

North Carolina  
National Register Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
14 February 2019

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on 14 February 2019 in the third-floor conference room of the Archives & History Building at 109 East Jones Street in downtown Raleigh. NRAC members attending the meeting were Chairman David Maurer, Dr. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge, Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, Mr. Samuel B. Dixon, Dr. Lee Edward Gray, Dr. Tamara Holmes-Brothers, Mr. Matt Jorgenson, Ms. Margaret Klutz, Ms. Terri Russ, and Ms. Barbara Snowden. NRAC members not in attendance were Dr. Chris Fonvielle and Dr. Alicia McGill.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff in attendance were Dr. Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary and State Historic Preservation Officer; Ramona Bartos, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Jeff Adophsen, senior restoration specialist; Hannah Beckman-Black, National Register and survey specialist; Debbie Bevin, historic preservation specialist for disaster recovery; Jenn Brosz, National Register coordinator; Lisa Buckley, Western Office survey specialist; Christy Brantley, Eastern Office research assistant; David Christenbury, non-income producing tax credit coordinator; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, tax credit program assistant; Sarah David, Raleigh Office survey specialist; Andy Edmonds, GIS analyst; Anna Grantham, file room assistant; Katie Harville, environmental review specialist; Beth King, architectural survey coordinator; Annie McDonald, Western Office preservation specialist; Michele Patterson-McCabe, grants coordinator; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; Amber Stimpson, local commissions coordinator; Brett Sturm, restoration specialist; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Branch supervisor; and John Wood, Eastern Office preservation specialist.

Office of State Archaeology (OSA) staff in attendance were John Mintz, State Archaeologist; and Dr. Mary Beth Fitts, Assistant State Archaeologist.

Visitors in attendance included Shelby Reap, DOT architectural historian; Dick Benham, Durham property owner; Larry Turrentine, property owner in College Hills/Heights area of Durham; and consultants Cynthia de Miranda, Michelle Michael, and Heather Slane. Mr. Myrick Howard, Executive Director of Preservation North Carolina, arrived at 11:35, during the presentation of the Study List application for Branch Grove by Ramona Bartos.

Chairman David Maurer called meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with welcoming comments. He reviewed the committee's conflict-of-interest policy and asked the committee members if they had any conflicts of interest with any of the National Register nominations or Study List applications on the agenda. No members had any conflicts of interest.

Mr. Maurer called for corrections to the minutes of the NRAC meeting held on 11 October 2018. Ms. Terri Russ mentioned the minutes should be amended to refer to Matt Jorgenson as "Mr. Jorgenson" and not "Dr. Jorgenson." Hearing no other comments, Mr. Maurer called for a motion to approve the October minutes as amended. Sam Dixon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Terri Russ. The motion passed 10-0.

Ramona Bartos introduced Jenn Brosz and Hannah Beckman-Black to talk about the travel forms completed by the NRAC members. Ms. Brosz explained that each member has a travel form in front of them to follow along. She said that members should sign the travel forms on the top and HPO staff will

help fill out the bottom portions. If an NRAC member has to pay for parking, please keep the parking receipt to submit with the reimbursement request. Ms. Beckman-Black explained each member should include on his or her travel form the time that he or she began and ended working today. She also asked that each member e-mail to her or Ms. Brosz one's travel mileage after returning home so that this information can be added to the travel reimbursement form. Ms. Brosz asked for each member to e-mail her upon returning home with one's time worked and mileage. Dr. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge asked if they can send a scan of the parking receipt or does it need to be mailed, to which Ms. Brosz responded that, for the time being, they should retain parking receipts and HPO staff will check with Cindy Hartman in the Finance office.

Mr. Maurer asked for an administrative update. Dr. Kevin Cherry gave a quick overview of the activities of the Department of Archives & History. Capital projects currently underway include the Fort Fisher Visitor Center, which is moving from conceptual drawings to build documents. We have about half of the funding necessary to build the visitor center. The visitor center gets roughly one million visitors annually, but it was only designed for a maximum of 35,000 visitors per year. The North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center in Fayetteville has cleared the land following archaeological review. They've moved the historic structures into one corner of the property and are doing more fundraising to build that center, which is the first place that we know of in the United States that tells the Reconstruction story in an in-depth way. The Museum of History is in the planning phase for its expansion. The Governor designated the lot in front of the Archives & History Building as the space for the expansion, which is a multi-year project. Local residents in Bath have raised about one million dollars to restore the historic high school, which is right next to the Bath State Historic Site. The first floor has been finished and restoration of the second floor is the next step to accommodate space for a permanent exhibit as well as traveling exhibits.

Dr. Cherry also updated the NRAC on the status of upcoming publications. *Shipbuilding in North Carolina* will be released later this year. It is the life's work of two professors at East Carolina University. We also published *This Day in North Carolina History* last year, which grew out of our announcements over the radio and on social media. The State Archives will soon begin crowdsourcing by putting images up on the web, and volunteers worldwide will go in and provide transcripts and indexes for those documents. We're also digitizing more than we've ever digitized. We also have the One-Day Wonders program that takes special documents to different communities and local historical societies and community colleges. Commemorations underway include "She Changed the World," which marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of white women getting the right to vote in the United States. We will also soon have the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moon Landing. The Office of State Archaeology is doing more than it's ever done with field schools and community events. Tryon Palace was hit very hard by the hurricane, and we hope to bring back the Pepsi Family Center, which is the kids learning activity section. The site did lose the collection storage building and had to pull from their endowment to buy a new collections storage building and will now need to fundraise to rebuild the endowment. Tryon Palace is also planning on converting the former African American Catholic church into an African American history and culture gallery. The North Carolina Transportation Museum set a sales record by selling 57,000 Polar Express tickets. The Old Dominion Trucking Company family bought an industrial garage right off of the site and gave it to the museum, so we can take care of our antique cars now. The Roanoke Island Festival Park is looking forward to dredging the channel so that they can get the Elizabeth II out. The Department's North Carolina History Online Resource, Anchor, is a website for students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, primarily, but also some 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Some schools are doing away with textbooks, and this will fill that gap. We got a grant from the North Caroliniana Society to hire a historian, who is writing essays for the post-World

War II era for that program. Hometown Strong is a major emphasis of the department right now, and the HPO has an outsized role in that program. The built infrastructure and historic preservation tax credits are a big part of community development. This is the year of music that our department has declared, so a lot of sites and museums are sponsoring concerts. Our challenges continue to be our maintenance dollars are limited for state historic sites, where we have \$37,000 to take care of 259 buildings. And we are out of storage space, especially at the State Archives and Museum of History. Several national sites saw about a seventeen percent drop in visitation last year, but Transportation Museum and History Museum held their own and had higher numbers.

Ramona Bartos offered the report of the State Historic Preservation Office. She explained that *Grand Illusions: Decorative Interior Painting in North Carolina*, which was written by architectural historian Laura Phillips, was recently released as an imprint of our Historical Publications unit. The Marion Stedman Covington Foundation provided two grants for the project. The first was for manuscript drafting, while the second was for the printing. Ms. Bartos also explained that former Survey & National Register Branch Supervisor Claudia Brown retired as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. The office is working to fill that vacancy. In the interim, Ms. Bartos stated that she is serving in that capacity until the position is filled. She added that the National Register Assistant position is also vacant. The office is currently developing an annual report, with new statistics on tax credit projects. The statistics include 115 projects statewide representing \$259 million in investment. Ms. Bartos cautioned that the state tax credit program is set to sunset on 1 January 2020. She added that there have been substantial efforts by property owners, developers, and others to advocate for the extension of the program. She explained that she and Dr. Cherry have been working with the state's congressional delegation, the National Council of State Historic Preservation Officers, and North Carolina's counterparts in Florida to get hurricane recovery package money with an historic preservation focus. We've seen other states get access to several million dollars in recovery funding. Dr. Cherry said that Ramona recognized that there was no historic preservation money in the current disaster relief package. There's now \$50 million in the legislation.

Mr. Maurer then called for introductions from the board members, staff, and visitors.

#### **National Register nominations**

Mr. Maurer moved on to the presentation of National Register nominations, beginning with those in the western region. Annie McDonald then presented the nomination for the **Henry River Mill Village**, in the vicinity of Hildebran, Burke County. Following the presentation, Mr. Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or NRAC would like to comment on or have any questions about the nomination from the western region. Terri Russ asked Ms. McDonald if the location of the original communal well, which was mentioned in the nomination, is known. Ms. McDonald replied that the modern well house was built to provide more easy access to the well, which was historically accessed via a tunnel that came out at Henry River Road at the north end of the village. Hearing no other questions or comments from the audience, staff, or NRAC, Mr. Maurer called for a motion on the nomination from the western region. Mr. Jorgenson made a motion to approve the nomination, which was seconded by Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge. The nomination from the western region was unanimously approved 10-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for the nominations from the central and southeast regions. Hannah Beckman-Black presented the nomination for the **West Chapel Hill Historic District (Boundary Increase)** in Chapel Hill, Orange County. Mr. Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or the NRAC would like to comment on or have any questions about the nominations. Hearing none, he asked if the existing West

Chapel Hill Historic District is also a local district. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that portions of it are a local district, but not the entire area. Mr. Maurer subsequently inquired if there is interest in expanding the local historic district, to which Ms. Beckman-Black responded that there has been no interest in expansion of the local district at this point. Barbara Snowden asked why the house at 511 Dogwood is a non-contributing resource in the proposed boundary expansion and whether its status is based on the building's architectural style. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that the non-contributing resources are listed as such either because they were built outside the period of significance or because they were built within the period of significance and are too greatly altered. Thanking Ms. Beckman-Black for her explanation, Ms. Snowden stated that the nomination wasn't clear on the reason that 511 Dogwood was identified as non-contributing. Mr. Turrentine asked what makes a structure contributing or non-contributing. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that contributing structures were built within the period of significance for the nominated property. The period of significance for this district is circa 1915 to 1962, so buildings that were built within that timeframe and that contribute to the significance either architecturally or through community planning and development are considered to be contributing resources. Buildings that are non-contributing were highly altered, may have large additions on the front or side, have changes to the windows, or different exterior materials. Individually, those changes may not make a property non-contributing, but an accumulation of multiple changes is likely to make a property non-contributing. Alternately, a property will be labeled as non-contributing if it was built outside of the period of significance. Hearing no other questions or comments, Mr. Maurer called for a motion on the nomination presented by Hannah Beckman-Black in the central and southeast region. Upon a motion by Barbara Snowden, which was seconded by Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, the nomination was unanimously approved 10-0.

