

Landmarkings

A funded affiliate of the United Arts Council of Catawba County

Annual Meeting to Wrap Up 50th Anniversary Year

On Saturday, June 23, Hickory Landmarks Society will hold its annual Membership Meeting at the former Piedmont Wagon Building, now Cornerstone United at 1020 Main Avenue NW. Social hour will start at 2pm with meeting and presentations at 3pm.

This year's meeting will conclude the organization's 50th anniversary year and provide an opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the success of HLS. All former Board members, docents, volunteers and Preservation Awards winners are invited to attend. The 2018 Preservation Awards and the Frances Moody Volunteer of the Year award will be

presented. The event will culminate in a brief business meeting to elect Board members to guide Hickory Landmarks Society into the next 50 years.

The travelling exhibit "Celebrating 50 Years of Hickory Landmarks Society" will be on display for the afternoon. Homemade ice cream and cake will be served. The event is free and open to the public.



Oakwood Historic District Expansion Update

After a citywide architectural survey of historic properties was completed in September 2015, additional portions of the Oakwood neighborhood were identified as likely eligible for historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places. In late 2016, city staff assigned to the Historic Preservation Commission identified a grant that would cover a significant portion of the costs for the necessary research and nomination report to expand the Oakwood National Register Historic District to cover these newly identified areas. In order to gauge community support, a letter was mailed to all property owners within the existing and proposed district area in January 2017. A community meeting with the Oakwood neighborhood was also held in early

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Mary Briggs Shuford (1929-2018)



Hickory Landmarks Society lost a dear friend on January 29, with the passing of Mary Shuford. Mary was a long time

supporter of HLS. Her most notable contribution was the establishment of the Edna Barringer-Frances Moody Propst

House Fund, designed to provide an income for the maintenance and preservation of the J. Summie Propst House in Shuford Park. Mrs. Shuford also helped with the cost of relocating and furnishing the old Propst cookhouse in 2000, and last year provided funds to restore the 19th century Propst family store ledger. From 1994 to 2003 Mary served three terms on the Board of Directors. Although she will be missed, Mary Shuford's legacy will last forever in the annals of the Hickory Landmarks Society.



Message From The Executive Director

Maple Grove Site for 100th Birthday Party

I imagine I am not alone with the intriguing history of “kit” houses in America. That is, those houses built by property owners in the first half of the 20th century by ordering the plans and materials from a catalog. Most of us know that Sears, Roebuck, & Co. is famous for its kit home offerings, but it was not the only company to sell them. Montgomery Ward, Alladin, Harris Brothers, Gordon-Van Tyne, and Pacific Ready Cut were popular too, to name some others. Ordering a “mail order home” from a catalog and having the blueprints and material, all the way down to nail and sinks, shipped by rail then wagon was an American phenomenon that grew with the rise of “suburbs” in American cities. From 1908 to 1940 Sears alone sold 75,000 kit homes. Popular styles were Foursquares (1908-25), Bungalows (1910-1930), Tudor and Mission Revivals (1918-1939) and Colonial Revivals (1925-39).

The mail order house craze naturally found its way to Hickory. With the establishment of the Kenworth neighborhood by the Hickory Land and Development Company in 1919, lots were sold to private owners and at least two kit houses, probably three, have been identified. But there are likely other such catalog ordered houses in Hickory, one of which I believe is in the Oakwood neighborhood. There has not, to my knowledge, been a study to identify such houses in Hickory, but I suspect there are

many more. If you know of one, please email me or call. I’m going to start a list.

The Perry-Bolick House (1930) in Kenworth, on this year’s home and garden tour, is to me a classic Sears kit house.



With a couple of alterations it matches exactly a design found in the 1926 catalog called the “Mayfield”. Six rooms, bath, and porch, with lumber already cut and fitted. Priced at \$2,635. As time goes on, these houses in Hickory will increase in value as they reflect a period in history and a uniquely American way to build. They already contribute to the special character of Hickory which makes this city a wonderful place to live.

