

Carson

# THE WHITTLERS BENCH

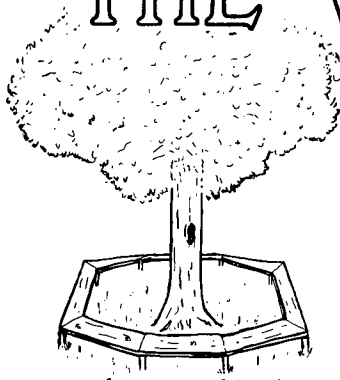
SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 115 • SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA 28461

May 30, 1981

Volume VI Number 2

## MARKERS DISCUSSED AT APRIL MEETING



At the April meeting of the Southport Historical Society a representative of the Historic Wilmington Foundation presented an outline of the very successful program for marking buildings in the historic district of Wilmington. Mr. Howard Highsmith heads the committee responsible for authenticating historical information, as well as for the design and maintenance of the plaques. Under their guidelines, the individual property owner must present to the committee a summary of historical information from documented sources establishing the previous ownership or use of the building and, if possible, its date of construction. The committee then drafts an appropriate text and has it painted on the plaque.

Because of its emphasis on accurate information and comprehensive scope, the marker program in Wilmington has been recognized as one of the best in the country.

Mr. Highsmith spoke to a gathering of about fifty members and guests of the Southport Historical Society at our annual covered dish dinner. We hope to begin our own marker program in the near future.

## SOUTHPORT RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

The long-awaited announcement of Southport's listing in The National Registry of Historic Places came in mid-May when the State Division of Archives and History notified Mayor Tomlinson and City Manager Martin that the nomination made last October had been accepted. On May 14th representatives of the State review committee for the National Registry came to Southport to make an official presentation and discuss the significance of this honor.

Due to the many inquiries we have received concerning how the designation of this historic area affects individual property owners, we are reproducing on page 3 an explanation of the purposes and effects of a National Registry listing. If you have other questions, please contact us through this newsletter for further information.

## GAUSE DESCENDENT VISITS SOUTHPORT

George Gause, one of our out-of-town members, visited in Southport and other parts of Brunswick County in March. Mr. Gause, now a librarian in Edinburg, Texas, traces his ancestry back to a branch of the Brunswick County Gause's. Mr. Gause presented some genealogical materials to the Southport-Brunswick County Library.

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FINAL CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS! If you have not already done so, please pay your 1981 dues.

## IN MEMORY

Miss Annie May Woodside

1892 - 1981

A charter member of the Southport Historical Society and a leader in church and civic activities, Miss Woodside made many outstanding contributions that will long be appreciated by those who love Southport as she did. Miss Woodside and her family are an integral part of the history of our town and thanks to them, much valuable historical material has been preserved.

Her father, John W. Woodside, Jr. was a licensed Cape Fear Pilot, who served for many years as captain of the dredge Woodbury. His parents were the original proprietors of the boarding house on Moore Street that came to be known as the Clemmons House. Her mother was Mary Jane Anders of Bladen County who, after the death of Mr. Woodside in 1895, married Jens Berg, a pharmacist with the U.S. Public Health Service at the quarantine station in Southport and a prominent local businessman.

The Bergs purchased for their residence a house on Bay Street which had been built as the hospital at Fort Johnston and moved to its present location during a post Civil War renovation of the fort. It was to be Miss Woodside's home for the rest of her life. Long before old house research became a popular activity, she delved into the records of National and State Archives to establish an accurate historical account of her property. Much later this material became the first of many kinds of assistance she provided during the architectural inventory of 1978-79.

Her interest in local history is reflected also in the extensive historical artifacts and records she collected and shared with the community throughout her lifetime. The numerous documents, photos, and books she donated to the Southport Historical Society became the core of our present archival holdings.

Miss Woodside's personal accomplishments are also an interesting chapter in the history of Southport. A graduate of State Normal and Technical College (now the University of N.C. at Greensboro), she taught for several years in the public school system. Later she became assistant cashier at the Bank of Southport before accepting appointment as Superintendent of Brunswick County Schools, where she served with professional distinction until her retirement in 1947, the first woman in North Carolina and one of the first in the nation to attain the position of school superintendent.

Until her final illness, Miss Woodside remained an active leader in her church and an enthusiastic participant in community projects, receiving many honors for her achievements.

She will be remembered as a vital part of the history of Southport.

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?

The National Register is a list of distinction identifying for the people those properties worthy of preservation for their historic value. It is authorized by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Nominations can include buildings, structures, objects, sites or districts. Nominations are made by the State Historic Preservation Officer, after approval by the State Professional Review Committee and work by the staff of the Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History. Nominations are sent to the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, in Washington, D.C. They are reviewed there, which generally takes three to six months, and then, if approved, entered in the Register.

### WHAT DOES LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER MEAN?

First, it is an honor, a recognition of the importance of the property or district to the past and present of the locality, state, and nation.

Second, National Register listing means that, according to state and federal law, any state funded or assisted project or any federally funded, licensed, or assisted project that might have any effect (positive or adverse) upon the integrity of the National Register property or district must be reviewed according to certain procedures. Generally, this means that the state or Federal official must contact the State Historic Preservation Officer to assess the effect of the project on the National Register property, and the necessary review procedures are then followed. This could include, for example, a Federal highway going through a house; an urban renewal project destroying part or all of a historic district. The review does not always mean that the historic property is saved, but in many cases it does.

Third, National Register listing is a requirement for certain kinds of matching grants from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for renovation, stabilization, repairs, and restoration. Private citizens, local governments, and non-profit organizations who own buildings in the National Register can, through the State Historic Preservation Officer (Division of Archives and History), apply for matching grants. Funds for these grants are quite limited at this time, and competition is stiff. The recent Tax Reform Act of 1976 (Section 2124) benefits owners of commercial properties listed on the National Register by providing new tax incentives for preservation including accelerated depreciation for certified rehabilitation of such properties. Other provisions eliminate deduction of demolition costs and accelerated depreciation of new construction if a certified National Register property is demolished.

### DOES NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING LIMIT THE PRIVATE OWNER?

National Register listing has no effect on what a private owner can do with his or her property. It only affects what government agencies can do that might harm the integrity of the building. In addition, National Register listing has no effect on the tax evaluation of any property.

There is, however, state enabling legislation (G.S. 160-A: 3A) to permit localities to set up historic districts and district commissions, which can restrict demolition, alterations, etc., in a locally designated area. In addition G.S. 160-A: 3B, enables counties and municipalities to set up local historic properties commissions; designation as a historic property can postpone demolition or alteration and qualifies the owners of the property for a 50% tax deferral. For further information on these locally-executed preservation tools, contact the State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Archives and History. These local preservation programs have no direct connection with the National Register of Historic Places.