Jenn Brosz then presented the nominations for the **Oakwood Historic District (Boundary Increase)** in Hickory, Catawba County, which was funded in part by a CLG grant from the State Historic Preservation Office, as well as the **Lexington Industrial Historic District**, in Lexington, Davidson County. Mr. Maurer called for questions from NRAC members, staff, and the audience. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked about the building in the Lexington Industrial district that was destroyed by fire. Ms. Brosz responded that the building burned while the nomination was in process. She added that the preparer followed guidance from the National Park Service on how to present it in the nomination. The property is now inventoried as a non-contributing site with the explanation that the resource was destroyed by fire. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked if that is memorialized somewhere. Ms. Brosz responded that the database entry from before the fire was intact, with additional information about the fire added. She added that this information is preserved in the database for future reference. Mr. Maurer called for a motion on the nominations presented by Jenn Brosz from the central and southeast region, specifying that he would like the NRAC to act on the nominations separately. Upon a motion by Matt Jorgenson, which was seconded by Margaret Kluttz, the nomination for the Oakwood Historic District was approved unanimously 10-0. Upon a motion by Margaret Kluttz, which was seconded by Dr. Tamara Holmes-Brothers, the nomination for the Lexington Industrial Historic District passed unanimously 10-0.

### **Study List applications**

Mr. Maurer called for the presentation of the survey results and slate of Study List candidates from the comprehensive municipal survey of Robbinsville, Graham County. Annie McDonald then introduced Western Office architectural survey specialist Lisa Buckley, who completed the project. Ms. Buckley summarized the results of the survey and presented four individual candidates recommended for the Study List with the observation that all appear to be eligible for the National Register:

- **Sniders Department Store-Bemis Lumber Company Office** under Criterion A for its significance in the area of commerce, and, with additional research and evaluation, possibly under Criterion C for its local architectural significance, with a proposed period of significance of 1930 to 1969.
- The **Phillips Motel** under Criterion A for its significance in the area of commerce. The proposed period of significance is 1945-1963.
- **The Hut** under Criterion A for its significance in the areas of community planning and development and social history. The proposed period of significance is 1938 to 1969
- The **First Baptist Church of Robbinsville** under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style in Robbinsville and Graham County. The proposed period of significance is 1961 to 1967.

Ms. Buckley also presented two historic districts with the following recommendations:

- **Downtown Robbinsville Historic District** under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and community planning/development and Criterion C for its architectural significance. The proposed period of significance is circa 1875 to 1960. The proposed boundaries include 35 contributing and 7 non-contributing resources.
- The **Snidertown Historic District** under Criterion A in the area of community planning/development. The proposed period of significance is 1955 to 1960. The proposed boundaries include 22 contributing and 4 non-contributing resources.

David Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or NRAC members would like to comment on or have any questions about the candidates proposed for the Study List as a result of the comprehensive survey Robbinsville, Graham County. Mr. Jorgenson asked Ms. Buckley to clarify if the boundaries of the Downtown Robbinsville Historic District include the individually proposed Sniders Department Store and Phillips Motel, to which Ms. Buckley responded affirmatively. Hearing no other comments or questions, Mr. Maurer called for a motion on the staff recommendations for Study List candidates resulting from the Robbinsville survey. Upon a motion by Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, which was seconded by Sam Dixon, the staff recommendations were unanimously approved 10-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for the Study List application for **Branch Grove, in the vicinity of Enfield, Halifax County**. As acting Survey & National Register Branch Supervisor, Ramona Bartos presented the application. Ms. Bartos acknowledged consultant Cynthia De Miranda, who prepared the Study List application, which the NRAC members had received. She explained that the property was previously listed in the National Register but was moved due to an imminent demolition threat. As a result of the relocation, the property was immediately removed from the National Register. Ms. Bartos offered the example of the relocation of the Crabtree Jones House in Raleigh. In the case of the Jones House, she said, the National Register-listed building remained in the National Register during the move because there was more lead time and pre-move consultation with HPO staff and the National Park Service.

Ms. Bartos then presented photographs of Branch Grove dating from 1981, the time of the nomination, through the late 1990s. The property was listed in the National Register in 1981 under Criterion C for its local architectural significance. At that time, it sat 800 to 1,000 feet back from the road on the highest point of the rolling landscape. It was moved in 2017 without the preliminary work to keep it listed in the National Register through the move. In concert with the current property owner, Preservation North Carolina, advocating for the property, wishes to have Branch Grove relisted in the National Register, which requires Study List designation as the first step. She explained that the NRAC's role is to act as an advisor to the State Historic Preservation Officer. She then gave a photographic tour of the building on

its original site, with an explanation of the "tripartite house" and the "little house." The tripartite house was built next to an earlier Georgian-era house. Following a review of the exterior, she then presented photographs of the interior, noting specific features. Myrick Howard, the President of Preservation North Carolina, arrived at the meeting at 11:35, just as Ms. Bartos was concluding her presentation of the interior of Branch Grove in its original location.

