

# Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



# Annual Report

## 2006

### Chairman's Message

*On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am proud to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2006. The Commission experienced an extremely busy year with many exciting projects and activities. In addition to our regular caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from the local historic districts and landmark properties, the Commission strongly focused its efforts toward increasing its visibility in the community. A tremendous benchmark was achieved with the debut of the first biennial Heritage Awards program in May. Highly successful, the awards program was well attended by citizens throughout Forsyth County. The awards program served to recognize outstanding projects, organizations, and individuals in the community committed to historic preservation. Over the next year, the Commission looks forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Forsyth County by protecting and promoting our county's significant collection of historic resources.*

Ferrell Clay, Chairman

### Major Projects

- Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update
- Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station Collaboration
- Historic Preservation Month Activities
- City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker Program
- Letters of Recognition Program
- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review
- Sunnyside/Central Terrace & Centerville National Register Nomination Preparation
- Reynoldstown National Register Nomination Preparation
- Bethania Historic Overlay District Development
- Historic Resources Sourcebook Preparation
- West End Design Review Guidelines Revision
- Commission Workshop
- Environmental Reviews
- Rezoning Petition Briefings
- Area Plan Participation

### Education Committee

#### Historic Preservation Month Activities

This year, the Commission once again celebrated the month of May as Historic Preservation Month throughout Forsyth County. 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 2006 theme for Historic Preservation Month was "Sustain America – Vision, Economics, and Preservation." Activities during the month included the following:

#### Heritage Awards

On May 2, 2006, the inaugural Heritage Awards were held at the Old Salem Visitor Center. Sponsored by the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, the five awards recognized and honored the outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in historic preservation in Forsyth County. The keynote address was given by Donovan Rypkema, President of Place Economics, an economic development consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. Mr. Rypkema is recognized as an industry leader in the economics of preserving historic structures. Since 1983, he has provided ongoing consulting services to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and its National Main Street Center. His address was entitled, "Historic Preservation and the Competitive City." The Commission plans for the Heritage Awards to become a biennial event, with the next program to be held in May 2008. The Heritage

Awards allow preservation efforts to be celebrated and is an opportunity to honor those who work to sustain the heritage and sense of place that is Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Listed below are the 2006 award recipients for the five categories.



#### Residential:

Residential Apartment Building  
1714 Lynwood Avenue,  
Winston-Salem  
Sam and Jane Ogburn, Jr., Ogburn Properties



#### Commercial/Institutional:

Nissen Building  
310-314 West Fourth Street,  
Winston-Salem  
HRI Properties  
Nissen Risk Capital, LLC  
Bank of America



**Historic Landscapes:**

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Graveyard  
South Main Street, Kernersville  
Sarah Hamlin



**Advocacy:**

Ardmore Neighborhood Association



**Individual:**

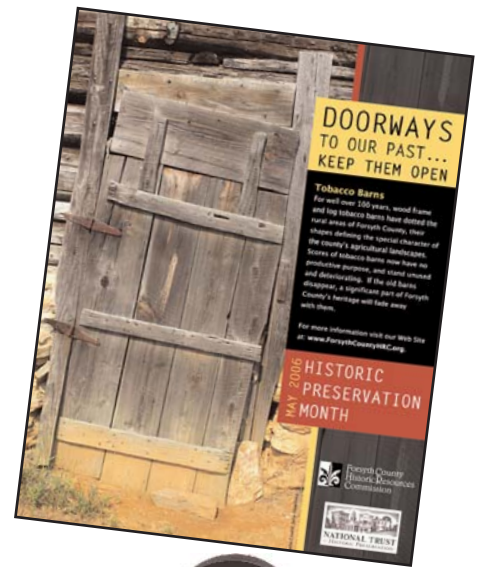
Gwynne Taylor

**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.

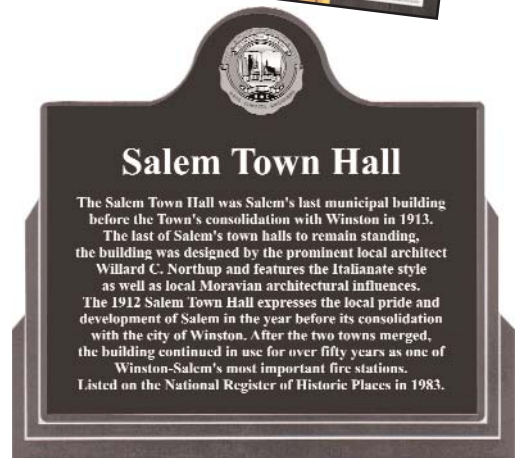
**Historic Preservation Month Poster**

The Commission published its third annual Historic Preservation Month poster. The poster featured the importance of tobacco barns as an endangered building type and as an important component of Forsyth County's history and landscape. The poster was distributed throughout Forsyth County and once again provided a high degree of visibility for the Commission and local historic preservation concerns.



**Historic Marker Unveiling**

During Historic Preservation Month, the Commission sponsored the unveiling of one of Winston-Salem's newest historic markers. Recognizing "The Pond" community, the event was well attended and provided recognition for one of Winston-Salem's most significant, yet tragic events. At the turn of the 20th century, Winston's water reservoir was located at the top of the Trade Street Hill, where Eighth and Trade Streets intersected. Disaster struck in the early morning hours of November 2, 1904, when people in the neighborhood were awakened by a loud thud and shudders "like an earthquake." The entire north wall of the reservoir had collapsed. An estimated 800,000-1,400,000 gallons of water rushed into the neighborhood, destroying houses, killing nine people and injuring many others. It is said that a city official looking over the flooded area remarked that it looked "like a pond," and the name has been associated with the area since that day. The reservoir collapse remains the most catastrophic day of Winston and Salem's history.



**Historic Marker Committee**

**Historic Marker Program**

During 2006, historic markers were installed for The Pond and Salem Town Hall (located at the southeast corner of Cemetery and South Liberty Streets in Winston-Salem). Additionally, the Marker Committee selected the Downtown North Historic District and the George Black House and Brickyard for markers to be installed during 2007.

**West End Design Review Guidelines Revision Committee**

**West End Guidelines Revision**

In May 2006, the Commission approved the revised design review guidelines for the West End Historic Overlay District. The new guidelines became effective September 1, 2006. Available to all property owners within the District, the



revised guidelines can also be found on the Commission's web site at: [www.forsythcountyhrc.org](http://www.forsythcountyhrc.org).

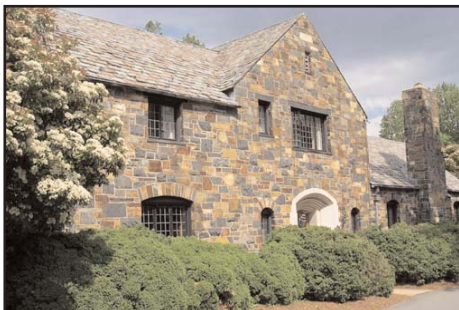
## **Additional Commission Activities**

### **National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review**

During 2006, the Commission reviewed a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the James B. and Diana M. Dyer House. This property received official listing in the National Register during 2006. According to Forsyth County's Certified Local Government agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Commission and the elected bodies are charged with reviewing and commenting on all National Register nominations prepared for properties in the community.

#### **James B. & Diana M. Dyer House**

Located at 1015 West Kent Road in Winston-Salem, the Dyer House was constructed in 1931 for James B. and Diana M. Dyer. The house was designed by the New York architectural firm of Mayers, Murray and Phillip. The Dyer House is one of only two buildings – and the only residence – in North Carolina designed by this nationally recognized firm. The Tudor-Revival influenced structure is significant to the architectural history of Winston-Salem as one of the finest residences built in the 1920s and 1930s in the exclusive suburbs flanking Reynolda Road. Both the exterior and the interior of the well-crafted stone house are well preserved and embody the tastes and ambitions of the city's industrial leadership at a time when Winston-Salem was the state's largest and by far richest city.



### **Sunnyside/Central Terrace and Centerville National Register Historic District Nominations**

In 2006, the Commission received a matching grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to prepare National Register nominations for the Sunnyside/Central Terrace and Centerville neighborhoods, located in southeast Winston-Salem. This project will complete the study of the entire area that began in 2001-2002 with a comprehensive architectural survey. Sunnyside/Central Terrace is a residential neighborhood with houses dating from around 1900, with an outstanding collection of early 20th century Craftsman-style bungalows that are among the best preserved in Winston-Salem. The former village of Centerville was once a bustling independent community, with a residential section that is home to a fine collection of ca. 1890-1930 dwellings. The project will continue into 2007.

### **Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update**

In 2006, Forsyth County and City of Winston-Salem were awarded a matching grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to begin an update of the comprehensive architectural survey of Forsyth County. Forsyth County has experienced tremendous growth and change since the last survey was completed in the early 1980s. Commission staff and the consulting firm of Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc. are working together in Phase One of the update project to conduct a reconnaissance of all previously surveyed properties. The goal is to identify originally surveyed properties that are no longer standing or have been altered considerably, and identify historic properties and areas that should be further investigated in a future phase. The architectural survey update will support future planning efforts in the county and future National Register nominations. It is hoped to have all phases of the survey update completed by 2010.

### **Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station Collaboration**

During 2006, the Commission began working in collaboration with the City/County Utility Commission on the potential preservation of the Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station, located on the Yadkin River in southwest Forsyth County. Dating from 1898, the station was the first commercial hydroelectric generating station in North Carolina using long distance transmission of alternating current power. The station provided power for industries in the towns of Winston and Salem, as well as electric street lights and an electric railway system. This joint project will continue into 2007.



### **Letters of Recognition Program**

During 2006, the Commission initiated a new recognition program. In an attempt to recognize the efforts of various individuals or groups that are taking up the challenge of preserving, restoring, or rehabilitating an historic or older structure in Forsyth County, the Commission began issuing letters of recognition for preservation projects. The submissions are initially reviewed by the Commission's Education Committee and then forwarded to the entire Commission. The projects can be large or small, but all will demonstrate respect for the integrity of a resource, while at the same time allowing it to continue to contribute to the community. This is just one more way that the Commission is recognizing and thanking the citizens of Forsyth County for respecting and preserving not only the community's architectural fabric, but its overall historical heritage as well.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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The following projects received Letters of Recognition during 2006:

**1926 Bungalow Restoration**

Jonestown Road, Winston-Salem  
 Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Alton Chadwick Jones

**Former Friends Meeting House Window Restoration**

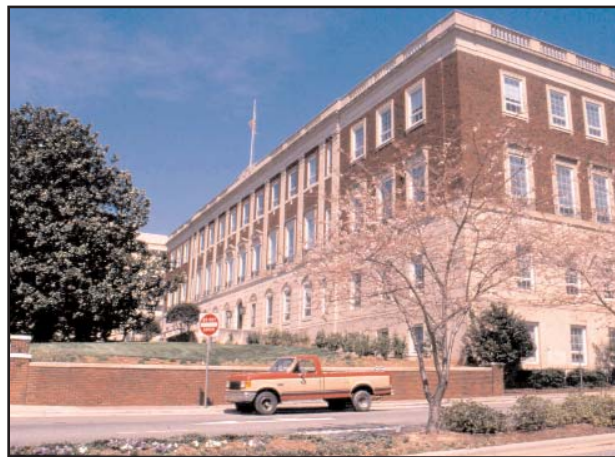
Broad Street, Winston-Salem  
 Owner: Augsburg Lutheran Church

**Landmark Corner**

**Winston-Salem City Hall – A Symbol of Civic Pride**

Located at 101 North Main Street in downtown Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem City Hall was completed in 1926 and has served as the seat of Winston-Salem’s government since that time. The building is the city’s only example of Renaissance Revival civic architecture and was designed by the local architectural firm of Northup and O’Brien. A comprehensive renovation of the building was completed in 2003 and today, City Hall remains an integral part of Winston-Salem’s downtown streetscape.

In 1892, Winston’s first Town Hall was located at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets; however, the building was demolished to make way for the new R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company building. At a regular Board of Aldermen meeting on June 13, 1924, the Aldermen directed the mayor to appoint a special committee to investigate the construction of a new City



Hall. By the end of that year, plans for a new building had been partially completed and a landscape architect had been retained. In February 1925, \$550,000 worth of bonds were issued for the “purpose of constructing a City Hall...” The first meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held in the newly completed City Hall on November 19, 1926.

City Hall is the only example of Renaissance Revival style civic architecture in Winston-Salem. The exterior of the structure is brick, with a first floor of rusticated stone. Featuring three stories and a basement, the footprint of the building is a U-shape with a 17 bay front façade. The roofline is capped with a limestone cornice and a balustrade with shaped balusters, concealing the building’s flat roof. The interior of the building features a first floor vestibule with heavy crown molding incorporating egg and dart, dentil, and leaf-design moldings. Beyond the vestibule with its fan-lighted double doors, is the main lobby

with grand staircase featuring marble treads and metal filigree balustrade. Other main lobby details include brass-framed bulletin boards, brass mailbox, and brass door hardware. This portion of the building has marble walls and baseboards as well as an elaborate plaster ceiling medallion. Throughout the remainder of the building, few changes have been made. Original

corridors remain, as do wooden doors with brass hardware, frosted glass panels, and transoms. During the recent renovation of the building, the original Board Chamber and the former Municipal Courtroom were returned to their original appearances. Winston-Salem City Hall was designed by a prolific and leading architectural firm of the period, Northup and O’Brien. During the 1920s and 1930s, Northup and O’Brien designed outstanding public, commercial, and residential buildings, including the Forsyth County Courthouse, the Pepper Building, and Graylyn.

On May 17, 2004, the Winston-Salem City Council officially designated Winston-Salem City Hall as a Local Historic Landmark. The property was also recognized in 2001 through its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Winston-Salem City Hall is one of the community’s finest reminders of its outstanding history and architecture, and is a property of which Forsyth County should be proud.

**Statistics (FY 2005 - 2006)**

Local Historic Landmarks Designated: 0

National Register of Historic Places Listings: 1

Certificates of Appropriateness:

	Approved	Denied	Other
Old Salem:	18	0	0
Bethabara:	4	0	0
West End:	63	3	1
Local Historic Landmarks:	8	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Historic Resources Commission**

Chairman: Ferrell Clay  
 Vice-Chairman: Jim Vaughan

**Forsyth County Appointees**

- Seth Brown
- Ferrell Clay
- Jeff Harbinson, AIA
- Stuart McCormick, AIA
- Michael Phillips

**Kernersville Appointee**

- Sharon Richmond

**Winston-Salem Appointees**

- Victor Harllee
- Norris Hutchins
- Mark Maxwell
- Laura Phillips
- Jim Vaughan

**Clemmons Appointee**

- Janet Banzof