



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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

August 27, 2013

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the Meeting Room of the 1909 Historic Courthouse at 145 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Hal Johnson at 2:00 p.m.

Members present were Hal Johnson, Chairman; Fran Andrews, Vice Chair; Bill Johnson; Lynne Qualls; Marsha Haithcock; Mac Whatley; Nan Kemp; Bill Ivey; Warren Dixon and Robyn Hankins.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Dixon, seconded by Bill Johnson, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2013, as presented.

Request Approval for Certificate of Appropriateness – 1909 Randolph County Courthouse

Chairman Johnson stated that a Certificate of Appropriateness is required when any changes are to be made to a designated local historic landmark that could be of significance to the character of the landmark.

Chairman Johnson stated that Tammy O’Kelley, Director of the Tourism Development Authority (TDA), with approval of the property owner, County of Randolph, N.C., is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to add an outdoor identification sign in the front of the Randolph County Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth Street., Asheboro, N.C.; property tax ID 7751837176. The COA is required pursuant to regulations contained within the ordinance establishing the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission.

Chairman Johnson welcomed to the meeting Richard Schoenberger, owner of Manor House Graphics, which is the creative agency of record for the Tourism Development Authority.

Chairman Johnson stated that during the application process, the proposed design was reviewed by an ad hoc committee consisting of Mac Whatley, Tammy O’Kelley, Richard Schoenburger and himself during the development stages to ensure that the sign met the requirements. A public hearing is required in order to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

At 2:05 p.m., Chairman Johnson opened the duly advertised public hearing to consider the request of the Certificate of Appropriateness application.

Tammy O’Kelley, Director of Tourism Development Authority (TDA), presented evidence for the request of additional signage in order to make it easier for people to find the offices of the TDA and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), as well as, the County Commissioners’ meeting room. The TDA and EDC moved into the historic courthouse in January of 2010. Ms. O’Kelley stated that not having a sign has been an endless source of

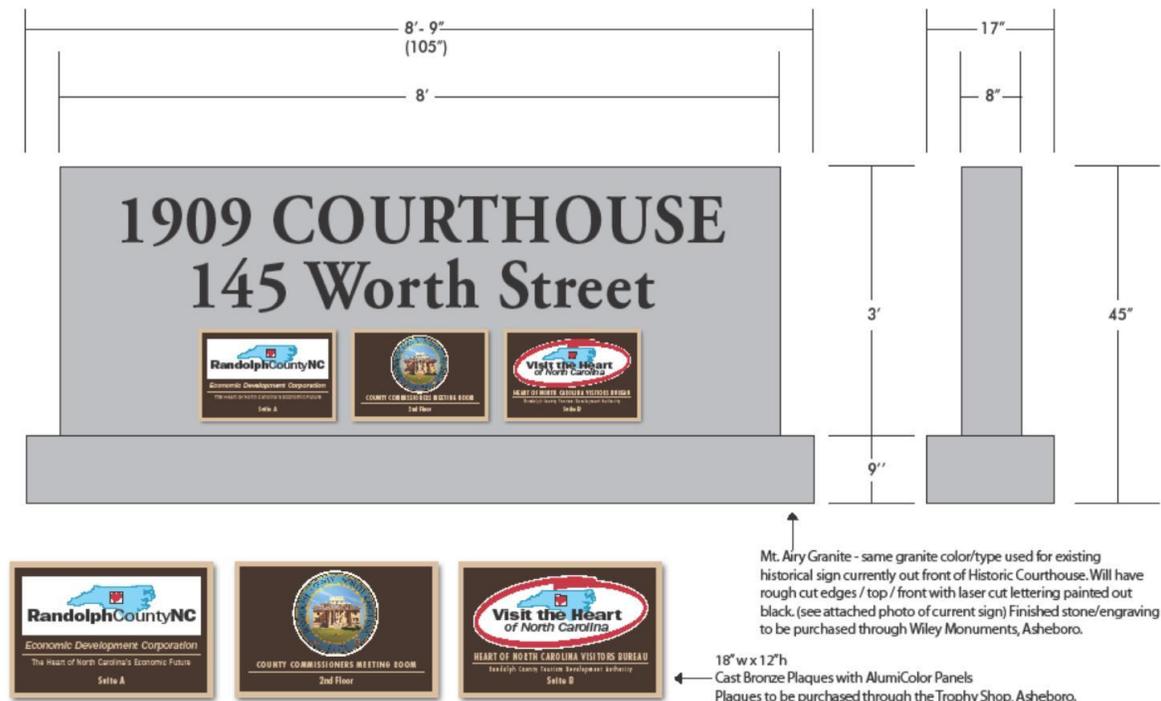
frustration, confusion, and dissatisfaction as business associates, citizens and visitors try to locate their office.

In June, the City of Asheboro added “way-finding” signage to downtown in an effort to assist citizens and visitors who are unfamiliar with the area. Ms. O’Kelley stated that when she discovered the City was working on “way finding” signage, she requested the Heart of NC Visitor Bureau be added to the signage, but the City was hesitant to do so because there is no sign that marks the building other than the address above the door. Ms. O’Kelley urged the City to include it and promised that she would seek a solution to the building signage as soon as possible. Ms. O’Kelley conveyed stories of visitor’s dilemmas in locating the tourism office, known as The Heart of NC Visitor’s Bureau.

Ms. O’Kelley said that she met with the ad hoc committee to discuss the issues and offered Richard’s services to develop a design plan for signage that would fit the aesthetics of the building, but be visible from the street and that would meet with the HLPC approval for the COA.

Ms. O’Kelley indicated that they have no price estimate at this time.

Richard Schoenberger, owner Manor House Graphics, presented his design (see diagram below) for the sign. It would be a granite sign similar to the existing sign that displays the courthouse history, which sits on the east side of the steps. The base and thickness would be the same and would have rough cut edges and top. It would match the granite of which the building is constructed. The sides would be smooth for wording and would include individual bronzed plaques with logos and identification of the tenants. Plaques will have hidden drill holes and can be changed if a tenant were to change.



Mr. Ivey asked if additional plaques could be added if a tenant was added. Mr. Schoenberger replied that there could be adjustments made for one additional plaque. Mr. Whatley interjected that the only empty space available in the building was the basement and access to that was more practical from the back or side of the building and not the front.

Mr. Ivey asked who would be responsible for the expense of the sign and Ms. O'Kelley responded that the TDA had agreed to pay for the sign.

At 2:20 p.m., hearing no further comments, Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Whatley said that the ad hoc committee went through a lot of discussion about the size of the sign, keeping in mind that it needed to be visible from the street or sidewalk, but not be so large that it distracts from the building itself.

Ms. Qualls said that she liked the fact that the committee looked ahead and considered that tenants may change and designed the sign accordingly.

Chairman Johnson said that when looking at a Certificate of Appropriateness, the Commission looks to determine the need of the change requested and if the design is consistent with the structure and wouldn't detract from the designated landmark.

On motion of Whatley, seconded by Andrews, the Board voted 9 to 0 to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness to the Tourism Development Authority for the setting of a new exterior sign at the front of the 1909 Randolph County Historic Courthouse, as per their request and the guidelines suggested by the State Preservation Specialist, as follows:

*Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission
Order Approving Certificate of Appropriateness
1909 Historic Courthouse, Asheboro, N.C.*

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, August 27, 2013, at 2:00 pm, 1909 Historic Courthouse, 145 Worth St., Asheboro, N.C., to consider the following application for Certificate of Appropriateness:

The Randolph County Tourism Development Authority is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to locate an exterior identification sign in the front yard of the 1909 Historic Courthouse;

