On behalf of the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission’s 2020 Annual Report. As with other Committees and Commissions throughout Forsyth County, the work of our Commission was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, and Commission meetings from April through June were canceled. We resumed in-person meetings in July and continued through the rest of the year with new protocols to protect attendees, staff, and Commissioners from exposure to the virus. Staff never stopped reviewing and approving minor work applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. Once we resumed meeting, the Commission continued to manage a steady caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from property owners in the local historic districts and owners of landmark properties.

The Commission reviewed and provided comment on one nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and recommended the designation of one new local historic landmark. Three historic markers were installed during 2020, and five new ones were approved for installation during 2021.

We are extremely excited to announce that we received a Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office to continue the architectural survey of Forsyth County. This multi-year project 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, with a specific focus on suburban neighborhoods.

Finally, the Commission and staff were thrilled to complete a multi-year project in July with the adoption and publication of the new Design Review Standards for the West End Historic Overlay District.

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 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
Historic Marker Program
Each year, the HRC approves historic markers to be installed in the City of Winston-Salem and unincorporated areas of Forsyth County. The Historic Marker Committee selected three markers that were installed during 2020. In the City of Winston-Salem, the P.H. Hanes Knitting Company and Bowen Park neighborhood were commemorated with markers. In the county, the “Y” Camps of Salem Chapel Township were recognized.

Unfortunately, restrictions on public gatherings prevented the Commission from hosting any marker unveilings during 2020. However, staff worked with the City’s Marketing and Communications Department to develop videos about the history of Bowen Park and the P.H. Hanes Knitting Company. The Bowen Park video was released on the City’s YouTube channel in November 2020 and promoted across social media platforms. The video brought the work of the Commission to a broad audience and remains available online at https://youtu.be/Or5VomBdoMI. The Hanes Knitting Company video will be released in the first half of 2021. Applications for historic markers are due on October 31 each year. Visit https://www.cityofws.org/1366/Historic-Marker-Program for more information and application forms.
Black History Month
In February, staff developed content for the City of Winston-Salem Facebook page focused on different aspects of local Black history. Posts highlighted churches, the history of the Depot Street neighborhood, fraternal organizations, and educational institutions. Local historic landmarks, including Lloyd Presbyterian Church and Oddfellows Cemetery, that fit into the themes were highlighted in posts, as were historic marker sites like Atkins High School and Fourteenth Street School.

**Preserve**

**National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review**
The Commission and Winston-Salem City Council reviewed and commented on the nomination of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church to the National Register of Historic Places, finding that the application met the criteria to be listed in the Register. The National Park Service listed St. Paul’s in the Register on November 5. The church, built in 1928-1929, was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, America’s leading practitioner of Gothic Revival architecture. The monumental and richly-detailed church reflects Winston-Salem’s “Era of Success”, a period of growth that lasted from 1913 to 1930. It remains in active use by the Episcopal Church.

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church**
1928-1929
Winston-Salem, NC

**Local Historic Landmark Designation**
On December 17, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners designated the Bowman & Elizabeth Gray House as a local historic landmark, following the recommendation of the Commission. The house, built at Brookberry Farm in 1950, was designed by William Roy Wallace in the Georgian Revival style referencing precedents from Tidewater plantations and Gray’s parents’ home, Graylyn. In 1960, A.G. Odell Jr. and Associates designed a Modernist swimming pool addition for the Grays. Landscape architects Robert G. Campbell, H. Stuart Ortloff, and Henry Bond Raymore completed designs for the eleven-acre estate.

**Bowman & Elizabeth Gray House**
1950
Forsyth County, NC

**Forsyth County Board of Commissioners**

**Black History Month**
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West End Historic Overlay District Standards

The Commission began review of the 2006 edition of the West End Historic Overlay District Design Review Guidelines in 2016, soliciting comments and feedback from residents and other stakeholders through early 2020. The draft was finalized in February, and adoption was anticipated in April. However, the Commission’s April, May, and June meetings were canceled because of COVID-19. The West End Historic Overlay District Design Review Standards were adopted by the Commission on July 1. Staff notified residents and property owners about the new Standards through social media postings, postcards, and emails. Feedback from staff and residents working with the new Standards has been very positive.

Certificates of Appropriateness (COA)

One of the Commission’s core responsibilities is the review of major work applications for COAs in the City of Winston-Salem’s three historic districts – Bethabara, Old Salem, and West End – and for Local Historic Landmarks (LHL). The statistics for COAs reviewed during calendar year 2020 are below.

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\*Staff has the authority to issue Certificates of Appropriateness on minor work applications.

MAJOR PROJECTS

- City of Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks History Panels
- Environmental Reviews
- Forsyth County Survey Update
- Historic Marker Program
- Land Use Administration and Comprehensive Planning Support
- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews
- Outreach to District Residents
- Rezoning Petition Briefings
- West End Historic Overlay District Standards Update