

**Dana Stidham**

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**From:** Elisabeth Benfey [benfeye@duke.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2007 3:09 PM  
**To:** Manager  
**Cc:** Town Council; Tanya H Freeman; Shelley deFosset; Pat Lowry; Dana Stidham; Gene Poveromo  
**Subject:** Petition to the Town Council RE: National Register of Historic Places  
**Attachments:** Summary of Action-National Register expansion.doc; ATT8246484.htm

**Dear Mr. Stancil,**

**We respectfully petition the Council to discuss, and vote on the funding of a consultant to prepare the nomination of our neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. The letter, below, explains in detail the history of this initiative. We would like the Council to address this issue on its June 11th meeting.**

**We thank you in advance for putting this item on the agenda.**

**Elisabeth Benfey  
Tanya Freeman  
Shelley Defosset  
Pat Lowry**

My neighbors and I have been working over the past year to put our neighborhood (the Franklin-Rosemary Historic District) on the National Register of Historic Places. As you know, the area North of Rosemary is already on the Register, and we are just trying to expand the protection to our area, South of Rosemary down to the old Tavern on Hillsborough Street, West to Cobb Terrace, and East to Tenney Circle (roughly).

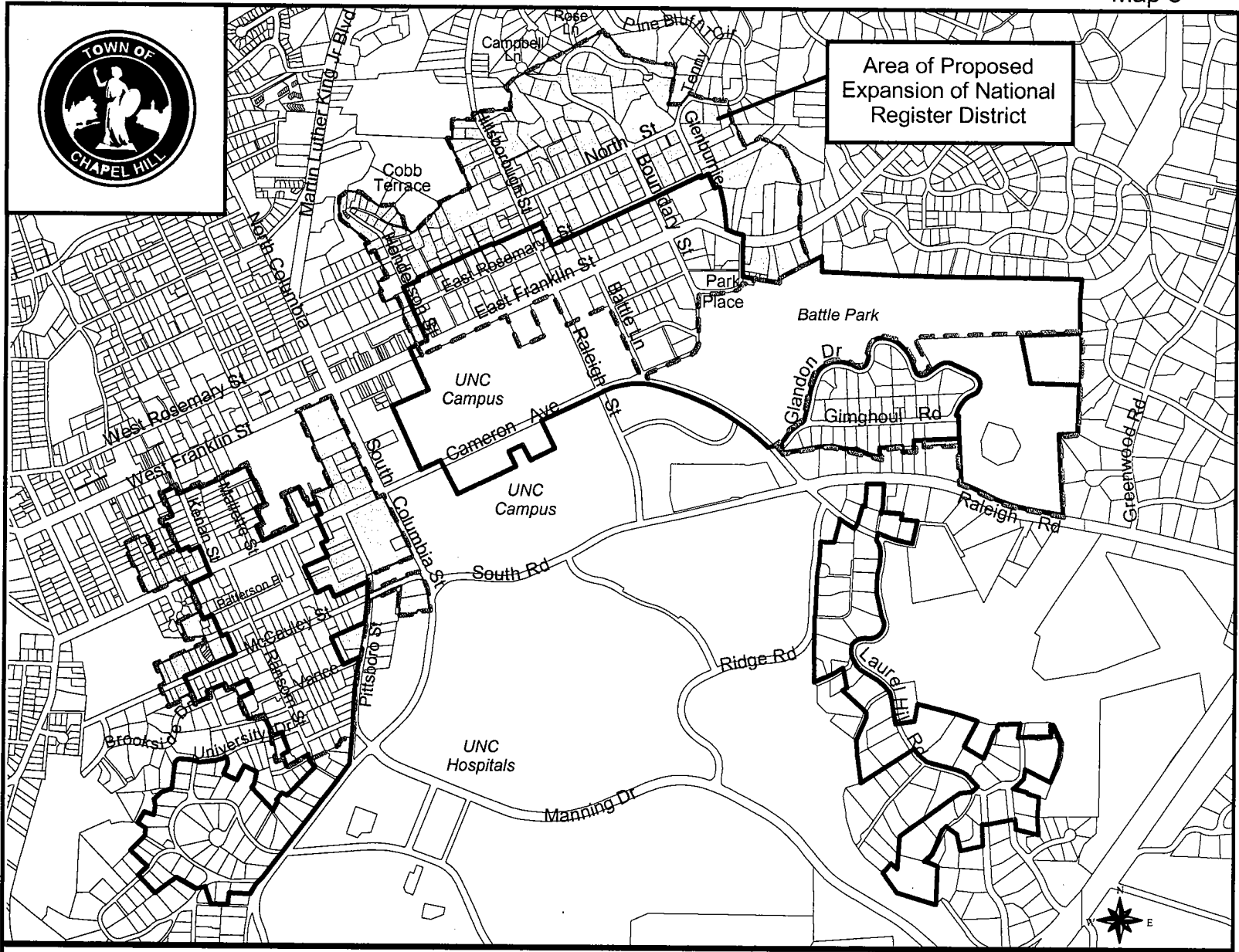
We were informed in June that the National Register Advisory Council, which met on June 8, 2006, has approved the Chapel Hill Historic District Boundary Expansion Study List application. The expansion area is now on the State Study List.



