

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Belmont Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

Roughly bounded by N. Main St., the (Former) Sacred Heart College campus, the street & number former Piedmont & Northern Railroad line, Glenway St., N/A not for publication  
S. Main St., Bryant St., Keener Blvd., and Central Ave.  
city or town Belmont N/A vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Gaston code 071 zip code 28012

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPO      10/16/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
Other, (explain) _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
264	59	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
267	59	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Department Store
- SOCIAL/Meeting Hall
- GOVERNMENT/Post Office
- EDUCATION/College
- EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store
- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- GOVERNMENT/City Hall
- EDUCATION/School
- RELIGION/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls WOOD: weatherboard
- BRICK
- roof ASPHALT
- other TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce
- Community Development
- Education
- Transportation
- Architecture

Period of Significance

1873-1946

Significant Dates

1873

1892

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hook, Charles Christian, architect

McMichael, J.M., architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 170 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid 1 with labels Zone, Easting, Northing

UTM grid 3 with labels Zone, Easting, Northing

UTM grid 4 with label X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frances P. Alexander and Richard L. Mattson, historians

organization Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. date 8 July 1996

street & number 309 East Park Avenue, No. 4 telephone 704-342-3076

city or town Charlotte, state N.C. zip code 28203

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number <sup>7.</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Page <sup>1.</sup> \_\_\_\_\_**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.****7. Narrative Description**

The Belmont Historic District encompasses the heart of the City of Belmont, located in eastern Gaston County, North Carolina. Situated on a small peninsula formed by the Catawba River, approximately ten miles west of Charlotte, Belmont is surrounded by modern suburban development, small farms, and turn of the century textile mill communities. Gastonia, the county seat and historically one of the major cotton mill centers in the southern Piedmont, is located five miles to the west. U.S. Highway 29-74 (Wilkinson Boulevard) runs along the northern end of Belmont and in recent decades has attracted the full range of commercial strip activities. To the south of town, post-World War II residential streets mark the community of South Belmont, while modern subdivisions, distinguished by curvilinear streets and cul-de-sacs, are located in wooded areas towards the south end of the peninsula.

The historic district is composed of all or portions of forty-five city blocks, encompassing the original central business district and the most intact adjacent residential areas that developed primarily in the early twentieth century. The north end of the historic district, which occupies the crest of a small hill, is dominated by the tree shaded, (Former) Sacred Heart College campus. The historic district excludes the textile mills and mill housing concentrated on the north and east sides of town which have undergone extensive alterations and demolition in the decades after World War II.

The street plan of Belmont, instead of conforming to the conventional grid pattern, generally consists of a few major thoroughfares (Main Street, Central Avenue, Catawba Street), and numerous short, connecting streets. The principal streets developed from a few north-south market roads, such as Main Street and Central Avenue, which connected the peninsula with other communities in the county, and east-west routes, particularly Catawba Street, which paralleled the Southern Railway corridor to Charlotte. The commercial core coalesced on the north and south sides of the rail line, while residential neighborhoods surrounded the business district. Independent mill districts and later subdivisions developed along rail and highway routes on the periphery of this small commercial and residential core. A number of the streets are oriented to rail lines or conform to natural features, and the city blocks vary greatly in size.

Main Street, which runs through the historic district, conforms to the rolling terrain of Belmont's peninsular setting. The street begins on the hill at the north end of the historic district and forms an easterly arc through the center of town. Major commercial and civic buildings, including the (Former) U.S. Post Office (National Register 1995) (No. 183) and the R.L. Stowe Mills Office Building (No. 36) are

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prominently sited at the sharpest bend of Main Street, near the north end of the commercial district.

The historic downtown area is concentrated along Main Street between Catawba Street (where the R.L. Stowe Mills Office Building is located) and the Southern Railway corridor (No. 29), which runs east-west through the center of Belmont. Portions of the former Piedmont and Northern Railroad spur line extends northward from the Southern Railway line, along the east side of the business district. The compact commercial core is characterized by mostly contiguous one and two story, brick buildings dating from the early twentieth century. The facades tend to have conservative brick details such as corbelled cornices, parapet roof lines, and recessed entrances with large display windows. Recent changes to the commercial area include the addition of parking lots on two interior lots, a few modernized entrances and upper story facades, and some post-World War II construction.

The central business district is highlighted by a group of intact, small town, commercial buildings and the (Former) Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot (No. 222), which survives on its original site. The ca. 1900 Belmont Drug Company (No. 186) (31 North Main Street) is a two story building with a corbelled cornice, segmental arched windows on the upper story and a 1930s shopfront veneered in black structural glass. The ca. 1907 (Former) Belmont Hotel (No. 188) (21-25 North Main Street) accommodates four individual shopfronts and is crowned by a pressed metal cornice with brick corbelling. The 1904 (Former) Stowe Brothers Company (No. 223) (6 North Main Street) features a second story of segmental arched windows divided by strip pilasters, and a remarkably intact interior with a broad central staircase that rises to the mezzanine. Perhaps the most architecturally sophisticated building in the historic commercial core is the 1926 (Former) Bank of Belmont (No. 227) (32 North Main Street). This three story Renaissance Revival bank building features a buff-colored brick facade with quoins, a classically detailed first story with fluted pilasters, and a denticulated brick cornice. The ca. 1915 (Former) Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot (4 North Main Street) reflects the Mission Style in its tan brick exterior and low hip roof with terra cotta tiles and bracketed eaves.

South of this commercial core, a small collection of utilitarian, brick commercial buildings, built in the 1910s and 1920s, extends along Main Street south of the railroad tracks. To the north of the historic downtown (above Catawba Street), the east side of Main Street includes a row of one story offices and stores built primarily in the 1950s and 1960s. This portion of North Main Street is excluded from the historic district.

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The historic district also contains the residential areas adjacent to the commercial core, particularly North Main Street, Central Avenue, and the short connecting streets. North Main Street, which occupies a portion of a hill above downtown, features large houses erected for the leading businessmen and textile manufacturers of Belmont. Many of these residences are sited on spacious lots with mature shade trees and epitomize nationally popular architectural styles of the early twentieth century. For example, the ca. 1919 Abel C. Lineberger House No. 2 (Inventory List No. 168) (411 North Main Street) is a two and one-half story, brick, Renaissance Revival residence that was designed by Charlotte architect, Charles Christian Hook. Lineberger also commissioned noted Charlotte landscape architect, Earle S. Draper, to design the tree-shaded grounds. Three blocks to the south, the ca. 1917 Robert L. Stowe Sr. House No. 2 (Inventory List No. 179) (135 North Main Street) is an imposing, two and one-half story, brick, Colonial Revival dwelling embellished with a roof balustrade, denticulated cornice, and Palladian window. An array of other Colonial Revival houses as well as Queen Anne residences and bungalows completes the North Main Street neighborhood.

Central Avenue, the other principal thoroughfare in the historic district, runs north-south through Belmont, linking U.S. Highway 29-74 at the north end of town to the southernmost point of the peninsula. Within the historic district, Central Avenue contains a variety of houses built in the late nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth. These dwellings include a number of weatherboard and brick veneered bungalows, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Renaissance Revival houses, and a few L-plan houses with applied picturesque and classically-inspired millwork. The residences tend to be close to the street and to one another, although several of the most prestigious houses are sited well back from the street on large, wooded tracts. The ca. 1919 Samuel Pinckney Stowe House (No. 148) (203 South Central Avenue) ranks among the grandest houses in Belmont. Similar in design to the A.C. Lineberger House on North Main Street, this two and one-half story Renaissance Revival residence commands a large, wooded lot near the south end of the historic district. The ca. 1910 James W. Stowe House (No. 143) (210 South Central Avenue) is one of the most impressive Colonial Revival dwellings in the historic district. This two story, red brick house exemplifies the style in its symmetrical cubic form, hip roof with center gable and modillion cornice, and pedimented entry with Doric columns. The Stowe residence also stands on a sizable lot with an abundance of mature shade trees.

Less imposing dwellings, erected for middle class families line the northern end of Central Avenue, South Main Street, and the parallel and intersecting streets in the historic district. These streets include Cedar Street, Todd Street, Woodrow Avenue, and Circle Drive. Lined with hardwood shade trees and subdivided into small parcels, these residential blocks are characterized by weatherboarded bungalows and two story

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Colonial Revival houses built between the 1920s and 1940s. Smaller dwellings of this period are located along Popular Street, Bryant Street, and Hill Street. Occupied originally by a variety of white-collar and skilled workers employed at the nearby textile mills, these houses are mostly bungalows, Colonial Revival cottages, and double pile, hip roofed cottages.

Although the great majority of houses dates from the early twentieth century, and particularly the interwar years, the historic district also contains a small number of late nineteenth century dwellings. Among this group are three Stowe family houses, all erected between the 1880s and 1890s of two story, frame construction. Both the Abram Stowe House (No. 34) at 35 Catawba Street and the James P. Stowe House (No. 39) behind Belmont City Hall are traditional three bay, center hall I-houses, while the Robert L. Stowe, Sr. House (No. 32) at 32 Catawba Street has a one story, L-shaped form.

Most outbuildings within the historic district are small, frame, gable roofed garages or storage sheds located at the rear of lots. There are also a small number of brick veneered garages associated with some of the larger residences located primarily along North Main Street and South Central Avenue.

Two churches from the period of significance are located within the historic district. Sited at 501 North Central Avenue is Mount Moriah Baptist Church (No. 112), an African American church erected ca. 1910. Situated across town, the 1912 (Former) Main Street Methodist Church (No. 200) (208 South Main Street) was built for the principal white Methodist congregation of Belmont. Both churches are brick veneered, Gothic Revival buildings with gable front main blocks and corner entry towers.

The historic district also contains two scholastic institutions. Commanding the north end of the district is the (Former) Sacred Heart College (No. 231) (414 North Main Street). The architectural centerpiece of the tree-shaded campus is a complex of attached, three story, brick and stone buildings erected between 1899 and 1922. The campus also includes a number of ancillary resources built between the 1920s and 1940s, as well as later buildings reflecting the expansion of the institution as a college and convent. Dominating the 100 block of South Central Avenue is the 1939 (Former) Belmont High School (No. 158). This two story, Art Moderne facility has a buff-colored brick exterior and decorative brickwork arranged in a herringbone patterned around the center entry.

Near the business district is the Belmont City Park (No. 193), which occupies a depression on the south side of the Southern Railway line along Main Street. The park

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**Belmont Historic District**  
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was constructed ca. 1940 using relief funds provided by the Works Progress Administration. The park retains its central fountain, mature trees and plantings, and playground facilities.

In summary, the Belmont Historic District comprises a substantially intact collection of historic resources reflecting the growth of the town, principally during the early twentieth century. The fifty-eight non-contributing resources comprise eighteen percent of the total 328 properties within the historic district; most of these properties are post-World War II houses and commercial buildings. There are 270 resources (eighty-two percent) which contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the district. In addition, the Belmont Historic District retains the integrity of its setting, maintaining not only traditional patterns of land use but also mature shade trees which enhance the historical ambience of the town.

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**Belmont Historic District  
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**INVENTORY LIST**

The following bibliographic references were used in preparing the inventory list: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office architectural survey files for the City of Belmont; Sanborn fire insurance maps (1929); published local histories and architectural surveys; and interviews with the City of Belmont Planning Department and local residents.

The inventory list is organized on a street-by-street basis. East-west streets are listed first followed by north-south streets. On the east-west streets, the list moves from west to east on the south side of the street and east to west on the north side of the street. On the north-south streets, the listings move from north to south on the west side of the street and south to north on the east side.

Key

- C = Contributing Resource
- N = Non-contributing Resource
- OB = Other Building
- S = Structure
- V = Vacant

<u>List</u>	<u>St. #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Description/original owner- occupant (if known)</u>	
<b>North Side, Hall Street</b>					
N	1	310	ca. 1950	1	House; simple, one story, frame dwelling with side gable roof, inset porch, and modern, two-over-two, double hung windows.
N	2	312	ca. 1950	1	House; simple, one story, frame dwelling with side gable roof, inset porch, and modern, two-over-two, double hung windows.

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**Bryant Street**

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**South Side, Bryant Street**

V	3					Vacant lot.
C	4	125	ca. 1930	1		House; one story, frame, clipped side gable bungalow with rectangular plan; paired six-over-six, double hung windows flank a gable front, entrance porch; porch roof has exposed rafters, and porch supported by box piers.
V	5					Vacant lot.
C	6	121	ca. 1930	1		House; one story, frame, hip roofed bungalow with hip roofed dormer and engaged porch; porch supported by replacement metal piers resting on brick pedestals; house has exposed rafters, weatherboard siding, and four-over-one, double hung windows.
C	7	117	ca. 1925	1		House; one story, frame, front gable bungalow with hip roofed porch and porte cochere; porch supported by replacement metal piers; weatherboard siding; asymmetrical three bay facade with three-over-one, double hung windows.
C	8	115	ca. 1940	1		House; one story, frame, side gable dwelling with gable front porch over central entrance; porch supported by knee brackets; vinyl siding and eight-over-eight, double hung windows.

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**Bryant Street**

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C	9	111	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, hip roofed bungalow with porte cochere and front gable porch; porch and porte cochere are supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; house has replacement German siding and four-over-one, double hung windows.
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C	10	109	ca. 1930	1	House; one story, frame, front gable bungalow with flat roofed porch and front gable section; porch has replacement lattice work piers; six-over-six, double hung windows; house retains its weatherboard siding.
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**North side, Bryant Street**

C	11	118	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, hip roofed dwelling situated on corner lot; front gable entrance porches, supported by box piers, face the streets; house has vinyl siding and six-over-six, double hung windows.
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C	12	120	1924	1	Smith House; one story, frame, hip roofed bungalow with raised, brick foundation, shed roofed dormer and engaged porch; porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; three and four-over-one, double hung windows; scalloped detailing along the eaves. Smith built this house in 1924 and later built other houses on this street.
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Myrtle Street

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C OB	12a	120	ca. 1930	1	Storage Building; frame, gable roofed storage building.
C	13	122	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, gable front dwelling with gable front wing; German siding; six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	14	124	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, side gable bungalow with German siding, front gable porch, box piers, and exposed rafters; asymmetrical three bay facade with six-over-six, double hung windows.
N	15	126	ca. 1930	1	House; altered one story, frame, front gable dwelling with front gable, end bay porch; brick foundation, vinyl siding and six-over-six, double hung windows.
N	16	202	ca. 1910	1	House; altered, one story, frame, side gable dwelling with front gable entry porch supported by turned posts; vinyl siding and replacement windows.
V	17				Vacant lot.

**South Side, Myrtle Street**

C	18	21	ca. 1930	1	House; one story, frame, front gable bungalow with front gable section and hip roofed porch; six-over-six, double hung windows; vinyl siding and porch posts; carport and porch added to side.
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Myrtle Street

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N OB	18a	21	ca. 1960	1	Garage; enclosed, one story, frame garage.
C	19	19	ca. 1930	1	House; one story, stuccoed, period cottage; hip roof; front gable entrance porch with arched openings; paired six-over-one, double hung windows.
V	20				Vacant lot.

**North Side, Myrtle Street**

N	21	16	ca. 1950	2	House; two story, brick veneered, postwar Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, side hall plan, and added hip roofed porch; porch extends around side elevation and includes a below grade garage; rear ell covered in German siding.
V	22				Vacant lot.
C	23	24	ca. 1940	2	House; two story, brick veneered Colonial Revival house with side gable roof and hip roofed entrance porch; porch supported by metal posts; three bay facade with central entrance and eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
V	24				Vacant lot.
C	25	30	ca. 1910	1	House; one story, frame, hip roofed cottage with engaged porch; porch supported by turned posts; house has vinyl siding and six-over-six, double hung windows.

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Myrtle Street

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N OB	25a	30	ca. 1970	1	Modern carport.
N	26	34	ca. 1945	2	House; two story, brick veneered Colonial Revival house with hip roof and hip roofed entrance porch; porch supported by box piers; three bay facade with central entrance and replacement paired six-over-six, double hung windows.
(Hill Street intersects)					
(South Central Street intersects)					
C	27	110	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, hip roofed bungalow with gable front dormer, and engaged porch; porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; German siding; asymmetrical, three bay facade; six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	28	108	ca. 1925	1	House; one story, frame, front gable bungalow with engaged porch; porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; replacement siding; asymmetrical three bay facade; six-over-one, double hung windows.
C S	29		1873/ca. 1894		(Former) Atlanta and Charlotte Airline/Southern Railway railroad tracks and corridor; the (Former) Atlanta and Charlotte Airline rail corridor was completed through Belmont in 1873; the line was subsumed into the Southern Railway system in 1894.

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Catawba Street

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**South Side, Catawba Street**

N	30	2	ca. 1955	1	Gas Station; brick gas station with flat roof, now converted to retail use; windows have been infilled, and entrance altered with a modern porch.
C	31	4	ca. 1930	2	Kimball's Furniture Store; two story, brick veneered store with rear warehouse; symmetrical three bay facade with wide brick pilasters; steel sash, factory windows; and central, double leaf, metal and glass doors; flat roof with parapet; rear warehouse has bowstring truss roof and brick infilled windows.
C	32	32	ca. 1890	1	Robert L. Stowe, Sr. House; handsome, frame, picturesque dwelling belonging to textile industry pioneer, Robert Stowe; asymmetrical massing, cross gable roof, and weatherboard siding; elaborate, wraparound porch with turned posts, turned post balustrade, and decorative knee brackets and spindlework frieze; two-over-two, double hung windows.
C OB	32a	32	ca. 1890	1	Kitchen; frame, gable roofed kitchen with weatherboard siding; interior is largely intact.
C OB	32b	32	ca. 1890	1	Storage Building; frame storage building with gable roof and weatherboard siding.

