On behalf of the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission’s 2019 Annual Report. Once again, the Commission experienced a year filled with many outstanding projects and activities. The Commission reviewed and provided comment on two National Register of Historic Places nominations. Our Historic Marker Program continues to grow in popularity with three markers approved this year, and three well attended marker unveiling ceremonies. Preservation Month last May was enthusiastically celebrated with a kick-off reception and lecture from architectural historian and author of Grand Illusions: Historic Decorative Interior Painting in North Carolina, Laura Phillips. Special thanks to Preservation Forsyth for hosting the event. Later that month, the New Winston Museum, the Moravian Archives, and the Winston-Salem African American Archive joined the Commission in co-sponsoring a historic cemetery trolley tour. This wonderful tour included Mt. Sinai Jewish Cemetery, Waughtown Cemetery, St. Paul’s Cemetery in Kernersville, and New Evergreen Cemetery.

The Commission continued to manage its steady caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from property owners in our local historic districts and owners of Local Historic Landmark properties. Finally, we are extremely excited to announce that we received an Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office to continue the surveying of Forsyth County. Many of you will remember the survey of the City of Winston-Salem, completed in 2015. This new survey is a multi-year project that will identify historic resources in the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County and the towns of Bethania, Kernersville, Lewisville, Rural Hall, Walkertown, and the Village of Clemmons.

On September 7, 2019, the City of Winston-Salem held a re-opening of Union Station, one of Winston-Salem’s Local Historic Landmarks. Over 850 citizens turned out to celebrate the grand re-opening and to tour the newly rehabilitated train station. Commission members, Planning staff, and many volunteers assisted in the tour, helping to tell the story of this amazing building and its role in Winston-Salem’s history.

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

Kevin G. Owen, AIA, Chair
Linda Dark of the Winston-Salem African American Archive joined the tour at Evergreen Cemetery to discuss its history.

During May, the Historic Resources Commission also hosted two historic marker unveilings.

**Union Station Grand Re-opening, Depot Day Trolley Tours, and Fall Union Station Tours**

On September 7, the City of Winston-Salem held a re-opening of Union Station, one of Winston-Salem’s Local Historic Landmarks. Dignitaries from the Winston-Salem City Council, NC Board of Transportation, Winston-Salem State University, and Walter Robbs, the project architect, shared their experiences and comments about the Station before the ribbon cutting celebration. Over 850 citizens turned out to celebrate the grand re-opening and tour the newly rehabilitated train station. Commission members, Planning Staff, and many volunteers assisted in the tour, helping to tell the story of this amazing building and its role in Winston-Salem’s history. City Staff opened Union Station for public tours from October through December.

Prior to the re-opening on August 17, Depot Day celebrated Forsyth County’s early train depots in Kernersville, Walkertown, and Rural Hall. The Commission, the New Winston Museum, the Kernersville Museum, the Walkerton Area Historic Society, and the Rural Hall Historic Train Depot hosted walk-in visitors and two trolleys.

**Historic Marker Program**

The Historic Marker Committee selected five markers that were installed during 2019. In the City of Winston-Salem, Lowman Pauling & The “5” Royales, the historic connection between Salem and the country of Liberia in West Africa, the Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the B.F. Huntley Furniture Co. were commemorated with markers. In the county, the Griffith-Jones Old Home Place west of Lewisville was recognized.

In May, the Commission unveiled the Griffith-Jones Old Home Place historic marker. The Jones family organized a celebration and family reunion at Concord United Methodist Church. Lewisville Mayor Mike Horn and Historic Resources Commissioner Tina Thacker spoke. County Commissioner Fleming El-Amin also attended. The old home place was first settled in 1807. The existing log house on the land, dating to ca. 1859, was built at the time of the marriage of Mary Griffith and Asbury Jones. Mary and Asbury had seven children, who hosted a family reunion at the old home place in 1926, with over 100 people attending. The land was sold out of the family in 1985 by one of Mary and Asbury’s grandchildren.


Pauling was the primary song writer and guitarist for the group. Many of Pauling’s songs were hits when covered by other artists, including “Dedicated to the One I Love” covered by The Shirelles and The Mamas & the Papas. The “5” Royales were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as “early influencers” in 2015.

In September, the Salem and Liberia, Africa historic marker was unveiled by the Commission and the Liberian
The Commission, Winston-Salem City Council, and Forsyth County Board of Commissioneres reviewed and commented on two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, finding that the applications met the criteria to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The properties were both listed on the National Register in 2019.

Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House
1927
200 North Stratford Road, Winston-Salem, NC

Evergreen Farm
1849-1947
Jonestown Road, Winston-Salem, NC

In 2019, the Commission received a Historic Preservation Fund grant to continue survey work in the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County, the Village of Clemmons, and the Towns of Bethania, Kernersville, Lewisville, Rural Hall, and Walkertown. The ultimate goal of the project is to publish a companion book to *Winston-Salem’s Architectural Heritage* by Heather Fearnbach, which will focus on the rural beginnings of Forsyth County and elaborate on the unique history and development of the county outside of Winston-Salem.
Michael Ryden completed eight years of service in December of 2019. Michael served as Chair of the Commission for three years and represented the Commission at various public events and meetings, including historic marker unveilings and Local Historic Landmark tours. He worked along with his fellow Commission members in reviewing and making recommendations to the various elected bodies in Forsyth County for Local Historic Landmark applications and National Register of Historic Places Nominations. The Commission thanked Michael for his commitment and passion for Forsyth County’s architectural fabric.

The Commission also welcomed new members Emma Haney and LeAnn Pegram. Emma was appointed by the Forsyth County Commissioners to fill a categorical seat reserved for an urban planner, among other professions. She is a project manager for Self-Help, Inc., most recently working on the redevelopment of Revolution Mill. LeAnn was also appointed by the County Commissioners and holds an at-large seat. LeAnn is a member of the Preservation Forsyth board and is retired from the City-County Planning Division, where she worked for 28 years as a historic resources officer.