BADIN DRAWING FROM THE PAST TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

An Inventory of Historic, Natural and Cultural Resources

Prepared by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
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**Appendices**
Badin, North Carolina is a town in transition. Like many other twentieth-century industrial towns in the North Carolina Piedmont, Badin is facing an uncertain future without its primary employer and long-time corporate benefactor. On July 31, 2002, Alcoa Aluminum announced the “immediate ‘temporary curtailment’ of aluminum production at Badin Works and the complete idling of smelting operations” (Salisbury Post, August 1, 2002). Since that announcement, Alcoa has maintained a minimal level of employment at the Badin facility in a state the company refers to as “continued idled”; however, most everyone agrees that Alcoa’s presence in Badin as a producer of aluminum is probably in its final stage.

Unlike many aging industrial towns, however, Badin possesses an extraordinary collection of cultural and natural resources that have the potential to serve as a foundation upon which the town’s economic renewal could be built. A remarkably well-designed town that represents some of the best of early twentieth-century town planning, Badin is an architectural gem that offers housing and cultural amenities unlike any other town in North Carolina. The town sits along the banks of the Yadkin River and Badin Lake, and is nestled among the hills of the Uwharrie Mountain Range, providing both recreational amenities and a scenic backdrop for any future revitalization.

While many residents today view the possibility of irreversible decline as the town’s greatest threat, an equally serious concern is the potential for inappropriate re-development that compromises the integrity of the natural and cultural resources that make Badin special. In 1982, the Stanly County Historic Properties Committee published a book titled Badin: A Town at the Narrows; An Historical and Architectural Inventory, co-authored by Brent Glass and Pat Dickenson. That publication was the by-product of an earlier architectural survey conducted by Glass and Dickinson that resulted in the Town of Badin being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was an important first step in understanding the town’s “built” environment and what makes it special. As Glass & Dickinson noted in their introduction to Badin: A Town at the Narrows:

*Today, (Badin) serves as a remarkable visual and historical document that evokes the vision and values of earlier generations of industrialists. Its precarious survival to the present day causes us to think about any possible uses this town or dozens like it might have in the future.*

For the past year, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project and the Town of Badin have been working together to develop a community-wide planning process to answer this question about “possible uses” Badin might have in the future. With funding provided by the
Alcoa Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Town of Badin and a 
personal gift from David Cohen & Amy Grissom, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project in 2005 
invited Badin to participate in its regional Small Town Area Revitalization (or STAR) 
program. Modeled after the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street program, 
the STAR program was established to build the capacity of small towns throughout the 
seven-county Uwharrie Lakes Region to capitalize on opportunities for nature and heritage-

Based tourism. (See Map 1) The program is built upon five important planning strategies: 
(1) design, (2) promotion, (3) economic restructuring, (4) organization, and (5) recreational 
use and tourism. Central to all of these strategies is the STAR program’s commitment to 
authenticity (respecting the integrity of a community’s unique natural and cultural resources) 
and inclusion (making sure that all voices and perspectives are included in the planning 
process).

**Map 1: The Uwharrie Lakes Region**

With this philosophy in mind, and as a prelude to the launch of the Badin STAR project in 
the fall of 2005, the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project contracted with the UNC Charlotte Urban 
Institute to engage the community in a “visioning process”, with the goal of establishing a 
shared understanding of Badin’s assets before the start of the STAR project. This visioning 
process was to have three major components:
1. Documenting the community’s natural & cultural resources;
2. Educating the community about those natural & cultural resources; and
3. Identifying a set of shared community values that could guide the STAR process over time.

**Documentation Methodology:** An important first step in the documentation of Badin’s community assets was the defining of the geographic scope of the planning process. In consultation with the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute established a geographic area that encompassed all of the land (and water) within a three-mile radius from the center of town. (See Map 2) This allowed the planning process to explore areas beyond Badin’s official town limits, where many important natural, cultural and economic assets can be found, including: Morrow Mountain State Park, the Uwharrie National Forest, the Uwharrie Point golf resort, Camp John J. Barnhardt (a Boy Scout camp), and the Stanly County Airport.

Successful planning strategies always depend on a good understanding of nearby communities and assets, and the interdependent relationships between them. Certainly, Badin’s future is inextricably tied to that of its neighbors and the economic and environmental resources they share. In fact, how well the town is able to integrate its own economic and cultural life into that of its neighbors will determine how successful Badin will be in realizing an economic revival.

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute next reviewed numerous inventories and reports of local, state, and federal agencies. These included the architectural survey conducted by the NC Department of Cultural Resources as part of the original application to place Badin on the National Register of Historic Places, and the natural areas inventory work of the NC Natural Heritage Program. Non-profit organizations such as the Badin Museum and The LandTrust for Central North Carolina were consulted for their intimate knowledge of the Badin region’s cultural and natural history, while UNC Chapel Hill’s Southern Oral History Project provided recordings of interviews conducted in Badin during the late 1970’s that shed light on the daily lives of workers during Badin’s early years. Finally, the management of Alcoa’s Badin Works generously gave the staff of UNC Charlotte’s Urban Institute access to its company archives, including historic photos and other valuable information about Badin’s history.

**Education and Identification of Shared Values:** Between the months of April and September 2005, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute worked with an ad hoc steering committee that included individuals who either lived or worked within the geographic project area. Monthly meetings were held between the months of April and July, where the staff of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute shared its findings from the documentation phase with the steering committee. This information was presented within the context of three “heritage focus areas”:

1. Historic and Heritage Resources (including architecture and town design)
2. Natural, Scenic and Recreation Resources
3. Cultural and Human Resources (including the arts)
Map 2: Badin Project Area

Badin Visioning Project Area

Legend:

- Badin Lake
- Uwharrie National Forest
- Uwharrie Points
- Badin
- Badin Dam
- Narrows Dam
- Falls Dam
- Doerschuk Site
- Morrow Mountain State Park
- Uwharrie National Forest
- Badin Lake
- Narrows Dam
- Falls Dam
- Doerschuk Site
- Morrow Mountain State Park

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Steering committee members were asked to comment on the data presented (including any necessary clarifications or corrections), and to share any hopes and/or concerns raised by the information as presented. While the primary function of the steering committee was to help the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project prepare for the dissemination of this data to the general public, these meetings generated so many ideas from the steering committee that this report has tried to capture that feedback in the section titled “identification of shared values”.

The “public education” phase included a Town Forum on August 18, 2005 at the Badin Elementary School cafeteria, and an exhibit at the Best of Badin Festival September 16–17. At both of these events, the information gathered during the documentation phase was shared in visual, written and oral form, and input was solicited from the general public about the relative importance residents placed on the different community resources and assets that had been identified. In the case of the Town Forum, participants were actually led through a “mental mapping” exercise where they were given an opportunity to visually represent the community assets they most value and cherish. As with the feedback from the steering committee meetings, this report has tried to capture the feedback obtained during the mental mapping exercises on August 18 in the section titled “identification of shared values”.

**Assessments:** The rest of this report is presented in the form of a resource manual—a tool that participants and consultants in the Badin STAR process can use as an ongoing reference as they seek to understand the underlying assets upon which a strategy for Badin’s economic renewal can be built. Throughout the report, the staff of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute has added its own “assessment” of opportunities and challenges facing the town. These are merely intended to stimulate thought and discussion among participants in the STAR process, and as that process unfolds, others will undoubtedly weigh in with their own recommendations for how Badin should adapt to the changing economic world around it.
In Memoriam—Mayor John T. (Tom) Garrison

As this report was being finalized, the Town of Badin was saddened with the news of Mayor Tom Garrison’s death. Few people have played as central a role in the Town of Badin’s transition from a company town to a community in charge of its own destiny. Instrumental in getting the town incorporated in 1990, Mayor Garrison was Badin’s first and only mayor until his death in October of 2005. He was one of the first advocates of Badin’s participation in the Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project’s STAR program, and he was active in the “visioning” process during the summer of 2005 that led to this report.

