

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
October 8, 2009

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on October 8, 2009, in the conference room on the third floor of the Archives and History/State Library Building, 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Mr. B. Perry Morrison Jr., chairman, Mr. David R. Black, Dr. Tony Boudreaux, Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, Dr. Jerry Cashion, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Dr. Freddy Parker, and Mr. Kenneth W. Robinson. Absent were members Ms. Lucy Webster Archie, Mr. Glenn Perkins, and Mrs. Barbara B. Snowden.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, state historic preservation officer; Peter Sandbeck, deputy state historic preservation officer; Claudia Brown, Survey and Planning Branch supervisor; Ann Swallow, National Register coordinator; Jessica Dockery, National Register and survey specialist; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, National Register assistant; Chandra Burch, file and photography clerk; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk; Julie Curry, environmental review specialist; Andrew Edmonds, GIS technician; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; John Wood, preservation and restoration specialist, Eastern Office; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; and Tim Simmons, senior preservation architect. Office of State Archaeology (OSA) staff present were Steve Claggett, state archaeologist; Dolores Hall, deputy state archaeologist; and Lea Abbott, National Register coordinator.

Visitors in attendance included Dr. David Brook, director of the Division of Historical Resources; Bruce Naegelen, Town of Clayton; John Compton, April Johnson, and Linda Wilson, Preservation Durham; Michelle McCullough, City of Winston-Salem; Cathleen Turner, Preservation NC, Mary Jacques and Tad DeBerry, residents of Hope Valley, Durham; and consultants Laura Blokker, Heather Fearnbach, and Cynthia de Miranda.

Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with welcoming comments. He asked all guests to sign in and reviewed the section of the committee's by-laws regarding conflict of interest before asking for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2009, meeting. Dr. Bryan moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Black seconded the motion, and all voted for it. Mr. Morrison then turned the meeting over to Dr. Crow.

Dr. Crow introduced two of the three new appointees to the committee: Jo Leimenstoll, a past member of the NRAC, a professor at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and one of the leading authorities on Thomas Day; and Jerry Cashion, also a past member of the committee, current chairman of the North Carolina Historical Commission, retired head of the Office of Archives and History (OAH) Research Branch, and one of the leading authorities on North Carolina history for more than forty years.

Dr. Crow then began his report with news about the 2009-2010 state budget. Instead of anticipated cuts of 10 to 15 percent of the Department of Cultural Resources 2008-2009 budget, the department was cut 7 percent. While less than expected, the cuts were painful because they were taken from operating funds, which meant a 50 percent cut in the HPO's operating budget

and extensive cuts in OSA's operating budget. The good news for the HPO and to a lesser extent OSA is that the federal Historic Preservation Fund appropriation, which is funding all HPO travel, will hold steady with the previous year at \$46.5 million. In contrast, the Historic Sites Section, which is having difficulty maintaining hours at their sites, does not know how it is going to get through this fiscal year. Also, in order to try to avoid the crisis of last spring, the governor is holding back 5% of the budget in case revenues do not meet projections. Dr. Crow praised OAH's dedicated staff, who are trying to make do with few resources. He said that if the 5% held back is released, OAH will be in better shape. Dr. Bryan asked if Dr. Crow had heard any predictions about next year's budget, to which he replied that it will be the second year of a biennium budget in which cuts usually are deeper. The General Assembly returns next May and usually makes adjustments. He observed that revenue is no longer declining, but it is not rising either, and he does not expect much improvement until people get back to work.

As Mr. Sandbeck was not present to make a report [he arrived following consideration of National Register nominations], Mr. Morrison then asked staff to begin the presentation of National Register nominations. Before starting her presentation, Ann Swallow clarified the conflict of interest portion of the NRAC by-laws, which specifies that any member having a conflict regarding a nomination must not only announce it, but must also leave the room during its presentation. Mr. Morrison asked members to announce a conflict in advance of the presentation.

Ms. Swallow and Jessica Dockery then presented five nominations for properties in the central and southeastern portions of the state (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of their presentations, discussion ensued.

