

# Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission



# Annual Report

## 2014

### Chairman's Message

*On behalf of the Historic Resources Commission, I am pleased to present the Commission's Annual Report for 2014. As always, the Commission experienced a year filled with outstanding projects and activities. During the year, the Commission reviewed six National Register nominations. The Historic Marker Program continues to grow in popularity and during the year there were two marker unveiling ceremonies. Historic Preservation Month in May was actively celebrated with interesting lectures and related activities. Finally, the Commission managed its consistent caseload of Certificate of Appropriateness applications from the local historic districts and landmark properties. Additionally, we were preparing for the release of the architectural survey publication of Winston-Salem, entitled, "Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage" by Heather Fearnbach.*

*We hope you enjoy reading about the Commission's work over the past year and we 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 Architectural Survey Publication Manuscript Completion and Transmittal to Printer

Historic Preservation Month Activities

Area Plan Participation

City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker Program

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Reviews

Environmental Reviews

Rezoning Petition Briefings

### Education Committee

#### Historic Preservation Month Activities

This year, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission was joined by Old Salem Museums and Gardens, New Winston Museum, Korner's Folly, Preserve Historic Forsyth, Salem College, Historic Bethabara Park and WEXFORD Science + Technology to once again celebrate the month of May throughout Forsyth County as Historic Preservation Month.



Historic Preservation Month is celebrated nationally and serves as a showcase for the county'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 American's daily lives by emphasizing the importance of protecting the nation's past. Statewide in 2014, the emphasis during May was the importance of the State Historic



mill buildings in this part of town. Preservation Tax Credits that were scheduled to sunset in December of 2014 and actually did sunset, which is a great loss for the preservation community. Preservation month was kicked off with a ribbon cutting and opening reception at the West End Mill Works at 918 Bridge Street. Dewey Anderson and John Bryan have brought new life into the old



mill buildings in this part of town. During the month of May, the HRC also hosted an open house at the George Black House and Brickyard, Local Historic Landmark number 125. Over 150 people turned out to tour the home of the nationally significant brick maker, George Black. Visitors were able to see remnants of the brick kilns in the back yard, the location of the brick making business.

## Historic Marker Committee Historic Marker Program

In 2014, two historic markers funded under the City's program, were placed and unveiled. In May, a marker celebrating the history of New Bethel Baptist Church was unveiled. In 1890, New Bethel Baptist Church



was organized by the Reverend George Holland, a minister from Danville, Virginia. The congregation first met in the Trade Street home of John Lee and his wife, Alice Snow Lee. The 25-member congregation later purchased property across from the Lee's house and built the church between



1904 and 1906. Soon the membership grew into the thousands, with over 4,000 members joining between 1915 and 1931. In 1944, the Reverend Jerry Drayton, Sr. became church pastor, where he remained for 62 years. Reverend



Drayton was a champion for racial equality and served on many local and statewide boards. He was instrumental in improving education for the illiterate and housing for the homeless.

In October, a marker commemorating the Belews Street Neighborhood was unveiled. The Belews Street neighborhood was a community developed in the early 20th century. By the early 1940s, the neighborhood was made up of predominantly working class African-Americans, who were employed by local tobacco industries. It is remembered nostalgically as a community



where neighbors developed close-knit relationships and provided support to one another. Commercial, institutional and residential property lined the Belews Street neighborhood. Residents began to vacate the neighborhood in 1958, when the land was acquired for the construction of U.S. 52.



Today the intersection of highways U.S. 52 and 421 (Business 40) sit at the site of the beloved Belews Street community. Senator Earline Parmon and other former residents gave testimony of the life and times living in the Belews Street community. Advocates of the Belews Street Neighborhood are working towards developing a history project about the area with interested community historians, volunteers and students to serve as a tool for education and awareness.

One additional historic marker was placed during the year recognizing the Winston-Salem Rotary Club. On November 9, 1915, the first organizational meeting of the Winston-Salem Rotary Club, the Piedmont Triad's first Rotary club, was held in the Zinzendorf Hotel at the northeast corner of North Main and West Second Streets. The 24 founding members joined the growing Rotary organization that had been founded in Chicago in 1905. Under the visionary leadership of the Winston-Salem club's first president, Owen Norvell, the club received its charter on February 1, 1916, and quickly grew to become one of the community's most respected civic organizations. Over its first 100 years, Rotary International grew to become an organization of 1.2 million members in over 27,000 Rotary clubs in 150 countries throughout the world.



## Additional Commission Activities

### National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review

During 2014, the Commission reviewed the nominations of the Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House, Reynolds Building, Waller House, Old German Baptist Brethren Church, and Hoots Milling Company Roller Mill to the National Register of Historic Places and the North Cherry Historic District Boundary Decrease and Additional Documentation Report. 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. All reviewed properties were listed on the National Register.



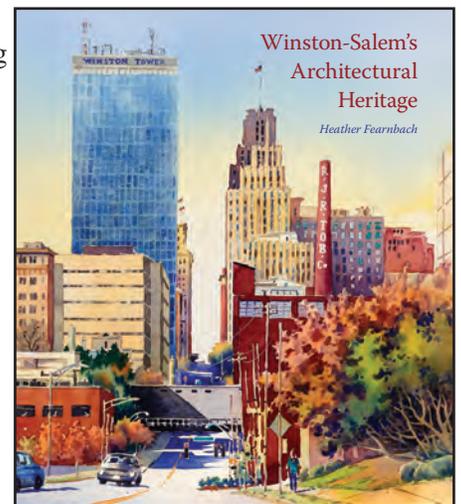
Photos Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

### Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update

*Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage* provides a comprehensive overview of the city's distinctive built environment. The book profiles individual resources ranging from sturdy mid-eighteenth-century dwellings to postmodern skyscrapers as well as the neighborhoods that evolved as Salem, the Moravians' central congregation town, and Winston, to the north, grew slowly but steadily. The municipalities' 1913 consolidation to form Winston-Salem formalized a symbiotic relationship that had been in place for many years as leaders from both communities joined forces. Successes in banking, commerce, and manufacturing subsidized building construction per the designs of locally and nationally prominent architects, physically manifesting the Twin City's status as North Carolina's largest and wealthiest metropolis in 1920.

Myriad industrial employment opportunities encouraged worker migration from rural to urban areas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fueling a rapid population increase that resulted in a need for new housing at all socioeconomic levels. The city limits expanded in every direction as developers planned numerous suburbs. Although Winston-Salem's physical growth slowed during the Great Depression, manufacturing enterprises remained strong and federal and state government programs funded

significant public works projects during the 1930s and early 1940s. Development almost ceased as the nation's attention turned to supporting World War II efforts, revived following the conflict, and experienced constraints again in the early 1950s due to building materials shortages during the Korean War. Prolific postwar construction exemplified the mid-twentieth century's progressive spirit and, in conjunction with new transportation corridors and urban renewal projects in the 1950s and 1960s, reshaped the city's physical landscape. Today, Winston-Salem is striving to meet the challenge of growing responsibly while protecting the historic resources that impart its intrinsic character.



This publication will be available on June 1, 2015. For more information on how to get a copy contact: Michelle McCullough, 336-747-7063 or michellem@cityofws.org.

## Historic Resources Commission

Michael Ryden, Chairman  
Jeff Sowers, AIA, Vice Chairman

### Forsyth County Appointees

Donna Abernathy  
Jeff Allen  
Brent Gearhart  
Kevin Owen, AIA

### Winston-Salem Appointees

Linda Dark  
Chad Gadberry  
Becky Gibson  
Langdon Oppermann

### Kernersville Appointee

Jim Davis

### Clemmons Appointee

David Hauser

## 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

David R. Plyler, Chairman

Don Martin, Vice Chair

Richard V. Linville

Ted Kaplan

Walter Marshall

Gloria D. Whisenhunt

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

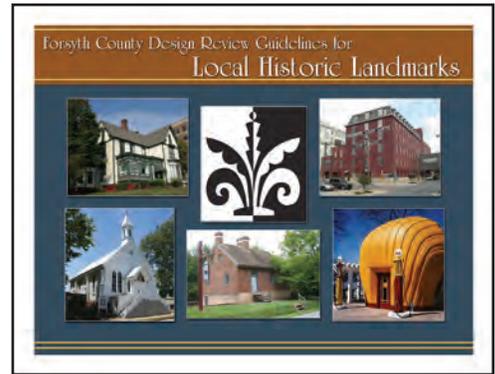
Bill Lawry

Darrell Roark

Larry Kirby, Interim Village Manager

## Forsyth County Design Review Guidelines for Local Historic Landmark Revision

During 2014, the Commission approved the new design review guidelines for the Forsyth County Local Historic Landmarks. The guidelines became effective February 5, 2014.



## Get to know the Historic Preservation Staff

### Michelle M. McCullough

Michelle M. McCullough has been a Project Planner and staff to the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission for the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County since 2003. She received her Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Ball State University and a B.A. in Finance and Political Economy from Hillsdale College. Ms. McCullough has a passion for community building, history, and architecture.

### April M. Johnson

April M. Johnson joined the Commission staff in October of 2014 and is filling our other Project Planner position. April's experience includes work for Preservation Durham in Durham North Carolina. She earned a B.S. in Economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She later received a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning and Masters Certificate in Historic Preservation at the University of Virginia. Ms. Johnson seeks to help communities maintain vitality and beauty through the art of historic preservation, economic development and thoughtful urban planning.

## Statistics (FY 2013-2014)

### Certificates of Appropriateness:

	Approved	Denied
Old Salem:	7	0
Bethabara:	1	0
West End:	46	1
Local Historic Landmarks (LHL):	3	0
LHL in Old Salem:	1	0
LHL in West End:	1	0
LHL in Bethabara:	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>



### For more information contact:

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