

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



Annual Report

2007

Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am proud to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2007. As always, the Commission experienced a year filled with outstanding projects and activities. There has been the usual workload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications to review from the local historic districts and the local historic landmarks. In addition, the Commission undertook a full range of projects such as the annual celebration of Historic Preservation Month in May, continuing Forsyth County's comprehensive architectural survey update project, and working with individuals and neighborhoods seeking National Register listing and Local Historic Landmark designation. We hope you enjoy reading about the Commission's work over the past year and thank you for your continued support of our community's rich historical and architectural legacy.

Michael Phillips, 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
- Historic Resources Source Book Preparation
- 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 2007 theme for Historic Preservation Month was "Making Preservation Work." 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.

Historic Preservation Month Poster.

The Commission published its fourth annual Historic Preservation Month poster. The poster featured the importance of windows as a significant architectural feature of Forsyth County's historic buildings. 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.



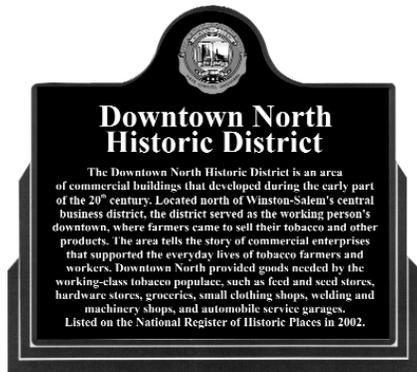
Recognizing the George Black House and Brickyard, the event was well attended and provided recognition for one of Winston-Salem's most renowned individuals. This site was the home and brickyard of the nationally-known brickmaker George H. Black from 1934 until his death in 1980 at the age of 101. Black, the son of former slaves, came to Winston-Salem as a child. He worked for the Hedgecock and Hime Brickyard, which gave him a mud mill to use as firewood. Instead, he used it to start his own brickyard and established a reputation for making traditional hand-

made bricks of quality and durability. Black made bricks for use in Winston-Salem's finest houses, in churches, businesses, and restorations in Old Salem and Colonial Williamsburg. A sought-after brickmaker across the state and Southeast, Black was nationally and internationally recognized for his craft. The George Black House and Brickyard was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

Historic Marker Committee

Historic Marker Program

During 2007, historic markers were installed for the Downtown North Historic District in Winston-Salem and the George Black House and Brickyard.



Additional Commission Activities

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review

During 2007, the Commission reviewed two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places: the S.J. Nissen Building and the Reynoldstown Historic District. 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.



S.J. Nissen Building

Located in downtown Winston-Salem at 310 East Third Street, the S.J. Nissen

Building was constructed in 1894-1895. The S.J. Nissen Building is one of only two surviving buildings, and the only one dating from the 19th century, associated with the important wagon building and repairing industry that was a significant part of Winston-Salem's economy during the 19th and early 20th centuries. (The other remaining building is the ca. 1919 Nissen Wagon Works, located at 1539 Waughtown Street.) The S.J. Nissen Building is a rare 19th century reminder of the large and bustling center of tobacco manufacturing and related industries that once filled the blocks just east of Winston-Salem's commercial and governmental center. Additionally, the building is architecturally distinctive in Winston-Salem for its noteworthy crenelated towers and strong use of round-arched windows. These features give the Nissen Building the appearance of a medieval Romanesque fortress that make it stand out from all other industrial buildings in the city. This property received official listing on the National Register during 2007.



Reynoldstown Historic District

The Reynoldstown neighborhood was started by R.J. Reynolds and the Reynolds Tobacco Company during World War I to reduce the housing shortage. The first houses were occupied in 1920 and were rental properties available to the white workers of Reynolds Tobacco Company. However, in 1931, Atkins High School was constructed for the African-American residents of Winston-Salem, and within a year the neighborhood was solidly African-American. The neighborhood thrived for the next several decades and transitioned from rental properties to owner-occupied homes by 1942. Additionally, the district is significant in the areas of architecture and engineering. The neighborhood features a collection of houses designed by

the Minter Homes Company and a collection of twentieth-century residential architecture. Additionally, in the area of engineering, there is a concrete bridge over Falling Branch Creek. It is the only bridge of the mushroom column design in North Carolina and one of the few known examples in the eastern United States. National Register listing for Reynoldstown is anticipated in 2008.

Local Historic Landmark Designations

Local historic landmark designation applies to individual properties in Forsyth County. This designation is an honor that recognizes a property is important to the heritage and character of the community and that its protection enriches the community's residents. Types of local landmark properties can include buildings, structures, sites, or objects.

Once a property has been designated a historic landmark, the ordinance designating the property provides controls on the appearance of the designated property and new construction on the property. In addition, the property owner may apply to the Forsyth County Tax Office for a 50% property tax deferral, which runs with the property in perpetuity (unless designation is revoked). During 2007, the following properties were designated by ordinance as Forsyth County Local Historic Landmark properties:



P.H. Hanes Knitting Company – Warehouse and Shipping Building

The Hanes Knitting Company Warehouse and Shipping Building was constructed in 1940, and is one of three buildings that comprise the Hanes Knitting Company complex. The complex was listed on the National Register in 2005. The Warehouse and Shipping Building was the last

structure built by the Knitting Company at this location, and it facilitated the storage and distribution of the company's products. Designation Date: February 5, 2007.

Odd Fellows Cemetery

The Odd Fellows Cemetery was established in 1911 by the African-American Twin City Lodge and Winston Star Lodge, although a survey of grave markers indicates that there are earlier burials. The cemetery later became the burial place for the Odd Fellows fraternal organization. The early date of the cemetery, prior to the merging of Winston and Salem in 1913, and the large number of individuals buried there during the historic time period ranks it as one of the most significant historic cemeteries in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Designation Date: February 5, 2007.



P.H. Hanes Knitting Company – Knitting Building

The Hanes Knitting Company Knitting Building, one of three historic buildings that comprise the larger P.H. Hanes Knitting Company complex, was constructed in 1920-1921. It is the earliest of the surviving buildings that were part of a knitwear empire of regional and national importance. The building represents Winston-Salem's industrial past and a large part of its economy in the early part

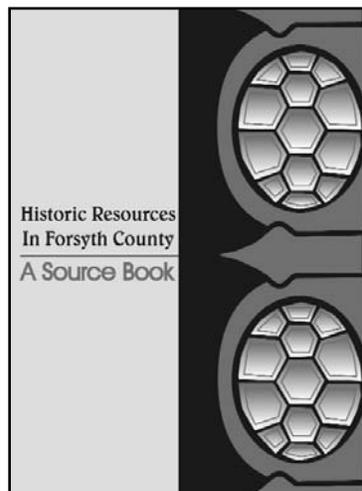
of the 20th century. It is one of a handful of intact industrial buildings from a period of intense industrial growth remaining in the downtown area of Winston-Salem. Designation Date: May 7, 2007.

Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update

In 2006, Forsyth County and the 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. Phase I of the project was completed in 2007; this component of work consisted of a reconnaissance of all previously surveyed properties, and identification of historic properties and areas to be further investigated in Phase II. During 2007, Phase II of the project began and will continue into 2008. The architectural survey update will support future planning efforts in the county and future National Register nominations. It is anticipated to have all phases of the survey update completed by 2010.

Historic Resources Source Book

In 2007, Commission staff published *Historic Resources in Forsyth County: A Source Book*. This comprehensive manual references the many aspects of historic preservation for Forsyth County's citizens. Copies of the *Source Book* are available at the City-County Planning Board, and a downloadable version can be found on the Planning Board's website at <http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Planning/Publications>.



Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station Collaboration

During 2007, the Commission continued its 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.

Letters of Recognition Program

During 2007, the Commission continued its Letters of Recognition program. The program was established in 2006 in order to recognize the efforts of various individuals or groups taking up the challenge of preserving, restoring, or rehabilitating an historic or older structure in Forsyth County. The submissions are initially reviewed by the Commission's Education Committee and then forwarded to the entire Commission. The projects, whether large or small, all 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 preserving not only the community's architectural fabric, but its overall historical heritage as well.

The following projects received Letters of Recognition during 2007:

- Holly Avenue Historic District Cottages Restoration
Holly Avenue Historic District, Winston-Salem
Recipients: Hilton Graham and Chris Teague
- Sawtooth School of Visual Arts Restoration
226 North Marshall Street, Winston-Salem
Recipient: Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County

Landmark Corner

John Wesley Snyder House – A Stone “Gem”

Located just south of Winston-Salem on Old Salisbury Road, the John Wesley Snyder House is one of the most architecturally striking dwellings erected in Forsyth County during the early 1920s. The two-story house with its matching garage/apartment and smokehouse is a rare domestic example of solid stone construction in the county, particularly outside the city. The Snyder House is more modest than the mansions of Winston-Salem’s industrial magnates. However, its use of materials, Craftsman-style exterior, and outstanding Colonial Revival/Craftsman interior with wood paneling, stone fireplaces, and extensive collection of original lighting fixtures,

combined with its matching outbuildings and picturesque rural setting, make it one of the county’s best domestic architectural complexes from the early 1920s. The house, barn, and garage/apartment were constructed ca. 1922, and the smokehouse dates from ca. 1940.

On December 18, 2000, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

officially designated the John Wesley Snyder House property as a Local Historic Landmark. The property was also recognized in 2000 through its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Snyder House 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 2006 - 2007)

Local Historic Landmarks Designated: 4

National Register of Historic Places Listings: 1

Certificates of Appropriateness:

	Approved	Denied	Other
Old Salem:	17	0	0
Bethabara:	1	0	0
West End:	56	1	1
Local Historic Landmarks:	11	0	0
Total:	85	1	1

Historic Resources Commission

Chairman: Michael Phillips (effective March 5, 2008)

Vice-Chairman: Julie Poplin (effective March 5, 2008)

Forsyth County Appointees

Seth Brown
Jeff Harbinson, AIA
Jamie Moore
Michael Phillips
Julie Poplin

Winston-Salem Appointees

Victor Harllee
Norris Hutchins
Mark Maxwell
Laura Phillips
Jim Vaughan
(Vice-Chairman from 2005-2007)

Kernersville Appointee

Sharon Richmond

Clemmons Appointee

Janet Banzhof

Former Commission Members

(members who served during 2006-2007)

Ferrell Clay (Chairman from 2005-2007)

Stuart McCormick, AIA