Patrick Daily



On Saturday, February 10, 2018, Maple Grove was the setting for the 100th Birthday Party of Dorothy Crouch of Hickory. Maple Grove holds fond memories for Dot , who grew up next door and played there as a girl.



The party was hosted by Mrs. Crouch’s children, Charlie, Virginia and John.



Nearly 200 friends and family joined the celebration.

Recent Gifts to Hickory Landmarks Society

New and Renewing Members Since February

Individual

Dale Abernethy
Tommy Stine

Grants

United Arts Council of Catawba Valley

United Arts Fund Operating Allocation

Catawba Valley Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Lake Hickory

Kiwanis Club of Western Catawba County

Publix Super Markets

In Memory of

Mary Shuford

Richard Reese

Betty Sherrill

Fan and Skipper Smith

In Honor of

Dot Crouch

Charles Crouch
Rusty and Sara Isenhour

Other Donations

Richard and Marcia Boyd

Fifty for Fifty Campaign

Ballenger Family Partnership
Glenn and Beverly Barger
D. Mark Boyd III
Fonda Brittain
Broome Associated Insurance
Jane Bush
Dale and Brenda Cline
Joyce G. Corbett
Dorothy S. Crouch
Patrick and Donna Daily
Jenny and Joel Denny
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dobbins
Leila B. Doughton
Ned Espey
Becky and Forrest Ferrell
First Security Company
Alan and Barb Forshey
Chip Fotheringham
Sally and Frank Fox
Mr. and Mrs. George Furlong
Mrs. Madeleine F. Futrelle
Marilyn L. Futrelle
The George Foundation
Nancy Glenn
Jane W. Golden
Joseph and Deanna Graham
Kenneth and Arlinda Graham
Josephine Hambrick
Jean Long Hefner
Jeff and Jenny Hines
Mary Hostetter
Mr. and Mrs. Dolan L. Huffman
Sam Hunt
Rusty and Sara Icenhour
Rev. Wallace and Sallie Johnson
Albert Keiser, Jr.
Richard and Paulette Lael
Paul Lafavore, MD
David and Kathy Ludwig
William W. McComb, Jr.
Marjorie McDaniel
Mr. and Mrs. John Mills
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Moretz
Charles and Ann Moss
Catherine Norris

Bill Oelkers
Kathleen Prince
Helen R. Reed
Glenda Schenck
Werner and Heidi Schulz
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Shoaf
Rev. Robert Shoffner
Polly Shook
Albert and Evelyn Showfety
Kennie L. Shuford
Rebecca B. Simpson
Gene Spainhour
Bob and Alice Spuller
J. Paige and Dianne Straley
Richard and Debbie Swartzel
Ginny Temple
Delaine Walker
Madeline Walle
Tom and Dee Warren
David Webber
Kenneth Wilkinson
Anne Williams
Bob Williams and Stephen Heavner
Charles and Elaine Young
Sara Yount

2018 Annual Giving Campaign

Dale G. Abernethy
Helen Baker
Glenn and Beverly Barger
D. Mark Boyd III
Fonda Brittain
Jane Bush
Joyce G. Corbett
Jay and Mary Anne Crane
Dorothy S. Crouch
Patrick and Donna Daily
Becky and Forrest Ferrell
Mrs. Madeleine F. Futrelle
Marilyn L. Futrelle
Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Hart III
Mary Hostetter
Mr. and Mrs. Dolan L. Huffman
Sarah W. Huffman
Sue C. Huffman
Sam Hunt
Albert Keiser, Jr.
David and Kathy Ludwig
Anne Hardin Mason
William W. McComb, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Moretz
Catherine Norris
Bill Oelkers
Werner and Heidi Schulz
Danny Seaver
Polly Shook
Albert and Evelyn Showfety
Alex and Nancy Shuford
Kennie L. Shuford
Rebecca B. Simpson
Fan and Skipper Smith
Gene Spainhour
Bob and Alice Spuller
Dr. and Mrs. T.L. Warren
Anne Williams
Charles and Nancy Willingham

Oakwood Historic District Expansion Update

(Continued from page 1)

February 2017. After City Council approval, city staff applied for the grant in late February and received word in July 2017 that Hickory had been awarded grant fund. A contract between the state and city was finalized in November 2017 and a Request for Proposals was released in December 2017.

