



BETHEL RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
ART PRINT COLLECTION SUBMITTAL
MULTI-MEDIA CATEGORY
NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF HISTORIANS
2020

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Since 2005, Bethel Rural Community Organization's Historic Preservation (HP) Committee, under the direction of Evelyn Coltman, HP Committee Chair, has defined and performed its purpose of researching, collecting, documenting, and educating about Bethel Community history. Author Charles Frazier made the task of drawing attention to the area easier with his *Cold Mountain* book and movie that garnered interest in rural Bethel Community where protagonist Inman was born, lived, murdered, and buried. Tourists flocked to the area, and the HP Committee capitalized on that influx of visitors. The HP Committee began its objective of focusing on local history with a series of seven yearly Cold Mountain Heritage Tours (2005-2011) that allowed visitors to receive a guided excursion of significant historic sites, including the gravesite of Inman of *Cold Mountain* fame, in Bethel and surrounding areas (25 featured locations).

Since those initial tours, the HP Committee has expanded its historic conservancy agenda and, in the process, garnered numerous national, state, and regional awards. The committee has committed, on a number of fronts, to focusing on delving into the historic significance of the local area.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

During the course of offering the tours and writing books to accompany each tour, the HP Committee determined that two of the locations from the Cold Mountain Heritage Tours were of unique importance and, therefore, worthy of national recognition. Both National Register of Historic Places designations were followed by community-wide educational celebrations.

- In 2011, the HP Committee obtained a grant for the project, and in 2013, completed the task of placing Francis Grist Mill on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 2019, resulting from research and submittal conducted by HP Committee member, Carroll Jones, the National Register of Historic Places named Truss Bridge #79 to its registry.

STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Books, DVDs, CD, and a restoration project enabled the HP Committee to receive attention and commendation at the state level.

- For six of the seven years of the Cold Mountain Heritage Tour, the HP Committee assisted author Evelyn Coltman with producing a book that focused on that year's tour locations. These six books published architectural, genealogical, documented, and oral history of each tour site. The *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain* books received the NC Society of Historians Barringer Award of Excellence in 2010.
- The HP Committee also directed filming of three historical DVDs: *Walking in the Footsteps of Those Who Came Before Us*, *From New College to Springdale*, and *Sunburst and Other Logging Operations in the Bethel & Cold Mountain Region*. These three DVDs received the NC Society of Historians Multi-Media Awards in 2012, 2016, and 2019, respectively.
- During the production of the *Sunburst* DVD, the group worked with a local traditional music group, Possum on a Whale, to produce transitional and background music for the DVD. Arising from those recordings, the HP Committee produced a separate traditional music CD, *Sunburst Sessions*, that derived its content from selections in the *Sunburst* DVD. Possum on a Whale travels throughout the state and sells the *Sunburst Sessions* CD at various musical venues.
- Of statewide significance also was the HP Committee nomination of the Francis Grist Mill restoration project to receive Preservation NC's Gertrude S. Caraway Award in 2010.

REGIONAL RECOGNITION

Regionally, the HP Committee submitted historical documentation that enabled the group to receive two awards.

- The HP Committee and Rural Preservation Committee's submittal earned the organization Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Award for preserving and interpreting Southern Appalachian history and culture (2014).
- The HP Committee and Rural Preservation Committees also documented the agricultural, Cherokee, and natural heritage of Bethel which qualified the Bethel Rural Community Organization (BRCO) community center to receive a regional designation as one of seventy historic marker sites on the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's Heritage Trail (2016).

LOCAL PROJECTS

At the conclusion of the Cold Mountain Heritage Tours in 2011, the **HP Committee** selected nine sites and **created a driving tour CD: *Cold Mountain Heritage Driving Tour*** that allows visitors to appreciate the history of Bethel.

Some sites are of national importance, others deserve statewide acclaim on the NC historic marker listing, and certain ones are appropriate for regional acknowledgment. The HP Committee determined that there should be a fourth category to recognize key sites of local historical significance. Over a several year span, the **HP Committee placed five local markers at historically strategic places in the community**. These markers serve to educate the public about the importance of recognizing vital places in our own locale.

- Osborne Boundary Oak – Boundary marker in 1792 and a DAR witness tree that potentially dates to Native American existence in the area (marker installed in 2011)
- Bethel Presbyterian Church – Mother Presbyterian Church of Haywood County with the congregation dating to 1834 and the church structure dating to 1885 (marker installed in 2012)
- Lenoir's Creek Farm – oldest continuing farm (since 1807) with the longest continuing herd of cattle (since 1850s) in Haywood County (marker installed in 2013)
- Pigeon Gap Watering Hole – Watering site for people and horses, dating to the 1800s, received signage in 1924 and again by the HP Committee (marker installed in 2016)
- Calvin Filmore Christopher marker adjacent to his former home – NC's most prolific inventor (marker installed in 2017)

In addition to local highway signage, the HP Committee documented the information necessary for the **BRCO community center's quilt block** to be **placed on the** Tourism Development Authority's **Haywood County Quilt Trail** (2013).

- The Pigeon Valley Quilt Block pays homage to the many names associated with Bethel: Sonoma (Valley of the Moon), Sunburst, Pigeon River, Pigeon Valley, Forks of Pigeon, Bethel Presbyterian Church, Cold Mountain and other surrounding mountains, and Bethel (house of God).

Beginning in 2014, the HP Committee also decided to sponsor an annual recognition to award individuals who have researched and preserved Bethel history. By fall of 2020, the group, with its **Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation**, will have recognized nine individuals who have performed a number of historical services

for the community. Each September, the recipient(s) receive an award and may present the program at the organization's meeting.

- Charles Cathey – served as a resource for HP Committee's research, *Legends* books, DVD, CD, and was narrator of the *Walking in the footsteps of Those Who Came Before Us* DVD and the *Cold Mountain Heritage Driving Tour* CD (2014)
- Norman Long – restored the 1860s Chinquapin Grove School where he houses a museum (2015)
- Richard Alexander – research resource for the *Legends* books and narrator of *From New College to Springdale* DVD for which he received an NC Society of Historians award (2016)
- Ted Darrell Inman – historical resource for *Legends* books and DVD, DVD presenter, and Cold Mountain Heritage Tour speaker (2017)
- Charles and Martha Trantham – preserved Lenoir's Creek Farm and Red Devon cattle, DVD presenter, resource for *Legends* books, and program presenter at BRCO meeting (2018)
- Cheryl Inman Haney – Director of the *Pigeon Valley* oral history student and book project, *My People: History of a Mountain Family*, author of three articles in the *Legends* books, Cold Mountain Heritage Tour speaker, DVD presenter, secured two state highway markers, and program presenter at BRCO meeting (2019)
- Bob and Phyllis Barnett – restored the 1902 Inman Chapel Universalist Church; Phyllis wrote *At the Foot of Cold Mountain*, was a Cold Mountain Heritage Tour speaker, a DVD presenter, and will be a program presenter at the BRCO meeting (2020)

With six quilts gifted to BRCO from the James Henry and Flora Kinsland Plott family collection, the HP Committee conducted a **Bed Turning** event at which textile specialist, Suzanne McDowell, evaluated the Plott quilts (as well as quilts brought by attendees) for dating, style, patterns, and historical significance. The quilts were subsequently donated to three museums.

The HP Committee set up a **file library** and began collecting documentation about Bethel history that includes family and genealogical data as well as historic site files and documents.

Considering the special importance of encouraging students to become involved with the preservation of history, the HP Committee has been **overseer of two scouting projects**.

- In 2009, a Girl Scout catalogued the gravesites in the Bethel Community Cemetery (dates to 1854). For her efforts, she received the Girl Scout Gold Award.
- In 2014, a Boy Scout cleared the Pigeon Gap Watering Hole site of decades of debris and added a crossing bridge. For this Eagle Scout project, he also restored the original marker placed there in 1924.

The HP Committee has also made **presentations about Bethel history** to students at Bethel Middle School, the DAR, Haywood County Historical and Genealogical Society, Leadership Haywood, and WNC Communities. HP Committee interviews have been broadcast on National Public Radio and Western Carolina University's "Catch the Spirit of Appalachia," oral history project series.

