

North Carolina  
National Register Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
October 10, 2013

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on October 10, 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: Mrs. Millie Barbee, chairman, Dr. Edmond Boudreaux, Dr. Valerie A. Johnson, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Dr. Richard Starnes, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee members Mr. David Black, Mr. George W. Edwards, Ms. Wendy Grady, and Mr. Samuel Dixon were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Kevin Cherry, state historic preservation officer; Ramona 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; Chandra 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; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; Jeff Adolphsen, restoration specialist; Tim Simmons, senior staff architect; and Justin Kockritz, environmental review specialist.

Visitors in attendance were Dolores Hall, deputy state archaeologist, Office of State Archaeology (OSA); Lawrence Abbott, National Register coordinator, OSA; John Mintz, staff archaeologist, OSA; Susan Myers, registrar, OSA; Jack Brinson Jr. and Maggie Gregg in support of the Study List application for Merrimeade, in Tarboro; consultants Cynthia de Miranda, Jennifer Martin Mitchell, and Terri Russ; and UNC Greensboro students Catherine Frenett, Robert Manzo, Dana Rojak, Annie Rubel, and Sunny Stewart.

Mrs. Barbee called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. with welcoming comments and then asked Dr. Cherry for his report. Dr. Cherry began by thanking the committee members for their attendance and HPO staff for their hard work, citing as an example the recent twenty percent increase in environmental projects submitted for review. He also stated that the recent Preservation North Carolina (PNC) annual meeting was a success in part because numerous HPO staff members were presenters. He also extolled the success of the Rosenwald schools conference held immediately after the PNC meeting and co-sponsored by the HPO. Dr. Cherry noted that Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) Secretary Kluttz is very supportive of the HPO, particularly the tax credit program, continuation of which is one of DCR's top legislative agenda items. He said that good progress was being made garnering the support of the Community Development Subcommittee of the North Carolina Economic Development Board on which the Secretary serves in an *ex officio* capacity; using a report prepared by Ms. Bartos, Secretary Kluttz has persuaded several subcommittee members to support the credits. Mrs. Barbee agreed that the report is superb, adding that the tax credits are vital to the state's economic development.

Mrs. Barbee then recognized Ms. Bartos, who acknowledged the hard work of the HPO team and shared highlights of recent HPO activity:

- At the end of July, local preservation commissions/Certified Local Government coordinator Rob Crawford accepted a position with Uptown Lexington. It is expected that the coordinator position will be filled before the end of the year.
- The HPO's GIS staff has mapped approximately sixty percent of the 109,000 survey records and has improved several features of HPOWEB. They are planning a crowd-sourcing initiative to locate precisely those properties that thus far are only approximately located.
- During the twelve months ending September 30, 2012, 2,400 projects were submitted for environmental review; thus far, 3,000 projects have been submitted in calendar year 2013, and the increased number likely is a factor of the improving economy.
- Submittal of certification applications for the historic rehabilitation tax credits is up fifty percent since September 2011 for income-producing properties (averaging almost \$10 million per month in private investment) and up twenty percent for non-income-producing properties. In September, the number of projects submitted for the year reached the total number submitted for all of 2012. Since 1976, there has been \$1.7 billion of private investment projects utilizing the tax credits. R. J. Reynolds's Factory 91 was featured this summer in the National Park Service's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tax credit review as an example of "Retooling America's Manufacturing Buildings."
- In 2013, the HPO awarded \$87,500 in CLG grants. Funded projects included a historic structure report for War Memorial Stadium in Greensboro and architectural surveys in Charlotte and High Point.
- HPO staff Claudia Brown and Jannette Coleridge-Taylor had key roles in "Communities Revitalized: The Living Legacy of Rosenwald Schools," the conference held in Edenton on October 5 in partnership with the Conservation Trust of North Carolina and other organizations. Attendance was standing room only, having exceeded registration.

Dr. Cherry reported on new appointments to the NRAC from the North Carolina Historical Commission: Richard Starnes, associate professor in the Department of History and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Carolina University, whom he introduced; and Samuel Dixon, an Edenton attorney active in historic preservation in the eastern region, who could not attend today's meeting due to a court date already set at the time of his appointment.

Mr. Barbee reminded visitors to sign in and then reviewed the committee's conflict-of-interest rules before asking for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting. Ms. Leimenstoll moved for approval, Dr. Stine seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with a presentation by Lawrence Abbott of a nomination for the William Dennis Pottery Kiln and House in Randolph County. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Larson stated that the site is incredibly important and commented on the work of the last two decades that demonstrates recognition of influences in the back country other than that of the Moravians. In response to Mr. Larson's question about the identity of the archaeologists who excavated the site, Mr. Abbott responded that Tom Hargrove and Linda Carnes McNaughton did the work, following up on extensive research by others in the

1970s. Upon a motion by Dr. Stine and seconded by Dr. Johnson, all voted to approve the nomination.

Ann Swallow then presented two nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Leimenstoll commented on the thoroughness of the architectural description of the Louise Cotton Mill. Mr. Larson asked why the mill is nominated under Criterion C for its architecture rather than Criterion A for importance in industry if a tower and one monitor roof are gone, the window openings are filled in, and there is a 1960s addition. Ms. Swallow replied that National Park Service policy is that filled-in window openings are not a problem if the openings can be discerned; very few mills of the period retain their towers, yet this mill retains one of its towers; and the mill is important under Criterion C because the building is a very rare example in Charlotte of what was known as fireproof construction, having retained all of its interior wood structural system. She added that the 1960s addition is on the rear of the building.

Mrs. Barbee interrupted consideration of nominations to introduce Secretary Kluttz, who had entered the conference room a few minutes earlier. Secretary Kluttz spoke briefly, thanking the committee members for their service and expressing her appreciation for the work of the HPO.

Consideration of nominations continued with Jessica Dockery's presentation of four nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Mrs. Barbee asked if there were any questions.

Regarding the Old South Mebane Historic District Boundary Increase, Dr. Johnson said that there is an African American community nearby to the west with a 1910 house and that there are members of the community who are aware of the nomination and wonder why their neighborhood was not included in the expansion area. She acknowledged that the neighborhood is not contiguous with the boundary increase, although it is an important part of the area's history. Ms. Dockery replied that there are too many less-than-fifty-year-old buildings between the expansion area and the African American neighborhood. She added that she would be happy to review a Study List application for the neighborhood and asked Dr. Johnson to tell her contact in the neighborhood to call her.

Discussion ensued regarding the Criterion D claim for the Fort Caswell Historic District. Mr. Larson inquired about the level and period of significance for the archaeological significance claim, to which Ms. Dockery replied that the Criterion D claim pertains to the fort with a period of significance of 1827-1838, when the fort was constructed. Mr. Larson stated that there should be a single period of significance for the entire site to encompass Criteria A, C, and D and asked if the district could be considered a single site with specific site pits. When Ms. Dockery deferred to Mr. Abbott, he replied in the affirmative. Dr. Boudreaux asked if the nomination would be updated as excavations continue and other components are identified. Ms. Swallow explained that an update would not automatically be prepared upon submittal of additional information, but would require preparation of an additional documentation nomination by an interested party. She added that all reports can become part of the record without being part of the nomination. Upon additional discussion, it was agreed that the period of significance for Criterion D should be 1827-1948 at the statewide level. Ms. Dockery asked if additional context would have to be provided for a statewide significance argument for the site's archaeology. Mr. Abbott said that additional context could be provided. Ms. Swallow replied that additional context is not necessary because there is

sufficient context for the argument for statewide significance under Criterion A, which the archaeology supports.

Mrs. Barbee asked for a motion regarding the six nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions. Mr. Larson asked for the Louise Cotton Mill nomination to be considered separately. He then moved for approval of the remaining five nominations, with a single period of significance of 1827-1948 at the statewide level for the Fort Caswell Historic District. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion and all voted for it.

