On behalf of the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission’s Annual Report for 2017. As always, the Commission experienced a year filled with outstanding projects and activities. During the year, the Commission reviewed three Local Historic Landmark applications that were all approved by the appropriate elected body. The Commission reviewed and provided comment on one National Register nomination. The Historic Marker Program continues to grow in popularity and during the year there were three marker unveiling ceremonies. Historic Preservation Month in May was actively celebrated with historic marker unveilings, a trolley tour of Historic Residences of East 14th Street, a walking tour of downtown architecture and several other community events at historic places. The Commission managed its consistent caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from the local historic districts and landmark properties.

We hope you enjoy reading about the Commission’s work over the past year. We will continue to serve the citizens of our community by protecting and promoting our historic resources. Thank you for your continued support of Forsyth County’s rich historical and architectural legacy. The Commission looks forward to another productive year fulfilling our county’s preservation goals in 2018.

One final note, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Commission Chairman for the past two years. It is evident that the Commission members and staff are passionate and dedicated to preserving our county’s history. I have learned so much from my colleagues and our community and I am thankful to have had this opportunity to serve you. I am pleased to announce that local architect, Kevin Owen, will be our new Commission Chairman in 2018.

Langdon Oppermann, Chairman

PROMOTE

Educational Committee

Historic Preservation Month Activities

Foundations & Founding Principles

This year, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (HRC) was joined by Old Salem Museums and Gardens, New Winston Museum, Rural Hall Train Depot Museum, Rural Hall Historical Society Museum, Preservation Forsyth, Salem College, Walkertown Area Historical Society, Kernersville Historic Preservation Society, Korner’s Folly, Town of Bethania, the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County to once again celebrate the month of May throughout Forsyth County as Historic Preservation Month. Historic Preservation Month is nationally celebrated and serves as a showcase for the county’s diverse and unique heritage. Across the United States, 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.

Preservation month began with the Commission unveiling a Forsyth County Historic Marker at the Samuel and Sarah Stauber Farm.

The HRC and the Happy Hill Neighborhood Association cohosted the historic marker unveiling of the Brothers’ Spring and the African School along with a neighborhood tour of Happy Hill.

Old Salem Museum and Gardens sponsored its annual Lunch and Learn presentations on Wednesdays with the last presentation being held at Bethania’s Alpha Chapel. Rural Hall Train Depot and Railroad Museum and the Rural Hall Historical Museum hosted a family fun day, educating many about the town and railroad history.
Historic Marker Program

Each year, the HRC approves historic markers to be installed in the City of Winston-Salem. In 2016, a historic marker program was established for the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County approving one marker per year. The markers commemorate a wide variety of properties, which range from National Register Historic Districts to non-designated historic areas. Sites of local historical significance can be recognized, as can individual buildings such as schools, industrial buildings, private residences, and others. In 2017, three historic marker unveilings were held. Below is a brief description of the significance of each marker unveiled in 2017.

In May, a marker recognizing The Brothers’ Spring and the African School was unveiled. As early as 1821, the Brothers’ Spring, also known as the Brethern’s Spring, was documented by a Moravian botanist. In the early 20th century, the spring served as a recreational and ecological resource for both the Moravian community and African-American community nearby. The spring was an important resting place, a resource for clean water, and an overnight camp for travelers and visitors coming to Salem. It was also a campsite for military units during the Colonial period, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Near the spring, the Salem Congregation granted land to the Freemen of Salem for the African School in 1867. The African School was built south of the spring on a hill, east of Waughtown Road (Street), in an area known today as Happy Hill. The school included both white and black teachers throughout its existence.

In September, a marker for the 14th Street School was unveiled in the city. In 1922, plans developed for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art school on 14th Street for African-American children. Built to eventually replace the Depot Street Graded School, the new school was located on forty acres of land on the southeast corner of Cameron Avenue and 14th Street. The first phase of construction was a four-story, brick, Classical Revival style building. The original plans included 13 classrooms, a medical clinic, an office, a waiting room, library, athletic grounds, a park area, and an auditorium that would also be used as the gymnasium. The auditorium plans were modern and included dressing rooms and moving picture equipment for theatrical productions. The basement consisted of locker rooms, showers, and three classrooms. In 1924, after the Depot School burned, enrollment at 14th Street School increased, prompting the need for expansion, which was completed in January of 1925. As the student population continued to increase, additional facilities were required. Architectural firm Northup and O’Brien prepared plans for the 1929 addition to the school. The 14th Street School was one of the most modern African-American schools in the state during its time. In 1973, the school closed and the building was used by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System as offices until 1976. The school was demolished in 1977.

Also in May, a marker for the Samuel and Sarah Stauber Farm was unveiled in the county. In 1850, Samuel B. and Sarah S. Stauber were farmers with six children. Mr. Stauber owned 458 acres of land outside the Moravian com-
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. Types of local landmark properties can include buildings, structure, sites, or objects.

Once a property has been designated a historic landmark, it becomes subject to architectural/site review and approval by the Commission. Prior to making changes to any portion of a designed 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 2017 Forsyth County Local Historic Landmarks

- **John L. and Emma J. Gilmer House**
  - 1929
  - 605 W Cascade Avenue
  - Winston-Salem

- **Hoots Milling Company Roller Mill**
  - 1935
  - 1151 Canal Drive
  - Winston-Salem

- **Flynt House**
  - 1775, 1790, 1935
  - 6780 University Parkway
  - Rural Hall

Photos Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

IDENTIFY

Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update

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](http://www.winstonsalem-heritagebook). For more information on how to order your copy contact: Michelle McCullough at michellem@cityofws.org or 336-747-7063.
In late 2016, staff began review and revision of the West End Historic Overlay District Design Guidelines. During 2017, a West End Historic Overlay District Design Guideline update committee of the HRC met with staff once per month to review chapter topics and consider clarity and relevance of the guidelines. Staff will present the proposed updates to HRC and conduct public meetings with West End Historic District property owners during the summer of 2018 to obtain community input before final revisions are made.

### Major Projects
- Area Plan Participation
- City of Winston-Salem 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

### Annual Highlights

#### Staff News

During 2017, the HRC had two reappointments. Kevin Owen and Donna Abernethy were reappointed by the Forsyth County Commission as at-large members.