A Virginia based consultant, Landmark Preservation Associates

with over 25 years of experience conducting National Register nomination reports and having completed similar work in nearby North Carolina jurisdictions, was selected for the project. Work has been completed on the nomination and it has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. A third neighborhood meeting is planned for late summer or early fall.

Recent Gifts

From the **Mary Briggs Shuford estate** Hickory Landmarks Society received a matching pair of Royal Bonn vases, circa 1900. A unique shape with a rounded bottom tapering toward the top, the vases stand on single raised bases. The decoration comprises hand-painted floral motifs on a creamy ivory ground with raised gilding and sponged gilt highlights to the rim, handles and base.



Royal Bonn was the trade name used by Franz Anton Mehlem, who produced European porcelain in Bonn, Germany, between 1836 and 1931. Both “Royal” and “1755” were added to the Mehlem pottery mark in the year 1890. They were used continually until the company was sold to Villeroy & Boch on June 1, 1920. The Royal Bonn Company was closed by 1931.

What Does that Arrowhead Mean?

Recently plans were announced for a refurbishment of the “pocket park” in the triangle formed at the intersection of Third Ave. NE and Third St. NE. The arrowhead monument currently standing in the park is the result of a Boy Scout project in the early 1990s. Where did the original arrowhead come from and what was its meaning?

The earliest image of the arrowhead found to date is in the 1937 Hickory Log, the annual of Claremont Central High (aka Hickory High School). Alumni remember it as a venue for vandalism by rival sports teams. One who graduated in 1958 remembered it still being in place at that time. Rumor has it that the original was removed by a member of First Methodist Church.

Some research revealed that it was in fact a Boone Trail Highway Marker. They were “large stone and masonry arrowheads with a bas-relief Indian chief portrait.”

If the marker also had a Boone tablet it indicated a path taken by Daniel Boone. Without the Boone tablet the marker represented old Indian trading paths. The image at right is of Mary Jo Whisnant (later Williams) taken ca. 1948 by Joel Hyder. The original is in the HLS archives.



Judy Thomas donated a pair of portraits of her grandparents Abram Milton Nail (?-1979) and Mary King Nail (1895-1986). The portraits were painted by Joseph Wallace King (1911-1996), Mrs. Nail in 1946-47 and Mr. Nail in 1954. Both are oil on canvas and signed by the artist.

The couple lived in Hickory between the 1920's and the 1940s. Early in his career Mr.

Nail worked at the Coca-Cola Bottling company as an accountant and company official. The family moved to Nebraska for one year but returned to Hickory. In 1928-29 he was the Secretary-Treasurer of Longview Hosiery Mills Inc.

President of the company was H.C. Cline and vice president was Wade Hampton Shuford. By 1935 he was working for Nail & Preslar Hosiery Mfgs. and Busby Motor Company. In 1937-38 Mr. Nail was a bookkeeper at Hafer Hosiery Mills. By 1941-42 Mr. Nail was listed as a co-owner of the company with Robert G. “Red” Hafer. He remained at this position until at least 1948. Mary was a “homemaker” originally from Virginia and a sister of the portrait artist.

Joseph Wallace King worked in a studio at Reynolda House in Winston Salem in the blacksmith's shop. He move to Florence, Italy and launched a successful career as a portrait painter under the name “Vinciata.” His first solo exhibit was in Paris in 1958. Some of his famous subjects include Queen Elizabeth II, Richard Nixon and King Faisal.



short subjects

The April 18-19 *Heritage Days at Maple Grove* was yet another successful school program. 890 fourth grade students from multiple area public schools toured Maple Grove and visited with craftspeople, living history interpreters, and demonstrators. Special thanks to the 25 docents and volunteers, and to the grantors (**Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory, Lake Hickory Rotary Club, Western Catawba County Kiwanis Club, and Publix Super Markets**), who helped make this unique learning experience free to all of the children.

