

2021 Annual Report

JHPC Board Members:

Melanie Spreen, Chair
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Local Landmark Training



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Allen McNeill, Director
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Joint Historic Preservation Commission

Strategic Plan Update

In the fall/winter of 2020, JHPC reviewed and updated the Strategic Plan, identifying both short-term and on-going goals with action items that align with various strategic initiatives including stewardship, advocacy, membership, and designation among several others. The updated Strategic Plan was adopted on February 14, 2021 and is available on the JHPC website.



Local Historic Landmark Designation Training

In December of 2020, the JHPC mailed letters to notify current property owners of potentially eligible properties of the benefits and responsibilities of Local Landmark Designation. Owners were invited to attend a virtual training seminar to learn more about the process of local designation. On January 12, 2021, JHPC members and private property owners participated in a virtual training seminar on developing local designation reports presented by Kristi Brantley, the Certified Local Government Coordinator for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO). The training provided an overview of the basic local landmark designation process, criteria for evaluating the significance of historic properties, information on the purpose and required components of a designation report, and general information for available online resources from NCSHPO's website to assist in the process. As a result of the training seminar, JHPC initiated steps to update the County's application form to clearly define the process and provide additional checklists and guidance for property owners interested in applying for local designation. This updated information is available on the JHPC website and upon request from the County's Community Planning and Development Department staff.

Local Landmark Training

This summer, several members of the JHPC took part in the State Preservation Office's 2021 Summer training sessions. The sessions were held online via YouTube and counted towards member training; a condition required to keep the Certified Local Government status.

The three sessions-Prepare Now for Future Weather Events, Preserving Historic Cemeteries, and Sustainability for Historic Buildings-addressed various challenges of historic preservation and provided insight, information, and practical advice. After completing the training individually, committee members shared the videos with the County Cemetery Board and Local History Librarians at the Transylvania County Library.

May – Preservation Month



Scavenger Hunt

Downtown Walking Tour



JHPC Chair Comments:

JHPC is dedicated to collaboration with local partners to broaden advocacy and education that supports preservation of our historic resources. The places we choose to save not only tell the story of our community but also define our identity.



Regular Meeting Schedule:

The Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission met ten (10) times in the year of 2021 at their regular meeting time on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM, with the exception of August and November which were canceled.

Historic Preservation Month – May 2021

In May of 2021, the Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission and other local historic organizations teamed up to celebrate the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Month. Activities and events were scheduled throughout the month to remind everyone, "This Place Matters." Events included Guided Tours of Downtown Brevard, the Allison-Deaver House, and the Silvermont House Museum. There were cemetery cleanings, tree plantings, special programs, and a self-guided scavenger hunt. The Transylvania Heritage Museum, Transylvania County Historical Society, Transylvania County Cemetery Board, Friends of Silvermont, Veterans History Museum of the Carolinas, and the Waightstill Avery Chapter of the DAR all participated in the month's activities. The JHPC encourages collaboration and was pleased with the variety of activities local organizations provided.

Scavenger Hunt

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month and National Scavenger Hunt Day in May, the Transylvania County JHPC Board developed a scavenger hunt of local historic structures and sites. Participants can explore Transylvania County and learn about local history while taking a drive through the county to discover some of our local treasures. Historic images from the NC Room collection at the Transylvania County Library are included and participants are encouraged to take current photos for comparison. The Scavenger Hunt clue and answer sheets are available at the Transylvania Heritage Museum or online at transylvaniaheritage.org.



Most small communities also had a county store. Originally built by L.E. Bagwell in 1923, Powell's Store was the hub of the Dunn's Rock community for several generations. What business is located in the old store today?

Answer: Mud Dabbers Pottery occupies the store today.

Downtown Walking Tour

In October, the JHPC voted to reprint the popular Historic Downtown Walking Tour Guide created through a partnership with the Heart of Brevard and the Transylvania County Library in 2018. The brochure features numerous historic buildings along East & West Main streets, as well as South Broad and West Jordan. These buildings range from the 1881 Italianate-Victorian courthouse to the former Belk's Department Store built in 1940. The reprinting is funded through the Commission's budget and will be available in early Spring 2022 at the Chamber of Commerce, the Transylvania Heritage Museum and the Transylvania County Library. It can also be found on the Transylvania County Planning & Community Development department's webpage.