And

Having heard sworn evidence presented, and having received into evidence such exhibits as presented by the applicant, and after affording all who wished to be heard the opportunity to testify, examine, and cross-examine witnesses and to make comments and arguments, now based on substantial, relevant, and credible evidence received, said Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1: *The applicant, with approval of the property owner, applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness as required by regulations contained within the ordinance establishing the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission seeking approval for locating an exterior identification sign in the front yard of the 1909 Historic Courthouse.*

2: *Testimony was received that the identification sign was necessary to provide direction to the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority and the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation. Both of these public organizations currently maintain offices on the first floor of the 1909 Historic Courthouse. Adequate identification signage would also assist in directing citizens to public hearings and public meetings located on the second floor of the 1909 Historic Courthouse.*

3: *Testimony and exhibits were received that the new identification sign will be of masonry and Mt. Airy Granite construction specifically designed to match those materials originally used in the existing 1909 Historic Courthouse. The size, design, and color are intended to compliment that of the existing historic structure.*

4: *Testimony was given that the construction is in compliance with zoning regulations of the City of Asheboro, and that adjoining property owners have been notified of the application and notice of public hearing.*

5: *No persons spoke in opposition to the request.*

BASED ON THE GREATER WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE AND THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT, AND AS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE RANDOLPH COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION MAKES THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

1: *The proposed exterior identification sign is designed in a manner that would support the architectural detail of the 1909 Historic Courthouse and is necessary to insure added convenience to visitors and the general public.*

2: *The proposed sign will not reduce the value of the 1909 Historic Courthouse as an example of unique architectural style and community heritage.*

BASED ON THE FOREGOING FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS, the application for this Certificate of Appropriateness is approved by a vote of 9 to 0, this 27th Day of August, 2013.

Request and Approval of Resolution Designating Faith Rock as a Cultural Heritage Site

Chairman Johnson welcomed Perry Conner, owner of the property on which Faith Rock is located. Chairman Johnson said that what makes this site unique is not only the site of a historic event, or story of two historical characters in Randolph County, but it is also a natural geological site. Chairman Johnson shared a PowerPoint presentation as HLPC member Mac Whatley told the history of Faith Rock.

Mr. Whatley stated that Mr. Conner is currently the Mayor of Franklinville, but when he was a Commissioner with the Town of Franklinville, and Mr. Whatley was Mayor, the town tried to buy this tract of land, but had some opposition on the Council. Mr. Conner ultimately purchased this land in hopes to prevent it from going on the auction block. Mr. Whatley said that everyone has heard some version of Faith Rock's history. Faith Rock is part of Revolutionary War history, which also includes notorious Tory Colonel David Fanning. The following narrative, written by Mac Whatley, was presented in the meeting and was published on his Randolph History blog website page in 2009:

While taking a wagon of produce to trade for salt at the Pee Dee River market on May 2, 1782, local resident Andrew Hunter was captured by the notorious Tory guerrilla leader David Fanning. Facing immediate execution, Hunter made a desperate escape. In Fanning's words, Hunter "sprung upon my riding mare, and went off with my saddle, holsters, pistols, and all my papers... We fired two guns at him; he received two balls through his body but it did not prevent him from sitting the saddle, and make his escape." [David Fanning, **The Narrative of Colonel David Fanning** (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, 1973; pp. 59-62.)

Enraged, Fanning plundered Hunter's home, holding his pregnant wife hostage for the return of the horse, "a mare I set great store by, and gave one hundred and ten guineas for her." [*ibid.*] However, Fanning's guerrilla band was forced to release Mrs. Hunter and ride out to join the British evacuation of Charleston, South Carolina.

But Fanning risked a final return to Randolph on September 5, 1782, solely in an attempt to recover his mare. The incident at Faith Rock must have occurred at this time. Hunter "was riding the Bay Doe, on the high ground south of Deep River, and not far above the ...ford; but found they were heading him in that direction. He then turned his course up the river, but they were there ready to receive him. The only alternative was to surrender, which would be certain and instant death, or to make a desperate plunge down a precipice, some fifty feet high into the river. He chose the latter... It was such a daring adventure that his pursuers... stopped short, in a kind of amazement, and contented themselves with firing two or three pistols after him. As there was no level ground at the bottom of the descent, he plunged right into the river... sometimes swimming and sometimes floundering over rocks, until he found a place where he got out on the north side and made his escape." [E.W. Caruthers, **Revolutionary Incidents And Sketches of Character Chiefly in the "Old North State."** Philadelphia: Hayes and Zell, 1856; pp. 280-281.]

Fanning left the country in frustration on September 22, neither recovering his horse nor gaining revenge.

Local wisdom in Franklinville has always repeated the claim that Bay Doe's hoof prints can still be seen, embedded in Faith Rock. The truth of that, as well as the likelihood that any horse and rider could jump off a 60-degree slope into a river normally as shallow as Deep River, must be left to the opinion of visitors.

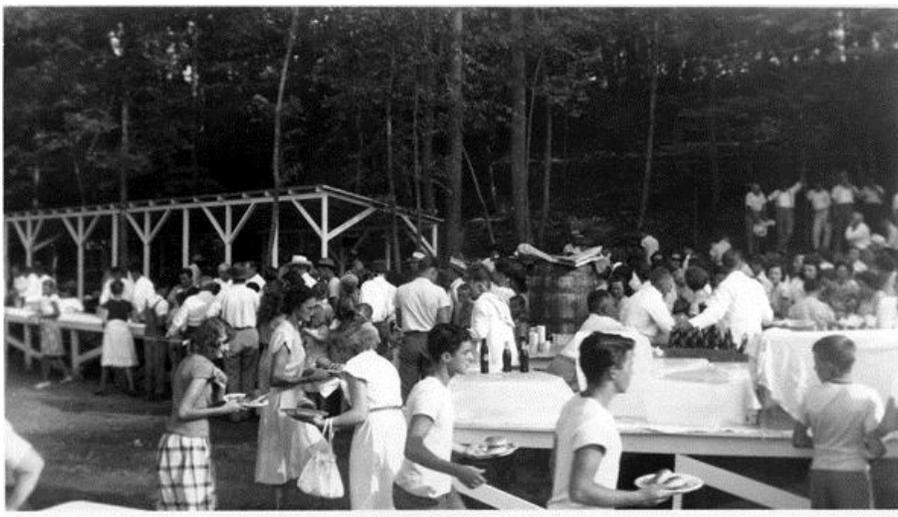


Chairman Johnson stated that the story of Andrew Hunter and David Fanning is equally as important to Revolutionary history.

Mr. Ivey asked why this was not considered for Historic Landmark recognition. Chairman Johnson stated it could easily be considered as a Randolph County Historic Landmark and its designation as a Cultural Heritage Site can be the first stage in historic landmark designation if Mr. Conner, later desires to nominate it.

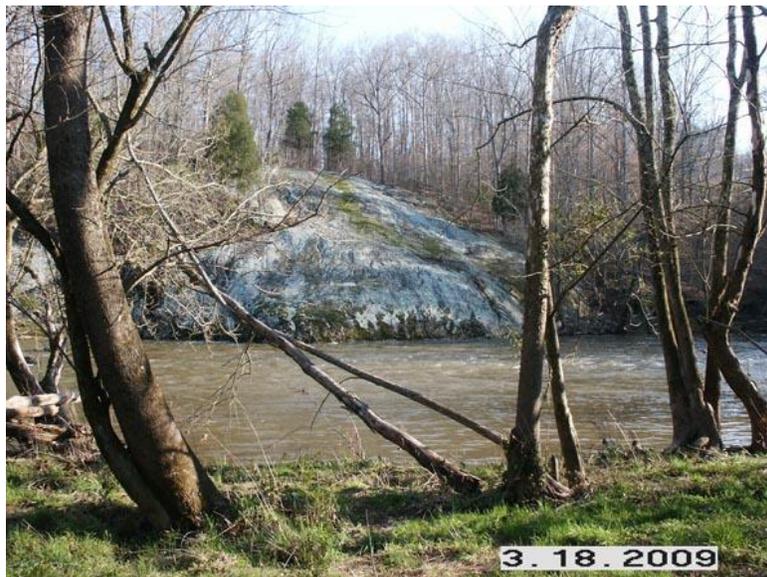
Mr. Bill Johnson thanked Mr. Conner for his willingness to submit the site to protect its history.

