



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

June 22, 2018

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

RE: Proposed Designation of the **Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County**

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for the report we received on the proposed designation of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery located at 3712 Monroe Road in Charlotte. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

The report states the cemetery has special significance because of its association with the prominent modern Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, which has been an important base for Charlotte's African American faith community for more than 130 years. The report further offers that the cemetery possesses special local significance for its association with the founders of the first Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, who migrated to Charlotte upon emancipation from slavery with their families from surrounding rural areas to seek employment. Detailed information about comparative properties and historic context are missing in the report. Thus, recommendations for revising the report have been shared with staff. Once the report has been updated to include this information we believe the commission and the local governing board will be able to more accurately determine if the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery possesses the requisite special significance and integrity required for local historic landmark designation.

Please note cemeteries are protected under North Carolina General Statute Chapter 65, and should be avoided by construction activities if any are planned in the immediate vicinity. Should unmarked human skeletal remains be encountered during any construction in the vicinity of the cemetery, the provisions of North Carolina General Statute Chapter 70, Article 3 apply. Construction activities should cease immediately and the county medical examiner should be contacted.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property is worthy of preservation because of its special significance to the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance to the property is subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. Please note, our comments are advisory only and therefore, nonbinding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, it should proceed in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Once the decision has been made, please return a completed copy of the enclosed form to our office.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed designation of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber E. Stimpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber E. Stimpson  
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

✓ CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure