



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

204 East Academy St. ♦ P.O. Box 771 ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

December 10, 2008

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the County Office Building at 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC, and the meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present were Hal Johnson, Fran Andrews, Bill Johnson, Mac Whatley, Bill Ivey, Lynne Qualls, Robby Davis and Robyn Hankins. Chairman Johnson announced that Warren Dixon would not be able to attend.

Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2008 Meeting and November 3, 2008 Public Hearing

On a motion of Qualls, seconded by B. Johnson, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 2008 and the Public Hearing of November 3, 2008, as presented.

Update on the Website

Chairman Johnson introduced Joy Coggins of the Information Technology Department. Ms. Coggins reviewed the website and its links, which she has been building for the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission. She stated that there would be a link to the HLPC from Randolph County's homepage. Chairman Johnson gave information on the link Mr. Dixon had provided: "How to Research Historic Property."

Ms. Qualls suggested adding "Methods of Payment" information to the landmark application and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section to the website.

Chairman Johnson recognized Lynne Qualls and Bill Johnson for being selected as NC Volunteers of the Year and said he was glad to have them both as members of the HLPC.

Update on the Status of the Inter-Local Agreements

Chairman Johnson stated that the City of Archdale has signed the inter-local agreement and that Seagrove, Staley and Randleman were the only municipalities that have not entered into an agreement.

Update on the Randolph County Courthouse Designation

Chairman Johnson informed the members that the Asheboro City Council approved the ordinance establishing the 1909 Randolph County Courthouse as the first official county historic landmark at a public hearing on December 4. County Board of Commissioner Chairman Harold Holmes, County Manager Richard Wells, HLPC member Mac Whatley and HLPC Chairman Hal Johnson attended the public hearing. Chairman Johnson stated Mr. Whatley commentated during a Power Point presentation about the Courthouse to the city council.

Landmark Signage

Chairman Johnson presented a new draft of the standard signage which was created with the suggestions given at previous meetings. Mr. Ivey felt that who designated the landmark was not as important as what the landmark is and the size of the font should reflect that. Mr. Whatley suggested having not only the identifying number but also the title to identify the landmark, such as #1 – 1909 Randolph County Courthouse, or only the number and the website address at the bottom

where they could research the information. Ms. Qualls stated that not everyone has access to a computer, and Mr. Davis commented that a title may be good to give it some sort of identification other than just a number for someone who is standing in front of the sign.

Members discussed options of a larger sign with more information. Ms. Andrews stated that the municipality in which she lives has a sign ordinance for size and post height and most likely other governing bodies do as well, so consideration of those ordinances needs to be addressed before anything is final. Ms. Andrews suggested a standard sign be used to mark all designations and a more elaborate sign could be attached to a structure if the property owner wanted additional signage.

Chairman Johnson stated he would have a new draft of the standard signage by next meeting, with the agreed upon suggestions of change, as follows:

- possibly going larger on the sign, provided it meets sign ordinance regulations throughout the county;
- primary wording of Randolph County Historical Landmark being a larger font;
- designation number and identity next in size; and,
- who is designating on the bottom with the smallest font. (Randolph County Historical Landmark Commission and a named local governing body, if it applies).

Selection of Landmarks for Consideration

Chairman Johnson stated that it would take at least three months from the time a history report is written, designation is reviewed and submitted to the NC Office of Archives and History for comment, and public hearings are held.

He then commented that the Courthouse covered the categories of historic and architectural, and that the Commission should consider the next landmarks for designation to fall under pre-historical, educational, or cultural significance.

Mr. Whatley stated that there are two places that could be the most historical. The first one, Sandy Creek Baptist Church, as it is the oldest church in the county and the oldest surviving religious structure, and it is the most eligible to be a National Landmark. The second one, Randolph Manufacturing Company (later known as Franklinville Manufacturing Company, “The Upper Mill”) was added to the National Registry in 1985 and is the oldest water powered mill in North Carolina and possibly in the South and should be recognized as a Randolph County landmark.

A motion was made by Ivey, to name the Sandy Creek Baptist Church, founded in 1755 and built in 1826, to be the next property to begin the process of being designated as a historic landmark, and seconded by Davis; however no vote was taken due to additional discussion.

Mr. B. Johnson then questioned the level of cooperation they could expect from property owners who do not wish to have their property designated. Chairman Johnson responded that no designation would be pursued if the property owner was not in agreement.

Mr. Ivey had questions about potential future owners of a designated property being aware that the property was designated as a historic landmark. Chairman Johnson answered this question by referring to the ordinance the governing body adopts, which states that the property is to be indexed with the Register of Deeds office and Tax office. Chairman Johnson suggested that he, Mr. Ivey and Mr. Whatley set up a meeting with Register of Deeds and Tax to review the scenario after a designation, since this is a new Commission with procedures in Randolph County.

Mr. Whatley stated applications that are being considered as a national landmark on the National Registry are added to a “study list,” following a favorable vote. Mr. Ivey described “study list” as research by a commission member and planning staff to determine if a potential landmark on the study list will be accepted by the property owner and qualify for possible designation.

Mr. Ivey rescinded his prior motion and made a new motion, as follows:

On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Davis, the Commission voted unanimously to name the Sandy Creek Baptist Church, founded in 1755 and built in 1826, to be the next property assigned to the study list for being designated as a Randolph County historic landmark.

Regarding the Randolph Manufacturing Company:

On a motion of Whatley, seconded by Ivey, the Commission voted unanimously to add the Randolph Manufacturing Company, established in 1838, to the study list as a potential Randolph County historic landmark designation.

Mr. Ivey suggested that if the Commission wanted to proceed with a third potential landmark that the Female Academy would cover the category of educational since it was a landmark of women's education in 1839.

On a motion of Qualls, seconded by Hankins, the Commission voted unanimously to add the Asheboro Female Academy to the study list as a potential Randolph County historic landmark designation.

Adjournment

On a motion of Ivey, seconded by Davis, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:13 p.m.

Hal Johnson, Chairman

Amanda W. Varner, Deputy Clerk
Randolph County Board of Commissioners
Clerk to the HLPC