

HISTORIC HENDERSONVILLE

A Newsletter Published by the

HENDERSONVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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Local Historic Landmarks

Local Governments are given the opportunity to designate individual properties, as well as neighborhoods, to help protect a city's historical, architectural or cultural influences. The City of Hendersonville has designated two homes within the city limits as Local Historic Landmarks. Such a designation carries two consequences for the property owner. The first is that owners wishing to make certain exterior changes must have their plans reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. The second is a 50% local property tax deferral for as long as a property's historical features are retained.

Designation of a building as a local historic landmark begins with the Historic Preservation Commission submitting a report to the State Historic Preservation Office. Upon support from the state, the report goes before the Planning Board and then to City Council for approval. Both landmarks put forth by the Historic Preservation Commission are residences designed and lived in by Erle Stillwell, Hendersonville's most distinguished architect.

On February 8, 2001, City Council adopted an ordinance creating Hendersonville's first Local Historic Landmark – the Erle Stillwell House at 1300 Pinecrest Drive. Set on a hill above Blythe Street, the Tudor Revival/Norman style home is located just west of downtown in an area which developed during the 1910s and 1920s. The 1926 house and an extensively landscaped garden occupy the northern half of a lot that runs from Pinecrest Drive on the north to Iowa Street on the south. Stillwell lost the residence and lot at 1300 Pinecrest Drive in the Depression but he retained ownership of the southern portion of land and later built a second residence on it.

Facing south, this two-story house is an L-plan with the main entry located at the juncture of the two wings of the building. Although the entry faces southeast towards Blythe Street, the entrance to the property is from the drive at the northeast corner which fronts onto Pinecrest Drive. The house was built almost exactly as shown in the architectural plans drawn by Stillwell. The brick walls still display some evidence of parging (a mixture of brick dust and lime dust spread over the brick then painted and scored to look like brick), a technique used by Stillwell in many of his brick structures.



c. 1940

Inside, the house has an irregular floor plan which is consistent with the overall L-plan of the exterior. There is also a finished attic space and a full basement. All doors in the house are eight-panel cherry, except for the former maid's room. Much original hardware remains in the house, including many wall sconces, brass and glass doorknobs, and brass switchplates. The walls are all metal lath covered with plaster. Closets are all cedar-lined and the floors throughout are oak. The bathrooms appear to have their original wall tile.

(Continued p. 2)



On June 14, 2001, Hendersonville's City Council designated a second Local Historic Landmark - the Erle Stillwell House at 541 Blythe Street. The one-story Craftsman style brick house with some Tudor Revival and Classical detailing was built in 1935 on the lot he retained through the Depression and it's where he lived until his death in 1978. The house has an irregular floor plan, primarily an inverted U-shape with an attached garage on the west and a large wing to the northeast. Architectural features of the

exterior include a multi-gable roof, multi-light casement windows, brick quoins, and a prominent recessed entry porch with a series of heavy-timbered arches projecting to the front and curved rafters.

The interior of the house exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship and architectural detail, much like Stillwell's first house. Doors are two-panel with original hardware, floors are pegged oak tongue and groove, and walls and ceilings are plaster. Notable features include the wavy plaster ceiling, knotty pine paneling, built-in shelves, and original granite fireplace surround with cast iron doors in the living room, original light fixtures, and the v-board front door with cast iron viewfinder.

Some buildings designed by Stillwell in Henderson County include Rosa Edwards School (1912), St. James Episcopal Church (ca. 1917-1919), the Brownlow Jackson Building (ca. 1920; 1926), First Bank and Trust Company (1922), State Trust and Citizen's Bank (1923), First Baptist Church (1923), Hendersonville High School (1926), Hendersonville City Hall (1927), Edneyville Grade School (ca. 1920s), Flat Rock School (ca. 1920s), Fletcher Elementary School (ca. 1920s), and the Mills River District Public School (ca. 1920s) plus many private homes.

The Depression brought with it changes for Stillwell's practice and there was a clear delineation between his earlier work and work beginning in the 1930s. Stillwell continued some work in Henderson County but also designed numerous projects all over the southeast, including theaters, schools, residences, churches, and civic buildings in Knoxville, TN, Anniston, AL, Bluefield, WV, Columbia, SC, and more.

In addition to his architecture practice, Stillwell was an active member of St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville, along with several clubs including the Masonic Lodge, the Hendersonville Country Club, and the Kiwanis Club. Eva Smith Stillwell died on November 12, 1971 and Erle Stillwell died on October 22, 1978.

If you would like to learn more about Erle Stillwell, the book *Buildings as History – The Architecture of Erle Stillwell* by William Mitchell is available at Mt. Lore Bookstore and the Henderson County Public Library.

Announcing ...

Tour of Main Street Lofts

Sunday, May 18, 2008, 1:00 - 5:00 pm



Photo by Michael Justice

Ever wonder about the living spaces above the wonderful shops in historic Hendersonville? Wonder no more as five of these above-street homes open their doors to visitors. See how innovative rehabilitation and design make downtown living a cut above.

Chartered as a town in 1847, commercial and Neo-Classical building styles of brick and stone retain the character of Hendersonville at the height of its development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, as in the city's boom time of the 1900s, shops, galleries and restaurants keep tourists coming back for the vibrant charm of this

southern destination. A chance to visit these lofts is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

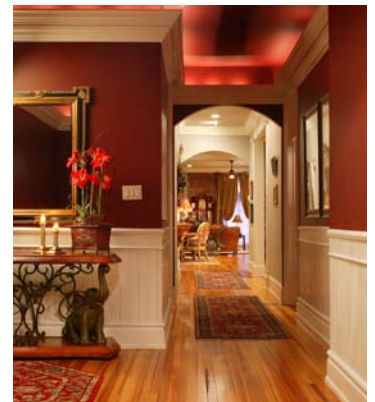


Photo by David Dietrich

Tickets will be available beginning April 10 at:
The Visitors Center, Mountain Lore Books, and Foxfire Gallery all in Hendersonville for \$15.

Join us in celebrating ...

Preservation Week

Every year since 1971, preservationists around the country have joined forces to celebrate National Preservation Week during the second week of May. This year, Hendersonville's Historic Preservation Commission is joining the fun and scheduling events throughout the week of May 12 - May 18. In addition to the loft tour on May 18, here are the special events we have planned.

Ribbon Cutting Monday, May 12 7:00 pm Historic Train Depot

To kick off the week, there will be a Ribbon Cutting followed by desserts at the historic Train Depot off Seventh Avenue. Walk through the depot and admire the building that was the hub of activity for Hendersonville for close to 100 years. Then, check out the wonderful model train displays by the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club as well as the caboose. No charge.



Historic Courthouse Tours Wednesday, May 14

If you miss the grand reopening in April, join us for a tour of the newly, renovated 1905 Henderson County Courthouse.

Walking Tours Friday, May 16

Meander Main Street and learn some of the history and stories of Hendersonville's past. Tours will begin in the City Hall second floor lobby and continue up Main Street stopping at points along the way. The presentation "Main Street" will be showing throughout the day in the City Hall Council Chambers. Tours will be at 10:00, 2:00 and 7:00. No charge.



Antique Appraisal Fair Saturday, May 17 1:00 - 4:00

Ever wonder if grandma's cookie jar could pay for junior's education? Wonder no more. Bring it down to the Blue Ridge Performing Arts Center in the Skyland Hotel and have a local appraiser give you an estimate at our own little "antiques roadshow". Appraisals will be \$2.00 each, limit 3 per person.

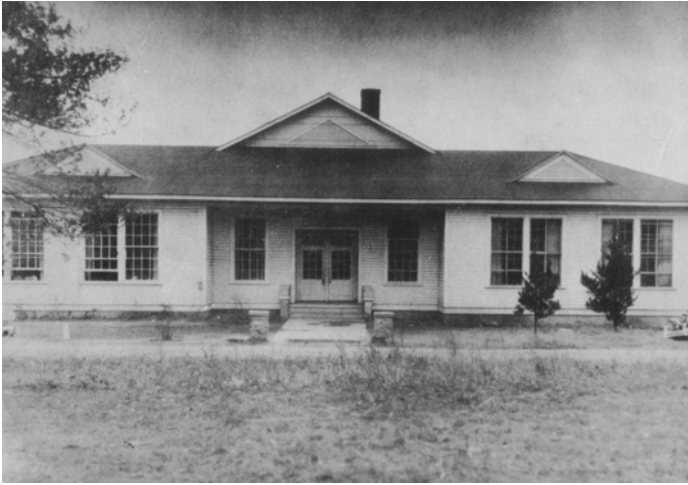
Certificates of Appropriateness issued in 2007 (by District):

Hyman Heights	16
Druid Hills	10
Main Street	5

Interested in Historic Preservation?

The City Council is soliciting applications from citizens who reside in the City's planning jurisdiction who might be interested in serving on the Historic Preservation Commission. A description of this commission and other boards is available on the City's website: www.cityofhendersonville.org, click Departments, then Administration, and Board Information. You may also apply on-line by clicking E-Gov, then Administration. You may also request an application by calling the City Clerk, Tammie Drake, at 697-3005.

Sixth and Ninth Avenue Schools



Ninth Avenue School 1939-1951

In 1916, the Sixth Avenue School opened on the corner of 64 West and Valley Street to serve the Black American students of Henderson County. Prior to this, there was a small school on the corner of Ninth and Justice. In 1936 a permanent high school curriculum was added so motivated students would not have to leave the county for secondary education. The Sixth Avenue School also served as a community center hosting meetings, plays and dances.

On Sunday October 28, 1951, the new Ninth Avenue School was dedicated closing the Sixth Avenue School. This modern two-story, brick building served as a regional school for Black American students coming from not just from Henderson but also Polk and Transylvania Counties. The last graduation took place on May 27, 1965 and remaining students were integrated into the area public schools. The Ninth Avenue School still stands as part of Hendersonville Middle School.

Four Senior Girl Scouts from Troop 404 were looking for a project to earn their Gold Award, the Girl Scout equivalent to the Eagle Scout, and decided to take on the task of designing a website and a monument to these high schools. The girls divided up the work into four areas: Shelby Welter gathered the historical data, Stephanie Nix scanned the existing annuals into digital form, Melaine Gossage interviewed students and teachers and Maggie Chandler designed a permanent monument.

To honor these institutions, their principals, teachers and students, the City of Hendersonville will erect a monument on Main Street with the dedication planned for Saturday, June 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. For more information, e-mail: info@hendersonvillehpc.org or call 828-693-0082.

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