

The West Ender

By and for the
West End Neighborhood

SEPTEMBER 1986

WEST END CALENDAR

October 7, 8:00 pm - West End Board Meeting at Sue and Tom Davis's house, West End Boulevard

October 8 - Closing date for submission to The West Ender to Joyce Gravlee, 1205 Clover Street

November 4, 8:00 pm - West End Board Meeting at Carol Wells & Bill Suggs' house, West 4th Street

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

On September 17th the Forsyth County Historic Properties Commission held a public information meeting at the Public Library on our nomination for the National Register. Laura Phillips presented a slide show on the architectural character of the neighborhood. Gwynne Taylor discussed the history of West End's development. Davyd Hood of the State Department of Archives and History stated that the nomination was "one of the finest nominations our office has ever processed."

The Historic Properties Commission unanimously and enthusiastically supported the nomination. The next step is the State Professional Review Board on October 9, 1986, then the National Park Service for final approval. Special thanks are due Laura Phillips and Gwynne Taylor for a job well done!

HELLO OUT THERE IN THE WEST END YOU'RE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US AT OUR NEXT BOARD MEETING

August's board meeting was another example of an interesting evening learning more about your neighborhood. Remember that you are all welcome to come to any of these meetings. That's why the calendar always appears herein.

In August, Laura Phillips, one of our architectural historians, and Joe Lineberger, president of the Crystal Towers Association, joined us for a discussion of the proposed National Register Historic District. If all goes well at the State and Federal levels, we should be certified as historic by next spring. The nomination covered 610 properties and 775 structures. Of these, 515 were judged by our consulting historians as "contributing" to the historic nature of the area. The period of significance is 1887 - 1930. About 70% of the 610 properties listed were built between 1900 and 1930. Laura and Gwynne did a fine and thorough job of documenting the architecture of the West End. They have a file on each of the 610 properties which includes facts on builders, architects, owners, and styles. These files will be available sometime soon for West Enders who wish to learn more about their homes. We'll keep you posted when they are duplicated and ready.

NOW...A LITTLE HISTORY

The nomination itself is a fascinating document. For your information and enjoyment, we're going to excerpt it in this and future issues of The West Ender. Here's the first installment...

In 1752 the Moravians, German-speaking Protestants, purchased 100,000 acres in the heart of what is now Forsyth County, and in 1753 the first Moravian brethren arrived to carve a settlement out of the wilderness. The new settlement was named Bethabara and it gave the Moravians a foothold from which to establish other settlements in the 100,000 acre tract. The Moravians were careful planners and they established the towns of Bethania (1759) and Salem (1766) with town squares and a grid pattern of streets based on plans from towns in Germany with which they were familiar. With a characteristic sense of German practicality and planning, the towns were not only planned, but also regulated as to building types, placement and uses.

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Salem became the central and largest town, and by the middle of the nineteenth century the population of the area had grown to the extent that the North Carolina General Assembly voted in 1849 to form a new county seat, and in 1851 the Moravians sold 51¼ acres approximately 500 yards north of Salem on which to build the town of Winston.

The town of Winston was established with a Courthouse square and a grid pattern of streets surrounding it. The town of Salem and the Forsyth County Commissioners had agreed that the streets of the new town be continuations of the Salem streets and that the Courthouse should be erected at the highest point on the main street. Seventy-two lots were drawn off, and with the exception of the Courthouse lot, they were sold at public auction in May and June, 1849. The new Courthouse was completed in 1850, and several commercial buildings and residences were built in Winston by 1851.

After the Civil War, in the last third of the nineteenth century, both Winston and Salem expanded their industrial pursuits and Winston experienced phenomenal growth. Between 1870 and 1880 Winston's population increased from 443 to 4,194. After the Northwest North Carolina Railroad connection was completed from Greensboro to Winston in 1873, Winston really thrived. Richard Joshua Reynolds came to Winston and opened his first tobacco factory in 1875, and in 1879 the First National Bank of Salem was rechartered as Wachovia National Bank and moved its offices to Winston. In 1885 the first Board of Trade (later the Chamber of Commerce) was organized and in 1889 another important rail connection, the Roanoke and Southern, was realized.

