



## Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

204 East Academy St. ♦ P.O. Box 771 ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

March 24, 2010

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the Training Room of the County Office Building at 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Members present were Hal Johnson, Mac Whatley, Warren Dixon, Bill Johnson and Lynne Qualls. Bill Ivey, Robby Davis, Fran Andrews and Robyn Hankins were absent.

### Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2010

*On a motion of Whatley, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 2010, as presented.*

### Approval of Next Site for Local Landmark Designation Study

Chairman Johnson stated that Randle Brim of the Planning and Zoning staff had compiled some historical notes for the application on the Mt. Shepherd Pottery Archeological site, which will be the eighth designation for the Commission. Chairman Johnson shared a Power Point presentation of pictures gathered to accompany the documentation.

Mr. Brim stated that approximately eight miles west of Asheboro, near the highest peak of the Uwharrie Mountains, appears Mount Shepherd. Encompassing most of this scenic mountain is the Methodist Youth Camp. Near and adjacent to the entrance to this camp sits Randolph County's most important and historical pottery site that dates back to the late 1700's. The pottery site is located on what was called the "Ridge Road," which connected to the nearby "Great Trading Path" and to the "Road to Cape Fear" (the trail road from Salem (Winston-Salem) to Fayetteville). It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 due to the type of kiln used.

Mr. Brim's notes are as follows: The discovery of the historical significance of this site began with the late Walter and Dorothy Auman, noted Randolph County potters and local historians of Seagrove. Sometime in 1969, the camp caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Farlow's two sons: Lee and Geoffrey, discovered pottery fragments while playing in the woods a few hundred feet from the caretakers' residence. The Farlows in turn made this information known to the Aumans. In 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Auman examined the site and the fragments, and realized the possible significance of the pottery site, being also a possible kiln site.

In 1971, the Aumans were instrumental in forming the North Carolina Historical Potters Explorations (NCHPE), and it was through this organization that the camp gave permission to explore the site. In October 1971, NCHPE obtained two English scientists, J.H. Kelly and A.R. Mountford, to survey the site for excavations. They dug three test trenches and recommended a more thorough dig be undertaken. In reporting their work to NCHPE, J.H. Kelly, one of the English archeologists, stated, "This is an extremely important ceramic site

from which much information about the colonization of North Carolina and the development of American ceramics can be got.”

According to records, in the spring of 1974, the Aumans contacted Archaeologist Alain Outlaw to do further excavation work. Outlaw began his work in June, 1974 that “revealed the plan of a five-flue circular kiln and a probable brick chimney base. During the summer of 1974, Outlaw excavated two major areas of the site. For the summer of 1975, a grant from the Bicentennial Commission made it possible for Outlaw to do further excavation and review of the site while conducting an on-site field school with students from St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

From the two summers of work, a large quantity and wide variety of pottery objects were recovered, indicating stove tile, smoking pipe, utilitarian earthenware, and decorated slipware production.

Mr. Outlaw, using comparative dating from dated similar design and styled pottery, gave an arbitrary time period for the pottery site as between 1773 and 1800. Also, 18<sup>th</sup> century nails and glass and several dated old coins were found at the site. To this date, the name of the potter who owned or who operated this site is not definitely known.

Mr. Outlaw had stated that the Mount Shepherd site is “extremely important since no substantial eighteenth century kiln remains have been unearthed at either nearby Bethabara or Salem, both Moravian pottery manufacturing centers in the second half of the 1700’s.” Outlaw concluded that when the site is further fully explored, the site would be of “added significance in gaining a better understanding of the regional folk pottery tradition in the North Carolina Piedmont.”

Other conclusions drawn by Mr. Outlaw as he completed his second summer of work were stated in a Randolph Guide article in 1975. The unknown potter was a Master Potter who may have had apprentices assisting him. This master potter, if not German, had “Germanic tendencies,” or influences by the Moravian potters of Old Salem and Bethabara. Due to the lack of funds, the site was never fully excavated and examined.

Mr. Brim stated in his report that in an extensive 36 page journal article that Mr. Whatley wrote, he made a compelling case for the identity of the unknown master potter at the late 1700’s Mt. Shepherd Pottery site. In his article entitled, “The Mount Shepherd Pottery: Correlating Archaeology and History” published in the *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* in May, 1980, Mr. Whatley uses extensive and foot-noted sources, including Moravian records, to establish the strong possibility that a Philip Jacob Meyer was the Master Potter at the Mt. Shepherd site between 1793 and 1799. Combining comprehensive historical research, including deed records, with the archaeological work and unearthed finds at the site and comparative analysis with the early Moravian pottery in Salem and Bethabara, Whatley establishes the strong possibility and likelihood that the Salem potter Jacob Meyer was the Mt. Shepherd potter. Whatley also establishes the apprentice link and work of Meyer to the Salem Master Potter Gottfried Aust.

*On a motion of B. Johnson, seconded by Whatley, the Commission voted unanimously to begin the landmark designation process for the Mt. Shepherd Pottery archeological site and*

set a public hearing for April 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Randolph County Office building.

### **Technical Advisory Sub-Committee Established**

Chairman Johnson stated that a sub-committee needed to be established that would be the technical advisory committee to review requests for Local Landmark designation pertaining to privately owned residences. Chairman Johnson, Mac Whatley, Warren Dixon and Lynne Qualls were designated as members of the sub-committee.

### **Certified Local Government Application Update**

Chairman Johnson urged the members to complete their resume form that is a required part of the application process and send to the clerk, Amanda Varner.

Mr. Whatley asked Chairman Johnson if he thought that they should compile a list of other Commissions or Historical Societies that may be associated with municipalities or communities that have an interest in preserving history, stating that they may be a great resource for information about history in their regional area.

### **Website Statistics**

Chairman Johnson read through some statistics that the County Computer Services Department had supplied regarding the number of people that had viewed the HLPC website from February 1- 28, including their location and reported around 4,400 had visited the site. He also announced that a Facebook fan page had been established for about three weeks for the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, stating the following statistics from the prior week:

6 Fans this week (21 total Fans)  
2 Wall Posts, Comments, and Likes this week (8 last week)  
25 Visits to page this week (120 Visits last week)

### **Local Cultural Heritage Site Nominations Presented**

Warren. Dixon and Mac Whatley presented nominations to for the local cultural heritage site list.

Mr. Dixon's nominations were the Liberty Train Depot, Richland Lutheran Church Cemetery and the Patterson Cottage.

**Liberty Train Depot** (Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway Depot): Mr. Dixon spoke about this nomination, stating that the Liberty Depot is the best preserved of the two remaining Randolph County structures built by the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway.

Mr. Dixon stated that Mac Whatley, in his *The Architectural History of Randolph County*, 1985, wrote: "The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway grew out of early 19<sup>th</sup> century efforts to connect the Cape Fear and Yadkin Rivers by canal, efforts that soon changed in the direction of a railroad. The C.F. Y.V.R.W. was organized in 1879 from the remains of an antebellum railroad company, and ultimately completed its main line from Wilmington to Mt. Airy in 1890. Service on the first part of that line, from Fayetteville to Greensboro, began on March 16, 1884. Construction of that line gave Randolph County its

first railroad, founded the town of Staley as a shipping terminal for the Deep River textile factories, and revived the small crossroads town of Liberty.

“The Liberty Depot was built some time before 1905, when photographs of it were made. It is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century train station and the most elaborate example in Randolph County. The hip-roofed station has both a gabled dormer and an octagonal turret which caps a polygonal window bay at trackside. The eaves of the roof are ‘kicked’ out to overhang at least six feet; this is supported by sawn braces; German siding is now used above an exterior ‘wainscoting’ of beaded vertical paneling.”

In 1992, Norfolk Southern Railway, no longer needing the Liberty depot, offered the building to anyone who would pay to have it moved. There was some interest among Liberty residents to have the Town of Liberty save the historic building, but the Town took no action on the matter. Jim Wilson, a Liberty attorney and railroad buff, paid to have the depot moved and set up on the opposite side of the tracks, thus preserving the old depot.

Wilson had worked for Southern Railway, starting in 1960 at Claremont, first serving to relieve depot agents while they were on vacation, later getting an assigned station in Staley. In all, he worked twelve years with the railway, including a stint in Washington, D.C.

While working at the Staley depot, old time residents of the town told Wilson that the Staley depot was built first in 1884, with the Liberty depot being built in 1885.

When the Staley depot closed, Wilson had it moved to land he owned nearby to save it from demolition. When the Liberty depot became available, Wilson again could not bear to see the landmark destroyed.

The Staley depot was remodeled in the mid 1950’s and the outside vertical siding was replaced with asbestos shingles. After Wilson took possession of it, he added a new metal roof.

According to Wilson, the Liberty depot is “fancier” than its Staley neighbor.

In 2003, Wilson decided to make the depot “the center piece for the town.” He purchased paint, hired painters and made plans to restore the depot to its former beauty. While at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer, Wilson had seen the Barber Junction depot, a depot in which he had once worked. The museum had restored the depot to its original colors which had been discovered while painters had removed the many old coats of paint from its surface. Museum officials had recovered a portion of the original paint, sent it to Sherwin-Williams who had, in turn, supplied them with the formula.

Mr. Dixon stated as painters in Liberty scraped off the old paint from the Liberty depot, they too discovered the same original paint scheme. Wilson returned the paint he had already purchased and procured the original formula from the Transportation Museum. Today, the Liberty depot sports a new metal roof and the colors it was first painted when new and has truly become the center piece for the town.

**Richland Lutheran Church Cemetery:** Mr. Dixon continued, stating that the “Richland Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1789 by the Rev. Christian

Eberhart Bernhardt, pastor of three other Lutheran congregations in Guilford and Orange Counties. The first church was built in 1790. After a doctrinal split in 1820, two congregations shared the church until 1849. On July 14, 1849, the Evangelical Lutheran congregation voted to build a new meeting house '12 feet high, 35 feet wide and 55 feet long,' to be paid for by subscription. The 1849 building exists (1985) virtually unaltered, with 9/9 sash and one-panel double doors. The church has been inactive since 1850. The adjacent cemetery has many unusual early tombstones." *The Architectural History of Randolph County, N.C.* by Mac Whatley, 1985

Now inactive and deserted (1976) Richland Lutheran Church was the first of that denomination to be located in Randolph County. The original membership came from the combined Lutheran and Reform German immigrants who worshiped together at Barton's Meeting House (ca. 1766), now Liberty Grove United Methodist Church.

The first church was built of logs and had a gallery, a high pulpit and is said to have had an elevated pew built especially for the officers of the church.

Richland was a first in a parish with Low's Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran near Alamance and Friedens Lutheran at Gibsonville. Later it was joined with Melancthon (1851) and Grace Lutheran churches (1911), whose first members had come from Richland. Gradually the members moved away and services were discontinued in 1950.

"John Long, the first Randolph County native to serve in the United States House of Representatives, lies buried at Richland graveyard, as does his son, Dr. John Wesley Long, for whom Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro is named."-- *Francine Holt Swaim, The Francine Swaim Collection, Liberty Public Library, Liberty, N.C.*

Lutheran minister Rev. Philip Henkel, who died on Oct. 9, 1833, aged 54 years, 17 days, is also interred at the cemetery. The Rev. Henkel, a minister for 33 years, traveled 1534 miles from May 11 to August 7, 1812, preaching 50 sermons. He was visiting Richland and preached his last sermon there before dying soon afterwards.

Also buried at Richland are many of the area's early German families, such as Staley, Fox, Moretz, Spoon, Coble, Kime, Reitzel and others.

The Richland Gospel Church now holds services in the building, which has been radically altered and expanded. The church sits at 7661 Richland Church Road, Liberty, N.C. in the north-east corner of Randolph County, right on the Guilford County line.

**Patterson Cottage:** Mr. Dixon concluded his nominations stating that the little house that is known as the Patterson Cottage Museum first stood two blocks north of its present location on Graham Street (now South Fayetteville) across the street from the business section. It was built by Dr. Armstead Jackson Patterson as a home for his aging parents, George and Sophia Coble Patterson, who came to Liberty to live about 1885.

In 1895, when the business district of Liberty burned across the street from the Patterson home, the little house survived the fire. A friend of Dr. Patterson climbed the roof and doused the shingles with buckets of water to keep it from burning. Dr. Patterson repaid his friend the next day with a load of produce.

Dr. Armstead Jackson Patterson grew up in Alamance County, where his father farmed and had a store. He served patients over a large rural area before coming to Liberty.

In 1881, Dr. Patterson married Sarah Lou Brower, daughter of James Washington Brower and Nellie Kime and granddaughter of Liberty pioneer Abram Brower. From a previous marriage, Dr. Patterson brought a son, Resin Delmar Patterson, with him to Liberty. Dr. Rez, as he was called, followed in his father's footsteps, serving the medical needs of the people of Liberty until his accidental death in 1924. Dr. Rez left a son, R.D. Patterson, Jr., who became the third generation of Patterson doctors in Liberty. Dr. R.D. Patterson, Jr., also served as mayor of the town from 1949 to 1953.

Early in the 1900's, the house was moved around the corner and relocated on East Swannanoa Street. It remained there, owned by Bobby Simmons and used as rental property until 1974. The lot on which the house stood was sold to be used for Liberty's first convenience store and the cottage was to be torn down. Bobby McGowan Haynes begged that it not be destroyed, but moved and restored to honor the Patterson family.

Mrs. Haynes contacted Mayor Joe Griffith and the town council spearheaded a committee of interested citizens, garnered the support of the Randolph County Historical Society and together, they proceeded to raise funds for the moving of the cottage to its present location at 221 S. Fayetteville St., where it would be restored and used for a museum for the town of Liberty.

Restoration went slowly, with most of the work being done by volunteers. The inside was sandblasted and stripped to reveal the original board walls. The partition between the sitting room and bedroom was removed to allow a better flow of traffic for visitors. The roof was covered with wooden shingles as originally built; the chimney, windows and outside were repaired, and finally the house was painted. Today upkeep continues on the house and a tin roof has been added.

Instead of furnishing the house exclusively in the manner of the time the cottage was built, the restoration committee decided that the museum would contain eclectic pieces donated by Liberty families, spanning many generations.

The museum was completed enough to become part of the Bicentennial celebration in 1976, the deadline set by the committee.

From the beginning, the Town of Liberty administered the funds and maintained the grounds of the museum. Later, landscaping and gardens were the work of the Liberty Garden Club, who started with a few rose bushes, and later added five mini gardens and an herb garden.

Over the years, members of the restoration committee and interested citizens have acted as caretakers, tour guides and hostesses. The current curators are the eleven members of the town-appointed Patterson Cottage Museum Committee and with the help of Liberty's past and present garden clubs: Rose, Flower Lovers and Town and Country, have maintained the museum and grounds.

The citizens of Liberty are justly proud of the Patterson Cottage Museum, Liberty's oldest surviving residential structure, and the Patterson family which it honors.

Mac Whatley's nominations are Parker Mill Bridge and Mill Creek Friends Cemetery.

**Parker Mill Bridge:** Mr. Whatley stated that the Parker Mill Bridge is located to the side of Jackson Creek Road and spans over the Uwharrie River. The property adjoins the City of Asheboro's Dam at Lake Reese Reservoir. The one-lane bridge (built 1924) was one of the first reinforced concrete arch bridges built in NC in the 1920s; it is listed on the 1972 NC Historic American Engineering Record survey. It is totally cut off from traffic by the new bridge and isn't being maintained by the state DOT but seems to still be part of their property. Mr. Whatley stated that he felt it would be perfect as part of a bike trail or hiking bridge.

**Mill Creek Friends Cemetery (Old Stone Graveyard):** Mr. Whatley stated that the Old Stone Graveyard of Mill Creek Friends is located at the southeast corner of 1871 Mill Creek Road, Ramseur, NC and contains around two hundred graves located on land that was originally part of a very large estate acquired through land grants and purchases by William Cox. The Mill Creek Friends Cemetery has been called the Old Stone Graveyard because most of the graves are marked only with unlabeled markers or stones from the area. Many of the stones have been moved, not realizing they were grave markers. Mill Creek Preparatory Meeting was established in "Cox's Settlement" in the 1750s or 1760s, as an outgrowth of Cane Creek Friends Meeting in Orange (now Alamance) County. After the War of the Regulation and the Revolution when the area was under the control of David Fanning, the Mill Creek Meeting lapsed. About 1790, a new group, Holly Spring Preparatory Meeting, was established and became an independent Friends Meeting. The Mill Creek cemetery was used until a cemetery was established at Holly Spring. It is still maintained by Holly Spring Meeting. This cemetery is the resting place for William Cox and many of his decedents.

*On a motion of Dixon, seconded by Qualls, the Commission voted unanimously to place the Liberty Train Depot, Richland Lutheran Church Cemetery, Patterson Cottage, Parker Mill Bridge and Mill Creek Friends Cemetery on the Cultural Heritage Site list and to add these sites to the website under a Cultural Heritage Site tab.*

### **Other Business**

Mr. Whatley asked Chairman Johnson if he had an update from the RCC seniors on the ongoing logo project and Chairman Johnson said he would make contact with Ms. Shaw, but felt sure the Commission would see a presentation at the April or May meeting.

Mr. Whatley added that a "Perdevelopment Grant" was given to the Town of Franklinville as grant administrator for the property owner, the Randolph Heritage Conservancy. This grant was for \$20,000 with a \$5000 match from the town. The grant will fund a comprehensive study of the Franklinsville Mill by a team of architects, engineers and preservationists. Randolph Heritage Conservancy will develop a plan to raise additional funds for the restoration of the landmark mill.

**Adjournment**

*At 3:05 p.m., on motion of Whatley, seconded by B. Johnson, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.*

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Hal Johnson, Chairman

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Amanda Varner,  
Clerk to the HLPC