In addition to the aforementioned HP projects, **documenting the history of the community via BRCO's website** is another endeavor of the HP Committee. Detailing Bethel writers and media contributors as well as other data about the history of the community, the website attracts numerous visitors. Bethel's historic sites, including intensive research about the community's defunct post offices, allows the website to be a successful tool for educating the public about Bethel's past.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE'S ART PROJECTS BY YEAR

The one area that was missing from the HP Committee's researching, collecting, documenting, and educating emphasis was any type of art pieces: drawings, paintings, or photographs. To correct that shortcoming, the HP Committee began its focus on collecting, publicizing, displaying, and making affordable art reproductions available to the public. The HP Committee has collected and/or commissioned twenty-four (24) art prints of historic locations, a patent drawing, a map, and a scratchboard.

2012

The art collection began in 2012 with an art competition to select three artists to paint three types of mediums (colored pencil, water color, and acrylic) of historic places that were not only central to Bethel history but that were also of special importance to Bethel Rural Community Organization (BRCO).

- When the Bethel Presbyterian Church congregation disbanded after its 175-year existence, the Western Regional Presbytery eventually donated the 124-year-old facility to BRCO for use as its community center. The Reverend Jesse Stalcup built the sanctuary in 1885 of solid chestnut, and that focal point of the church is so magnificent that the HP Committee commissioned artist Gary Woolard to transfer the striking appearance of the room to the artist's canvas.
- Bethel Presbyterian Church's original façade, prior to its remodel in 1964, was an iconic white clapboard church. Historical photographs enabled artist Dominick De Paolo to produce a perfect reproduction.
- Lenoir's Creek Farm is the oldest and longest continuing farm in Haywood county (1807-present) with the longest continuing herd of cattle (mid-1800s-present). Janice Swanger, a local artist noted for her animal portraits, captured every type of animal on the premises as well as every remaining historic structure on the Lenoir's Creek Farm landscape.

2013

In **2013**, the HP Committee reached out to individuals and a museum to collect seven paintings and drawings that hold special meaning for Bethel history.

- A late 1800s painting of the Colonel Joseph Cathey Grist Mill by Nettie Vance Penland captured a portrait of community life in 19th century Bethel. Berry & Roseanna Rigdon loaned the painting.
- The Colonel Joseph and Nancy Hyatt Cathey House painted by Nettie Vance Penland in the late 1800s was one of the first framed houses constructed in Haywood County. Berry & Roseanna Rigdon loaned the painting.
- Bill and Earlene Holbrook contributed a photograph of a pre-Civil War era house, the Burton and Lucinda Moore Cathey House.
- Rosemary Trull donated usage of a mid-20th century painting by F. Seymore of the 1902 Inman Chapel Universalist Church.
- Jack and La Nae McCracken's 1912 patent drawing by Calvin Filmore Christopher, considered by many to be North Carolina's most prolific inventor, captured Christopher's design of the computing scale.
- Richard and Evelyn Coltman loaned artist Granny Chicken's painting of the historic Plott Store and mill house that gained greater notoriety as a special local spot when it became the J.B. Rigdon General Store during the mid-1900s.
- The Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts in Shelton House allowed the HP Committee to borrow a painting by G.C. Monroe of the Osborne Boundary Oak whose documented history dates to 1792 when

it was used as a boundary marker. The tree, which still exists, is recognized by the local DAR Chapter as a “living witness to history.” In 1776, the famed Rutherford Trace march against the Cherokee passed by the tree. Local oral history accounts consider the tree as potentially dating to Native American habitation of the area.

2014

The following year, **2014**, the HP Committee focused on educating, displaying, and publicizing its collection rather than adding to it.

The HP Committee’s ten art prints were showcased at Haywood County Arts Council’s Studio Gallery 86 during the studio’s Appalachian Heritage Month. The Arts Council featured the prints at three separate events. In addition, the HP Committee created a brochure for distribution. The Arts Council viewing also included a slide show exhibiting historic sites and people of Bethel.

