

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2017

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on February 9, 2017, in the conference room on the third floor of the Cultural Resources Building, 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Dr. Richard D. Starnes, chair, Mr. Samuel B. Dixon, Mr. George W. Edwards, Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Mrs. Margaret Klutz, Mr. David Maurer, Dr. Alicia McGill, Ms. Terri Russ, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee members Dr. Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Dr. Lee Edward Gray, and Dr. Valerie A. Johnson were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Dr. Kevin Cherry, state historic preservation officer; Ramona Bartos, HPO administrator; Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Ann Swallow, National Register coordinator; Hannah Beckman, National Register and survey specialist; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, National Register assistant; Andrew Edmonds, GIS specialist; Chandrea Burch, file and photography clerk; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; John Wood, preservation and restoration specialist, Eastern Office; Kristi Brantley, Eastern Office intern; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; David Christenbury, preservation architect/state rehabilitation tax credit coordinator; Michele McCabe, grants administrator; and Amber Kidd, local preservation commission/Certified Local Government coordinator.

Visitors in attendance included Steve Claggett, Lindsay Ferrante, Mary Beth Fitts, Lynn Flora, Sam Franklin, Bonnie Johnson, John Mintz, Emily McDowell, Susan Myers, and Sherry Boyette of the Office of State Archaeology; Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT; Albert Crenshaw, John O. Goode Sr., Clarence Smalls, and Roosevelt Williams in support of the nomination for the Berry O'Kelly Historic District; D. Anderson Jr. in support of the Study List applications for the Bahnson Company and Camel City Coach Company – Atlantic Greyhound Lines Garage; and consultants Mary Ruffin Hanbury and Michelle Michael.

Dr. Starnes called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with welcoming comments. He recognized Claudia Brown, who announced National Register coordinator Ann Swallow's retirement on February 28, 2017. Ms. Brown noted that since Ms. Swallow joined the HPO in January 2001, 795 North Carolina properties have been listed in the National Register and Ms. Swallow presented more than 150 Study List applications. Ms. Brown also stated that today's NRAC meeting is the forty-ninth that Ms. Swallow has coordinated. After committee members congratulated her, Dr. Starnes asked the members of the committee, HPO staff, and visitors to introduce themselves.

Dr. Starnes then called for a recess during which Ann Swallow and John Mintz conducted training for the committee. During the training, Susi Hamilton, the new Secretary of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), came to the conference room for a few minutes to be introduced and make comments praising the department and the state historic preservation office.

At 11:05 a.m., Dr. Starnes re-convened the meeting and asked for a report from Dr. Cherry, who gave the following update on department-level activities:

- New DNCR Secretary Susi Hamilton is a former state representative from Wilmington with a city planning and real estate development background. Her first job out of college was the HPO's National Register assistant under the supervision of Linda Edmisten and Claudia Brown. She is a strong advocate for historic preservation and was a legislative champion of the state film tax credit.
- DNCR's new Chief Deputy Secretary is Reid Wilson, former executive director of the Conservation Trust of North Carolina. Previously he was chief of staff of the Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton administration and before that he was the chief lobbyist for the Sierra Club. He will carry out Chief Deputy duties largely around policy and management of the department and has direct management of the five divisions that came to the Department of Cultural Resources from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Staci Myers has been appointed to a new Deputy Secretary position covering arts and libraries. She was the department's Chief Deputy Secretary during the Easley administration and for a time the Acting Secretary; since then she has been with the Attorney General's office and the Industrial Commission.
- Dr. Cherry will remain as the Deputy Secretary with a focus on the Office of Archives and History, State Archives, Historic Sites, and the history and maritime museums and commissions.
- Dr. Cherry currently is involved in both transition duties, which were delayed because the results of the gubernatorial election were contested, and preparation of the department's proposed 2017-18 budget, which he described as the best in ten years. He predicted that the worst that can happen to the department is that the budget will remain steady.
- Other current legislative activities include seeking clarity on the 2015 monuments bill, specifically definition of *monument*, and seeking financial support from the legislature for planning for the monument to the contributions of the state's African Americans that will be placed on the State Capitol grounds.
- Efforts to stop the erosion at Brunswick Town are ongoing. The cost of addressing the most critical portion of the site is estimated at \$3 million and to armor the site's entire Cape Fear River frontage at \$8 million. The earliest tar kiln identified in the state is located very close to the water.
- A \$150,000 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant has been received to restore *Queen Anne's Revenge* artifacts and to hire a part-time conservator. An additional grant of \$50,000 is being sought from IMLS for a major exhibit at the Maritime Museum in conjunction with "Blackbeard 300," the 2018 celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the pirate's time on the North Carolina coast.
- The first phase of the rebuilding of Fort Dobbs has been completed.
- Efforts by land trusts to preserve the forested acreage at Fort Raleigh National Part include transfer of land to Historic Sites, which will enter into a memorandum of agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) in the hope that NPS eventually will purchase the land.

