

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING
110 EAST STATE STREET**

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

May 2, 2007

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CCHPC Members Present:

**Daves Rossell, Chairman
George Cohen
Vaughnette Goode-Walker
Stephen T. Lindell
Pamela G. Lossing
Christian Sottile
Lisa L. White
William Haynes**

CCHPC/MPC Staff Members Present:

**Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Rossell asked the Commission members and staff to give brief introductions.

III. GUEST SPEAKER - Mark McDonald, Executive Director, Historic Savannah Foundation, "Historic Savannah Foundation's Efforts in Chatham County"

Ms. Harris introduced Mr. Mark McDonald, Executive Director of Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF).

Mr. McDonald thanked the Commission for inviting him to speak. He said HSF is concerned with the entire heritage of Chatham County, including the historic city plan from 1733 to the last designated square in 1856. They are preservationists and advocates for built objects, and for public spaces like the squares and public parks. He gave a Power Point presentation on the history of the historic preservation movement in Savannah, as well as the creation of HSF. He explained the role and evolution of the revolving fund and HSF's goals for the future.

Ms. Harris asked if HSF would accept façade easements outside of Savannah.

Mr. McDonald said they have and could take easements in Chatham County according to their by-laws.

Dr. Rossell asked if they follow the actions of the Operation Cleansweep and its demolitions.

Mr. McDonald stated to his knowledge there is no written protocol to make sure that historic buildings are not hastily demolished in order to clean up a neighborhood. However, he is not aware that this is a problem and he believes when there is a property in question, Ms. Reiter will view the property and decide whether it is salvageable. He said that sometimes a building permit is not issued before a building is torn down. (Illegally)

Ms. Goode-Walker asked if SCAD had helped in the Foundation's quest for preservation.

Mr. McDonald answered they have done so enormously. He said they have been an incredible benefactor to preservation.

Dr. Rossell thanked Mr. McDonald for his presentation.

Ms. Harris stated she was pleased to be reviewing the first application for listing on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places for the New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church, with a Historic Property. She briefly walked the Board through the designation process.

IV. HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION

**Petition of Sarah McClendon
DP-07-0314-01-1
New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church
751 Chevis Road
Historic Property Designation**

Present for the petition was Mrs. Sarah McClendon.

Ms. Harris gave the Staff report.

Physical Description: New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church is located at 751 Chevis Road in the Burroughs community of Chatham County. The building is a wood-frame, front-gabled building with horizontal lap wood siding, a metal standing seam roof, exposed rafter tails, and brick masonry foundation piers. The church is rectangular in shape with a central wood beam supporting the building with floor joists on each side of the central beam. The front façade has a front gabled porch with double entry doors. The building has a series of evenly spaced, six-over-six double-hung wooden windows on all facades. There is a small, wood frame cupola on the roof with a wooden cross.

Statement of Significance: New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1891, as a result of a split from the nearby Bethel Baptist Church on Ogeechee Road. The land, originally part of Wild Heron Plantation, was subdivided in the 1870's and 1880's, and former slaves were given the opportunity to buy the land on which they lived. The land was donated to the church by J.D. Campbell, on March 29, 1891, and in 1893 the current structure was built. An addition was added to the rear of the structure in 1965. The church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 8, 2001.

The church is significant in the area of architecture, as an excellent and intact example of a church building constructed for rural African-American congregations throughout Georgia in the 19th century.

Additionally, it is significant in the area of ethnic heritage, as one of three African-American historic churches to serve the Burroughs community of Chatham County.

Statement justifying property boundaries: The boundaries of the historic property represent the existing parcel boundaries. These are the original boundaries deeded to the church in 1891, and are also the National Register boundaries.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission recommend approval of the nomination of New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places, because it meets the criteria established in Section IV.D.1. of the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Ms. Harris stated the adoption of the resolution is required by the ordinance before going to the Board of Commissioners. The CCHPC will make a recommendation to the County Commissioners on the Designation Ordinance. She said the CCHPC approves the Design Guidelines and Criteria for the church. The ordinance has generic standards, automatically applicable to the church, and an individual set of guidelines are developed specifically for each property.

Mr. Cohen asked if there would be a plaque.

Ms. Harris said they do not provide plaques.

Mr. Cohen asked if it was something the Commission could offer the designees with an option of the petitioner paying for the cost, similar to the ones Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) offers.

Ms. White suggested that instead of the Commission creating something, maybe they could apply for a plaque from HSF.

Ms. Harris stated she thought it was a good suggestion, would do some research into both suggestions, and let the Commission know the results at the next meeting.

V. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

- a. Adopt "Resolution"
- b. Recommend Approval "Designation Ordinance"
- c. Approve Changes to "Certificate of Appropriateness Application"
- d. Approve "Design Guidelines and Criteria for New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church"

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby adopt the Resolution. Mr. Sottile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby recommend approval of the Historic Property Designation Ordinance for the New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a historic property to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Harris asked the Commission to hold off approving the Certificate of Appropriateness application as she wanted to make additional changes subsequent to attending the HPC training.

CCHPC ACTION: Ms. White made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby approve the Design Guidelines and Criteria for the New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as presented. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Rossell asked if any members of the New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church would like to make any comments.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Mrs. Sarah McClendon stated she is a member of the Historic New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church. The members of the church are appreciative to the Commission for asking them to be part of and for allowing them to be the first property on the list.

Dr. Rossell stated the Commission wanted to thank Mrs. McClendon for all of her work for getting the building nominated for the National Register, and for following through with all of the research and support of the nomination.

VI. UPDATES

a. Contact with Communities/Individuals Interested in District or Property Nominations

Ms. Harris stated she spoke with the Isle of Hope Historical Society on April 26 and that it was a great meeting with approximately 50 attendees, including Commissioner Helen Stone and Mr. Joe Thompson from Wormsloe. The Isle of Hope Historical Society had decided to form a committee with Lee Meyer as Chairman to head up the effort to get the designation process started.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Nominating Committee Report- Vice-Chairman Position

Mr. Christian Sottile stated the Nominating Committee of the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission met and nominated Mr. George Cohen as the Vice-Chairman.

CCHPC ACTION: **Mr. Lindell made the motion that Mr. George Cohen be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission, with the term to expire on December 31, 2007. Ms. Goode-Walker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

b. MPC Historic Preservation Department- Board Retreat

Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Thomson had sent out a memo for a Board training session on June 8 with the Carl Vinson Institute, and that it will be rescheduled to a later date. She said the Historic Preservation Department of the MPC would be holding a Board retreat for all of its preservation-related Boards, to be held on June 15, 2007, at the MPC. The Commission will receive more details as the date gets closer. She said it will be an all day event with training and speakers, and it will address any of the issues or questions the Commission may have.

c. May is Preservation Month

- i. May 18 - 20 - Georgia Trust Annual Meeting – Brunswick**
- ii. May 22 - How to Research Your Historic Home**
- iii. May 24 3:00 Donovan Rypkema- Preservation Economist, Richmond Hill**

Ms. Harris stated that May is Preservation Month. She said the Georgia Trust will be holding its annual meeting in Brunswick on May 18 – 20. There will be a presentation on how to research a historic home that will be put on by HSF in connection with the Georgia Historical Society. There is more information on the HSF website. Mr. Donovan Rypkema will be speaking on May 22 in Brunswick and Richmond Hill, and is being sponsored by the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center's Historic Preservation Advisory Council. He is a nationally-recognized preservation economist who lectures all over the country.

VIII. MEETING MINUTES

- a. March 7, 2007
- b. April 4, 2007

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Rossell stated the next meeting will be held on June 6, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the MPC.

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp