On October 7, 2020, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission (“Commission”) conducted, in the above referenced matter, a public hearing in accordance with the statutes and case law pertaining to quasi-judicial proceedings for the issuance of certificates of appropriateness. During the hearing, Heather Bratland, Historic Resources Officer, presented the staff report, findings, and recommendation. Jerome Charles and Antoinette Charles, property owners, appeared to present testimony and evidence in support of the application. John Merschel, representing the full board of West End Association, appeared to present testimony and evidence in opposition to the application.

After presentation of all testimony and evidence, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, based upon the evidence presented in the application and during the hearing, finds that the proposed project is incongruous with the character of the West End Historic Overlay District because:

1) The fence is located in an area of low visibility, a rear yard not adjacent to the street. The fence is a 6’-high, articulated solid fence. The fence is constructed of PVC, which is not included in the list of appropriate materials for fences located in areas of low visibility. The fence is incongruous with the special character of the property and District. The fence does not minimize its impact on the special character of the property and District. (Fences, West End Standards 2, 4, and 5)

Based on the preceding findings, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission hereby denies COA2020-094 at the W.R. James House located at 146 Piedmont Avenue, within the West End Historic Overlay District (PIN 6825-74-6601.00).

This the eighth day of October, 2020.

Mary Berry, Acting Chair
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission