

and the role it has played in the growth and development of Charlotte. The cost of the surface park could vary enormously and no estimate is given at this time. The visitor center at the Reed Gold Mine cost about \$250,000.

If there is the danger of losing one of the sites, perhaps an option to purchase can be arranged to hold the property while evaluations are being made.

## DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Develop a Gold-Mining Theme for Charlotte

For the first fifty years of gold mining in the United States, North Carolina was the leading gold-producing state. Charlotte was centrally located in the most productive gold mining area during that time. Altogether, gold mining in and around Charlotte spanned 126 of Charlotte's 210 year history.

A U. S. Government publication\* lists 118 gold mines and prospects in Mecklenburg County, a large number of which are located within the present Charlotte city limits. Over the years the city has expanded, destroying nearly all surface evidences of mining and sealing off old mine tunnels and shafts. These buried workings, however, may be considered as "time capsules" of a vigorous and often flamboyant, but largely forgotten, part of Charlotte's history. Gold assisted the early citizens to establish strong positions in trade, finance (including a branch of the U. S. Mint), transportation and manufacturing. Today Charlotte is a major center of these important functions. The role played by gold mining in these achievements should be commemorated, and is the subject of these recommendations. To fully capitalize on this theme, the approach to commemoration should be taken seriously and will involve significant commitments to planning and financing by the City of Charlotte.

Considerable information has been compiled by Geological Resources, Inc. on two underground gold mines that are located on the same vein system almost in the center of present-day Charlotte. They are the Rudisill, Mecklenburg's largest gold mine and the St. Catherine, Mecklenburg's oldest and deepest gold mine. Two reports have been prepared on the Rudisill and St. Catherine mines,

\*Pardee, J. T. and C. F. Park, Jr., 1948, Cold Deposits of the Southern Piedmont. U. S. Geol. Survey, Prof. Paper 213, Washington, D. C.