged entrance porch at the west-southwest corner, a single nine-over-nine double hung sash window behind the porch, and a pair of windows on the front wall. The door is located behind the porch on the perpendicular wall plane. Three small, nine pane windows are located in the half story, and additional features include gable end returns, a brick porch post, and a low brick wall enframing the porch. A narrow bay is attached to the north elevation, and a one story gabled wing (containing a porch) with gable end returns extends from the east-northeast corner. The single exterior and interior chimneys are original, and the back half of the house sits on a high brick foundation.

Grover H. Huffman (\_\_\_\_-1944), a bookkeeper with the Hickory Tannery Company, bought this lot in 1921 for \$1,250. He lived here for about three years when he sold the property to Thomas and Louise Henry. Thomas Kelly Henry (1897-1967) was born in Clover, South Carolina, the son of John J. Henry and Isabella Whiteside Henry. He came to Hickory in 1920 and with Prof. M. Craig Yoder established the Hickory Tire and Battery Company. In 1922 he married the former Louise Ingold (1899-1967), daughter of John L. and Louisa Propst Ingold, and a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College. In 1928 the couple moved to Texas, but returned to Hickory in the mid 1930s and lived here until 1945. At the time of their death the Henrys were living in San Antonio, Texas. They had retained ownership of the house until 1963 when James and Ruby Cook, the present owners and occupants, purchased it.

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23. Eugene C. Ivey House  
219 Fifth Street, S.E.  
c. 1920  
C

Two stories in height and two bays wide the Eugene C. Ivey House is a weatherboarded gable front bungalow. Its principal, west elevation features an attached broad gabled porch supported by two squat tapered posts on brick piers and a replacement iron post. A slatted balustrade stretches between the brick piers. The house's side entrance is located to the north of a triple group of one-over-one double hung sash. Paired double hung sash are symmetrically arranged on the second story beneath a shed roofed pent awning. Purlin brackets and exposed rafter ends detail the facade. A shallow, shed roofed bay is attached to the south elevation, and a one story gabled porch wing is located at the east-northeast corner. Two interior chimneys are original. The house rests on a brick foundation which encloses a partial basement with paired and single four pane windows.

Built about 1920 by the Hickory Land and Development Company, the house was rented for many years to the Eugene Claywell Ivey family. Ivey (1874-1956) was born in Lenoir to the Rev. George Washington Ivey and Salina Neal Ivey. A graduate of Trinity College, Ivey worked for a number of companies within and outside of North Carolina before moving to Hickory in 1921. He became superintendent of the Southern Toy Company and later founded the Community Oil Company. Long active in the First Methodist Church, Ivey was also a former alderman. He married Miss Annie Vasseur of Charlottesville, Virginia. The Ivey's lived here until they built a house on Sixth Street, N.W. in 1940 (see the Oakwood Historic District). In 1933 Robert G. and Glenn Abernethy bought the house and continued to rent it. Robert G. Abernethy's wife Lovie now owns the house.

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1. Mount Zion Baptist Church  
410 Second Ave., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
2. Hickory City Board of Education  
432 Fourth Ave., S.W.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
3. Eubert D. Bowman  
439 Second Ave., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
4. Mrs. Frederick O. Bock, Sr.  
445 Second Ave., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
5. Peggy P. Lail  
505 Second Ave., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
6. Robert G. Abernethy  
206 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
7. A. Mildred Anderson  
218 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N. C. 28601
  
8. James D. Beckom, Sr.  
330 29th Ave., N.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601

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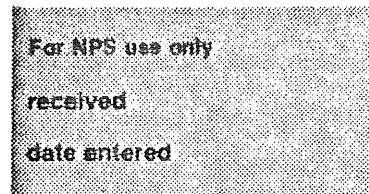
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9. James F. Prince  
232 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
10. Edward J. Buonopane  
238 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
11. Melvin L. Reynolds  
246 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
12. Dorothy J. Chambers  
466 17th Ave. Dr., N.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
13. Thomas L. Meadows  
304 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
14. Buddy Wayne Little  
316 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
15. Steven P. Gullett  
332 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
16. Paul N. Miller  
306 Third Ave. Dr., S.E.  
Hickory, N. C. 28601

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17. John N. Bohannon  
c/o Friday Realty  
P.O. Box 636  
Hickory, N.C. 28603
  
18. James G. Maccoll  
253 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
19. Marcelle Black, Jr.  
247 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
20. Robert C. Russell, Jr.  
239 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
21. James P. White  
P.O. Box 151  
Morven, N.C. 28119
  
22. James C. Cook  
227 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601
  
23. Lovie Miller Abernethy  
206 Fifth St., S.E.  
Hickory, N.C. 28601

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE

\_\_\_\_\_ X LOCAL

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES N/A

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kenworth Historic District recalls Hickory's two early twentieth century periods of development when its expanding population and diversification of the manufacturing base transformed the city's appearance. It is also the most intact and visually cohesive part of Kenworth, Hickory's first planned subdivision in which some of the latest theories in suburban design were employed to create a more picturesque residential neighborhood. The platting of the neighborhood in 1913 was, in retrospect, untimely. World War I intervened and delayed intensive building here until 1920. Kenworth, the new home of young businessmen and professionals many of whom had recently moved to Hickory, became and remains a showplace of the diversity of the bungalow house type.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The Kenworth Historic District represents two periods in Hickory's development. One came before World War I when the city's population and economy had been expanding, and a group of locally prominent businessmen foresaw the need for housing sites in a carefully planned development. Kenworth, laid out in 1913 represents then the culmination of the early 20th Century growth. The suburb was not intensely developed however, until after the War when the booming economy made a large scale building campaign possible in Kenworth and throughout the city. Thus the idea and platting of the suburb represents the turn-of-the century expansion while its outward development represents the large post war boom.
- C. With its period of development confined, primarily, to the 1920s the Kenworth Historic District contains the largest, most intact, and most diverse and yet most cohesive group of bungalows in Hickory. The district occupies the northwest corner of the city's first planned subdivision, a design executed in 1913 which is composed of winding streets following the contours of the landscape. It also has a number of Colonial Revival style buildings, an impressive Neo-Gothic church, and the city's oldest school building.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Kenworth District represents the largest, most representative and most intact group of bungalows in Hickory, most of which are constructed within the boundaries of Kenworth, the city's first planned subdivision.<sup>2</sup> It also includes a number of significant adjacent buildings including Hickory's second graded school and a neighborhood church. Platted in 1913, but not developed until the early 1920s, this subdivision represents Hickory's post World War I growth period. As a result, the character of this district recalls not only the tremendous overall growth in the period, but also the then current theories about the design of suburban areas.

Prior to the development of Kenworth the area had been farmland and woods owned by a number of people. An 1886 map of Catawba County shows neither a road nor any farmstead situated in the area,<sup>3</sup> although the Hawn Family House, probably erected in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, stood in the vicinity.<sup>4</sup> The house is located just south of the subdivision. A portion of the farm may have been incorporated into the Kenworth area, but this has not been verified.

The initial development of the Kenworth District commenced at a time when Hickory was experiencing rapid growth in the number and type of its manufactories as well as its population. In 1910 the city had a population of 3,716 persons, a figure which had grown to 5,076 in 1920.<sup>5</sup> These people were employed by a growing number of furniture, hosiery, and textile mills, as well as the various support and service enterprises which accompanied them. The continuous steady upward population spiral -- there had been 2,535 people in Hickory in 1900 -- created an urgent need for housing. In response, no doubt, to what was perceived as a bright future for the real estate business in Hickory, a number of prominent businessmen formed the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1913.<sup>6</sup>

The Hickory Land and Development Company was founded by Kenneth C. Menzies, William B. Menzies, J. L. Riddle, J. D. Elliott, and H. E. Elliott. Each had subscribed to thirty shares of stock valued at \$100 per share. In the letters of incorporation the company's objects were clearly stated:

... to acquire by purchase or otherwise, own, hold, buy, sell, convey, lease, mortgage or encumber real estate or other property either real, personal or mixed. To erect houses and rent same. To survey, subdivide, plat, improve and develop lands for the purpose of sale, rent or otherwise, and to do and perform all things needful and lawful for the development and improvement of same for residences, trade or any lawful purpose or purposes whatsoever.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See notes on continuation sheets and Item 9 of "Historic Resources of Hickory."