Ms. Bartos then presented photographic documentation of the relocation of the building, noting that it was moved in two sections. She also provided an aerial view comparison of the original and new sites. Ms. Bartos explained that the building was relocated to a position roughly 4 miles down the same road to a crossroads. While the original property was 27 acres, the parcel on which Branch Grove is now located encompasses 39 acres. She read from the Study List application, which stated that the new site was selected for its availability, location in the same rural neighborhood, and because the acreage appeared sufficient to place the house deep on the lot. She explained that the original goal was to place the house in a similar position on the property to retain the 800- to 1,000-foot setback as it was on its original site. She stated from the application, saying that physical issues with the property, particularly septic tank percolation issues, forced the house to be placed closer to the crossroads. She acknowledged the work of Preservation North Carolina to rescue threatened buildings while showing photos taken during the past week to illustrate the character of the building after its relocation. She noted that the relationship of the two houses to each other has changed with the relocation. Reading from the application, Ms. Bartos explained that the change in the configuration of the two dwellings was made to address roof drainage issues that caused chronic and very destructive water damage to the circa. 1790 dwelling. In the original configuration, she read, water ran off the rear slope of the smaller dwelling onto the roof of the connecting porch. In turn, water ran off that porch to drench the back wall of the circa 1790 house. The weatherboards and support structure of this wall suffered extensive deterioration as a result. The wall has been rebuilt, and new beaded weatherboards cover the entire house replacing what were replacement weatherboards. She went on to describe updates made to the building after the move, including configuration of the entrance drive; reconstruction of the exterior chimneys, which no longer have freestanding stacks; the extension of the room behind the east wing to create a new connection to the Georgian dwelling; increased visibility of one of the gable-end walls of the Georgian dwelling due to its new position relative to the tripartite house; the reorientation of the façade of the Georgian House, which now faces northeast; the new concrete block pier foundation, which is finished with brick, with recessed brick curtain walls in between the brick-clad piers; hinged louvered reproduction shutters were added to the façade; and a reconstructed gabled portico of wood and cellular PVC was added to the façade of the tripartite house.

As Ms. Bartos provided a photo tour of Branch Grove in its new location, Ms. De Miranda explained that, in their original location, the two corners of the dwellings met each other and there was no internal connection. She stated that one would exit the tripartite house from a door in the one-story wing, and then there was an open porch that was enclosed in the late twentieth century that provided access to the rear door of the Georgian house. Mr. Howard offered that the Georgian house was originally located behind the tripartite house, not beside it. Ms. De Miranda clarified that the Georgian house was completely behind the back wall of the tripartite house. Mr. Howard stated that, in its current location, the Georgian house is offset by 6 feet from the corner of the tripartite house and that the now-enclosed porch was already there.

Ms. Bartos then provided the NRAC with an interior tour of Branch Grove on its current site, noting the floor plan, restored finishes and features, and installation of a modern kitchen in one of the one-story wings of the tripartite house. She added that deterioration and loss of original materials in the original

location necessitated new materials introduced in the rehabilitation after Branch Grove was relocated to its new site.

Ms. Bartos summarized the intact features of Branch Grove, which contribute to the building's historic integrity, including the intact timber frame construction; massing; proportion; fenestration pattern; ornament that characterizes the architectural style; original interior and exterior features of the tripartite house; interior arrangement of the tripartite house; original and early interior finishes of the Georgian house; and the nineteenth century floorplan is intact with only a minor change. She reiterated the contents of the Study List application, which states that the property retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling, while the dwelling does not retain integrity of location or setting. Quoting the Study List application, she stated that the reorientation of the Georgian dwelling does not reduce the ability of either building to convey its own architectural style or period of construction and that it remains subsidiary to the newer tripartite dwelling. Furthermore, she went on, the new orientation is reversible and the Georgian dwelling's pre-move orientation is well documented.

Ms. Bartos then turned to the discussion among staff about several issues with the relocation, including reconfiguration, the horizontality of the façade, the lack of freestanding chimney stacks, and the reassignment of public spaces within the tripartite house. To provide context for the NRAC's evaluation of the Study List application for Branch Grove, Ms. Bartos gave an overview of other tripartite houses in North Carolina. She first presented Shady Oaks, in Warren County. Mr. Howard pointed out that Preservation North Carolina saved Shady Oaks from demolition in the late 1970s. He stated that the kitchen addition at Shady Oaks is similar to the relocation of the Georgian house at Branch Grove. He explained that he consulted with Peter Sandbeck, former Deputy SHPO, nearly ten years ago on the relocation of Branch Grove, and they used the design of the kitchen addition at Shady Oaks as a model. Ms. Bartos subsequently presented information on the William Jeffries House in Franklin County, the relocated Sally-Billy House in Halifax County, the Hermitage in Halifax County, Stockton in Perquimans County, and the Plunkett-Montgomery House in Warrenton.

