

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



Annual Report 2012

Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am proud to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2012. As always, the Commission experienced a year filled with outstanding projects and activities. During the year, the Commission reviewed two National Register nominations and a Local Historic Landmark designation ordinance was adopted for one property. The Historic Marker Program continues to grow in popularity and during the year there were two marker unveiling ceremonies. As always, Historic Preservation Month in May was actively celebrated with interesting lectures and related activities. Additionally, manuscript preparation began on the Winston-Salem architectural survey publication. Finally, 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 and look forward to continuing 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.

Mark Maxwell, Chairman

Major Projects

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| Winston-Salem Architectural Survey Manuscript Preparation | City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker Program |
| Historic Marker and Local Historic Landmark Web Site Development | Local Historic Landmark Reviews |
| Historic Preservation Month Activities | National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews |
| Area Plan Participation | Environmental Reviews |
| | Rezoning Petition Briefings |

Education Committee

Historic Preservation Month Activities

This year, the Commission once again celebrated the month of May throughout Forsyth County as Historic Preservation Month. Historic Preservation Month is nationally celebrated and serves as a showcase for the country'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. The 2012 local theme for Historic Preservation Month was *Urban Landscapes and Farming*. Activities during the month included the following:

Historic Preservation Month Resolutions

Resolutions supporting Historic Preservation Month were adopted by the Winston-Salem City Council, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, the Kernersville Board of Aldermen, and the Clemmons Village Council.

Lecture Series

The Commission coordinated a series of lectures during each week of Historic Preservation Month. These events covered a wide range of preservation-related topics including: the Wachovia landscape; the African-American landscape of Salem; and, Forsyth County's agricultural heritage. Additional events were coordinated with various organizations, such as Reynolda House, Salem College, Old Salem Museums and Gardens, and Historic Bethabara Park.

Tours

The Commission also arranged for tours of two historic resources. The first was held at the Samuel B. Stauber Farm, which features historic buildings, extensive gardens, and heritage breed livestock. Additionally, the farm at the Children's Home was open for



visitors to experience the site's agricultural and farming operation. Each tour was well-attended and successful, providing a valuable insight into the historical presence of agriculture in the community.



Historic Marker Committee

Historic Marker Program

During 2012, two historic markers were installed and unveiling ceremonies were held for both. In July, a marker commemorating the Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital was unveiled.



*The Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital, 1938
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library
Photograph Collection*

Completed in 1938, the hospital was the first facility in Winston-Salem to offer comprehensive medical care and professional medical education for African-



Americans. Prompted by petitions to Mayor W.T. Wilson, William Neal Reynolds and The Duke Endowment provided construction funds and stipulated that it solely serve the African-American community. With more than 100 beds and a school of nursing, the hospital was named for Reynolds's wife, Kate Gertrude Bitting Reynolds, and was affectionately known as the "Katie B." In 1941, Reynolds funded a 90-bed addition, reportedly making it the third largest hospital for African-Americans in the United States. The Katie B. provided outstanding care for 32 years. It was replaced by Reynolds Memorial Hospital in 1970.

The second marker was unveiled in October, and recognized the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Black Panther Party. In 1969, Winston-Salem became the first Southern city with a chapter of the Black Panther Party. Nationally and locally, the Black Panthers sought to protect African-American neighborhoods from police brutality; the volatility of the times often led to confrontation with police.



Later the Chapter offered community service programs, including free breakfasts for school children, sickle cell anemia testing, and the Joseph Waddell People's Free Ambulance Service, which received national acclaim. These programs brought meaningful change to Winston-Salem during a time of social and political upheaval and lent validation to the Chapter's slogan, "Power to the People – Right On!" Members of the Winston-Salem Chapter would later serve the community as ministers, teachers, politicians, and community organizers.

For more information on the Historic Marker Program, visit that section of the Commission's website at: <http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Planning/HistoricResources/Commission/Articles/HRCMarkerProgram>

Additional Commission Activities

Local Historic Landmark Program

During 2012, the following property was designated by ordinance as a Forsyth County Local Historic Landmark:

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Factory Complex 64

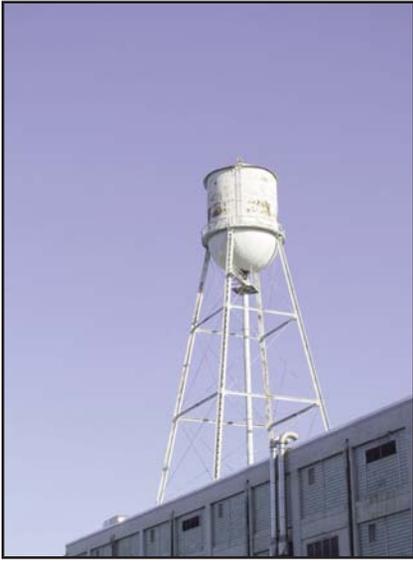
Located at 500 East Fifth Street in Winston-Salem, the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Factory Complex 64 is comprised of eleven buildings and structures ranging in date from 1916 to post-1960s construction. The complex is significant as a highly intact and comprehensive

early-to-mid 20th century example of the once numerous industrial buildings and complexes that covered most of Winston-Salem's downtown area. More specifically, it is significant as one of the few remaining historic facilities of the nationally prominent R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which played a key role in the development of Winston-Salem for over a



century. Together with its storage and production structures, it is arguably the most complete production facility remaining from the hundreds of buildings that once encompassed the eastern section of downtown.

The complex is also significant for its role in the history of African-American employment during the first half of the twentieth century. Most workers in the community's tobacco industry from the late 19th century well into the 20th century were African-American. R.J. Reynolds was known for his almost total dependence upon African-American labor and his company sent trains to South Carolina and eastern North Carolina to bring back factory workers. After 1909, the tobacco factories became increasingly



mechanized and factory work became year-round rather than seasonal. As a result, African-Americans flocked to Winston and the black residential areas expanded tremendously. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company records estimate that by 1925 the company was employing 5/6 of the city's African-American population. A positive result of the influx of African-American workers was the establishment of numerous black-owned and -managed businesses located in the area. Living in the city were black attorneys, physicians, ministers, teachers, insurance agents, restaurant owners, etc. that provided services to support the general African-American population. As such, the complex is a testament to the thousands of workers, predominantly African-American, that worked for decades under difficult conditions and low wages.

Finally, the complex is one of the few remaining sites where the large strikes of 1943 and 1947 took place between the CIO-affiliated Local 22 and the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, representing an important series of events in the labor history of the city. During the history of Reynolds (and other tobacco facilities), there was a constant struggle for African-American workers to improve their wages and the harsh working conditions in the factories. The 1943 strike occurred when a factory employee died while working, after requesting permission to leave due to illness. Several hundred female stemmers began an immediate strike that spread throughout most of the facilities. Ultimately Local 22 won the right to represent the workers and in 1944, job security for senior workers, vacations, wage

increases, and grievance procedures were secured. However, disputes continued and a second strike occurred in 1947. It is important to note that many of the workers in the complex and leaders in the strikes were women, signifying an important chapter of local women's history. Among tobacco workers, African-American women were the first to be fired and received the lowest wages. Additionally, women faced substantial discrimination in the work place by managers. Because of these issues, it was the female workers that led many of the strikes and became union leaders.



*Strike against R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, 1947
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection*

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews

During 2012, the Commission reviewed two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. In Forsyth County, both the Commission and the elected bodies are charged with reviewing and commenting on all nominations for properties in the community.

Pepper Building 100-106 West Fourth Street Winston-Salem

The Pepper Building was constructed in 1928 and named for the family that owned the lot on which the building stands. It was originally constructed as a department store for a development firm, the Gilmer Company. Prominently located at the southwest corner of West Fourth and North Liberty Streets, the Pepper Building is an excellent local example of commercial Art Deco design. The building reflects the rapid growth of the city in the 1920s, when Winston-Salem emerged as one of the leading urban and commercial centers in North Carolina. The Pepper Building

was designed by the prolific and prestigious Winston-Salem architectural firm of Northrup and O'Brien, which gained acclaim for designing substantial and finely-detailed buildings throughout the state.



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

Robert M. Hanes House 140 North Stratford Road Winston-Salem

The Robert M. Hanes House, completed in 1927, was designed by the prominent Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen, who also designed Reynolda House. The Georgian Revival-style house is commodious and elegant, and it remains well-preserved and little altered. In 1937, ten years after the house was completed, Hanes hired renowned New York landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman to design the garden for his property. The landscape design includes such features as small lawn areas, a terrace, well-defined paths, walls, pools in a variety of shapes, a garden house, and a secluded seating area. Hanes was one of the key individuals who helped Winston-Salem achieve success and shaped the direction of its future. He served as president of Wachovia Bank & Trust Company for 25 years, and also served his country as the Director of Economic Affairs for West Germany following World War II.



Courtesy of Laura A.W. Phillips

