

North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting, via Zoom, streamed on YouTube

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) convened on June 10, 2021, in compliance with state open meetings law through a virtual online meeting using Zoom. The following members attended: David Bergstone, Terri Russ, Matthew Jorgenson, Alicia McGill, Mary Lynn Bryan, Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge, David Dennard, and Valerie Johnson. Fred Belledin, and Tamara Holmes-Brothers arrived later in the proceedings.

North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (NC HPO) staff and Department of Cultural Resources staff attending were Matt Zeher, Ramona Bartos, Audrey Thomas, Julie Smith, Hannah Beckman-Black, John Wood, Jenn Brosz, Scott Power, Elizabeth King, Annie McDonald, Claudia Brown, Sarah Koontz, and Secretary Reid Wilson. Mr. Zeher served as technical support for the online meeting platform and the streaming.

Chair Alicia McGill called the meeting to order at 10:02 and the meeting began streaming on YouTube.

Dr. McGill welcomed everyone and thanked staff. She noted that the public can share comments on the YouTube stream, which can be shared in the Zoom meeting's chat. The meeting will be recorded in addition to being streamed. She reminded everyone to use the chat function if we have technical difficulties and to mute themselves, and she discussed voting procedures.

Dr. McGill welcomed Secretary Reid Wilson who greeted us from Alamance Battleground. He reviewed the department and described it as the department of all the things people love about North Carolina. He described the department's five priorities: education including a growing on-line presence; health protection through parks and land and water to enhance physical and mental health; diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility to reflect the state's composition in our hiring, storytelling, and presentations; economic development; climate change and resiliency. He spoke about the benefits of historic preservation and provided some stats about our office's work. He closed with thanks and appreciation for the staff and the committee.

Dr. McGill reviewed conflict of interest rules, and she reminded everyone to avoid using the chat function for side conversations. Dr. Johnson reported a possible conflict of interest because she is on the board of directors for Preservation North Carolina (PNC) and one resource on the agenda is owned by PNC. Dr. McGill made arrangements with Dr. Johnson for recusal. Ms. Russ also reported that she did the archaeology for the adjacent house related to the same project and also owned by PNC. There was no clear-cut need for Ms. Russ to recuse, but Ms. Bartos felt like that it may be safer for Ms. Russ to recuse.

Dr. McGill reminded everyone to review the Zebulon correspondence during lunch if they have not reviewed it all. She explained voting by sets of properties and using the roll-call vote. Dr. McGill also discussed the timing for breaks and lunch.

Dr. McGill asked for corrections or comments regarding minutes from the February meeting. Sarah Woodard made a correction to the minutes: Ms. Snowden should be included in attendance. Dr. Dennard noted a grammatical error regarding "moved approval" of the staff recommendations. Ms. Russ made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Jorgenson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. (Although ten members attended the meeting, Dr. Holmes-Brothers and Mr. Belledin were not present for this vote, and Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge had dropped out because of computer problems.)

Dr. McGill called attention to a name change on the agenda: Ms. Woodard reported that Oakcrest should be changed to the Graves-Fields House.

Each Zoom meeting attendee introduced themselves. Dr. McGill acknowledged that this is Ms. Russ and Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge's last meetings. Scott Power also reported that he would be retiring over the summer.

Sarah Koonts provided a brief report from the Office of Archives and History. She thanked everyone for their work, including staff, and congratulated Scott Power on his retirement. She mentioned that the office will be reopening to the public and staff, and she noted that the currently proposed budget included allocations for the Queen Anne's Revenge, the highway marker program, and the Revolution 250th celebration plans, as well as money for resiliency planning and maintenance.

Ms. Koonts detailed plans for the celebration of the 250th anniversary, and Dr. Johnson asked about plans in New Bern. Ms. Koonts discussed plans to research and document the Harlowe Men to highlight their contributions to the Revolution.

Dr. Tamara Brothers joined the meeting.

Ms. Bartos provided her own report. She started by thanking the committee and staff for their efforts. She highlighted Scott Power's service, and Scott noted that he does not think he's ever missed an NRAC meeting in his 30 years. She noted that David Christenbury has retired, and that we have hired Sharon Hope, Rebecca Spanbauer, and Kelly Malloy.

Dr. McGill asked Dr. Brothers to introduce herself.

The meeting turned to **National Register nomination presentations.**

Jenn Brosz began by presenting **St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Davidson County.** It is nominated under Criterion A for its association with African American History and Criterion C for its architecture. Its period of significance is 1921 to 1971, which begins with the construction of the main sanctuary, and it meets Criterion Consideration A because it derives its significance from history. Ms. Brosz located the church on a map and provided photographs of the interior and exterior. She also provided a history of the building.

Ms. Brosz moved to the **Elizabeth and Bowman Gray, Jr., House in Forsyth County**. She located the house on a map and described its setting. She also compared this house to Graylyn, the home of Gray's father. She provided a history of Bowman, Jr., and gave the history of the house and farm. She put the house in context of other work by the same architect for the Gray family. She provided a tour of the exterior and interior. The house is eligible for the Register under Criterion C with a period of significance being 1950, reflecting the house's date of construction.

Ms. Brosz continued with the **Ella Brown Cannon House in Rowan County**. She located the house on a map and noted that it is already listed in a National Register district. She detailed the house's history and the history of Ella Brown Cannon as she relates to the house. The house is eligible for listing under Criterion C for its Colonial Revival design at the local level, while the landscape design is proposed for listing at the statewide significance level. For context, Ms. Brosz provided images of similar Colonial Revival mansions across the state. The period of significance is 1904 to 1906, reflecting the construction of the house.

Ms. Brosz next presented the **Pilot Hosiery Mills building in Surry County**. This building was constructed in 1944 and is located in Pilot Mountain. She provided a tour of the building and gave the history of the mill's operation. She also set it into the context of Pilot Mountain's commercial and industrial history, noting that Pilot Hosiery was a major employer into the twenty-first century. While the building is simple, it does retain its architectural integrity. The building is eligible for the Register under Criteria A and C for its association with industry and architecture, and its period of significance begins in 1944 and extends to 1971.

Dr. McGill asked for questions or comments about any of Ms. Brosz's properties. Dr. Johnson made a comment about a connection between Shaw University and St. Stephen's. There were no other comments. Dr. Johnson moved to approve all four nominations. Mr. Jorgenson seconded the motion. A roll-call vote proceeded, and the nominations were approved 9-0.

The committee took a break at 11:24 and reconvened at 11:30. Fred Belledin introduced himself, and he and Dr. McGill discussed his need to recuse from an upcoming discussion.

Hannah Beckman-Black began her presentations with the **John N. Smith Cemetery in Brunswick County**. She located the site on a map. It is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with social history and ethnic history. It is one of the only remaining resources associated with the African American community in Southport. She provided a history of African American settlement in Southport and discussed how the Smith Cemetery relates to that history. The cemetery is estimated to contain over 1,700 burials reflecting citizens of all types of backgrounds in Southport. Likewise, the remaining markers reflect a wide range of backgrounds, traditions, and styles. The period of significance spans a century, from 1874 to 1974. She illustrated the boundary, which was drawn based on the results of ground penetrating radar work.

Ms. Beckman-Black moved to the **Downtown Sanford Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase, and Boundary Decrease) in Lee County**. She reviewed the original nomination Criteria of A, C, and D, and noted that it did not support the association with archaeology or government. The original nomination had a period of significance that started in 1872 and ended in

1935, which was the 50-year-cut-off at the time of the nomination. The additional documentation extends the period of significance to 1972 when the Frist Citizens Bank and Trust building was constructed. The documentation includes expanded historic background, more commercial context, more architectural context. It also adds a significance area under Criterion A with associations with Industry, African American Ethnic Heritage, and Civil Rights. It removes Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government, and Archaeology as areas of significance because the town's history does not support those areas. The Criterion C discussion has been expanded to add Entertainment/Recreation as an area of significance and the new documentation adds a discussion of mid-century Colonial Revival and Modernist architecture. Ms. Beckman-Black presented maps of the boundary increases and decreases. She noted that Sanford's Historic Preservation Commission commented on the updated information and is in favor of the updates.

Dr. Johnson noted that Geechee is misspelled in the nomination, and she noted that Brunswick County falls into the Gullah-Geechee Corridor, as defined by the NPS, and that that connection should be amplified. Dr. Dennard noted that Sanford and the Smith Cemetery nominations were very well done and included extensive documentation. He noted a headstone of Abram Galloway, and he asked if this is the Galloway that David Cecelski has written about. Ms. Beckman-Black did not know the answer but stated that staff or the consultant could investigate. Ms. Bartos noted that the famous Abraham Galloway was born in Southpoint and wondered about the connection, but Ms. Bartos stated that this Galloway was buried under a USCT marker, and Dr. Dennard noted that the Galloway in this cemetery is Abram, not Abraham. John Wood noted that Abraham Galloway is buried in a cemetery in Wilmington, with the conclusion being that this is a different Galloway, and Abram and Abraham Galloway are very common in the Smith Cemetery. Mr. Bergstone noted the syntax difference in "cemetery" vs. "graveyard," and questioned the use of those words in the nomination.

Dr. McGill asked for motion to approve the John N. Smith Cemetery and the Sanford Historic District nomination. Dr. Dennard made the motion and Mr. Bergstone seconded the motion. Dr. McGill proceeded with a roll-call vote. The vote was unanimous at 10-0.

Dr. McGill asked Ms. Russ, Mr. Belledin, and Dr. Johnson to recuse themselves. Ms. Bartos noted that we still maintained a quorum.

Ms. Beckman-Black proceeded with the **Graves-Fields House in Wake County**. She began by explaining the name-change by noting that the family named the house Oakcrest, but that the current owner would like the name to reflect more of the families associated with the house over time. She described the house and reviewed its evolution. She also reviewed the history of the house being moved, its relationship to surrounding houses, and how the house was moved quickly without being kept on the National Register. She provided a tour of the house's current interior. She noted that it is eligible under Criterion C with a period of significance dating to 1886.

Mr. Jorgenson asked to see the before-and-after slide, which Ms. Beckman-Black showed. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked a question about the porch restoration. Dr. McGill acknowledged and appreciated the name change suggestion. Dr. McGill also reviewed the bounds or extents of how big the Oberlin Village was and that the community believes it was larger than what's presented in the nomination.

Dr. McGill called for a motion to re-list the Graves-Fields House. Dr. McGill moved, Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0, with three abstentions.

Ms. Woodard and Ms. Brosz presented the **Zebulon Historic District in Wake County**. Ms. Brosz began with a timeline of the HPO's interactions with the stakeholders (the Town of Zebulon, Preservation Zebulon, and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission) beginning in 2016 when the HPO presented a map of a potential Zebulon historic district. Among a number of contacts and public meetings, she highlighted the potential district bounds that the stakeholders had seen over the years. Ms. Woodard began her presentation with a comparison of the 2016 boundaries and the 2021 boundaries. She then moved into a review of the proposed district that included a tour of the district. She noted that the period of significance begins in 1906 with the district's oldest resource and ends in 1971 to capture the district's Modernist buildings, specifically including the 1969 First Federal Savings and Loan building. Her presentation addressed specific questions the town had raised about the boundary and the inclusion of African American neighborhoods. She also provided statistical context to illustrate that the proposed district is average in size and length of period of significance.

