

Why Historic Preservation Matters

MYRICK HOWARD

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY
Chapel Hill, North Carolina • 8 May 2014

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*Together with Tributes to Myrick Howard
on the Occasion of His Acceptance
of the North Caroliniana Society Award for 2014*

8 May 2014

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NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS

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Jeffrey J. Crow, Editor

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Introduction

THE NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY

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www.ncsociety.org

Chartered on 11 September 1975 as a private nonprofit corporation under provisions of Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the North Caroliniana Society is dedicated to the promotion of increased knowledge and appreciation of North Carolina's heritage through the encouragement of scholarly research and writing in and teaching of state and local history, literature, and culture; publication of documentary materials, including the numbered, limited-edition North Caroliniana Society Imprints and North Caroliniana Society Keepsakes; sponsorship of professional and lay conferences, seminars, lectures, and exhibitions; commemoration of historic events, including sponsorship of markers and plaques; and through assistance to the North Carolina Collection of UNC-Chapel Hill and other cultural organizations with kindred objectives. The Society is administered by an entirely volunteer staff and a motto of "Substance, not Show."

Founded by H.G. Jones and incorporated by Jones, William S. Powell, and Louis M. Connor Jr., who soon were joined by a distinguished group of North Carolinians, the Society was limited to a hundred members for the first decade. It elects from time to time additional individuals meeting its strict criterion of "adjudged performance" in service to their state's culture — i.e., those who have demonstrated a continuing interest in and support of the historical, literary, and cultural heritage of North Carolina. The Society, a tax-exempt organization under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, expects continued service from its members, and for its programs it depends upon the contributions, bequests, and devises of its members and friends. Its IRS number is 56-1119848. The Society administers a fund, given in 1987 by the Research Triangle Foundation in honor of its retiring board chairman and the Society's longtime president, from which more than 300 Archie K. Davis Fellowships have been awarded for research in North Carolina's historical and cultural resources. The Society also sponsors the North Caroliniana Book Award, recognizing a book that best captures the essence of North Carolina; the William Stevens Powell Award to a senior student who has contributed most to an understanding of the history and traditions of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and the H.G. Jones North Carolina History Prizes for winners in the National History Day competition.

continued

A highlight of the Society's year is the presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Award to an individual or organization for long and distinguished service in the encouragement, production, enhancement, promotion, and preservation of North Caroliniana. Starting with Paul Green, the Society has recognized Albert Coates, Sam J. Ervin Jr., Sam Ragan, Gertrude S. Carraway, John Fries Blair, William and Ida Friday, William S. Powell, Mary and James Semans, David Stick, William M. Cochrane, Emma Neal Morrison, Burke Davis, Lawrence F. London, Frank H. Kenan, Charles Kuralt, Archie K. Davis, H.G. Jones, J. Carlyle Sitterson, Leroy T. Walker, Hugh M. Morton, John L. Sanders, Doris Betts, Reynolds Price, Richard H. Jenrette, Wilma Dykeman, Frank Borden Hanes Sr., Maxine Swalin, Elizabeth Vann Moore, W. Trent Ragland Jr., W. Dallas Herring, John Hope Franklin, Betty Ray McCain, Joseph F. Steelman, William B. Aycock, Fred Chappell, Henry E. and Shirley T. Frye, Robert W. and Jessie Rae Scott, James E. Holshouser Jr., Bland Simpson, Lindsay C. Warren Jr., Lee Smith, Thomas W. Lambeth and, on its sesquicentennial, the North Carolina Collection.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2014

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ABOVE: The original cup is in the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library.

NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

1978 — Paul Green	1994 — North Carolina Collection
1979 — Albert Coates	1995 — J. Carlyle Sitterson
1980 — Sam J. Ervin Jr.	1995 — LeRoy T. Walker
1981 — Sam Ragan	1996 — Hugh MacRae Morton
1982 — Gertrude Sprague Carraway	1997 — John L. Sanders
1983 — John Fries Blair	1998 — Doris Waugh Betts
1984 — William C. & Ida H. Friday	1999 — Reynolds Price
1985 — William S. Powell	2000 — Richard H. Jenrette
1986 — Mary D.B.T. & James H. Semans	2001 — Wilma Dykeman
1987 — David Stick	2002 — Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
1988 — William McWhorter Cochrane	2003 — Maxine Swalin
1989 — Emma Neal Morrison	2004 — Elizabeth Vann Moore
1990 — Burke Davis	2004 — W. Trent Ragland Jr.
1991 — Lawrence F. London	2005 — W. Dallas Herring
1992 — Frank Hawkins Kenan	2005 — John Hope Franklin
1993 — Charles Kuralt	2006 — Betty Ray McCain
1994 — H.G. Jones	2006 — Joseph F. Steelman
1994 — Archie K. Davis	

continued

2007 — William B. Aycock
2007 — Fred Chappell
2008 — Henry E. & Shirley T. Frye
2008 — Robert & Jessie Rae Scott
2009 — James E. Holshouser Jr.
2010 — Bland Simpson
2011 — Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
2012 — Lee Smith
2013 — Thomas W. Lambeth
2014 — Myrick Howard

**NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY
IMPRINTS, NUMBERS 1-53
(1978-2014)**

No. 1. *An Evening at Monticello:
An Essay in Reflection* (1978)
by Edwin M. Gill

No. 2. *The Paul Green I Know* (1978)
by Elizabeth Lay Green

No. 3. *The Albert Coates I Know* (1979)
by Gladys Hall Coates

No. 4. *The Sam Ervin I Know* (1980)
by Jean Conyers Ervin

No. 5. *Sam Ragan* (1981)
by Neil Morgan

No. 6. *Thomas Wolfe of North Carolina*
(1982) edited by H.G. Jones

No. 7. *Gertrude Sprague Carraway*
(1982) by Sam Ragan

No. 8. *John Fries Blair* (1983)
by Margaret Blair McCuiston

No. 9. *William Clyde Friday and Ida
Howell Friday* (1984) by Georgia Carroll
Kyser and William Brantley Aycock

No. 10. *William S. Powell, Historian*
(1985) by David Stick and
William C. Friday

No. 11. *"Gallantry Unsurpassed"*
(1985) edited by Archie K. Davis

No. 12. *Mary and Jim Semans, North
Carolinians* (1986) by W. Kenneth
Goodson

No. 13. *The High Water Mark* (1986)
edited by Archie K. Davis

No. 14. *Raleigh and Quinn: The
Explorer and His Boswell* (1987)
edited by H.G. Jones