Badin never had a greater champion than Mayor Tom Garrison, and it is to him that this report is dedicated. As Badin’s citizens plan for their future, they can find inspiration in the example of Mayor Garrison’s life and the passion he always exhibited for this little village on Badin Lake.
Most of the information in this resource manual focuses on the community’s natural and historic resources. However, it is important for participants in the STAR process to be familiar with some basic demographic and economic data from the most recent census data in 2000:

### Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights: Town of Badin

#### General Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Badin</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>8,049,313</td>
<td>281,421,906</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and over</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>74.7%</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One race</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Housing Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Badin</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household population</td>
<td>1,154</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group quarters population</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total housing units</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>3,523,944</td>
<td>115,904,641</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-occupied housing units</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter-occupied housing units</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-family owner-occupied homes</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>1,615,713</td>
<td>55,212,108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median value (dollars)</td>
<td>68,200</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>108,300</td>
<td>119,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median of selected monthly owner costs</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>(X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a mortgage (dollars)</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>1,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not mortgaged (dollars)</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>(X)</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>295</td>
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Social Characteristics

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Badin</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 25 years and over</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate or higher</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability status (population 5 years and over)</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Badin</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In labor force (population 16 years and over)</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>65.7%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>(X) 24.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income in 1999 (dollars)</td>
<td>27,031</td>
<td>(X) 39,184</td>
<td>41,994</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income in 1999 (dollars)</td>
<td>32,692</td>
<td>(X) 46,335</td>
<td>50,046</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)</td>
<td>15,320</td>
<td>(X) 20,307</td>
<td>21,587</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families below poverty level</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3). (X) Not applicable.

From this data, several characteristics of Badin merit further mention:

- Badin’s population is older than the state and national averages, reflecting the difficulties the town is experiencing in retaining and attracting young people.
- A larger percentage of the population is African-American than the state and national averages, confirming the important role African-Americans have played in the history of this unique industrial town, and in sharp contrast to the history of North Carolina’s textile industry, which targeted mostly white workers.
- Contrary to public perception (which holds that many of Badin’s housing units are renter-occupied), the percentage of housing units in Badin that are owner-occupied is actually slightly higher than the state and national averages.
- On most of the key indicators of economic well-being (median household income, median family income, and per capita income), Badin falls well below the state and national averages. This is particularly noteworthy, as it reflects Alcoa’s waning influence on the town’s economy, which traditionally paid union wages that were above the state average.
RESOURCE INVENTORY

I. HISTORIC AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

Few communities can claim such an extraordinary level of historic and cultural resources as Badin and its immediate surroundings. From Native American sites to the early twentieth century industrial development that created the town, much of Badin’s reputation beyond Stanly County can be attributed to its historic resources. As Badin enters a new chapter in its economic history, it has an opportunity to build upon the legacy of its prehistoric, pre-industrial and industrial past, not just for preservation’s sake, but as a means of distinguishing it as a unique place to live, work and play. The following represent some of the most important historic and cultural resources found in the three-mile Badin project area.

Map 3: Historic and Cultural Resources
PRE-HISTORIC ERA

While Badin has no surviving descendent population of the Native Americans who once inhabited the area, within two miles of the town are located three of the most significant Native American archaeological sites in North Carolina.

The Hardaway Site, situated at a prominent point above the Narrows Dam and adjacent to the Town of Badin, is a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of recognition given to historic sites by the U.S. Department of the Interior. It was here during the 1940’s and 1950’s that eminent archaeologist Joffre Coe from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducted much of the work that eventually found its way into his influential 1964 publication, “Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont”. That publication contributed greatly to archaeologists’ understanding of North American Indians and the native cultures that settled in the Carolina Piedmont. The Hardaway Site is internationally known, and artifacts found there (especially the “Hardaway Point”) are prized by collectors worldwide; for this reason, Alcoa and the State of North Carolina have worked together closely over the years to take measures to discourage looting at the site, with heavy criminal penalties for those caught doing so. In October of 2005, Alcoa donated over 1.3 million artifacts from the Hardaway Site to UNC Chapel Hill (joining over 200,000 artifacts the company had previously donated to the university), along with a $220,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation for the renovation of facilities at UNC to house the collection and for educational outreach programs.

The Doershuk Site, which is on the Montgomery County side of Lake Tillery just below the Falls Dam, is also a very important Native American archaeological site. As with the Hardaway Site, Alcoa works closely with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources to discourage unauthorized digging at the Doershuk site.

Morrow Mountain State Park also contains numerous Native American archaeological sites, including the summit of Morrow Mountain itself, where Native Americans over thousands of years extracted the native rhyolite stone for use in making arrowheads and other stone implements. Archaeologists believe that Morrow Mountain rhyolite was so prized among Native Americans that it was traded along the old trading paths that crisscrossed the Carolina Piedmont before the arrival of Europeans in the 18th Century. Archaeologists have found arrowheads made of Morrow Mountain rhyolite as far away as Virginia and South Carolina. Today, one can still see the rubble and stone debris left over from this ancient “manufacturing site” beneath the forest leaf litter at the summit of Morrow Mountain.
ASSESSMENT

Other than a minor display in the Badin Museum and a few interpretive displays at Morrow Mountain State Park, there is no major interpretive center in Badin that tells the story of the Native American cultures that once lived there or the significant archaeological work that was conducted in the area over half a century ago. Perhaps the idea of a significant interpretive center in Badin is unrealistic, considering (1) some of the logistical challenges in preserving the integrity of the sites from looters, (2) the presence nearby of a major state historic site that already interprets the lives of Native Americans in this part of North Carolina (at Town Creek Indian Mound in Mt. Gilead), and (3) the recently announced donation of many of Alcoa’s Hardaway artifacts to UNC Chapel Hill. However, it would be unfortunate for a community with as rich a Native American heritage as Badin not to honor and celebrate that heritage in a more meaningful way.

The presence of Morrow Mountain State Park, which is both owned and managed by the State of North Carolina, creates some intriguing possibilities for the preservation and interpretation of these Native American sites. There currently exists within the state park system a great model for the preservation of both natural and cultural resources. At Pettigrew State Park in the northeastern part of the state, the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources (home of the NC Division of Parks & Recreation) has worked closely with the NC Department of Cultural Resources to maintain, preserve, and interpret the historic Somerset Plantation, which is also a State Historic Site. Recently, the NC Division of Parks & Recreation developed plans for a new environmental education center at Morrow Mountain, which would have provided space for the interpretation of the area’s Native American cultures; unfortunately, this project was eventually delayed indefinitely due to state budget cuts.

With Alcoa ownership of approximately 800 acres between Morrow Mountain State Park and the Town of Badin (including the Hardaway Site), there is a tremendous opportunity for the State of North Carolina, the Town of Badin and Alcoa to work together to find a long-term solution for the preservation and interpretation of these important pre-historic resources. Two ideas worthy of further discussion between state, local and Alcoa officials include: (1) an expansion of Morrow Mountain State Park that would provide a physical link to the Town of Badin, including the possibility of a new park entrance through Badin, an expanded network of interpretive trails, and the preservation of the Hardaway Site; and (2) the resurrection of plans for the proposed environmental education center at Morrow Mountain State Park, with an emphasis on interpreting the region’s Native American heritage.
**PRE-INDUSTRIAL ERA**

One of the fascinating aspects of Badin is that, unlike most North Carolina towns that gradually evolved over time from small rural settlements into larger towns, Badin was practically carved out overnight from raw farmland in the early part of the twentieth century. The history of Badin itself will be explained in more detail in the section below; however, several early settlements did exist in and around Badin prior to the industrial development that came to the area around 1913. Small farmsteads dotted the countryside as early as the mid 18th century, and several small market towns or communities developed soon thereafter to serve this agrarian society, the remnants of which can still be seen today.

**Tindallsville:** At the current boat landing in Morrow Mountain State Park, the antebellum town of Tindallsville served as one of the earliest county courthouse seats for Montgomery County (which in the late 18th and early 19th centuries included both present-day Stanly and Montgomery Counties). Ruins of building foundations from this settlement can still be seen near the parking lot of the boat landing on Lake Tillery, where the old Kirk/Lowder ferry once carried wagons across the Yadkin River on their way to Salisbury and Fayetteville. Also still visible are the deeply rutted remains of the old Salisbury-to-Fayetteville “market road”, which was one of antebellum North Carolina’s great “backcountry” transportation routes. The Kron House Restoration within the state park is near the original site of Tindallsville and provides a glimpse into the lives of these earliest pioneers (including the typical hall-and-parlor housing type that they preferred).
**Palmerville:** After the Civil War, Palmerville emerged as a bustling market community, near the banks of the Yadkin River just north of present-day Badin. According to Donna Dodenhoff’s architectural history of Stanly County, titled *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County* (1992), “(i)n a compressed time frame from the post-Civil War period to the early twentieth century, Palmerville was successively a rural community, a mineral springs spa, an early spearhead for educational excellence in the southern piedmont, and a turn-of-the-century boom town spawned by the Whitney Reduction Company’s ambitious speculators”. Whitney’s plans included the building of a canal through Palmerville that was supposed to connect a granite dam being built further upriver to a nearby hydroelectric power plant. This project was eventually abandoned with the development of the Narrows hydro project, but not before Palmerville had emerged as a substantial community with modest but solid examples of late 19th and early 20th century architecture.

