



Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

<http://www.townofboone.net/>

~ Agenda ~

Jane Shook
828-268-6960

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

3:00 PM

WebEx

The meeting will be held remotely using WebEx, video conferencing software. For information on how to watch, listen and/or participate in the meeting, please see the WebEx Video Conferencing information at the end of this agenda.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Junaluska Local Historic Marker Dedication - Road Closure
- V. COA Application
- VI. Boone Historic Cemetery Interpretative Educational Panels
- VII. Town Streets

Town Street Reports for Appalachian Street & College Street

Town Street Report for Church Street

- VIII. Town Website
- IX. Digital Watauga Project Funding Renewal
- X. Civil War Trails Markers at Boone
- XI. Requests for Comments
- XII. Informal Discussion
- XIII. Adjournment

WebEx Video Conferencing Information

TO WATCH THE MEETING: Anyone can view the Board of Adjustment meeting live at:
<https://townofboone.viebit.com/index.php>

Note: To preserve bandwidth and ensure an orderly meeting, individuals who wish only to view the meeting but not speak at it should view the livestream at this link. Only individuals who wish to speak should use the WebEx link described below.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING: Individuals who wish to participate in Public Comment may do so through WebEx, the video conferencing software, either online (by computer or smartphone) or by telephone. To do so, please email Christy Turner at Christy.Turner@townofboone.net or call 828-268-6960 and you will be provided with an email invitation to the meeting. All requests for participation must be completed by 2 pm on the day of the meeting.

Appalachian Street and College Avenue: A Brief Report

C.A. Watkins

The names Appalachian Street and College Avenue in Boone, NC suggest the relationship of each to the existence and growth of what is now called Appalachian State University. College Avenue appears on the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (the Map, hereinafter) as a north/south spur off of East King Street, providing side access to the Boone Baptist Church and fronting the “Boone High & Graded School.” There, the Avenue doglegs east and presumably joins the Blowing Rock Road/Hardin Street. This provided access to two “girl’s [sic] dorms” and an administration building. Also on the Map, the lane that would become Appalachian Street is shown as one of two unnamed “drives,” that served, along with College Street, as avenues through the campus.

By the time that the 1947 Sandborn Map was created, the situation had changed significantly. The eastern dogleg of College Street had been expanded west and the entire street, except for the north/south spur was renamed Locust Street. It doglegged north at Howard Street to join east King Street. The two drives had acquired names in the intervening period between 1928 and 1947. The northern drive was now called Daugh-Blan Street, while the southern drive had become Appalachian Street. Daugh-Blan and Appalachian both had adjoining eastern terminuses on Blowing Rock Road/Hardin Street and the two had a westerly meeting at the new Locust Street.

It would appear that Locust, Daugh-Blan, and Appalachian Streets lost their functions as thoroughfares through campus in the post-1947 period, likely due to extensive new university construction and a determination by a couple of administrations, only recently amended, to maintain a contiguous campus. A network of service roads has obscured the old road plan. Locust Street no longer runs all the way to College Street, since a student union and library occupy that real estate. College Street now deadends at the parking deck servicing the central university library, while Daugh-Blan is a short road that terminates at a parking lot servicing the administration building. Part of Appalachian Street seems to have disappeared, but the current University Drive probably runs atop the old Appalachian Street roadbed. Currently, University Drive deadends at the new cafeteria.

These changes occurred over time and a more intensive investigation is necessary to better understand road alterations. The necessary information might be contained in university yearbooks and other promotional materials perhaps held in various Appalachian State University archives. This work will have to wait until these various offices are once again open to the public. Newspaper searches via the Library of Congress website and Newspapers.com have not been helpful.

Church Street

Surprisingly, Church Street, known from the 1910s - 1941 as African Street, does not appear on the Sanborn maps of Boone printed in 1928 or 1947, or the "Points of Interest" maps (maybe put out by the town of Boone) in 1964 and 1974. The only map I have found with Church Street designated as such in the in the new book Junaluska: Oral histories from a black Appalachian community (2020). There are no mentions of African Street or Church Street in Boone in the Watauga Democrat from 1888- 1923 (the run available on newspapers.com).

However, the name "African Street" does appear on these deeds from 1917 – 1923.

B. T. Brannock and J. L. Brannock to John Grimes, March 20, 1917, Deed Book 20, Page 6; B. T. Brannock and J. L. Brannock to R. D. Horton, May 5, 1919, Deed Book 22, Page 591; B. T. Brannock to Edward Folk and Gertrude Folk, September 10, 1921, Deed Book 28, Page 249; and B. T. Brannick and J. L. Brannick to Austin E. South, February 13, 1923, Deed Book 29, Page 280. 14

It was probably called African Street because it was, and is, in the heart of the African American community in Boone. The name changed, by a vote of the Town Council in 1941, to Church Street because it ran directly in front of the Boone Mennonite Brethren Church and stopped at the Boone Methodist Chapel church – both attended almost exclusively by African American congregants.

Some information can be gleaned from this website:

About 1917, the community's residents also began to settle around today's Church Street, which was known as African Street in the early twentieth century. By the 1940s, this Church Street area, so named for the Boone Mennonite Brethren Church built there about 1918, was the geographical center of the Junaluska community.

<https://pocketsights.com/tours/place/Chocolate-Bar-and-the-Junaluska-Community-27975>

Church/African St has been in continuous use probably since at least the mid-1890s when the Methodist Chapel was being erected and then served as the only church in the African American community in Boone. The lower portion is paved, the upper/northern section remains unpaved and is today (2021) difficult to navigate in a car.