Regarding the Louise Cotton Mill, Mr. Larson stated that it is not an exceptional example of industrial architecture because it has been compromised in several ways. He added that he would not necessarily vote against it, but wants to be cautious and questions the reason a Criterion A argument was not pursued considering that so many other textile mills in Charlotte have been listed. Ms. Leimenstoll stated that she was very impressed by the level of documentation of the mill, especially regarding its structure, and that she thought a strong case was made under Criterion C. Mr. Larson agreed that what remains is thoroughly described, but the issue has to do with what has been lost, particularly the tower. Ms. Swallow stated that the mill has to be a good representative example of its type in the context of Charlotte, not the best example, and that it is more difficult to demonstrate industrial significance under Criterion A when there are so many mills in a community. She asserted that the Louise Cotton Mill stands out in Charlotte for the integrity of its construction in the early period of textile industry development in the city; certain features have been lost, but all of the essential features of slow-burn construction remain. Upon a motion by Ms. Leimenstoll and seconded by Dr. Boudreaux, all voted to approve the nomination except for Mr. Larson, who abstained.

Scott Power presented one nomination from the eastern region: the Valentine-Wilder House near Spring Hope, Nash County. When he completed his presentation, Ms. Barbee asked if there were many Rustic Revival-style buildings in the area. Mr. Power replied that is a Rustic Revival-style community building in Red Oak, also in Nash County, and that the style is more typically applied to institutional buildings. Dr. Starnes moved for approval of the nomination and Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Annie McDonald presented one nomination from the western region: Oakdale Cemetery in Hendersonville, Henderson County. When she completed her presentation, Mr. Larson asked for additional information on the cemetery pavilion. Ms. McDonald replied that the structure is an enigma, with very little documentation. Mr. Larson made a motion to approve the nomination, Dr. Johnson seconded it, and all voted for it.

After a lunch recess from 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., the meeting resumed with consideration of Study List applications. Six applications for properties in the eastern region were presented, two by John Wood and four by Scott Power (see attached agenda). Dr. Johnson made a motion to place the six properties on the Study List, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Claudia Brown presented three Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). When she concluded her presentation, Mr. Larson asked if the Merrimon-Wynne House had been delisted when it was moved from its original site. Ms. Brown explained that the paperwork has not been submitted to NPS, but delisting is *de facto*

because it is the property (i.e., the land) that is listed and the eligibility of the original site was lost when the house was removed from it.

Jessica Dockery presented a Study List application for Cook's Mill near Mebane, Alamance County. When she finished her presentation, Dr. Starnes asked Ms. Swallow if mills are treated as landscapes. Ms. Swallow replied that if a mill occupies a large site, all of it is included if it retains sufficient integrity from the historic period. She added that there is a long mill race in Mecklenburg County that has been designated a local landmark despite the fact that the mill building is no longer standing.

Ann Swallow then presented the final four Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). When she finished, Mrs. Barbee asked if the Reynolds Building had previously been considered by the NRAC. Ms. Swallow explained that the building had been part of the Downtown Winston-Salem Historic District, which was nominated in the early 1990s and due to owner objection determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register rather than listed. In response to a question about the inclusion in a single nomination of both the Arlington School and the Peedin School in Gastonia, Ms. Swallow explained that despite the fact that the application was submitted for only the earlier Arlington School, NPS recommended nominating the two schools together as a single campus because they shared the playing field in between. She said she would consult with NPS again when the federal government shut-down ends now that she knows that the schools originally occupied separate parcels.

Mr. Larson expressed concern about the appropriateness of the Bethania-Rural Hall Road Historic District. He acknowledged the in-depth research by Heather Fearnbach and the interesting genealogical story and then stated that many of the buildings are in terrible condition, the area is under intensive development pressure, and there is no apparent local interest in preserving the area despite the city's initiation of the study. He added that there are no extant buildings erected between 1865 and the late nineteenth century and between the late nineteenth century and the 1930s; all of the late nineteenth-century buildings are in bad shape; and the proposed district has low density. He cautioned that more than a genealogical study is necessary to establish eligibility and asked if an archaeological study of the area should be done, adding that representation through architecture of African Americans in Bethania is problematic. Ms. Swallow replied that many people attended the local public meeting held at the end of Ms. Fearnbach's study and expressed considerable interest in preserving the area. She also noted that another local meeting is necessary to help the residents and property owners decide how to proceed because National Register listing is not necessarily the most useful way to encourage people to preserve their property.