**Map 4: Palmerville in Relation to Badin**
“Millertown”: Before the building of Badin in the early twentieth century, and even before the emergence of Palmerville as a fledgling boom town in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the surrounding rural community was known as the Dowd community. Centrally located within the Dowd community was a residential/market settlement established along the old Salisbury-Fayetteville market road by the Miller family. Referred to today as “Millertown” (a mile or two south of Badin on the Valley Drive Scenic Byway), this settlement “compris(ed) rural industries established by the (Miller) family in the late 1880’s and early 1890’s, their farmhouses and the small community the Millers built for black workers in their industries.” (Dodenhoff, 1992) A few of the houses from this settlement remain, along with a building that housed the community’s first telephone exchange.

Gold Mining: The Badin area witnessed only modest growth in commerce and industry during the 1800’s, fueled mostly by agriculture but also in part by the discovery of gold in the Carolina Piedmont. In 1825 in nearby Misenheimer (outside the 3-mile project area), Mathias Barringer discovered gold in quartz veins running beneath the surface of the earth, establishing the Barringer Mine. With his discovery, “shaft mining” became a viable source of income for some residents in the area. For the most part, however, the region remained an agrarian society, as commerce was hindered by poor roads, dependence on ferries to cross the river, and the absence of railroads, which didn’t arrive until the early 20th century. Historic mining sites closer to the Badin project area include the Cotton Patch mine north of Badin off Highway 740, and the old Ingram mine south of Badin along Valley Drive.
ASSESSMENT

Much has been made of Badin’s unique architecture and town design, a legacy of the French who founded the town in 1913 (see discussion below). But if the town is serious about capitalizing on heritage-based tourism, it should not ignore the rich pre-industrial heritage of the area. Within just a few miles of the town can be found the remains of old gold mines, antebellum and late nineteenth century settlements, and the still relatively unspoiled rural and natural landscape that defined the region for centuries before the coming of the railroad and industrialization. If this pre-industrial history could somehow be creatively “packaged” along with the region’s Native American heritage and the remarkable industrial story that the Town of Badin represents, the surrounding area could visually tell a unique narrative about human settlement in the Carolina Piedmont, with the region’s rural landscape providing a scenic backdrop.

For such a strategy to succeed, however, greater attention must be given to the preservation of the area’s rural architecture (including what’s left of Millertown and Palmerville). Collaborations with the Stanly County Historic Preservation Commission and the statewide non-profit organization, Preservation North Carolina, could help the community achieve this goal. Expanding the mission of the Badin Museum to do more preservation work outside of the town limits would also be a positive step.

Preservation of the rural countryside around Badin is also important, as it provides all of these historic sites with their visual context and meaning. Imagine either Millertown along Valley Drive or the old cemetery in Palmerville surrounded by housing developments instead of the pastures and meadows that now embrace them, and one quickly sees the value of maintaining the “rural context” of these sites. The LandTrust for Central North Carolina, a non-profit organization based in Salisbury, has already been active in trying to preserve some of the rural lands around Badin, and should be invited to play a more prominent role in the area. The Stanly County Planning Department should also be engaged to ensure that existing and future zoning ordinances support and enhance the vision of Badin as a village surrounded by open space.

From a heritage tourism perspective, much could be accomplished with the placement of non-intrusive interpretive signage that “tells the story” of these lesser-known historic sites. Good examples of this type of signage can be found in Morrow Mountain State Park, both at the Kron House and the Lowders Ferry Landing. In addition to signage, opportunities for better “connectivity” between these sites should also be explored. One way to achieve better connectivity is by the creation of more “interpretive trails”, which provide wonderful opportunities to combine heritage and nature-based recreation. Possible trails in the Badin area include:

- **Salisbury-Fayetteville Market Road Trail**: A trail with interpretive signage that follows the path of the old market road and tells the story not only of the road itself, but also of some of the sites along it (such as the Yadkin River ferry crossing, the Tindallsville settlement, and the Kron House). Such a trail could easily be established in what is now Morrow Mountain State Park.
Badin to Morrow Mountain Trail: If the opportunity to expand the state park onto land now owned by Alcoa ever presented itself, a network of trails could extend from the Salisbury-Fayetteville Market Road Trail into the Town of Badin itself, providing unique opportunities to further tell the story of the Native Americans and early twentieth century industrialists who left their indelible marks on the area, including the two dams along the Yadkin River.

Badin to Palmerville Trail: An intriguing possibility exists with the old rail bed that runs from Badin to Old Whitney. Since service on this spur has been discontinued, the town should work with Alcoa to explore the possibility of converting it to a rail-trail for pedestrian, cycling, and possibly even equestrian use (depending, of course, on the compatibility of such multiple uses on one trail). Such a trail would provide a physical link between Badin, Palmerville, and Old Whitney along the banks of the old Whitney canal. This would provide an extraordinary opportunity to tell the story of the coming industrialization of Badin, along what would undoubtedly become one of North Carolina’s most visited and utilized rail-trails (given the scenic nature of this rail corridor along the shores of Badin Lake).
**INDUSTRIAL ERA**

The 20th Century brought remarkable changes to this quiet, rural part of central North Carolina. The primary force for this change was the damming of the Yadkin River and the building of an aluminum smelting facility and “company town” in what became known as Badin. However, a counterpoint to this industrialization was the nearby preservation of thousands of acres as Morrow Mountain State Park in the southeastern tip of the ancient Uwharrie Mountains. Both the Town of Badin and Morrow Mountain State Park have intrinsic historic value as important examples of two separate but related early 20th century movements in town planning and landscape architecture. One was grounded in European urban design principles and the other in early American concepts of park planning. Together they not only offer a fascinating glimpse into an earlier generation’s ideals about regional planning (thereby creating a wonderful heritage tourism opportunity), but they also equip contemporary planners with some timeless, place-based lessons about how to blend future development into the native landscape, both natural and built. Understanding these lessons could assist participants in the Badin STAR process as they work together to establish a vision for the town that respects the integrity of Badin’s unique natural and historic landscape.

**The Badin National Register Historic Districts:** The history of Badin can best be summed up in the Introduction to Brent Glass and Pat Dickinson’s architectural inventory of Badin titled *Badin: A Town at the Narrows, An Historical and Architectural Survey*, published in 1982:

> The company town is one of North Carolina’s most common forms of community. Nineteenth-century industrialists built these towns to provide housing, cultural facilities, and a marketplace for workers in locations that were near power sources and raw materials, but remote from larger towns and cities. The company town, by virtue of its centralized ownership and geographic isolation, also allowed a degree of control for management that was unavailable in urban locations. By the first quarter of the twentieth century, there were over 120 single industry towns in the state. Badin was one of these towns. Today, it serves as a remarkable visual and historical document that evokes the vision and values of earlier generations of industrialists. Its precarious survival to the present day causes us to think about any possible uses this town or dozens like it might have in the future.

Badin is unlike many North Carolina company towns in several ways. First, it was planned by a foreign company and completed by a Northern manufacturing enterprise. Second, it was built in the second decade of the twentieth century, a time when only a handful of new company-owned villages were being constructed in North Carolina. Third, it was one of the few towns that offered housing and cultural facilities for black workers. Finally, it is more attractive in its design and the quality of its residential and institutional buildings than most company towns in the state. For all these distinctions, however, Badin still reveals the basic characteristics of the North Carolina company town. Because it has changed so little since the 1920’s, it
offers visitors and students a faithful representation of what life was like for thousands of industrial workers throughout North Carolina.

Originally planned by a French aluminum company, the Badin project was eventually acquired by Andrew Mellon and the forerunner company of his Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa). Although most of Badin’s history is synonymous with Alcoa’s presence there, it was the French who left an enduring architectural legacy in the town’s design. Glass and Dickinson capture the essence of the town best in the following passages:

*A planned community, built to serve the workers of the construction crews and the workers of the aluminum reduction plant, Badin was divided into two distinct neighborhoods, one Negro... now called West Badin, and one White. The two sections are divided physically by the Alcoa Plant and Highway 740. . .

Architectural elements which unify the two separate villages can be seen primarily in the institutional and public buildings, in street signs and landscaping. A unifying element is the handsome, variously patterned brick work in the public buildings, featuring stretchers of warm red brick with dark glazed headers. . .

The irregular street plans of the villages follow the gently hilly streets which are canopied by mature deciduous trees. . . The sidewalks and curbed and guttered streets are immaculate. There is a European flavor in the remaining rock walled open storm drains. . .

The striking four-apartment quadruplexes “(were) of a design then popular in France. . . The quadruplexes share many original architectural features with variances occurring primarily in the rooflines.
Perhaps the most architecturally distinctive residences in Badin are located on Henderson Street across from the Badin School. Typical of these are the single family dwellings at 48 and 50 Henderson Street. These 1 ½ story, five bay wide, double pile, clapboard structures are reminiscent of the French Colonial style with their low pavilion type roofs.

Because of its unique architectural and historic character, as well as the inventory work conducted by Brent Glass and Pat Dickinson, two historic districts in Badin were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982: the West Badin Historic District and the Badin Historic District. While these listings do not provide any regulatory protection in the same way that local historic districts do, they do make the restoration/rehabilitation of certain “contributing” buildings within each district eligible for federal and state tax credits. In addition to these two districts, the “Narrows Complex” (which includes the Narrows Dam and Power House) is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several specific elements of Badin’s architecture and design merit further attention:

- **Architectural Styles:** Due in large part to Badin’s architectural inventory, many people in Badin have come to appreciate the unique architectural influences of the French who originally planned the town. As explained earlier, specific examples of their legacy include the unique quadraplexes in the old “workers” section of town, the striking duplexes along Henderson Street, and the single-family residences in the “French Colonial” style of architecture also found on Henderson Street.
Street. However, it would be inaccurate to attribute all the structures in Badin architecturally to the influence of the French. In fact, much of the town was completed after the company L’Aluminum Francaise pulled out of Badin. Consequently, throughout both West Badin and East Badin one finds another prominent architectural style solidly rooted in early 20th Century America, the Craftsman Style. Craftsman bungalows with their characteristic clapboard siding and open porches tend to dominate the single-family housing built by Alcoa after they purchased the Badin project from the French during World War I. However, even the European-style apartment buildings designed for the French included many Craftsman Style elements, including open air porches, exposed roof beams and rafter tails, and triangular knee braces (or brackets).
Historic photo of a row of quintessential bungalows in West Badin

- **Town Design:** Glass and Dickenson made much of the “planned” elements and European influences on Badin’s town design, but they never went as far as to make a direct connection between Badin and an important international movement in town design that was underway at the same time, the Garden City Movement. “Garden Cities” as first envisioned in Europe during the 1890’s were in response to the poor environmental and living conditions of nineteenth century industrial cities. The philosophy of the Garden City Movement was, in part, to design new communities in harmony with the natural environment for both public health and aesthetic reasons. Ebenezer Howard and architect Raymond Unwin were among the most famous proponents of this movement, and the planned “Garden Cities” of Letchworth and Welwyn in England are most often cited as having the greatest influences on town planners of the period.

Before credible conclusions can be drawn about possible links between the Garden City Movement and the building of Badin, more research is necessary into the professional influences on the architects of the New York firm of Pierson and Goodrich, which designed Badin for the French. In fact, most architectural historians point to the building of Radburn, New Jersey (nearly a decade after the design of Badin) as the first true expression of the Garden City movement in the United States. Nonetheless, the basic design of Badin has a number of core elements that were common to Garden Cities in Europe, including curvilinear streets that follow the natural topography of the land, the use of open “green” space as part of the original town design, back alleyways that connect the main streets and provide rear access to residential structures, and the strategic spacing of different land uses around town in such a way as to promote contemporary notions of public health and social well-being. The fact that Badin was built around the same time as the Garden City Movement’s ascendance and that a European company exerted such an important influence on the town’s original
design makes the presence of all these design elements common to the Garden City movement seem more than coincidental.

Original 1914 town plat of Badin shows the spacing of the quadraplexes, the location of the Clubhouse, curvilinear streets, and the intentional use of open space in the design: note the “village green” in the center of town

Morrow Mountain State Park and the CCC/WPA Park Design era: Nearby Morrow Mountain State Park is the third oldest state park in the North Carolina State Park System. In addition to some of the historic sites found throughout the park (including the Tindallsville site and the Salisbury/Fayetteville market road discussed earlier), the park itself represents an “exemplary chapter in the state park movement” and a great example of early twentieth century park design (Dodenhoff, 1992). Built in the 1930’s with labor from the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, the design of Morrow Mountain State Park draws upon the inspiration of such early park planners as Frederick Law Olmstead, who championed landscaping designs that respect the natural contours of the land, and architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, who promoted the “concept of buildings as organic structures intimately related to a setting” (Dodenhoff, 1992). A visitor will see these influences throughout the park, including (1) the use of native slate stone (quarried within the park itself) and heavy timber frame construction in the park’s most important buildings, reminiscent of the dwellings of earlier settlers such as the Kron House, and (2) the design of roads and trails that take “advantage of the park’s scenic and topographical features” (Dodenhoff 1992).
Picnic shelter at the top of Morrow Mountain reflects the use of native stone and local building traditions in the design of the state park.

Detail on picnic shelter shows the use of board and batten siding and strap hinges that are reminiscent of the old barns and other utilitarian buildings of the area’s early settlers.
ASSESSMENT

One of Badin’s greatest assets is its “Industrial-Era” heritage, embodied by the Town of Badin itself, the two early-twentieth century hydroelectric dams along the Yadkin River, and Morrow Mountain State Park, the perfect natural counterpoint to Badin’s industrialization. In many ways, Morrow Mountain State Park re-enforced the ethic of thoughtful planning that the French first imported to the region nearly twenty years earlier. In both Badin and Morrow Mountain State Park, distinctive architectural design blends with the area’s natural beauty to produce a visually harmonious relationship between the built and natural environments.

Looking to the future and the possible revitalization of the Town of Badin, care should be taken to respect the town’s architectural integrity. The placement of much of the town on the National Register of Historic Places serves several important functions: (1) it concurs national recognition and status that the town is worthy of preservation, (2) it provides some level of protection in that, according to federal law, any federally-funded or federally-licensed project must take measures to mitigate negative impacts on the town’s historic resources, and (3) buildings listed as “contributing” or “pivotal” to the National Register districts are eligible for both federal and state tax credits for rehab work done according to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. However, without local regulatory control in the form of a local historic preservation ordinance, the town still faces the threat of irreparable harm to the integrity of these districts by inappropriate new development or even the misguided “restoration” of existing historic structures. Such a fate would not only threaten the town’s National Register listing, it would also remove one of the town’s biggest draws for heritage tourism—its authenticity.

For property owners who are inclined to restore their homes and buildings in a historically sensitive manner, a major handicap is the lack of educational materials demonstrating the original design elements and architectural features of buildings. This is particularly true for owners of the old residential quadruplexes and bungalows, many of whom have never seen historic photos showing what those buildings looked like in their original state, before so many of the open porches were enclosed and before most of the buildings were painted a uniform white (historic photos suggest a more eclectic paint scheme than one finds today). The Badin Museum is to be commended for its recent efforts to restore one of the old quadruplex units adjacent to the museum, giving property owners a glimpse of what these residential units looked like in their original state. The Badin Museum could serve an additional education role for property owners by providing educational materials that include a comprehensive inventory of historic photos showing what residential units and other historic buildings originally looked like, along with a list of “best practices” for restoring these historic structures in an authentic but cost-effective manner.

The Town of Badin’s physical design is as important as the architecture in giving Badin its unique, almost European, village atmosphere. As future redevelopment occurs, attention must also be given to preserving and honoring the town’s original streetscape. This means
that town planners, architects and property owners alike must take the time to understand the town’s original design, particularly its intimate relationship with the natural environment, and plan both new development and any “infill” development in a manner that is compatible.