No. 15. *A Half Century in Coastal
History* (1987) by David Stick

No. 16. *Thomas Wolfe at Eighty-seven*
(1988) edited by H.G. Jones

No. 17. *A Third of a Century in
Senate Cloakrooms* (1988) by William
McWhorter Cochrane

No. 18. *The Emma Neal Morrison I
Know* (1989) by Ida Howell Friday

No. 19. *Thomas Wolfe's Composition
Books* (1990) edited by Alice R. Cotten

No. 20. *My Father, Burke Davis* (1990)
by Angela Davis-Gardner

No. 21. *A Half Century with Rare
Books* (1991) by Lawrence F. London

No. 22. *Frank H. Kenan: An
Appreciation* (1992) edited by
Archie K. Davis

No. 23. *Growing Up in North Carolina,*
by Charles Kuralt, and *The Uncommon
Laureate*, by Wallace H. Kuralt (1993)

No. 24. *Chancellors Extraordinary:
J. Carlyle Sitterson and LeRoy T. Walker*
(1995) by William C. Friday and
Willis P. Whichard

- No. 25.** *Historical Consciousness in the Early Republic* (1995) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 26.** *Sixty Years with a Camera* (1996) by Hugh M. Morton
- No. 27.** *William Gaston as a Public Man* (1997) by John L. Sanders
- No. 28.** *William P. Cumming and the Study of Cartography* (1998) edited by Robert Cumming
- No. 29.** *My Love Affair with Carolina* (1998) by Doris Waugh Betts
- No. 30.** *A Single but Huge Distinction* (1999) by Reynolds Price
- No. 31.** *Richard Jenrette's Adventures in Historic Preservation* (2000) edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 32.** *Sketches in North Carolina USA 1872 to 1878* (2001) by Mortimer O. Heath; edited by H.G. Jones
- No. 33.** *Roots and Branches* (2001) by Wilma Dykeman
- No. 34.** *Glimmers in the Gloaming* (2002) by Frank Borden Hanes Sr.
- No. 35.** *Coming of Age in North Carolina's Fifth Century*, by Maxine Swalin and *The North Carolina Symphony*, by John L. Humber (2003)
- No. 36.** *Reflections* (2004) by W. Trent Ragland Jr.
- No. 37.** *Photographers in North Carolina: The First Century, 1842-1941* (2004) Essays by Stephen E. Massengill, H.G. Jones, Jesse R. Lankford
- No. 38.** *North Carolina Conundrum* (2005) by John Hope Franklin
- No. 39.** *Poetical Geography of North Carolina* (1887; 2006) by Needham Bryan Cobb
- No. 40.** *The Goodliest Land* (2006) by Betty Ray McCain
- No. 41.** *Hayes: The Plantation, Its People, and Their Papers* (2007) by John G. Zehmer Jr.
- No. 42.** *Center of the Universe* (2007) by Fred Chappell
- No. 43.** *William B. Aycock: Our Champion* (2007) by Judith W. Wegner
- No. 44.** *Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina* (2008) by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 45.** *Robert Scott and the Preservation of North Carolina History* (2009) by H.G. Jones
- No. 46.** *A Historic Occasion* (2009) by Shirley Taylor Frye and Henry E. Frye
- No. 47.** *Surprise of the Century* (2009) by James E. Holshouser Jr.
- No. 48.** *The Colonial Records of North Carolina* (2010) edited by William S. Price Jr.
- No. 49.** *The Grandfathers* (2010) by Bland Simpson
- No. 50.** *A Resumé of Two Historic Adventures* (2011) by Lindsay C. Warren Jr.
- No. 51.** *Faces and Places of My Heart* (2012) by Lee Smith
- No. 52.** *A Love Affair with an Entire State* (2013) by Thomas W. Lambeth
- No. 53.** *Why Historic Preservation Matters* (2014) by Myrick Howard



Photos by Jerry Cotten

FIRST ROW: Presentation of North Caroliniana Award for 2014
to Myrick Howard from Willis P. Whichard

SECOND ROW: Myrick Howard and Howard Covington Jr.; Myrick Howard

THIRD ROW: Samuel Johnson, Dan Taylor and Gwynne Taylor;

New president James W. Clark Jr. receives the gavel from longtime president Willis P. Whichard

Introductory Remarks

EDITOR'S NOTE: Secretary-Treasurer Martin H. Brinkley prepared these remarks. Because he could not attend the event, President Willis P. Whichard served as master of ceremonies.

At this point in our program, it is traditional to say something about the North Caroliniana Society. So I will say two sentences: Our passion is North Carolina and our motto is “Substance, not Show.” This means that we do rather than talk about doing, and we seek service rather than publicity. For example, we did not seek publicity for this event, because we wanted it to be held in the presence of Myrick Howard’s family and close friends.

Not all of you heard Myrick’s remarks this afternoon, but there is no need to ask for copies. They, along with the full proceedings of this meeting, will be published later this year in our *North Carolina Imprints* series, a complimentary copy of which will go to you in the mail. For that reason, in choosing our speakers, we try to think of persons who have unique perspectives on our award recipient and who can put into the public record (for that is what the *Imprints* will do) some aspects of the recipient’s life that may otherwise go unrecorded. For Myrick Howard, that is a challenge, but we are up to it.

We have today four former chairs of the Board of Directors of Preservation North Carolina, the organization with whose extraordinary contributions to the culture and history of North Carolina Myrick Howard is indelibly associated — each of whom is going to reveal to us the *real* Myrick Howard.

DENISE R. BARNES, DURHAM



Jerry Cotten

Dr. Denise Barnes is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Durham. She holds an A.B. degree from Mount Holyoke College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Adelphi University’s Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies and has been a member of the faculty at both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University.

ABOVE: *Denise R. Barnes*

continued

When Denise moved to North Carolina in the 1980s, she had not planned on a career in historic preservation. Yet she was drawn to beautiful homes in her adopted town that needed restoration (one of which she bought herself) and soon after became involved with Preservation Durham, serving as chair of the Board of Directors of that organization. During her later chairmanship of the Preservation North Carolina board, PNC's success stories included the restorations of Durham's American Tobacco Historic District, various renovation efforts in Edenton, the historic Glencoe Mill Village east of Burlington, and the saving of the Edward Kidder Graham House here in Chapel Hill. Denise received PNC's Ruth Coltrane Cannon Award for outstanding achievement of statewide significance in historic preservation. Described as a "tenacious advocate" for preservation by the *Raleigh News and Observer*, which named her as a Tar Heel of the Week in 2011, Dr. Barnes has, in the words of Myrick Howard, "a kind of inner glow, a spirit that people can sense is genuine."

