

**D.T. MCKEITHAN HOUSE  
LOCAL LANDMARK REPORT**

908 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Application for Hendersonville Local Landmark Designation  
Prepared by Sam Hayes

**Date**

**City of Hendersonville Community Development Department  
Hendersonville Historic Preservation Commission**

**Name of Designated Landmark (Historic and/or Common):**

D.T. McKeithan House

**Property Address/ Location:**

908 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W, Hendersonville, NC 28739

**Pin#:**

9568473913

**Deed Book and Page Number:**

1054/671

**Plat Book and Page Number:**

NA

**Zoning:**

R-15 Medium Density Residential

**Acreage to be designated:**

.74 Acres

**Interior to be designated?**

Yes

**Property Owner's Address & Phone:**

Cindy and Mike Baer  
908 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
828-808-3305  
elizabethleighinn@gmail.com

**Applicant's Address & Phone:**

Cindy and Mike Baer  
908 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
828-808-3305  
elizabethleighinn@gmail.com

Application should be submitted to the City of Hendersonville Community Development Department. Please address to:

**City of Hendersonville Community Development  
ATTN: Historic Preservation Commission  
160 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue E  
Hendersonville, NC 28792**

**Or email your application to the staff liaison for the Historic Preservation Commission  
Sam Hayes at [shayes@hvlnc.gov](mailto:shayes@hvlnc.gov).**

## READ CAREFULLY AND SUPPLY ALL INFORMATION

The following information must be supplied in a report format before the application can be reviewed, deemed complete and placed on the agenda. Please attach additional sheets or a research report. (A minimum of eleven (11) reports are required)

1. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** In order to recommend designation of a landmark, the property must be deemed historically, architecturally or archaeologically significant. Please provide a brief statement explaining why this property should be a designated landmark.
2. **MAPS:** Provide a scaled plot plan of the property showing lot lines and location of all buildings. Indicate the area and building(s) to be designated as a landmark.
3. **ARCHITECTURAL:** Describe the original and current appearance of the significant structures such as houses, barns, well houses, and other buildings to be designated, includes photos or illustrations. The description should include the following: date of construction; date(s) of alterations, description of overall form, and exterior and interior details. Include a drawing of the existing and original (if different) floor plan with rooms labeled.
4. **HISTORICAL:** Tell the history of the property. The details should include the following: uses of the property, photos (or copies); list of owners (from Grantor-Grantee index), a detailed description of builders or architects if known. Also, attach and *describe* newspaper articles, excerpts from books, cemetery records, deeds, oral histories etc. Any additional information, literature, illustrations, newspaper articles or other media that you feel will contribute to the application can be submitted but become property of the Commission. List research sources as a bibliography.
5. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** Please submit a complete photographic record of the property in each report. In addition to prints, all photographs shall be submitted on a CD-R in TIF or JPG format
6. Bibliographies, footnotes and chain of title are necessary to be considered a complete report.

## **I. Abstract**

### ***Statement of Significance***

This two-story Colonial Revival house was originally constructed in 1909. The home is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style, which was at the height of its popularity at the time of construction. Designed with an asymmetrical plan with a projecting bay window, the home retains its original details including German siding, one over one windows, and original entry door with transom window above. Although some details have been altered, such as the removal of paired columns lining the front porch and their replacement with single columns, the changes have been tastefully executed to remain compatible with the structure's original style.

In addition to its architectural significance, the home is associated with Hendersonville's community planning and development. The home was originally constructed for D.T. McKeithan, a South Carolina State Senator who purchased this property in 1907 to construct a summer home (completed in 1909). This followed a trend of South Carolinians seeking to escape the heat and diseases of the southern summers coming to North Carolina mountain towns for refuge. With its double lot, it marked a prominent location along 5th Avenue, the home enjoyed easy access to the streetcar that ran along 5th Avenue to Main Street in the east and Laurel Park in the west.

### ***Archeological Comments***

There are no known archeological features on the site.

### ***Integrity Statement***

- **Location:** The building has not been moved from its original location. The original property was combined with an adjacent property creating a double lot. A large garden is situated on this additional property, however, the historic home is located on the original corner lot. The property sits on a hill above 5th Avenue. 5th Avenue marked a popular location for grand homes to be constructed. In the early 20th century, it also was appealing because of the streetcar that ran along the avenue, allowing easy access to downtown and Laurel Park for residents of this area.
- **Design:** The design of the home reflects its Colonial Revival roots, with a symmetrical façade, original windows, and preserved architectural detailing.
- **Setting:** The home's elevated position and double lots—which appear to have always been part of the original ownership—lend it a very stately appearance.
- **Workmanship:** The home exhibits fine craftsmanship. Constructed by prominent local contractor, Henry Jordan, much of the original materials have withstood the test of time. Examples can be seen in the supplementary photos included in this landmark report.
- **Materials:** The home retains much of the original materials from when it was originally constructed. German siding is present on much of the exterior of the home. Most windows are original and have been meticulously restored by the owner.

- **Feeling:** The home, generally, retains much of its original feeling. When looking at the property from the street, the home appears largely unchanged from its 1909 construction.
- **Association:** The property is associated with many prominent members of the Hendersonville community. The home served as a summer home for D.T. McKeithan, a South Carolina State Senator. Later, the home was purchased by Charles Rogers, a prominent businessman who ran Rogers Hosiery Mill in Hendersonville.

### ***Proposed Boundary Justification***

The home sits on a single parcel, which previously had been two parcels. Doing deed research, it is clear that these parcels historically were associated with one another. There is little evidence that there was a structure on the adjacent property, and it appears that the two properties were sold together throughout the years until they were eventually combined. Therefore, the boundaries are associated with the property at PIN: 9568-47-3913.

## **II. Maps and Floor Plan**



**Figure 1:** Aerial image of property outlines in yellow.

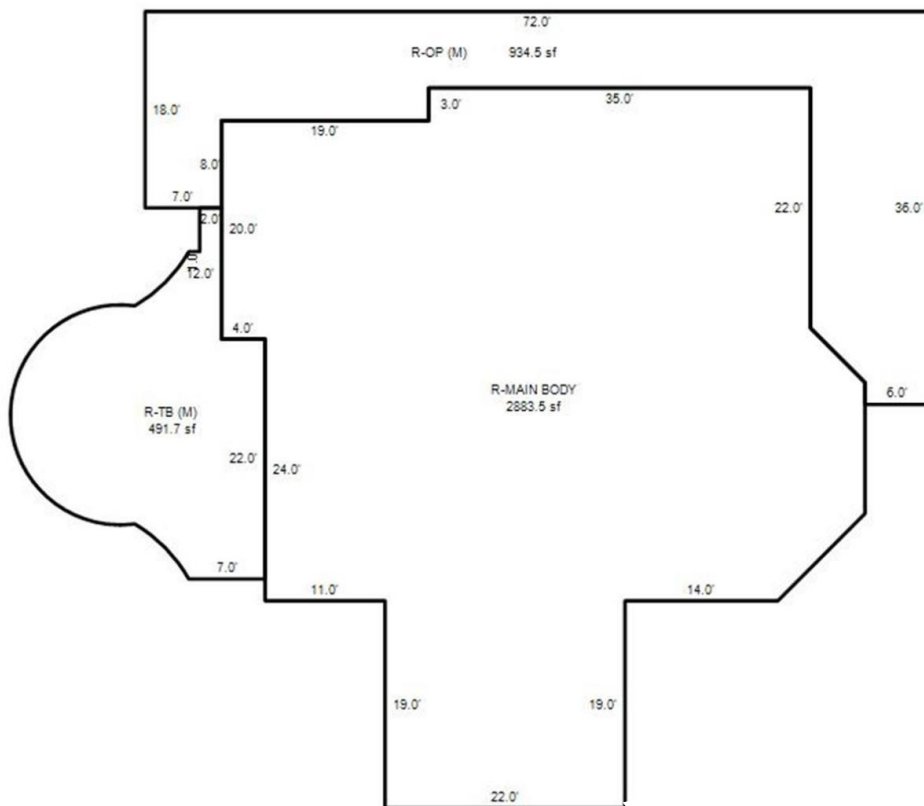


Figure 2: Building footprint

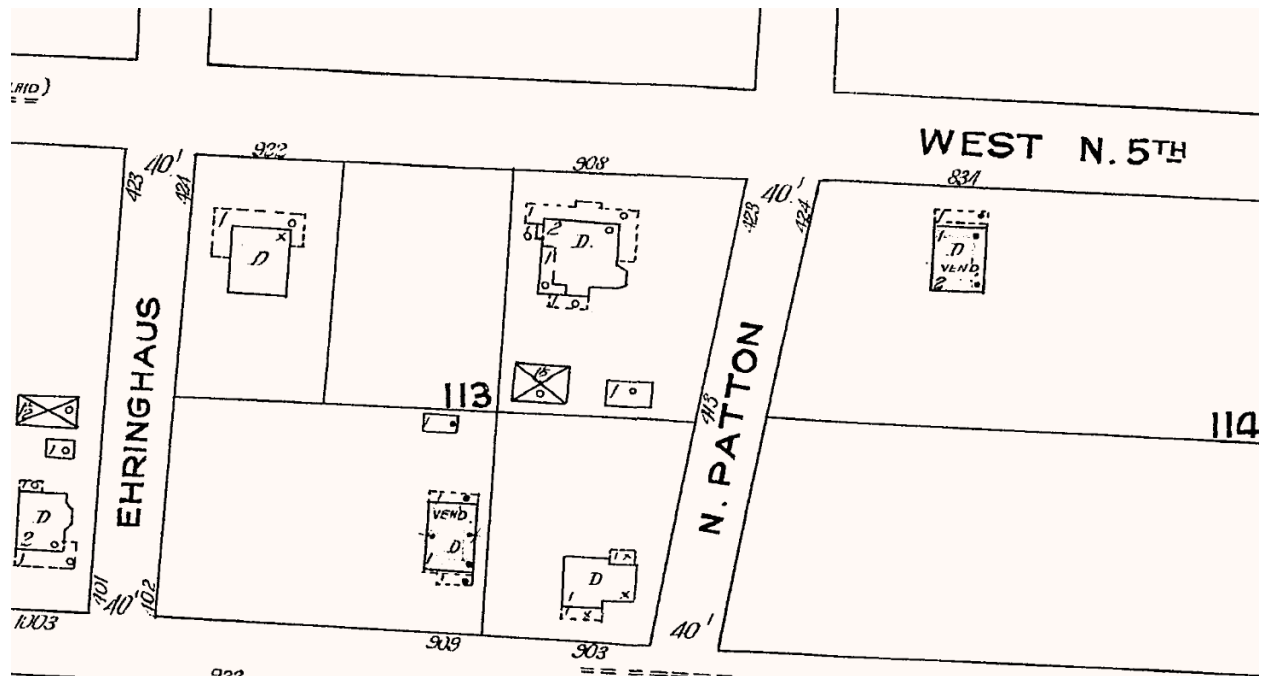


Figure 3: 1922 Sanborn Map. The subject property is located on the southwestern corner of N. Patton and West N. 5<sup>th</sup>.

### III. Architectural Assessment

The home has been maintained remarkably over the years. Much of the original architectural detailing, including the original windows, siding, and trim details are intact.

#### *National Register Architectural Description*

Two-story Colonial Revival house with a central hall plan, hip roof with wide eaves, hip roof dormer with diamond-pane casements. German siding. Wraparound porch with paired columns, 1 x 1 balustrade, and triple columns at-comers. Interior brick chimneys. Cut granite foundation with beaded mortar. Windows are one-over-one. Door has transom and sidelights. Large corner lot. House sits on a hill above street, with granite retaining wall. Mature boxwoods.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Changes to National Register Architectural Description:*

The National Register nomination was written in 2001. The property has undergone minor architectural changes. The columns on the porch are no longer paired columns. They were replaced in (insert date) with single columns.

The current owners also enclosed a portion of the wraparound porch on the N Whitted Street side of the property. Modern vinyl windows were installed during this enclosure.

Garage: The garage is not original to the property.

<sup>1</sup> National register pg. 42

#### **IV. Historical**

According to deed records, Marie A. Roberts, a widow,' defaulted on this house in 1928 and sold the house to V. S. Bryant. Bryant sold it to Realty Purchase Corporation in 1940, who then sold the house and premises to James B. and Lydia B. Key in 1943. Key owned the property until 1950, when he sold it to Charles E. and Verona Rogers, of Rogers Hosiery Mills. In the 1930s, the house was apparently rented, to Lavern and Marguerite Blakely from 1937 to 1938; to James F. and Allie Stokes from 1939 to 1940; and was known as the Fifth Avenue Guest House from 1941 to 1942. One of several large houses in the neighborhood supposedly built by Charleston families. (Sanborn maps, city directories, deeds, survey files).

The property that the home would eventually be constructed on was purchased by D.T. McKeithan in 1907.<sup>2</sup> The home, which was reported to be a \$9,000 residence, was completed in 1909 by prominent Hendersonville contractor Henry Jordan.<sup>3</sup> McKeithan was a South Carolina State Senator, having his primary residence in Darlington, SC. For many years, they would spend the summers in Hendersonville, following a trend of wealthy individuals building summer homes in the area.<sup>4</sup>

In 1915, the McKeithan's sold the home to W.F. Humphries, who only owned the home for two years before moving to Asheville and selling the home to C.N. Allison.<sup>5</sup> Allison used the home for entertaining, hosting several dances as well as using the home as the location for the Hospital Association meetings.<sup>6</sup>

In 1923, the home was purchased by Marie and DH Roberts. In the deed of purchase, the property was said to have "one large dwelling one garage and one two room servants house."<sup>7</sup> They lived in the home for a short period of time before DH Roberts' death in 1927. After his death, Marie loses the home to foreclosure in 1928.<sup>8</sup> V.S Bryant purchases the home and then sells the home to the Realty Purchase Corporation, a bank located out of Raleigh(?). During the bank's ownership, the home saw a series of renters. The bank owns the property until 1940(?) when J.B. Key purchase the property, along with the second tract of land.

In 1951, Key sells the property to Charles E. and Verona Rogers. Rogers is the owner of Rogers Hosiery Mill. Though it appears he lived at the home during the time when he operated the Mill, the mill does not appear to have been as significant as some of the other Mills in Hendersonville, such as the Grey Hosiery Mill or the Freeze-Bacon Hosiery Mill. The Rogers Family owned the home until 2001 when it was purchased by the current owners.

#### **V. Bibliography**

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<sup>2</sup> Deed from 1907

<sup>3</sup> Newspaper clipping

<sup>4</sup> Confirmation of 1909 construction

<sup>5</sup> Newspaper citation

<sup>6</sup> citations

<sup>7</sup> 1923 deed

<sup>8</sup> Deed or national register nomination.



## **VI. Appendix A: Supporting Photographs**