

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



Annual Report

2013

Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2013. As always, the Commission experienced a year filled with outstanding projects and activities. A major focus of the Commission in 2013 was Winston-Salem's centennial celebration, held in May. The Historic Marker Program remains popular, with four unveilings held, one of which was for Forsyth County's first official marker. Three new Local Historic Landmark properties were designated and one property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Manuscript preparation continued on the Winston-Salem architectural survey publication. Finally, the Commission managed its consistent caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from the local historic districts and landmark properties. We hope you enjoy reading about the Commission's work over the past year and look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of our community by protecting and promoting our historic resources. Thank you for your continued support of Forsyth County's rich historical and architectural legacy.

Michael Ryden, Chairman

Major Projects

- Winston-Salem Centennial Celebration
- Historic Marker Program
- Architectural Survey Manuscript Preparation
- Local Historic Landmark Reviews
- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews
- Environmental Reviews
- Rezoning Petition Briefings
- Area Plan Participation

Historic Marker Committee

Historic Marker Program

The first historic marker unveiled and placed during 2013 recognized Winston-Salem's centennial; three additional historic marker unveilings were held during the year. In July, a marker commemorating Pythian Hall was unveiled. Pythian Hall was constructed at the northwest corner of



East Seventh and North Chestnut Streets in 1902 in a prominent African-American community. The three-story brick building housed the Prince Hall Masons and the Knights of Pythias on the second and third floors. These fraternal organizations helped incoming African-Americans find jobs and housing. Among commercial enterprises on the first floor were a newspaper press and the Fraternal Funeral Home, established in 1928 by the Prince Hall Masons, and later managed and acquired by local business leader Clark S. Brown. Brown was instrumental in the success of the Prince Hall Masons, serving as the African-American order's Most Worshipful Grand Master of North Carolina from 1959 to 1974. Pythian Hall was destroyed by fire in 1994.

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In September, a marker recognizing Calvin H. Wiley School was unveiled. Calvin Henderson Wiley (1819-1887) was a lawyer, author, legislator, minister, and champion of public education. Wiley became North Carolina's first Superintendent of Common Schools in 1853 and remained in that position until 1865. In 1869, he moved to Winston and was instrumental in developing Winston and Salem's public school system. Wiley served as the chairman of Winston's first school board from 1883 to 1887. Completed in 1925, Calvin H. Wiley School was designed by Charles



Calvin H. Wiley School, ca. 1920s
Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection

Barton Keen, architect of Reynolda House and nearby R.J. Reynolds High School and Memorial Auditorium. Built on land donated by Pleasant Henderson Hanes, the columned façade of the Colonial Revival-style school overlooks Hanes Park.

Finally, in October, the first official Forsyth County historic marker was unveiled for Memorial Industrial School. Memorial Industrial School began as the Colored Baptist Orphanage Home for African-American children, located in the Belview neighborhood of Winston-Salem's Southside area. In 1928, it moved eight miles north of the city's downtown, and is located near today's Horizons Park, in



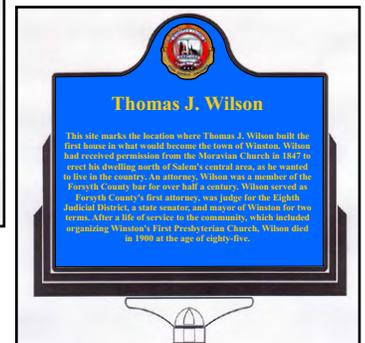
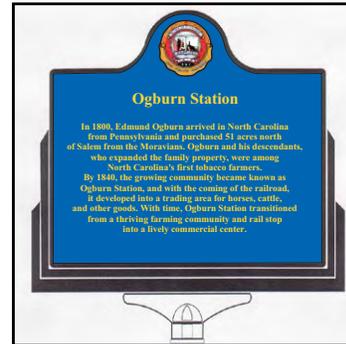
Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

the northern portion of Forsyth County. The architectural firm of Northrup and O'Brien designed the overall site plan and the administration building,

dormitories, and power plant. Contributions from The Duke Endowment and local philanthropists, including the Reynolds and Gray families, subsidized construction and operation of the campus. The curriculum included academic, agricultural, and domestic training. Memorial Industrial School closed in 1971 after operating for 48 years as one of only two black orphanages in North Carolina and the only such institution to serve a single county.



Two additional historic markers funded by other entities were placed during the year recognizing the Ogburn Station area and Thomas J. Wilson.



Additional Commission Activities

Local Historic Landmark Program

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

Once a property has been designated a historic landmark, it becomes subject to architectural/site review and approval by the Commission. Before making changes to any portion of a designated landmark (including interiors, when designated), the property owner must obtain approval from the HRC to ensure that alterations to the property are in keeping with its historical and architectural character.

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 2013, the following properties were designated by ordinance as Forsyth County Local Historic Landmarks:

Forsyth County Courthouse

The Forsyth County Courthouse is the third courthouse to stand on the site at 11 West Third Street (the courthouse square), from the time of Forsyth County's creation in 1849. Since the colonial period, North Carolina's counties have served as the base of political power and law; the county courthouse is the single



Education Committee



2013 was an extremely special year for the Historic Resources Commission and the Education Committee as the City of Winston-Salem celebrated the 100th anniversary of the consolidation of Winston and Salem. Historically, May 9, 1913 marked a new era for Winston-Salem; a new city was born. It was 5.35 square miles with an estimated population of 18,700. Oscar B. Eaton was elected as Winston-Salem's first mayor.



The Commission and the Education Committee worked with the City's Centennial Committee to prepare for a May weekend full of activities and events to honor and celebrate Winston-Salem's

anniversary. The HRC was charged with the kick-off on May 9, 2013. The program began outside City Hall with preliminary festivities including a show of antique cars, free Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and circus-type performers from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The formal ceremony included remarks by local, state, and



congressional elected officials and representatives, assistance from the Boy Scouts, musical and dramatic performances, and essay contest award recipients. The program concluded



with the unveiling of a historic marker that was installed on West First Street near the Strollway and Corpening Plaza.



Following the program, City Hall was opened for a reception. The building had been decorated with panels depicting each of the ten decades of Winston-Salem's past 100 years. Refreshments were provided by local companies and served by local college students; a string ensemble provided music. The festivities on the evening of May 9, 2013 also included three premiere showings of the centennial documentary, *Merger: Making the Twin City*, hosted at a/perture cinema downtown.





The centennial celebrations continued until Sunday, May 12, 2013. On Friday, a centenarian luncheon was held for those 100 years and older. Over fifty people were identified, with the oldest being 111! That evening, a special downtown Gallery



Hop was held, where a large crowd joined in on the community toast of Foothills Brewery's special "Centennial Brew" or Primo Water's "Centennial Water."

Saturday events included Community Days at Old Salem Museums and Gardens, a centennial parade, a centennial scavenger hunt, and a party in Corpening Plaza. Food, beverages, vendors, and music were all on hand.



On Sunday, the Winston-Salem Symphony performed the world premiere of "Hail the Coming Day," a musical piece commissioned to commemorate the centennial anniversary. To complete the festivities, a multi-faith worship service was held at the May Dell at Salem Academy and College.





most significant governmental building in each of North Carolina's 100 counties. The Forsyth County Courthouse is associated with the important functions of county

administration as the local seat of government and center of law. Besides the usual court functions, including courtrooms, judge's chambers, and records retention, the courthouse also contained offices for other county governmental agencies. Additionally, the Forsyth County Courthouse is significant for its design by the local architectural firm of Northrup & O'Brien. While a prominent architectural firm known for its public buildings, the Forsyth County Courthouse is the only courthouse that the firm ever designed.



Forsyth County Courthouse, with additions
Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Administration Building



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

Located at 1201 Glade Street, the former YWCA Administration Building was completed in 1942. In 1908, the first efforts to establish a YWCA were undertaken by wives and daughters of the city's wealthy businessmen and industrialists. Winston and Salem were experiencing a boom period, and the YWCA assisted young women in finding local jobs. Over time, the YWCA's membership grew and in 1938, the Gray family donated land in the West End neighborhood

for a new facility. Harold Macklin was selected as the architect for the facility. The building, designed in the Colonial Revival style and constructed with noted African-American brickmaker George Black's bricks, opened in March 1942.



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

Chatham Manufacturing Company

Located at 800 Chatham Road, the Chatham Manufacturing Company/Western Electric Company was initially constructed in 1907. For over 30 years beginning in the early 20th century, Chatham dominated the state's woolen industry and became one of the largest wool weavers in the United States. After Chatham consolidated operations in Elkin in 1940, the United States government leased and then purchased the facility. From 1943-1945, the National Carbon Company added several large additions to the site



where it facilitated submarine battery and underwater detonator manufacture for the United States Navy. Western Electric occupied the plant from 1946 until 1966, initially producing military communications equipment and gradually transitioning to the fabrication of switches and circuits for national telephone networks.

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Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

Historic Resources Commission

Mark Maxwell, Chairman
Jeff Harbinson, AIA, Vice Chairman

Forsyth County Appointees

Brent Gearhart
Jeff Harbinson, AIA
David Lusk
Michael Ryden
Amy Smitherman

Winston-Salem Appointees

Becky Gibson
Mark Maxwell
Langdon Oppermann
Jeff Sowers, AIA
Daniel Yohannes

Kernersville Appointee

Jim Davis

Clemmons Appointee

David Hauser

Former Commission Members

(members who served during 2012-2013)
Tom Branen

City of Winston-Salem

Allen Joines, Mayor

City Council

Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore,
Northeast Ward
Denise D. Adams, North Ward
Dan Besse, Southwest Ward
Robert C. Clark, West Ward
Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward
Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward
James Taylor Jr., Southeast Ward
Lee Garrity, City Manager

Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

Richard V. Linville, Chairman
Gloria D. Whisenhunt, Vice Chair
Mark Baker
Walter Marshall
David R. Plyler
Bill Whiteheart
Everette Witherspoon
Dudley Watts Jr., County Manager

Town of Kernersville

Dawn H. Morgan, Mayor
Board of Aldermen
Joe L. Pinnix Jr., Mayor Pro Tempore
Kenny Crews
Keith Hooker
Irving Neal
Tracey Shifflette
Curtis Swisher, Town Manager

Village of Clemmons

Nick Nelson, Mayor
Village Council
Mike Rogers, Mayor Pro Tempore
Mary L. Cameron
Norman Denny
Bill Lawry
Darrell Roark
Gary Looper, Village Manager

Additional Commission Activities continued

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review

During 2013, the Commission reviewed the nomination of the Forsyth County Courthouse to the National Register of Historic Places. In Forsyth County, both the Commission and the elected bodies are charged with reviewing and commenting on all nominations prepared for properties in the community. In April, the Courthouse was listed on the National Register.

Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update

During 2013, manuscript preparation for Winston-Salem's architectural survey book continued. The publication will be printed in 2015 and available for sale. The next phase of work on the architectural survey project will be to complete research and draft the manuscript for a second publication focusing on the architectural resources of Forsyth County and its small towns.

Statistics (FY 2012-2013)

Local Historic Landmarks Designated: 3

National Register of Historic Places Reviews: 1

Certificates of Appropriateness:

	Approved	Denied
Old Salem:	10	3
Bethabara:	1	0
West End:	40	0
Local Historic Landmarks:	12	0
Total:	63	3



For more information contact:

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