

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

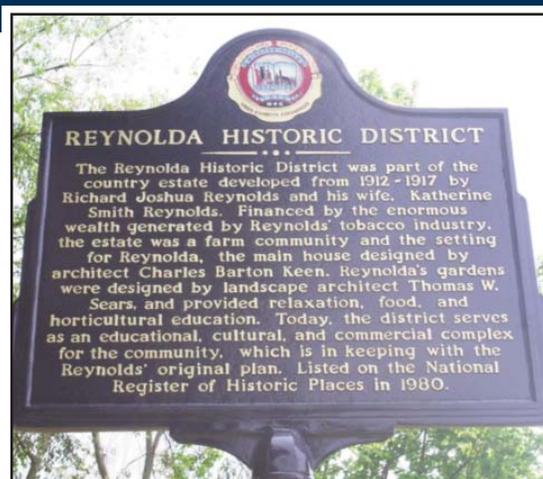
Reynolda Historic District

Containing approximately 178 acres, the Reynolda Historic District in northwest Winston-Salem includes Reynolda House, Gardens, Village, and Presbyterian Church. Today's district was once part of a larger country estate developed by Richard Joshua Reynolds, founder of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, and his wife Katherine Smith Reynolds, in the early decades of the 20th century. In fact, Reynolda's conceived plan and fulfillment was largely the work of Katherine Smith Reynolds, who designed the property as a self-sufficient model farm community.

Included in the Reynolda Historic District is Reynolda, the gracious house designed for the Reynolds by Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen. The house was designed during the early 20th century when architectural revival styles were at their peak in the United States. Referred to as "the Bungalow," the house incorporates elements of the Bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Neo-Classical Revival styles. Reynolda Village provided agricultural and mechanical support to the estate, as well as housing and educational facilities for Reynolda's employees and their children. The style and materials of the main house are echoed in the village's buildings. Reynolda Gardens were the work of Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas W. Sears, and were designed not only to complement the house, but



Aerial View of Reynolda Estate
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection



to provide relaxation, food, and horticultural education. Reynolda Presbyterian Church was also established to serve Reynolda's community.

Reynolda is an outstanding example of an estate developed during what has been called the "American Country House Movement." Beginning in the late 19th century and continuing through the 1930s, it became increasingly popular for wealthy industrialists to invest in large, country estates located outside cities. For such prosperous individuals, living in the country provided a simpler life outside of the central cities, which had often become crowded and dirty. Country houses during this time were often palatial, with expansive estates and architecturally-designed gardens. Like Reynolda, many estates were self-sufficient farms as well.

Today, the continued use of the gardens and church and the reuse of the house as an art and educational center and the village as commercial shops, offices, and studios are in keeping with the initial concept of the estate, of which the Reynolds' conceived in the first decade of the 20th century.

In 1980, the Reynolda Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Reynolda Historic District
National Register Nomination

<http://www.reynolda.org/clr.html>



This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>