

Tim Thompson

Stewardship

Streamlining the Preservation Process



A native North Carolinian, Tim Thompson was born in Salisbury and spent much of his career in the software industry working from Raleigh. Having learned to sail here in the 1980s, he was able to arrange to telecommute with his corporate work from New Bern and bought an historic home in 2005 to fix up on Avenue A in our Riverside neighborhood. He got involved working with the Riverside community, and in 2011 was offered a seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. An early success on the HPC was to tackle some of the demolition by neglect issues in the historic districts. He was then asked to Chair the HPC which he did for four years. His background in project and process management led him to organize three teams to update and simplify three key cornerstones of the HPC's work: the Rules of Procedure, the City's Ordinance, and the Historic District Guidelines. The goal of all this is to preserve the historic character and fabric of New Bern that makes our city such an attractive place to live and visit. While Tim headed a team to revise the Rules, Mickey Miller and Jim Morrison worked on the ordinance, and Tripp Eure led a team with Nancy Gray to revise the Guidelines complemented by David Griffith providing important graphics. By the end of his term in 2017 all of this work was completed and being implemented. Here's one illustration of simplifying things: the Guidelines went from 152 pages to 88. You no longer have to look in four or five places to find out how wood can be used. There are no longer 12-15 guidelines for a particular item with varying subtleties, but perhaps 4 or 5 easy to grasp ones.

For leading the HPC in this important effort to allow our historic properties to change while protecting our architectural heritage, and with a bow to all the HPC members who were involved, we present this medal for stewardship to Tim Thompson.

Presented by the New Bern Preservation Foundation
*At its Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony
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