

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2013

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on February 14, 2013, in the conference room on the third floor of the Cultural Resources Building (formerly 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, Mrs. Millie Barbee, Mr. David R. Black, Dr. Edmond A. Boudreaux, Dr. Jerry C. Cashion, Mr. George W. Edwards, Dr. Valerie Johnson, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Mrs. Barbara Blyth Snowden, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee member Ms. Wendy Grady was absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Kevin Cherry, state historic preservation officer; Ramona M. Bartos, deputy state historic preservation officer; Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Ann Swallow, National Register coordinator; Jessica Dockery, 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; John Wood, restoration/preservation specialist, Eastern Office; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; Tim Simmons, senior staff architect; David Christenbury, staff architect; and Justin Kockritz, environmental review specialist.

Visitors in attendance included Dr. David Brook, director of the Division of Historical Resources; Justin White, Eastern Office intern; Margaret Mills, owner of the Thomas Bullard House, Sampson County; Martha W. Smith, historic preservation trades program, Edgecombe Community College; Martha Lauer and Tania Tully, Raleigh Historic Development Commission; and Doug Whitman.

Beginning at 10:08 a.m., Ann Swallow conducted a training session for the committee. She presented a recapitulation of much of the presentation made by Jim Gabbert (North Carolina's National Register reviewer with the National Park Service) at a consultant workshop held by the HPO in November 2012 and covered a number of National Register issues that had been raised by staff and consultants. During the training session, Secretary Susan Kluttz stopped in to introduce herself and to thank the committee for its important work. She commented on her family's long association with historic preservation and how preservation became Salisbury's primary economic development tool. Before leaving, she asked the committee, staff, and visitors to introduce themselves, which they did.

Mr. Morrison called the NRAC meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. After reviewing the committee's conflict-of-interest policy, David Black, Dr. Cashion, and Ms. Leimenstoll announced a potential perceived conflict regarding the report on the proposed relocation of the Crabtree Jones House in Wake County. Mr. Morrison then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2012, NRAC meeting. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Barbee and seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, all voted to approve the minutes as written.

Mr. Morrison recognized Dr. Cherry, who began his report by echoing the Secretary's thanks to the committee for their service and expert advice. He then proceeded to tell about the recent

research that identified the oldest, positively dated house in North Carolina. He explained that the house at 304 East Queen Street in Edenton was dated through dendrochronology to 1718-1719 and commended the owners of the house for recognizing its significance and for their willingness to invite HPO staff and other architectural historians to study the house. Due to the importance of the house, the owners want to document the decisions made regarding its rehabilitation and use the house to inform a wider public about the house, architectural history, and historic preservation. Dr. Stine stated that she hopes archaeology is included in the investigation of the property and Mrs. Snowden commented on the tradition in eastern North Carolina of repeatedly re-using buildings and building components. Dr. Cherry said that the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) is very proud of the discovery and that it demonstrates the excellence of HPO staff regarding customer service.

Dr. Cherry then commented on budget-related items, beginning with the announcement that he, Ms. Bartos, and several others including four UNCG graduate students would travel to Washington, DC, in late February to participate in the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers' (NCSHPO) annual advocacy day by visiting the state's congressional delegation to express the importance of historic preservation to the quality of life and the need for continued federal support. He showed a draft of the notebook with a sheets presenting National Register and tax credits projects in each congressional district that HPO staff prepared for distribution to the delegation and for continued use throughout the year. Dr. Cherry commented that the entire North Carolina tax structure is being examined by the General Assembly and that the Governor's budget for the 2013-2015 biennium has not yet been released. He added that more budget difficulties are expected for the department because it is experiencing cost increases, especially regarding information technology, and that revenues are not increasing fast enough despite the overall economic recovery.

Dr. Cherry also told the committee that the department's new leadership team is being assembled with the recent hiring of a chief deputy secretary, Karin Cochrane, who has a business background and will work primarily with the arts and libraries divisions and oversee general administration. He added that a new public relations chief, who hails from Charlotte and is yet to be announced, also has been hired and that a legislative liaison is still being sought.

Dr. Cherry continued his report by announcing several events and exhibits across the state:

- The New Voyages symposium, scheduled for late February and early March
- The display of North Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights in the Capitol rotunda during the afternoon of March 18, 2013, in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the state's recovery of the document
- A celebration of the 350th anniversary of the North Carolina State Charter during the week of February 21, kicking off a year of related activities across the state
- DCR's partnering with the North Carolina Freedom Monument Park Committee to bring the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation to the Museum of History, where it will be on display from May 14 through June 16, 2016, as part of an exhibition that will circulate across the state as a traveling exhibit for two years with facsimile copies of the document
- The Museum of History's partnership with Old Salem on a major pottery exhibit (dates to be announced)

Dr. Cherry noted that visitation at the Museum of the Albemarle increased more than seven hundred percent during the year ending December 31, 2012. He concluded his report by stating

that he is honored to be working with the HPO staff due to the high quality of their work and their willingness to partner with their colleagues in other sections of the department, as exemplified by their contribution to the "Witnesses to War" project, a forthcoming illustrated publication on the state's extant historic properties associated with the Civil War.

Mr. Morrison then called on Ms. Bartos for her report. She began by adding to Dr. Cherry's comments on the HPO's participation in NCSHPO's advocacy day in Washington, DC, later in February, noting that the visit would coincide with Congress's work on sequestration. Ms. Bartos then distributed and reviewed an information sheet on the pending sunset of the state historic preservation tax credits on January 1, 2015 (see attachment). She noted that \$1.6 billion in allowable costs have been brought into the state's economy as a direct result of the credits and that it has been estimated that they have created 23,000 jobs; if the sunset is not forestalled, North Carolina will join a small minority of states without historic preservation tax credits. Ms. Bartos concluded her report by welcoming George Edwards, Historic Wilmington Foundation executive director, as the newest member of the NRAC.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with presentations by Ann Swallow and Jessica Dockery of three nominations for central and southeastern properties (see attached agenda). After Ms. Swallow presented the nomination for the Forsyth County Courthouse, Mr. Larson commented on the building's history, noting that it has been in the public sector for 164 years and is now being sold for private development rather than being demolished, as had been feared. At the conclusion of the presentations, Ms. Leimenstoll moved for their approval, Dr. Stine seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

After Mr. Black, Dr. Cashion, and Ms. Leimenstoll recused themselves and left the room, Claudia Brown presented a report on the proposed relocation of the Crabtree Jones House in Raleigh. She explained that the property, listed in the National Register in 1973, is scheduled for redevelopment as an apartment complex and that Preservation North Carolina (PNC) is in the process of acquiring a new, adjacent site to which the house is to be moved. Under 36 CFR § 60.14(b), relocation of a National Register property may receive prior approval by the Keeper of the National Register based on a report detailing the circumstances of the move and explaining the appropriateness of the proposed new site under Criteria Consideration B.

After Ms. Brown presented the report, she asked Tania Tully and Martha Lauer, staff for the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC), if they would like to speak to the committee. Ms. Lauer stated that the Crabtree Jones house is a local landmark and that the RHDC has approved the proposed relocation and intends to re-designate the house as a landmark on the new site. She emphasized that relocation to the proposed site is the only solution to saving the house. Mr. Larson asked if there is an option to purchase the lot next to the proposed new site. Ms. Lauer explained that the lot next door is not currently on the market but the owner has agreed to give PNC (which would demolish the house on the lot in order to give the Crabtree Jones House a larger site) the right of first refusal should he decide to sell. At the request of Ms. Bartos, Ms. Brown commented on the topography of the proposed new site, noting that it is at a lower elevation than the historic site but still well above the elevation of Wake Forest Road. Mr. Larson asked about the schedule for moving the house. Ms. Tully replied that the move is likely to occur within the next few months as the apartment complex developer has given PNC a deadline for the move of thirty days following closing and he will not close until he

completes the City of Raleigh permitting process, which is ongoing. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Barbee and seconded by Dr. Johnson, all voted to approve the report.

