



# Preservation for Everyone





# The Power of Historic Preservation



This was a banner year for the Hendersonville Historic Preservation Commission.

Through expanded programming and new partnerships, preservation reached more people across the City than ever before. From strengthening existing initiatives to launching new efforts like the City's continuing education course for realtors, the Commission continues to connect residents, professionals, and visitors to Hendersonville's historic places in meaningful ways.

A key priority this year has been ensuring that preservation reflects the full story of our community. The launch of the Neighborhood History Project marks an important step forward, working to document and elevate histories that have too often gone unrecorded.

At the same time, the reintroduction of experiences like the Downtown Loft Tour, made possible through a strong partnership with Hendersonville's Downtown Program, offered a fresh perspective on the City's historic buildings.

These efforts, many of which are joint, reflect a renewed commitment to making preservation visible, inclusive, and relevant to the entire Hendersonville community.

Thank you to all who have supported this work over the past year. Preservation succeeds through shared effort.

- Cheryl Jones, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission



HPC Members at their annual retreat on a tour of Asheville's historically Black neighborhoods.



Neighborhood History Project informational session at Star of Bethel Church.

# BY THE NUMBERS



## 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



4

EVENTS  
HOSTED



5

NEW HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS



6

TRAININGS  
ATTENDED



23

COAs  
APPROVED



760

EVENT  
ATTENDEES



\$19,145

FUNDS  
RAISED



HPC members hearing from Jessie Landl, Executive Director of the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County, about their affordable housing program.



344 N Main Street's facade rehabilitation was approved by the Historic Preservation Commission this year.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Expanded programming to engage residents of all ages and backgrounds.



## HALLOWEEN AT OAKDALE

A first-of-its-kind event inviting children and adults to explore Oakdale Cemetery.



## HOLIDAY TOUR OF INNS

Featured six historic inns across Henderson County.



## COLORING BOOKS

Distributed to every third-grade student in Henderson County.



## LOFT TOUR

Reintroduced after ten years in partnership with the Hendersonville Downtown Program, showcasing downtown living.



## First Ever Realtor Training Course

Launched a continuing education course equipping real estate professionals with tools to support preservation.

# Designation Committee



## NEWLY DESIGNATED

Lenox Spring, constructed ca. 1917



## NEWLY DESIGNATED

Gregory House, constructed in 1924



## NEWLY DESIGNATED

Ewbank-Whitmire House,  
constructed ca. 1924



## NEWLY DESIGNATED

McKeithan Rogers House,  
constructed in 1909



## NEWLY DESIGNATED

The Waverly Inn,  
constructed in 1889

## National Register of Historic Places Study List Applications



Submitted four Study List applications, representing the first step toward listing properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Installed new historic markers and plaques. Initiated development of a formal Historic Marker Program.



Established a "Places of Importance" designation priority list.

# Neighborhood History Project



The Neighborhood History Project launched in summer 2025 with Phase I, which included community information sessions and oral history listening events designed to document previously underrepresented stories, histories, and experiences.

Goals:

1. Identify historically Black neighborhoods in Hendersonville.
2. Collected oral histories from community members, with an emphasis on preserving stories and experiences shared by older residents.

## PHASE I ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Identified seven historic neighborhoods, including three determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Established the Neighborhood History Project Action Committee to guide and implement the next phases of the project.



Submitted three Study List applications for National Register eligibility consideration.



Collected eight oral histories in partnership with Blue Ridge Community College Special Collections.

### Neighborhood History Project Report Hendersonville, North Carolina

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1

Phase I was summarized in a report prepared by consultant Sybil Argintar. The report and additional project resources are available on the Historic Preservation Commission website at [hendersonvillehpc.org/nhp](http://hendersonvillehpc.org/nhp)