Finally, the physical design and architecture of Morrow Mountain State Park, which so exemplifies the early twentieth century park movement in America, deserves special recognition and protection. For one, efforts should be made to list the park on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its special place in the history of the New Deal and the building of American parks. In addition, the restoration of existing facilities in the park should respect the original architecture, while the development of new facilities (including those associated with any future park expansions) should draw inspiration from the park’s original design, just as the park’s original design drew its inspiration from the native building practices of the area’s earliest settlers.
II. NATURAL, SCENIC AND RECREATION RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

The Badin area’s natural, scenic & recreation resources are as impressive as its historic resources, combining some of the Piedmont’s most scenic landscapes with some of its rarest natural habitats to appeal to a diverse range of outdoor enthusiasts. While these resources provide a tremendous foundation upon which “nature-based” tourism can be built, they also require careful stewardship to ensure their long-term survival.

Map 5: Natural Area Resources
“SIGNATURE HABITATS”

Four “signature habitats” in the Badin project area have caught the attention of naturalists at the state and national levels.

**Schweinitz’s Sunflower (Helianthus schweinitzii):** Schweinitz’s Sunflower is a rare (federally endangered), native aster that is known to grow in only twelve counties in North Carolina (including Stanly and Montgomery) and two in South Carolina. There are several known populations of Schweinitz Sunflower growing within the Badin project area, and many biologists believe that the area is an ideal location for efforts to restore its native habitat. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,

“(i)t is believed that this species formerly occupied prairie like habitats or Post Oak - Blackjack Oak savannas that were maintained by fire. Current habitats where this species is found include roadsides, power line clearings, old pastures, woodland openings and other sunny or semi-sunny situations. Schweinitz's sunflower is known from a variety of soil types but is generally found growing on shallow, poor, clayey and/or rocky soils, especially those derived from mafic rocks. In the few sites where Schweinitz's sunflower occurs in relatively natural vegetation, the natural community would be considered a Xeric Hardpan Forest (Schafale and Weakley 1990).”

**Yadkin River Goldenrod (Solidago plumosa):** Indistinguishable from other goldenrods to the average person, the Yadkin River Goldenrod is nonetheless an extremely rare plant (Federal Species of Concern) that has been recorded in no other location except along the banks of the Yadkin River between the Narrows and Falls dams near Badin. Last reported in 1896, many botanists had assumed that the Yadkin River Goldenrod was now extinct because of the destruction of much of its original habitat in the early twentieth century, a result of the construction of the Narrows and Falls dams and the creation of the Falls Reservoir. However, botanists rediscovered the Yadkin River Goldenrod in 1994 along the rocky banks of the Falls Reservoir, and since then, the State of North Carolina and Alcoa have collaborated to protect this rare plant and its unique habitat.

**Bald Eagle Habitat:** Badin Lake, the Falls Reservoir and the upper reaches of Lake Tillery around the Falls Dam and Morrow Mountain State Park are all part of the Pee Dee Bald Eagle Foraging Habitat as identified by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Bald eagles are regularly sighted along Badin Lake, the Falls Reservoir and Lake Tillery, and bald eagle nesting sites have even been documented in recent years. Alcoa has taken the lead (in partnership with state and federal wildlife agencies) to protect this important habitat.

**Mafic Rock Areas and Upland Depression Pools:** Many residents of Stanly County are familiar with the geological history of the Uwharries and the fact that they represent the remnants of an ancient volcanic range. However, few are aware of the unique ecosystem that has developed in response to the soils that were created by the area’s volcanic history. “Mafic rock” is a particular type of volcanic rock that produces soils that are “less acidic but higher in clay” than most soils in the Piedmont (see Montgomery County Natural Area Inventory by Moni Bates). These soils in turn support certain types of plants, the
combination of which are unique to mafic areas. According to *An Inventory of Mafic Natural Areas in the North Carolina Piedmont* by Oakley, LeGrand and Schafale (prepared in 1995 for the NC Natural Heritage Program) “many of the rarest plant species in the Piedmont” occur in mafic areas, as well as “many of the (Piedmont’s) most unique natural community types, including glades, upland wetlands, rock outcrops, and several forest types.” According to Oakley, LeGrand and Schafale’s 1995 inventory, several significant mafic areas of *national* significance occur in the Badin project area, including Biles Mountain, the long ridge that runs north/south (just to the east of and parallel to Valley Drive) from Badin to Morrow Mountain Road. Many locals also refer to this ridge as “Miller Mountain.” “Upland Depression Pools”, and their related “Upland Depression Swamp Forests” are often found along such ridges in mafic areas. In addition to the unexpected presence of these wetlands along high ridges, these upland depression pools also serve an important ecological function as breeding sites for amphibians (frogs, salamanders, etc.), which depend on them as an aquatic habitat for the laying of eggs free of the threat of fish and other aquatic species that might otherwise feed on them in more typical streams, ponds and creeks. The mafic areas around Badin, including Biles Mountain, contain a number of these upland depression pools and swamp forests.

**NC NATURAL HERITAGE SITES**

The mission of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, administered by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, “is to find remnants of native North Carolina ecosystems, document their location and condition, and, when appropriate, help facilitate their protection.” The Natural Heritage Program identifies these “remnants” primarily through county-wide biological inventories. Since the subject area for the Badin visioning project covers a three-mile radius around the Town of Badin, inventories encompassing both Montgomery and Stanly counties were consulted.

Corresponding with sites A through K on Map 5, the following sites and natural features have been identified as important natural resources within the three-mile Badin project area. What is noteworthy about this list is the extraordinary number of nationally and state-wide significant resources that can be found in such a small geographic area.

**Morrow Mountain Natural Areas:** A number of sites within Morrow Mountain State Park have been inventoried and listed in the NC Natural Heritage Program as important natural areas. The NC Division of Parks & Recreation manages these sites in ways that minimize the public impact on them, including the careful placement of trails and other recreational amenities so as not to disturb sensitive plant communities. These natural areas also serve an important role as “classrooms” for the region’s environmental education programs and local school systems.

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1 Note: the Montgomery County sites were identified in a county-wide inventory conducted by Moni Bates and dated October 2001. Stanly County, on the other hand, has not yet been fully inventoried; however, some important sites have nonetheless been identified in Stanly County through statewide inventories focusing on specific types of ecosystems.
**Biles Mountain Natural Area:** Identified as a “nationally” significant natural area in *An Inventory of Mafic Natural Areas in the North Carolina Piedmont* (Oakley, Legrand & Shafale, 1995), Biles Mountain is the long ridge that runs north to south from near Badin down to Morrow Mountain Road (running just to the east of and parallel to Valley Drive). Many locals also refer to this ridge as “Miller Mountain”. Along this ridge can be found a predominantly oak/hickory forest strewn with large boulders and (unexpectedly for an eastern hardwood forest) native grasses and other prairie-like plants growing throughout the forest floor. Along the top of this ridge are also found several “Upland Depression Pools” and Upland Depression Swamp Forests (described above). Much of the site is protected by Morrow Mountain State Park, but important sections remain in private ownership.

**Dutch John Creek Area:** This 290-acre site in Montgomery County is listed in the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory* as “regionally” significant. Its significance comes primarily from three key factors: (1) it is home to the rare Piedmont indigo-bush and Carolina thistle; (2) it provides a large, unfragmented forest buffer to Dutch John Creek and provides habitat for interior forest animals; and (3) its steep, wooded buffers along Lake Tillery provide an important scenic vista for visitors to Morrow Mountain State Park. The site is partially owned by the U.S. Forest Service with the remainder in private ownership.

**Falls Dam Slope:** Of “state” significance, this is a relatively large site (about 364 acres) on the east (Montgomery) side of the Falls Reservoir and the upper reaches of Lake Tillery around the Falls Dam. The site is owned in part by the U.S. Forest Service, with other portions privately owned. According to the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory*, “numerous rare plant populations occur on the Falls Dam Slope”, including Schweinitz’s sunflower and Piedmont indigo-bush. The report goes on to state that “the steep slopes and shallow soil limit the establishment of large trees and creates (tree) canopy gaps. These canopy gaps provide habitat for rare plants that require sunlight for successful flowering and (seed) capsule production.”

**East Badin Basic Forest:** Identified as “regionally” significant (two levels behind national and state significance), this mafic forest site of 35 acres in Stanly County was identified in *An Inventory of Mafic Natural Areas in the North Carolina Piedmont* (Oakley, Legrand & Shafale, 1995). It is a representative example of a mafic Basic Oak-Hickory Forest, with a tree canopy dominated by white oak and shagbark hickory. The site remains in private ownership.

**Yadkin River Scour Banks:** Like Biles Mountain and the Badin Upland Depression Swamp Area (below), this is another “nationally” significant natural area, and is described more fully in the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory*. A “Rocky Bar and Shore natural community” located at the base of the Narrows Dam, this site is home not only to the extremely rare Yadkin River Goldenrod, but populations of other rare plants as well. While the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory* only describes the east side of the river at this site, it is probably safe to assume that many of the same natural characteristics prevail on the west (Stanly) side of the river as well. The site is owned by Alcoa.
**Badin Upland Depression Swamps:** The third of the Badin region’s “nationally” significant natural areas, this 129-acre site is located in Montgomery County east of the Narrows Dam and adjacent to the Yadkin River Scour Banks. According to the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory*, the site gains its significance for three reasons: (1) “it supports two large ephemeral pools that are surrounded by a high quality Upland Depression Swamp Forest”; (2) “the ephemeral pools support large breeding populations of several amphibian species . . . (which are) of scientific interest to herpetologists in the state”; and (3) “a rare snail called Euconulus dentatus (Toothed hive) occurs . . . (t)here are only two records of this species in North Carolina.” The U.S. Forest Service owns the site, and it is a Registered Natural Heritage Area with the NC Natural Heritage Program.

**Badin Lake Ephemeral Pool:** This is a very small site (only 8 acres) just to the northeast of the Narrows Dam in Montgomery County and listed in the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory*. The site has been listed as being of “county” significance, but that status is attributed to it because of its importance as an amphibian breeding habitat. It is entirely owned by the U.S. Forest Service.

**Badin Nifty Rocks:** Within the three-mile project area (but on the Montgomery County side of the river) is the Badin Nifty Rocks Natural Area (listed in the *Montgomery County Natural Heritage Inventory* as being of “county significance”). This site gains its status for its scenic value, with “house sized boulders at the summit of a 640 foot peak” overlooking Badin Lake. The site is owned by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Uwharrie National Forest.

**Palestine Rare Plant Site:** As discussed earlier, the Schweinitz’s Sunflower is a rare native aster that is known to grow in only fourteen counties in North and South Carolina. A remnant plant of the native “Piedmont Prairie” that once existed in parts of central North Carolina prior to its settlement by European and African cultures, populations of Schweinitz’s Sunflower can still be found along roadsides and under powerlines in the Badin project area. One such area identified by the NC Natural Heritage Program is along a strip of North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) right-of-way on Mountain View Church Road, and is maintained by NCDOT. Signs reading “do not mow” along Mountain View Church Road indicate the location of this particular site and give notice to mowing crews to give special attention to managing this rare plant site.
SCENIC VIEWSHEDS

In recent years as development has leapfrogged beyond traditional town boundaries into the surrounding countryside and as homes have been increasingly built around natural features such as lakes and rivers, many Americans have become concerned about the loss of long-treasured “scenic vistas”. Planners refer to these scenic vistas as “viewsheds”, an adaptation of the word “watershed”, which describes all the land area that feeds a particular stream or river with water. Viewsheds instead describe all the land area that makes up the scenic vista that one experiences from a given vantage point. The best example of a “viewshed” in the Badin vicinity is the vista one experiences from the scenic overlook at the top of Morrow Mountain. Another example of a viewshed is the area one observes from the public beaches and access areas around Badin Lake, which encompasses the forested hills of the Uwharrie National Forest and the undeveloped lands of a few private landowners, including Alcoa.

Part of Badin’s charm and that of nearby Morrow Mountain State Park can be attributed to the relatively undisturbed nature of the surrounding countryside. Unlike most towns and cities, Badin is not surrounded by uncontrolled commercial and residential development, and for that reason it still retains a clear distinction between “town and country”. Another part of Badin’s unique charm is its beautiful natural setting along Badin Lake and within the rolling hills of the ancient Uwharrie Mountains. Badin is fortunate that much of the town’s shoreline is protected by the Uwharrie National Forest. The same can be said about the surrounding Uwharrie landscape, with the Uwharrie National Forest and Morrow Mountain State Park protecting important ridgelines that can be seen from different vantage points around Badin. The scenic beauty of Badin’s surroundings is an important draw for tourists, who are attracted to Badin as much for the scenic driving experience as for the recreational amenities found along the lakes, at Morrow Mountain State Park and in the Uwharrie National Forest.

Below is a brief list and description of the most important scenic resources found within the three mile Badin project area. (See Map 6.)

**Morrow Mountain State Park Scenic Overlook:** The master plan for Morrow Mountain State Park (developed by the NC Division of Parks & Recreation) makes it clear that protecting the viewsheds of the park’s scenic overlook should be a priority. Fortunately, the park owns much of the land that encompasses its viewshed, and a significant portion is also protected by the Uwharrie National Forest across the Yadkin River. However, the scenic farmland and nearby ridgelines that are still in private ownership risk future development and other potentially harmful land uses unless landowners, planning officials, the state park and non-profit conservation groups like The LandTrust for Central North Carolina work more collaboratively to minimize the impact of future land uses upon the Morrow Mountain scenic viewshed.
**Valley Drive Scenic Byway:** Officially called the Pee Dee Valley Drive Scenic Byway by the NC Department of Transportation, this state-designated scenic byway runs from the Town of Badin (beginning on Henderson Street), south down Valley Drive for about five miles to NC Highway 24/27, from 24/27 east to Indian Mound Road, and then south on Indian Mound Road to the Town of Norwood. One of only 45 designated byways statewide, the Valley Drive Scenic Byway is featured in a publication of the NC Department of Transportation called *NC DOT Scenic Byways*, which is available in state welcome centers. While the state designation is an honor and enhances the region’s tourism appeal, it confers no additional protection status to the corridor’s scenic resources other than those provided by local planning officials. Included in the 14-mile Pee Dee Valley Drive Scenic Byway are about three miles within the Badin Project Area that include a rural landscape of small farms, forested ridgelines, and historic homes.

**Shoreline Views:** An important element of the town’s beauty is the relatively unspoiled character of the surrounding shoreline on both Badin Lake and the Falls Reservoir. The presence of the Uwharrie National Forest across Badin Lake and the Falls Reservoir and Alcoa’s sensitive management of its own private landholdings have contributed to a relatively undeveloped shoreline around Badin compared to other lakefront communities. As the citizens of Badin look to the future and explore options for the town’s economic renewal, they should give special attention to strategies for preserving this unique scenic resource.
RECREATION RESOURCES

Badin is rich in recreational resources that already contribute greatly to the town’s economic well-being. The challenge now facing the town is in figuring out how to maximize the full potential of these recreational resources without compromising the scenic and natural resources that created the town’s opportunities for tourism in the first place.

**Badin Lake & Falls Reservoir:** Badin is one of the primary public access points for two of the Piedmont’s most important recreational water resources, Badin Lake & Falls Reservoir. Badin Lake, the larger of the two, is suitable for most major aquatic sports, including swimming, water skiing, motor boating, and sailing, while Falls Reservoir, because of its smaller size and more limited access, is better suited for the more passive aquatic sports of canoeing, kayaking and birdwatching. Sport fishing is popular on both reservoirs, with Badin Lake hosting several bass tournaments annually. Alcoa also maintains several public boat access areas on both reservoirs, while maintaining picnic and swimming areas along Badin Lake.

**Morrow Mountain State Park and the Uwharrie National Forest:** Together, Morrow Mountain State Park and the Uwharrie National Forest provide a wide range of amenities and accommodations for outdoor enthusiasts. These include a diverse array of camp sites with varying levels of amenities, rustic vacation cabins, miles of hiking and equestrian trails, and in the case of the Uwharrie National Forest, access to public gamelands for hunting. Together, these two publicly-owned recreation areas attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to the Badin area.

**Stanly County Country Club and the Old North State Club at Uwharrie Point:** For over seventy-five years, Badin has been associated with the game of golf. What began as a company-owned golf course in Badin is now an 18-hole course owned by the Stanly County Country Club that cradles the town along its southern border and gives it much of its visual charm. Across Badin Lake from the town in Montgomery County is the relatively new development of Uwharrie Point, whose Old North State Club’s 18-hole course is consistently ranked among the top two or three golf courses in North Carolina.

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**ASSESSMENT**

The architects of the original “garden cities” (described in the previous section) usually included the protection of significant green space around their planned communities as a way to maintain a balance between developed and natural areas, thereby giving residents of these communities access to the physical and psychological benefits of nature. While pockets of green space were certainly part of the original design of the Town of Badin, as seen in the town plat drawn by Pierson & Goodrich in 1913, a larger regional “greenbelt” was not a part of the plan. Fortunately, the creation of both Morrow Mountain State Park and the Uwharrie National Forest over the following decades in effect created a partial greenbelt around Badin,
protecting important natural and scenic areas close to and surrounding the town. Still, much of the land that is critical to the protection of the area’s most important natural and scenic resources remains in private ownership.

Some of this land could easily be protected with the strategic expansion of Morrow Mountain State Park. The State of North Carolina recently demonstrated an interest in further expansion of Morrow Mountain with the acquisition of a key parcel along the Valley Drive Scenic Byway. Additional acquisitions should be explored with willing landowners, including the possibility of acquiring some of the landholdings now owned by Alcoa.

Public acquisition isn’t the only option for protecting these scenic resources. The Town of Badin and neighboring communities should work closely with the Stanly County Planning Department to further strengthen the existing zoning in ways that protect the area’s scenic quality. In addition, The LandTrust for Central North Carolina should be invited to work with private landowners in the area to explore voluntary, non-regulatory options for preserving some of the surrounding countryside and natural areas.

Badin already enjoys the economic benefits of the area’s extraordinary recreational resources, but there is still much that could be done to enhance the tourism potential of these resources and provide better “linkages” between them. Badin Lake and Falls Reservoir should continue to provide what many people consider to be separate “experiences” for water recreation. As the larger and more developed of the two, Badin Lake lends itself to more active recreational use (including motor boats and jet skis), while Falls Reservoir should be maintained as a more passive-use recreation area because of its unique scenic and ecological values.

More could be done to provide linkages between the recreational options available at Morrow Mountain State Park and the Uwharrie National Forest, while Badin should also do more to capitalize on its central location between two golf destinations. One intriguing option that has been discussed by local residents and which should receive further consideration is the possibility of providing a physical link between Badin and Uwharrie Point in the form of a marina and/or public space for docking boats that encourages residents from Uwharrie Point and other lakefront developments across the lake to shop and dine in Badin. Careful attention to the design of such a facility would need to be given in order to assure that its impact on the town’s natural, scenic, and historic resources is minimized (see previous Assessment under “Historic & Heritage Resources” for a discussion about sensitive design principles for “infill” development).
III. CULTURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

Badin is a community that has been enriched over the years by a number of important cultural and civic institutions, ranging from active church congregations to schools that have been integral parts of their surrounding communities. Below are just a few of the cultural institutions worthy of mention, along with some of the local “artists” who may have been influenced by the programs they offered.

**Badin Museum:** No other entity has done more to preserve and interpret the story of Badin than the Badin Museum, located in the old “kindergarten” building. The recent expansion of the museum to include a Firehouse Museum and the restoration of one of the residential quadruplex units should only enhance the educational offerings of the Badin Museum.

**Badin Elementary School:** Built in 1917, the Badin Elementary School is both an architectural gem and an important cultural institution in the life of the town. Strategically located in the heart of the residential part of East Badin, the school is an integral part of the fabric of what makes Badin special. The cupola dome of the old school building is one of the first sites a visitor sees when coming into Badin from Valley Drive, and one of the town’s great traditions is the ringing of the old bell in the cupola on the first and last days of class.

**West Badin School:** One of the more discouraging sights in Badin is the dilapidated state of the old West Badin School, once the heart and soul of the West Badin community. A casualty of desegregation, the West Badin School was shut down in the 1960’s with the integration of the Stanly County school system. Cultural historians refer to the community decline that often accompanied the closure of such historically black schools as one of the “unintended consequences” of desegregation, and certainly the community of West Badin suffered a tremendous civic blow with the loss of the West Badin School. The building itself was a remarkable building, with a stunning “Greek lantern” cupola. Alcoa founder Andrew Mellon attended its dedication in 1925.

**Stanly County Country Club:** More than just a recreational building, the Clubhouse of the Stanly County Country Club has always been an important cultural center for the town. Scene of many important social events in the life of the town, the Clubhouse and Annex also provided housing for single men and women who moved to Badin to work as young professionals, such as teachers and engineers. A “pivotal” element in the Badin National Register Historic District, the Clubhouse is undoubtedly one of the town’s most important landmarks.
**Badin Opera House, Badin Bandstand, and West Badin Community Center:** While these structures no longer exist, they are worthy of mention because of their influence on the cultural life and collective memory of Badin’s residents. From the beginning, Badin was designed as a town that would provide for the cultural and recreational needs of its residents. The Badin Opera House was a prominent structure that architecturally commanded the most important site in town. It is reported to have been the largest theatre between Richmond and Atlanta when it was built. Across the street from the opera house was an outdoor bandstand at the edge of the “village green” (also part of the original town design). And in West Badin, a community recreation center was one of the important gathering spots for residents. Together, these three facilities along with the churches created an unusually rich cultural scene for a town as small as Badin.

**Native Sons & Daughters:** Badin has produced a number of notable writers and artists, including:

- **Heather Ross Miller** is a nationally recognized novelist and poet who recently returned to live in her husband’s family home on Valley Drive. Miller often draws upon Badin’s rich history and natural environment in her writing, and she recently won the NC Humanities Council’s 2003 Linda Flowers Prize for her short story “Miss Jessie Dukes and Kid Heavy”, which was set in Badin.

- **Fred Morgan** is a local journalist and folklorist well-known for his numerous publications that capture the rich folklore encompassing “ghost stories” and other tales of the Uwharrie Mountains. Having spent many years as a newspaperman with the *Stanly News & Press*, Morgan was well-positioned to capture the oral traditions of the people he covered in his regular columns about the Uwharries.

- **Lou Donaldson,** legendary jazz saxophonist, grew up in Badin. Donaldson played with jazz legends Thelonius Monk, Milt Jackson, Art Blakey and Blue Mitchell, and in 1954 joined the Jazz Messengers with Clifford Brown. In February 1954, Donaldson was part of one of the all time great live jazz recordings, *A Night at Birdland*, with the Art Blakey Quintet featuring Clifford Brown, Horace Silver and Curly Russell.
**ASSESSMENT**

Badin has a rich cultural heritage, but unfortunately many of the physical symbols of that heritage have been lost, such as the Badin Opera House and bandstand. For that reason, special attention should be given to the preservation of Badin’s remaining cultural institutions.

Eventually, it’s inevitable that school planners will start talking about the perceived obsolescence of the Badin Elementary School building and whether or not it would be better to replace it with a newer structure. Fortunately, the Stanly County School System recently established a wonderful precedent for the preservation of historic schools with the restoration of the old Albemarle Middle School. Badin residents should learn from this example and make sure that in all future discussions about Badin Elementary School’s fate, preservation of this historic building is an absolute priority. As for the West Badin School, its present state of decline certainly calls into question the feasibility of restoring it. However, the town should nonetheless make every effort to find a feasible way for rehabbing it into some form of community center. While rehab costs would undoubtedly be high due to the many years of neglect and vandalism the building has suffered, the West Badin School’s rebirth as a community center could serve as a catalyst for West Badin’s revitalization by restoring part of the cultural and social fabric that was lost with the school’s closing.

A recent fire destroyed much of the historic integrity of the Stanly County Country Club’s Annex, with subsequent reconstruction not very sensitive to the building’s original design. Fortunately, the opportunity still exists to restore the original Clubhouse to its former glory, with the original leaded windows and interior woodwork still intact. With new owners who have expressed an interest in turning it into an inn, the Clubhouse presents one of the most exciting opportunities yet to demonstrate the potential use of historic tax credits for the sensitive rehab of historic buildings in Badin.

Finally, Badin should consider the arts as a potential means of attracting new investment. The Yadkin-Pee Dee Lakes Project recently received funding from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to conduct a feasibility study into the possible creation of a Chatauqua Institute somewhere in the Uwharrie Lakes Region. While many questions would need to be asked before coming to the conclusion that a Chatauqua Institute and Badin would be a good fit, the town’s unique design and location adjacent to Badin Lake would certainly provide a picturesque backdrop to some sort of arts-related event(s). Regardless of whether or not something on the scale of a Chatauqua Institute were ever to come to Badin, the town should still strongly consider recreating the performance venues that were once such an integral part of the town’s fabric. A “performing arts” center reminiscent of the original Opera House (if not an exact replica of it) could one day rise from the site of the old Opera House, while it probably wouldn’t take much to recreate the old bandstand that once anchored the corner of the village green, providing a venue for outdoor community concerts.
IDENTIFICATION OF SHARED VALUES

Between April and July of 2005, the Steering Committee of the Badin Visioning Process met on four separate occasions to review the resource documentation work of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. These meetings were followed by a Town Forum held at the Badin Elementary School cafeteria on August 18, 2005, at which citizens were asked to “mentally map” the physical places they value most about their community. Finally, an exhibit was set up at the Best of Badin Festival on September 16-17, 2005 as an additional opportunity to disseminate the information gathered during the documentation phase and to solicit further input from the general public.

The following represents the feedback provided by participants in these different meetings and events. To give some order to that feedback, we have organized it according to two types of responses: (1) “stewardship principles” that reflect some of the things that Badin’s citizens feel should be honored and preserved about their town, and (2) “big dreams” that people would like to see happen as positive changes. These responses are presented exactly as they were given to the staff of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, and because they represent many different viewpoints, they may not always seem consistent.

I. STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Downtown Core:
- Keep Falls Road (our Main Street) as is with only facelifts to building fronts.
- Maintain center core of town.
- Upgrade or refurbish existing stores.
- Do not allow strip type business to ruin our downtown area.
- Think about re-creating some of the old buildings that have been lost.
- No presently standing commercial buildings to be destroyed and replaced by styles not originally present.
- Keep all historic buildings downtown.

Town Design in General:
- Remodeling & new construction should be matching design (as much as possible).
- Periodically evaluate upkeep of homes, lawns and vacant property.
- Maintain/restore Badin school buildings.
- Maintain and keep up hospital/conference center building.
- Maintain character of the churches in the community.
- Keep new construction in the same design.
- Keep townhome designs, buildings, etc.
- Keep alleyways and storm drains.
- Highlight architecture.
- Maintain all historic buildings.
- Ensure that new development is in a similar style to historic development, but encourage development from all of Badin’s history – 1890 – 1930’s.
- No high rise buildings.
- No buildings that exceed tree height.
- All new buildings to match current architecture.
- Get homeowners and landlords to clean up & spruce up their houses and lots – street appeal first!!

Native American Heritage:

- The most sacred thing is the Native American heritage.
- Many of the Native American sites were actually sacred/religious to them. They saw this area as a sacred place for thousands of years. That’s really special. This has been a sacred center even longer than Jerusalem. How incredible is that ?!? Our own “holy land” is in our backyard and people don’t really know about it. They may know the sites are there, but are unaware of the magnitude and significance of them.

French/Alcoa Heritage:

- Keep what French influence we have going.
- Retain aluminum history.

NATURAL, SCENIC & RECREATION RESOURCES

Badin Lake:

- Badin Lake shoreline to stay as it is today.
- As growth happens around the lake, ensure it is the right type of growth.
- Properly utilize lake for its recreational activities.

Falls Reservoir:

- Maintain Falls Reservoir as is.
- Maintain Falls as a jet ski free lake and develop it for canoes, kayaks, walking and biking trails.
Open Space:

- Maintain tranquil appeal of the town.
- Maintain the greenways—the open spaces—even improve those areas as landscaped areas.
- Maintain open space.
- Maintain the village green.
- Maintain village green/parks.

II. “BIG DREAMS”

Town Design & Redevelopment:

- Re-create the “village green”.
- Rebuild old depot and run train from Spencer to Badin.
- Create a recreation area and/or amphitheater around old ballpark.
- Amphitheatre on lake?
- How do we get more businesses in the old store buildings?
- How do we ensure control of any new architecture? How do we keep things compatible? Restoration opportunities?

Interpretation of Local History:

- Celebrate Badin’s African-American cultural heritage.
- Need more museum hours and maybe exhibits on the museum grounds.
- Need more museum activities including more hours and exhibits on the museum grounds (separate response from previous one).
- Celebrate/interpret the Old Palmerville Canal
- Emphasize the unique history of “turn-of-the-century European Village meets Rural North Carolina”.
- Create a coffee table photo book on the “Architecture of Badin”.
- Tour of “old towns” (Palmerville, Tindallsville, etc.)
- Most interesting facet was Palmerville history.

Native American History:

- Organize a gathering of Native Americans in Badin to celebrate the Hardaway people and their history.
- Cultural gatherings of Native Americans at Badin to celebrate the Hardaway people and their history (separate response from previous one).
- Celebrate Native American heritage and archaeological sites.
- Really highlight Native American archaeological sites.
Cultural Activities:

- Weekly “Music on Main”—style downtown gatherings in the summer.
- Consider a “back alleyway tour of gardens”.
- Back alleyways of Badin tour of gardens (separate response from previous one)

Rural Life:

- Establish agricultural tours of surrounding farming operations.
- Establish farm-related activities.

Badin Lake and Falls Lake (including dams):

- Consider the creation/development of a marina on Badin Lake.
- Rebuild overlook at the dam.
- Overlook at the dam—could we open that back up?
- Steps down the dam from the overlook.
- Events at the lake—there used to be organized activities.
- The dams and river have always been a draw.

Morrow Mountain:

- Morrow Mountain as an “environmental education center”.
- Find way to draw Morrow Mountain visitors to Badin—they don’t know we are here!
- Road between Falls Road and Morrow Mountain—could it be a biking/hiking trail, creating a link between the town and Badin?

Other Outdoors Recreation:

- Encourage outfitter-type establishments in downtown Badin.
- The park in Badin fixed into a park that can be used – not rocks!
- Old baseball park along the lake—could it once again become a recreation area?
- Tie the town’s identity to recreation—Mr. Copp, the first Alcoa plant manager, really emphasized and encouraged recreation.

Inclusiveness:

- Get youth involved in these projects—task them to come up with ideas—provide a place for them to meet and maintain and police themselves.
- Do more to give members of the African American community a sense of ownership in the process.
- How to have all the people in Badin take part in this process?
III. OBSERVATIONS FROM “MENTAL MAPPING”

The August 18, 2005 community forum engaged residents in a “mental mapping” exercise, where participants were asked to visually represent on a piece of newsprint paper the community assets they most value and cherish, and then to graphically illustrate the physical and mental “connections” between these places. The purpose of this exercise was to encourage residents to articulate in a visual way those community assets that were most important to them, and then to take the additional step of identifying how those assets were interconnected, or alternatively, if they’re not perceived as being very well-connected, to imagine how they might be.

Since this community feedback was expressed in a visual way, it was a challenge to reflect adequately in words the views of participants. Nonetheless, the staff of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute identified the following themes from the maps that were drawn and the presentations given at the August 18 community forum:

- Residents truly understand and value Badin’s unique historic character, and regularly expressed their regret at some of the significant architectural losses they have experienced over the years.
- As one might expect in a community so well-endowed with natural resources, residents repeatedly listed “green” spaces in and around the town among their most cherished assets. These included not only the obvious ones, such as the golf course, the picnic area along Badin Lake, and Morrow Mountain State Park, but also smaller spaces that are integral parts of the town’s unique fabric, including the “village green”, the Harristown Community Park, and even a public space that has since been abandoned, the vacant area along Lee Street in West Badin that used to serve as a community park.
- Residents seemed to understand the importance of “connectivity”, and repeatedly called for better linkages between (1) Badin and Palmerville (perhaps via the old rail line), (2) Badin and the Hardaway site, and (3) Badin and Morrow Mountain State Park. Interestingly, many residents recalled the historic link to Morrow Mountain that used to exist along the abandoned road that runs on Alcoa land off Falls Road, and repeatedly called for re-establishing this link, either with a new entrance into the state park, or at the least, through the addition of hiking and equestrian trails.
- One issue of connectivity that surfaced repeatedly during the mental mapping exercise was the lack of connectivity between historically black West Badin and historically white East Badin. This manifested itself in several ways: (1) through direct reference to this lack of connectivity by participants, which most agreed had been re-enforced by the placement of the Alcoa facility in the middle of town, and (2) indirectly through the very different responses that were observed to the mental mapping exercise by participants, depending on their race. Depending on whether one was white or black, the focus of participants usually centered on one side of the town or the other. This highlights one of the real challenges for the participants of the STAR process—overcoming historical barriers of race and working toward a shared vision for the town.