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet

A				B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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To carry on in all of its phases the business of a real estate dealer to buy and sell houses, lots or any lands whatsoever .... and to supply any and all houses with lights and water, telephones and other conveniences of any character.<sup>7</sup>

Soon after its incorporation the company began to acquire property. By the end of 1913 a parcel containing approximately fifty acres had been pieced together in the city's southeastern section. On it Hickory's first subdivision was planned.

The founders of the company were involved in various occupations in Hickory. Kenneth C. Menzies was vice president, and later president, of the First National Bank. His brother William was manager of the Hickory Manufacturing Company, a firm which produced building materials. J. L. Riddle was a grocer and a director of the First National Bank. The Elliott brothers were engaged in a number of businesses, one of which was the Elliott Building Company, a firm which was active throughout the state.<sup>8</sup> J. D. Elliott was also a former mayor and one of the founders of the First National Bank, becoming its president in 1912.

It is a point of some significance that when the company had assembled the fifty acres of land it turned to the Charlotte firm of Blair and Drane to design the subdivision. Holmes Blair and Brent Drane were listed in the Charlotte city directories as Civil and Landscape Engineers. A third member of the firm was Wilbur W. Smith. All three of these names appear on the plat of the Kenworth subdivision with Smith the acting surveyor.<sup>10</sup> Key to the firm's design of Kenworth was the fact that it had been involved in the expansion of the Dilworth subdivision in Charlotte.<sup>11</sup>

The extension of Dilworth was designed by the Olmstead Brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr. In its design Dilworth embodied the latest approach to planning residential neighborhoods. Winding roads which followed the topography were laid out in a heavily landscaped heirarchy of wide boulevards and smaller feeder streets. Thus the rigid grid patterns of earlier periods had been discarded for a more picturesque park-like atmosphere. Although Frederick Law Olmstead's work in the mid-nineteenth century had set a precedent for such designs it was not until the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that they were widely accepted. It had been, in part, a reaction to the pace of industrialization which made such ideas popular.<sup>12</sup> The well-to-do had begun to see the suburban home as a retreat from the pace of city life, and the extension of railroads and trolleys, as well as the ever increasing number of automobiles made commuting to them possible.

Dilworth was the first example in Charlotte of the new approach to city planning, but it was surpassed by Myers Park subdivision designed by John Nolen in 1911, and extended in 1927-30 by planner Earle Draper.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, it is important to gauge the impact of these designs, drawn up by nationally prominent firms, on the local engineering companies which had been hired to transform the design to reality. When retained to lay out subdivisions such as Kenworth, Blair and Drane were certainly influenced by their direct contact with nationally recognized designers.



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The planning activities not only in Charlotte but throughout the nation provide a context in which to examine the design of the Kenworth subdivision. Blair and Drane were confronted by topography which was composed of three distinct parts: (1) An irregular plateau at the western edge which sloped from about 1180 feet to 1125 feet in a north-south direction; (2) a bisecting ravine which became increasingly steeper at the southern end; and (3) an eastern edge which fell rapidly from an elevation of 1180 feet to about 1125 feet, and then gradually sloped to 1100 feet. Their solution called for a straight road (Fifth Street) to extend southward along a ridge from Second Avenue until it curved at the south end to again follow the topography. Third Avenue Drive branched off of Fifth Street approximately one-third of the way from its north terminus and gently curved along the edge of the ravine, providing housesites on its west side overlooking the wooded ravine. A third road (Sixth Street), which was never built, extended along the west side of the ravine from Third Avenue Drive northward to Second Avenue. A fourth street (Seventh Street) intersected Second Avenue, curved downward toward the center of the tract and then turned to the southeast to follow the floor of the depression. Finally, one street (also never built) proceeded eastward in a winding fashion from Sixth Street, across Seventh Street and up the side of the east hill. Bordering these streets, which had been undifferentiated from each other in width, were 150 building lots of near equal size. The picturesque street pattern was not supported by different-sized lots, reflecting the special character of the landscape.

Without any of the development company's records to consult it is difficult to make statements of fact about its intent in this subdivision. By the very consideration of this area for such a use, however, it seems reasonable to assume that the developers were fully aware of its potential in the context of current planning trends. That they hired Blair and Drane to design it supports the suggestion. In fact, the Hickory Democrat was well aware of this when it reported that the "... promoters employed skilled landscape engineers to lay out roads and grounds."<sup>14</sup> As if to underscore their ideals the developers installed paired stone columns at the entrance to Fifth Street -- an obvious reference to the stone gates which marked entrances into Charlotte's Myers Park. At the same time, however, it is clear that they had not intended to create a Myers Park or a Dilworth. The price of lots and their relatively small size defined the type of neighborhood which the developers envisioned; one targeted primarily at the middle or lower middle class. The Oakwood and Claremont College (now High School) Districts would remain as two of the most fashionable residential areas.

Kenworth was boldly different from any other part of Hickory when it was laid out. As a 1915 map of the city shows, Kenworth's winding roads and location at the southeastern fringe of the corporate limits were in sharp contrast to the older grid pattern of streets with development concentrated close to the downtown area.<sup>15</sup>

Although platted by 1914, only six houses had been erected in the Kenworth subdivision prior to W. W. I.<sup>16</sup> Of these six, five were clustered together near the southwestern corner, and the sixth was built within the boundary of the present district. (Later construction dating from the 1940s through the 1960s placed an incongruous barrier between the bungalow structures in the district and those built in other portions of the subdivision which are similar and in many cases older.)

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Development of the Kenworth District commenced along Second Avenue, and just outside of the subdivision's boundaries. In response to the growing school-age population and the overburdened facilities at the North or Oakwood school, the City of Hickory made plans in 1913 to build a new school. Called simply the Graded School No. 2, but commonly referred to as the South school, the present Kenworth Elementary School (2) was built in 1913. Its location in the city's southern half was apparently deemed necessary by the size of the population there -- some 2250 of a total population of 4800.<sup>17</sup> (Hickory's first graded school was built in 1903 in the northern half of the city.) In 1933 the South school was renamed Kenworth Elementary School because of its location near the Kenworth residential area.<sup>18</sup> The single house erected at this time in what is now the historic district was for John G. Carrier. Employed at the Hickory Manufacturing Company, Carrier had bought his lot along Fifth Street in 1915 and had his fine bungalow built that same year.

The United States's entry into W. W. I put a halt to any further development in the Kenworth District. With its resources given over to the war effort, Hickory and the nation as a whole virtually stopped building. After the war the city was poised on the edge of a phenomenal period of growth. In 1920 the population stood at 5,076, but it would soar by forty-five percent in the decade to 7,363 persons in 1930.<sup>19</sup> This followed the pattern evident throughout North Carolina at this time in the wake of a general economic boom spurred on by business and industry.<sup>20</sup>

As industry retooled following the war, the price of building materials remained high. By 1921, however, local builders and developers had joined the Hickory Daily Record in proclaiming that "Now is the Proper time to Start Building Campaign."<sup>21</sup> A large part of the February 4, 1921 issue of the Hickory Daily Record was devoted to this topic. In it there were articles about building costs, the number of new homes recently constructed, as well as numerous advertisements by local builders and lending institutions. The Hickory Land and Development Company had taken a half-page ad which read:

Opportunity for Builders

The most attractive residential section of Hickory is

KENWORTH

a community of pretty houses, on good streets, with water, lights and other modern improvements and in easy reach of the South graded school

If you want a home in this section, the Hickory Land and Development Company will assist you in any way possible to attain your desire.

The company has scores of beautiful lots to select from. It will sell them at a small cost to you, assist you to put up your home, or if you prefer it will erect the building at actual cost, thus saving you money, time and trouble.