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Catawba Street

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**North Side, Catawba Street**

C	33	37	ca. 1910	1-1/2	W.R. Stowe House; one and one-half, story, frame Craftsman style bungalow; steeply pitched, side gable roof with broad, bracketed eaves and shed roofed dormers; weatherboard siding; front gable porch supported by battered, box piers; asymmetrical three bay facade with four-over-one, double hung windows.
C	34	35	ca. 1880	2	Abram Stowe House; frame I-house with one story rear ell, shed roofed porch, weatherboard siding, and exterior end chimneys; porch supported by turned posts with a balustrade of square balusters; symmetrical three bay facade; central entrance has side lights and transom; six-over-six, double hung windows; fine, intact interior detailing.
C OB	34a	35	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, front gable, one car garage.
N	35	?	ca. 1970	1	Bank; one story, brick veneered bank building with wood shingled, mansard roof and tall, narrow, fixed light windows.
(Glenway Street intersects)					
N	36	3	ca. 1920	2	R.L. Stowe Mills Office Building; (2) brick, Neo-Classical office buildings, both two stories tall, now

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City Hall Alley

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

connected by a small, modern infill; original buildings have flat roofs with parapets, molded cornices, knee brackets, and round arched windows with decorative transoms; brick infill has large curved windows and pyramidal roofed towers at junctions with original buildings. Appears on the 1929 Sanborn map as two office buildings.

**South Side, City Hall Alley**

V	37					Vacant lot; used for parking.
N	38	?	ca. 1960	1		Dentist Office; small, one story, brick veneered office building with front gable roof and metal sash windows.
C	39	?	ca. 1895	2		James P. Stowe House; frame I-house with two story rear ell and wraparound, two tier porch with replacement posts and wooden skirt; weatherboard siding; pedimented, upper tier porch has wooden columns and turned post balustrade; symmetrical three bay facade; central entrance; six-over-six, double hung windows and one bay window on the north elevation; many original interior details remain; house built for James P. Stowe, one of the earliest merchants in Belmont; his house is reputedly the second oldest

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**West Woodrow Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

residence in town.

N OB 39a ? ca. 1970 1 Modern storage building.

**South Side, West Woodrow Avenue**

C 40 37 ca. 1925 1-1/2 House; one and one-half story, frame, side gable bungalow with front gable dormers, Craftsman style knee brackets, and broad eaves; shed roofed and front gable porch with replacement metal supports and brick pedestals; asymmetrical, three bay facade with central entrance flanked by Queen Anne windows; side elevations have eight-over-one, double hung windows; aluminum siding.

N OB 40a 37 ca. 1960 1 Garage; aluminum sided, front gable garage and storage building.

C 41 35 ca. 1935 1-1/2 House; one and one-half story, Colonial Revival cottage with side gable roof and front gables; symmetrical four bay facade; single, panelled door marked by pilasters and front gable; six-over-six, double hung windows; replacement German siding.

C 42 31 ca. 1935 2 House; handsome, brick veneered Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable, slate roof, molded cornices, front gable section, decorative gable, lunette windows with keystones, and recently added bay

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**West Woodrow Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					<p>window; pedimented entrance supported by columns; single, panelled door has fanlight; now enclosed side porch has arched openings; six-over-one and nine-over-one, double hung windows; recent rear addition.</p>
C OB	42a	31	ca. 1935	1	<p>Garage; brick veneered, front gable garage with two car bays; garage has molded cornices and decorative lunette window.</p>
V	43				<p>Vacant lot.</p>

**North Side, West Woodrow Avenue**

C	44	12	ca. 1935	2	<p>Richard Cromlish House; handsome, brick veneered Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, symmetrical, three bay facade, and frame side addition; projecting front gable entrance with flanking pilasters and dentil molding under the pediment; single, panelled door has side lights; eight-over-eight, double hung windows; house has attached garage.</p>
C OB	44a	12	ca. 1935	1	<p>Other House; frame house with German siding, side gable roof and six-over-six, double hung windows.</p>
C	45	16	ca. 1920	2	<p>House; substantial, frame Four Square dwelling with pyramidal roof, hip roofed dormers, wraparound porch and porte</p>

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West Woodrow Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					cochere; portion of porch now enclosed; porch supported by paired battered piers resting on brick pedestals; wood shingle siding and six-over-one, double hung windows. Appears on the 1929 Sanborn map.
C OB	45a	16	ca. 1925	2	Garage/Servant's Quarters; front gable, two car garage with wood shingle siding and second story apartment.
C	46	20	ca. 1920	2	House; handsome, frame Four Square dwelling with intersecting hip roof, hip roofed dormers, and broad eaves; weatherboard siding, six-over-one, double hung windows as well as Queen Anne windows on the asymmetrical facade; doorway has stylized, classical pilasters and molded cornice; hip roofed, wraparound porch supported by battered piers resting on brick pedestals.
C OB	46a	20	ca. 1925	1	Garage, hip roofed garage with weatherboard siding.
C	47	24	ca. 1910	1-1/2	House; frame, Colonial Revival dwelling with steeply pitched, side gable roof, engaged, wraparound porch, and front gable wing; weatherboard siding; two-over-two, double hung windows; porch supported by columns; symmetrical, three bay facade; bay window on side elevation.

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West Woodrow Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C OB	47a	24	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame garage with side gable roof.
C	48	28	ca. 1910	2	DeLambert P. Stowe House; handsome hybrid of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival residential architecture; cross gambrel roof with gambrel front orientation; asymmetrical massing; wood shingle and weatherboard siding; diamond paned and one-over-one, double hung windows; hip roofed, wraparound porch supported by classical box piers; symmetrical three bay facade; wide, center door with transom; added rear ell with weatherboard siding.
C OB	48a	28	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, two car garage with hip roof and replacement overhead doors.
C	49	36	ca. 1930	2	House; substantial, brick veneered Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof with full returns of the eaves and denticulated cornice; front gable dormers; hip roofed side wings; east wing is an enclosed porch with brick piers; west wing is an intact sun room; projecting front gable, entry porch supported by brick piers; lunette window under the gable; single, panelled door has an elliptical arched fanlight and side lights; doorway flanked by triple windows with arched openings; six-over-six, double hung windows.

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**West Woodrow Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

(North Central Avenue intersects)

C	50	108	ca. 1930	1	House; frame dwelling with a low pitched, gable on hip roof; shed roofed porch and porte cochere; porch supported by replacement square piers; vinyl siding and Craftsman style windows.
C OB	50a	108	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame garage with front gable roof and original double leaf doors.
C	51	110	ca. 1935	1	House; frame, side gable dwelling with front gable, entry porch supported by replacement metal posts and rear ell; symmetrical, three bay facade with central entrance flanked by double and triple four-over-one, double hung windows; house covered in vinyl siding.
C OB	51a	110	ca. 1935	1	Garage; frame garage with front gable roof and aluminum siding; carport added to front of garage.
C	52	114	ca. 1940	2	House; frame Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, side wings, and symmetrical, three bay facade; central entrance has side lights and transom; vinyl siding and eight-over-eight, double hung windows; flat roofed, entry porch supported by columns.

(Mingus Street intersects)

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East Woodrow Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	53	122	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, front gable bungalow with side gable, wraparound porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; bungalow features include exposed rafters, overhanging eaves, and Craftsman style knee brackets; house retains its weatherboard siding.
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**South Side, East Woodrow Avenue**

N	54	26	ca. 1960	1	Office Building; brick veneered, front gable office building with large, bow-front windows and a central entrance.
N	55	28	ca. 1955	1	Office Building; brick veneered, office building with low hip roof, steel sash windows, and hip roofed entry porch supported by metal posts.
C	56	30	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, revival style cottage with asymmetrical massing, cross gable roof, round arched doorway, and six-over-six, double hung windows.
C OB	56a	30	ca. 1940	1	Garage; frame, front gable, two car garage.
C	57	32	ca. 1940	1-1/2	House; frame cottage with steeply pitched, side gable roof; front gable entrance with Tudor Revival detailing under the gable and front exterior chimney; round arched

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East Woodrow Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					doorway and six-over-six, double hung windows.
C OB	57a	32	ca. 1940	1	Garage; frame, front gable, two car garage.
C	58	34	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, side gable dwelling with projecting end bay and enclosed side porch; round arched entrance covered by bracketed porch; end bay has hip roofed, bay window; house has single and grouped six-over-six, double hung windows.
N OB	58a	34	ca. 1970	1	Carport; metal framed carport.
C	59	36	ca. 1935	1-1/2	Wheeler House; frame, Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, front gable dormers, and hip roofed porch supported by wooden columns; symmetrical five bay facade with central entrance and six-over-six, double hung windows; house now has vinyl siding.
N OB	59a	36	ca. 1970	1	Carport; modern, metal framed carport.
C	60	38	ca. 1930	1	House; frame cottage with side gable roof, replacement siding, and rear ell; engaged porch supported by piers; symmetrical three bay facade with eight-over-eight, double hung windows.

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East Woodrow Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

**North Side, East Woodrow Avenue**

C	61	40	1933-1935	1	J. Paul Ford Community Center; brick veneered building with hip roof and restrained Colonial Revival detailing; enclosed entrance porch with replacement double doors and vinyl siding; second entrance comprised of a single, panelled door with bracketed, front gable porch; building has single and grouped nine-over-nine and six-over-six, double hung windows; this former municipal building was constructed by the Emergency Relief Fund of North Carolina between 1933 and 1935 and at one time served as city hall.
C	62	35	1937	1-1/2	Dr. Roy H. McDowell House; frame, Colonial Revival cottage with steeply pitched, side gable roof and projecting, front gable, end bays; front gable dormers with round arched windows; engaged porch has arched openings and box piers; six-over-six, double hung windows have molded classical surrounds; house now has vinyl siding; rear ell housed Dr. McDowell's office.
C OB	62a	35	1937	1	Garage; frame, front gable, two car garage.

(Circle Drive intersects)

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Todd Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

N	63	31	ca. 1955	1	House; modern frame dwelling with side gable roof and rectangular plan; weatherboard siding and brick veneer; asymmetrical facade; shed roofed porch supported by bold, brackets; awning windows.
N	64	29	ca. 1950	1	Community Center; one story, side gable building with front gable porch, symmetrical, five bay facade, and weatherboard siding; door added to side elevation and windows are boarded over.
N OB	64a	29	ca. 1950	1	Storage Building; small, frame, gable roofed building with a single door.

(Davis Street intersects)

**South Side, Todd Street**

V	65				Vacant lot.
N	66	19	ca. 1975	1	House; brick veneered ranch house with post-World War II Colonial Revival elements; side gable roof; front gable, entrance porch supported by columns; panelled door has side lights; six-over-six, double hung windows.
N	67	17	ca. 1980	1-1/2	House; modern, brick veneered cross gable dwelling with front gable dormers; front gable entry porch supported by columns; panelled door has transom and side lights.

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Todd Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	68	15	ca. 1930	2	House; frame Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof and attached rear breezeway and garage; shed roofed porch supported by battered columns; three bay facade - central entrance has elliptical arched fanlight and side lights; paired nine-over-nine and single six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	69	13	ca. 1920	1	House; one story, brick veneered Craftsman style cottage with high hip roof, wide fascia frieze, and front gable dormer; deep, inset porch supported by paired box piers resting on brick pedestals; oriel window; both nine-over-one and twelve-over-one, double hung windows; rear screened porch.
C OB	69a	13	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, hip roofed garage with two car bays.
C OB	69b	13	ca. 1930	1	Storage Building; small, frame storage building with weatherboard siding.

**North Side, Todd Street**

C	70	10	ca. 1910	1	House; frame, hip roofed dwelling with L-shaped plan and front gable porch supported by box piers; weatherboard siding and one-over-one, double hung windows, and raised, brick foundation.
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Todd Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C OB	70a	10	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, front gable garage with two car bays.
C	71	12	ca. 1925	1	House; frame bungalow with side gable roof, broad eaves, and Craftsman style knee brackets; front gable porch supported by box piers on brick pedestals; three bay facade with eight-over-one, double hung windows; shed roofed bay windows on the west elevation.
C OB	71a	12	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, side gable garage with two car bays.
C	72	14	ca. 1930	1	House; frame bungalow with side gable roof, broad eaves, front gable, vented dormer, and Craftsman style knee brackets; engaged porch supported by box piers on brick pedestals; three bay facade with eight-over-one, double hung windows; shed roofed bay windows on the west elevation.
C	73	16	ca. 1935	1-1/2	House; brick veneered, Tudor Revival cottage with steeply pitched, side gable roof and half-timbered shed roofed dormer; inset porch with arched openings and brick piers; bracketed, round arched hood over round arched door; single and paired six-over-six, double hung windows.
N OB	73a	16	ca. 1970	1	Garage; modern, two car garage with side gable roof.

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Circle Drive

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

(North Central Avenue intersects)

C	74	108	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed bungalow with hip roofed dormer; engaged porch supported by box piers; symmetrical three bay facade with central entrance and four-over-one, double hung windows.
N	75	110	ca. 1925	1	House; altered, frame, front gable bungalow with replacement siding, rebuilt chimney, and replacement, hip roofed porch; asymmetrical three bay facade with four-over-one, double hung windows.

**South Side, Circle Drive**

C	76	12	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, cross gable dwelling with Tudor Revival detailing: half-timbering under the gables, asymmetrical facade, and round arched entry porch; enclosed, inset porch; six-over-six, double hung windows.
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(Davis Street intersects)

N	77	18	ca. 1950	1	House; frame, cross gable, ranch house with Colonial Revival elements; inset entry porch with metal supports; six-over-six, double hung windows; side, screened porch connecting house and side gable garage.
V	78				Vacant lot.

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Circle Drive

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	79	22	ca. 1935	1-1/2	House; brick Tudor Revival cottage with steeply pitched, cross gable roof, front gable dormers and front gable porches; porches have brick piers and segmental arched openings; asymmetrical facade with round arched door, exterior front chimney, and six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	80	24	ca. 1935	1-1/2	House; frame, side gable Colonial Revival cottage with projecting, front gable foyer, paired eight-over-eight, double hung windows, and front gable dormers; screened side porch.
C	81	26	ca. 1935	1-1/2	House; frame, side gable Colonial Revival cottage with weatherboard siding, entry porch supported by box piers, interior chimney, and symmetrical three bay facade; single eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C OB	81a	26	ca. 1935	1	Garage; frame, one car garage connected to house by a frame wall with weatherboard siding and gate to rear yard.

**North Side, Circle Drive**

C	82	25	ca. 1935	1-1/2	House; frame, side gable Colonial Revival cottage with tall, front gable dormer above entrance and shed roofed dormers; asymmetrical, three bay facade with side wing and side
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Circle Drive

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					porch; door has pilasters and fanlight; variety of window types: six-over-six, double hung, oriel window, and casement windows.
C	83	23	ca. 1935	2	House; handsome, brick veneered Colonial Revival dwelling with low hip roof, symmetrical, five bay facade, and hip roofed wings; entrance framed by pilasters and capped by a broken pediment; six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	84	21	ca. 1935	2	House; handsome, brick veneered Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, symmetrical, five bay facade, projecting center pavilion, and side gable wings; entry porch supported by columns, and panelled door has wooden fanlight and side lights; Palladian window above entrance; eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C	85	19	ca. 1935	2	House; brick veneered, minimal traditional dwelling with side gable roof, side hall plan, side wing, and shed roofed porch; porch supported by metal supports; eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C	86	17	ca. 1935	2	House; brick veneered, minimal traditional dwelling with side gable roof, entrance from enclosed side porch; eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C	87	15	1936/1937	2	W.H. Crenshaw House; handsome, brick veneered Colonial Revival

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Cedar Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

dwelling with side gable roof, symmetrical, three bay facade, and side wing leading to attached garage; front gable entry porch supported by columns; entrance framed by pilasters and fanlight; eight-over-eight, double hung windows.

C OB	87a	15	1936/1937	1	Storage Building; brick veneered storage building with gable roof and replacement door.
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(Davis Street intersects)

C	88	11	ca. 1930	1-1/2	Joseph Lineberger House; tall, one and one-half story, brick veneered, Colonial Revival dwelling; house has a brick main block and frame, L-shaped dependencies; tile, side gable roof with exterior end chimneys, front gable dormers with round arched and flat arched six-over-six, double hung windows; main block has a front gable porch supported by slender columns; entrance has molded classical surrounds and side lights; property surrounded by a wrought iron fence enclosing mature shade trees, plantings, and gardens.
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**South Side, Cedar Street**

C	89	15	ca. 1925	1	House; hip roofed, frame bungalow with engaged porch, hip roofed dormer, and center chimney; porch
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Cedar Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					supported by paired box piers with balustrade of square balusters; six-over-one, double hung windows; end bay entrance.
N OB	89a	15	ca. 1970	1	Carport; modern metal carport.
C	90	13	ca. 1940	1	House; frame, Colonial Revival cottage with side gable roof, weatherboard siding, and front gable porch; porch supported by box piers with latticework infill; symmetrical three bay facade with central doorway and six-over-six, double hung windows. Carport shed attached on east elevation.
C	91	11	ca. 1925	1-1/2	House; frame, front gable bungalow with hip roofed porch; replacement siding and six-over-one, double hung windows; porch supported by box piers with a balustrade of square balusters; bungalow elements include broad eaves and knee brackets.
C	92	9	ca. 1940	1	House; frame Colonial Revival cottage with L-shaped plan and round arched, entry porch; replacement siding and six-over-six, double hung windows.
N OB	92a	9	ca. 1970	1	Garage; modern, frame, two car garage.