Please welcome Denise Barnes.

SAMUEL W. JOHNSON, ROCKY MOUNT

Samuel Johnson is a partner in the Rocky Mount office of the law firm of Poyner and Spruill LLP, where he practices in the areas of business and commercial real estate law. A graduate of Duke University and its law school, Mr. Johnson was the 2006 recipient of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Citizen Award and the 2008 recipient of the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award for the Tar River District. While serving on and chairing the Preservation North Carolina board, Mr. Johnson was intimately involved with the preservation of the Rocky Mount train station and the development of the Imperial Centre.

Sam, please tell us what you know of the real Myrick Howard.

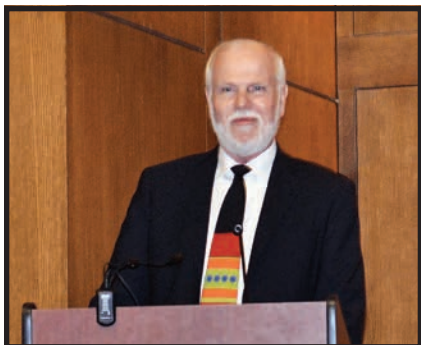


Jerry Cotten

ABOVE: Samuel W. Johnson

STEVEN D. SCHUSTER, RALEIGH

Steve Schuster is a Raleigh architect and the founding principal of Clearscapes, a full-service design firm that provides architectural design services for public, private, and institutional clients across North Carolina and the recipient of more than seventy design awards. A significant focus of his work has been on museums, libraries, visual arts centers, and performing arts theaters. A few of his notable projects in downtown Raleigh alone include the Marbles Kids



ABOVE: *Steven D. Schuster*

Museum and IMAX theater on Hargett Street, the Pine State Creamery in Glenwood South, and the Contemporary Art Museum. A graduate of North Carolina State University, where he is now professor of practice at the School of Design, and of the University of Colorado, Mr. Schuster is a past president of the North Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In addition to his work as chairman of the PNC Board

of Directors, he is a member of the Board of Advisers of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Please welcome Steve Schuster.

GWYNNE S. TAYLOR, WINSTON-SALEM



ABOVE: *Gwynne S. Taylor*

Gwynne Taylor came to North Carolina from Virginia to attend Salem College, where she received a bachelor's degree in history. She earned an M.A. in history and historic preservation from Wake Forest University. From 1979 to 1980, Gwynne was the principal investigator of the Forsyth County Historic Inventory, serving also as director of Historic Bethabara and working as a preservation consultant in Winston-Salem. She was a

founder of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina and served on the restoration committee of Old Salem Museum and Gardens.

Gwynne has chaired the Board of Trustees of Salem Academy and Salem College and is a recipient of Salem's Distinguished Alumna Award. She helped lead Salem's multi-million dollar restoration of the 1785 Single Sisters House — the oldest building in America devoted to women's education — and received the Heritage Award from the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission and the Wachovia Historical Society's Archie K. Davis Award for outstanding contributions to local and regional history.

Please welcome Gwynne Taylor.



Photos by Myrick Howard

FIRST ROW: *Bellamy Mansion (Wilmington) slave quarters after renovation;*
Lory Mill (Gastonia) after renovation
 SECOND ROW: *Emory-Binns House (Durham) before and after renovation*
 THIRD ROW: *Union Tavern (Milton) before and after renovation*
 FOURTH ROW: *Klutts Drugstore (Salisbury) before and after renovation*

Ten Reasons Why Historic Preservation Matters for North Carolina

Myrick Howard

This year Preservation North Carolina (PNC) celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, having been founded in 1939 as the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities. Just as the name has evolved from the Antiquities Society to Preservation North Carolina, the preservation movement itself has changed immensely.

Today preservation matters in ways that would have been unimaginable to our founders in 1939. Our discussions about the environment, diversity, or sustainability would sound to them like a foreign language. No doubt in 2089, when Preservation North Carolina (by whatever name) turns 150, our own vision of historic preservation will seem quaint — and perhaps flawed.

The historic preservation efforts of 1939 can typically be described as the domain of wealthy or influential women who were focused on saving the state's most important historic sites as museums. As we look back today with the advantage of hindsight, those women were spreading their wings and venturing into new areas of influence. By the 1970s some of North Carolina's earliest female legislative leaders (such as Sen. Lura Self Tally of Fayetteville and Rep. Marie Watters Colton of Asheville) gained their political footing in historic preservation.

Today preservation shows up on the business and political pages of a newspaper (increasingly anachronistic) rather than the society pages (even more anachronistic). It can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and more. It's hard to even imagine how preservation will be recorded in 2089.

Does historic preservation matter to North Carolina anymore?

Preservation has made a profound difference in shaping our state over the last seventy-five years — and especially in the last forty. The more that preservation has moved into the mainstream of real estate, the more influence it's had. No longer is it just assumed that old buildings will be destroyed and replaced by new construction, as was the case in 1939 — or even 1974.

continued

Preservation North Carolina has achieved its national reputation by directly engaging in historic preservation as real estate. When a building is threatened with destruction (either through demolition or neglect), it's fundamentally a real estate issue. Usually the problem is either the ownership or the land value. The owner may be uninterested, downright hostile or just irrational, or the ownership may involve too many people, resulting in indecision or (often) family disputes. The land may be worth too much to keep the building or not enough to justify the costs of renovation and maintenance.

Those are fundamentally real estate issues, not a problem with the building itself. Seldom will exhortations about the building's history or architectural virtues make much difference unless the real estate issues can be resolved. Usually the answer is getting the threatened building into new ownership.

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When I started working in 1978 with Preservation North Carolina's property program (then called the Fund), it would have been hard to imagine that we would now be talking about having witnessed almost two billion dollars of historic renovation in our state. (Personally, I regret that the field is now saddled with the term "historic rehabilitation." Who knew that "rehabilitation" would become better known for drug and alcohol treatments than for historic buildings? We overthought the subtle, if not academic, differences between restoration, renovation, and rehabilitation and didn't bring the public along.)

Here, then, are ten reasons historic preservation matters in North Carolina.

10. Think Globally, Act Locally – More than a Bumpersticker

Preservation is intensely local. Many dedicated preservationists care passionately about their own communities but have little knowledge about (and even sometime, interest in) what's going on in the county next door. It's so local that they may not even care about the neighborhood across town.

In recent years, perhaps in reaction to the homogenization of the American landscape and culture, "local" has become a great virtue. Preservation has emphasized the importance of local community identity for decades.

Now we are joined by locavores, persons who make an effort to eat food that is grown, raised, or produced locally, usually within 100 miles of home. The word dates from 2005.

Craft beer has made a significant dent into the nation's beer market. The website www.ncbeerguys.com extols the virtues of locally brewed beer and urges

North Carolinians to “Drink Local and keep your beer dollars in North Carolina!” Craft beer breweries can now be found in historic buildings from one end of the state to the other, and they’ve helped revitalize several historic downtowns. Local, meet local.

Wineries and distilleries across North Carolina now have highway signage reminiscent of that reserved for state historic sites, and a state agency is charged with promoting North Carolina wines. Its language is evocative of the state’s promotion for heritage tourism.

Only a couple of months after I started work with PNC, the first mixed drink was legally sold in North Carolina, seventy years after the ban on liquor by the drink. Surry County still doesn’t permit liquor by the drink (though its municipalities do), and yet the county’s wineries are now its biggest business. The county has a website www.very-surry.com that provides planning tools for visiting the county’s wineries.

Preservation is right there. In the words of the website, “It’s Merlot and Mayberry, cruise-ins and mandolins, rural North Carolina scenes and delicious cuisine. The essence of Surry County lies in our diversity — from historic downtowns and unique festivals, to our proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway [also historic] and the distinctive Yadkin Valley wine region.”

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Have you ever noticed how many local political leaders have also been personally involved as property owners in restoring historic houses or revitalizing local neighborhoods and downtowns? A few that come to mind for me: former mayors Margaret Kluttz (Salisbury), Susan Kluttz (also Salisbury), Kathryn Cloud (Beaufort), Charles Meeker (Raleigh), David Pressley (Statesville), and Ted Alexander (Shelby); state cabinet members Rufus Edmisten (former attorney general and secretary of state), Susan Kluttz (secretary of Cultural Resources), Sharon Decker (secretary of Commerce), Norris Tolson (former secretary of Revenue, Transportation, and Commerce), and Robert Stallings (secretary of Conservation and Economic Development, many years ago); North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr; and others. This list could no doubt be expanded exponentially. Through the years PNC has always had numerous property owners and board or staff members in public office.

Preservation is a good base for local leadership development. Preservation engagement, inherently local, says that you care about your local community, its vitality, and identity.

continued

What a pleasure it is to have a local brew or glass of wine and locally sourced food in a historic downtown building with local community leaders. Preservation has led the way.

9. Community Identity – “Wasn’t It Always This Way?”

Many, if not most, North Carolina cities and towns are far more vibrant than they were thirty or forty years ago. Indeed, many downtowns could have rightly been called “dumps” in the mid-1970s, but they had good bones because of their historic fabric. Downtown historic neighborhoods were often downright scary for the faint of heart.

Most downtowns’ historic resources remain intact, and they have been polished and enhanced in ways that were unimaginable forty years ago. These successes didn’t just happen randomly. Local citizens worked diligently to save buildings, enact protective laws, and battle for sign controls, billboard ordinances, and other measures over several decades. Margaret Kluttz, former mayor of Salisbury, has often said: “After decades of hard work and struggle, Salisbury is now an overnight success.”

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As recently as 1998, when PNC and the A. J. Fletcher Foundation bought the water-logged Briggs Hardware Building in downtown Raleigh, Fayetteville Street was a derelict pedestrian mall. To the north, the view of State Capitol had been blocked by fast-growing willow oaks; to the south, a Brutalist fortress doing duty as an uninspired civic center straddled the former street and blocked the view of graceful Memorial Auditorium. Downtown fountains on the mall were used more as evening urinals than as lunchtime seating. It was dismal. Downright grim.

Who else but a bunch of preservationists would buy a forlorn building in such a setting, spend millions of dollars that they might never recoup, and move in, despite a complete dearth of neighbors?

Now, it’s completely different. The State Capitol and Memorial Auditorium are bookends to a vibrant street worthy of pride. Historic buildings mingle with new construction, as people, young and old, jettison their cars and move downtown. Businesses are back. Not the department stores of yesteryear, but bars, restaurants, hotels, banks, and galleries.

Our risky venture with the Briggs Building paid off — for us as owners and for the city of Raleigh. Though the city didn't contribute a penny to the renovation effort, it has featured photos of the building on its website about the city for years and years, and now more than half of the building is occupied by city agencies. The downtown tax base has soared.

Every North Carolina community has buildings that help define its unique identity and set it apart from the faceless boredom of chain burger joints and big box retailers. The Briggs Building is one of those resources in Raleigh. The preservation of these icons didn't just happen magically. They've required hard work and big risks, and they will no doubt require that determination again in the future.

Even now, many Raleigh citizens think that downtown Raleigh has always been a thriving place. Tens of thousands of the city's residents either didn't live in Raleigh or weren't adults ten years ago. We need to engage them, whether in happy hours or on Segway tours, so they'll love the place. Let's hope that they will be advocates for heritage when once again push comes to shove.

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Preservation has made a huge difference in keeping North Carolina, North Carolina — and retaining a North Carolina that we can be proud of.

8. Cultural Heritage – Mill owners, operatives and everyone in-between

I grew up in Durham. My father was a machinist at the American Tobacco Company for more than forty years.

It's been a great pleasure for me to watch the renovation of the American Tobacco Historic District (using historic rehabilitation tax credits) spark the revitalization of my hometown. My father's workplace is now home to startup tech companies, brewpubs (my mother would not approve), offices for Duke University, public radio, the local community foundation, numerous other charities, and more. More people work on the American Tobacco campus today than when cigarettes were being manufactured there. The project has fundamentally changed Durham's self-image.

When I first started work with PNC, my boss, longtime colleague, and mentor was Jim Gray. His relationship with the tobacco company couldn't have been

continued

more different from mine. His father was chairman and president of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem.

Despite our different vantage points, we shared a cultural heritage. I'm sure that if he were alive, Jim would be equally delighted to watch the former RJR buildings leading the way in the revitalization of his hometown's downtown. Many of the tobacco buildings there are now used for biomedical research. The 1966 Mid-Century Modern Wachovia Building (Wachovia Bank was co-founded by Jim's grandfather) is now on the National Register of Historic Places and has been renovated using the tax credits. What a transformation!

It's been a treat for me to be directly involved with the revitalization of two forsaken textile mill villages and several vacant industrial buildings. If your family is from North Carolina, you probably have ancestors who lived in mill villages or worked in the mills — whether as an operative or as an owner. These places helped create the North Carolina we know today, and hundreds of thousands of us share that heritage.

When you trace the course of North Carolina's development from the farm to textile, tobacco, and furniture mills to banks to research facilities, you see just how fitting it is that a biotech firm or a tech startup is located in an old industrial building.

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7. Diversity – Preservation: Big Tent, Common Ground

Preservation is a big tent. Frequently we save places that are valuable to diverse people.

In the most poignant example, the plantation house was the home of the wealthy white family, but it was also the home for the enslaved. The descendants share a common ground. Often even the bloodlines were shared.

Slave reunions at plantation houses have made the news, inspired books, and more important, transformed lives. It has been a treat to watch descendants of the owners' family become true friends with descendants of the slaves. Those connections would not have happened but for preservation.

Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is a direct descendant of Henry Taylor, one of the enslaved carpenters who built the Bellamy Mansion in Wilmington (owned by PNC). Thomas Stith, chief of staff for Governor Pat McCrory, is a direct descendant of slaves who lived and worked at Coolmore Plantation near Tarboro (also owned by PNC). The common ground of the American people is remarkable, once you learn more about our shared heritage, and our historic buildings provide that mutual space.

There are many other examples. Preservation efforts to save Rosenwald schools and civil rights sites have brought diverse people together. These places tell an important story about segregation in America, a legacy that must never be repeated.

PNC's work in East Durham and Goldsboro has brought together many new unexpected allies. A poor neighborhood like parts of East Durham that's almost exclusively African American and Hispanic cannot be called "diverse." It's a place that residents want to escape as soon as they possibly can. The high vacancy rate is devastating, as empty homes become crime sites. Demolition just makes matters worse. But if a neighborhood can be lifted out of a death spiral, then true diversity can be an outcome. Preservation can help make that happen.

One of PNC's finest success stories has been the transformation of the old Y. E. Smith School in East Durham. PNC sold the building to Self-Help Ventures Fund, which renovated it for the Maureen Joy Charter School (using tax credits). Y. E. Smith was an all-white public school that closed in 1968 and sat vacant for decades. A \$10 million renovation of the building brought an outstanding charter school with a truly diverse student body back from the suburbs into the struggling neighborhood. Any \$10 million investment in a neighborhood is a big deal, but a school that brings new pride and renewed activity into its heart is even more of an achievement. Parents come and go throughout the day and night, and teachers look for nearby homes; the change is transformative.

The dedication ceremony for the charter school's new home was one of the most touching occasions of my career. Older white men talked with pride about the revival of the school that they attended as children. A retired African American man who is a longtime neighborhood resident described how he picked up trash around the school every morning during the renovation process because he wanted the new school to feel the neighborhood's pride. Children of different ages and races expressed their excitement about the beauty of the new building. The audience ranged from millionaires to the struggling unemployed, and we all shed tears together.

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Today our society is desperately looking for ways to connect people. Preservation does just that.

continued

6. Sustainability – Will your new “green” [fill in the blank] outlive your mortgage? At least your historic house will.

I got into preservation because of my interest in the environment. If you're concerned about the environment, it's downright depressing to read about the short useful lives of many of the items that we use on a daily basis. Your new dishwasher is unlikely to last much longer than a decade. That new refrigerator may last a tad longer, unless it's a compact model, which probably won't last five years. The microwave? It will be thrown out in less than a decade. Your new heating/air conditioning system might make it fifteen to twenty years, so you might have to replace it twice during the life of your mortgage. After these items break down, they go into the local landfill or are sent to China to be scavenged for their constituent materials, which are then recycled and sent back to the United States incorporated into new products.

Warning: if a product has sophisticated electronics, it won't last long, and it won't be repairable when it breaks down. Ah, the curse of modern technology.

New windows are “likely to experience major, non-repairable failures . . . within 10 to 25 years.” These words weren't written by preservationists but by the U.S. Department of Energy. Even *Consumer Reports* recently encouraged owners of historic houses not to replace their windows. “Contrary to what some ads say, saving money of your energy bills is not the reason to replace your windows. That's because it could take decades to recoup the [money] you'll spend on new windows and installation.”

New houses are now usually designed and built like other mass-produced commodities. The largest homebuilders are publicly traded corporations. They crank out products that have no local character and are going to be quickly obsolescent. The days are disappearing when homes are built by local craftsmen with the expectation that they will be enjoyed for generations.

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The old trope is true: they don't build them the way they used to. They truly don't.

5. Sustainable Economic Development – Historic Preservation outperforms Dell for North Carolina.

I've been in my job long enough to watch companies that were deeply incentivized by the state of North Carolina come and go. There's many a big

manufacturing plant across the state that didn't stay in production for more than a decade or two.

Take Dell, for example. Dell built a computer factory near Winston-Salem in 2005 with more than \$240 million in incentives, but it closed the plant in 2010, putting more than 900 people out of work. The new user of the factory built by Dell is now widely reported to operate as a pyramid scheme. So much for the buffalo-hunt version of economic development.

Preservation beats Dell hands down as sustainable economic development for North Carolina.

Historic rehabilitation projects build on local strengths and enhance local capacity. They hire local craftsmen. Most of the projects are built around local businesses and supported by local investors. (There's that redundant word again: "local.") The project has got to make economic sense before it gets a loan. It doesn't operate on the build-it-and-they-will-come philosophy. It could be described as organic and grassroots. And local.

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And, preservation is famously infectious. When a historic building is renovated, the nearby buildings often get renovated, too. The circle widens. That's exactly what economic development is supposed to do.

In the words of Donovan Rypkema, the nationally noted authority on the economics of historic preservation, "By numerous different statistical measures, historic preservation excels as a creator of jobs and as a generator of local economic growth." These are two most important indices of economic development. "The rehabilitation of a historic building is labor-intensive, relying on local craftsmen and suppliers. . . . Compared with new construction, rehabilitation creates more and higher skilled jobs and leaves more money in the local economy."

It's interesting to look at the statistics for North Carolina's historic rehabilitation tax credits. The number of projects only dropped slightly during the Great Recession. In 2009, the depth of the recession, about the same number of rehabilitation tax credits projects took place as in 2003 and 2004, much stronger years. 2010 was even better.

Preservation is often countercyclical. It continues to create jobs even when the economy is down. Homeowners can do modest projects while developers

continued

can't build new houses. Developers can find tenants at lower rents than new construction requires, and they can work incrementally from phase to phase, something you can't do with new construction.

Preservation is superior and sustainable economic development — for today and tomorrow, good times and bad.

4. Quality of Design and Materials

Back in 1998, I gathered up a variety of lumber samples to take to my class at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to demonstrate how materials have changed over time. Each year I take my bag to class for show-and-tell.

The students get to see and feel how a one-foot sample of a new 2x4 compares with a similar sample of an old one. The new one is much lighter, smaller, and less dense. I demonstrate how interior-grade plywood will warp and separate with just a little water, and I urge students to consider what happens when it's used for a bathroom floor. I show them new finger-jointed wood trim, which is fine until the glue fails — which it will. Imagine what would have happened if the mill houses at Glencoe had been built with modern building materials and sat vacant for nearly a half century! We know the answer: they would not have survived ten years, much less fifty.

I purchased a sheet of chipboard and cut out a piece about a foot square to add to my bag of samples. That sample is now approximately 10 percent smaller than it was in 1998. The edges are now rounded just from being passed around the classroom for a few minutes each year. It's falling apart; the bag is full of chips, and each year the desktops are littered with debris.

We're building buildings out of this stuff!

By comparison, it was fascinating to recently walk around under the early nineteenth-century Crabtree Jones House in Raleigh after it had been lifted into the air in preparation for its relocation. The quality of both the building materials and the craftsmanship was stunning. Massive timbers of knot-free wood. Elegant chamfered edges.

Despite the fact that the builders had no expectation that their handiwork underneath the house would ever be seen, especially two centuries later, the work was carefully done, with the finest of materials. For example, the newel for the stair was neatly mortised through the floor boards and anchored with a peg so it would never wobble. Two hundred years later, it's still as sturdy as it was when it was built.

At the Bellamy Mansion Museum in Wilmington, we do a "Green Tour" that shows off the numerous ways that the house was designed to work with the climate. They didn't have central heat and air conditioning, so the owners had to build a house that took advantage of solar gain in the winter and shade in the summer. Water was stored in a large cistern for household use; we now use the water for the landscaping. Many of today's green features are nothing new.

Our historic buildings were built to work well and to last.

3. The Environment: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

For more than a quarter century, PNC 's bumpersticker has proclaimed: "Historic Preservation: the Ultimate Recycling." That tagline has since spread across the nation.

Honestly, we really should be saying something like: "Historic Preservation: the Ultimate Reduction" (which sounds like a gourmet menu item) or the "Ultimate Reuse" (not very emotionally engaging). All too often, people feel virtuous about recycling, when they don't give a moment's thought to the first environmental directives, "reduce" and "reuse." For example, they'll go through cases of bottled water and recycle the bottles (which get shipped to China for recycling) rather than drinking filtered water from the tap and skipping the bottles.

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The statistics about the reduced energy consumption and waste reduction that derive from the continued use of existing buildings are stunningly clear. The greenest building is, indeed, the one that is already built. Increasingly I find myself favoring building reuse to demolition, even when there's not a hint of historic value. Reuse of an existing building is almost always a more environmentally sustainable alternative to new construction.

To my frustration, demolition of a historic building is now often rebranded as "recycling" if some of the materials are salvaged. Last year PNC tore down its first building. We demolished a 1960 brick ranch to create a place to move the Crabtree Jones House. The 1960 house was too wide to be relocated, so we deconstructed it and salvaged the materials. True deconstruction was considerably more expensive than just hauling the materials off to the landfill. It was the right thing to do.

Fortunately, we have been able to reuse much of the salvaged material in our renovation projects in East Durham. The contractors have been struck by the superiority of the 1960 wood when compared to new products.

One of my favorite adaptive use projects is the conversion of the Walnut Hill Cotton Gin in Wake County into a home by Jim Smith and Pam Troutman (who together played a critical role in saving the Crabtree Jones House). The cotton gin, an early step along the path of industrialization, is a magnificently built structure.

continued

Very heavy timbers. No nails. All pegged. The quality of those materials meant that the “highest and best use” for the structure was as “recycled” kitchen flooring. Fortunately the owners gave the structure to PNC so that demolition for salvage wouldn’t be its fate, and PNC’s protective covenants precluded that result. Jim and Pam have created a fabulous home, blending the historic materials with contemporary design for the modern updates.

We in preservation “reduce” and “reuse” as well as “recycle.” It doesn’t get much greener.

2. Social Capital – Preservation North Carolina as the Animal Shelter, Preservationists as Rescuers

Preservationists are great (usually). They care about their communities and are engaged in civic matters. Studies show that residents of older neighborhoods are more likely to vote, are more engaged in local government, and get involved more often with social welfare and civic organizations.

Preservationists are often rescuers. They prefer to get a pet from the pound. They want to save that house or this neighborhood. Several of the purchasers of PNC properties have helped establish local animal shelters, literacy councils, and so on. They’ve been elected to public office and done important civic duty. Like me, many are “serial renovators.”

Preservationists generally have to be optimists. Who else but an optimist could look at a falling down old structure and see “potential”? Who else but a socially engaged person would “pioneer” in a former mill village that’s completely abandoned?

Recently we had the buyer of a PNC property describe his family’s first weeks in North Carolina. No one but die-hard optimists could have gone through their experiences and still have smiles on their faces. With their three children in tow, they camped out in a motel that ended up being a drug haven. They found two skeletons in the attic of their new house and a newly born baby vulture in the barn — and much more. Their kids will have stories to tell for decades. A harrowing — and hilarious — tale.

These folks will be a great addition to their new community, a place that they chose to live because they’ve fallen in love with it. I expect they’ll be there a long time.