After Mr. Black, Dr. Cashion, and Ms. Leimenstoll returned to the room, Mr. Morrison called a lunch recess at 12:15 p.m. When the committee reconvened at 12:52 p.m., Annie McDonald presented six nominations for properties in the western region (see attached agenda).

At the conclusion of Ms. McDonald's presentation, Mr. Morrison asked if the committee members had any questions. Mr. Edwards asked if the 1960s buildings at the Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company are within the boundaries of the nomination, to which Ms. McDonald replied that the 1960s components actually are building additions and thus within the boundaries but not considered elements that contribute to the property's significance. Mr. Black asked for clarification regarding the locations of the flume and creek at the Francis Grist Mill, which Ms. McDonald provided. He also advised that the exterior of Salem Methodist Church likely is painted, although the nomination describes it as whitewashed. Mr. Morrison called for a motion regarding the western region nominations. Mr. Larson moved for approval and Mr. Black seconded the motion. Mr. Larson then commented that he had been concerned about the post-1949 changes to the Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company but in the end decided that it merits preservation due to the rarity in Morganton of the core, original mill. Ms. Swallow noted that the National Park Service does not consider the replacement of the window sash with concrete block to be a serious diminishing of integrity and Ms. Bartos commended Ms. McDonald on her research into the mill's construction chronology. Mr. Morrison called for a vote on the motion to approve the western nominations and it passed unanimously.

Consideration of Study List applications began with Ms. McDonald's presentation of four applications for western region properties. In the course of her presentation, she noted that staff recommended that three of the properties not be placed on the Study List: the John Wiseman House due to extensive alterations and lack of documentation; the Zachary-Waddell House because it has been moved onto the site of a National Register-listed property and there is insufficient historical documentation or architectural significance for any of the periods of construction; and the Arrah Belle Johnson House due to insufficient context to establish significance under Criterion B or C (see attached agenda).

Discussion ensued at the conclusion of the presentation. Mr. Black commented that it sounded as if a couple of the properties with negative recommendations could be reconsidered if more documentation were provided. Ms. Swallow stated that regardless of the amount of documentation, the Zachary-Waddell House is problematic because it has been moved onto the grounds of the Mordecai Zachary House, listed in the National Register in 1998 and owned by the local historical society. Ms. McDonald stated that the historical society should be lauded for their effort to save the Zachary-Waddell House, but its relocation creates a false sense of history and added that the history of both houses remains uncertain, further complicating the situation. Dr. Johnson asked for clarification of staff opinion about Arrah Belle Johnson's significance as a female newspaper publisher, to which Ms. McDonald replied that there is insufficient information about female publishers of the era as well as the extent of Ms. Johnson's role at the local newspaper. Dr. Cashion made a motion to accept staff recommendations on the four Study List applications. Mrs. Barbee seconded the motion, and all voted to approve it.

John Wood presented a Study List application for the Allen Hardee House in the vicinity of Ormondsville, Greene County. Dr. Johnson moved for approval and Mrs. Snowden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consideration of Study List applications concluded with presentations by Claudia Brown, Ann Swallow, and Jessica Dockery of five applications for central and southeastern properties, with staff recommendation of approval of all except for the Funderburk Family House in Matthews due to alterations (see attached agenda). When the presentations ended, Mr. Edwards asked about the motivation for pursuing National Register listing of the Laurinburg Normal and Industrial Institute. Ms. Dockery replied that the owners hope that recognition would generate publicity and garner financial support for the school, which is in dire straits. Dr. Johnson thanked staff for their hard work and noted the challenge of preserving the heritage of the African American middle class that developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She encouraged the HPO to work with the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission to identify and promote preservation of properties associated with that middle class. Dr. Cherry said that staff would brainstorm with the commission to develop workshops and other partnerships.

Mr. Morrison noted that the next NRAC meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2013. After thanking the committee and staff for their work, he adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Cherry
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/cp
Attachments