

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



Annual Report

2009

Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am proud to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2009. As you will read, the Commission managed a number of exciting projects and events. In addition to handling the usual busy caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from local historic districts and landmark properties, the Commission was happy to have one new historic district formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and 17 individual properties and 10 districts approved for placement on the North Carolina National Register Study list. The Commission hosted a number of activities and events for Historic Preservation Month. The Commission began Phase III of the Forsyth County Architectural Survey, continued work on revisions to the Old Salem and Bethabara Design Review Guidelines, and sponsored two historic marker unveilings. We hope you enjoy reading about your Commission's work over the past year and thank you for your continued support of our community's rich historical and architectural legacy.

Julie Poplin, Vice-Chairman

Major Projects

Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update

Historic Preservation Month Activities

City of Winston-Salem
Historic Marker Program

National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Review

Old Salem and Bethabara Historic Districts
Design Review Guidelines Revision

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 2009 national theme for Historic Preservation Month was "This Place Matters." 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.

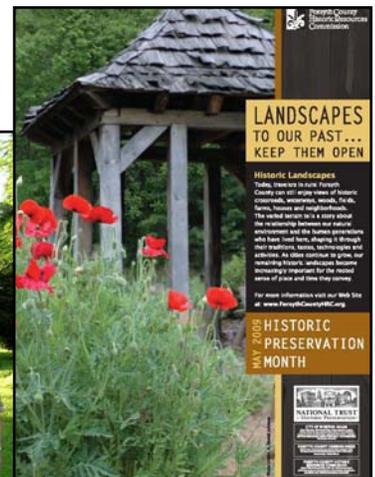
This Place Matters Campaign

The Commission sponsored a highly successful photo-sharing campaign to raise awareness for and celebrate the many diverse and unique historic properties throughout Forsyth County. Over 100 submissions were received and posted on the Commission's web site and the City of Winston-Salem's Facebook page.

In fact, the City's Facebook fan base was increased by approximately 3,000 because of the campaign's popularity.

Historic Preservation Month Poster

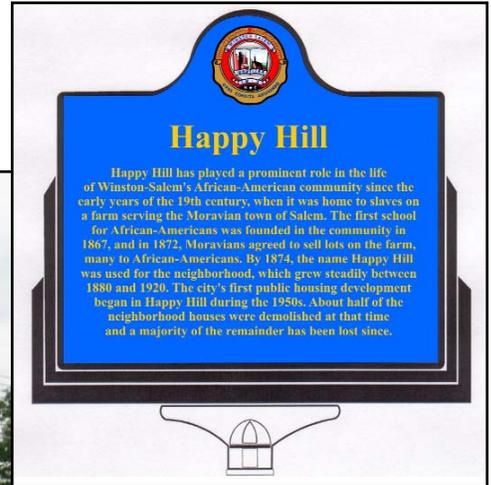
The Commission published its sixth annual Historic Preservation Month poster, calling attention to the variety and beauty of Forsyth County's landscapes. The poster was distributed throughout Forsyth County and once again provided a high degree of visibility for the Commission and local preservation concerns.



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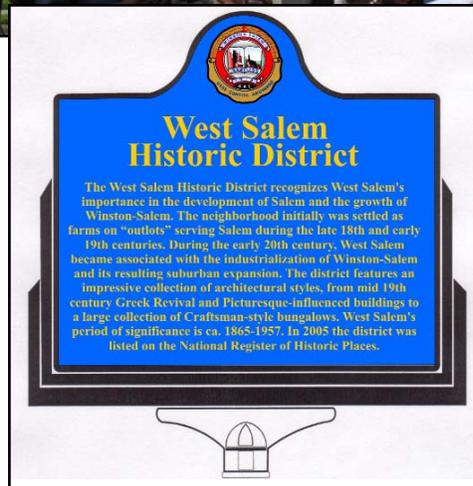
Historic Marker Unveiling

During Historic Preservation Month, the Commission sponsored the unveiling of a historic marker for Winston-Salem's Happy Hill community. Happy Hill has played a prominent role in the life of Winston-Salem's African-American community since the early years of the 19th century, when it was home to slaves on a farm serving the Moravian town of Salem. The first school for African-Americans was founded in the community in 1867, and in 1872, Moravians agreed to sell lots on the farm, many to African-Americans. By 1874, the name Happy Hill was used for the neighborhood, which grew steadily between 1880 and 1920. The city's first public housing development began in Happy Hill during the 1950s. About half of the neighborhood houses were demolished at that time and a majority of the remainder has been lost since.



Lecture Series

The Commission coordinated a series of talks and lectures during Historic Preservation Month. These events covered a wide range of preservation-related subjects and were held at various historic venues throughout the community.



Historic Marker Committee Historic Marker Program

During 2009, two historic markers were installed and marker unveiling ceremonies held. In addition to the Happy Hill marker unveiling during Historic Preservation Month, the Commission sponsored an unveiling in September for the West Salem Historic District. This marker recognizes West Salem's importance in the development of Salem and the growth of Winston-Salem. The neighborhood initially was settled as farms on "outlots" serving Salem during the late-18th and early-19th centuries. During the early-20th century, West Salem became associated with the industrialization of Winston-Salem and



its resulting suburban expansion. The district features an impressive collection of architectural styles, from mid-19th century Greek Revival and Picturesque-influenced buildings to a large collection

of Craftsman-style bungalows. West Salem's period of significance is ca. 1865-1957. In 2005, the district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Commission Activities

National Register of Historic Places

During 2009, the Commission reviewed the nomination of the Winston-Salem Tobacco District to the National Register of Historic Places. According to Forsyth County's Certified Local Government agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Commission is charged with reviewing and commenting on all National Register nominations prepared for properties in the community.

Winston-Salem Tobacco District

Located in downtown Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Tobacco District is roughly bounded by Chestnut Street on the west, Fifth and Seventh Streets on the north, Linden Street on the east, and Fourth and Fogle Streets on the south. The Winston-Salem Tobacco District is significant as it contains important, intact resources associated with the city's industrial and African-American heritage. The R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company buildings are among the

limited number of remaining early-20th century industrial buildings in downtown Winston-Salem. Hundreds of industrial buildings once existed in the eastern blocks of downtown and numerous commercial buildings, housing African-American-owned businesses or catering to African-Americans, lined the adjacent streets during this period. The Winston-Salem Tobacco District was formally listed on the National Register on August 5, 2009.



Winston-Salem Tobacco District

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 Forsyth County's comprehensive architectural survey. Phase II of that update was completed in 2008, and culminated with the submission and approval of 33 sites to the North Carolina National Register Study List. Phase III of the survey update was completed during 2009. This phase documented overall development patterns in Forsyth County from the 1930s through the 1960s. The most significant and representative examples of domestic, religious, commercial, and industrial buildings and subdivisions from the period were surveyed. At Phase III's conclusion in October, 17 individual properties and 10 districts were approved for placement on the North Carolina National Register Study List. The architectural survey update will support future planning efforts in the county and future National Register nominations.



Above: Campus Gas & Service
Right: Edgewood Baptist Church



Old Salem and Bethabara Historic Districts Design Review Guidelines Revision

Work continued on the revision of the Design Review Guidelines for the Old Salem and Bethabara Historic Districts. The revision process includes the dedicated involvement of a committee of stakeholders from both districts.

Statistics (FY 2008 - 2009)

Local Historic Landmarks Designated: 0

National Register of Historic Places Listings: 1

Certificates of Appropriateness:

	Approved	Denied	Other
Old Salem:	15	0	0
Bethabara:	3	0	0
West End:	37	3	0
Local Historic Landmarks:	11	1	0
Total:	66	4	0

Historic Resources Commission

Michael Phillips, Chairman
(through November 2009)
Julie Poplin, Vice-Chairman

Forsyth County Appointees

Brent Gearhart
Jeff Harbinson, AIA
Jamie Moore
Julie Poplin
Amy Smitherman

Winston-Salem Appointees

Norris Hutchins
Mark Maxwell
Rick Pender
Laura Phillips
Jeff Sowers

Kernersville Appointee

Sharon Richmond

Clemmons Appointee

Janet Banzhof

Former Commission Members

(members who served during 2009)
Seth Brown
Michael Phillips

City of Winston-Salem

Allen Joines, Mayor

City Council

Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore,
Northeast Ward
Denise D. Adams, North Ward
Daniel V. Besse, Southwest Ward
Robert C. Clark, West Ward
Molly Leight, South Ward
Wanda Merschel, Northwest Ward
Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward
James Taylor Jr., Southeast Ward

City Manager

Lee Garrity

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

David R. Plyler, Chairman
Debra Conrad, Vice Chair
Beaufort O. Bailey
Ted Kaplan
Richard V. Linville
Walter Marshall
Gloria D. Whisenhunt
Dudley Watts Jr., County Manager

Kernersville Board of Aldermen

Dawn H. Morgan, Mayor
Kevin Bugg, Mayor Pro Tempore
Dana Caudill Jones
Keith Mason
Bob Prescott
Tracey Shifflette
Curtis Swisher, Town Manager

Clemmons Village Council

John R. Bost, Mayor
Chris Jones, Mayor Pro Tempore
Mary L. Cameron
Nan Holland
Jack Ingle
Larry McClellan
Gary Looper, Village Manager

For more information contact:

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Web site: <http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>

Landmark Corner

Odd Fellows Cemetery – A Silent Legacy

Located off Shorefair Drive in Winston-Salem, the Odd Fellows Cemetery is reputed to have been started in 1911 by the Twin City Lodge and the Winston Star Lodge, both African-American fraternal organizations. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is one of Winston-Salem's oldest African-American graveyards outside of the Salem area. It is, in fact, by far, the largest of the African-American cemeteries in Forsyth County dating from the early-20th century. There are estimates that as many as 10,000 graves could be located in the cemetery; a large portion of these interments date from the early-20th century. Additionally, it is important to note that many of the individuals buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery appear to have lived during the Civil War. The approximately 10-acre cemetery is one of Winston-Salem's most important African-American historic resources.

The Odd Fellows Cemetery is significant because it is a rare example (outside the Salem area) of an early African-American graveyard predating the 1913 merger of Winston and Salem. The cemetery contains the remains of many individuals who lived during the mid-19th century Civil War period and is important to the social and cultural history of the city as the largest African-American graveyard dating from the early-20th century.



Additionally, the cemetery is important because of its potential archaeological significance. Specifically, the unique physical characteristics of African-American graveyards in general make the Odd Fellows Cemetery one which may provide important archaeological data. For instance, typical African-American cemeteries can feature grave depressions as well as mounded graves. Often they were placed without symmetry and in a somewhat random fashion. One significant component of African-American graveyards is the decoration of the graves themselves. Graves were marked in a variety of ways besides traditional markers. Some graves were marked using plants, shells, white quartz, colored glass, etc. Additionally, probably one of the most common African-American burial practices was the use of "offerings" on top of the grave. Such items could include pottery, saucers, bowls, pots, marbles, and the like. Due to the current condition of the graveyard, it is not possible to ascertain if these physical characteristics are present. However, African-American burial traditions would indicate the likely presence of such artifacts.



The Odd Fellows Cemetery contributes greatly to the overall history of the community, particularly the area's rich and outstanding African-American heritage. It is one of Winston-Salem's finest reminders of its history, and is a property of which the city should be proud.