



## 2020 Annual Report

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Symposium

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### Preservation NC Fall Symposium



Preservation NC is a non-profit statewide historic preservation organization that focuses on the protection, promotion of buildings, landscapes, and sites that are deemed important for the heritage of North Carolina. The Joint Historic Preservation Commissioner Jeffrey Mills represented Transylvania County JHPC on November 7-8, 2019 during the annual fall symposium held in Raleigh, NC, celebrating the renovation of two endangered and important landmarks into Preservation NC's new headquarters. Mills attended CLG-accredited sessions on moving and lifting historic houses and the role of Preservation groups in downtown revitalization and affordable housing as presented by the President and Founder of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

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### Christmas at Silvermont



Photo courtesy of Transylvania Times

The Joint Historic Preservation Commission joined the Transylvania Heritage Museum and the Transylvania County Historical Society to host the second annual *A Silversteen Christmas* during Heart of Brevard's 2019 Twilight Tour on Saturday, December 7, 2019. In addition to offering tours of the museum, representatives of the three organizations gave out 100 gift bags to children in attendance. *Transylvania, The Architectural History of a Mountain Community*, that highlights the history of over 200 of the county's historic properties was available for purchase at the event.

### Celebration of Elizabeth Silversteen



Photo courtesy of DigitalINC

The Joint Historic Preservation Commission participated in the Waightstill Avery Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the America Revolution's ceremony on February 27, 2020 to celebrate Women's History Month in March by recognizing Elizabeth Mount Silversteen for her volunteer efforts, the Silversteen family legacy and continued use of Silvermont to serve the community. JHPC participated in the event with other local history-related organizations to share the educational and historic preservation efforts in Transylvania County to attendees while touring the mansion.

# JHPC

## 2020

### Annual Report

#### JHPC

#### Board Members:

- Melanie, Spreen, Chair
- Ellen Pratt Harris, Vice Chair
- John Koury, Secretary
- Vera Taylor
- Rebecca Suddeth
- Molly Jenkins
- Jeffrey Mills
- Nancy Henderson



#### JHPC Chair Comments:

We work together to preserve the cultural, social, and architectural resources that reflect the diverse history of our county. A strong connection to the past improves our understanding of who we are as a community and how we can build a better future.

-Melanie Spreen



#### Staff Members:

- Allen McNeill, Interim Director,
- Darby Terrell, Planner,
- Beth Webb, Program Assistant
- Anna Cain, Program Assistant

## Walking Around the World: African American Landscapes and Experience in Transylvania County, NC Report

As a Certified Local Government (CLG), JHPC applied for and received Historic Preservation Funds from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to facilitate an architectural and cultural survey of African American communities in Transylvania County. Matching grant funds were awarded through the Terrence Mills Memorial Fund for Historic Preservation, managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to include the documentation of fourteen oral histories to supplement the survey and determine which structures should be surveyed within the historical context of the community.



Jip Mills Store

When Transylvania County undertook an architectural survey in 1990-1991 it included structures built from 1820-1941. Only a small number of buildings within the African American communities of the county met the criteria at that time and nearly half of those are no longer standing today. This recent study included more of the county's African American architecture dating from 1920 to 1975. The new survey resulted in fifteen property updates from the previous study and the addition of 86 properties. The study focused on four neighborhoods including Rosenwald, Greasy Corner (the Corner), Hemphill/Duckworth, and Frog Bottom (Appletree Street). The report documents the history of the communities through different periods of time including before the Civil War, the Creation of African American Institutions from 1865-1910, Industrialization and Growth from 1910-1963, and the Winds of Change from 1963-1975 through the Civil Rights Movement and Desegregation.



New French Broad Baptist



Original Rosenwald School

The survey was completed in the fall of 2019. The full report is available online at <https://www.transylvaniacounty.org/sites/default/files/departments/planning/docs/Walking%20Around%20the%20World.pdf>. The finished transcriptions of oral interviews are available by contacting the Planning and Community Development Department or the Library for copies. The JHPC thanks all of the community and committee members that worked together with the Consultants, Dr. Michael Ann Williams and Sydney Varajon, and shared their stories and knowledge to complete the survey and report.

In honor of National Preservation Month in May, the JHPC planned to host a presentation and bag lunch at the Rogow Room in the Transylvania County Library featuring highlights from the report and historic information gathered by Michael Ann Williams and her team during the survey. The event was cancelled, but JHPC plans to reschedule the presentation to the community at a future date.