Dr. Johnson stated that National Register listing is a tool for helping the population interface with government and articulate their concerns and that it could prompt a conversation with the North Carolina African American Historical Commission. She added that identifying people and connecting them to property is important to maintaining community and conveying the African American story. She said that the district should be put on the Study List and that more information should be gleaned from the community. Ms. Swallow replied that through extensive interviews with virtually everyone associated with the community, Ms. Fearnbach gathered much more information than genealogy, including how residents made a living and interacted with their neighbors. Mr. Larson stated that National Register listing is only going to have a positive effect if

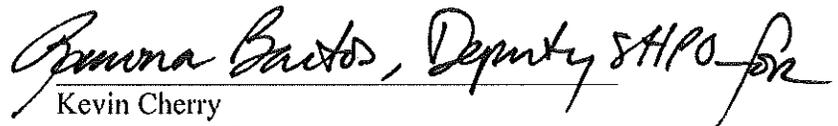
the property owners desire the listing, but nothing is being done to halt the deterioration of abandoned buildings. Dr. Starnes noted that the district's Flint Farm introduces a complex, interesting story about the use of space. Mr. Larson agreed that the story is very complex and needs to include Bethania and the story of segregation, among other topics.

Mrs. Barbee asked if consideration of the Study List application for the two Gastonia schools should be deferred until Ms. Swallow can consult with NPS regarding inclusion of the newer Peedin School. Ms. Swallow replied that staff opinion is that both schools appear to have sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

Mrs. Barbee asked for a motion regarding the eight Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions. Upon a motion by Dr. Stine and seconded by Dr. Boudreaux, all voted to place the eight properties on the Study List.

Mrs. Barbee recognized the five graduate students in Heather Wagner Slane's University of North Carolina at Greensboro class who observed the Study List presentations. She then thanked the committee and staff for their work and adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin Cherry  
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/cp  
Attachment

NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Conference Room, Third Floor, Archives and History Building  
October 10, 2013

Final Agenda

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROPERTY/LOCATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
<b>NATIONAL REGISTER</b>		
OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY		
Randolph	William Dennis Pottery Kiln and House site 31RD981 Randleman vicinity	Lea Abbott
SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH		
<b><i>Central and Southeastern Regions</i></b>		
Durham	Durham Hosiery Mills Dye House Durham	Ann Swallow
Mecklenburg	Louise Cotton Mill Charlotte	
Alamance	Old South Mebane Historic District Boundary Increase Mebane	Jessica Dockery
Brunswick	Fort Caswell Historic District Caswell Beach vicinity	
Durham	Hillside Park High School Durham	
New Hanover	James D. and Frances Sprunt Cottage Wrightsville Beach	
<b><i>Eastern Region</i></b>		
Nash	Valentine – Wilder House Spring Hope vicinity	Scott Power
<b><i>Western Region</i></b>		
Henderson	Oakdale Cemetery Hendersonville	Annie McDonald

## **STUDY LIST**

### **SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH**

#### ***Eastern Region***

Craven	Craven Terrace New Bern	John Wood
Lenoir	Imperial Tobacco Company Office Kinston	
Edgecombe	Merriemeade Tarboro	Scott Power
	Speight's Chapel Methodist Protestant Church Leggett vicinity	
Martin	West Martin School Oak City	
Pitt	Fountain Historic District Fountain	

#### ***Central and Southeastern Regions***

Caswell	William and Sarah Holderness House Yanceyville vicinity	Claudia Brown
Wake	Arthur McKimmon II House Raleigh	
	Merrimon - Wynne House Raleigh	
Alamance	Cook's Mill Mebane vicinity	Jessica Dockery
Forsyth	Bethania –Rural Hall Road Historic District Bethania vicinity	Ann Swallow
	Reynolds Building Winston-Salem	
Gaston	Arlington School and Peedin School Gastonia	
Mecklenburg	Praise Connor and Harriet Lee House Charlotte	