- Art after Dark – Friday and Saturday evening viewing
- Appalachian Lifestyles Festival – Weekend festival featuring mountain lifestyle traditions
- Mountain-Made – A month-long art show featuring artists of the local mountain region

2015

With the addition of three art pieces, **2015** was a productive year for the Historic Preservation Committee’s art print collection.

- Richard and Jimmie Ellen Henson donated use of a drawing by Linda Anders Sizemore of their 1867 house, the Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House that is one of the oldest standing houses in the area.
- Jack and Betty Lackey loaned the 1896 painting by Wanetta Welch of the Captain James Allen and Nancy Louisa Cathey Blaylock House that began as a log cabin in 1835 and still stands today as a beautiful example of Queen Anne/Italianate style architecture.
- Steve and Phyllis Sorrells donated a 1920s photograph of the original Bethel School prefaced by dozens of school students.

2016

In **2016**, the HP Committee commissioned one painting and obtained a hand-drawn map.

- The HP Committee selected artist Dominick De Paolo, noted local artist and founder of the Long Grove Art School, to paint a reproduction of the three historic structures that comprised Bethel School from the 1920s to the 1970s when the buildings were dismantled to make way for Bethel Middle School.
- To date, the HP Committee’s most frequently ordered art print is the detailed logging map of the early 20th century Sunburst Village created by Mack Ledbetter and donated by his family. Ledbetter’s extensive notes and rail line tracking to the twenty-four logging camps stirs passions of the people of the area whose families had a work and family connection to Sunburst.

2017

The acquisition of three art prints occurred in **2017** with the donation of a photograph and a painting as well as the commissioning by the committee of a third piece.

- Robert Cathey and Bill Holbrook donated a mid-1900s photograph of the Osborne Farm that, during the height of its notoriety, was considered one of the finest dairy farms in North Carolina.
- During the process of the Historic Preservation Committee's assistance with clearing the Plott House of documents, photographs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, and other collectibles and memorabilia including 1800s-early 1900s era quilts, the James Henry & Flora Kinsland Plott family (Bill and Carolyn Nettles) donated a painted photograph of the Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House (the second in our collection of this structure).
- During this time, the HP Committee was considering seeking National Register of Historic Places recognition of the state's oldest metal truss bridge that has been situated in the community since 1891. In preparation for the National Register application to recognize this bridge, which is unique even nationally, the HP Committee chose Gary Woolard to paint a rendering of the bridge. Woolard's meticulous penchant for detail, previously exhibited in his depiction of the Bethel Presbyterian Church sanctuary, made his selection for the task a perfect choice.

2018

In **2018**, the HP Committee was fortunate to receive the donation of one painting.

- Yvonne Hawkins donated a third painting of the Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House, an iconic structure that has mesmerized artists since the days it was featured on a post card decades prior. Her son, artist Jason London Hawkins, is a Bethel native who is a professional artist in New Orleans.

2019

From the Native American era to the present, Bethel Community has had many names. The original native American name was "Sonoma" (Valley of the Moon). The "Bethel" name is derived from early to mid-1800s religious camp meetings that occurred in the area. Camp meetings were labeled as "house of God" meetings; "Bethel" means "house of God." Eventually, the "Bethel" name replaced the "Sonoma" name for the community. While "Bethel" is the primary name for the community, the area is also known as "Pigeon Valley" and "Woodrow."

The HP Committee's goal in **2019** was to collect art pieces that pay tribute to two of the names from Bethel's history. With that goal in mind, the committee added three pieces to the collection – a black and white photograph, a painting, and a scratchboard.

To capture two of the names associated with Bethel, "Pigeon Valley" and "Woodrow," the HP Committee selected two renowned artists. Stephanie Grimes resides in Bethel and is an artist at Pink Dog Studio in Asheville. Dominick De Paolo, director of the Long Grove Art School in Haywood County, had previously painted Bethel Presbyterian Church and Bethel Schools for the HP Committee.

