

## **A Resolution to Call for a Public Hearing to Consider Designating the McDonald's Cafeteria & Mini-Center (2023 Beatties Ford Road) as a Local Historic Landmark**



Anchored by the original location of his McDonald's Cafeteria, one of Charlotte's most important spaces for the African American community during the 1970s, the original Beatties Ford Road mini-center (c. 1971) built by Charlotte native and African American entrepreneur John McDonald also housed several local Black-owned and operated businesses. The restaurant quickly became a West End institution, providing space for community groups to meet and organize grassroots efforts to advance civil rights and social justice. Meanwhile, the mini-center continued to support Black entrepreneurship with reasonable commercial leases in a high-volume area even after the cafeteria moved to a new location in 1981. Business, government, and religious leaders frequently met at the original McDonald's Cafeteria to share a meal and work toward Black advancement and interracial cooperation. A local icon, McDonald's Cafeteria and Mini-Center remains etched in the memory of those who gathered, worked, created, and ate there. Despite replacement of some of its original structural materials with in-kind components, the building retains its original form and Mid-Century Modern design, leaving much of the building virtually unchanged since John McDonald first opened for business.

