



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

December 3, 2021

Aaron Poplin, Planner
Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission
402. N. Main St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

RE: Proposed Designation of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery, 1115 St. Andrew's Church Rd., Woodleaf, Rowan County.

Dear Mr. Poplin:

Thank you for the report for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery, 1115 St. Andrew's Church Rd., Woodleaf, Rowan County. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160D-946.

The report for the St. Andrews Episcopal Church is well-written and thorough, albeit a bit repetitive. The information about the enslaved associated with this church and cemetery is greatly appreciated.

The Office of State Archaeology acknowledges that St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery are historically significant, and that the use of remote sensing techniques such as Ground Penetrating Radar could be useful in identifying unmarked burials in the cemetery, particularly those of enslaved individuals that may not have been marked with permanent grave markers with identifying information. Should any ground disturbing activities be planned in the general vicinity of the cemetery, we recommend that a professional archaeologist trained in use of remote sensing techniques first fully delineate the boundaries of the cemetery to ensure that any unmarked human remains are not inadvertently impacted by ground disturbance.

We have shared recommendations with staff to perform a few changes to the report. With these minor changes, we believe the designation report will provide the preservation commission and local governing board sufficient information to determine whether St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery possesses the requisite special local significance and integrity for local historic landmark designation.

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

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 Rowan County 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 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Cemetery, 1115 St. Andrew's Church Rd., Woodleaf, Rowan County. Please contact me at 919-814-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Brantley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Kristi Brantley
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure