



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Pat McCrory, Governor
Susan Kluttz, Secretary
Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources

June 22, 2015

Stewart Gray
Preservation Planner
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission
2100 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

RE: **Landmark Designation Report for the Arthur Smith Studios, 5457 Monroe Road, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County**

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for the report for the above-cited property which is being proposed for landmark designation. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.4.

The Arthur Smith Studios building at 5447 Monroe Road, Charlotte is historically important for the music studios business owned by Arthur Smith, an important country musician in Charlotte. Smith moved to Charlotte in 1943 and established a recording studio in 1957 in a remodeled barn at his residence. The two-story, larger brick studio building was constructed in 1964, and added onto in 1968. The studio apparently was the only recording studio in the Carolinas at the time. Regional bands and national artists recorded at the building, included James Brown in 1965.

With these comments in mind, we believe the local governing board now has sufficient information to determine whether or not the Arthur Smith Studios qualifies for local landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes a property as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to a designated landmark are subject to the design review procedures of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission. The owner may apply for an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity.

If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only and are not binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg

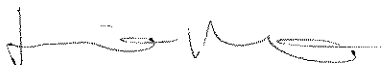
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Historic Landmarks Commission and has proceeded in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance, the governing board may proceed with the designation decision. Once the designation decision has been made, please return the completed designation confirmation form, enclosed.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed landmark designation of the Arthur Smith Studios. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Laurie Mitchell
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure