On behalf of the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission’s Annual Report for 2016. As always, the year was filled with outstanding projects and activities. The Commission reviewed three Local Historic Landmark applications that generated helpful conversations with City Council and expanded efforts to broaden recognition and increase community awareness. The Commission reviewed and provided comment on three National Register nominations. The Historic Marker Program continues to grow in popularity; during the year, there were four historic markers installed in the city, in Clemmons, and in the county. Historic Preservation Month in May was actively celebrated with Local Historic Landmark tours, marker unveilings, Rural Hall Family Day, and many more events throughout Forsyth County.

The Commission managed its consistent caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from the local historic districts and landmark properties. And, after its successful release last year, sales of the popular book, Winston-Salem’s Architectural Heritage by Heather Fearnbach, have continued to be strong, with enthusiastic responses from those discovering the history of their neighborhoods and beyond.

We will continue to serve the citizens of our communities by protecting and promoting our historic resources and encouraging their reuse for current-day purposes. The Commission members and staff are passionate and dedicated, and encourage you to get involved, as these buildings contribute to the health of our neighborhoods and urban centers. The Commission looks forward to another productive year fulfilling our county’s preservation goals.

Langdon Oppermann, Chairman

Educational Committee
Historic Preservation Month Activities

This year, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (HRC) was joined by Old Salem Museums & Gardens, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, New Winston Museum, Rural Hall Train Depot Museum, Rural Hall Historical Society Museum, Preservation Forsyth, Salem College, and the City of Winston-Salem to celebrate the month of May throughout Forsyth County as Historic Preservation Month. Historic Preservation Month is celebrated nationally and serves locally as a showcase for the county’s diverse and unique heritage. Across the nation, thousands of community groups honor their histories through various activities and bring historic preservation to the forefront of Americans’ daily lives by emphasizing the importance of protecting the nation’s past through its built environment.

Preservation month was kicked off with a tour of two Forsyth County’s Local Historic Landmarks - the Blair House and Hylehurst. Both former homes are for sale and are currently looking for new owners. The HRC and Reynolda House Museum of American Art cohosted the historic marker unveiling of the Five Row at Reynolda.

Old Salem Museum & Gardens continued its 250th Celebration through the month with four Lunch and Learn presentations. The New Winston Museum presented a talk entitled; Past, Present, and Future of the Winston-Salem’s Union Station. Rural Hall Train Depot and Railroad Museum enjoyed a family fun day at this Local Historic Landmark and educated many about railroad history and how life was for the men and women who worked and traveled by train.
Historic Marker Program
Each year, the HRC approves historic markers to be installed in the City of Winston-Salem and the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County. The markers commemorate a wide variety of properties or sites of local historic significance. In 2016, three historic marker unveilings were held. Below is a brief description of the significance of each new historic marker.

In October, a City marker recognizing the Winston Mutual Life Insurance Building was unveiled. In 1906, African-American civic and business leaders formed an insurance company, the Winston Industrial Association. It was established to provide health and accident insurance for African-Americans due to the lack of financial services available to them. The company grew and merged with Mountain City Mutual Life Insurance Company of Asheville in 1915 to become Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company. By the 1940s, it was one of the three largest African-American owned insurance companies in the state. Architect Ralph W. Crump designed the 5-story modernist office building for Winston Mutual in 1969.

In November, a County marker for the 1792 Road between Bethabara and Germanton was unveiled in the county. The 1792 Road between Bethabara and Germanton provided a route to the Germanton courthouse, schools, churches and local goods and services. County residents largely used the road as an easier access to the courthouse where residents could deal with the appointment of local officeholders, taxes, real estate, legal and family matters, revolutionary war pensions and coroner’s inquests.

In May, during Historic Preservation Month, the City along with Reynolda House Museum of American Art remembered and honored the community of Five Row. The auditorium was filled with descendants of the community and longtime advocates to promote the African-American history of Reynolda. Five Row was a community of African-American farmworkers and their families who worked at Reynolda House. First occupied in 1916, the community began as two rows of five cottages and gardens that fronted an unpaved road along Silas Creek. The Five Row School was active with academic classes and Sunday worship services from 1918 to the 1940s. Five Row was demolished in 1961 to make way for Silas Creek Parkway.

The Village of Clemmons placed a marker at the former home of Philip and Johanna Hoehns (Hanes) House. The marker was sponsored by new owners Tom Gray and Paul Zickell, who had recently rehabilitated the home. The Hoehns House is one of the oldest and most architecturally significant dwellings in Clemmons and Forsyth County. The 1798 Flemish-bond brick dwelling is a testament to the wealth, status, and sophistication of prominent farmer and distiller Philip and his wife, Johanna Hoehns.
Local Historic Landmark Program

Local Historic Landmark designation applies to individual properties in Forsyth County. This designation is an honor that recognizes a property’s importance to the heritage and character of the community. Landmark properties can include buildings, structure, sites, or objects.

Once a property has been designated a Landmark, it becomes subject to architectural/site review and approval by the Commission. Prior to making changes to any portion of a designated Landmark, the property owner must obtain approval from the HRC to ensure that alterations to the property are in keeping with its historical and architectural character. In addition, the property owner may apply to the Forsyth County Tax Office for up to a 50% property tax deferral, which runs with the property in perpetuity (unless designation is revoked).

New 2016 Forsyth County Local Historic Landmarks

Hanes Hoisery Mill
1325 and 1245 Ivy Avenue
Winston-Salem

Philip and Johanna Hoehns (Hanes) House
3550 Middlebrook Drive
Clemmons

Oak Crest Historic District
Winston-Salem
The district is centered on Polo Road, which runs east-west. North of Polo Road are Friendship Circle, Freds Road, and Idlewilde Drive. South of Polo Road are Crepe Myrtle Circle, Harmon Avenue, Hobart Street, and Rosedale Circle.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review

The Commission, Winston-Salem City Council, and Clemmons Council reviewed and commented on National Register of Historic Places nominations prepared for properties in their communities. Those communities along with the HRC commented that they believed the applications met the criteria to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All three were placed on the National Register in 2016.

Hanes Hoisery Mill
1325 and 1245 Ivy Avenue
Winston-Salem

Philip and Johanna Hoehns (Hanes) House
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In 2015, the publication *Winston-Salem’s Architectural Heritage*, a narrative and photographic overview of Winston-Salem’s architectural development from the eighteenth century to the present, was released to the public. The book is a stunning survey of the city’s evolution containing almost 900 documentary and current images of architecturally and historically significant buildings and neighborhoods.

The book is available in the Revenue Office on first floor of the Bryce A. Stuart Building at 100 E. First Street in Winston-Salem or online at [www.winstonsalem-heritagebook.com](http://www.winstonsalem-heritagebook.com). For more information on how to order your copy contact: Michelle McCullough at michellem@cityofws.org or 336-747-7063.
Staff News

Staff attended the Preservation North Carolina Conference held in Greensboro in September. In April, staff also attended the Institute of Classical Art and Architecture’s Historic Building Trades Workshop in Winston-Salem. Several members of the HRC also attended these two events plus other professional lectures and trainings in their respective professions.

Karie Seykora and Dan Coughlin were selected to receive a Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit from Preservation North Carolina for the rehabilitation of the Joseph and Margaret Graham House. The house is located at 645 Summit Street within the West End Historic District. The award honors individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation. The house was designed in the Tudor Revival style by Winston-Salem architect Willard C. Northrup and completed in 1910.

Membership News

During 2016, the HRC had one change in membership. Kristen McManus, Doctor of Education and Educational Consultant, was appointed by the Winston-Salem City Council as an at-large member.

For More Information

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
336-727-8000
www.ForsythCountyHRC.org

PROTECT

One of the Commission’s core responsibilities is the review and issuance of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications for the Old Salem Historic District, the Bethabara Historic District, the West End Historic Overlay District and the Local Historic Landmarks (LHL). Below are the statistics for COAs reviewed during FY2015-2016.

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ACKNOWLEDGE

2016 Preservation North Carolina Awards

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ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

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MAJOR PROJECTS

- Area Plan Participation
- Local Historic Marker Program
- Environmental Reviews
- Historic Preservation Month Activities
- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews
- Outreach to District Residents and the Real Estate Community
- Rezoning Petition Briefings