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**Cedar Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

**North Side, Cedar Street**

C	93	12	ca. 1930	1	House; frame dwelling with Colonial Revival and bungalow features; clipped side gable roof; hip roofed porch with clipped front gable marking the entrance; porch supported by columns; symmetrical three bay facade with central doorway and paired six-over-six, double hung windows.
N OB	93a	12	ca. 1970	1	Carport; modern metal carport.
C	94	14	ca. 1925	1	House; well-preserved, frame Craftsman style bungalow with front gable roof; gable roofed dormers, broad eaves, and knee brackets; engaged porch supported by battered piers resting on brick pedestals; asymmetrical four bay facade; entrance has side lights; single and triple, four-over-one, double hung windows; weatherboard siding.
N OB	94a	14	ca. 1970	1	Garage; frame, front gable garage with side storage room.
C	95	16	ca. 1940	1	House; frame Colonial Revival cottage with cross gable roof, L-shaped plan, and side wing; front gable entry porch supported by paired columns; symmetrical three bay facade with central entrance flanked by one bay window and one single window; both windows are six-over-six, double hung.

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**Franklin Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C OB	95a	16	ca. 1940	1	Garage; frame, front gable garage.
C	96	18	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed bungalow with engaged porch and hip roofed dormer; broad eaves and exposed rafters; weatherboard siding; single and paired six-over-one, double hung windows; porch supported by paired, battered piers resting on brick pedestals with a balustrade of square balusters; asymmetrical four bay facade.
C OB	96a	18	ca. 1925	1	Garage; frame, hip roofed garage with original garage door.

**South Side, Franklin Street**

C	97	515	ca. 1930	1	House; hip roofed dwelling with both asbestos siding and brick veneer; front gable, entry porch; porch supported by box piers; symmetrical three bay facade with a replacement picture window and an original six-over-six, double hung windows.
C OB	97a	515	ca. 1930	1	Garage; frame, front gable garage.
N	98	517	ca. 1950	1	House; asbestos sided, minimal traditional dwelling with side gable roof and front gable, entry porch; porch supported by grouped square piers; symmetrical three bay facade with paired six-over-six, double hung windows.

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**Franklin Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	99	115	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, front gable bungalow with front gable porch and porte cochere; roof has broad eaves and Craftsman style knee brackets; asbestos siding; porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; asymmetrical three bay facade with three-over-one, double hung windows.
V	100				Vacant lot.

**North Side, Franklin Street**

C	101	521	ca. 1900	2	McDonald House; asbestos sided, Triple A I-house with rear ell and hip roofed porch supported by box piers; symmetrical three bay facade with six-over-six, double hung windows.
N	102	110	ca. 1960	1	House; brick veneered ranch house with attached carport.
C	103	108	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed bungalow with hip roofed dormer and engaged porch; porch supported by battered piers on brick pedestals; symmetrical three bay facade; center wood and glass with flanking four-over-one light, double hung windows.

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North Central Avenue

Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.

West Side, North Central Avenue

C	104	?	ca. 1930	2	House; brick veneered, Colonial Revival residence with side gable roof, with full returns of the gable, and side porch; denticulated cornice; symmetrical, five bay facade with flat roofed, entry porch; central entrance has a panelled door, elliptical arched fanlight and side lights; six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	105	607	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed bungalow with engaged porch and hip roofed dormer; porch supported by battered box piers resting on brick pedestals with a balustrade of square balusters; exposed rafters and weatherboard siding; asymmetrical three bay facade with four-over-one, double hung windows.
C	106	605	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, Craftsman style bungalow with steeply pitched side gable roof, broad eaves, knee brackets, and front gable dormers; engaged porch with replacement metal supports, brick pedestals and skirt; shed roofed bay windows on north elevation; asymmetrical, three bay facade with eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C OB	106a	605	ca. 1940	1	Garage; frame, front gable, two car garage.

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	107	601	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, front gable bungalow with hip roofed, wraparound porch; porch supported by paired, box piers resting on brick pedestals; replacement balustrade; house has irregular massing; asymmetrical, three bay facade with grouped Craftsman style windows; door has side lights.
(Franklin Street intersects)					
N	108	515	ca. 1970	2	Funeral Home; brick veneered post-World War Colonial Revival building; two main blocks with intersecting hip roof, symmetrical facades; front gable, entry porch supported by columns; eight-over-eight and six-over-six, double hung windows.
C	109	511	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, front gable bungalow with low-slung roof, broad eaves, and knee brackets; front and side gable roofed porches supported by heavy, battered piers; asymmetrical three bay facade with triple four-over-one, double hung windows.
N	110	509	ca. 1950	2	House; frame, two bay, side gable dwelling with weatherboard siding; bracketed, front gable porch shelters the side hall entrance; appears to have been built to the of a main house which is no longer extant.
N	111	507	ca. 1950	1	House; post-World War II, frame dwelling with cross gable roof, L-

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					shaped plan, and three bay facade; replacement siding and eight-over-eight, double hung windows.
C	112	501	ca. 1910	1	Mount Moriah Baptist Church; brick veneered, Gothic Revival church building with front gable roof and twin entrance towers; towers have pyramidal roofs, corner buttresses, and pointed arch windows, vents, and doors; double leaf doors have pointed arch transoms; between towers is a large pointed arch window with heavy tracery; side elevations have buttresses and simple, pointed arch, one-over-one, double hung windows.
					(Lincoln Street intersects)
C	113	415	ca. 1900/1925	1	House; frame, side gable dwelling which appears to have been remodelled during the 1920s; house has bungalow features such as a low pitched, side gable roof with exposed rafters and broad eaves; side gable, wraparound porch supported by replacement metal posts; house has German siding and side wing; asymmetrical, four bay facade with two-over-two, double hung windows.
C	114	411	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, Tudor Revival cottage with steeply pitched, side gable roof, shed roofed dormer, and side gable porch; porch has elliptical arches and brick piers;

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					round arched, end bay entrance with a front gable stoop; battered chimney flanked by entrance and paired, six-over-six, double hung windows.
C OB	114a	411	ca. 1940	1	Garage; frame, gable roofed garage.
C	115	407	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, Tudor Revival cottage with steeply pitched, cross gable roof, L-shaped plan, round arched, front gable, entry porch; central entrance flanked by chimney and paired, six-over-six, double hung windows.
(Cedar Street intersects)					
C	116	315	ca. 1920	2	House; substantial frame, dwelling with cubic, double pile form, low hip roof, three bay facade, and broad porch that extends to create porte cochere on south side; intact tapered porch posts on brick piers, single and paired three-over-one windows; replacement vinyl siding.
C OB	116a	315	ca. 1920	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	117	311	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed, triple pile bungalow with weatherboard siding, three-over-one windows; engaged porch with replacement piers; small, hip roofed dormer; similar in design to Nos. 309, 307.
C	118	309	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed, triple pile bungalow with weatherboard siding, three-over-one windows; engaged

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					porch with grouped posts on brick piers; small, hip roofed dormer; similar in design to Nos. 307, 311.
C	119	307	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, hip roofed, triple pile bungalow with weatherboard siding, three-over-one windows; engaged porch with replacement piers; small hip roofed dormer; similar in design to Nos. 309, 311.
C OB	119a	307	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front shed.
C	120	303	ca. 1940	1	House; brick veneered, Tudor Revival cottage with simple elements of style, including cross gable roof, front facing chimney, and subsidiary gable front, entry bay; single and paired six-over-six windows and partial fanlight in the main front-facing gable.
C	121	301	ca. 1925	1	House; cross gable, frame, Colonial Revival cottage with weatherboard siding, flushboard veneer in the front facing gable; offset gable roof entry; eyebrow dormer, and tripartite window on the main facade with eight-over-eight sash in the center section; other windows have six-over-six sash.
N OB	121a	301	ca. 1980	1	Modern, vinyl sided, two car garage.
					(Todd Street intersects)
C	122	211	ca. 1940	2	House; impressive brick veneered, five bay, double pile, side gable, Colonial Revival dwelling with full-

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					height pedimented portico supported by colossal square posts; sidelights and fanlight enframe central entrance.
C OB	122a	211	ca. 1940	1	Gable front, frame garage/storage building.
C	123	207	ca. 1925	1	House; cross gable, double pile bungalow with offset, entry porch with metal supports, and six-over-one windows.
C OB	123a	207	ca. 1925	1	Hip roofed, frame garage.
C	124	203	ca. 1925	1	House; cross gable, frame bungalow with offset, gable front porch with square posts on brick apron; wood shingled front facing gables, weatherboard facade.
C OB	124a	203	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	125	201	ca. 1925	2	House; frame, double pile dwelling with modest Tudor Revival traits, including steeply pitched, gable roof with offset, gable front entry; large, shed dormers on the side elevations increase bedroom space on the upper story; six-over-six windows and weatherboard facade.
C OB	125a	201	ca. 1925	1	Cross gable, frame garage/storage building.
(Woodrow Avenue intersects)					
C	126	119	ca. 1925	2	House; frame, vinyl sided, Dutch Colonial Revival dwelling with

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

						gambrel roof and six-over-one windows; prominent shed dormer extends across facade; gable-roofed entry hood over center entry.
C OB	126a	119	ca. 1925	1		Side gable, German sided, frame garage/apartment.
C	127	115	ca. 1910	2		House; substantial frame, cross gable dwelling with projecting gable front bays and interlocking cross gable; broad front porch with replacement piers and enclosed bay on south side; sidelights flank the center entrance; replacement one-over-one windows and vinyl siding.
C OB	127a	115	ca. 1910	1		Gable front, frame shed.
N	128	111	1960	1		Gaston Co. Public Library; Colonial Revival building with hip roofed main block and flanking, gable front wings forming an H-shaped plan; brick veneer with wood trim and denticulated cornice; center entry features pilasters and segmental arched entablature.
(Railroad Right-of-Way intersects)						
C	129	121	ca. 1925	1 1/2		House; handsome, frame, side gable bungalow with projecting gable porch and gable roofed dormer; wood shingled facade and square porch posts on brick piers.
C OB	129a	121	ca. 1925	1		Frame, gable front garage.

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	130	117	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; brick veneered, Tudor Revival cottage with front-facing chimney, cross gable roof, and subsidiary gable roofed, entry bay.
C OB	130a	117	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	131	115	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; substantial, frame, weatherboard, side gable bungalow with engaged front porch and gable roofed dormer; intact three-over-one windows evident throughout, porch has box piers on brick piers; modern patio on south elevation.
(Harris Street intersects)					
C	132	107	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, weatherboard, hip roofed, double pile bungalow with engaged front porch with square posts on brick piers; roof has deep eaves with exposed rafters and a hip roofed dormer on the facade.
C OB	132a	107	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	133	105	ca. 1925	1	House; clipped gable, triple pile, frame bungalow with weatherboard siding; intact six-over-six windows, offset porch with replacement metal supports.
C	134	103	ca. 1930	1	House; frame, side gable, Colonial Revival dwelling with front gable, entry porch; porch supported by wooden columns; symmetrical, three bay facade; central entrance

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**South Central Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					flanked by paired one-over-one, double hung windows.
C	135	101	ca. 1925	1	House; gable front, double pile bungalow with hip roofed porch with gable front entry bay; tapered piers on brick pedestals; stuccoed facade.
C OB	135a	101	ca. 1925	1	Hip roofed, stuccoed garage.

(Myrtle Street intersects)  
(South Main Street intersects)

**West Side, South Central Avenue**

C	136	106	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, cross gable bungalow with wood shingle siding, paired, single, and three part windows, and tapered posts on brick piers with connecting balustrade.
N OB	136a	106	ca. 1970	1	Frame storage building.
V	137				Vacant lot.
C	138	112	ca. 1910	1	House; multiple gabled, frame, vernacular picturesque dwelling with weatherboard siding and wraparound porch with pedimented entry bay and replacement battered piers on brick pedestals; single and paired windows have six-over-six sash; front facing gables have square, louvered windows.
N OB	138a	112	ca. 1960	1	Frame, gable front, two-car garage.

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**South Central Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	139	114	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; substantial frame bungalow with side gable roof, prominent gable roofed dormer, six-over-six windows, and engaged front porch with replacement metal supports that extends beyond the south side; weatherboard first story and wood shingle second story and dormer.
N OB	139a	114	ca. 1960	1	Gable front, frame, two car garage.  (Johnson Street intersects)
C	140	202	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, gable front, triple pile bungalow with three bay ell on north elevation with separate, shed roofed porch; offset front porch with slender columns; windows have replacement one-over-one sash; replacement asphalt siding.
C	141	204	ca. 1945	2	House; brick veneered, Colonial Revival dwelling with side gable roof, off set shed roofed porch with enclosed end bay and box piers; intact six-over-six windows, panelled door, and interior chimney.
V	142				Vacant lot.
C	143	210	ca. 1910	2	James W. Stowe House; one of the finest Colonial Revival houses in Belmont, this dwelling was erected for a prominent textile executive whose family established the earliest mills in Belmont; the substantial, cubic residence has a three bay, facade with hip roof and

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South Central Avenue

Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.

					central gable, modillioned cornice, and screened, wraparound porch with pedimented entry bay and Doric columns; one-over-one windows. The interior has handsome finish with heavily molded door surrounds, built-in cabinets with leaded glass; mantels in the principal rooms have mirrored overmantels and leaded glass; the original central hall has been removed. House stands on broad, tree-shaded lot.
V	144				Vacant lot.
C	145	304	ca. 1920	2	Lewis House; impressive, brick-veneered Tudor Revival residence situated on broad, landscaped tract; the dwelling has such hallmarks of the Tudor Revival style as steeply pitched, multiple gabled roofs, decorative half-timbering, front-facing chimney with corbelled cap. and casement windows.
C OB	145a	304	ca. 1920	1 1/2	Gable front, brick veneered and stuccoed garage with Tudor Revival elements, including decorative half-timbering.
C	146	310	ca. 1920	1	House; modest but handsomely detailed, frame Tudor Revival cottage with weatherboard siding, multiple gable roof, six-over-six windows, front facing brick chimney, and projecting gable-front entry bay with arched openings.

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**South Central Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	147	314	ca. 1920	2	House; substantial, frame, cubic residence with low hip roof, three-bay facade with weatherboard siding, grouped Craftsman-style windows, and hip roofed entry porch with heavy tapered piers; the hip roofed porch on the south elevation has tapered posts on brick piers.
N OB	147a	314	ca. 1960	1	Modern, frame, two car garage.

**East Side, South Central Avenue**

(Keenver Boulevard intersects)

C	148	203	ca. 1919	2 1/2	Samuel Pinckney Stowe House; one of several large Renaissance Revival houses in Belmont erected on huge, wooded lots for textile magnates. Noted Charlotte architect C.C. Hook, who designed the A.C. Lineberger House in a similar style on N. Main St., probably designed this house for Stowe, a leading figure in the textile industry in Belmont. The house is a free adaptation of the Renaissance Revival, with a red brick facade, hip roof with pantiles and deep, bracketed cornice, and a flat roofed center portico with classical elements; largely intact interior.
C OB	148a	203	ca. 1919	1	Garage; large, hip roofed, brick veneered garage with overhead doors.

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**South Central Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

N 149 201 ca. 1970 1 House; modern, brick ranch house.

(Johnson Street intersects)

C 150 105 ca. 1920 2 House; spacious, frame L-plan dwelling with low hip roof, deep eaves, and broad, wraparound porch with tapered piers on brick pedestals; weatherboard siding and grouped three-over-one windows; sidelights and transom enframe the center entrance. Modern rear wing includes storage space and two car garage. The wooded parcel is marked by low brick retaining wall facing the street.

(Hall Street intersects)

C 151 15 ca. 1916 2 J. B. Hall House; one of the finer Colonial Revival houses in town, this frame, weatherboard dwelling has a substantial cubic, hip roofed forms, modillioned cornice, and wraparound porch with classical columns and pedimented entry bay; twelve-over-twelve windows are intact throughout and the projecting, cutaway, hip roofed bay is a Queen Anne feature; the house rests on a partially raised, brick foundation and the hip roof has slate shingles and a dormer on each elevation; intact interior retains fine detailing. House was designed by noted Charlotte architect, J.M. McMichael.

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**North Central Avenue**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	152	9	ca. 1920	2	House; brick veneered, side gable, three bay, double pile Colonial Revival residence with intact slate roof shingles, paired six-over-six windows, and classical entrance portico; center doorway has sidelights and fanlight, and side elevations are balanced by enclosed bay on the south side and porch with classical columns on the north.
C OB	152a	9	ca. 1920	1	Side gable, frame garage.
C	153	5	ca. 1920	2	House; unusual, brick veneered, Tudor Revival/Craftsman dwelling with prominent cross gable roof treated with half-timbering on the south elevation; the deep eaves have knee braces, and the off set entrance has a round-arched hood; a wing extends from the north side and a porch with paired square posts with simple, molded caps extends from south side; three-over-one windows are evident throughout.

(South Main Street intersects)

**East Side, North Central Avenue**

C	154	10-12	ca. 1940	1	Duplex; frame, weatherboard duplex with hip roof, double pile form, six bay facade six-over-six windows, and simple Colonial Revival elements, including
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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

						pedimented gable centered over the main facade, and gable front entry porches with cornice returns.
C OB	154a	10-12	ca. 1940	1		Frame, shed roofed, two car garage.
C	155	14	ca. 1925	1 1/2		House; substantial, brick veneered, side gable bungalow with prominent gable front dormer, paired and tripartite four-over-one windows, and flat roofed, entry porch with heavy brick posts; sidelights flank the multiple-paned front door; south elevation includes a gable roofed porch with brick posts that match those at the main entrance; north elevation has a one and one-half story wing.
C	156	16	ca. 1925	1		House; hip roofed, frame, triple pile bungalow with engaged front porch with square posts, and hip roofed dormer centered over the facade; dwelling has weatherboard siding, large Craftsman-style windows with five small panes over one large pane on the main facade, and a bay window on the north elevation.
C	157	18	ca. 1925	1		House; modified version of bungalow at No. 16, with enclosed porch bay and replacement one-over-one windows; a hip roofed dormer is centered over the three bay facade, and the engaged front porch has a simple square porch post.

(Myrtle Street intersects)

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	158	100 block	1939	2	<p>(Former) Belmont HighSchool; designed by architect Robert L. Clemmer and financed through the P.W.A., this handsome Art Deco school has a buff-colored brick veneer and decorative brickwork arranged in a herringbone pattern around the recessed center entrance. The rectangular building has a corridor plan and banks of windows with replacement sash that designate classrooms; the original auditorium extends to the rear. The school is currently used as the junior high school and has two modern additions to the rear.</p>
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(Railroad Right-of-Way intersects)

C	159	112	ca. 1925	1	<p>House; one of the finest Tudor Revival cottages in Belmont, this brick veneered dwelling features such hallmarks of the style as a steeply pitched multiple gabled roof, decorative half-timbering, front facing chimney, and cast stone trim that emphasizes principle entry. Heavily wooded lot.</p>
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C	160	114	ca. 1925	1	<p>House; frame Tudor Revival cottage with wood shingled facade, cross gable roof, off set, hooded entry, brick end chimney, and tripartite six-over-six window on the facade. Heavily wooded lot.</p>
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(Woodrow Avenue intersects)  
(Todd Street intersects)

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North Central Avenue

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	161	302	ca. 1925	1	House; one of the finest Tudor Revival cottages in Belmont, this brick veneered dwelling features such hallmarks of the style as a steeply pitched, cross gable roof, decorative half-timbering, swing gables that emphasizes principle entry, arched doorway and bay window.
C OB	161a	302	ca. 1925	1	Brick veneered, gable roofed, two car garage.
C	162	308	ca. 1925	1	House; frame, L-plan cottage with weatherboard siding, six-over-six windows, front facing brick chimney, arched entryway and arcade; bay windows on the north and south elevations. Heavily wooded lot.
C	163	310	ca. 1925	1	House; small, frame, stuccoed cottage with side gable roof, three bay facade, double pile form, and off set entry with gable roofed hood; brick, end chimney and six-over-six windows intact.
C	164	312	ca. 1925	1	House; gable front, triple pile bungalow with weatherboard siding and wood shingled gable, hip roofed front porch with metal supports, deep, bracketed eaves, intact three-over-one windows.
C	165	316	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; gable front, frame cottage with two-over-two windows, double pile form; hip roofed porch with

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Hill Street; North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					square posts; replacement aluminum siding.
C OB	165a	316	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame, storage shed.
C OB	165b	316	ca. 1925	1	Shed roofed, frame, storage shed.

**East Side, Hill Street**

(Myrtle Street intersects)

C	166	17	ca. 1940	1	House; hip roofed, frame, three bay, double pile cottage; engaged front porch with enclosed end bay; square porch posts, aluminum siding.
C	167	19	ca. 1940	1	House; simple, frame, four bay, double pile, hip roofed cottage with eight-over-eight windows, gable front entry porch with metal supports, and aluminum siding.
C OB	167a	19	ca. 1940	1	Gable front, frame, auto garage.

**West Side, North Main Street**

C	168	411	ca. 1919	2 1/2	Abel C. Lineberger House No. 2; sited on large grounds landscaped by Earl S. Draper of Charlotte, the Lineberger House was designed by C.C. Hook, also of Charlotte; it is a notable Renaissance Revival residence similar in design to the Stowe House on S. Central Ave. in Belmont; Lineberger was partner in
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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					the Lineberger Stowe group of mills, which by 1921, had grown to include 20 mills; the nine bay, brick main block has a hip roof with green tiles; hip roofed dormers, and flat roofed, three bay front porch with roof balustrade and classical columns, handsome interior features ornately carved mantels and panelled wainscoting; delicately hand painted rice paper of an Oriental design graces the dining room on the second floor.
C OB	168a	411	ca. 1919	1	Brick veneered, two-car garage with green tiled, hip-roof.
C	169	405	ca. 1920	2	House; frame, aluminum sided, hip roofed, cubic dwelling with restrained Colonial Revival treatment; hip roofed porch with square posts extends across two bay facade; single and paired one-over-one windows throughout; hip roofed dormer is centered over facade; later staircase located on exterior of north elevation.
C OB	169a	405	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	170	403	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; spacious, frame, triple pile, gable front bungalow with deep, bracketed eaves engaged porch with tapered posts on brick piers, and weatherboard siding with wood shingles in the front-facing gable; broad, seven bay facade has Craftsman-style window treatment, which is also repeated in the three-

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

part, fixed light window in the  
gable.

(Cedar Street intersects)

C	171	315	ca. 1918	2 1/2	House; substantial, frame, vinyl sided, Colonial Revival house with high hip roof, cubic form, three bay facade, and six-over-one windows; classical center entry with segmental arched roof; flanking porches on north and south elevation; overall symmetry is broken by projecting two story bay at the rear of south elevation; two prominent hip roofed dormers are centered over the facade.
N OB	171a	315	ca. 1960	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	172	311	ca. 1915	2	House; distinctive frame, Colonial Revival dwelling with a slate shingle, high hip roof, hip roofed dormers on the side elevations, and a prominent gable front dormer with fanlight and a pair of one-over-one windows; wraparound porch has square posts on brick piers.
C	173	307	ca. 1925	1 1/2	James Armstrong House; substantial frame, side gable bungalow with deep bracketed eaves, shed roofed dormer centered over the three bay facade, and shed roofed, front porch with corbelled, brick piers and turned balustrade; the large, fixed light windows on the facade have multiple paned upper sections that suggest the Tudor

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North Main Street

Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.

					Revival influence as do the diamond paned windows in the dormer.
N OB	173a	307	ca. 1980	1	Gable front carport.
V	174				Vacant lot.
	(Todd Street intersects)				
C	175	215	ca. 1920	2	House; spacious brick veneered, Colonial Revival dwelling with cubic form and hip roof with hip roofed dormer with a ribbon window; intact four-over-one windows are evident throughout; center bay, front porch has classical columns; the side elevations have an enclosed wing on the south side and porch with classical columns on the north side; sidelights flank the center entry.
C OB	175a	215	ca. 1920	1	Hip roofed, brick veneered, two car garage.
C	176	211	ca. 1907	2	Albert Hand House; handsome Neo-Classical Revival residence built by Mount Holly contractors Skidmore and Rankin for Hand, wealthy Gaston County landowner; this brick veneered has a three bay, hip roofed block with projecting gables on side elevations and prominent two story pedimented portico with Ionic columns that extends over one story wraparound porch; windows have granite sills and lintels; intact classical finish distinguishes the interior.

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C OB	176a	211	ca. 1920	1	Frame, gable front, garage/storage building.
C	177	207	ca. 1910	2 1/2	House; large, frame, Colonial Revival residence contributes to the exceptional domestic architecture along N. Main Street; the hip roofed, cubic main block has slate shingle roof, hip roofed dormer, and deep wraparound porch with classical columns and glazed end bay on south side and porte cochere on north side; porch also features pedimented entry bay; upper story on main facade has inset porch with classical columns; house stands on large, wooded lot.
C	178	203	ca. 1910	2	Abel Caleb Lineberger House No. 1; this handsome dwelling, designed as a Shingle style and bungalow hybrid, was built for prominent textile leader Lineberger by Charlotte architect C.C. Hook; one of the earliest houses in the prestigious N. Main St. neighborhood, it is a large frame, weatherboard dwelling with a broad, front gable with projecting side gables, all with half-timbering at the apices. The front porch has heavy, square posts and a pedimented entry bay.
(Woodrow Avenue intersects)					
C	179	135	ca. 1917	2 1/2	Robert L. Stowe, Sr. House No. 2; this imposing, Colonial Revival dwelling was built for textile leader

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

Stowe, who founded numerous mills, including Chronicle Mills. The cubic, brick veneered dwelling has a slate, hip roof crowned by a balustrade, and is flanked by side gable wings. The wide, elliptical arched entrance, with leaded glass sidelights; one story, center bay portico with flat roof and supported by Ionic columns. The house has a denticulated cornice and gabled dormer with Palladian window; south elevation has an enclosed sun porch; intact interior with fine, original detailing.

C OB	179a	135	ca. 1940	2	Brick veneered, four car garage with second story apartment.
C	180	127	ca. 1940	2 1/2	House; large, brick veneered, side gable, three bay, Colonial Revival dwelling with full height, pedimented portico with elliptical window in the pediment and Ionic columns; classical treatment around the center entry; paired six-over-six windows; flanking one story wings, including sun porch with roof balustrade on south side; large, iron fence with brick piers defines the wooded lot.
C	181	123	ca. 1898	2	George M. Gullick House; one of the few large houses that predates textile era in Belmont, this two story, frame dwelling was built for Gullick, a merchant. In 1907, Gullick built the Belmont Hotel. The house has a gable on hip roof

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North Main Street

Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.

					with two projecting gables connected by a central bay, second story porch. A large, wraparound porch dominates facade. This porch has classical posts and pedimented entry bay. The gable ends have picturesque fish scale shingles. Two-over-two windows are intact throughout. The original center-hall interior plan has been altered by removal of walls, but mantels and staircase are original.
C OB	181a	123	ca. 1925	1	Other House; frame, hip roofed dwelling with bungalow traits, including exposed rafters, engaged porch.
(Kenwood Street intersects)					
C	182	121	ca. 1917	2 1/2	House; brick veneered, cubic, hip roofed, Colonial Revival dwelling similar in design to Stowe House at No. 135 N. Main St.; slate shingle roof has three dormers arranged symmetrically over five bay facade, including central arched dormer with a Palladian window; center bay porch has flat roof with balustrade and classical columns flanked by large, brick piers; a porte cochere and with classical columns flank the main block; house stands on a large wooded lot and is bordered by an iron fence with brick pillars.

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C OB 182a 121 ca. 1917 1 Brick veneered, two car garage with flat parapet and decorative brick panels above doors.

C 183 115 1939 1 (Former) U.S. Post Office Building; this National Register (1995) property epitomizes the Depression era, W.P.A. post offices erected in small towns across the country; brick veneered, hip roofed, Colonial Revival building with five bay facade, slate roof shingles, segmental arched openings, and entry with colonettes and sidelights and transom; the notable interior features a painted mural of General Chronicle and South Point Boys of local Revolutionary War fame; supervising architect was Louis A. Simon, and Neal A. Melnick was supervising engineer; in 1973 this building was converted for use as the city hall.

(City Hall Alley intersects)

N 184 35 ca. 1960 2 Commercial Building; brick building with flat roof, three bay facade with six-over-six windows in upper story and multiple paned, fixed light windows on lower section flanking center door; wood shingled canopy extends across the lower half of the facade.

C 185 33 ca. 1910 2 Commercial Building; four bay, brick building with stepped parapet and pressed metal cornice atop row of four windows with replacement

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North Main Street

Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.

					twenty-over-one sash; modern shingle shake canopy extends across first story and shelters recessed center door and door and flanking replacement display windows.
C	186	31	ca. 1900	2	Belmont Drug Company; three bay, brick commercial building with corbelled, flat parapet cornice across facade; segmental arched upper story windows with replacement one-over-one windows on facade and simpler square windows on south (side) elevation; lower section of facade features 1930s black structural glass name panel with embossed "Belmont Drug Company"; recessed entry with large display windows.
V	187				Vacant lot.
C	188	21-25	ca. 1907	2	(Former) Belmont Hotel; free standing, brick, commercial block five bays wide; houses four individual shopfronts; facade has flat parapet with pressed metal cornice and brick corbelling; segmental arched windows with archivolts and replacement one-over-one sash survive across upper story; simpler square windows are located on side elevations; first floor of facade has cloth awning sheltering a series of recessed entries to shopfronts with modernized metal sash, display windows and doors. Originally a

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					hotel built by George Gullick; first story housed R.L. Stowe's mill offices and Bank of Belmont; hotel lobby and office occupied remainder of first floor.
V	189				Vacant lot.
C	190	9	ca. 1910	1	Commercial Building; small, one bay brick building with corbelled, flat parapet across facade; recessed entry with modern metal sash display windows; large cloth awning spans Nos. 9 and 5.
C	191	5	ca. 1910	2	Commercial Building; narrow, one bay brick building with denticulated cornice; original paired windows on upper story with two-over-two sash and transoms; lower section has cloth awning sheltering recessed entry with metal sash, display windows.
			ssss		
C	192	3	ca. 1910	1	Commercial Building; small, one bay brick building with denticulated cornice, flat parapet roofline across facade that creates false front; modernized lower section with center entry flanked by large metal sash display windows.

(Railroad right-of-way intersects)

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South Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

**West Side, South Main Street**

C	193		ca. 1940		Belmont City Park; public park situated in a depression of open space between Southern Railway tracks and Myrtle Street; contains a central fountain and a playground. The park was built ca. 1940 with W.P.A. funds.
(Myrtle Street intersects)					
C	194	100	ca. 1910	2	Commercial Building; brick, two bay building with flat parapet roofline across main facade, which consists of a pair of two-over-two windows with raised brick sills on the upper floor, and first floor consists of metal awning atop center entry and flanking display windows with brick sills.
C OB	194a	100	ca. 1920	1	Commercial Building; brick garage with stepped parapet roof and seven bays across main facade, with corner garage door for vehicle entrance; one bay entry wing on east elevation.
C	195	106	ca. 1910	1	Commercial Building; small, one bay brick building with simple, flat cornice defined by row of raised brick; metal awning shelters center entry with sidelights.
C	196	110	ca. 1910	1	Commercial Building; two bay, brick building with facade consisting of a flat-parapet roofline

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South Main Street

**Belmont Historic District**  
**Gaston County, N.C.**

					with denticulated cornice atop recessed panel; original windows and entrance on facade altered and boarded; original windows survive on long, stepped-parapet side elevations.
V	197				Vacant lot.
N	198	116	ca. 1970	1	Commercial Building; stuccoed, four bay building with shallow gable front roof and minimal decoration.
V	199				Vacant lot.
(Smith Street intersects)					
C	200	208	1912	2	(Former) Main Street Methodist Church; handsome Gothic Revival, brick church with basic gable front main block dominated by buttressed corner entry towers with pyramidal roofs; pointed arched openings throughout; well-detailed sanctuary featuring perforated rafters and curved pews; rear addition built in 1920s and an education building added to the rear in 1955; church was acquired by Alexander Memorial Baptist Church in 1976.
(Poplar Street intersects)					
C	201	302	ca. 1910	2	House; substantial brick veneered Colonial Revival/Queen Anne residence with hip roofed, cubic main block and projecting cross

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South Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

						gable wings. The large, wraparound porch has classical columns on brick piers, pedimented entry bay, and second tier, center bay porch with classical columns; one-over-one windows throughout, and sidelights and transom enframe the center entrance.
C OB	201a	302	ca. 1925	1		Frame, hip roofed, two car garage.
C	202	308	ca. 1920	2		House; freely adapted Colonial Revival dwelling with cross gable, slate shingled roof, recessed, arched entrance located in front facing wing; fenestration includes bay window in the front wing, paired six-over-six windows on the upper floor, and tripartite window with four-over-four sash on the facade; enclosed sun room located on the north elevation.
C OB	202a	308	ca. 1920	1		Gable front, brick veneered garage.
C	203	312	ca. 1920	2		House; brick veneered, Renaissance Revival dwelling with cubic main block capped by hip roof with deep eaves and brackets; three bay facade has paired six-over-six windows and center entry porch with roof balustrade and classical columns; a sun porch with classical elements is located on north elevation.
C OB	203a	312	ca. 1920	1		Hip roofed, brick veneered garage.

