

ANNUAL REPORT

**RALEIGH HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION (RHDC)
FY 2024**

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SUMMARY OF REPORT

It is with great pleasure that we submit this summary of the work that the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) has accomplished over the past year. We look forward to keeping up our preservation public service in the year ahead. As evidenced below, our work helps us all understand how Raleigh developed and supports efforts of our neighbors to celebrate their culture. By looking at our community more holistically we can steward local resources more effectively while better serving Raleigh's residents.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Raleigh Historic Development Commission serves as the City Council's official historic preservation advisory body to identify, preserve, protect, and promote Raleigh's historic resources.



HIGHLIGHTS

RHDC accomplishes its activities and duties through the work of four standing committees: Research, Community Awareness, Nominations, and Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). After fulfilling its duties, the Prince Hall Historic Overlay District Ad Hoc Committee was dissolved in May 2024.

Research Committee

- Contacted the owners of 34 properties included in the list of [Places Worthy of Preservation](#). This year's letters were themed around kit homes, churches, Wake County owned buildings, and places associated with Raleigh's Black history.
- Approved one application for Raleigh Historic Landmark designation, the William Henley and Elizabeth Deitrick House (see image at right).
- Continued revising the Special Character Essays for each of the Historic Overlay Districts.





42 churches



1 entertainment building



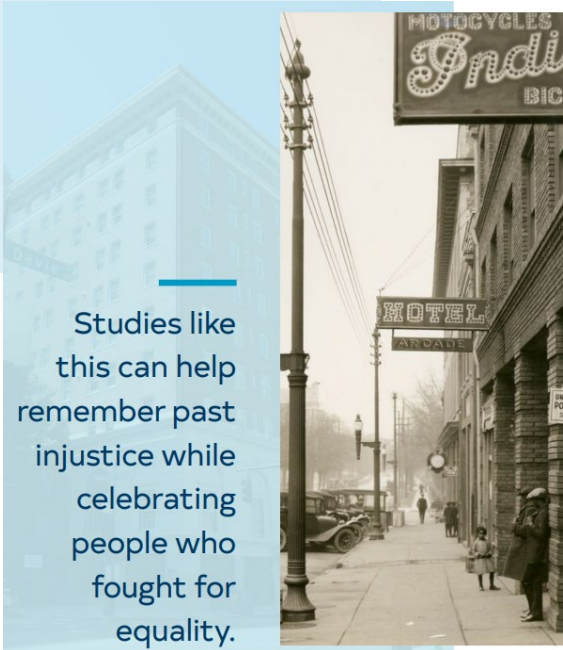
12 places associated with the Civil Rights Movement



37 places associated with Black builders and architects



349 Biltmore Hills houses

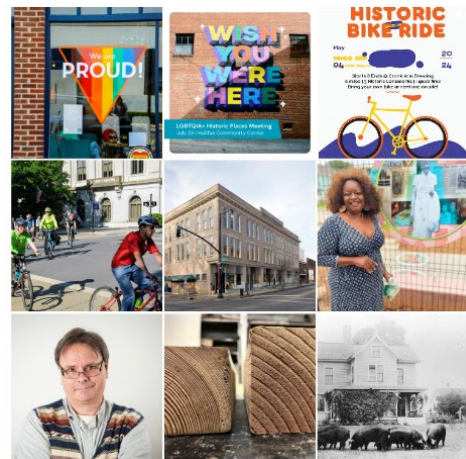


Studies like this can help remember past injustice while celebrating people who fought for equality.

- Accepted the Black Heritage and Historic Places report. Raleigh's Black Heritage and Historic Places: 1945-1975 highlighted churches, entertainment venues, Black architects and building professionals, sites important to the Civil Rights Movement, and the Biltmore Hills neighborhood. The project suggests places for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and provides recommendations for further study. View the [project summary](#) (a project overview) and [final report](#) (complete study findings).
 - A total of 441 properties were found and documented.
 - The Biltmore Hills Historic District was placed on the state study list, NC's precursor to listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Supported the neighborhood's request to fund the Biltmore Hills National Register Nomination.

Community Awareness Committee

- Shared Raleigh's history via images and blurbs posted on social media.
- Shared bios and photos of 6 commissioners on social media.
- Tabled at the Greater Raleigh Chamber annual meeting.
- Attended the 2024 Celebrate Oberlin! Annual BBQ event held at Latta University Historic Park. Commissioners and staff shared about several local historic landmarks in the Oberlin neighborhood through a scavenger hunt and provided recruitment info to potential future commissioners.



- Partnered with the Design Review Commission to present Raleigh Historic Landmark plaques to owners of three recently designated properties as part of the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards celebration. This now annual collaboration shines a brighter light on the landmark designation program and brings more recognition to the stewards of our landmarks.



- Hosted the Raleigh Historic Bike Ride in partnership with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. The public group ride led about 50 cyclists of many skill levels through downtown Raleigh to learn about 5 featured Raleigh Historic Landmark properties. Many participants want to see us make this an annual event!



Nominations Committee

- Identified and suggested Commissioner candidates with the requisite skills to fill vacant positions for City Council consideration.

Certificate of Appropriateness Committee

- 87 COA applications were approved administratively by staff.
- 27 COA applications were decided by the Committee in quasi-judicial evidentiary hearings.

Prince Hall Historic Overlay District (HOD) Ad Hoc Committee

- Formed to address the issues brought up in the State Historic Preservation Office memo about removals of parcels in the Prince Hall HOD, the Committee provided feedback to the full commission in concert with results from the owner survey.

- After multiple meetings with property owners and other interested citizens, the Committee fulfilled its role and reported out to the full commission.
- After hearing feedback from the Committee, the property owner survey, and property owners, RHDC recommended to City Council that the Special Character Essay be updated and the boundaries remain the same.

Other Accomplishments and Activities

- Celebrated Preservation Month (May).
- Heard from attendees of the Black Heritage and Historic Places final meeting what other types of historic place celebration programs would be valuable to them.
- Reviewed seven Recombinations/Recorded Plats.
- Reviewed and made a recommendation on one Right-of-Way Closure.
- Discussed the State Historic Preservation Office's presentation on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Submitted petitions of Demolition by Neglect on two historic properties to Housing and Neighborhoods.
- Successfully submitted the 2023 Certified Local Government Annual Report to the NC State Historic Preservation Office, thus maintaining the City's CLG status.
- Completed CLG required trainings, including attending the Preservation NC Conference, Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program, and preservation related webinars.



RHDC MEMBERS (APPOINTED TERMS)

Katie Pate, Chair (2019-25)

Rob Allen, Vice-Chair (2022-26)

Jonathan Anderson (2022-25)

Ian Dunn (2018-24)

Shannon Johnson (2023-25)

Curtis Kasefang (2021-24)

Tracey Kunz (2024-24)

Bang Le (2024-26)

Octavia Rainey (2022-26)

Jordan Ryland (2022-26)

John Reese (2020-24)

TraShanna Sanchez (2024-26)

David Serxner (2023-25)

Samuel "Wes" Tripp (2022-26)

Lauren Woodard (2024-25)

Christina Jones, City Council Liaison

Tania Tully, Staff Liaison

Collette Kinane, Staff Liaison

Erin Morton Pugh, Staff Liaison



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Download the RHDC mobile app today!

RaleighHistoric.org

RaleighHistoric is compatible with iOS and Android devices and also includes a companion website that is accessible from any web browser.