



D U R H A M

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Chair
Joe Fitzsimons

Vice Chair
Jennifer Martin

Members
Matthew Biesecker
Joseph Jordan
Micah Kordsmeier
James Leis
Eric Mine
Wanda Waiters

March 9, 2016

Dear Members of the Durham City Council,

Allow me to present the Durham Historic Preservation Commission's Certified Local Government Report for 2015. This year, the Commission heard 41 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 98 Administrative Certificates of Appropriateness. In addition, the Commission reviewed three landmark applications.

This year, the Commission undertook the large project of producing a new set of criteria for preserving local historic properties. After numerous community meetings and collaborative sessions with City staff, the document was passed by City Council on February 1, 2016. The new document aims to be more comprehensive and user-friendly. The Commission looks forward to hearing cases under the new criteria, which we believe will help clarify and strengthen the process of hearing requests for Certificates of Appropriateness.

Durham is in the midst of an exciting time, and there are many high profile projects in and around our Local Historic Districts and Landmark properties. The Commission recognizes the challenges that often come with balancing new or updated uses in historic structures with preserving our shared historic heritage. We remain committed to serving the citizens of Durham through conducting fair and respectful open hearings of each case before the Commission, and take very seriously our role in Durham's legacy of preservation and rehabilitation.

We look forward to the expansion of the Holloway Street Local Historic District and the creation of the Golden Belt Local Historic District, and we continue to urge the Council and staff to make the designation of these districts a priority in their work plans moving forward.

As Durham continues to grow and change, we look forward to continuing to partner with you and the Citizens of Durham in preserving our outstanding Local Historic resources.

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: Karla Rosenberg, Staff Contact