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South Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

C	204	316	ca. 1910	1	House; frame, vernacular picturesque dwelling with cross gable roof featuring two front facing gables and a wraparound porch with replacement square posts and balustrade. A brick retaining wall marks the front of the slightly elevated yard.
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**East Side, South Main Street**

(South Central Avenue intersects)

C	205	311	ca. 1920	2	House; frame, cubic, hip roofed, Colonial Revival dwelling with three bay facade, gable front, entry porch with slender classical columns; paired and single windows with six-over-six and twelve-over-one sash; replacement aluminum siding.
C	206	307	ca. 1910	1	House; traditional Triple-A cottage with hip roofed, front porch with replacement, metal supports; intact two-over-two windows; rear three bay, side gable wing.
C OB	206a	307	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	207	305	ca. 1920	2	House; handsomely detailed Colonial Revival dwelling with cubic form, hip roof, and replacement aluminum siding; entry porch with exposed rafters, roof balustrade and heavy, paired, classical columns; a matching porch is located on north

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**South Main Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					elevation; intact eight-over-eight and six-over-six windows.
C OB	207a	305	ca. 1920	1	Frame, hip roofed, two car garage.
N	208	303	ca. 1955	1 1/2	House; frame, side gable cottage with projecting gable front center bay.
(Poplar Street intersects)					
C	209	209	ca. 1910	1	House; traditional frame, side gable, single pile cottage with what appears to be 1920s gable front porch with grouped posts on brick piers; intact four-over-four windows and rear, side gable wing that parallels main block; refenestration on facade north of main entry.
V	210				Vacant lot.
V	211				Vacant lot.
N	212	203	ca. 1950	1	Office; frame, gable front building with low pitched roof, triple pile form; shed roofed, front porch with enclosed end bay.
V	213				Vacant lot.
C	214	201	ca. 1920	2	Belmont Masonic Lodge; brick veneered, Colonial Revival lodge hall with gable front roof; three bays wide and seven bays deep; slightly projecting, pedimented, center bay with series of raised brick courses signifies the main

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**South Main Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

entry; replacement flat roofed canopy; tall transom above the doorway has been aluminum sided; windows have been bricked infilled.

(Smith Street intersects)

N	215	113	ca. 1960	1	Commercial Building; concrete block building with low pitched rooflines and utilitarian design; probably former gas station.
C	216	111	ca. 1940	1	Commercial Building; long, three bay brick building with slightly recessed center entry capped by transom and flat roofed canopy, flanked by display windows; flat parapet roof along the facade with coping; entrance on north elevation also has flat roofed canopy.
C	217	107	ca. 1940	1	Commercial Building; utilitarian, brick, two bay building that is part of 105-107 commercial block; main entrance located in cutaway bay; large window to the north completes the facade; flat parapet roof and simple south elevation with small square windows and side doorway.
C	218	105	ca. 1940	1	Warehouse; three bay, brick building with stepped parapet in the form of a broken pediment along the facade, and pilasters with corbelled caps defining the bays; name panel spans the principal bay and caps a large, metal framed, three part window; recessed entry

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**North Main Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					located in the south bay, and large garage door located in the north bay.
V	219				Vacant lot.
	(Myrtle Street intersects)				
C	220	15	ca. 1910	2	Commercial Building; largely intact, brick building with four windows across upper story of facade and two shopfront bays with recessed entries, display windows, and transoms; flat parapet roof has simple, corbelled, brick trim.
N	221	7-11	ca. 1950	1	Commercial Building; post-World War II addition to Main Street commercial district, this brick building is set back from the adjoining building to the south; utilitarian facade with flat parapet, metal awnings, and metal sash doors and windows.

**East Side, North Main Street**

(Railroad Right-of-Way intersects)

C	222	4	ca. 1915	1	(Former) Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot; intact, cubic, Mission Revival style depot with tan brick veneer, low hip, terra cotta tile roof and bracketed eaves; intact single and grouped six-over-six windows; rear, hip roofed ell;
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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					currently houses a commercial establishment.
C	223	6	1904	2	(Former) Stowe Brothers Company; brick building three bays wide with segmental arched openings separated on second story by strip pilasters that frame slightly raised central entrance; interior includes wide central staircase that rises to mezzanine; windows recently modernized with metal sash, but store stands remarkably intact; store was established by R. L. Stowe in 1889; in 1904, this building was erected and served as company store for the Chronicle Mills.
C	224	10-16	ca. 1920	2	Commercial Building; brick building with stepped parapet roof, five windows across upper story have one-over-one wood sash and decorative brick trim and concrete corner blocks; the three first-floor storefronts have intact trim that matches the second story, transoms, and modernized entries and display windows.
N	225	24	ca. 1960	1	Commercial Building; stuccoed, brick building with stepped parapet and recessed center entrance flanked by large display windows with metal sashes.
N	226	30	ca. 1910	2	Commercial Building; brick building with modernized, 1970s facade with metal panels and canopy, and

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North Main Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					metal framed entry and display windows across first story.
C	227	32	1926	3	(Former) Bank of Belmont; distinguished and intact Renaissance Revival bank building with classically detailed first story with fluted pilasters flanking round arched entrance; simple, buff brick upper level enclosed by quoins and crowned by denticulated cornice and balustrade; handsome interior includes lobby with marble walls and pilasters, barrel ceiling; bank was organized in 1906 by R.L. Stowe; currently houses Wachovia Bank.
					(Alley intersects)
N	228	36	ca. 1950	1	Commercial Building; utilitarian, stuccoed brick building with stepped parapet and large, metal canopy shielding metal framed central entrance and large display windows.
					(Catawba Street intersects) (Kenwood Street intersects)
C	229	312	ca. 1939	2	Henry Lineberger House; impressive, freely adapted, Colonial Revival dwelling with hip roofed, cubic main block, flanking wings that include garage on the south side, and stucco veneer; asymmetrical facade openings on facade consist of central doorway with broken

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pediment, bay window on the north bay, and tall, arched window on the south bay; the expansive lot includes landscaped, broad, rear lawn, and circular drive; interior consists of intact classical finish; Lineberger was prominent textile mill owner in Belmont.

- |   |     |     |               |       |  |
|---|-----|-----|---------------|-------|--|
| C | 230 | 316 | ca. 1939      | 1 1/2 | Harold Lineberger House; handsome Colonial Revival dwelling with red brick veneer, side gable roof with three shed dormers across five bay facade, and flanking wings that include garage on north elevation; classical, recessed entrance features fluted columns and pediment; the large house tract is bordered by an iron fence along Main Street and has an expansive lawn to the rear; Lineberger was a prominent textile mill owner in Belmont.   |
| C | 231 | 414 | ca. 1899-1966 | 3     | (Former) Sacred Heart College, main building complex. Situated on a tree shaded campus at the north end of Belmont, the former college features a complex of attached brick and stone wings designed primarily by local ecclesiastical architect, the Reverend Michael McNerny. The school was established in 1887 as Sacred Heart Academy, a convent and a boarding school for girls that was associated with nearby Belmont Abbey College, a Catholic school and monastery of the Benedictine order established in |

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**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

the 1870s. Subsequently, Sacred Heart developed into a junior college and a college. The college closed in the 1980s, and the facility currently operates as a convent and the Gaston Christian School, a private academy.

The main building complex includes a series of attached buildings. The ca. 1899 Mercedes Hall is the oldest wing. Facing south toward the principal tree-lined walkway, it is a three story, brick facility with a two story chapel wing on the west side. The main section of Mercedes Hall has a nine bay facade capped by a slate, gambrel front pavilion and cupola. The hall has intact, single and paired segmental arched windows with relieving arches and granite sills. The chapel's most exceptional feature is its pressed tin ceiling, with ornate floral and geometric patterns.

The adjoining sections of the complex were built between 1922 and 1966, and were designed by the Reverend McInerney. The Administration Building, which is connected to Mercedes Hall to the south, was built in 1928. It is a three story, eighteen bay, brick section with a slate gable roof. The focal point is the four bay, square entry tower with a corbelled brick parapet and third story arcade with

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**Belmont Historic District  
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colonettes. An arched porte cochere projects from the base of the tower and has a cornice of corbelled brick arches.

South of the Administration Building is Victory Hall, built in 1922. Containing a spacious auditorium, Victory Hall is a three story, brick wing with a steep, slate, gable front roof. Reflecting the window treatment on Mercedes Hall, this section features a third story central bay with a pair of narrow, arched windows joined by a relieving arch.

Located to the south of Victory Hall are the 1957 McAuley Hall and the 1950 Alumnae Hall. McAuley Hall is a three story, brick, rectangular, classroom unit with a flat roof and segmental arched windows that connects the rear of the south elevation of Victory Hall to the Alumnae Hall. Alumnae Hall, a gymnasium, is a two story facility with a shallow, slate, gable front roof and a steep, central entrance pavilion.

Finally, the north end of this complex features the large, sandstone convent that was built in 1966. Attached to Mercedes Hall by two sizable rear ells, this section consists of a four story, eleven bay, center block with three story, four bay wings on the east and west

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Poplar Street

**Belmont Historic District  
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					elevations. The front facade features a three bay, center section with a shallow, parapeted, gable roof and projecting one story lobby.
C OB	231a	414	ca. 1940	1	(Former) Art Department; brick-veneered, hip roofed cottage with modest bungalow-inspired details and attached concrete block wings. A small concrete block wall topped by a picket fence borders the front yard.
C OB	231b	414	ca. 1920	1	(Former) Laundry Department; one story, brick veneered building with flat parapet, brick corbelling along the cornice, and tall, brick chimney stack on the east elevation; modern fenestration.
C OB	231c	414	ca. 1920	1	(Former) Student Affairs Office; brick veneered, square, three bay building with parapeted gable roof and brick corbelling along the cornice; modern fenestration.
C S	231d	414	ca. 1920	1	Pavilion; fieldstone structure with standing seam, metal, hip roof and exposed rafters.

**West Side, Poplar Street**

(South Main Street intersects)

C	232	10-12	ca. 1925	1	Duplex; frame, hip roofed, five bay, Colonial Revival duplex with pedimented center gable and gable
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**Poplar Street**

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					roofed entry porches; intact single and paired six-over-six windows survive throughout.
C OB	232a	10-12	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	233	16	ca. 1910	1	House; high hip roofed, double pile, vernacular picturesque cottage with projecting gable front bays and center entry with modified flat roofed porch with turned posts; weatherboard siding and some single and paired six-over-six windows are intact; altered window on north bay of main facade.
N OB	233a	16	ca. 1960	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	234	20	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, stucco and weatherboard, clipped gable bungalow with engaged porch, stucco porch posts and apron, and clipped gable dormer.
C OB	234a	20	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	235	22	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; distinctive, substantial, frame, weatherboard, side gable bungalow with prominent gable front dormer; engaged front porch that extends past the south elevation and is supported by square posts with molded caps; one-over-one windows throughout; fanlights cap the door and paired windows in the dormer and side gables.
C OB	235a	22	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.

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(Hall Street intersects)

C	236	102	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, weatherboard side gable bungalow with gable front dormer and engaged front porch that extends past the north elevation; intact square porch posts; house stands on elevated site with brick retaining wall.
C OB	236a	102	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	237	106	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, weatherboard side gable bungalow with gable front dormer and engaged front porch that extends past the south elevation; intact battered piers on brick pedestals; house stands on elevated site with brick retaining wall.
C OB	237a	106	ca. 1925	1	Hip roofed, frame garage.
C	238	108	ca. 1925	1	House; hip roofed, frame, triple pile bungalow with hip roofed dormers on main elevations, weatherboard siding, and engaged front porch with box piers; stuccoed brick retaining wall lines front yard.
C OB	238a	108	ca. 1925	1	Hip roofed, frame, two car garage.
C	239	110	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, weatherboard, Colonial Revival cottage with three bay facade, double pile form, flat roofed porch with classical columns and gable roofed entry bay; distinctive Palladian style windows on side elevations.

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**Poplar Street**

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C OB	239a	110	ca. 1925	1	Gable front, frame garage.
C	240	112	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, weatherboard, gable front bungalow with front porch that extends beyond north elevation and is supported by square posts; deep, bracketed eaves and six-over-six windows survive intact.
N OB	240a	112	ca. 1950	1 1/2	Other House; brick veneered and weatherboarded dwelling with shallow, gable roof.
N	241	116	ca. 1960	1	House; side gable, brick veneered, three bay dwelling with minimal decoration.
N	242	116-B	ca. 1960	1	Duplex; brick-veneered, side gable duplex with minimal decoration.

**East Side, Poplar Street**

C	243	115	ca. 1925	1	House; simple, frame hip roofed, double pile cottage with off set, recessed front porch, one-over-one windows, and replacement aluminum siding; decorative metal and concrete block fencing.
C	244	113	ca. 1925	1	House; simple, frame, hip roofed, double pile cottage with asbestos shingles, engaged front porch with enclosed end bay, replacement metal porch supports, and hip roofed dormer centered over the facade; original three-over-one

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Poplar Street

**Belmont Historic District  
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					windows are evident throughout.
C	245	111	ca. 1925	1	House; intact side gable, frame bungalow with deep eaves with braces, gable front porch with battered piers on brick pedestals, and abundant fenestration featuring large windows on the three bay facade; weatherboard siding; house stands on partially raised, brick foundation.
C	246	109	ca. 1940	1	House; frame, aluminum sided, cross gable cottage with shed roofed porch with slender, replacement square posts; paired one-over-one windows; projecting bay on the south elevation.
C OB	246a	109	ca. 1940	1	Gable front, aluminum sided garage.
C	247	107	ca. 1925	1 1/2	House; frame, triple pile; gable front bungalow with deep eaves and exposed purlins, engaged off set, gable front porch with square posts on brick piers; single and paired four-over-one windows; weatherboard siding; house stands on partially raised, brick foundation; porch has been modified by modern glazing.
N OB	247a	107	ca. 1960	1	Gable front, frame garage and storage building with shed extension on north elevation; shed roofed porch.

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Poplar Street

**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

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|--------------------------|-----|-----|----------|-------|--|
| C                        | 248 | 105 | ca. 1925 | 1     | House; simple, three bay, side gable, double pile cottage with intact three-over-one windows and gable front entry porch; replacement metal supports; sidelights flank the center entrance; aluminum siding.   |
| C                        | 249 | 103 | ca. 1940 | 1 1/2 | House; frame, aluminum sided dwelling with unusual form characterized by cross gable, three bay, main block, and side and rear wings; rear wing has shed roofed dormer that accommodates upper story; gable front, entry porch has replacement metal supports; original single and paired windows; house rests on partially raised brick foundation. |
| (Hall Street intersects) |     |     |          |       |  |
| C                        | 250 | 19  | ca. 1925 | 1 1/2 | House; distinctive. brick veneered, cross gable cottage with engaged porch; brick piers supporting lattice-work that create the initial "A"; some intact six-over-six windows, although paired windows on facade have replacement one-over-one sash.   |
| C                        | 251 | 17  | ca. 1925 | 1     | House; frame, weatherboarded, hip roofed bungalow with small f hip roofed dormer centered over three bay facade; engaged porch has battered piers on brick pedestals and extends beyond south elevation to form a porte cochere; intact six-over-six windows   |

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**Belmont Historic District  
Gaston County, N.C.**

					and partially raised, brick foundation.
C	252	15	ca. 1925	1	House; distinctive, frame, asbestos shingle bungalow with hip roofed main block and exposed braces under deep eaves, prominent, gable front, off set porch with battered piers on brick pedestals and modern decorative sawn brackets; original windows survive throughout, and gable front bay on north side of main facade has tripartite window with intact six-over-one and four-over-one sash.
C	253	13	ca. 1905	1	House; high, gable-on-hip-roofed, frame cottage with weatherboard siding, one-over-one windows, wraparound porch with box piers.
C OB	253a	13	ca. 1925	1	Frame, gable front garage.
C	254	9	ca. 1925	1	House; small, frame, weatherboard, hip roofed, double pile cottage with off set porch; hip roofed porch has square posts; projecting bay on facade has tripartite window with six-over-six sash.
N	255	7	ca. 1950	1	House; frame, wood shingled dwelling with metal sash windows and screened porch.

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Smith Street; Glenway Street

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Gaston County, N.C.

## West Side, Smith Street

C	256	8	ca. 1950	1	House; small, frame, aluminum sided cottage with replacement windows, side gable roof, and gable front, entry porch.
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## East Side, Glenway Street

C	257	102	ca. 1930	2	(Former) First Presbyterian Church, Education Building; only surviving building from the (Former) First Presbyterian Church property; now demolished church faced Catawba Street at the corner of Glenway Street; the education building is a brick veneered, Colonial Revival building; the L-shaped building has an intersecting hip roof, quoins, watercourse, and eight-over-eight, double hung windows with molded surrounds. The symmetrical facade features a front gable entry porch with an arched opening and brick piers. The entrance comprised of double leaf, wood and glass doors. A breezeway now connects the building to a modern day care center to the north.
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**8. Statement of Significance**

The Belmont Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of community development, commerce, transportation, and education, and under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance for the district begins in 1873, the date the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline completed its line through a fueling station and site of a railroad bridge that had been established by supervising engineer John Garibaldi some three years earlier. The period of significance extends to 1946, the National Register fifty-year criterion, and during those seventy-three years, the railroad settlement that was named Belmont in 1886 emerged as a ranking textile mill town among the many in Gaston County and the Piedmont region of North Carolina. In 1900, Belmont was a small railroad community with a population of only 145, but with the organization of Chronicle Mills in 1901, the town began its rise as one of the premier cotton manufacturing centers. Particularly through the efforts of local leaders Robert L. Stowe, Sr., his brother, Samuel Pinckney Stowe, and Abel Caleb Lineberger, Belmont grew from a rural community to an urbanized manufacturing town with twenty mills and 3,793 residents by 1930.

Just prior to the rise of the textile industry in the town, Catholic missionary Bishop James Gibbons established an abbey, convent and two missionary schools in the newly-formed railroad community. Although the Catholic population of the southern Piedmont was minuscule and the growth of the religious community in Belmont was slow, the beachhead established by Bishop Gibbons prospered enough to allow the founding of a mens' school that became known as Belmont Abby College (NR 1993). In a 1892 women's school named Sacred Heart Academy was established, and in 1899, was installed in Mercedes Hall located at the north end of the district..

The Belmont Historic District encompasses the central business district as well as residential neighborhoods built during the textile boom period of the early twentieth century. Uniquely cohesive, the historic district epitomizes the prosperity and urban growth that accompanied the rise of the textile industry in Gaston County and the region. The historic district features grand houses of the mill owners, such as the monumental Abel Caleb Lineberger, Sr. House, an elegant Renaissance Revival-style house designed by noted Charlotte architect C.C. Hook and set among grounds designed

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by landscape architect Earl S. Draper. It also features streetscapes of houses occupied by the mill managers, prominent merchants, and professional who built solid, well-designed houses that run a gamut of early twentieth-century styles, from the handsome transitional Queen Anne house built for DeLambert Stowe in 1910, to the 1935 Colonial Revival Richard Cromish House. An array of well-preserved bungalows, Colonial, and Tudor Revival cottages were built for the skilled tradesmen, shopkeepers, and clerks that were associated with the mills, the railroad, and the commercial businesses that flourished in the community during the first half of the twentieth century. Main Street near its intersection with the railroad tracks developed into a business area of one-to-three-story brick commercial buildings in the early years of the twentieth century. The 1907 (former) Belmont Hotel at 21-25 North Main Street is typical of the commercial buildings in the district with its brick elevation enlivened with segmental arch windows and a molded cornice along the flat roof line. The collection of architecture in the district is rounded out by early twentieth-century brick Gothic-Revival churches; a Depression-era community center and city park; the 1939 Art Moderne high school; and the 1939 WPA Colonial Revival Post Office (NR 1995).

The Belmont Historic District excludes the early twentieth-century cotton mills and the neighborhoods of mill houses. Concentrated on the north and east sides of the town, near the railroads, river, and early highways, many of the mills and their associated worker housing have been substantially altered or demolished in recent decades. The loss of the historic worker housing stock is one of a number of recent actions that have led the town leaders to begin a comprehensive planning process that will employ downtown revitalization and preservation planning as a means to preserve the historic quality of the core of this community that lies within ten miles of the booming Charlotte metropolitan area.

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### Historical Background/Community Development, Commerce, Transportation, and Education Contexts

Belmont is located within Gaston County on a peninsula formed by the Catawba River and the South Fork of the Catawba River. Like most of the North Carolina Piedmont, Gaston County was first settled in the mid-eighteenth century, primarily by Scotch-Irish and German migrants from Pennsylvania. The German settlers generally occupied the northern and western portions of the county while the Scotch-Irish located in the eastern and southern sections. As a result of increasing settlement during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, modern Gaston County was established in 1846 from a division of Lincoln County (Brengele, 1982: 3).

Until the development of the textile industry after the Civil War, Gaston County, like other counties of the Piedmont, was agricultural, comprised principally of small, self-sufficient farms. Poor soils and limited river access to the coast hampered the development of sizable market towns and large-scale agriculture until the construction of rail lines in the mid-nineteenth century. Prior to the introduction of rail service, the limitations on farming and the relative isolation of the region had fostered some forms of small-scale manufacturing, including textile production, to serve local demands. Gaston County was particularly well-suited to cotton manufacturing because of its numerous, fast moving rivers and streams for operating water powered mills. Moses H. Rhyne and Caleb, Laban, and Lewis Lineberger formed Woodlawn (also known as Pinhook) Mill, the first textile mill in the county, which began production in 1848 on the South Fork River. At the same time, local farmers, Jasper and Edwin Stowe, built a cotton mill and store on their 1,100 acre farm, also bordering the South Fork River. A third antebellum textile mill, Mountain Island Mill, was built in 1849 near Mount Holly to produce yarn and cloth. Although the absence of railroad transportation during the antebellum period limited the markets for Gaston County textiles to North and South Carolina, the mills thrived nonetheless, providing yarn for domestic weaving. On the eve of the Civil War, these three mills had propelled Gaston County to fourth place (behind Cumberland, Alamance, and Randolph counties) in textile production in North Carolina (Brengele 1982: 10).

Transportation had begun to improve prior to the war as railroad construction campaigns were started across the state. Although only a few lines within the Piedmont were completed by 1860, the new railroads set the stage for later industrial development (Gilbert, 1982: 8). A section of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad (later the Seaboard Airline Railway), running through Gaston County on route from Cherryville to Charlotte, opened before the war, giving Gaston County an east-

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west link. The war further demonstrated the need for rail construction throughout the South, particularly north-south lines to link the southern hubs of Richmond, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Confederate strategists had determined that a line between Greensboro and Richmond was a priority, with its ultimate connections to Atlanta through Charlotte. Although rail construction did not resume until after the war, the Richmond and Danville Railroad (which acquired the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline in 1881 and reorganized as part of the Southern Railway system in 1894) began expanding southward in 1868, and in 1870, neighboring Mecklenburg County passed a bond to raise money for the new line. With seventy percent of all North Carolina freight moving north to south through Greensboro and Charlotte by 1870, the railroads pursued aggressive acquisition, consolidation, and construction plans in order to capture this traffic. In 1871, a group of northern and Virginia capitalists acquired both the Richmond and Danville Railroad and the Piedmont Railroad, which extended from Danville to Greensboro, as well as negotiated a lease of the North Carolina Railroad for the corridor from Greensboro to Charlotte (Lefler and Newsome, 1954: 486).

At the same time, the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline began building a line north from Atlanta to Charlotte which included a segment through the South Fork peninsula of Gaston County. The stage was set for the development of Belmont after the peninsula was selected as the site for a fueling station and railroad bridge across the Catawba River. In 1870, John Garibaldi, an Italian immigrant and supervising engineer for the Mecklenburg Iron Works of Charlotte, oversaw construction of the new rail facilities. Consequently, the rail stop became known as Garibaldi or Garibaldi's Station. By 1873, the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline was completed between Charlotte and Spartanburg. A third railroad, the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad, ran north to south, giving the county direct access to Spartanburg. With the flurry of rail construction during Reconstruction, small railroad towns, including Garibaldi's Station, began to emerge in Gaston County (Lefler and Newsome, 1954: 486-488).

Prior to the introduction of rail service, the self-sufficient farm economy of Gaston County had supported few commercial operations. The new rail line through the South Fork spurred local residents, Abram Stowe, Alex Beatty, Burrell Fite, and Burt Gallant, to open general stores in the area with a post office occupying part of Gallant's establishment. A log house, on one side of the tracks, was operated by former slaves, Manuel and Sue Stowe, as a lodge for travellers. Nearby, the promise of a rail station led local farmer, George Ragan, to open a mercantile operation near Wright's Station (later Lowell) in 1872, and in 1875, Ragan and Jonathan Gullick opened a store, cotton gin, and grist mill near Garibaldi's Station. During the late 1880s, the new

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Richmond and Danville Railroad station master, W.B. Puett, and his brother-in-law, Samuel Pinckney Stowe, built a new store adjacent to the depot (Yockey, 1995: 30, 34).

Other construction activity followed the introduction of railroad service, including a Roman Catholic abbey, convent, and two missionary schools, all built north of Garibaldi's Station. Despite the almost total absence of a Roman Catholic population in the region, Catholics began missionary efforts in North Carolina after the war by establishing a vicariate overseen by Bishop James Gibbons. In 1869, Gibbons issued a wide appeal to priests for the North Carolina missions; at the same time, Gibbons also made a plea to a newly formed Sisters of Mercy convent in Charleston to form a Catholic school in Wilmington, the first in the state. In 1872, Father Jeremiah O'Connell, a missionary for the Catholic Diocese of Charleston and a proponent of Catholic schools, purchased the 500 acre Caldwell plantation, less than one mile north of Garibaldi's Station, for the Benedictine monks of Saint Vincent's Archabbey of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. O'Connell faced formidable obstacles in establishing his school in an almost exclusively Protestant region and state. Throughout North Carolina, Catholic churches were few in number and small in size. In Gaston County, there was only one small Catholic church near Mount Holly, formed for a small group of Irish Catholics who had migrated to the region to work in the iron mines. Sponsorship by a religious order had been slow in coming, but O'Connell was finally able to convince the Benedictines of Saint Vincent's Archabbey to undertake the mission.

Opening in 1876, the new religious community was called Mary Help Abbey, but growth was slow (in 1879, the school still had no North Carolinians among its student body). When the monastery became an abbey in 1884, enrollment stood at only twenty-seven students. A new leader, Father Leo Haid, was appointed to head the abbey in 1885, and Haid began a building campaign as well as an outreach program to the surrounding Protestant community. Abbot Haid also built St. Leo's Military College in 1890 (now demolished, but originally located at the intersection of Wilkinson Boulevard and North Main Street). In addition, Father Haid petitioned local leaders to change the name of the town because of its associations with Italian leader, Giuseppe Garibaldi, who had been instrumental in prying control of Rome away from the pope. The abbey leader proposed the name, St. Mary's, to which local citizens objected, and in 1886, the community was renamed Belmont. In 1887, the Sisters of Mercy at Wilmington founded a convent and girls' school on a parcel south of the abbey. The men's school became known as Belmont Abbey College and the women's, which opened in 1892, Sacred Heart Academy (Survey Files, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1979). Despite these ambitious undertakings, the

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establishment of the abbey and its associated schools did little to spur growth and development in Belmont. In 1890, Roman Catholics comprised less than two percent of the Piedmont population, and the absence of a Catholic base from which to draw kept these educational facilities small (Ayers, 1992: 498).

The development of Belmont and Gaston County were a direct result of post-Civil War industrialization. In particular, the county was well-suited to cotton manufacturing. Gaston County had both north-south and east-west rail service and proximity to Charlotte, which was emerging as a regional commercial and distribution center. The county also had proximity to raw materials and swiftly moving streams for powering the mills. Finally, the disruptions of war had left much of the region overpopulated with tenant farmers and small farm owners unable to earn a living from the land. While the railroads gave local industry a nationwide distribution system, the rural population supplied the labor for running the factories.

The Piedmont textile industry grew rapidly between 1880 and 1900, with Gaston County quickly becoming the premiere cotton manufacturing center of the region. Soon after the turn of the century, Gaston County had more textile factories than any other county in the South. The textile producing capacity of the county expanded from ten cotton mills in 1890 to forty-eight by 1910. By the 1920s, Gaston County, with ninety textile plants, became the number one producer of textiles in North Carolina and the third largest producer in the U.S. (Lefler and Newsome, 1954: 476, 479; Pope, 1942; Williams, 1981).

In contrast to a number of other industries, textile manufacturing succeeded in the South, in part, because of the relatively low levels of capitalization required for initial operation. Southern mills in the nineteenth century were primarily organized and capitalized by a group of local men, who pooled their funds to build the mills and then used profits to underwrite what were often rapid expansions. Most of these early manufacturers in Gaston County had connections to the antebellum mills. A.P. Rhyne, George A. Gray, and A.C. Lineberger had all begun at the Woodlawn Mill, and all, along with R.C.G. Love, George W. Ragan, and C.E. Hutchison, were Gaston County natives. Others, notably Rufus Yancey McAden, who founded McAden Mills in McAdenville, and Stonewall Jackson Durham, founder of the Southern Cotton Mills in Bessemer City, came from nearby Piedmont counties. Many, like R.L. and Samuel Stowe of Belmont, were merchants (Brengele, 1982: 15).

Until the mid-1880s, the mills in Gaston county were all operated by water power, and the use of falling water to generate power dictated that the mills be located on rivers or

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fast-moving streams. However, the development of the Southern coal industry made steam power feasible by the 1890s (Ayers, 1992: 111). The Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company was built in 1887 as a steam powered facility. As this new facility demonstrated, the use of steam power freed mills from their waterside sites. With the adoption of the new technology (sixty percent of all Southern mills were steam powered by 1900), mills were increasingly built near railroads for ease in shipping and receiving (Ayers, 1992: 112).

As new mills were built near rail facilities, a number of Gaston County towns were transformed from small, rail-oriented communities to large, manufacturing towns. According to the U.S. Census, Gaston County had ninety-six manufacturing firms and more than fifty percent of the working population employed in manufacturing by 1900 (Woodward, 1951: 137; Cope and Wellman 1961: 141). Gastonia, in particular, boomed as a center of cotton manufacturing. The population of the town jumped from 236 in 1880 to 4,610 in 1900, and more than doubled to 5,759 by 1910 (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 136). As the mills drew poor farm families from nearby counties, other towns such as McAdenville, King's Mountain, Mount Holly, Bessemer City, Lowell, and Cherryville all experienced rapid increases in populations as cotton mills went into operation.

Despite the success and economic boom times that textiles generated in Gaston County, Belmont was slow to participate in the new industrialization. Incorporated in 1895, Belmont was the only town in the county without a textile mill in 1900, and as a result, its population stood at only 145. Local merchants, Samuel P. and Robert L. Stowe, were eager to build a cotton mill in Belmont. The Stowe brothers had entered the textile industry in 1899 when they were approached by R. Pinckney Rankin, George Gray, and John F. Love to invest in their Gastonia spinning mill. Ozark Mills, as the Gastonia operation was called, was highly successful, and the Stowes' investment tripled in value. By 1901, the Stowe brothers began raising local capital to build a mill in Belmont. With Rankin, Gray, and Love, the Stowes formed the Chronicle Mills. The new company purchased the homeplace of Revolutionary war hero, Major William Chronicle, (east of the historic district on the south side of Catawba Street, north of the railroad) as the site of the mill (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 144; Sanborn Map Company, 1929). Lincolnnton resident, D.E. Rhyne, became a major shareholder, with the proviso that experienced mill manager, Abel Caleb Lineberger, was brought in to oversee operations.

The Stowes were aggressive in adopting innovations and expanding operations in their Belmont mills. The steam powered Chronicle Mills began operations in 1902 to

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produce carded yarns, but soon converted to the finer combed yarns, and in 1908, was expanded from 5,000 to 10,000 spindles. Located nearby, the Imperial Mill began operations in 1907 as the first electrically powered mill in the state. A third Belmont mill, the Majestic, with a 13,000 spindle capacity, became the first Southern mill designed to produce fine combed yards on ring spindles. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, Belmont was an important textile center (Yockey, 1995: 53-54).

The flurry of industrial activity between 1900 and 1910 sparked much growth and development in Belmont. By 1910, the town had a population of roughly 1,000, ten times the census count of 1900, and the town extended its corporate limits from a quarter mile radius from the railroad crossing to a two-thirds radius. In response to rapid growth and increasing prosperity, Gaston County and Belmont began road construction campaigns to improve local transportation and commerce. In neighboring Mecklenburg County, D.A. Tompkins had spearheaded a road campaign to macadamize the Mecklenburg County roads, and in 1900 Gaston County followed suit. In order to quicken the pace at which road improvements in Belmont would be made, town leaders began soliciting private contributions to the road fund. In 1903, the General Assembly of North Carolina authorized the funds to grade and pave the streets and sidewalks of Belmont (Yockey, 1995: 56).

While the town made improvements to the infrastructure, new houses, stores, churches, schools, banks, and hotels were being constructed to serve the expanding population. Denied employment in the mills, African-American builders undertook much of this construction activity while other African-Americans supplied coal and wood to the rapidly developing mill villages. In 1906, George Gullick built the two story **Belmont Hotel (No. 188)** on Main Street. By 1910, an electric interurban line between Charlotte and Gastonia was completed, and although the main line of the Piedmont and Northern Railroad, as the new interurban was called, bypassed Belmont, a spur line was built to the town in 1916. Although much of the Piedmont and Northern trackage has been removed, the Mission Revival **Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot (No. 222)** stands on Main Street in the heart of the business district. New brick churches, most executed in the Gothic Revival style, were erected to serving burgeoning congregations. Three one room school buildings were replaced by the large, two story Belmont Central School (now demolished). In 1912, a high school was added, and in 1916, all frame schools were replaced by brick buildings (Survey Files, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1979).

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Main Street, particularly the section north of the Southern Railway tracks, developed as the commercial center of Belmont. A Ford dealership was opened, while the **Stowe Brothers Company** store (No. 223), built in 1904, was sold to R.S. Armstrong, G.G. Dixon, and W.H. Horseley. George Ragan's firm was bought in 1915 by G.W. Howe, and in 1927, Eli and Sidney Cohen, Manchester, England natives, formed the first of their chain of Cohen Brothers stores which operated throughout North Carolina. The **Belmont Drug Company** (No. 186), owned by R.B. Suggs, and a funeral home, owned by W.H. and D.P. Stowe, were also located on Main Street. Lee Chapman began a furniture building shop, the Belmont Cabinet Shop, on Catawba Street. House building was financed by the Belmont Building and Loan, organized in 1915, while the **Bank of Belmont** (No. 227) constructed a new three story building in 1926 (Brenkle, 1982: 257).

World War I created boom times for the Gaston County and Belmont textile mills. The war not only increased demand, but a halt to European production created a high demand for American threads and fabrics. With the mills running on a twenty-four hour schedule, reputedly some products were even sold on contract before the cotton was planted or the mills built. Eight mills alone were built in 1916, a banner year for Gaston County. In Belmont, the Stowe-Lineberger-Rhyne consortium quickly began construction of a fourth mill, the National, and by 1915, a fifth, the Climax Spinning Company, was opened, giving Belmont a production capacity of more than 60,000 spindles. Simultaneously, the company began erecting its office building (**R.L. Stowe Mills Office**, No. 36) at the corner of Catawba and Main streets to centralize all mill administration. By the end of the war, Gaston County had more cotton mills than any other county in the U.S. (Yockey, 1995: 60)

While the pre-World War I era of mill building and production brought prosperity, the 1920s were spectacular economic times in Gaston County. The combined populations of the nine incorporated municipalities and the unincorporated mill villages accounted for approximately two-thirds of the county population. In the thirty years since 1890, Gaston County had become a decidedly urban, industrial region. Textiles had transformed the county and had also increasingly tied Gaston economically to Charlotte, the distribution and financial center for this new textile empire. In addition to the rail connections between Gaston County and Charlotte, the first highway in the state was constructed between Charlotte and Gastonia, now known as Wilkinson Boulevard, the route runs along the north side of Belmont (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 163).

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During the 1920s, the construction of new mills continued unabated. Thirteen mills were incorporated in 1920, seven in Gastonia and four in Belmont. In 1919, druggist R.B. Suggs joined A.C. Lineberger in forming the Acme Spinning Company. In the same year, two other mills, Sterling Spinning Company and Crescent Spinning, were formed by the Stowes and Linebergers. The next year, Linford Mills, created by former Tuckaseegee Mill employee, J.E. Ford, and Will Puett, began operations. In a town of 3,000, there were twelve textile mills by the early 1920s. By the end of the decade, other mills or textile processing plants had been established including Belmont Processing, to mercerize, bleach, and dye yarns; Belmont Fabric Company, where the waste from the combed yarn mills was woven; Stowe Thread Company; Belmont Hosiery Mills; Hatch Full-Fashioned Hosiery; and Knit Products Corporation.

The prosperity of the 1920s had again spurred population growth of roughly fifty percent (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 177). Gastonia had 17,093 residents while Belmont had become the second largest town in the county with a population of 4,121 in 1930. However, the boom times of the 1920s were quickly ended by the Depression. In this rapidly expanding, industrial county, the Depression caused great hardship; by 1931, one of every two mill workers was unemployed. Most of the Belmont mills remained open although running short weeks, but Belmont Fabric Company went into receivership, and Belmont Hosiery Mill came close to failure. The McAden Mills in nearby McAdenville closed its doors in 1935. In 1932 and 1933 when national industrial production had dropped by fifty percent, banks were failing nationwide. The Bank of Belmont remained open only because all deposits were personally guaranteed by R.L. Stowe (Brenkle, 1982: 16).

Economic hardships and the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, which created a controversial system of industrial regulation, gave union organizers their first foothold among Gaston County workers. The National Textile Workers Union was organized in 1928, and in 1929, an organizer for the Communist Party led a textile workers union strike against the Loray Mill in Gastonia. The Rhode Island owners of the mill had laid off a thousand workers with no reduction in production. Attracting national attention, riots ensued, and strikers were evicted from mill-owned houses. The Gastonia police chief was killed, and strike leaders were jailed. In 1934, the United Textile Workers focused their efforts on Gaston County. On September 1, 1934, the union organized a strike of all textile workers, and ninety-two Gaston County mills were shut down, including all the Belmont mills. As the national strike dragged on, with nearly 500,000 workers off the job, Governor Ehringhaus sent in the state militia, and a number of people were killed. The strike lasted three weeks, but the union made little

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lasting headway with workers (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 176-177; Glass, 1992: 68-73; Hall, 1987: 187, 299).

The tumult of the 1930s caused many textile companies to fail; other companies were acquired by larger entities. Textiles, Inc. was formed in 1931 from fifteen independent mills. R.L. Stowe, owner or part-owner of eight mills, decided to expand by purchasing the defunct McAden Mills with a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Stowe, who co-owned the property with his son, Daniel, and his son-in-law, William J. Pharr, made improvements to the property just as production began to accelerate at the start of World War II (Brengele, 1982: 16).

Although the National Recovery Act was controversial, the Works Progress Administration provided much needed employment and made infrastructure improvements in Belmont. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the W.P.A. installed sewer lines, paved six streets, built the **(Former) U.S. Post Office** (No. 183) (N.R.) in 1939, and constructed the thirteen acre **Belmont Park** (No. 193) with grandstands, bath house, and ball parks. In 1940, the Southern Railway built a wider bridge over the tracks at Central Avenue near the recently completed high school, the **(Former) Belmont High School** (No. 158) (Yockey, 1995: 101).

In 1945, the town limits were extended to include the South Fork Manufacturing Company, Hatch Full Fashioned Hosiery, Sacred Heart College, St. Leo's School, and portions of the Belmont Abbey property. The new extension of the town added 750 people to the population and coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of incorporation. A local newspaper article highlighting the milestones of the past fifty years noted that eighty percent of the sixteen manufacturing firms in Belmont were locally owned and operated. Another seven plants were located just outside the town limits. At the end of the war, Belmont had thirteen churches, eight schools, two colleges, six playgrounds, two movie theaters, and thirty-one manufacturing plants. The factories included fourteen spinning mills, five hosiery mills, a thread mill, a silk throwing mill, a mercerizing and finishing plant, two textile waste factories, two textile machinery plants, and a box plant. After the war, Minnie Stowe Puett donated a public library to the town which was constructed in 1947. House construction greatly increased after the war as wartime savings enabled a number of workers to move away from the mill villages (Yockey, 1995: 112-114).

By the mid-1950s, there were thirty-two industrial plants in Belmont, and the town reputedly had the largest percentage of productive workers of any town in North

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Carolina with an industrial payroll of \$12 million. Although the *State* magazine praised Belmont as "...a city of beautiful homes with lovely, tree lined streets, beautiful gardens, and landscaped lawns...", the town was overly dependent upon textile manufacturing, which accounted for sixty percent of the work force. This dependence was problematic as increasing automation and consolidations decreased the need for low-skill workers (Yockey, 1995: 121).

Although most of the mills were located within the city limits, suburban development outside the taxable area increased after the war in keeping with national trends. According to the 1960 census, the population of Belmont stood at 5,007, but the construction of Interstate 85 gave even greater residential flexibility, and the construction of a shopping center on Belmont Abbey land (north of the town center) directed commercial activity away from the Belmont central business district (Cope and Wellman, 1961: 194). The Piedmont and Northern ended passenger service in 1951, but continued to carry textile freight until 1958 when trucking forced the complete shutdown of the railroad.

By 1970, the population had dropped to 4,814 declining from the 1950 peak of 5,330. The dependence on textile manufacturing continued with nearly 100 percent of its industrial workers in 1971 employed in one of the twenty mills in or around Belmont, second only to Gastonia in the number of mills. Despite this heavy dependence, only six textile plants had been constructed in Belmont since the end of the Depression. During the 1970s, the Lineberger Foundation bought the **(Former) U.S. Post Office Building** (No. 183) (N.R.) on Main Street and donated it to the city for use as the city hall. In 1980, the population reached a forty year low of 4,607, galvanizing the town into aggressive annexation, and finally North Belmont and the entire abbey property were brought within the city limits. With the new population of 8,337, infrastructure improvements were made. In addition, the Stowes built a large spinning plant with 130,000 square feet of manufacturing space and named for long-time Chronicle Mill employee, Raymond S. Helms. At the same time, a number of the Stowe and Lineberger mills were bought by the Gastonia based Parkdale Mills, ending a tradition of local ownership (Yockey, 1995: 133-134).

In the 1990s, local business and community leaders have taken a new interest in planning for Belmont. With development focused in the north end, towards Mount Holly and Wilkinson Boulevard, connecting Gastonia and Charlotte, the Belmont town center has lost much of its traffic. In order to redirect development south of Wilkinson Boulevard, the Stowe Botanical Gardens have been created on the south end of the South Point and a large area of land, also on the South Point, has been annexed and zoned for neo-traditional neighborhood development.

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**Gaston County, N.C.****Architectural Context**

The Belmont Historic District clearly illustrates the textile manufacturing towns which developed in the Piedmont region of North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Reflecting the new industrial wealth, the majority of contributing architectural resources exemplify national styles popular during the early twentieth century when Belmont emerged as one of the important manufacturing towns of Gaston County. The historic district boasts a particularly intact collection of grand houses, which epitomize the eclecticism of early twentieth century, residential design and testify to the wealth created by the new manufacturing economy. Some examples of traditional domestic forms survive in Belmont, but the town is characterized primarily by national styles of the period. The historic district encompasses the central business district, the (Former) Piedmont and Northern Railroad station, the town park, churches, schools, community centers, and a mixture of homes for working class, middle class, and wealthy residents. The factories and mill villages, built on the north and east sides of the town near rail lines and early highways, have undergone significant alteration or demolition and are located outside the boundaries of the Belmont Historic District.

Gaston County towns began to grow in the 1870s and 1880s after the construction of the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad in 1873 spurred the development of cotton manufacturing. However, Belmont was slow to embrace the new industrialization, and the town had only 145 residents in 1900. With the development of cotton manufacturing after the turn of the century, Belmont underwent rapid growth, and the contributing resources of the historic district reflect this dynamic period of industrial prosperity. As a result, nationally popular styles for commercial, church, and domestic buildings are well-represented within the historic district while only a scattering of traditional house types remain. The earliest surviving building in Belmont is the **Abram Stowe House** (No. 34) on Catawba Street. Built soon after his return from the Civil War, Abram Stowe, who was later postmaster and mayor of Belmont, constructed this traditional frame house near his general store. Illustrating a house type once common throughout the North Carolina Piedmont, the three bay I-house retains its weatherboard siding, exterior end chimneys, shed roofed porch, and both nine-over-six and six-over-six windows. With its Triple A roof configuration, the **McDonald House** (No. 101), located at 521 Franklin Street, illustrates a common regional version of the three bay, single pile I-house. One of the few traditional houses remaining in Belmont, the frame McDonald House was built ca. 1900 and retains its one story, hip roofed porch and six-over-six windows. Built in 1898 by local merchant, George M. Gullick, the **George M. Gullick House** (No. 181), at 123 North Main Street, also predates the textile era in Belmont. The large, two story, frame house, with hip roof,

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projecting gables, asymmetrical massing, wraparound porch, and decorative shingling under the gables, represents a conservative interpretation of popular picturesque styles. (The porch was altered with Colonial Revival elements by Gullick's son in the early twentieth century.) The interior millwork and mantels also reflect the exuberance of the picturesque styles and the ready availability of architectural elements shipped by rail. Another regional version of picturesque designs is the **Robert L. Stowe, Sr. House** (No. 32), a one story, L-plan dwelling built in 1899 as the first home of textile magnate, Robert Stowe. This house is typical of the L-plan houses of the late nineteenth century with its intersecting gable roof, decorative slate shingles, two-over-two windows, and porches lavishly embellished with spindlework friezes, turned posts, and sawn brackets. Unique to Belmont, the property retains a detached, frame kitchen at the rear of the house. The Stowes continued to live in this house until 1917 when they built a larger residence on North Main Street. The two story, frame **James P. Stowe House** (No. 39), is now situated at the rear of City Hall Alley, having been moved from its Main Street location when the **(Former) U.S. Post Office** (No. 183) (now the Belmont City Hall) was built in 1937. Erected in 1891, the Stowe house is a three bay I-house with two story, rear additions and alterations to the wraparound porch. The second story, center bay porch is pedimented with column supports and a turned post balustrade.

As the new industrial economy spurred urban growth in Gaston County, the textile towns developed business districts of substantial commercial buildings housing increasingly specialized functions. The Belmont downtown, with retail stores, banks, professional offices, and a hotel, typified the commercial areas of these manufacturing towns during the early twentieth century. With prosperity, rows of brick commercial buildings, some reflecting current architectural trends, replaced the simple, frame buildings which had once lined Main Street.

The central business district of Belmont remains largely intact, with one to three story, brick buildings lining both sides of Main Street, primarily north of the railroad tracks. Most of the commercial buildings date to the first three decades of the twentieth century and have simple, brick exteriors, flat roofs, and decorative elements emphasizing the entrances and large storefront windows. The **(Former) Belmont Hotel** (No. 188), occupying 21-25 North Main Street, is typical of the commercial buildings found in Belmont. Constructed in 1907 by local merchant, George Gullick, the two story, five bay building has a brick exterior, segmental arch windows, and molded cornice along the flat roof. However, the first floor storefronts have been altered, and the porch has been removed. The **Stowe Brothers Company** (No. 233) building was built in 1904 on the east side of North Main Street adjacent to the railroad depot. The two story building has a brick exterior, flat roof, corbelled cornice,

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**Gaston County, N.C.**

brick pilasters, and a first floor of large storefront windows. The building has undergone recent alteration, and the segmental arch windows have been refenestrated.

By the 1920s, commercial buildings in Belmont had become more expressive of current architectural trends. Two of the grandest buildings within the business district are the Stowe Mills Office building and the elegant Bank of Belmont. Built in the early 1920s, the **R.L. Stowe Mills Office Building** (No. 36) housed the administrative offices for the groups of mills owned by the Stowe consortium. Symbolizing their importance to Belmont, the Stowe office building occupies a prominent position within the business district on a rise at the corner of North Main and Catawba streets. Although somewhat altered, the two story, brick veneered building has a monumental Neoclassical Revival facade with bracketed cornice, stepped parapet, decorative window surrounds, and round arched doorway. The **Bank of Belmont** (No. 227), organized by R.L. Stowe in 1906, built a handsome, three story, Neoclassical Revival building on Main Street in 1926. The symmetrical facade of the first story has fluted pilasters, framing the corners and the entrance, molded cornice, a frieze with name plate, and a round arched entrance. The upper stories are simpler with buff brick walls, quoins, dentil molding, and a balustrade parapet. The lobby has marble walls and pilasters and a ribbed barrel ceiling. Near the Stowe Mills Office Building is the **(Former) U.S. Post Office Building** (No. 183) (N.R.) (now the Belmont City Hall) at 115 North Main Street. Built under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration in 1939, the one story, brick, Colonial Revival building has a slate, hip roof, a symmetrical, five bay facade, brick pilasters, and segmental arched windows. The central entrance features a leaded glass transom and side lights delineated by slender colonettes. The interior has marble wainscoting and a mural of Major William Chronicle, a local Revolutionary War hero. The Belmont post office is identical to the post office constructed in Wallace, Duplin County, North Carolina. The Wallace post office was listed in the National Register in 1995.

A particularly noteworthy landmark of the business district is the **(Former) Piedmont and Northern Railroad Depot** (No. 222), which occupies its original location at 4 North Main Street. Built after 1916, when a spur of the interurban line between Charlotte and Gastonia was constructed to Belmont, this Mission Revival style rail building has tan brick walls and a low pitched, hip roof covered in terra cotta tiles. The broad eaves are supported by over-sized knee brackets. Although similar in design to a demolished rail station in Charlotte, this depot is a rare example of Mission Revival architecture in the region.

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The business leaders of Belmont generally built their houses on the tree-shaded streets on the north and west sides of town. North Main Street retains an intact collection of grand houses, built primarily between 1910 and 1930, which reflect the eclectic designs of the early twentieth century. A.C. Lineberger built two substantial houses on North Main, both designed by prominent Charlotte architect, Charles Christian Hook. The Lineberger residences epitomize the wealth and architectural sophistication of Belmont during the period. Built in 1910, the **Abel Caleb Lineberger, Sr. House No. 1** (Inventory No. 178) is a sophisticated hybrid of Arts and Crafts elements and Colonial Revival styling. The large, frame house has a wide, steeply pitched, front gable roof, with side gables, and a broad, pedimented porch supported by heavy, box piers. The house has half-timbering under the apices, weatherboard siding on the first story, and shingling under the gables. The **Abel Caleb Lineberger, Sr. House, No. 2** (Inventory No. 168), at 411 North Main Street, is a monumental Renaissance Revival house set within extensive estate grounds designed by Charlotte landscape architect, Earl S. Draper. Built between 1919 and 1921, the brick house is one of the more monumental expressions of the wealth generated by the textile industry. The symmetrical, nine bay main block has a tile hip roof, with brackets, round arched doorways, with fan lights, flanking an elliptical arched entrance. The three central bays are covered by a monumental porch supported by heavy columns and capped by a balustrade. The side elevations have engaged, two tiered porches. The house grounds are enclosed by a wrought iron fence and include both formal and informal gardens, containing a gazebo and a lily pond. Similar to the first A.C. Lineberger House is the **DeLambert P. Stowe House** (No. 48) at 28 West Woodrow Avenue, an east-west street connecting North Main Street and North Central Avenue. The dwelling, constructed in 1910, has a gambrel front roof, a wraparound porch, and weatherboard and shingle siding. The **Albert Hand House** (No. 176), at 211 North Main Street, is a large, impressive, Neoclassical dwelling with high hip roof and a bold, pedimented portico, supported by heavy Ionic columns. A hip roofed, wraparound porch on the first story is supported by columns resting on brick pedestals. Built by local contractors, Skidmore and R.F. Rankin, the house is veneered in a particularly fine quality brick, reputedly imported from Europe. Robert L. Stowe, Sr. had an impressive Colonial Revival dwelling built at 135 North Main in 1917. Like the second A.C. Lineberger house, the **Robert L. Stowe House, No. 2** (Inventory No. 179) is set within a landscaped park. The two and one-half story, brick veneered house has a truncated hip roof, capped by a balustrade, and a central, front gable dormer with a delicate Palladian window. Side gable wings have pedimented gables with fanlights, and a bold, center bay porch is supported by Ionic columns. A porte cochere extends off the north side of the house. The wide, elliptical arched entrance has leaded glass side lights and fanlight. A four car, brick veneered garage was added in the 1940s and has a second story apartment.