- The department is involved in the Celebrate North Carolina Courts project associated with the bicentennial of the North Carolina Supreme Court.
- The distribution and marketing of DNCR's publications has been outsourced to Longleaf Services, an affiliate of UNC Press. Forthcoming publications include a book on World War I and Michael Southern's book on historic properties with ties to the Civil War.
- Still in the planning phase are Davie House exhibits, expansion of the Museum of History and the Fort Fisher Visitor Center, and a shared visitor center for Somerset Place and Pettigrew State Park.
- A grant from the Cannon Trust is enabling replacement of the palisade at Town Creek Indian Mound.
- The State Archives is looking forward to the National Genealogical Society annual meeting which will bring 2,000 people to the Archive and History Building and other nearby venues in May.
- The sixteenth African American Cultural Celebration held in January at the Museum of History was the most successful ever.
- The Office of State Archaeology has been able to restore three positions that were lost at the beginning of the Recession in 2008.

Dr. Starnes asked Ms. Bartos to give her report on the State Historic Preservation Office. She related the following:

- The HPO and the Research Branch are working with Laura Phillips on her book on historic painted interiors throughout the state, which is funded with a grant to the department from the Covington Foundation. It is hoped that this book and Michael Southern's book will start a trend of publications on historic properties and archaeology geared towards the lay person. The department's books are now available on Amazon.
- Ms. Bartos reported the following personnel matters:
 - Ann Swallow's position has been advertised;
 - Amber Kidd was promoted from environmental review specialist to local commission and Certified Local Government (CLG) coordinator and the now-vacant environmental review specialist position is being advertised;
 - Interviews are being conducted for the senior restoration specialist position that became vacant upon Paul Fomberg's retirement last October;
 - Interviews are being conducted for a new time-limited survey specialist position funded with a portion of the HPO's tax credit fee revenue that will conduct architectural surveys in areas ineligible for CLG grants.
- Among the statistics gathered in preparation for the department's 2014-2016 biennial report is the following: Between July 2014 and July 2016, \$546 million of income-producing tax credit projects and \$392 million of non-income-producing tax credit projects were completed, for a total of \$938 million in private investment stimulated by the state and federal historic preservation tax credits.

- Administrative rules for the Office of Archives and History are in the process of being revised for the first time in almost thirty years.

Ms. Bartos asked Claudia Brown to report on a partnership with the Conservation Trust of North Carolina (CTNC). Ms. Brown stated that the CTNC, for the second year in a row, is funding a summer intern in the HPO to work on a project relating to Rosenwald schools. This summer's project will be the initial research and catalog preparation for a forthcoming publication on the state's Rosenwald schools. Ms. Brown also announced the publication of historic architecture books on Hertford, Johnston, and Jones counties that are based on architectural surveys funded wholly or in part by the HPO.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with a presentation by Annie McDonald of four nominations for properties in the western region (see attached agenda). After the presentation concluded, Mr. Maurer made a motion to approve the nominations. It was seconded by Mr. Dixon and unanimously approved.

John Wood presented a nomination for the Imperial Tobacco Company Office Building in Kinston. As there were no questions about the nomination, Mr. Edwards moved for approval, Dr. Stine seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Consideration of nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions began with Ann Swallow's presentation of four nominations (see attached agenda). After presentation of the additional documentation and boundary increase nominations for Rock Spring Camp Ground in Lincoln County, Mr. Maurer asked how the new western boundary was established. Ms. Swallow explained that it encompasses the extent of the associated acreage retaining its historic rural character and that the acreage beyond the western boundary has been clear-cut for new development.

When Ms. Swallow presented the nomination for the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill in Union County, she explained that staff does not recommend forwarding it to the Keeper of the National Register because the interior has been extensively altered since the property was placed on the Study List in June 2016. She added that staff did not become aware of the changes until the final draft of the nomination was submitted. She said that the building is a very tall single story, but with the recent framing throughout the building for apartments with lofts, only one bay and one-half of a corridor are now open to the ceiling, with the rest of the structure entirely obscured on the interior. She also said that the owner asked for the nomination to be presented despite the staff recommendation and that staff will work with the owner on potentially rectifying the situation.

Hannah Beckman then presented the balance of the nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). Upon completion of her presentation, Dr. Starnes recognized members of the Method Community attending the meeting in support of the nomination for the Berry O'Kelly Historic District. John Good commented on attending Berry O'Kelly High School and returning to Raleigh after thirty years away and trying to give back to the community. Clarence Smalls, who lived across from the school and was graduated from it in 1962, talked about the close-knit nature of Method, the annual Berry O'Kelly High School alumni banquet, and how much the school means to the community. Albert Crenshaw also talked about the annual alumni reunions and noted that the gymnasium and agricultural

building on the campus are very important now that so many of Method's historic buildings have been lost.

Dr. Starnes reviewed staff recommendations regarding nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions and asked if the committee had any questions about the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill. Mr. Edwards asked for clarification about staff knowledge of the interior construction. Ms. Swallow said that she was surprised by the interior changes when she visited the property in December after receiving the final draft of the nomination and explained how the construction of mezzanines in the apartments flanking the corridor has obscured the building's historic character. She added that the developer could make changes to the new construction and re-submit the nominations. Upon a motion by Ms. Russ and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the committee voted unanimously to accept the staff recommendation to reject the nomination for the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mill.

