

REGULAR MEETING

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
16 SOUTH MAIN STREET
JUNE 4, 2014



Those present:

Chairman Bette Sprecher
Sandra Owen
Ann Melton
Henry Foy
Peter Sterling

Also present:

Secretary Ginny Boyer

Absent:

Nikki Owens (resignation letter received)
Shawn Leatherwood (resignation letter received)

1. Minutes of the May 7, 2014 regular meeting

Henry Foy made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting as presented; Ann Melton seconded and all were in favor.

2. Greenhill Cemetery

Update from Ann Melton regarding potential National Register designation through the State:

Ann Melton read correspondence from Annie McDonald, Preservation Specialist with the Asheville State Historic Preservation Office:

Ann,

I've reviewed the Study List application for the Green Hill Cemetery in Waynesville and have the following comments.

The Green Hill Academy and Green Hill Methodist Episcopal Church are an interesting component of the cemetery's history, but cannot be considered contributing or compelling factors affecting its eligibility. Both structures are gone from the property, and their removal—and thus, lack of physical association with the cemetery—actually jeopardizes the historic integrity of the rest of the site. Even though the church is still in use as the Jones Temple/AME Zion Church, it has been removed from its original location and this is a negative factor in the cemetery's eligibility.

A cemetery cannot be listed simply because it is the burial site of many important individuals from the local community. Those individuals must be of outstanding significance, and their contributions to the local community must be extraordinary and of lasting significance. National

Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places describes on page 11 the circumstances under which a cemetery might be listed for its association with an individual:

“Criterion B: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Under Criterion B, the person or group of persons with which the burial place is associated must be of *outstanding* importance to the community, state, or nation, as required by Criteria Consideration C.” It goes on to say “Cemeteries, as well as graves, may be eligible under Criterion B. Forestvale Cemetery, on the outskirts of Helena, Montana, is one of many National Register cemeteries that contain the graves of numerous persons who made outstanding contributions to the history of the state or area in which their graves are located. Among those buried in Forestvale are James Fergus, first commissioner of the territory, also credited with spearheading the formation of Fergus County ; Cornelius Hedges, who played a prominent role in the development of the State’s public education system and in the formation of Yellowstone National Park ; J. Scott Harrison, the chief geological engineer who mapped all of Montana, including boundaries, mountains, principal rivers and streams, and some early borders; Albert Kleinschmidt, credited with the construction of the three large irrigation canals in the state; and W. A. Chessman, who constructed the Chessman Reservoir, ensuring a stable water supply for the city of Helena.”

Criteria Consideration C, referenced above, states that “A birthplace or grave of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.” It goes on to explain, “Historical figures of outstanding importance in local, state, or national history usually are more vividly associated with the places relating to their productive lives than with their graves. Gravesites may be far removed, geographically, from the setting of the individual’s momentous activities.” It defines the type of individual associated with the grave: “A historical figure of outstanding importance is one whose contributions to local, state, or national history were truly extraordinary. The accomplishments of such a person must stand out in kind and degree from those of others active at a comparable level in the same field and during the same period of time.”

It is possible that Col. Robert Love and William Holland Thomas rise to the level of extraordinary contributions as outlined in National Register Bulletin 41. It is necessary, however, to determine in the research process whether or not there are any other sites that better represent their significant contributions and that might be more appropriate for National Register designation.

Many of the others listed in the application, however, do not appear to rise to the level of having made significant, outstanding, or extraordinary contributions to the history of Waynesville. Carolyn Ray Miller, Byron E. Barr, Capt. William Johnson Hannah, Lt. Col. William W. Stringfield, Henry Plott, Capt. Alden Howell, William R. Greer, Wayne W. Battle, and Atlas Jackson Allen might have had interesting lives, and their personal stories might be valuable to the local community. But it does not appear as though their contributions rise to the level necessary to warrant listing in the National Register.

