



D U R H A M

Historic Preservation Commission

Durham City-County Planning Department ■ 101 City Hall Plaza ■ Durham, NC 27701

Chair
Joe Fitzsimons

February 9, 2015

Vice Chair
Jennifer Martin

Dear Members of City Council,

Members
Joseph Jordan
Micah Kordsmeier
James Leis
David Neill
Wanda Waiters

Allow me to present the Durham Historic Preservation Commission's Certified Local Government Report for 2014. This year, the Commission heard 48 requests for Certificates of Appropriateness for Major and Minor Works with applications coming from all seven of our locally-designated historic districts and several from our locally-designated landmarks. Outside of the Commission's monthly meetings, City-County Planning staff processed 110 Administrative Certificates of Appropriateness.

In addition to reviewing requests for Certificates of Appropriateness the Commission initiated an outreach program (in the form of a newsletter) this year. We believe that the newsletter program will continue to provide a valuable way to reach out to the community and proactively interact with and inform the residents of Durham's Local Historic Districts.

In 2014, the Commission heard several requests for Certificates of Appropriateness where many vocal and opinionated proponents and opponents were heard. We focused on hearing all voices who wished to speak, considering all evidence presented, and following the Local Review Criteria guidelines and Standards for Rehabilitation that we are charged with adhering to. Although several of these cases brought specific issues that proved challenging to interpret, I am confident that the Commission applied the guidelines appropriately. The Commission continues to support the process to revise and consolidate the Local Design Guidelines and stresses the need to complete this project to better position us to interpret requests for Certificates of Appropriateness within our Historic Districts.

As noted in last year's CLG report, the Commission continues to be concerned with the length of time it has taken to prepare the Holloway Street Local Historic District Expansion and the Golden Belt Local Historic

District. We urge the Council and staff to make the designation of these districts a priority in their work plans moving forward.

Moving forward, the commission will continue to focus on strengthening our relationships with the residents of Durham's Local Historic Districts and with the City Council and County Commissioners and City staff. Our Historic resources in Durham are unmatched, and preserving the long-term strength and vitality of Durham's downtown and historic neighborhoods is a priority for all of us.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Fitzsimons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Fitzsimons, Chair
Durham Historic Preservation Commission

cc: Lisa Miller, Staff Contact