Raleigh Historic Districts Commission

2009–2010
Annual Performance Report

The Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) is pleased to present its 2009-2010 Annual Report.

Annual Highlights — July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Identify

RHDC submitted nominations for four (4) historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places: Battery Heights, Capitol Heights, Longview Gardens, and Madonna Acres, and one individual site, the Harwell Hamilton & Jean Bangs Harris House & Studio.

Preserve

RHDC began the process of designating four (4) Raleigh Historic Landmarks: Harwell Hamilton & Jean Bangs Harris House & Studio, Latta House & University Site, O’Rorke Catholic Cemetery, and Royal Baking Company.

Protect

One of RHDC’ s core responsibilities is the review of applications for and issuance of COAs. To further that end, RHDC was awarded a $12,000 federal Historic Preservation Fund grant to update the Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts.

Promote

The commission synced its Community Conversations lecture series, begun in 2007, with its revitalized newsletter, In the Districts, for a cohesive approach to community awareness of historic preservation matters.

Respectfully submitted by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, July 2010.
Identify —
National Register Historic Districts under consideration

Preserve —
Raleigh Historic Landmarks under consideration

Promote —
Community Conversations

- Oberlin in October: Digging for the Past of the Latta House
- A Property Owner's Guide to Tax Credits. As of April 6, 2010 the NC SHPO estimated that 27 application packets were sent out in response to this event.
- From Energy Hog to Energy Star: Uncovering Your Historic Home's Hidden Energy Efficiency
- Deglazed & Confused: A Window Repair Workshop
Protect

The RHDC generated $9,281 for the City in COA application fees.

- 98% of COAs were approved.
- The majority of COAs are approved at staff level.

The blue placard is displayed to indicate approved COA projects.

Other Activities

- Produced the video "From Energy Hog to Energy Star: Home Energy Audits Explained," which discusses the value of a home energy audit in "greening" historic homes.
- Celebrated National Historic Preservation Month with advertisements on the R-Line and a display at Wake County Public Library.
- Reviewed the Multi-Modal Transit Center Report.
- Performed duties related to the City's federal designation as a Certified Local Government.
- Collaborated with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Sustainable Raleigh, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation North Carolina, and the Latta House Foundation on a variety of projects.
2010–2011
Annual Work Program

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011
The Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) requests
City Council approval of its 2010-2011 Work Program.

COMMISSION / STAFF

- Participate in the new development code review process
- Pursue Historic Overlay District zoning for the Depot District
- Work with Inspections to integrate COA process into permitting procedures
- Plan celebration of RHDC’s 50th anniversary

COA COMMITTEE

- Constant improvement of the COA process
- Update the Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

- Continue development of the RHDC website for better customer support
- Publish triannual issues of In the Districts, RHDC’s newsletter
- Host three Community Conversations lectures

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Identify, prioritize, and recommend historic properties and neighborhoods for Raleigh Historic Landmark and National Register designation

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- Identify and nominate Commissioner candidates with the requisite skills to fill open positions for City Council consideration

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Established in 1961, the mission of the RHDC is to serve as City Council’s official historic preservation advisory body to identify, preserve, protect, and promote Raleigh’s historic resources. The duties and responsibilities of RHDC are outlined in the North Carolina General Statutes NCGS 160A, Article 19, Part 3C and Raleigh Code of Ordinances (§10-1051 through 1055, §10-2052, and §10-6180 through 6186). Within this body of legislation, RHDC has established Council-ratified “Bylaws and Rules of Procedure,” as well as Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts.

As part of its responsibilities, RHDC performs the duties required to maintain the City’s federal Certified Local Government status. Its work is supported by the City Council’s annual grant and two full-time preservation planners and one part-time executive director provided through the Department of City Planning.

RHDC consists of twelve volunteers appointed by city council for up to three consecutive two-year terms. It manages its activities through the work of five committees:

- Certificate of Appropriateness
- Community Awareness
- Executive
- Nominations
- Research