Others in the list, including William Thomas Crawford, James M. Moody, and Jack Felmet, would require extensive research to ascertain whether they made lasting, extraordinary contributions to the local community. That they were elected representatives at the state or national level does not automatically mean that they were significant from the standpoint of the National Register of Historic Places.

Carl Epting Mundy, a four-star general and the 30th Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps, has apparently not yet died. Although he is included in the list of important individuals, the photograph of his grave stone only provides a birth date of 16 July 1935. It does not provide a date of death.

The photograph of the grave stone of Civil War soldier Alden Howell is for a different Alden Howell (perhaps a son?). The birth and death dates are 12 July 1879—3 May 1963.

It appears as though the grave marker for Virginia M. Welch was not made by W.O. Wolfe, but rather by someone from Norfolk, Virginia. I've attached a close-up photo of the carved signature. I did not observe any other signatures on the monument.

Regarding the Study List process, the National Register staff will meet next Thursday, June 5th, to review the Study List applications from across the state. At that point, I will get back to you with recommendations. I don't think you should pull the application at this time, but rather wait to decide on the "next steps" until you get constructive feedback from the rest of our staff. I expect to get back to you next Friday, June 6th, once I'm back from Raleigh.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Annie.

Annie Laurie McDonald
Preservation Specialist
State Historic Preservation Office - Asheville
NC Department of Cultural Resources
176 Riceville Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28805

828.296.7230 extension 223
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/>

No action was taken. Commissioners will await Ms. McDonald's response after the June 6th meeting in Raleigh.

(Chairman Sprecher noted that in Ms. McDonald's letter there is an incorrect reference: Carolyn Ray Miller should have been Caroline Ray)

Ann Melton showed members her draft Green Hill cemetery book in which are several photographs with corresponding biographical sketches of notable people, interesting markers, veterans from every war, W.O. Wolfe's markers, history of Greenhill, including deeds, rock walls among other things. Ms. Melton asked for suggestions or additional categories and two were mentioned: How many of the veterans were killed in action? and Who were the caretakers of the cemetery?

- Sample template for tour brochure, call for categories

In conjunction with Ms. Melton's cemetery book and relying on her extensive research, commissioners hope have printed a cemetery tour brochure which showcases the highlights of Waynesville's history for the casual visitor. No action was taken.

3. Love Lane

- Sign

Ms. Melton said she has turned everything over to Town Manager Marcy Onieal. The sign is currently being crafted at High Country Signs and will be installed once it arrives with the help of Town of Waynesville staff.

- Siding issue

Henry Foy said that Love Lane will have a lot of interest without having it designated as a National Register district. Currently, homes with vinyl or aluminum siding are not allowed, by State Historic Preservation standards to be designated on a national level. There has been discussion about designating Love Lane as a local district or designating homes singly as local landmarks regardless of siding, but this has been only discussion and there was no action taken.

4. Board members

- Current

With the resignations of Nikki Owens and Shawn Leatherwood, Peter Sterling's term expiring and membership increasing to nine, the commission has four seats available. Peter Sterling has contacted Town Clerk Amie Owens and wishes to serve again.

- Prospective

Other applicants for consideration include Glenn Duerr, Ronald Sullivan and JoAnna Swanson. There is one remaining seat which will be advertised on the town website. Appointments will be made on June 10th by the Town of Waynesville's Board of Alderman.

5. Landmark Design Standards draft by Paul Benson

As requested by the commission, Paul Benson drafted a one-page document in which is outlined designation standards for both local landmark and local historic district. This document is being reviewed by commissioners and may be used to present to owners of historic property.

In addition to the draft by Paul Benson, Ginny Boyer provided commissioners with copies of *Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission Guidelines for Local Historic District Designation* and Raleigh's *Historic Landmarks*. These documents were recommended by Preservation Specialist Annie McDonald as the commission develops a concise document for those considering local historic designation.

6. Adjourn

With no further business, Bette Sprecher adjourned the meeting.

Ginny Boyer, Secretary

Bette Sprecher, Chairman