



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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

March 25, 2009

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the County Commissioners Meeting 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, Fran Andrews, Bill Johnson, Warren Dixon, Mac Whatley and Lynne Qualls. Robby Davis, Bill Ivey and Robyn Hankins were not present.

Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2009

On a motion of Qualls, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2009, as presented.

Approval of Standard Signage

Chairman Johnson presented the standard signage that will be used to mark a historic landmark designation. The final sign is based on decisions made by the Commission during earlier meetings.

Old County Courthouse Landmark Marker

Chairman Johnson said that it would be more appropriate to use a bronze plaque at the Old County Courthouse, instead of the standard metal signage used for local landmarks. He said the plaque would be fixed to the building at an appropriate place near the entrance. Chairman Johnson said that a possible re-dedication of the building when the main level is complete would be a good time to include the unveiling of this marker and recognize it as the first Randolph County Historic Landmark.

Commission members discussed the work being done at the site and what a great job the County Building Inspectors were doing. Mr. Whatley commented on the incredible work done by the brick masons in removing the tar and matching the bricks and original design of the outside of the Courthouse. Chairman Johnson stated that the main level is progressing with the renovations and that the Tourism Development Authority, the Economic Development Corporation as well as Congressman Howard Coble have expressed interest in renting office space in the historic building. He stated that the upper level will be renovated in phase two and that the courtroom will once again be a meeting room. Mr. Whatley said that he was happy they would be opening the balcony again and it was nice to see the tin ceiling revealed again in the balcony.

Chairman Johnson said that the County Commissioners would like the HLPC to assist with the history wording for the marker. He asked for a nomination and motion of a member to design the verbiage most appropriate for the Courthouse sign. After discussion, the Commission decided Mr. Whatley has the most unique perspective of the contribution of the Courthouse to the community.

On a motion of Andrews, seconded by B. Johnson, the Commission voted unanimously to designate HLPC Commission member Mac Whatley to prepare the wording for the Old Courthouse landmark signage.

Study List Review

Chairman Johnson reviewed what occurs after the study list and the designation application have been approved to begin the process of being designated as a landmark:

- Staff gathers and assembles background information with the application
- Staff sends the application to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh for their review
- Staff notifies surrounding property owners of the public hearing
- HLPC conducts a public hearing and approves a resolution of support to the appropriate governing body
- Governing body holds a public hearing and approves/declines the designation
- Staff sends approved designation package back to Raleigh to make record of designation

Chairman Johnson opened the discussion of potential designations:

1. Trinity Museum

Chairman Johnson showed pictures of the Trinity Museum and asked Ms. Andrews to highlight some of the facts that constitute this to be a designation. He also stated that the State Historic Preservation Office suggests that pictures from all angles of the subject be included, including the surroundings.

The Dr. Thomas L. Winslow House, now the Trinity Museum, was built circa 1855. Ms. Andrews stated the large pane 6/6 windows, two panel interior doors, Greek revival mantels, and mortise and tenon constructions indicate this date. The entrance, with three pane sidelights and corner-blocked trim, is set in a small area of flush siding; weatherboards cover the rest of the façade. This indicates the present porch replaced an earlier smaller porch. The wide overhang of the roof supported by sawn rafter ends may be original and perhaps a reference to the popular Italianate style. Mr. Whatley commented that upon close examination of the pictures, it appears that some plaster was used, which is an indication of wealth since plaster was very expensive during this time and only shipped by rail.

Ms. Andrews said that they do not know Dr. Winslow's medical background, but it was a common practice of the time for a young man to study medicine with an established doctor. In the diary of Phoebe Jane Brown of 1859 and 1860, she mentions several times the visit of Dr. Winslow to their home to attend her mother.

Dr. Winslow was born on March 7, 1820 in Perquimans County, NC and died on August 6, 1902, and he is buried in Trinity Cemetery.

Through research, Ms. Andrews said there is no record of deed showing he owned the house, but in July of 1870, he married Mary Ann "Annie" Leak, whose family built the house. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Shaw Leak, who were residents of Trinity. At that time, NC laws forbade a woman from owning property; therefore, Annie was placed under the legal umbrella of her husband, and only the husband could act for her in any legal matters. This explains how Thomas L. Winslow and wife, Annie, sold a parcel of land and house in Trinity in 1872, since a deed cannot be located to explain how Dr. Winslow had acquired the land. The new Mendenhall deed describes the house.

son, Andrew Balfour Jr., Oct. 22, 1776-Dec. 31, 1825. On his other side are the markers of the Colonel's sister, Margaret Balfour, who died in 1816, and Margaret B. Hughes, 1775-1820 (his daughter by Elizabeth Dayton).

The cemetery, located at or near the site of Balfour's home and marking the site of his murder, is historically valuable in illustrating and explaining the vicious guerrilla warfare that centered around Randolph County in the aftermath of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Andrew Balfour was not the only separatist or Whig killed in the "Tory War," but he became its best known victim. David Fanning was the partisan leader of the royalist Tory forces based in the southeastern section of the county. Fanning led a guerilla war against people in the rural parts of the county from 1782-83, burning properties, killing local leaders and their families and conducting general warfare with Whig cavalry and militia forces.

Mr. Whatley stated that another unique thing about the site is that no one else can be buried there. Mr. Dixon pointed out another important factor in the story is that Balfour's death illustrates the struggles that went on long after the Revolutionary War ended in 1781, stating "a lot of people believe the Revolutionary War ended in Yorktown, but it didn't. It went on for a long time after with people like David Fanning."

On a motion of Andrews, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to begin the process to designate the Col. Andrew Balfour Graveyard site as a historic landmark.

3. Martha McGee Bell Graveyard Site

Chairman Johnson showed a few pictures of this site. It is on private property owned by a church. No action was taken.

4. Mt. Shepherd Pottery Site

Chairman Johnson presented pictures from this site as well. Mr. B. Johnson stated that the site is close to the property line on the Mt. Shepherd Camp, which is owned by the United Methodist Church High Point District. He stated that there is concern about it being located so close to property that could become a residential housing development.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Whatley for comments about this site. Mr. Whatley stated that in 1969, the caretakers, Walter and Dot Farlow, lived on the property and wanted a garden. Mr. Farlow was having an area bulldozed, and the children found some pieces of pottery. They went to Seagrove, NC to see if they could find out more details and to determine whether the pieces were from Seagrove. They discovered it was not a Seagrove traditional style of pottery. In 1974-75, an archeology dig began and a kiln was excavated. Among the other pieces found in 1974 were Moravian stove tiles which are hand pressed with a design. Moravians were the only potters that did hand pressed stove tiles. Research showed that German Moravian brothers, Samuel and Phillip Jacob Meyers, were kicked out of Salem. Most likely they left and headed out on the trading path which was just south of the site. (Mr. B. Johnson stated that remnants of the path still exist.) When they reached the Hoover Hill community, which was the largest town during that era and was also founded by Germans, they made it their home and started their own pottery business there. Their style blended the traditional stove tile pattern of the Moravians with one of their own including "minute men" and "Hessian soldiers" who were from German states within the Holy Roman Empire and fought in the American Revolutionary War and other conflicts.

From 1872 until 1905, no deed transactions are found. We do know James Charles White was born in the house on March 7, 1874 and that the White family lived there for several years.

Ms. Andrews stated that records show, in 1905, the Clark Payne family purchased the house and lived there until 1945 when they sold it to Jesse & Ella Richardson. The Richardsons made some minor alterations to the inside of the house and lived there until 2003 when Ella deeded the house to the Trinity Historic Preservation Society to be used for a museum.

Ms. Andrews concluded by stating that the property is located on Hwy 62 just after the railroad tracks. There is a building on the back of the property that is at the edge of the railroad right-of-way that was used by the railway as part of the old train station. Ms. Hankins is in the process of applying for that building to be on the National Registry. The Museum would not qualify, but as part of the same property, will be included.

On a motion of B. Johnson, seconded by Whatley, the Commission voted unanimously to begin the process to designate the Trinity Museum as a historic landmark.

Chairman Johnson estimates setting a May public hearing for the HLPC, and the Trinity City Council's public hearing would probably be in June.

2. Col. Andrew Balfour Graveyard site

Chairman Johnson stated that designating a cemetery brings some concerns about opening a floodgate of requests for other family cemeteries. He said Randolph County has many family cemeteries, some of which hold the remains of important figures. The Commission reviewed standards that might be applied to a cemetery being considered for Local Landmark designation. Mac Whatley said that one standard that should be considered is that the cemetery be associated with a historic event that might have taken place in the vicinity of the cemetery. The Andrew Balfour cemetery is a good example of a historic event and subsequent burial place. The Commission agreed that this is one of the standards that could be used for consideration of cemeteries for a Local Landmark designation.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Whatley to narrate during the Power Point presentation.

Mr. Whatley stated that the dramatic story of the assassination of Colonel Andrew Balfour by David Fanning on the steps of his own home is by far the best known and best documented episode of Randolph County's Revolutionary War history. Col. Balfour got out of his bed, went to the front door, and Fanning shot him in his arm and then his head, in front of the Balfour family. Balfour's grave site is the only remaining physical evidence of his residence in the county, but his memory lives on in numerous ways. Not only is the local chapter of the DAR named for him, but the Asheboro Masonic Lodge and an entire neighborhood of North Asheboro bears the Balfour name. His grave is located on his farm somewhere near the site of where his house originally stood. The exact location of the house is not known, but he was buried on a west-facing slope of what is now called DouL Mountain, west of Tot Hill Farm Road and Bettie McGee's Creek. The grave became the center of a family cemetery now accessed from DouL Mountain Road, situated on property now belonging to the City of Asheboro but outside the fenced boundaries of the Airport Authority. Once overgrown and surrounded by corn fields, the cemetery was adopted in the early 1980's and was renovated by the DAR and local Boy Scout troops. Five marked graves are enclosed by a stone wall and shaded by crepe myrtles and two other trees. The stone marking Colonel Balfour's plot in the center is inscribed "murdered by a band of Tories at his home." A more pious epitaph also reads "In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord." It is flanked on one side by the grave of his second wife, Elizabeth Dayton, who died in 1818 and their

During the dig, they also discovered that (1) most likely holes were dug and pottery mistakes were buried; (2) two complete kilns were destroyed; and (3) the second kiln got too hot and collapsed on site. Mr. Whatley stated the significance of the site is that Moravian kilns in Salem are usually on the second floor and part of the chimney, not at all like our area potters use. This site is the only known Moravian kiln site anywhere and the only known Moravian pottery site outside of Salem. Their kiln was most likely a beehive or bottle kiln. One of the most traditional forms in this area is the groundhog kiln. In 1980, this site was placed on the National Historic Landmark Registry and is the only pottery site in Randolph County on the National Registry.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to add the Mt. Shepherd Pottery site to the study list.

On a motion of Andrews, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to add the Mt. Shepherd Pottery site to the study list as a potential Randolph County historic landmark designation.

5. Asheboro Female Academy

Chairman Johnson stated the Asheboro Female Academy is already on the study list, but wanted to show some pictures of the building, the area and its surroundings that will be used with the application.

Public Hearing Updates

Chairman Johnson reviewed upcoming local government public hearings on landmark designations.

- The Old County Rest Home – City of Asheboro public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Franklinville Manufacturing Company – Town of Franklinville public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Other Discussion

Chairman Johnson commended Vice Chair Andrews and stated that he feels Trinity is doing a tremendous job doing lots of little things to recognize the history of the town.

Chairman Johnson advised that the HLPC website is posted.

Ms. Qualls asked if there were plans of producing a map locating historic landmarks that people could use and it be part of promoting Randolph County as a “history” vacation spot. Chairman Johnson said he would discuss this at the next Tourism Development Authority meeting.

Mr. B. Johnson provided everyone with a brochure about the outdoor dramas in Snow Camp, NC, stating most outdoor dramas are of a historical nature. Two of the dramas being presented at Snow Camp are stories of events in the Piedmont area. One takes place during the American Revolution, and the other is an account of the struggles and heroism along the “Underground Railroad” during the 1840’s-1850’s.

Chairman Johnson informed the Commission that Ms. Alta Cassady, the new Preservation Commission Services Coordinator and Certified Local Government Coordinator of the N.C. Historic Preservation Office in the N.C. Office of Archives and History, would, hopefully, be present at the April meeting to discuss the requirements for counties and cities to become part of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A local government may apply to be a Certified

Local Government after having a Historic Landmark Preservation Commission established for one year and having designated at least one historical landmark. By achieving Certified Local Government (CLG) status from the National Park Service (NPS) the local government becomes eligible to receive a portion of the federal Historic Preservation Fund grant received by the state under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Adjournment

On a motion of Qualls, seconded by Dixon, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.

Hal Johnson, Chairman

Amanda W. Varner,
Clerk to the HLPC