Perry Conner stated that the town had an agreement with an investor of the property for about five years. Once the agreement ended, it would go up for public auction and he didn't want to see that happen, so he purchased it. The property has been used by the mill and the community for at least 100 years. Many pictures exist from mill picnics that were held at this location.





Mr. Conner said that Ms. Nell Allen, Botanist at NC Zoo and Mike Schafale, State Biologist, visited the property, and Mr. Schafale stated the site was previously unknown to the Natural Heritage Program and that there is local interest to protect it. In Mr. Schafale's report he lists the property description as follows: This site is a steep bluff along the Deep River. A series of steeply sloped rock outcrops supports a Piedmont/Coastal Plain Acidic Cliff community (contains specific plants). The adjacent area consists of Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest and Dry-Mesic Oak—Hickory Forest, which are fairly young. A narrow strip of mature Piedmont Alluvial Forest is present along the river. It is located on the south side of the Deep River opposite Franklinville and can be accessed by a foot bridge from a park on the west side of Franklinville. A trail runs along the river. It consists of 14.53 acres, of which 0.45 acre is primary and 14.08 are secondary. Mr. Schafale believed it to be worthwhile to protect the area.



Mr. Conner said there is a cleared area on top that was once to be a home site, but one was never built. He stated that the area would make a great parking area to allow access to the site from that side of the river without having to cross the foot bridge and follow the trail from the other side of the river.



Mr. Conner said he would not object to the property being designated as a historic landmark, but would like to see the town or someone take over or purchase the property and continue to protect it and its history for the future.

Mr. Whatley stated that the property had always been intended for a park and maintained by the mill that owned it. He explained to Mr. Conner that there is a tax benefit to a landmark designation and that it would help with the expense of owning and maintaining the property. Mr. Conner said he would like to explore those options.

On motion of Ivey, seconded by B. Johnson, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Recognition for Faith Rock, 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; and*

***WHEREAS**, in 1782, Faith Rock was the setting for one of Randolph County's most legendary Revolutionary War incidents involving Tory guerilla leader David Fanning and local Patriot hero Andrew Hunter; and*

***WHEREAS**, Andrew Hunter escaped capture by David Fanning after taking Fanning's favorite horse, named Bay Doe, and jumping Bay Doe from Faith Rock into Deep River. Local history in Franklinville repeats the claim that Bay Doe's hoof prints can still be seen embedded in Faith Rock; and*

***WHEREAS**, Faith Rock possesses a unique natural heritage reflected in its Piedmont Acidic Cliff ecological community including the natural aquatic habitat provided by the Deep River.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that official recognition as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site, as approved in public meeting by the Historic Preservation Commission, be given to*

FAITH ROCK, Franklinville, N.C.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution is approved by the Historic Landmark 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.*

Discussion

Mr. Johnson requested that the Commission consider if there are other historical themes they wish to add to the list or if there were any additional sites that they should be considering for cultural heritage or landmark designation.

Among sites and items mentioned and discussed were the Harper House (which is on the National Registry), Braxton Craven School gym, Trinity College site and the Braxton Craven home site.

Chairman Johnson concluded that it was Mr. Connor's desire to obtain information about historic landmark designation and that the staff will begin the process to designate Faith Rock as a historic landmark as soon as Mr. Connor completed the application.

Adjournment

At 3:12 p.m., on motion of Andrews, seconded by B. Johnson, the HLPC voted unanimously to adjourn.

Hal Johnson, Chairman

Amanda Varner, Clerk to the HLPC