Ms. Bartos then talked about the work done to preserve the National Register-listed Crabtree Jones House. She expressed her understanding that there was more lead-up time to go through the paperwork trail to keep it on the National Register through the move. She explained that the setting of the Crabtree Jones was a more rural landscape, even though it's located inside the Raleigh beltway. It was relocated to a property where there had been a ranch house in a ranch house neighborhood, on a property that was originally Jones family land. It remained on the National Register, even though it landed in a different setting, with a ranch house on the next property to the south. Like Branch Grove, the significance argument was for Criterion C in the area of architecture.

Following the presentation, Maurer called for questions from the NRAC, staff, and visitors, ultimately acknowledging Mr. Howard's request to address the board. Mr. Howard stated that the earliest activity on Branch Grove was back in 2003. He added that some people wanted to move it to Enfield and Scotland Neck to keep it in the area. In late 2016, Preservation North Carolina received information that three rural lots in Halifax County were available through sale of a recent estate. He added that this was the first time from 2003 to 2016 that the organization had a lead on a rural property in Halifax County to which Branch Grove might be moved. Mr. Howard acknowledged the preference to place the dwelling farther back on the property, stating that they put it as far back as they could, given the septic system issues. He explained that there was no early foundation under the Georgian house and that the chimneys on the Georgian house were gone, without even footings where the chimneys would have been. He explained that the history of the Georgian house is a mystery. Returning to the recent administrative history, Mr. Howard stated that Preservation North Carolina was given an ultimatum in

2016 that the house would be burned down before the 2017 planting season. He acknowledged advice offered by the Restoration Branch over the years, adding that the National Park Service previously issued a memo that said the Georgian house could be removed, but Preservation North Carolina wanted to save it, in part because it provides additional square footage. He explained that the house looks raw in its current state, but that will change when the newly planted trees start to grow. He concluded that Branch Grove is a "terrifically significant" house.

Mr. Sam Dixon asked if it was tarped after Hurricane Isabel or Floyd. Mr. Howard responded that Preservation North Carolina has tarped it three different times.

Mr. Maurer asked if anyone else wants to speak.

Dr. Kevin Cherry explained to the NRAC members that staff made no recommendation, adding that the staff agrees with Mr. Howard and Preservation North Carolina that this is a difficult, confusing, and important structure. He acknowledged that the preservation brought about substantial changes, which is why the staff brought it to the NRAC without a recommendation.

Dr. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge asked if there was anything that happened during the move and rehabilitation of the property that wouldn't have happened if the paperwork to maintain its listing throughout the move had been completed. Ms. Bartos explained that one thing that wasn't skipped was the archaeological investigation at the receiving site. She deferred further answers to the question to Mr. Howard. He explained that the chimneys were not salvageable from the original site due to soft brick and repointing with Portland cement. He stated that Preservation North Carolina was previously instructed to move the Georgian wing and that it didn't matter where it went.

Ms. Bartos then referred to page 2 of Criteria Consideration D, which refers to setting. She explained that PNC was basically painted into a corner.

Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked if paperwork had been completed to maintain status through the move, despite complications that we've learned since then, would this discussion even be necessary? Dr. Cherry responded that we would have worked more closely to lessen the accumulated changes. He added that just one or two of the changes wouldn't have caused the same level of concern. He added that what the staff is asking the NRAC members is whether the accumulated changes have had too great an impact on the building's integrity. He expressed that the staff is happy that both sections of the house have been preserved and saved, but that the staff recognizes that there are some challenges in the way it was saved.

Mr. Sam Dixon said the building is incredibly important. He explained that in its original configuration the older section behind the tripartite house looked like a wart. He added that the trees that have been planted to screen the hyphen will help the appearance of the new arrangement. He expressed his support for Study List designation of the property, adding that the change to the setting is less impactful than was the change in setting with the relocation of the Crabtree Jones House. He conceded the unfortunate situation with the placement of the dwelling on the lot and clarified that one still gets a sense of the rural character of the property and environs.

Mr. Maurer asked about integrity of materials on the interior of the new parlor, inquiring whether or not it would be considered a reconstruction. Ms. De Miranda explained that all of the materials in the new parlor, except for the sheetrock walls and ceiling, is original. Mr. Maurer explained that considering the property a reconstruction under Criteria Consideration E seems to fit the description as a way to defend support of the application. He added that the significant factor in the location of the Georgian house is



that it was connected to the tripartite house in an odd way and that the new location of the smaller dwelling in the new site maintains that characteristic.

Mr. Howard addressed the board, stating that the tripartite house was substantially intact. Ms. de Miranda added that the general features of the rebuilt porch were based on physical evidence, adding that the details of the original porch are unknown.

Mr. Maurer expressed his desire to state for the record that the house has a high level of integrity. Ms. de Miranda responded that even the Georgian house has a high level of integrity.

Mr. Maurer expressed his position that the addition of the kitchen to one of the one-story wings doesn't drastically impact the character of the space, particularly because the installation of the cabinetry is reversible. Ms. de Miranda added that they took care not to close off the bottom part of the window. They intentionally placed the sink in front of the window to keep it open. She stated that the owners effected as little change as they possibly could. Dr. Cherry asked if the kitchen was ever in the Georgian house. Mr. Howard replied that there was no evidence of any money being spent on this house since the 1880s and that there were never bathrooms or a kitchen in the house. Ms. de Miranda explained that the house has been vacant since the 1970s.

Mr. Maurer thanked everyone for their input and brought the discussion back to the table, to which Mr. Dixon responded that he's ready to make a motion. Mr. Jorgenson expressed the feeling that he's not looking at the same house that he saw originally. He conceded that, while the kitchen changes are reversible, the appearance is fairly modern. He said that it seems to be a different house altogether. Ms. Margaret Klutz stated that we're growing in our appreciation of what needs to be saved, and the history of this house is very important. She acknowledged Mr. Jorgenson's perspective and position, adding that she supports the application. Ms. Terri Russ explained that a lot of archaeological information was gathered prior to the move and that this information is not lost, even with the change in orientation. She said that this documentary research will be available. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge added that we're voting not to relist it in the National Register, but to place it on the National Register Study List, which means that there will be continued work with staff on how to proceed with the full National Register listing.

Mr. Maurer asked for any further comments on the application. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Mr. Sam Dixon moved to include the property on the Study List, with a second by Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge moved to recess for lunch and reconvene at 1:00, with a second by Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan. The motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Chairman David Maurer called the meeting back to order at 1:09 and called for the final Study List application from the eastern region. Scott Power then presented the Study List application for the **West Hertford Historic District** in Hertford, Perquimans County. He stated that the historic district appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture and recommended placing the historic district on the Study List. Mr. Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or NRAC members would like to comment on or have any questions about the staff's recommendation on the Study List applications from the eastern region. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked about the proposed boundaries. Mr. Power illustrated the boundaries again for the NRAC members, adding that it will take a little more research to identify the construction period of each property to better define the exact boundaries. Hearing no other questions or comments, Mr. Maurer called for a

motion the staff recommendations. Upon a motion by Terri Russ, which was seconded by Margaret Kluttz, the staff recommendation was unanimously approved 10-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for the Study List candidates from the western region. Annie McDonald presented three applications with the following recommendations:

- **Skinner Hall**, in Weaverville, Buncombe County, was identified as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and recommended against placing the property on the Study List. While the 1922 building may be significant under Criterion A in the area of education for its association with Weaver College until 1934 and, from 1934 until 1936, in the area of social history for its use as the Federal Emergency Relief Act transient men's facility known as Camp Marion Yost, its integrity related to significance in these areas is significantly compromised by loss of integrity of setting and association. The demolition of the original Administration building, which in use through 1936, the conversion of Crutchfield Hall to apartments, and the mid-century infill development of the open space of the Weaver College Campus, which was improved and maintained by residents at Camp Marion Yost, result in a physical and associative detachment of Skinner Hall from historically related resources. In addition, the interior alterations—including but not limited to the reconfiguration of the entrance hall, division of the lounge area, removal of the original mantle and replacement with a brick fireplace surround in the 1960s, second story addition over the porch, and installation of the spiral stair from the first floor to the attic—mean that the building no longer retains sufficient integrity of design, and materials to convey significance in these areas. Furthermore, there is insufficient information on the use of Skinner Hall as a summer hotel within the context of tourist lodging in Weaverville and Buncombe County. Even if significance under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation and commerce could be substantiated, the property has experienced too great a loss of integrity of setting, design, and materials to merit Study List designation.
- The **North Wilkesboro Water Treatment Plant** in North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and engineering and, with additional research, possibly under Criterion A in the area of politics/government, and was recommended for inclusion on the Study List.
- The **Harmon School**, in the vicinity of Laurel Springs, Wilkes County, appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture and, with additional research, possibly under Criterion A in the area of education, and was recommended for inclusion on the Study List.

Mr. Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or NRAC would like to comment on or have any questions about the staff's recommendations on the Study List applications from the western region. Ms. Terri Russ asked about the current use of Skinner Hall, to which Ms. McDonald replied that it is a single-family residence. Mr. Maurer reiterated the staff recommendations on the three study list applications from the western region and called for a motion. Upon a motion by Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, which was seconded by Sam Dixon, the staff recommendations were unanimously approved 10-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for the Study List candidates from the central and southeast regions. Jenn Brosz presented the Study List application for **Trenton Cotton Mills**, in Gastonia, Gaston County. She stated that the property appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of industry and possibly under Criterion C in the area of architecture and recommended placing the Trenton Cotton Mills on the Study List. Mr. Maurer then called for questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Upon a motion by Matt Jorgenson, which was seconded by Terri Russ, the staff recommendation was unanimously approved 10-0.

