Field Notes

SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC 00191
Field Notes: Jerry Mitchell Turner (compiled November 12, 2008)
Interviewee: JERRY MITCHELL ("JERRY") TURNER
Interviewer: Yona R. Owens
Interview Date: Thursday, November 6, 2008
Location: Raleigh, North Carolina
Length: Approximately 37 minutes

THE INTERVIEWEE A North Carolina native, Turner graduated from the North Carolina State University School (now College) of Design in 1959 in landscape architecture. His classmates in the five year program were Charlie Burkhead and Lindsay Cox. At first headed toward architecture, Turner was attracted to the design component of landscape architecture as it was being taught by Lewis Clarke. After graduation, Turner worked for Godwin and Bell, followed by a position with the N.C. Department of Conservation and Development. He opened his own practice, Jerry Turner & Associates, Inc. in 1967. His firm has been in continuous operation since that date making it one of the oldest active landscape architecture firms in the state. In 1997, Turner was accepted as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

THE INTERVIEWER Yona R. Owens is the Lewis Clarke Oral Histories project manager at North Carolina State University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center (SCRC).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW The interview was conducted in a conference room at Jerry Turner & Associates' offices. Usually soft-spoken, Turner was a bit under the weather, but was eager to be interviewed.

CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW The interview questions allowed Turner to recount his days as a student at the NCSU School of Design, discuss what made students of the early Kamphoefner period so different, and enumerate some projects that were core to his practice.

NOTE ON RECORDING I used the SCRC's Edirol R-09 recorder, recording in stereo. I recorded the interview as a WAV file, and the quality is fair. There were two, overheard phone interruptions at 15:00 and 23:40.