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**Gaston County, N.C.**

Central Avenue, running north-south on the west side of Belmont also became a fashionable address in the early twentieth century. In 1916, Charlotte architect, J.M. McMichael designed a large, frame dwelling for J.B. Hall. Located at 15 South Central Avenue, the two story **J.B. Hall House** (No. 151) displays a mixture of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival design elements. The Hall house has a hip roof with modillioned cornice, projecting bay, and nine-over-one and Queen Anne style windows. The central entrance features a single wood and glass door has heavy surrounds, and the hip roofed porch is supported by wooden columns. Sited on a large, rolling lot behind a wrought iron fence is the fine Renaissance Revival home of textile magnate, S.P. Stowe, Sr. Located at 203 South Central Avenue, the **Samuel Pinckney Stowe, Sr. House** (No. 148) was built soon after World War I. The large, two and one-half story, brick dwelling has a pair of large wings extending to the rear. The main block has a green tile, hip roof, hip roofed dormer, bracketed cornice, and a boldly executed flat roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns and capped by a classically derived balustrade. A second porch extends from the north elevation, while a porte cochere is found along the south side. One of the most notable residences along South Central Avenue is the **Lewis House** (No. 145) at 304. This imposing residence, set on large, landscaped grounds, displays all the hallmarks of the Tudor Revival with its steeply pitched, cross gables, half-timbering, and casement style windows.

In addition to the sophisticated residences of the mill owners, Belmont has numerous residential streets lined with Revival style cottages, large Colonial Revival dwellings, and bungalows of various types and sizes built in the early twentieth century for middle and working class residents. As opposed to the architect designed houses of the wealthy, these houses were usually built from the diverse pattern book plans or contractor designs available nation-wide during the period. Most streets throughout the historic district, such as the first block of South Central Avenue, contain a mix of architectural styles. The two story, frame, Queen Anne residence at 15 South Central Avenue, a two story, brick Colonial Revival dwelling at No. 9, and the Tudor Revival cottage at 5 South Central all occupy this block. The 200 block of North Central Avenue contains a variety of nationally popular styles. At 201 North Central is a one and one-half story, frame Tudor Revival cottage, while a front gable bungalow with weatherboard siding is situated at 203. An imposing, brick veneered, two story, Colonial Revival house with a pedimented portico is located at 211 North Central Avenue. Other streets, like the 600 block of North Central Avenue, are filled primarily with bungalows. This block features a variety of large, frame bungalows with hip roofed, side gable, or front gable forms and engaged or attached, wraparound porches. Poplar Street and Bryant Street each have particularly intact collections of frame bungalows built during the mid-1920s.

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The Belmont Historic District includes a number of churches, most of which date to the early twentieth century when growing congregations sparked building campaigns. Paralleling the trends in domestic design, these churches were often larger, brick edifices than their frame predecessors, and were more fully expressive of current architectural styles. The Gothic Revival became almost the favorite design choice for the new churches. The 1912 **(Former) Main Street Methodist Church** (No. 200), at 208 South Main Street, typifies the large, brick, Gothic Revival churches in Belmont with its gable front main block, corner towers with pyramidal roofs, pointed arch windows, and stylized buttresses.

Two buildings within the historic district served as social or community centers: the **Belmont Masonic Lodge** (No. 214) at 201 South Main Street and the **J. Paul Ford Community Center** on East Woodrow Avenue. The ca. 1920 Masonic lodge is a brick veneered, Colonial Revival building with a rectangular plan, gable front roof, and pedimented central pavilion. The projecting pavilion is rusticated and has a tall, but infilled, transom above the entrance. The windows on the lodge building have been infilled. The J. Paul Ford Community Center is also a brick veneered building executed in the Colonial Revival style. The one story, hip roofed building was constructed between 1932 and 1935 under the auspices of the Emergency Relief Fund of North Carolina. The center building served as the city hall at one time.

At the north end of the historic district is the tree shaded campus of the **(Former) Sacred Heart College** (No. 231). While there has been new construction on the campus, the college retains a number of buildings constructed over a fifty year span, beginning in 1899, and designed by noted regional ecclesiastical architect, the Reverend Michael McInerny, resident designer for Belmont Abbey and Sacred Heart. Construction on the first frame convent building at Sacred Heart began in 1891 while a new convent and novitiate building, constructed of brick, was erected in 1899. Of particular note are three connected buildings which form a roughly L-shaped complex in the center of the campus. **Mercedes Hall** (1899), built as a convent and novitiate building, is now the earliest extant building on the campus. The three story, brick veneered Mercedes Hall consists of two sections. The western portion of the building is occupied by a one and one-half story chapel with a slate, front gable roof and a round arched entrance above which are tall, narrow round arched windows. The convent section, connected to the east, contains three stories, a gambrel roof, crowned by a cupola, and a projecting, three bay, central block capped by a gambrel front pavilion. Connected to Mercedes Hall is the 1928 **Administration Building**. The large, three story, brick building has a slate, gable roof, and the center is marked by a tall, four bay, square tower with a corbelled parapet and a Moorish arcade on the upper level. An arcaded porte cochere, with corbelling under the flat roof, extends

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**Gaston County, N.C.**

from the tower. Extending to the south of the Administration Building is **Victory Hall**. The three story building has a gable front, slate roof, narrow, round arched windows, and a round arched entrance with fanlight.

The only other educational facility within the historic district is the **(Former) Belmont High School** (No. 158), located on Central Avenue. The school was built in 1939 by the W.P.A. as part of the state-wide school consolidation movement which had begun in the 1920s. Although the Gothic Revival became a common idiom for the new consolidation schools, the Belmont High School, designed by architect, Robert L. Clemmer, is notable for its Art Deco/Art Moderne design, the only such building within the historic district. The large, rectangular main block has a flat roof, two entrance bays, marked by streamlined detailing, and large banks of replacement windows. The recessed entrance bays have bold, geometric detailing including stylized moldings and chevron motifs around the doors.

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7. 1a.  
8. 1a.  
10. 1.

**Belmont Historic District  
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**6. Function or Use  
Historic Use**

RELIGION/Religious Structure  
LANDSCAPE/Park  
TRANSPORTATION/Rail-related

**Current Use**

LANDSCAPE/Park  
TRANSPORTATION/Museum

**7. Architectural Classification**

Other: I-house  
Queen Anne  
Renaissance Revival  
Late Gothic Revival  
Art Moderne  
Commercial Style

**8. Significant Dates**

1904  
1916  
1939

**8. Architect/Builder**

Clemmer, Robert L., architect  
Skidmore and R.F. Rankin, contracting firm

**10. Geographical Data**

**UTM References**

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A.	17	496400	3900680
B.	17	496420	3900380
C.	17	496770	3900180
D.	17	496640	3898860
E.	17	496220	3898800
F.	17	496060	3900660

\* Please note: Photograph #6 on the sketch map represents a view outside of the district and it is not included in this nomination.

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**Belmont Historic District**  
**Gaston County, N.C.**

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Belmont Historic District are delineated by the bold dashed line on the accompanying City of Belmont tax map drawn to a scale of 1"=200'.

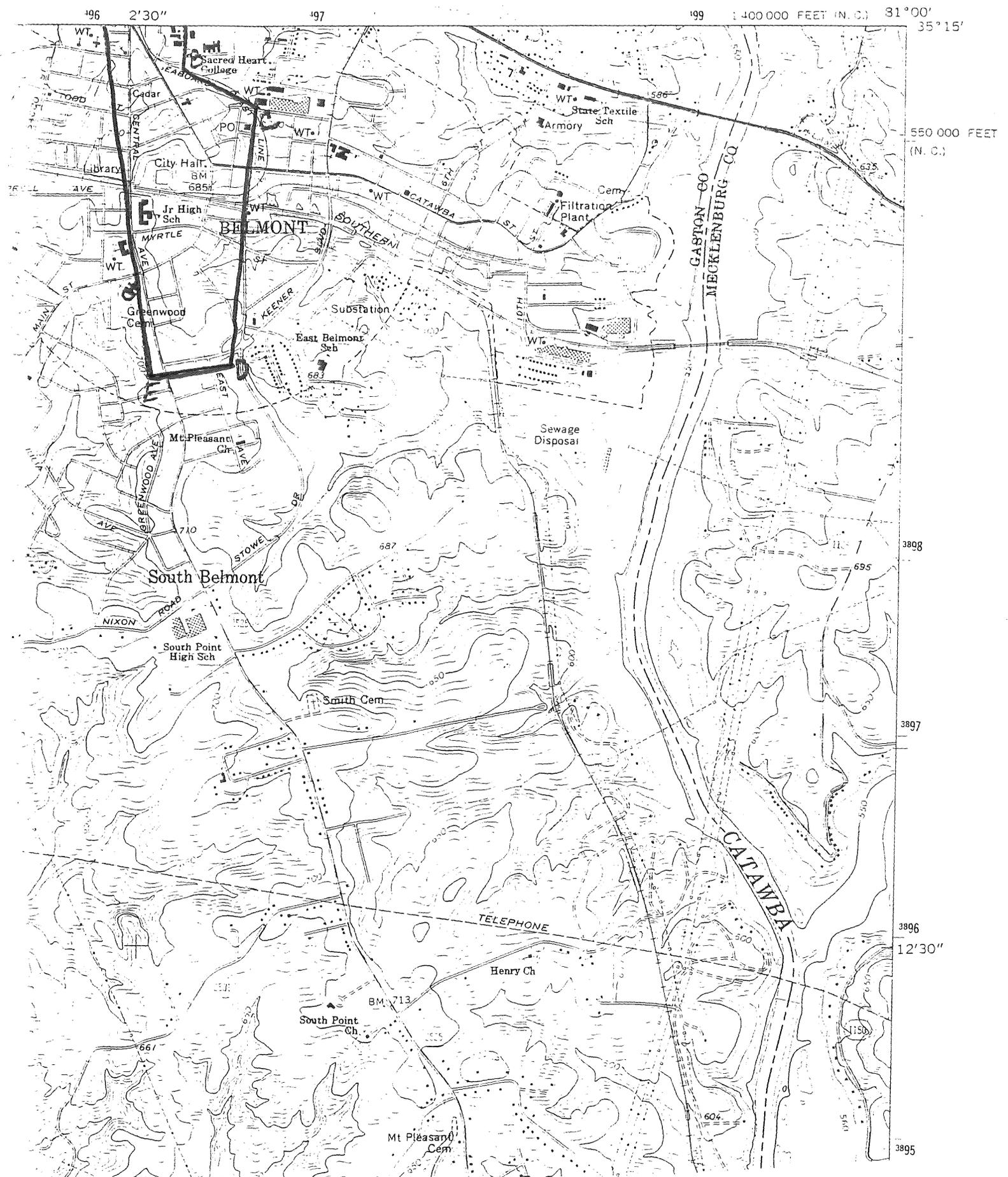
### **Boundary Justification**

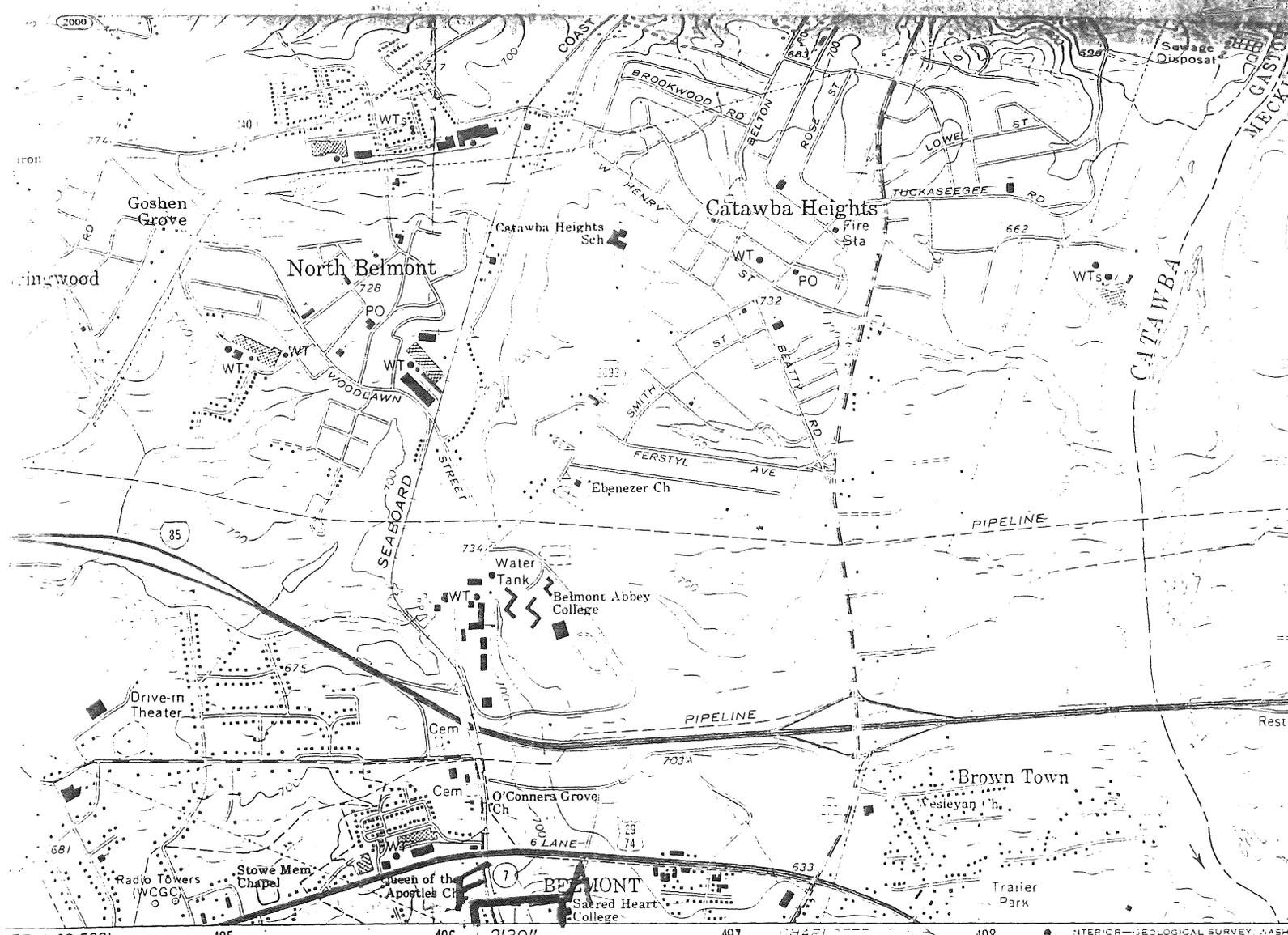
The boundaries of the Belmont Historic District encompass the greatest concentration of pre-1946 contributing resources associated with the original community development.

# BELMONT HD, GASTON Co., N.C.

## BELMONT QUADRANGLE NORTH CAROLINA—SOUTH CAROLINA 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) NE/4 CLOVER 15' QUADRANGLE

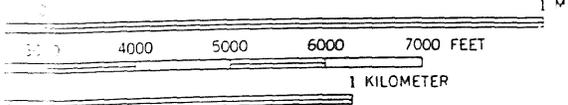
35° 15' MOUNTAIN





495 496 2'30" 497 498

1:24000



INTERVAL 20 FEET  
MEAN SEA LEVEL

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

A. E 496400  
N 3900680  
F. E 496060  
N 3900660



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Primary highway, hard surface  
 Secondary highway, hard surface  
 Interstate Route  
 Light-duty improved  
 Unimproved  
 U.S. Route

MOUNTAIN  
SECTION  
N35

MT. HOLLY QUAD  
BELMONT H.T.  
GASTON COUNTY

AMS 475





1873-1946

Belmont  
Historic District  
LEGEND  
 C = CONTRIBUTION  
 N = NON-CONTRIBUTION  
 V = VACANT  
 OB = OTHER