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Arrangements will be made to assist you in carrying the cost of home ownership through the building and loan association. All you need is a small sum of money and the determination to become a home-owner.

Let us explain any one of several good propositions for you to you.<sup>22</sup>

An accompanying article proclaimed Kenworth's growth as probably the finest of any residential section in Hickory.<sup>23</sup> The paper described it as "Situated in a beautiful part of Hickory .... it has lights, water and sewerage, beautiful trees and wholesome surroundings."

Consumer demand, the location, and what was probably a relatively low cost for lots combined to transform the district virtually overnight from vacant lots to single family dwellings. Many of the people who moved into Kenworth appear to have been young businessmen and professionals. A number of them had recently moved to Hickory and were in the early stages of their careers. This accounts, in part, for the high turnover rate in ownership in this district compared to some of the older residential areas in the city.

It is significant that these young middle class families chose to build in Kenworth rather than in other areas of the city. Their conscious selection of home sites here suggests that they identified themselves with the relatively new concepts of suburban planning and neighborhood design embodied in the subdivision. Removed from the business district but in close proximity to the South graded school, Kenworth offered the advantages of location and a number of amenities which combined to create an attractive new residential atmosphere. The fact that stone pillars had been used to mark the principal entrance to Kenworth certainly contributed to this sense of neighborhood unity.

Sales of both vacant lots and company built houses had been brisk, commencing about 1920. Of the remaining twenty-four lots in the district which were owned by the Hickory Land and Development Company, all but eight had been purchased by 1922. Only one of those eight would not be sold before 1923. All of these lots carried deed restrictions which prescribed a setback of twenty or twenty-five feet, and the value of improvements to equal or exceed \$3,000. Some of the interest in Kenworth was clearly speculative in nature. For example, L. L. Moss, a local builder, bought a lot in November of 1923 for \$800, built a house on it, and sold it in June of 1924 for \$6,000.<sup>24</sup> Another lot, although purchased in 1921, was not developed until 1939.<sup>25</sup> A number of additional parcels were purchased by residents who wished to increase the size of their relatively small lots. Furthermore, three houses appear to have been built by the company since the price for the property was far greater than for unimproved lots.<sup>26</sup> A third house, long rented by the company to the Eugene C. Ivey family, had probably been built about 1920.

Building activity in the Kenworth subdivision during this period was concentrated in the northwest corner -- that portion which constitutes the bulk of the present Kenworth District. A brief discussion of some of the new residents and their occupations will illustrate the social composition of this residential area at the time of its development.

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The Hickory Land and Development Company built four houses along Fifth Street in 1919 and 1920, and by the end of the second year they had sold all but one. Dr. W. H. Nicholson, a retired physician and secretary and manager of the corporation bought one of them for \$5,000 in January of 1920.<sup>27</sup> An active member of the business and financial community in Hickory, Nicholson lived in this house (9) while he was having another residence (6) built for himself. Edgar L. Fox, an employee of the First Savings and Loan Association, purchased one of the houses (20) for \$5,000 in May of 1920,<sup>28</sup> and he and his wife lived here until they built a new home on Second Avenue, N.W. in 1937 (see the Oakwood District). In December of 1920 J. W. Whisnant, an attorney, bought the third house (11) for \$6,500.<sup>29</sup>

The development of the district begun in 1920 continued during 1921 with the construction of at least three more houses all along Fifth Street and Third Avenue Drive. Dr. William P. Speas had purchased a lot in December of 1920,<sup>30</sup> and by February of 1921 had started to build a house (12) on it.<sup>31</sup> Speas had come to Hickory from Davie County and established a medical practice in which he specialized in eye, ear, nose and throat diseases. In 1927 he left to do post-graduate work and the house was purchased by J. B. Duval, the manager and superintendent of Brookford Mills. At the same time that the Speas-Duval House was being built, K. K. Kennedy was building an impressive Colonial Revival house (16). Kennedy was the superintendent of the Catawba Creamery Company, and in 1922 he sold the house to P.C. Setzer, a partner in the dry goods store of Setzer and Russell. Four lots to the north of Kennedy's house, Herman Payne had begun construction of a house (21) on a lot he bought for \$1,000 in January of 1921.<sup>32</sup> Manager of the Hickory Ice and Coal Company, Payne moved to Lenoir soon after the house was built. Subsequent occupants included hosiery manufacturer Robert Lee Bothwell, and the immigrant German family of Rudolph J. Scheller who was also associated with the local hosiery industry.