1. History – With all due respect, history is not as interesting when it’s only in a book.

The demographics of North Carolina have changed greatly over the last few decades. The state’s population has burgeoned with immigrants from New York, Florida, California, Mexico, India, and numerous other places. In the 2012 election, natives barely outnumbered non-natives in the voting booth.

These changes have enriched our state in so many ways. And yet, many of these new residents know little about North Carolina history. I daresay that most North Carolinians never had North Carolina history in the eighth grade.

So how do we get them interested in our state's rich heritage? I'd suggest that preservation is a great way to engage North Carolina's newcomers.

Our historic buildings provide a tangible link to its history. History is richer for the connection.

At the Bellamy Mansion Museum in Wilmington, we have attracted audiences as large as 450 diverse people (i.e., white and black, local and newcomer) for lectures about urban slavery. The newly restored slave quarters make it possible for us to sponsor thoughtful discussions about a subject that is profoundly uncomfortable for many.

Over the last two decades, we've learned much about Thomas Day, the free black cabinetmaker from Milton. PNC bought his home and workshop in Milton after a devastating fire in 1989. Because the property survived and a host of citizens took a great interest in its restoration and use as a public resource, interest soared.

Because of the building, Milton was featured in travel sections of national and regional magazines such as the *Washington Post*. Historians found clues in unlikely places such as the Baptist archives in Richmond, where a researcher found an 1850s obituary from Monrovia, Liberia, for Day's brother John, the chief justice of the Liberian Supreme Court. The obituary answered many questions about Thomas Day's family and his early years. The news about the restoration of Thomas Day's home alerted the researcher that he was on to something of importance. If the building had not survived, he might well have noted the obituary as interesting, not a key piece to a great puzzle.

Books about Thomas Day's life and work have now been published for both adults and children, and an exhibition of his furniture and architectural ornament has enjoyed extended stays in Raleigh and Washington. His furniture has been carefully reproduced by a major furniture manufacturer.

The story of his life is fascinating and full of contradictions to today's audiences. What's been learned about Thomas Day since his home arose from the ashes has opened the door for important conversations about race and class, at a time when such discussions are sorely needed. If the property had been destroyed, interest in Day's life and work would have puttered along, as it had in the decades before the fire, and most likely his story would have faded from sight.

Our historic buildings offer a great way to teach about North Carolina history, at a time when that is much needed.

In conclusion, historic preservation has evolved from being the domain of the wealthy elite to being a powerful force for economic development, community identity, and social diversity in North Carolina.

My hope is that preservation will be as beneficial to the people of North Carolina in the next seventy-five years as it has since 1939.



Photos by Jerry Cotten

FIRST ROW: Rob Maddrey, Banks Talley, and Mark Talbert; Dana Lacy and Scott Lacy

SECOND ROW: Bland Simpson and Ann Cary Simpson;

Al Purrington, Keith Kapp, and Suzy Purrington

BOTTOM PHOTO: Sarah Caroline Thuesen (right) received the North Caroliniana Society Book Award from Jeff Crow (left) for 2013 for *Greater Than Equal: African American Struggles for Schools and Citizenship in North Carolina, 1919-1965* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013)

Remarks by Dr. Denise Barnes

J. Myrick Howard, is a self-professed, self-diagnosed introvert. You heard him during his presentation. By a definition an introvert is a shy person who tends not to socialize much, is more interested in his thoughts and feelings and those of others. In general they are not doers. However, clinically, this man is a contradiction to the term in its purest sense. I can make that assessment since I'm a clinical psychologist. I have spent many, many years observing the subject, I mean getting to know Myrick. And this is what I have learned:

J. Myrick Howard has the ability to assemble the best and the brightest and convince them to perform deeds that never in their wildest dreams, never under normal circumstances, would they do on their own. How many generations of Preservation North Carolina board members and staff has Myrick convinced to buy or receive as a gift abandoned homes, abandoned warehouses or entire villages in which residents are of the four legged kind. In some cases the roof of the buildings might be caved in and sitting on the ground next to it, and you saw those before pictures so you know what we do at Preservation North Carolina.

This is not normal real estate purchasing behavior. However, J. Myrick Howard, the introvert, the visionary, manages to persuade not only PNC board members but neighborhoods and municipalities that buying and restoring buildings nobody else wants makes good economic sense and builds goodwill. He has convinced North Carolinians to preserve and newcomers to appreciate our sense of place with all of the associated challenges known and unknown. This man is very skillful and a little scary.

J. Myrick Howard, the introvert, can be found all over the state of North Carolina, the United States of America, and foreign lands talking with people about preservation. The man just got back from Cuba on a Preservation North Carolina-sponsored tour.

[She speaks Spanish.] What I said was: Fidel, Raul, if you can hear me, be very careful. Myrick is everywhere. At any point in time you will find him collaborating with architects, mayors, developers, PNC sponsors, or lecturing the next generation of preservationists with dogged determinism and imagination. The introvert. So the next time you are traveling through North Carolina and happen to stumble upon a pristine structure that has been handled with care, it is not enough to just marvel at what you see but to consider in a larger sense the possibility that J. Myrick Howard might have had something to with making your day a little more interesting.

J. Myrick Howard, the self-professed introvert, is a statesman, a scholar, a doer, a party animal (oh, I'm sorry). That's not true; and a true friend. Congratulations, Myrick!

continued

Remarks by Samuel W. Johnson

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I think you're going to see some themes developing here tonight.

I come not to bury Myrick Howard but to praise him. He is an exceedingly worthy recipient of the North Caroliniana Society Award. Few of us, if any, in fact, have done more than Myrick to promote the preservation and meaningful use and re-use of North Carolina's historic properties.

For some, the word "preservation" may have a static or a backward-looking connotation. I have known and worked with Myrick for more than thirty years, and as any of you out there who have had an opportunity to work with him will know, there is absolutely nothing static or backward looking about Myrick's approach to his leadership of Preservation North Carolina.

Myrick, sometimes to the consternation of his board and chairman, is often on the cutting edge. He has a way of seeing and sometimes creating that "next thing" and then leading his board and organization there, whether it is recognizing the economic value and potential of unused textile or tobacco mills or realizing the cultural values and possibilities of Rosenwald schools.

