



Albemarle, North Carolina

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Albemarle North Carolina was established in 1857 as the seat of Stanly County. Its early growth and history was tied to the cotton industry and textile mills, and its historic downtown core has retained a unique and diverse building stock that tells the story of how the city developed. Large grain silos are examples of Albemarle's agrarian history, while textile mills and villages hint at the industrial background of the community. Turn-of-the-century commercial structures show that downtown once was, and still is, the center of commerce for the region.



While the community had focused on the revitalization of its downtown, it had no tools to ensure that its historic character be preserved for generations to come. Realizing this, the City hired Arnett Muldrow & Associates to create a preservation program from the ground up. This included:

- Drafting a historic preservation ordinance in accordance with state statutes,
- Establishing a Historic Preservation Commission,
- Designating the Local Historic District, and
- Drafting Historic District Design Guidelines

The project included a high-level of community input to establish the key priorities for preservation, and appropriate methods for protecting Albemarle's historic resources. Each of the four elements were developed with guidance of a steering committee of stakeholders, with coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office. A key component of this process was utilizing the steering committee as an educational team to engage each property owner within the district in an effort to inform, but also build support for the new tools. Arnett Muldrow guided the preservation program through the public adoption process, and trained the new preservation commission once it was established.

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