Hannah Beckman-Black then presented three Study List applications with the following recommendations:

- **Kenneth H. Worthy House**, in the vicinity of Tramway, Lee County, was identified as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and recommended against placing the property on the Study List due to extensive alterations that diminish the property's architectural integrity. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that, despite the Italianate detailing, which is rarely seen in Lee County, staff believes the house is too altered to be successfully listed in the National Register of Historic Places. She detailed the exterior alterations that jeopardize the property's integrity, including replacement of the windows with vinyl sash, replacement of the front door, replacement of the roof with standing seam metal, and construction of a screened porch on the rear of the kitchen. She stated that alterations on the interior include removal of the stair newel, chemical stripping of the ceilings, walls, doors, and trim that resulted in raising the wood grain, and application of sheetrock to several walls throughout the first floor. She explained that the house has lost its integrity of setting and is no longer a contributing resource in the Study Listed historic district in which it's located.
- The **Mount Ararat AME Church and Cemetery and Bella Highsmith Cemetery** in the vicinity of Ogden, New Hanover County, was not recommended for the Study List due to a lack of material integrity. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that the 1878 church was determined to be National Register-eligible under Criterion C through the Environmental Review process in 2011. She added that two other churches were identified at that time, but both have since been demolished. The two cemeteries are both historically associated with the church, but the Bella Highsmith cemetery was renamed due to a legal battle in the 1950s. The Middle Sound Rosenwald School was thought to be located to the north of the church and cemetery, but it's no longer extant, and its exact form and location have yet to be identified. The Environmental Review survey report completed in 2011 suggests that the original materials on the interior of the church are intact below the later covering, however no investigation has been completed to verify this assumption. Ms. Beckman-Black reminded the NRAC members that staff and the board must assess Study List and National Register eligibility based on what is currently visible, not on what we believe might exist under later materials. She explained that the church was vinyl sided, the bell removed, and the windows replaced circa 1990. She added that interior renovations dating to circa 1940 and later include the construction of a choir loft, wood paneling, carpeting, and a dropped ceiling. Behind the altar, a wood proscenium arch and the choir loft remain. In all, this resource is not recommended for the study list, but may be reevaluated in the future if removal of modern finishes reveal original or historic materials.
- The **John N. Smith Cemetery**, in Southport, Brunswick County, appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of African American ethnic history, social history, and possibly community planning and development as the only historically African American cemetery in the city of Southport, and was recommended for inclusion on the Study List.

Margaret Kluttz left the meeting at 1:55pm. A quorum of nine members was retained.

Mr. Maurer called for questions from the NRAC, staff, and audience members. Hearing none, he asked about the Mount Ararat AME Church, clarifying that the only reason that staff is recommending against Study List designation for the church and associated cemeteries is because of the later materials. He asked if it was possible for the NRAC to not vote on the application. Ms. Bartos said that a vote on the application could be tabled, but the motion should include the future date at which the application will

considered again. Mr. Maurer replied that the NRAC doesn't want to send a message that the property is not eligible. Ms. Beckman-Black added that, in cases such as this, HPO staff sends custom Study List notification letters to owners explaining why a property is not approved. Mr. Maurer said he doesn't want to shut the door on the property and that leaving the door open is a more positive response. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked what percentage or amount of later materials would need to be removed from the church in order for it to be considered eligible. Ms. Bartos said that the same question could be posed of a mill, which is a much larger building. She added that this approach with a non-profit-owned church may have larger consequences when evaluating the eligibility of a larger building of several thousand square feet, such as a mill. Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked if the NRAC should encourage removal or investigation. Ms. Bartos asked about the later materials, to which Ms. Beckman-Black replied that the exterior is covered in vinyl siding. Dr. Tamara Holmes-Brothers asked if there is an opportunity to educate the community so that this conflict doesn't arise again. Ms. Bartos inquired of staff about how the Study List application was submitted. Ms. Beckman-Black responded that HPO staff member Katie Harville completed the Study List application. Ms. Harville explained that the property was determined eligible as a result of a transportation project that required relocation of some of the burials. She stated that the few remaining parishioners are interested in having it National Register-listed and are willing to see what original materials remain under later fabric. NC DOT architectural historian Shelby Reap addressed the NRAC. She stated that the congregation is very involved in the community. She said that African American heritage-associated resources are underrepresented throughout the state and particularly in this region and that she doesn't want to send the message that the property isn't significant. Although the survey report stated that the property may be National Register-eligible under Criterion C, Ms. Reap said that it is likely more significant under Criterion A. Ms. Barbara Snowden said that a lot of the AME churches are coming to the point of where they're going to have to get rid of the churches or build a new one. She expressed her opinion that the NRAC should not send a message to the congregation that the church is not significant. There was a subsequent discussion about the alterations, eligibility under Criteria A and C, period of significance, and whether some of the earlier alterations might be considered historic. Mr. Maurer stated that, in light of Criterion A being an option, he doesn't want to send the message that the property is not significant. He expressed his preference for a motion to defer action on the application, with a deadline of the October meeting to make a decision. Ms. Snowden asked if they'd have to remove all the siding. Ms. Bartos asked whether a church in Eastlake in the eastern region has new siding, to which Mr. Power replied that it has new siding and new windows.

Dr. Kevin Cherry called for a point of personal privilege to introduce Secretary Susi Hamilton who made a brief visit during the meeting. Secretary Hamilton thanked the NRAC for all they do. She inquired about the Mount Ararat AME Church and said that she has often wondered why it wasn't on the National Register. A brief summary of the NRAC and staff discussion followed. Secretary Hamilton reminded everyone that National Register designation is important as part of local economic development and recovery efforts.