The committee began their discussion with Dr. McGill speaking about architectural integrity and the potential for future survey and a future district. Ms. King recapped the past survey work and Ms. Woodard addressed the decision-making process regarding the boundary. Dr. McGill asked about public meetings and local concern about African American inclusion, which Ms. Woodard reported on from her experience in a public meeting. Dr. Johnson explained how the wealth gap and discriminatory policies create the architectural integrity problems that African American communities face in the National Register process. She suggested that our offices and consultants and the preservation field began asking African American communities what they see as important to preserve. The committee engaged in a discussion of ideas and considerations to create greater inclusion in the National Register program and process. Ms. Brosz, Ms. Woodard, and Ms. Bartos contributed information and observations. Returning specifically to Zebulon, staff addressed the numbers of letters of support regarding the district: over 60 letters of support coming from property owners in the district and within the town but not within the district. Additionally, the town had received about 40 letters of support, which may overlap with the letters the HPO received. The HPO received only one objection from an individual. The discussion of how to reach historically underrepresented groups and encourage participation in preservation. Dr. McGill noted that Zebulon also submitted notarized letters of opposition, and Ms. Brosz addressed the fact that we did receive those, and they are included in the information the committee received, but that federal regulations do not count public town or county opposition. The conversation continued, and Dr. McGill noted the importance of making sure the committee and staff continue working toward greater inclusion.

Mr. Bergstone moved to approve, and Dr. Bryan seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous, 10-0.

The committee took a break for lunch beginning at 1:23. Dr. McGill called the meeting to order at 2:03.

Annie McDonald began presenting the **South Asheville Cemetery and St. John 'A' Baptist Church in Buncombe County**. She began with a map of the location. She presented a history of the cemetery. The cemetery probably has over 1,000 burials, with only 10% being marked. She described the makers and

burial traditions. The church and cemetery are eligible under Criterion A and meet Criteria Considerations A and D in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American, Social History, Settlement, and Community Development. The period of significance extends from 1850 to 1943.

Ms. McDonald continued with a review of the **Robbinsville Downtown Historic District in Graham County**. She provided photos of commercial, institutional, and residential resources and described the frequently seen stone facades. Period of significance begins in 1872 and ends in 1965. The district is eligible under Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Architecture, Politics/Government, and Education. Mr. Bergstone had observations on mortar that Annie offered to research/fix.

Dr. Dennard moved to approve. Mr. Jorgenson seconded the motion. The vote was 10-0.

John Wood began presenting the **Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library in Carteret County**. He located it on a map in Morehead City and began presenting a history of the building and its design. He then took the committee on a tour of the building's exterior and interior. It is eligible under Criterion C for Colonial Revival architecture, and its period of significance extends from 1930 to 1937. Mr. Wood also noted reports of ghosts in the building.

Dr. McGill called for questions, and hearing none, moved to Mr. Power.

Scott Power presented the **Enfield Historic District in Halifax County**. He located Enfield in Halifax County and showed historic photos of downtown commercial buildings. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry and under Criterion C for its architecture. Its period of significance begins with the earliest building in 1833 and ends in 1972. Mr. Power concluded his final presentation to the NRAC.

Dr. Dennard asked about the ethnic make-up of the Enfield Historic District. Mr. Power noted Enfield's and Halifax's high concentration of African American population and noted the demolition of many African American resources in the town. Mr. Power noted that there are African American-owned resources in the district, but to his recollection, nothing representing African American ownership at the time of its original construction.

Ms. Russ made a motion to approve the Webb Building and the Enfield Historic District. Dr. Brothers seconded the motion. 10-0.

Dr. Brothers left the meeting, and **Study List presentations began.**

Ms. Woodard presented the **Logan Historic District in Concord in Cabarrus County**. She presented maps to locate the neighborhood within the state and town. She provided a tour of the neighborhood, illustrating a diverse collection of house and building types, including Concord's three earliest public housing complexes, churches, and a few stores. The district includes about 800 buildings with good overall architectural integrity under Criterion A in Community Planning and Ethnic Heritage, and under C for its architecture. Ms. Woodard reported good support for the district from the neighborhood and the city.

Ms. Woodard moved forward with **Woodlawn Manufacturing Company in Mount Holly, Gaston County**. She located the mill within the state, county, and town. She illustrated the evolution of additions from construction in 1907 through the last alterations in the 1960s and early 1970s. She provided photos of the entire exterior and example photos of the interior. The mill is eligible for listing under Criteria A in the area of Industry.