We are now at the stage where a consultant must be hired to prepare the nomination for the proposed Chapel Hill National Register District Expansion. The approximate consultant's fee is \$10,000. We applied for an HPF grant for \$5,000. As a sponsor for this grant application, the Town of Chapel Hill agreed to pay (this is a condition to receive this grant) the matching \$5,000.

We were recently informed, however, that we did not get the grant. Anne Swallow, from the NC State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO), has assured us that, I quote, "The boundary expansion area is certainly worthy of being listed in the National Register." In view of this comment, we consider that it makes sense to continue the application process. However, we cannot fund the consultant ourselves. We asked the Historic Commission for a recommendation that the Town pay for the consultant in full. Attached, please find the summary of the Commission's action sent to us by Dana Stidham.

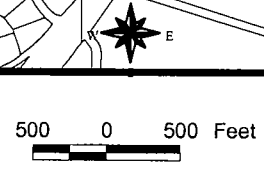


Area of Proposed Expansion of National Register District



-  Local Historic Districts
-  National Register Districts

### Comparison of Local and National Register Historic District Boundaries



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH AT 7:00 PM  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

November 3, 2006

Dear Neighbors:

Many of us are concerned by the mounting pressures put on our neighborhood by new developments and campus expansion projects. Some of these include the redevelopment of Town House Apartments and NorthHampton Terrace and the looming development of Carolina North. To help gain control over these disturbing developments, some members of the East Franklin Neighborhood Association are pursuing the expansion of the current Chapel Hill National Historic District to encompass the entire local Franklin—Rosemary Historic District. As you know, the area North of Rosemary is already on the Register, and we are just working to expand the protection to our area, South of Rosemary down to the old Tavern on Hillsborough Street, West to Cobb Terrace, and East to (but not including) Tenney Circle (roughly). Our goal is to protect our properties against possible encroachments and to preserve the integrity of existing buildings bordering Hillsborough Street.

We were informed in June that the National Register Advisory Council, which met on June 8, 2006, has approved the Chapel Hill Historic District Boundary Expansion Study List application. The expansion area is now on the State Study List. The next step is to inform our neighbors about the project prior to preparing a formal application to the National Register Advisory Committee—and to hear feedback about the project.

**We would like to invite you to a Neighborhood Forum on Tuesday, November 14th at 7pm at the Town Council Chambers.** We will discuss our goals and the next steps of obtaining the National Register Certification. In addition, representatives from the Town of Chapel Hill Planning Department and the NC State Historic Preservation Office will be available to answer questions and to explain the impact on your property.

Now is the time that we all work together to ensure that our endangered neighborhoods get all the protection they can receive. By standing behind such grass-root initiatives, you will send a clear message that we intend to establish a balance between the need for growth, and the necessity to respect our heritage.

Cheers

Tanya, Elisabeth, Pat and Shelley

*Excerpt from the NC State Historic Preservation Office Website:*

*The listing of a property in the National Register places no obligation or restriction on a private owner using private resources to maintain or alter the property. Over the years, various federal incentives have been introduced to assist private preservation initiatives. A private owner of a National Register property becomes obligated to follow federal preservation standards only if federal funding or licensing is used in work on the property, or if the owner seeks and receives a special benefit that derives from National Register designation, such as a grant or a tax credit ...*

NEIGHBORHOOD  
ORGANIZERS

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WEBSITE REFERENCES

[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)

[www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/nr/home.htm](http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/nr/home.htm)