With such rapid growth in Winston (and Salem) the building industry prospered. In 1882 Dr. Edward Rondthaler, a Moravian bishop, stated that Winston and Salem were growing closer together and that the building of both was largely attributable to both the Fogle Brothers and Miller Brothers Lumber Companies.

The 1890's were years of even further growth and development in Winston. The population reached 14,000 in 1890--an over 100% increase in ten years. Winston's grid of streets now extended from First Street north to Seventh and from Hickory Street west to Summit. Most of the tobacco and textile factories were located east of Elm Street (now Marshall) and south of Fifth Street, and Winston's finest residential section continued to move west along Fourth, Fifth, Broad and Summit Streets. The Winston-Salem City Directory for 1891/1892 described the city as having taxable property of about \$5,000,000, electric lights, an electric street railway, water works, two fire companies, and "factories, stores and residences...being completed at the rate of three per week, and this is far short of the demand. It also described a \$100,000 hotel "under contract." In the 1890's at least seven development companies were formed to capitalize on the great building boom. One of these was the West End Hotel and Land Company--the developer of the \$100,000 resort hotel mentioned in the City Directory and the residential area surrounding it.

The West End Hotel and Land Company of Winston held its organizational meeting on May 29, 1890 to plan "... the erection of a hotel, first class in all its appointments and with every modern improvement--one of the institutions we most need. The company elected William A. Whitaker, a tobacco manufacturer, as president, and the directors included some of Winston's and North Carolina's greatest industrialists such as R. J. Reynolds (tobacco), P. H. Hanes (tobacco), James A. Gray (Wachovia Bank), and J. W. Fries (Fries Manufacturing and Power). The company represented a "paid up capital of \$300,000," and on July 2, 1890 it purchased approximately 180 acres northwest of Winston from Henry W. Fries for

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\$134,142.40. The land had belonged to Johann Christian Wilhelm Fries, Henry's father and J. W. Fries grandfather. By August, 1890, Jacob Lott Ludlow, a resident of Summit Street in the West End area and Winston's first city engineer, had laid out the curving streets of the West End Hotel and Land Company's resort (Section 1 of the development included the area known today as "Crystal Towers," Section 2 included the area around the hotel site and the area known today as "West End South.")

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TREES

By the time you read this, the City will have awarded a new contract to a landscape firm to water, maintain and/or replace the new trees lining our streets. The original contractor did not maintain them adequately. It should be a beautiful spring after all.

CLASSIFIEDS

Responsible, very experienced 13 year old girl available for babysitting in the afternoons. Rate \$2.00 per hour. Excellent neighborhood and church references available. Call Ivy Ross at 725-4575 after 2:30.

NOTICE

The draft of the Proposed County Comprehensive Plan and Thoroughfare Plan is available for viewing at Thruway Shopping Center on October 3rd from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please drop in to see the plan there or at the Planning Board Office and let the Staff know what you think. There are provisions in the plan for establishing historic districts and Appearance Commissions. Just what we have been working toward! The plan discusses residential development and densities in the Central Business District as well as areas like the West End. The County's Road Plan is also discussed.

EDITOR: Joyce Gravlee

PRODUCTION: Chris Chapman
Bill Wise

ADS: Bill Wise

CIRCULATION: Carl Wells & Bill Sugg - Memberships in the Association are available for \$10.00 (\$5.00 senior citizens). Send your check to The West End Association P. O. Box 161, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102.

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Central YMCA News - There are programs offered at the Central YMCA that may interest West End residents. For example, the Weight Management Class for those interested in losing extra pounds prior to Christmas; or the Healthy Back Class for those with nagging lower back pain; or racquetball leagues; or swimming, yoga and fitness classes...the list goes on. Two new programs include a leadership program for teens as well as a recreational/social program for unmarried adults. Give us a call at 722-1163 for more information on our fall programs.

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