Ms. Woodard concluded with the **City Motor Company in Salisbury in Rowan County**. She located the complex and provided a number of historic photos. She proceeded with a tour of the exterior and interior. Although the complex retains excellent architectural integrity, key components of the show room are missing: the windows have been removed and the full height was truncated with the insertion of a mezzanine level. Staff does not think the complex would make a good National Register candidate until the windows and mezzanine are addressed, however, staff recommends that City Motor is eligible under Criteria A in the area of Commerce and C in the area of architecture if the windows are replaced and the showroom height is restored. Ms. Woodard noted that if the committee agreed with staff's opinions, that the applicant would need guidance from the committee about the depth of restoration needed to achieve eligibility: sufficient to open windows or does glass need to be installed? Sufficient to open the interior height or must the interior be restored?

Dr. McGill opened the floor for comments on the three resources. Dr. Dennard asked who owns Woodland Manufacturing and City Motor Company. Ms. Woodard reviewed the applications and reported that City Motor is owned by a group of siblings and that Woodlawn is owned by an individual named Roger Lovett. Dr. Dennard also asked about the percentage of Study List that achieve nomination. Ms. Woodard called on Ms. Brosz but first noted that Study Listing comes about in different ways that may or may not result in nominations. Ms. Brosz offered a very rough estimate that possibly 75% of recent Study Listings have moved to nominations. Ms. Bartos confirmed Ms. Brosz's observations. Dr. Johnston moved to discussing the windows at City Motor. Ms. Woodard asked for clarification on the point at which the committee could list the building. The committee indicated more interest in the windows than the interior. The committee suggested that the windows should be installed but the interior does not need to be restored; only opened up. Ms. Brosz explained the importance of display in the use of this type of building, as opposed to the windows in a mill, where windows were to illuminate the interior.

Mr. Bergstone moved to approve all three preceding applications; Mr. Belledin seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous, 9-0.

Mr. Belledin left the meeting.

Audrey Thomas began presenting the **Downtown Taylorsville Historic District in Alexander County**. She began with a historic photo of downtown Taylorsville and showed where she surveyed and compared that to the resulting proposed district. She presented a history of the town's establishment and evolution. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge noted that Ms. Thomas is a past student of hers.

Ms. McDonald presented the **Blue Ridge Tourist Court in Watauga County**. She combined the site's history with a tour of the complex. She compared it to other tourist courts and cabin complexes to demonstrate that it's believed to be the last early tourist court in Boone.

Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge made a motion to approve the Taylorsville Historic District and the Blue Ridge Tourist Court for the Study List. Ms. Russ seconded. The vote was 8-0.

Dr. Bryan moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:31, and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual Link- <https://youtu.be/Lr9y6-gF1-k>

June 10, 2021

NATIONAL REGISTER AND STUDY LIST AGENDA

COUNTY	PROPERTY/LOCATION	PRESENTER
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NATIONAL REGISTER

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Central and Southeastern Regions

Davidson	St. Stephen United Methodist Church Lexington	Jenn Brosz
Forsyth	Elizabeth and Bowman Gray Jr. House Lewisville vicinity	
Rowan	Ella Brown Cannon House Salisbury	
Surry	Pilot Hosiery Mill Pilot Mountain	
Brunswick	John N. Smith Cemetery Southport	Hannah Beckman-Black
Lee	Downtown Sanford Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase, and Boundary Decrease) Sanford	
Wake	Oakcrest Raleigh	
	Zebulon Historic District Zebulon	Sarah Woodard

Western Region

Buncombe	South Asheville Cemetery and St. John 'A' Baptist Church Asheville	Annie McDonald
Graham	Robbinsville Downtown Historic District Robbinsville	

Eastern Region

Carteret	Earle W. Webb, Jr. Memorial Civic Center and Library Morehead City	John Wood
Halifax	Enfield Historic District Enfield	Scott Power

STUDY LIST

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

Central/Southeastern Regions

Cabarrus	Logan Neighborhood Historic District Concord	Sarah Woodard
Gaston	Woodlawn Manufacturing Company Mount Holly	
Rowan	City Motor Company Salisbury	

Western Region

Alexander	Downtown Taylorsville Historic District Taylorsville	Audrey Thomas
Watauga	Blue Ridge Tourist Court Boone	Annie McDonald