



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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

August 27, 2008

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.

Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order and opened with roll call. Members present were Hal Johnson, Fran Andrews, Bill Johnson, Mac Whatley, Warren Dixon, Lynne Qualls, and Robin Hankins. Donna Hall and Robby Davis were absent. Hankins, as alternate, sat in due to the absences.

Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2008 Meeting

On a motion of Whatley, seconded by Andrews, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 23, 2008, as presented.

Chairman Johnson announced that Mary Hanbury, who was with the State Archives office and attended the first meeting of the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, resigned to go into private practice. Chairman Johnson will inform the Commission as soon as he knows who the new contact will be.

Update on the Status of the Inter-local Agreements Being Considered by Local Municipalities

Chairman Johnson stated that a copy of the inter-local agreement has gone to each of the municipalities, and he has talked to city managers. Their boards will be considering the agreement in their upcoming council meetings, and he hopes to have a status update at the next meeting.

Discussion About the Establishment of a Historic Landmark Preservation Commission Website

A discussion among the Commission was initiated by Chairman Johnson as to how they would like to see a historical website constructed and used. From prior meetings, he feels the consensus was to use the website to educate and assist the public and that all forms, applications, fees and guidelines would be the first thing the site would need to have available. The Commission would like to see the website constructed as something the Tourism Development Authority could use for self-guided tours of Randolph County historical locations.

Chairman Johnson then asked what the Commission's thoughts were to using an outside source for website design or the resources we already have available from the Randolph County Computer Services department. Everyone was in agreement that the first place people will probably search will be the existing Randolph County website and that it may be best to first speak with the County programmers about what they could offer. Chairman Johnson will talk with the staff and discuss what the Commission hopes to accomplish with a website. It may be possible to have someone available at the next meeting from the Computer Services department to share some ideas and to hear from the Commission.

Discussion of the Type of Landmark Signs to Consider for Designated Properties

Chairman Johnson presented some examples of historical signage used in other cities and counties. Ms. Qualls pointed out that the material the signs are made of may be a concern due to theft of many

of those materials. It was also discussed about the expense of a lot of the materials signs are constructed of. Chairman Johnson stated the cost of the type signs selected will be factored into the application fees for landmark designation. He stated Guilford County uses relatively small, round, bronze plaques so that it does not take away from the landmark and it is marked with a number to identify the landmark when referring to a historical map. The Commission discussed whether a building and site signage should be different in size and shape or choose a design that is functional for both or maybe similar in design but practical whether it will be positioned on a building or a post. No decision was made at this time.

Chairman Johnson then directed the discussion to what information to put on a sign, how to design the sign and stated that it should be distinctive to Randolph County. Commission members suggested many things that were a part of Randolph County history, such as the older corporate county seal, the new county seal, pottery, furniture and the Pisgah Covered Bridge. Ms. Andrews asked if the others would entertain the idea of letting RCC students get involved in this process by possibly doing a contest on designing a seal/emblem for marking a historical designation site. There would be no obligation that the HLPC would have to choose one of the submitted designs as a winner. If no winner is chosen it would, at least, give the members of the HLPC some idea of what the public first thinks of when the words "Randolph County" and "historic" are mentioned in the same sentence. Chairman Johnson stated he would discuss this suggestion with RCC and present the response at the next meeting. He said he would gather some estimates on various sizes and materials for signage to share at the next meeting as well.

Discussion of Countywide Landmarks and the Commission's Role on the Public's Education on History and Heritage

Chairman Johnson stated again that education is a big component for what this Commission is about. He asked Mr. Bill Johnson to start the discussion with his thoughts and suggestions and work around to conclude with Mr. Whatley.

Mr. Johnson stated, regarding education, the Randolph County Historical Society did bus tours as a way to get the community involved and educated. They did this in four quadrants of the county. He also stated that he and his wife are very much involved with the Ramseur museum and have had contact with some other people involved with museums in their areas. He suggested these citizens also attend some HLPC meetings and possibly work together in trying to plan some educational ideas.

Ms. Qualls said that she believes this should to be more of a "packaged educational piece," and that she doesn't want to lose the importance of black history in Randolph County. Then she presented her list of suggestions for historical designation as follows:

- the old historic courthouse
- the main hospital building
- Back Creek Friends Meeting
- Col. Andrew Balfour's gravesite
- the areas of New Salem and Lassiter Mill
- Dr. Hubbard's house in Farmer
- the pauper's cemetery from the old County Home
- the Old County Home

Mr. Dixon continued with his list which includes:

- Sandy Creek Baptist Church, which he stated to be the original Southern Baptist church in Randolph County

- Richland Lutheran Church
- Faith Rock

Mr. Dixon thought the following locations of important historical events should be recognized in some way:

- Cox's Mill(s)
- Herman Husband's home site
- McGee's Tavern.

Ms. Hankins stated that she also felt that it is important that black history should not be left out. Her list includes:

- Rev. Braxton Craven's gravesite
- Brokaw Mansion as a Dutch colonial architectural designation.

Ms. Andrews' suggested having some meetings at the locations mentioned and shared her list:

- Bathing Rock, stating that it was the location where the colored students would take a bath
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Braxton Craven gym
- Archdale Elementary
- First Baptist Church.

Mr. Ivey's list in order of priority was:

- the historic Randolph County courthouse
- then the Pisgah covered bridge
- Gatekeepers house
- Female Academy
- Col. Andrew Balfour's grave
- St. Paul's Church in Randleman
- Shiloh Academy
- Coletrane House
- Reed Creek post office (later known as the Ramseur post office)
- Blair log house
- Harper house.