A number of people had purchased building lots by mid or late 1921 and they had probably completed houses on them by 1922. Clyde L. Herman (13) bought a parcel for \$1,000 in September which was located along Fifth Street.<sup>33</sup> In 1918 Herman had obtained a bookkeeper's position with the First National Bank of Hickory, and was subsequently promoted through several positions until at his retirement in 1970 he was vice-president and cashier. Dr. Nicholson's second house (6) had been completed in 1922 and he lived there for seven years before selling it to the Robert G. Abernethys. Abernethy was operating the Abernethy Transfer and Storage Company and his wife Lovie Miller Abernethy was the vice-president and bookkeeper.

Between the years of 1922 and 1925, six more houses were erected in the district, and three of them were built on adjoining lots along the north side of Second Avenue. William P. Bowman, who operated a lumber business in Hickory, built a large bungalow (3) on a lot he had purchased in 1922.<sup>34</sup> In that same year his daughter Ila and her husband Frederick O. Bock built a finely detailed bungalow (4) on the adjacent lot. Soon after his father and brother-in-law had built their houses Wade V. Bowman built a bungalow (5) adjacent to the Bock's house. An officer in W. W. I and later a hosiery manufacturer Wade sold the house to his brother Herbert in 1925 who in turn transferred it to Matthew and Corinne Lowrey in 1933.<sup>35</sup> Lowrey had purchased the Chero-Cola Bottling Company which he operated until his retirement.

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The 1920s had seen the rapid growth of the Kenworth District as newcomers to Hickory sought homes in the city's first subdivision. Both Hickory natives and the newly arrived contributed to the development of Kenworth's unique character. These people constructed homes on building lots of equal size which carried deed restrictions as to setback and the minimum value of improvements. Furthermore, the district's planned appearance influenced the unity in the houses' form, scale, and type of building materials, as well as the landscaping.

Population growth in Hickory had forced the school board to enlarge the South graded school in 1919, and by the middle of the decade other facilities had had to be built throughout the city. In addition to new schools and houses Hickory's citizens were erecting new church buildings for their growing congregations. Having met since 1908 in the old First Presbyterian Church, (located in the vicinity of present South Center Street and First Avenue, S. W.), the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church built a new edifice (1) in the district in 1926.

Development in the district since the late 1920s has been limited by the availability of lots. The Andrew J. Borders House (8) on Fifth Street was built about 1940, and the Joseph H. Hardy House (19) was added about 1948. Even though the lot had been sold to Mrs. W. G. Fox in 1921,<sup>36</sup> the Borders' house had apparently not been built until after he purchased it in November 1939.<sup>37</sup>

The Kenworth District had assumed its present form by about 1948, three years after the Hickory Land and Development Company was dissolved.<sup>38</sup> Although it comprises only about one-fifth of the total Kenworth subdivision--much of which was never developed due to the rugged topography--the Kenworth District is an important element in the early twentieth century history of Hickory.

Perhaps greater significance, however, lies in the district's testimonial to the group of men who founded the Hickory Land and Development Company. Leaders in the community's business and financial spheres, they revealed through the design of the Kenworth subdivision their vision of a suburban landscape much different in form than those which characterized Hickory at that time. Their far-reaching business ties exposed them to the latest concepts in planning and landscape architecture. As a result, when the company was ready to create its first subdivision it turned to Charlotte for the technical expertise required to transform a vision to reality.

Kenworth became home for both newcomers and long-time residents of Hickory, and at least for a number of years it was one of the most popular residential areas in the city especially, it seems for younger businessmen and their families. Today, the Kenworth District is home for a number of young professionals and their families as well as now retired businessmen, some of whom have lived there for fifty or more years.

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END NOTES

1

According to local tradition the name Kenworth had been derived by combining the surnames of Kenneth C. Menzies and Worth Elliott. Hickory Daily Record, 11 December, 1970.

2

For the purposes of this discussion a distinction is made between the Kenworth District and the Kenworth subdivision. The former is that portion of the original subdivision, as well as other property, being considered for National Register listing while the latter refers to the entire area platted in 1913 and registered in the Catawba County Book of Plats, Office of the Register of Deeds, Catawba County Courthouse, Newton, Book 1, P. 23, hereinafter cited as Catawba County Book of Plats.

3

Map of Catawba County, North Carolina, Surveyed and drawn by R. A. Yoder (Newton, North Carolina: R. A. Yoder, 1886).

4

Davyd Foard Hood, Survey Specialist with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, has dated the house to this period for the City of Hickory. Davyd Foard Hood to Thomas N. Carr, 1 March, 1984.

5

Western Piedmont Council of Governments, 1970 Census Data Digest for the Unifour Complex (Hickory, North Carolina: WPCOG), A-1, hereinafter cited as WPCOG, 1970 Census Data Digest.

6

Catawba County Book of Corporations, Office of the Register of Deeds, Catawba County Courthouse, Newton, Book 2, P. 138, hereinafter cited as Catawba County Book of Corporations.

7

Catawba County Book of Corporations, Book 2, P. 138.

8

The Elliott Building Company had constructed the North Carolina Building at the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, The Kenneth L. Howard House, Dunn, N. C., 1982.

9

Charlotte City Directory, 1918, compiled by Ernest H. Miller, (Charlotte, North Carolina: Hackney and Moale Co., 1918).

10

Catawba County Book of Plats, Book 1, p. 23.

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11

Thomas W. Hanchett, "Charlotte's Neighborhood Planning Tradition", part of an unpublished manuscript prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, 1984, p. 12, hereinafter cited as Hanchett, "Charlotte's Neighborhood Planning Tradition." The firm had been hired to perform a topographic survey of the land on which the development was planned.

12

Sydney Nathans, The Quest For Progress (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1983), 60.

13

Hanchett, "Charlotte's Neighborhood Planning Tradition," 7, 16.

14

Hickory Democrat, 6 August, 1914.

15

as Map of Hickory, North Carolina, J. E. Barb, Surveyor, 1915, hereinafter cited as Map of Hickory, 1915.

16

Map of Hickory, 1915.

17

Hickory Democrat, 6 August, 1914.

18

Interview conducted in 1984 by Kirk F. Mohny with Mr. William G. Norris, former principal of Kenworth Elementary School.

19

WPCOG, 1970 Census Data Digest, A-1.

20

Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 584.

21

Hickory Daily Record, 4 February, 1921.

22

Ibid.

23

Ibid.

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24 Catawba County Deeds, Book 182, p. 44; Book 184, p. 92.

25 Catawba County Deeds, Book 304, p. 486.

26 Catawba County Deeds, Book 152, p. 99; Book 152, p. 132; Book 158, p. 522.

27 Catawba County Deeds, Book 152, p. 132.

28 Catawba County Deeds, Book 152, p. 99.

29 Catawba County Deeds, Book 158, p. 522.

30 Catawba County Deeds, Book 158, p. 344.

31 Hickory Daily Record, 4 February, 1921.

32 Catawba County Deeds, Book 152, p. 195; Hickory Daily Record,  
4 February, 1921.

33 Catawba County Deeds, Book 152, p. 451.

34 Catawba County Deeds, Book 208, p. 416.

35 Catawba County Deeds, Book 186, p. 407; Book 251, p. 145.

36 Catawba County Deeds, Book 164, p. 17.

37 Catawba County Deeds, Book 304, p. 486.

38 Catawba County Book of Corporations, Book 4, pp. 398, 424.



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Kenworth District

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UTM Points Kenworth

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A.	17	470320	3953750
B.	17	470280	3953510
C.	17	470160	3953400
D.	17	470100	3953410
E.	17	470180	3953680
F.	17	470040	3953700
G.	17	470060	3953810