Mr. Maurer reminded the NRAC that they aren't allowed to discuss the tax credits in their consideration of the Study List and National Register candidates. Returning to the discussion of the current Mount Ararat AME Church, Mr. Maurer recommended that the notification letter say that the staff recommended to not approve the application, but that the NRAC deferred action to ask for additional information. Ms. Snowden said that the church may not be able to afford it, to which Mr. Maurer replied that the NRAC cannot make that decision for them. He added that with the information currently available, the NRAC doesn't have enough information to make a decision on the finishes.

Sam Dixon left the meeting at 2:20pm. A quorum of eight members was retained.

A brief discussion followed regarding the appropriate process for voting on the three Study List applications presented by Hannah Beckman-Black. Mr. Maurer called for a motion on the Kenneth Worthy House. Following a motion by Ms. Barbara Snowden, which was Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, the staff recommendation to not place the property on the Study List was unanimously approved 8-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for a motion on the Mount Ararat AME Church and associated cemeteries. Ms. Barbara Snowden moved to defer action on the application until the October 2019 NRAC meeting, with a second by Dr. Tamara Holmes-Brothers. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Mr. Maurer then called for a motion on the John N. Smith Cemetery. In response, Dr. Baldwin-Deathridge asked about the relationship of the new fence to the proposed Study List boundaries and whether it was installed in response to the two GPR surveys. Terri Russ observed that the GPR surveys appeared to only identify graves on the interior of the parcel. Ms. Beckman-Black explained that the fence mostly lines the parcel but cuts across at the bottom of the parcel and that the parcel is what is being proposed as the boundaries. Following discussion about the boundaries, Mr. Maurer called for a motion. Upon a motion by Dr. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge, which was seconded by Matt Jorgenson, the staff recommendation was unanimously approved 8-0.

Beth King presented four Study List applications with the observation that all appear to be eligible for the National Register and the recommendation that all be added to the Study List:

- The **Asheboro Downtown Historic District**, in Asheboro, Randolph County, under Criterion A in the area of community planning/development and Criterion C in the area of architecture.
- The **Jeter and Ethel Neville House** in Carrboro, Orange County, under Criterion A for its association with an important vernacular building practice handed down through generations of African American masons in Carrboro and Chapel Hill and Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of stone masonry construction.
- The **David Harris House**, in the vicinity Jonathan Crossroads, Randolph County, under Criterion A in the area of agriculture, and, with further study, possibly also Criterion C in the area of architecture if an argument can be made to cover the multiple periods of construction and alteration.

David Maurer asked if any members of the audience, staff, or NRAC members would like to comment on or have any questions about the staff's recommendations on the final Study List applications from the central and southeast regions. Hearing none, he called for a motion the staff recommendations. Upon a motion by Matt Jorgenson, which was seconded by Barbara Snowden, the staff recommendations were unanimously approved 8-0.

Hearing no further business, Mr. Maurer called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Ms. Terri Russ, which was seconded by Dr. Tamara Holmes-Brothers and unanimously approved 8-0, the meeting adjourned at 2:50.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kevin Cherry, State Historic Preservation Officer

RB/am  
Attachments

NATIONAL REGISTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Conference Room, Third Floor, Archives and History Building  
109 East Jones Street, Raleigh  
February 14, 2019

**NATIONAL REGISTER AND STUDY LIST AGENDA**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>PROPERTY/LOCATION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
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**NATIONAL REGISTER**

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

***Western Region***

Burke	Henry River Mill Village Historic District Hildebran vicinity	Annie McDonald
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***Central and Southeastern Regions***

Orange	West Chapel Hill Historic District (Boundary Increase) Chapel Hill	Hannah Beckman-Black
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Catawba	Oakwood Historic District (Boundary Increase) Hickory	Jennifer Brosz
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Davidson	Lexington Industrial Historic District Lexington	
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**STUDY LIST**

SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

***Survey Projects***

Graham	Robbinsville Architectural Survey See Attachment	Lisa Buckley
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***Eastern Region***

Halifax	Branch Grove (Samuel Warren Branch House) Enfield vicinity	Ramona Bartos
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Perquimans	West Hertford Historic District Hertford	Scott Power
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***Western Region***

Buncombe	Skinner Hall Weaverville	Annie McDonald
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Wilkes North Wilkesboro Water Treatment Plant  
North Wilkesboro

Harmon School  
Laurel Springs vicinity

### ***Central/Southeastern Regions***

Gaston Trenton Cotton Mills  
Gastonia Jennifer Brosz

Lee Kenneth H. Worthy House  
Tramway vicinity Hannah Beckman-Black

New Hanover Mount Ararat AME Church and Cemetery and  
Bella Highsmith Cemetery  
Ogden vicinity

Brunswick John N. Smith Cemetery  
Southport

Randolph Asheboro Downtown Historic District  
Asheboro Beth King

Orange Jeter and Ethel Neville House  
Carrboro

Granville David Harris House  
Johnathan Crossroads vicinity

North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee  
February 14, 2019

Robbinsville Comprehensive Architectural Survey

Proposed Study List Properties

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Snider's Department Store and Bemis Lumber Company Office, 1930

Phillips Motel, 1945

The Hut, 1938

First Baptist Church of Robbinsville, 1961-1967

Snidertown Historic District