Mr. Whatley's list was broken into categories first and then some particular sites as follows:

Natural (Geographical)

Mountains (Uwharries)

Ridge's Mtn.

Rivers (Deep, Uwharrie, Little, Rocky)

-Covered Bridges (Pisgah)

National Forest - Birkhead Wilderness Area

Native American

- Keyauwee Village
- Totero Fort

Transportation Routes

- "Great Wagon" Road
- Indian Trading Path
- Plank Road (Page's Toll House)
- Fords and Bridges

Early Industrial Heritage:

- Iron Making (Bush Creek Iron Works; New Market Foundry)
- Gold Mining (Hoover Hill, Sawyer's Mine)
- Moon shining (Franklinville/Millboro; Pisgah/ Black Ankle)
- Saw Milling
- Textiles, hosiery
- Furniture (Craftsmen like Jesse Needham; P&P Chair Co- famous for the "Kennedy Rocker" and prime example of early furniture and is still in operation.)
- Railroading (Asheboro & Aberdeen RR; Liberty, Seagrove; Climax depots)

Early Potteries:

- William Dennis (Quaker)
- Mt. Shepherd (Moravian)

Mills:

- Sites: Husband's Mill; Bell's Mill; Hoover's Mill
- Lassiter Mill (last survivor, not intact)
- Cedar Falls; Franklinville; Worthville; Coleridge
- Acme-McCrary, Asheboro Hosiery, Bossong

Education:

- One/Two Room Schools (Asheboro Female Academy; Shiloh Academy)
- Trinity College (now Duke University) (Boarding Houses)
- Evergreen Academy / Amos Hinshaw Model Farm
- Consolidation and Accreditation (early 20th c. sch.: Archdale, Brower, Farmer)
- Rosenwald Schools (East Side/ Central High; Staley)

Religious:

- Brush Arbor: John Wesley's Stand
- Quaker (Back Creek, Science Hill, Hopewell, Friendsville)
- German Sects (Melancthon, Richland Lutheran)
- Baptist/ Sandy Creek church (1824); Cedar Falls Bapt. (1844)
- Methodist/St. Paul's, Randleman; Coleridge, Franklinville (Akron Rooms)

Wars:

- "Regulation"
 - o Herman Husband farm
- Revolutionary
 - o Whig-Tory war (David Fanning)
 - Andrew Balfour Cemetery
 - Cox's Mill(s)
 - Faith Rock
 - o Buffalo Ford
- Civil
 - o Abolitionists (Wesleyan churches @ Caraway, Franklinville- sites)
 - o Underground Railroad (Quakers/ Coffin)
 - o Outliers, Draft Dodgers: Gollihorn Spring, Purgatory Mtn.
 - o Randolph Hornets: Middleton Academy

African American:

- Slavery (General Gray Plantation)
- Free Blacks (Strieby, Tabernacle)
- Freedman's School (Middleton Academy, Archdale/ Dudley Warner)
- Civil Rights of the 1960's
 - o Hop's BBQ – a local march started and altercations took place, Trinity BBQ
 - o Black Balconies- the Sunset Theater & the 1909 Courthouse Courtroom

Public History

- Communities and Post Offices (Archdale; Reed Creek; Thornburg Farm)

- Government
 - o Court: Site of Johnstonville; Asheboro Publick Ground; 1909 Court House
 - o Law Enforcement: site of jail, stocks, pillories, whipping post
 - o Social Services: old County Home and site of Poor House

Cultural

- Art (pottery)
- Music
 - o Naomi Wise ballad (Adams' Spring @ New Salem; Naomi Falls)
- Literature
- Architecture: Oldest/ Best/ First/Last/ Only
 - o Oldest Masonic bldg.: Hanks Lodge, 1850
 - o Houses:
 - Enos Blair (log, c. 1770);
 - Coletrane (frame, c.1780); Jeduthan Harper (frame, c. 1790);
 - first brick houses: Dempsey Brown; "Melrose"; Makepeace
 - o Only: (antebellum textile mills) Cedar Falls & Franklinville factories
 - o Best: Barn? Kitchen? Smokehouse? Tobacco Barn
 - o Last: Outhouse? Stillhouse?

Iconic People & Places

- Hunting Preserves (Brokaw estate)
- contemporary, like Petty Enterprises, Blue Mist BBQ, Zoo
- Gatekeeper's House (from Fisher Mansion, 1883)
- New Salem area (c.1800 Quaker community)

Mr. Whatley felt that there is a need to mark things that are no longer there as they are a big part of the full historical package.

Chairman Johnson concluded the discussion by stating that all of these were a great start to some designations and prioritizing them would be a next step. He reminded the others that there were only three ways a landmark designation can be initialized and that is by the Commission, the requests of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, or by application of the owner of said building, structure, site, area or object.

Chairman Johnson reiterated that at the next meeting, on September 24, he hoped to have actual sign examples and some costs, an update on the progress of the inter-local agreements that were sent out, details from the conversation with RCC regarding design support, a compiled list to prioritize and information from the Randolph County Computer Services department on the possibility of a website design.

Adjournment

Andrews made a motion to adjourn and Dixon seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Hal Johnson, Chairman

Amanda W. Varner, Deputy Clerk
Randolph County Board of Commissioners