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Page 2

Commencing at a point formed at the intersection of the center lines on 2nd Avenue, S.E. and 5th Street, S.E. then proceeding due north along the center line of an alley linking 2nd Avenue, S.E. and 1st Avenue Place S.E.; then west on the rear property line of #505 2nd Avenue, S.E. to the center line of 5th Street, S.E., then south on said center line to the rear property line of #455 2nd Avenue, S.E. It then follows this property line and that of #439 2nd Avenue, S.E. Thereafter the boundary turns south to intersect 2nd Avenue, S.E.; proceeds due west along the center line of said Avenue, and then south at a point equidistant between the Mount Zion Baptist Church and its parsonage at 410 2nd Avenue, S.E. The boundary turns due east along a line at the rear of the church and the original Kenworth School building; then south along the rear property lines of #'s 206, 218, 226, 232, 238, 246, 252, 5th Street, S.E.; crosses 3rd Avenue, S.E., and then continues south on the rear property line of #'s 304, 316, and 332 5th Street, S.E. Thereafter, the line turns east along the south property boundary of #332 5th Street, S.E.; intersects 5th Street, S.E. and proceeds north in the center of said street; then turns east and north along the rear property line of #306 3rd Avenue Drive, S.E.; intersects the center line of said Drive and proceeds approximately thirty-five (35) feet in a northwesterly direction where it then turns to follow the south property line of #311 3rd Avenue Drive, S.E.; then to the rear line of the same property where it proceeds in a northwesterly direction to include #253 5th Street, S.E., and then due north along the rear property lines of #'s 247, 237, 233, 227, 219, and the adjoining lot, to the center line of 2nd Avenue, S.E. From there the line proceeds west to the point of beginning.

Joseph Alfred Moretz House

17 468200/3956780



Houck's Chapel

17 466660/3955500

Oakwood Historic District

- A 17 468520/3955000
- B 17 469120/3955080
- C 17 469230/3954720
- D 17 468470/3954060

First Presbyterian Church

17 469240/3954440

John A. Lentz House

17 468120/3954580



Piedmont Wagon Company

17 467930/3954100



Clement Geitner House

17 468720/3954140

Elliott-Carnegie Library

17 468780/3954160

Second Street Place Historic District

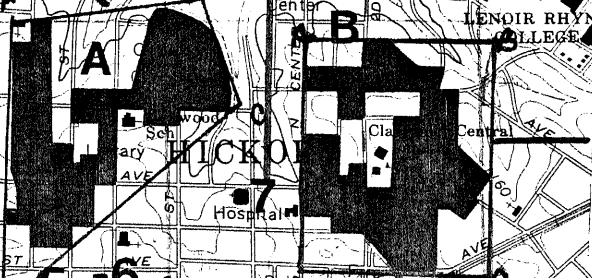
17 469200/3953960

Claremont Historic District

- A 17 469440/3954930
- B 17 470040/3954930
- C 17 470020/3954170
- D 17 469410/3954190

Kenworth Historic District

17 470220/3953600



HICKORY

LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE

HICKORY

Clark

40 MI. 7 LENOIR  
35° 45'  
3955  
3954  
3953  
3952  
ASHVILLE 75 MI.  
MCPHANTOWN 19 MI.

Radio Tower (WIRC)

1534

1462

BM 1998

Ridgeview Sch

Ridgeview Cem

Substa

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Lake Hickory Country Club

Good Shepherd Ch

Armory

Highland Sch

College Park Jr High Sch

Recreation Center

LENOIR RHYNE COLLEGE

Wood Sch

Hospital

Police Sta

Green Park Sch

Ridgeview Sch

Ridgeview Cem

Substa

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Race Tower (WHKY)

Old Robinson Cem

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# KENWORTH DISTRICT Hickory, North Carolina



### LEGEND

-  PIVOTAL BUILDING
-  CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  FILL BUILDING
-  INTRUSIVE BUILDING
-  BUILDING INVENTORY NUMBER
-  DISTRICT BOUNDARY