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Like Myrick, I'm a lawyer and it has been my good fortune to represent some of North Carolina's notable entrepreneurs. Myrick Howard may head a non-profit organization, but he does so like a true entrepreneur. He knows his company from the stock room to the boardroom. He sees opportunities and he goes after them. He is a risk taker, sometimes to the great chagrin of his board who follow with trepidation. But first and foremost, Myrick is a leader who knows how to build confidence in his team. Like most entrepreneurs, he has had some failures, but not many, and the success he has enjoyed in building a nationally recognized preservation organization reflects the drive, commitment, and sacrifice that are the hallmarks of an entrepreneur.

Under Myrick's leadership, PNC has accumulated an enviable net worth in properties and endowment of more than \$4.5 million. Now don't get carried

away with that number. As one of my entrepreneur clients used to say, “you take net worth; I’ll take cash flow.” A substantial part of that accumulated value in properties does not translate into cash flow, as Myrick well knows, but it does represent quality capital of lasting value from the built environment of our state, and it is only the tip of the iceberg of the \$350 million in private sector investment that has been generated through PNC’s endangered properties programs. So keep those checks to PNC coming — they are its lifeblood.

Though he is often dismissed as little more than a footnote in our twentieth-century American history, President Calvin Coolidge is the source of one my favorite quotes: “Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan Press On! has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.”

Myrick Howard has the entire package. He has the talent and the genius to go with the persistence and determination. When Myrick starts the race, you can expect to see him at the finish line. Myrick, I salute you.

Remarks by Steven D. Schuster

As an architect and preservationist, I have had the opportunity to work with Myrick Howard for more than three decades. During that period of time, I have seen Myrick effortlessly move from one sphere of influence into another utilizing a skill set that is unusually broad.

He champions preservation values. He advocates that historic buildings and districts are vibrant and economically viable members of their communities — not frozen in time or specious imitations that at times pass for preservation.

He champions preservation values. He advocates that historic buildings and districts are vibrant and economically viable members of their communities — not frozen in time or specious imitations that at times pass for preservation. Case in point, the currently much-celebrated controversy in Raleigh’s historic Oakwood where a well-designed, quiet, contemporary residence is being vilified by neighbors who feel faux history is an appropriate preservation strategy. This issue

continued

has now gone viral and made the international press with articles in the *Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, and London's *Daily Mail*. Myrick's recent Point of View editorial, published in Raleigh's *News and Observer*, is one of the best cases for preservation I have ever read, advocating for honesty and integrity rather than simplistic imitations.

Because Myrick is a risk taker, he has also become a skilled problem solver. Preservation North Carolina was a partner in the redevelopment of two large former textile mills with a private developer. When that individual ran into "legal difficulties" and had to declare bankruptcy, the implication to PNC could have been catastrophic, holding the Board of Directors accountable for the mortgage guarantees. The ripple effect of this crisis even led the sitting board chair to resign because of the stress that it was placing on her. Myrick's calm problem-solving creativity and strategy development led the board through this issue successfully, resulting in not only survival for the organization but also a stronger, more balanced non-profit organization as only trial-by-fire can create.

As an architect, I tend to get myself in hot water on a fairly frequent basis by pushing the design envelope on infill projects in historic districts or additions/renovations to historic properties that often cause discomfort with regulatory bodies and elected officials. Finding myself in this position, I have always turned to my long-term collaborator, Myrick Howard, who never fails to jump on his white horse, ride to the rescue, and help convince the concerned parties that preservation thinking is a very large tent and that good design can only thrive with open minds.

Champion, advocate, problem-solver, collaborator are all traits of a creative individual who has had a profound impact on North Carolina and its heritage. What better result can one ask of a life's work?

Remarks by Gwynne S. Taylor

Tonight I am pleased to announce that to honor Myrick Howard, I am going to submit the first-ever nomination of a human being to the National Register of Historic Places. I wanted this influential group to be the first to know and to hear my rationale for this nomination.

I quote from the National Park Service website: "To be considered eligible, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This involves examining the property's age, integrity and significance."

"Is the property old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and does it still look much the way it did in the past?"

Myrick clearly meets the age requirement, and even though there have been minor alterations over the years, he still looks pretty much the same as he did

when he took the helm of Preservation North Carolina in 1978. There's absolutely nothing that can't be re-colored to get back to the original finish. And Myrick's "integrity" as a human being is second to none!

Next question from the National Park Service: "Is the property associated with events, activities or developments that were important? . . . With significant architectural history, landscape history or engineering achievements?"

We can certainly make a case that Myrick is associated with important events, activities, and developments . . . and with significant architectural history!

Myrick's "important activities" over the years have included convincing his Boards of Directors to take insane risks for the sake of preserving North Carolina's heritage; mentoring and consulting with hundreds of other preservation organizations in our own state, thirty other states, and three foreign countries; writing books; fund-raising to publish important books such as *North Carolina Architecture*; speaking; fund-raising; traveling; fund-raising; lobbying for tax credits; fund-raising . . . you get the idea.

And there is absolutely no question that Myrick is associated with "significant architectural history, landscape history and engineering achievements." We could list the 725 buildings PNC has saved, including many industrial and engineering sites and the 4,000 acres of open space that have been put under PNC's protective covenants.

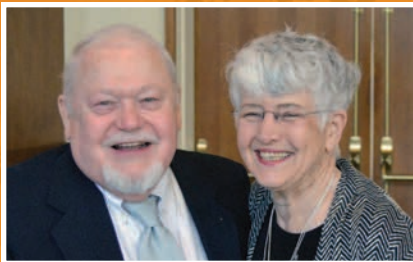
Myrick has got to be a shoo-in! He meets all of the criteria!

There is one more thing, however, that no National Register nomination can measure: Myrick's deep devotion to our state. Under his leadership, PNC has changed North Carolina for the better. Small town main streets are no longer vacant; neighborhoods have been revitalized; rural landscapes have been preserved; countless industrial buildings have been repurposed; and the list could go on. He has shepherded a non-profit organization that deals in real estate through a Great Recession that saw real estate values plummet and buyers become unable to get loans. He has postponed his own paychecks so that his staff could continue to work. He has given *his all* for thirty-six years to Preservation North Carolina, and he has made our state a better place to live for all of us.

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But before I submit this National Register nomination, I have only one idea that might help its chances. Myrick, if you could just use a little of this hair dye I brought you to get back to your original color . . .

Congratulations, Myrick!



Photos by Jerry Cotten





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