



## Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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

May 26, 2010

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the County Office Building at 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Johnson stated that in June of 2010, the Commission will have been in existence two years. At that time, the Commission will have recommended eight sites as historic landmarks and seven Cultural Heritage Sites. Chairman Johnson advised the audience of eleven guests that the Commission has a website which was established to showcase the history of Randolph County.

Chairman Johnson advised that he hoped to have a response on the application for Certified Local Government status by late summer. Only eight NC counties have been certified. Once certified, the Commission becomes a review board and able to make comments on any potential Randolph County sites recommended to the National Registry.

Chairman Johnson complimented the Commission on their work and dedication to preserving the past.

### **Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2010**

*On a motion of Andrews, seconded by Qualls, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 2010, as presented.*

### **Addition to Agenda**

Chairman Johnson stated that five sites (Liberty Train Depot, Richland Lutheran Church Cemetery, Patterson Cottage, Parker Mill Bridge and Mill Creek Friends Cemetery) were approved in March for the Cultural Heritage Site list. The Resolutions of Recognition had not been completed at that time and Chairman Johnson requested that the Commission approve the Resolutions of Recognition for those five.

*On a motion of Hankins, seconded by Ivey, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Resolutions of Recognition for the Liberty Train Depot, Richland Lutheran Church Cemetery, Patterson Cottage, Parker Mill Bridge and Mill Creek Friends Cemetery, as follows:*

**WHEREAS**, *The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Sites that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history, and thus shaped our present; and*

*WHEREAS, Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

***LIBERTY TRAIN DEPOT***

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

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*WHEREAS, The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Sites that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history, and thus shaped our present; and*

*WHEREAS, Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

***RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY***

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

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*WHEREAS, Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

***PATTERSON COTTAGE***

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

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*past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history, and thus shaped our present; and*

*WHEREAS, Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

***PARKER MILL BRIDGE***

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

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*WHEREAS, Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

***MILL CREEK FRIENDS CEMETERY***

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

**Cultural Heritage Site Designation-1827 Old Asheboro Cemetery**

Chairman Johnson stated that the City of Asheboro had requested the 1827 Old Asheboro Cemetery be designated as a Cultural Heritage Site. The cemetery area comprises 4.41 acres (per tax map), with southern boundary (and main entrance) on West Salisbury Street. The western boundary is along White Oak Street and the northern boundary is marked by West Ward Street. The eastern boundary is established along the rear lines of a series of properties on North Fayetteville Street. The site slopes generally upward from the outer edges toward the center and is highlighted by several majestic oak trees. The site also contains magnolia and cedar trees, as well as azaleas and other ornamental plants.

Chairman Johnson introduced Ricky Allred to present the request on behalf of the City of Asheboro.

Mr. Allred said that the Old Asheboro Cemetery has been a visible and continuous link with Asheboro's past for more than 150 years. The initial two-acre tract was deeded by Randolph County attorney and entrepreneur Benjamin Elliott to the Trustees of the "Methodist Episcopal Church, Asheboro Chapter of Randolph County" on October 25,

1834, with the stipulation that the trustees “erect or build thereon...a house or place of Worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.” Compliant with the terms of the deed, a church building occupied the site from shortly after the property was deeded until First Methodist Church moved to its Fayetteville Street location.

The land surrounding the church structure was dedicated as a burial ground. The earliest marked, identified grave dates to 1843 (John Drake – a one-year old boy), although fieldstone markers in the vicinity of the Drake stone likely mark graves of even earlier vintage. The memorials that radiate outward from the former church site (the southeast corner of the cemetery) trace multiple generations, often within families, of individuals who contributed to the many aspects of life in Asheboro over its early history. For many years, the Methodist graveyard was the only burial site in the town of Asheboro, and, as such, came to be the final resting place of many citizens who were not necessarily associated with the Methodist Church.

In 1903, the Town of Asheboro acquired a little over an acre and a half of land north of the Methodist graveyard from the Burns and Page families for development as a municipal cemetery. Platting and construction of the drive (including the circle) appear to have been completed by 1908 (recorded plat Book 128 Page 586 shows 257 multi-grave plots) and the first plot (#4) was sold to Frederick D. Thorns on November 23, 1908, for twenty dollars. Additional tracts, totaling approximately half an acre, were acquired in 1924 to “even out” the eastern boundary of the cemetery. The markers in the “new” cemetery catalogue the lives of many who led and lived in Asheboro during its expansion and industrialization in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mr. Allred stated that the property is bounded on the south and west by a brick wall capped with granite (south) or concrete (west) top stones. In 1914, a bequest from the estate of Cornelia Adeline Hamlet Askew Hoover Jolly (1838-1911) to the Methodist Episcopal Church was used to fund the construction of a new wall to enclose the church yard. This brick wall, which was originally topped with a wrought iron fence, forms the base of the present wall along Salisbury Street. The wrought iron fencing was lost during a repair and restoration work performed on the wall in recent years, although the pedestrian (White Oak Street) gates preserve a sample of similar fencing.

Mr. Allred stated that the “footprint” of the church structures formerly occupying the southeast corner of the cemetery can be seen in the open area behind the Walter Lindley tomb, near Salisbury Street. A few foundation stones are still visible in the ground.

In 1927, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (First Methodist Church) conveyed its property to the City of Asheboro, under the agreement that the church structure on the site be removed within a year. The space formerly occupied by the church building was “never to be used for any other purpose than for cemetery purposes, except by the consent and order of the Town of Asheboro.” Thus, the cemetery acquired its current configuration.

Within the cemetery boundaries are the final resting places of many leaders of government – local, state, and federal. More than thirty Confederate veterans rest there, along with at least one who deserted his regiment and joined the Union Army. There is

also a widow who lost her husband at Gettysburg. There are several members of Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 30<sup>th</sup> Division, including two who were killed in France during World War I. There are also veterans of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam. Other forms of service are represented in the cemetery. There are firemen and law enforcement officers, including at least one who died in the line of duty. There are doctors, nurses, lawyers, industrialists, merchants, musicians, preachers and postmen (and women). There are judges, at least one murder victim, mechanics, and several undertakers. There are infants (some buried with their mothers) and there are those who saw their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. In sum, the 1500+ graves in the Old Asheboro Cemetery depict much of life in Asheboro and Randolph County over the past century and three quarters.

Chairman Johnson said that there was a statement in the report that he felt was a great explanation and read the statement: “Although there are still occasional interments, the stately oaks, dignified markers, and even the unmarked gravesites serve largely, and nobly, to remind the citizens of Asheboro and Randolph County of their collective heritage and to provide a place of quiet in the midst of bustle that characterizes the Asheboro of today.”

The Commission asked City Manager John Ogburn if there is a database of those buried there. Mr. Ogburn said that they are in the process of updating one.

*On a motion of Dixon, seconded by Ivey, the Commission voted unanimously to place the 1827 Old Asheboro Cemetery on the Cultural Heritage Site list, add the site to the website under the Cultural Heritage Site tab and approve the Resolution of Recognition, as follows:*

***WHEREAS,** The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Sites that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history, and thus shaped our present; and*

***WHEREAS,** Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

#### ***OLD ASHEBORO CEMETERY***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission’s historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

#### **Cultural Heritage Site Designation- Marmaduke Swaim Robins Law**

Chairman Johnson stated that the Marmaduke Swaim Robins Law Office had been submitted by Randolph Public Library for Cultural Heritage Site recognition. Marsha Haithcock of the Public Library Randolph Room presented the information regarding the request.

The Marmaduke Swaim Robins Law Office, a two-room wooden building built around 1860, is the last surviving building on Asheboro's nineteenth century courthouse square.

Ms. Haithcock stated that Marmaduke Swaim Robins purchased the office lot on August 21, 1874. Mr. Robins was quite active during the Civil War years, as private secretary to Gov. Vance, as treasurer of the State Literary Fund (comparable to Commissioner of Education), as a captain in the Home Guard and as Editor of a newspaper, *The Raleigh Conservative*. Mr. Robins founded and edited the *Randolph Regulator* newspaper in Asheboro in 1876. The newspaper's name later changed to the Courier and is still published today as the Courier Tribune.

Mr. Robins died in 1905 and his son, Henry Moring Robins, used the law office as his office to practice law. Mr. Henry Robins served as Mayor of Asheboro from 1907 to 1909 and the law office building was used for town meetings. The building was extensively altered and gutted around 1910.

The Randolph County Bar Association began an effort to preserve and, restore the law office building around 1990. At some point in the law office buildings history, it was moved 40 feet from its original location on Main Street. The building was moved back to its original site and painted and restored. It sits on the property owned by the City of Asheboro.

Mr. Whatley added that the property was bought from Samuel Jackson in 1874 and was in the Worth family prior to Mr. Jackson owning it. He stated that he had spent time with the family of Mr. Robins to obtain information about the building's history. Whatley said a more recent owner had removed the south wall and the building flooring to use the building as a garage prior to it becoming property of the City of Asheboro. Mr. Ivey stated that he obtained some of the original law books from the building when they were being removed.

Ms. Haithcock said that they would like to add some signage to the property if there was no objection. The signage would be to identify what the property was and that it was the last standing original building on what was the courthouse square. A discussion ensued among the members as to whether the property would qualify for landmark designation. Mr. Ivey suggested that the Commission consider the request for Cultural Heritage Site designation today and suggested the staff explore the history to determine if there are qualifications that would allow future designation as a historic landmark.

*On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Whatley, the Commission voted unanimously to place the Marmaduke Swaim Robins Law Office c.1860 on the Cultural Heritage Site list, add the site to the website under the Cultural Heritage Site tab and approve the Resolution of Recognition, as follows:*

***WHEREAS***, *The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission desires to recognize those Cultural Heritage Sites that provide a tangible link to the past, with the people and events that have made significant contributions to Randolph County history, and thus shaped our present; and*

***WHEREAS***, *Cultural Heritage Site recognition helps give Randolph County individual character and our people a sense of place, pride, and historic connection;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site is given to:*

**MARMADUKE SWAIM ROBINS LAW OFFICE c.1860**

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is approved by the Historical Landmark Preservation Commission and recorded in their minutes, appropriate history and photographs placed on the Commission's historical website, and a suitable copy presented to the recipient.*

**RCC Logo Discussion**

Chairman Johnson expressed the Commission's appreciation for the time the RCC class spent on all the proposed logos. At the April meeting, the Commission asked Ms. Shaw and the students if they could take two of the newest designs and make alterations combining some of the aspects of both, based on color and artwork. Chairman Johnson welcomed RCC student Deana Ramirez back before the Commission with those revisions. Ms. Ramirez presented variations of the logo based on requests by the members of the Commission.

- Original interpretation of the ceiling tiles with a circular configuration (Logo B):



- Circular configuration with a color variation and center leaf redesigned (Logo D).



- Circular configuration with the same color variation and another different center leaf design (Logo E).



Mr. Whatley commented that he was happy to see the Blue/Brown color scheme added to these logos. Everyone liked it on the other logos that had been previously presented.

*On a motion of Dixon, seconded by Whatley, the Commission voted 7-1 to approve logo E for the HLPC.*

**Other Business**

Chairman Johnson reminded the Commission that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners will be holding a public hearing on June 7 at 4:30 p.m. to consider the Mt. Shepherd Pottery Site as the eighth landmark designation.

**Adjournment**

*At 3:00 p.m., on motion of Hankins, seconded by Andrews, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.*

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Hal Johnson, Chairman

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Amanda Varner,  
Clerk to the HLPC