Mr. Morrison commented on the difference between Meadowbrook Country Club in Wake County, which is primarily a golf course with no associated housing, and the Hope Valley Country Club in the Hope Valley Historic District in Durham, with its Donald Ross-designed golf course which is the centerpiece of a residential development. He added that there seem to be many Donald Ross golf courses and asked if the nomination to the National Register is a trend. Ms. Swallow stated that each of the historic courses is significant in the area of recreation regardless of its designer as golf was a popular sport, and a course also could be important as part of a development scheme. Dr. Crow mentioned the golf course in Asheville that recently was listed in the Register. Ms. Swallow added that the Asheville course is important primarily because it was a municipal course that also happens to have been designed by Ross. She added that like buildings by esteemed architects, courses by Ross are assumed to be important. Dr. Crow said that as a golfer and the state historic preservation officer, he believes that Donald Ross is one of only two or three great golf course designers of the twentieth century. Mr. Morrison noted that many courses have been modified and that staff needs to be wary of changes. Ms. Swallow agreed and added that Ross's records with notes on each hole are still available and a valuable resource in the evaluation of the historic integrity of his courses. She said that each hole of the Hope Valley course was examined for integrity and that few changes were found.

Mr. Morrison asked for additional questions or comments. David Black asked about the future of the Lincolnton Recreation Department Youth Center. Ms. Swallow said that it is privately

owned and the owner wishes to rehabilitate it. Regarding Meadowbrook County Club, Mr. Larson said he is a bit troubled by the period of significance ending in 1970 and asked if it is being nominated several years too early. He also noted that some of its buildings are non-contributing because they are in poor shape. Ms. Dockery replied that unusually extensive research revealed that it was the first and best preserved country club established by and for African Americans in the state. Mr. Black said that the fifty-year rule strikes him as arbitrary and that the significance of the country club in five or ten years will be the same as it is now. He added that recognition could contribute to its rehabilitation. Ms. Dockery replied that rehabilitation is well under way. Mr. Larson noted that 1961 was not early in the civil rights movement. He said that he is concerned that this precedence is based on ethnicity and wondered how atypical it really was. Ms. Dockery responded that an argument for exceptional significance must be strong and that staff is confident that the nomination will be accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. Mr. Robinson said that he was impressed by how intact the course is considering it suffered from benign neglect.

Regarding the Hope Valley Historic District, Mr. Larson asked why the boundaries presented when the district was placed on the Study List were reduced for the nomination. Ms. Swallow replied that the area that was removed is a later phase of the neighborhood's development and quite different in character from the original development begun in the 1920s and centered on the golf course.

Mr. Morrison asked for a motion regarding the nominations for properties in the central and southeast portions of the state. Dr. Bryan moved to approve them, Mr. Robinson seconded the motion, and all voted to approve the five nominations.

Scott Power presented a nomination for the Jarvisburg Colored School in Currituck County. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Larson asked how much of the original fabric of the restored building remains. Mr. Power replied that most of the framing is original, perhaps sixty to seventy percent of the interior sheathing was largely replaced, and that some of the windows were replaced. He added that most of the weatherboards are original and that replacement boards were used primarily on the rear. Mr. Morrison asked about the new wood shingle roof, to which Mr. Power replied that it is in keeping with the original. Ms. Leimenstoll asked for staff perspective on placement of original fabric. Mr. Power said that the re-positioning of original as compared to replacement weatherboards is not significant from a visual standpoint, but the re-positioning of style-defining trim would make a difference and all trim remains in its original location. Mr. Black noted that loss of historic material is not so important because the building is not being nominated for its architecture. Mr. Morrison asked about the purpose of the cupola faced with vents. Mr. Power replied that he does not know if it was just for a bell and conjectured that it also provided ventilation for the building. Mr. Black made a motion to approve the nomination, seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Morrison then recognized new committee member Tony Boudreaux, who had arrived several minutes after the meeting began, and asked Steve Claggett to introduce him. Mr. Claggett noted that Dr. Boudreaux is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Eastern Carolina University with a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

and very well versed in southeastern archaeology. Dr. Boudreaux wrote his dissertation on Town Creek Indian Mound, subsequently published as *The Architecture of Town Creek*.

