

North Carolina
National Register Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 11, 2015

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on June 11, 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: Dr. Richard D. Starnes, acting chair, Dr. Edmond A. Boudreaux, Mr. George W. Edwards, Ms. Wendy Grady, Dr. Lee Edward Gray, Dr. Valerie A. Johnson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Mr. David Maurer, and Dr. Linda F. Stine. Committee members Mrs. Millie Barbee, Mr. Samuel B. Dixon, and Mrs. Margaret Kluttz were absent.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Dr. 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; Chandrea Burch, file room manager; Anna Grantham, file room assistant; Annie McDonald, preservation specialist, Western Office; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; David Christenbury, architect; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; Laurie Mitchell, local government coordinator; Amber Kidd, environmental review specialist; Michele McCabe, grants administrator; and Eastern Office interns Kristi Brantley, Badham Dixon, and Sarah Rogers.

Visitors were State Archaeologist Steve Claggett and Kate Husband with NCDOT.

Dr. Starnes called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with welcoming comments and a review of the committee's conflict-of-interest policy. He then recognized Dr. Cherry.

Dr. Cherry began his report with an overview of Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) activities. He reported that the past year was DCR's most successful since the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, with more than 3.3 million visitors and the largest single-day activity ever, the re-enactment of the Battle of Bentonville that accounted for about 72,000 visits. He said that DCR has been recognized for having the most inclusive Civil War Sesquicentennial activities of any state over the four years of the celebration. Dr. Cherry also reported on the department's forthcoming publication of two books on the war, *The North Carolina Civil War Atlas*, a study of the war's impact on the state, and *Civil War Witness*, on buildings across the state that have a documented connection with the war.

Dr. Cherry went on to report that DCR's primary legislative effort of the past three months was the push to reinstate the historic preservation tax credits. He said that as of June 10, Secretary Kluttz had visited forty-nine communities and has been encountering overwhelming support for the credits everywhere she goes. He added that the House voted for the Governor's modified tax credits plan and that he believes that it would pass in the Senate as well, but supporters have not been able to get the bill to the Senate floor.

Dr. Cherry also noted that DCR has been one of the lead agencies pushing the Governor's bond package, which includes \$75 million to address the maintenance backlog at State Historic Sites,

make improvements at the Transportation Museum and Reed Gold Mine, build a new visitor center at the Battleship North Carolina, and shore up the river bank at Fort Anderson. He said that it would be the greatest one-time infusion of cash into the department in many years and that the maintenance and improvements to sites on major transportation arteries should result in an increase in visitation.

Dr. Cherry concluded by saying that over the last year the HPO has performed near miracles in the amount of environmental review and tax credits projects the office has handled and in providing support for the DCR Communications Office in planning the Secretary's tour promoting the tax credits. He thanked the staff for all of their hard work and thanked Ms. Bartos for taking the lead on many land issues in the department in addition to her HPO duties. Mr. Maurer interjected that he would like to add his thanks to the HPO as one who works with the staff regularly and asked for a round of applause for them.

Dr. Starnes asked Ms. Bartos for her report. She began by commenting on the high number of tax credit projects processed by the HPO in the current year, noting that the number of projects submitted in the first quarter of the year was almost as high as for all of last year. Ms. Bartos then announced that the federal Historic Preservation Fund is due to be reauthorized this year and that a bill that would specify full funding of \$150 million each year is expected soon. She also explained that a settlement that came about because railroads began installing the Positive Train Control system without going through Section 106 includes \$10 million for preservation projects in affected states including North Carolina. Details about the distribution of the funds are forthcoming. Ms. Bartos concluded her report by expressing the HPO's appreciation to Dr. Cherry, Secretary Kluttz, and Governor McCrory for their support for the preservation tax credits and noted that their efforts have brought much positive attention from across the country to our programs. She asked HPO staff to stand for another round of applause.

Mr. Edwards said that he seconded Mr. Maurer's earlier comments and thanked Ms. Bartos for going to Wilmington recently for the Historic Wilmington Foundation's annual announcement of the ten most endangered resources in the three counties served by the organization.

Scott Power introduced the three Eastern Office interns: Kristi Brantley, a graduate student at Eastern Carolina University; Badham Dixon, a recent graduate of Woodberry Forest School; and Sarah Rogers, a rising junior in the historic preservation program at Mary Washington University.

Dr. Starnes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2015, NRAC meeting. Following a motion by Ms. Leimenstoll, seconded by Mr. Edwards, all voted their approval.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with presentations by Jessica Dockery and Ann Swallow of four nominations for central and southeastern properties (see attached agenda). At the conclusion of Ms. Swallow's presentation, Mr. Maurer asked about the identity of the architect of the Speas Vinegar Company in Charlotte, to which Ms. Swallow replied that the architect remains unknown. Dr. Boudreaux moved for approval of the four nominations and Ms. Grady seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Annie McDonald presented two nominations for western region properties (see attached agenda). Dr. Stine asked about the condition of the ground where a two-room structure had been located at Seven Oaks in Asheville. Ms. McDonald replied that there has been some ground disturbance,

including grading for landscaping. Ms. Swallow stated that an archaeological statement should be added to the nomination. Mr. Edwards inquired about the movie theater in Mars Hill. Ms. McDonald stated that the building is on the Study List but was not included in the Mars Hill Commercial Historic District because buildings between the theater and the district boundary have either lost integrity or are new, causing the theater to be physically detached from the district. Dr. Starnes asked if Seven Oaks could have been a stagecoach inn or drover hotel, to which Ms. McDonald replied that it is impossible to know as there is so little early documentation of the property. Ms. Leimenstoll made a motion to approve the two nominations, Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and all voted to approve the nominations.

Consideration of Study List applications commenced with presentations by Jessica Dockery and Claudia Brown of six central and southeastern properties (see attached agenda). Ms. Dockery explained that staff recommended approval of the properties in Alamance and Orange counties and denial of the James Luther Hayes House in Robeson County due to its very deteriorated condition. Ms. Brown said that staff recommended approval of the Northgate Park Historic District in Durham and Oberlin Cemetery in Raleigh, but recommended that the Reverend Robert E. Atkins House in Morrisville not be placed on the Study List due to lack of architectural integrity on the interior. At the conclusion of Ms. Brown's presentation, Mr. Edwards asked if Oberlin Cemetery was associated with nearby Wilson AMEZ Church. Ms. Brown replied that there was no formal connection and that the cemetery was always considered a community burying ground. Upon a motion made by Dr. Johnson and seconded by Dr. Stine, all voted to approve staff recommendations.

Scott Power presented two Study List applications for eastern region properties, both of which were recommended by staff for approval (see attached agenda). Ms. Leimenstoll moved for placement of both properties on the Study List, Dr. Johnson seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Annie McDonald presented two Study List applications for western region properties: Dr. Nicholas Medford House in Waynesville, for which staff recommended denial due to lack of significance, and Crow Farm and Store in Rutherford County, recommended by staff for the Study List. Mr. Maurer moved for approval of staff recommendations and Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Starnes then recognized Dr. Cherry, who augmented his report with the news that the Governor's budget recommended that portions of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources be transferred to DCR. He said that the specifics of the transfer have not been announced, but he believes that at least certain aspects of the recommendation would take place and that the transfer would be seamless. He assured the committee that the reorganization was not recommended for cost savings but rather for the benefits of cross-marketing tied to tourism.

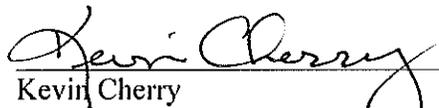
Dr. Cherry also announced that HPO photographer Bill Garrett, who had entered the room, was scheduled to retire on June 30, 2015. Dr. Cherry thanked Mr. Garrett for his more than twenty years of service and led the committee and audience in a round of applause.

The meeting concluded with a ceremony recognizing Dr. Boudreaux and Ms. Leimenstoll for their service on the NRAC for three consecutive terms, the maximum permitted by the

committee's bylaws, which were scheduled to end on June 30, 2015. Dr. Cherry presented certificates of service, gifts were presented by Steve Claggett and Ramona Bartos to Dr. Boudreaux and Ms. Leimenstoll, respectively, and Mr. Garrett took photographs of the event.

Dr. Starnes thanked the committee and staff for their work. He noted that the next meeting of the NRAC is scheduled for October 8, 2015, and adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Cherry
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/cb
Attachment

Wake Reverend Robert E. Atkins House
Morrisville

Oberlin Cemetery
Raleigh

Eastern Region

Chowan Lane and Byrum Mill Scott Power
Tyner vicinity

Nash China American Tobacco Company
Rocky Mount

Western Region

Haywood Dr. Nicholas Medford House Annie McDonald
Waynesville

Rutherford Crow Farm and Store
Hollis vicinity