Leslie Keller, author and compiler of *From Tavern To Town: An Architectural History* was the guest speaker at the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory on February 1st. On May 2, Ms. Keller gave a presentation to 2 classes from Lenoir Rhyne University tracing the development of Hickory from agricultural to industrial and the place of Maple Grove in that evolution.

Patrick Daily was the guest speaker at a 50th Anniversary reception February 8 at the **Hickory Museum of Art**, and gave a similar presentation about the organization's silver anniversary on May 16 at **Trinity Village in Hickory**.

Dorothy Crouch, age 100, was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the **HLS Docent Guild** at Maple Grove on April 5. Dot shared some stories and reminisced about her life in Hickory. She talked about growing up next door to Maple Grove, marrying and raising her family all within a few city blocks.

Patrick Daily recently provided consulting services to the volunteer staff of **the Interfaith Housing Authority and the City of Hickory Community Development Department**. The Authority owns and manages the old, former Ridgeview Library as a historical museum. It is now open to the public.



HLS President Frances Moody receiving picture from Mary Hafer in parlor of Propst House as her granddaughter Margaret Hambrick looks on (ca. 1971).

Fifty Years Ago

In celebration of the 1968 incorporation of Hickory Landmarks Society, printed below is a transcript of the minutes of the first planning meeting of the Hickory Restoration Committee:

Apr. 3 1967

The Hickory Restoration Committee met at the Hickory Chamber of Commerce at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Apr. 3rd.

Present were:

Mrs. J.E. Barringer
Mr. Philippe Gilissen
Mr. Leon Ivey
Mrs. Leslie Moody

and from Newton (crossed out on original)
Mr. Sam Rowe, Jr. from Newton,
Representing the Catawba County
Historical Association

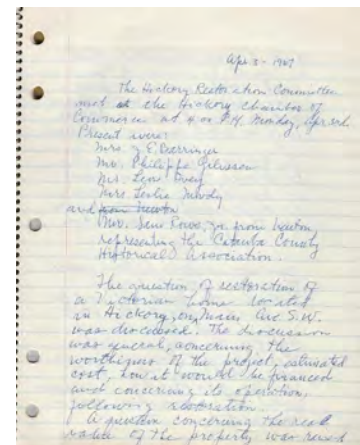
The question of restoration of a Victorian home located in Hickory, on, Main Ave. S.W. was discussed. The discussion was general, concerning the worthiness of the project, estimated cost, how it would be financed and concerning its operation, following restoration.

A question concerning the real value of the property was raised and it was suggested that a request be made to the real estate board to make an impartial appraisal and to furnish the committee with a statement of appraisal.

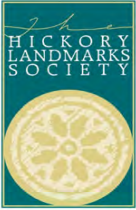
Mr. Gilissen was requested to go over the house with a builder, of his choice, to determine a cost figure for the proposed restoration.

Mr. Rowe informed the group that he would be in Raleigh the following week and would contact the State Department of Archives and History to inquire whether there might be any funds available from the state for upkeep and operational expenses after the restoration was completed.

No further questions being raised the meeting was adjourned.



Original in Frances Moody Collection (HLS)



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Landmarkings

Upcoming Events, Schedules

June 23, 2018—
Annual Membership Meeting
at Piedmont Wagon Building

July 4, 2017—
Offices Closed

September 3, 2018—
Offices Closed

September 15, 2018—
Membership Campaign Kick-off

25 Years of Heritage Days

In the early 1990s, Hickory Landmarks Society established Heritage Days, one of its most successful and long-running educational programs. For two days in April each year 4th graders from Catawba county and the surrounding area enjoy a variety of eras of North Carolina heritage on the grounds of Maple Grove. The program includes Cherokee educators, Spanish Conquistadors, re-enactors portraying Revolutionary patriots, Civil War soldiers and WWI soldiers. Many artisans demonstrate skills such as metal casting, pottery, quilting, basket weaving and bee keeping. For twenty-five years, Adolphus Shuford and his wife Mary Adelaide have been portrayed by Wade Hampton Shuford II and Asheville actress Meredith Blair Alexander. At this year's Heritage Days they enjoyed a 25th Anniversary cake in the gazebo.