Consideration of Study List applications began with the Hope-Fraternity Historic District in Forsyth County. Mr. Larson announced that the Martha and Mo Hartley, the consultants who prepared the application for the district, work for him at Old Salem, although the application is not part of their work and he has no pecuniary interest in the project. Mr. Morrison replied that there is no conflict of interest.

Ms. Swallow then presented the application with the staff recommendation that the district be placed on the Study List with boundaries defining a smaller area than proposed by the Hartleys in order to omit sizable areas with resources that would be classified as noncontributing in a National Register nomination. Ms. Swallow pointed out that the tighter boundaries also would omit certain properties that likely are eligible for the Register and should be placed on the Study List individually. At the end of the presentation, Claudia Brown clarified that Hope Moravian Church, which would be omitted from the district if the smaller district were approved, has already been formally determined not eligible by the Keeper of the National Register. Mr. Black asked if the larger area might be a candidate for a multiple property listing, to which Ms. Swallow replied in the affirmative and added that it would be simpler to prepare nominations for the smaller district and individual properties without the benefit of a multiple property documentation form. Mr. Larson asked about the effect of the conversion of one of the farms in the larger proposed district to a tree farm in recent years. Ms. Swallow explained that the change from traditional farming to the tree farm extensively changed the historic character of the farmscape so that it would be noncontributing and thus would not be in a smaller district. She also noted that the staff's proposal for a smaller district follows the National Register's guidelines for drawing district boundaries.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartley then made a presentation on their proposal for the larger district encompassing all of the contiguous parcels that historically were farmed by Moravian and German Baptist Brethren Church members. They emphasized the exceptional importance of the cultural landscape as the only survivor of the three Moravian country congregations, contending that the creeks and archaeological roadbeds unite all of the parcels. They asserted that staff placed undue emphasis on architectural integrity and that the numerous post-1960 houses are owned by descendants of the original, Moravian and German Baptist Brethren owners of the parcels and therefore contribute to the area's cultural continuity.

Discussion of the Hope-Fraternity Historic District ensued. Mr. Black inquired about OSA's opinion about the district's archaeological significance, to which Dolores Hall replied that they have no problem with the archaeological component. Mr. Black pointed out that placement on the Study List means that a place is worthy of additional study; although it would be difficult to nominate the larger area within National Register guidelines, it should be put on the Study List and everything sorted out in the nomination stage. Dr. Bryan agreed and said that the area should be examined broadly. Mr. Morrison noted that the area was like a colony and there is not much of it but he thinks it is eligible for the Study List. Ms. Leimenstoll pointed out that the large noncontributing area along Stratford Road that the Hartleys omitted from the middle of their proposed district is a major problem, to which Mrs. Hartley replied that Stratford Road is

an eighteenth-century road and could pull the area together despite all of the modern intrusions lining it. Mr. Black observed that it would take a lot of work to justify a single, large district and that it may turn out that nomination of a smaller district and a few individual properties would be more appropriate.

Mr. Morrison asked if a nomination for the larger district would be re-presented to the NRAC if, after it is approved for submittal to the National Register, the National Park Service (NPS) wants the boundaries to be reduced. Ms. Swallow replied in the negative and explained that revisions requested by NPS would be handled by the applicant under the supervision of HPO staff. Ms. Leimenstoll asked if nominations for a smaller district and individual properties could be presented to the NRAC if the larger district were placed on the Study List now. Ms. Swallow explained that the individual properties would have to be placed on the Study List first and that God's Acre is the only individual Hope-Fraternity property for which there is sufficient information for a recommendation of placement on the Study List today. She added that the Hartleys' proposal is based on extensive research and has been thoroughly examined by staff, which over time has reviewed the state's approximately twenty rural historic districts, in which all of the properties are connected by road systems rather than are not dependent on natural features such as creeks for contiguity. She pointed out that Hope-Fraternity is not an eighteenth-century district as its period of significance ends circa 1960 and stressed that staff evaluated it as a rural historic landscape.

Dr. Boudreaux asked if the archaeological resources affect the argument for the eligibility of a larger district. Ms. Hall said that is likely that there are many more archaeological resources than currently identified and that more research is needed; the district is much more than a collection of buildings and roads. Mr. Larson said that it is clear that Hope-Fraternity is an important resource and that he is troubled by staff's argument for exclusion of certain farms because they are not connected to the rest of the proposed district by a road. He said that the area needs to be looked at as broadly as possible and that all of it should be put on the Study List. Mr. Robinson said that the emphasis on the natural resources places the focus on the way people have used the landscape and added that the context for the Moravian community is extensive and well established. He also observed that it is interesting that important archaeological and architectural resources, as well as natural resources, are all integrated in the proposed district.

Ms. Leimenstoll said that all are in agreement that the Hope-Fraternity area is significant. She added that she is troubled by staff's proposal to limit the scope of the nomination yet also concerned that there are so many issues with the larger area. Mr. Hartley replied that they are not unaware of the challenges, but it should be considered at the broadest level because the National Register is a tool for management and there is no other area like it. Mr. Morrison asked if the larger district does indeed encompass all of the Hope-Fraternity area, to which Mrs. Hartley replied that they had looked at an even larger area. Mr. Morrison said that it is his sense that the larger district proposed by the Hartleys should be placed on the Study List and asked what staff wants the committee to do. Ms. Swallow said that much of the connecting creek system is in the smaller district proposed by staff and that it is acceptable under Register guidelines to use road traces rather than paved roads to pull the district together, but the traces must be clearly evident. She added that putting the larger district on the Study List is fine as long as there is an acknowledgement that what is ultimately listed may be in between the two proposals. Mr. Black

noted that National Register decisions are made by the NRAC and NPS, not HPO staff. Mr. Larson said that he doubts the larger district would be listed, but its placement on the Study List would allow due deliberation and protection in the meantime.

Mr. Morrison asked for a motion. Mr. Larson moved for placement on the Study List of the larger district as proposed in the application, Dr. Boudreaux seconded the motion, and all voted for it. The committee then recessed for lunch.

When the committee reconvened at 12:55 p.m., John Wood presented the second part of the Study List generated by the Beaufort County Architectural Survey, Phase I (see attached agenda). After the presentation, Mr. Larson asked if FEMA's post-hurricane mitigation plan to raise many buildings in Belhaven would have been affected if the area had been listed in the National Register. Mr. Wood replied that the HPO attempted to preserve the National Register-eligible district's integrity by proposing more appropriate mitigation, but in the end the raised buildings became noncontributing due to the necessary elevation of most of the buildings by eight to nine feet and the way in which the brick piers and entry steps were designed. He added that all of the houses were photo-documented prior to being elevated. Dr. Cashion made a motion to place the Beaufort County properties on the Study List and Dr. Bryan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Brown introduced Cynthia de Miranda, principal investigator for the Fayetteville Modern Architecture Survey, who presented seven Fayetteville properties for the Study List (see attached agenda). Mr. Black moved for placement of the seven properties on the Study List, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Ms. Brown introduced Heather Fearnbach, principal investigator for the Forsyth County Architectural Survey Update, Phase III, who presented ten districts and seventeen individual properties in Winston-Salem for placement on the Study List (see attached agenda). Ms. Leimenstoll made a motion to place the Winston-Salem properties on the Study List, Mr. Robinson seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

The meeting continued with consideration of Study List applications submitted by the public. Ms. Swallow, Ms. Dockery, and Ms. Brown presented applications submitted for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). In the course of their presentations, it was noted that staff recommended approval of all of the properties for the Study List except for the C. T. Johnson Rental Houses in Benson due to lack of significance. Ms. Leimenstoll moved for approval of staff recommendations and Dr. Cashion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Becca Johnson presented three Study List applications for properties in the western region (see attached agenda). Mr. Larson made a motion to place them on the Study List, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Scott Power presented a Study List application for the Gaston School in Northampton County. Mr. Black made a motion to place the school on the Study List, Mr. Robinson seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Mr. Morrison thanked the committee and staff for their work and noted that the next NRAC meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2010. There being no further business, Mr. Morrison adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Crow
State Historic Preservation Officer

JJC/cp
Attachment