Dr. Starnes stated that the remaining five nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions have positive staff recommendations and asked for questions or discussion. There being none, Mr. Maurer moved for approval of the nominations, Dr. McGill seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

A recess for lunch began at 12:33 p.m. When the committee reconvened at 1:20 p.m., Ms. Bartos stated that she had forgotten an item in her report on HPO personnel and proceeded to announce that Jannette Coleridge-Taylor transferred from the National Register assistant position in the Survey and National Register Branch to the Historic Tax Credit Program assistant position in the Restoration Services Branch. Ms. Bartos added that Ms. Coleridge-Taylor will continue to assist operations of the Survey and National Register Branch until a new National Register assistant is hired.

Consideration of Study List applications began with presentations by Hannah Beckman, Claudia Brown, and Ann Swallow of nine properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). After Ms. Beckman presented the North Carolina Industrial Home for Colored Girls in Orange County, Mr. Maurer asked if the owner submitted the application, to which Ms. Beckman replied that the county submitted the application with the owner's knowledge. Dr. Stine asked if the property has had an archaeological assessment. Ms. Beckman said that there has not been an assessment. Ms. Swallow reminded the committee that the Office of State Archaeology reviews all nominations and recommends, as appropriate, the insertion of a statement about the potential for significant archaeological resources on the property. During Ms. Brown's presentation of the Home Security Life Insurance Company Building in Durham County, she noted that staff recommended the building's placement on the Study List with the qualification that a successful nomination would depend on confirmation that the interior is largely intact, which would be included in the notification letter.

In her presentation of six properties in Cabarrus, Forsyth, Guilford, and Rowan counties, Ms. Swallow noted that staff recommended denial of Phifer Cemetery in Cabarrus because it lacks distinctive design features, many markers are gone or damaged, and no people of transcendent importance are interred there. She also explained that staff recommends placement of the remaining five properties on the Study List with the following qualifications regarding changes necessary for the respective nominations to be successful: that a majority of the modern interior partitions be removed from the Bahnson Company (Forsyth County) to reveal the

historic production space; that the metal storage wing on the front of the Camel City Coach Company – Atlantic Greyhound Lines Garage (Forsyth County) be studied to determine its date of construction and if it can be removed; and that the later partitioning of both wings of the Blue Bell, Inc., Plant (Guilford County) be removed.

After Ms. Swallow presented the Bahnson Company, Dr. Starnes recognized Dewey Anderson, who explained that he is an owner of the building and is been working with consultant Heather Fearnbach on a nomination for the property. He said that the property is an important part of Winston-Salem's "Gateway Project," which will be an economic boon to the area, and that removal of the interior partitions from the building, which has been a business incubator for several years, was stalled by the presence of tenants. He added that once the remaining tenants' leases expire in July 2017, removal of the partitions will continue.

Dr. Starnes reviewed staff recommendations regarding Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions. Mr. Dixon made a motion to approve staff recommendations and Dr. Stine seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

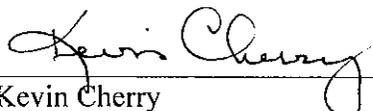
John Wood and Scott Power presented three Study List applications for eastern region properties (see attached agenda). A motion for their placement on the Study List made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Dr. Stine was approved by all.

Annie McDonald presented St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Henderson County for placement on the Study List. Dr. Fonvielle asked about the size of the church's congregation, to which Ms. McDonald replied that she did not know. Upon a motion made by Dr. Fonvielle and seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted to place the property on the Study List.

Dr. Starnes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2016 NRAC meeting. Ms. Russ moved for approval of the minutes, Dr. McGill seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Dr. Starnes thanked Ann Swallow for her sixteen years of work as North Carolina's National Register coordinator and complimented Jannette Coleridge-Taylor on her transfer to the Restoration Services Branch. After thanking the committee and staff for their participation, he adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Cherry
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/cp
Attachments

Durham	Little River High School Bahama	Hannah Beckman
Wake	Berry O'Kelly Historic District Raleigh	

STUDY LIST

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Central and Southeastern Regions

Orange	North Carolina Industrial Home for Colored Girls Efland	Hannah Beckman
Durham	Home Security Life Insurance Company Durham	Claudia Brown
Wake	Depot Historic District Boundary Increase Raleigh	
Cabarrus	Phifer Cemetery Concord	Ann Swallow
Forsyth	Bahnson Company Winston-Salem	
	Camel City Coach Company – Atlantic Greyhound Lines Garage Winston-Salem	
	R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 2-1 and 2-2 Winston-Salem	
Guilford	Blue Bell, Inc. Plant Greensboro	
Rowan	East Spencer Graded School East Spencer	

Eastern Region

Lenoir	Caswell Hotel Kinston	John Wood
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