

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 12, 2015

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on February 12, 2015, in the third-floor conference room of the Archives and History Building, 109 E. Jones St., in downtown Raleigh. Committee members in attendance were: Mrs. Millie M. Barbee, chair, Mr. Samuel B. Dixon, Mr. George W. Edwards, Dr. Lee Edward Gray, Dr. Valerie A. Johnson, Mrs. Margaret Kluttz, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Mr. David Maurer, Dr. Richard D. Starnes, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee members Dr. Edmond A. Boudreaux and Ms. Wendy Grady were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: 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; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; John Wood, preservation/restoration specialist, Eastern Office; Andrew Edmonds, GIS specialist, David Christenbury, architect; Jeff Adolphsen, restoration specialist; Laurie Mitchell, local government coordinator; Amber Kidd, environmental review specialist; Michele McCabe, grants administrator; Chandrea Burch, file room manager; and Anna Grantham, file room assistant.

Visitors in attendance included Victor Sharpe, Fayetteville planning director, and consultants Michelle Michael, Heather Slane, and Liz Marsh.

Mrs. Barbee called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with welcoming comments. After acknowledging committee members Lee Gray, Margaret Kluttz, and David Maurer, who were appointed after the June 2014 meeting, she asked all members to introduce themselves. Mrs. Barbee then called on Ms. Bartos, who extended Dr. Kevin Cherry's regrets for not being in attendance. Ms. Bartos then asked the rest of the staff to introduce themselves.

Ms. Bartos began her report with an update on the status of state historic tax credits following their sunset on December 31, 2014. She said that Secretary Kluttz and other senior staff have been "barnstorming" the state with visits to more than twenty towns and cities so far, adding that lately Governor McCrory has accompanied the Secretary to promote the new tax credit program he has proposed. Ms. Bartos added that a statewide coalition including local government associations, developers and other businessmen, and Preservation North Carolina is working hard on behalf of a state tax credit program; so far there have been more than one hundred articles and editorials in support of the program, and she hopes the issue is gaining traction in the General Assembly.

Ms. Bartos also noted that a considerable amount of architectural survey work has been under way: Charlotte Phase I and High Point Industrial Resources have been completed and Charlotte Phase II, Wake County Update (planning jurisdictions of Apex, Fuquay-Varina, and Holly Springs), Hickory Update, and Orange County Update have begun. She added that HPO staff have scoped a comprehensive survey of Franklin County, the first phase of which will be entirely locally funded and done under HPO supervision. She concluded her report with a formal introduction of Laurie Mitchell, the HPO's new local government coordinator, who started in December after the position had been vacant for one-and-one-half years. Ms. Bartos also

announced that in March she will visit the Spanish Embassy in Washington, DC, as a representative of one of several states invited to attend a workshop about the preservation of Hispanic resources in the United States. A North Carolina representative was invited due to Spain's interest in the Berry Site in Burke County, an archeological site also identified as the Joara Town Site and connected to one of the earliest concerted Spanish efforts to settle the interior of what is now is the United States.

A brief discussion followed. Mrs. Barbee stated that the annual Main Street Conference will be in Morganton in March and Mr. Maurer noted that the National Trust's Rosenwald schools conference will be held in Durham in June. Dr. Starnes mentioned the fire in downtown Sylva shortly after the last NRAC meeting, at which the Sylva Downtown Historic District was approved, noting that the fire destroyed two buildings; the owner of a third building that was partially destroyed recently announced that it will be rebuilt in a design compatible with the original.

Before Ann Swallow began a forty-five-minute training session for the committee (see attached agenda), Mrs. Barbee reminded them about the NRAC's conflict-of-interest policy.

After Ms. Swallow concluded the training session, Ms. Bartos stated that in her eagerness to deliver her report quickly, she had skipped one important item: She acknowledged the assistance of Annie McDonald in the western region and John Wood in the eastern region while the local government coordinator position was vacant.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with a presentation by Annie McDonald of four nominations for western region properties (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Leimenstoll moved for approval of the nominations and Dr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

John Wood and Scott Power each presented one eastern region nomination (see attached agenda). Regarding the Belhaven Commercial Historic District, Mr. Maurer asked about the increase in population between 1900 and 1910 from ninety people to 750. Mr. Wood replied that the construction of the railroad to Belhaven brought considerable development. Dr. Gray asked if certain second-story windows in the district are bricked in or covered, to which Mr. Wood replied that they are covered with plywood. Upon a motion by Dr. Starnes, seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted to approve the two nominations.

Jessica Dockery presented three nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda). After she concluded the presentation, Dr. Gray asked why the portion of the Chapel Hill Historic District that includes part of the University of North Carolina campus is not enlarged. Ms. Dockery explained that university administration specifically asked not to be included in the expansion of the district. Dr. Johnson commented that the Chapel of the Cross, which is in the district, interprets an aspect of local African American history due to Pauli Murray's association with the church. Consideration of central and southeastern region nominations continued with Ann Swallow's presentation of six nominations (see attached agenda). When Ms. Swallow concluded her presentation, David Maurer made a motion for approval of all nine central and southeastern nominations, Mr. Dixon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Johnson left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.; there was still a quorum. Mrs. Barbee asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014, NRAC meeting. Upon a motion by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Leimenstoll, all voted to approve the minutes. Mrs. Barbee called a lunch recess at 12:30 p.m.

When the committee reconvened at 1:20 p.m., consideration of Study List applications began with Ms. Swallow's presentation of an application for the Cherryville Downtown Historic District in Cherryville. Claudia Brown then presented two additional Study List applications for properties in the central and southeastern regions (see attached agenda) during which she cautioned that context would have to be developed for an architectural significance argument for the Lewis Caraway House in Anson County because the county has had only a partial survey that is thirty years old. Upon a motion by Dr. Starnes and seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted to approve staff recommendations that the three properties be placed on the Study List, with the caution conveyed to the preparer of the Study List application for the Lewis Caraway House.

John Wood presented a Study List application for the Midtown Motor Lodge in Kinston, conveying the staff recommendation that the property be placed on the Study List with the qualification that a National Register nomination for the motor lodge is unlikely to be successful if the later HVAC wall units are not removed. Mr. Maurer asked about the condition and material of the opaque panels that have replaced some of the plate glass windows of each motel room. Mr. Wood explained that certain members of the HPO staff found the panels to have a very negative effect on the integrity of the motel while others do not. Mr. Edwards asked if restoration of all of the glass panels could be a condition of Study List approval. Ms. Dockery wondered if the building code would be a factor in deciding how to treat the replacement panels. Ms. Leimenstoll expressed concern about making a recommendation that is too restrictive. Ms. Brown suggested that the committee could advise that the HVAC units be removed and the developer investigate an appropriate treatment of the areas where opaque panels replaced original glass. Mr. Dixon asked about the building's original HVAC; Mr. Wood explained that heating and cooling was supplied by a central system installed between the adjoining back walls of the rooms. Ms. Leimenstoll made a motion to place the Midtown Motor Lodge on the Study List with the recommendation that careful consideration be given to replacement or substitution of the composite panels. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Annie McDonald presented a Study List application for Hildebran School in Burke County. At the end of the presentation, Ms. Bartos added that the school is threatened and there is a community effort to reverse the local government's decision to demolish the earliest portions of the complex. Dr. Stine asked about the gymnasium's exterior truss system. Mr. Maurer said that the gymnasium was built during a period of experimentation with exterior support structure, as exemplified by the Pompidou Center in Paris, and that this example appears to be a weak attempt at using such a system. Dr. Stine asked if the committee could stipulate that the windows of the 1917-1923 building be re-installed. Ms. McDonald clarified that staff recommends that the school appears to be potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of education. Mrs. Barbee observed that the school is the only building left in Hildebran that identifies it as a community. Mr. Dixon made a motion to place Hildebran School on the Study List and Dr. Stine seconded the motion. Mr. Edwards said that he does not think the school complex could be listed in the National Register with the window openings of the 1917-1923 building having the current infill. Mr. Maurer agreed and asked for the motion to be amended. Ms. Leimenstoll said that the chance of a successful nomination would be more likely if the window infill were removed. Mr.

Dixon amended his motion accordingly, Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and all voted for its approval.

Mrs. Barbee thanked the committee and staff for their work. After noting that their next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2015, she adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramona Bartos", written over a horizontal line.

Ramona Bartos
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

RB/cp
Attachments