- An alternate name for the community is "Pigeon Valley," designated because of the now extinct passenger pigeons that once roosted in the valley during the birds' migratory route. Other geographical locations in the county - Pigeon River, Pigeon Gap, and Pigeon Street - bear the name also. The HP Committee wanted the passenger pigeon painting to be particularly special since the birds which became extinct in 1914 probably preceded even the Native American inhabitants of the area. Noted artist, Stephanie Grimes, employs the scratchboard style, a 19th century print medium adaptation. This technique is time-consuming but apt for animal paintings because of the extreme detail it allows - down

to every vane, shaft, and barb of each feather. Grimes always photographs her painting subjects. Since the bird is extinct, she traveled to the Cincinnati Zoo to photograph stuffed specimens of two of the last male and female birds of the species. The passenger pigeon piece is so outstanding that it was selected to be the featured art piece in an Asheville art show about vanishing species: IMPACT.

- During the logging era, a train depot/post office was situated in Bethel and was named for Woodrow Wilson, President at the time. Even though the building existed for little more than a decade (1914-1927), the name stuck. Even on today's maps, the community is registered as "Woodrow." Bill Holbrook gifted a photograph from the Charles Cathey collection of the Woodrow train station and post office building that included rail cars and people. The striking black and white photograph was added to the art collection, but the HP Committee wanted to capture a visual of the entirety of the structure.
- The Woodrow Depot/Post Office required extensive research since the committee had only one partial photo from which to develop the likeness. The artist carefully examined the photo and researched all of the typical types of train stations used by the rail companies during that era. The HP Committee also consulted with Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center to determine if it possessed any photos. WCU had one photo of a man loading apples onto a train car. The artist used his special talent to incorporate all of his research into a remarkable recreation of the probable appearance of the original building – complete with appropriate dress for passengers, accurate railcars, and a worker loading apples.

2020

Yvonne Hawkins has, in **2020**, donated two paintings of local historic houses by her artist son, Jason London Hawkins.

- Hawkins's painting of the James Henry and Flora Kinsland Plott House, a Colonial Revival/Queen Anne style home built just after the turn of the 20th century, captures the home surrounded by a striking snow-capped landscape.
- The Joseph Turner and Martha Anna Iva Killian Cathey House is considered to be not only the oldest extant framed house in Bethel, dating to 1860, but also one of the oldest remaining houses in Haywood County.

ART PRINT COLLECTION, COMMISSIONS, FRAMING, REPRODUCTION, DISPLAY, PUBLICITY, AND WEBSITE INFORMATION

All art prints are either commissioned or loaned for temporary use until photographer, Carol Litchfield, can photograph the original piece which is subsequently returned to the owner. Each print is framed by Village Framers. All art pieces are displayed in the community center dining hall. Each yearly addition to the art print collection is accompanied by publicity articles in two local news outlets. The HP Committee's art pieces are so outstanding that selected prints have been featured in four art shows.

Each print is shown on the website along with historical data that is included as a hover feature. Reproductions are made available for purchase by the public. Ordering capability from the BRCO website is listed under the "Art Print" subheading of the Historic Preservation header as well as with the Online Catalogue link that includes art print measurements.

PHOTOS (8 ½" X 11" SIZE) OF EACH ART PRINT ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. MEASUREMENTS OF THE ACTUAL SIZE OF EACH ART PRINT IS LISTED. DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION ABOUT EACH ART PRINT IS LISTED BELOW AS WELL AS ON THE BACK SIDE OF EACH PHOTO. IF THE SUBJECT OF THE ART PIECE STILL EXISTS, THAT INFORMATION IS LISTED AS "STILL EXISTS." IF THE SUBJECT OF THE ART PIECE HAS BEEN DISMANTLED, THAT INFORMATION IS LISTED AS "NO LONGER EXISTS."

ART PRINT ALPHABETICAL LISTING

Bethel Presbyterian Church – Dominick De Paolo’s oil painting is of the exterior of the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church as it looked in its original white-clapboard appearance prior to 1964 when the church underwent a remodeling that included an added brick façade. De Paolo has been a freelance artist for more than 40 years, was an illustrator with the U.S. Navy, college professor, and currently owner of Long Grove Art School. Bethel Presbyterian Church was established in 1834, and the Reverend Jesse Stalcup built the structure in 1885. Today the church is Bethel Rural Community Organization’s community center. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

Bethel Presbyterian Church Sanctuary – Gary Woolard was chosen in his native Beaufort County to paint the twelve oldest churches in the twelve oldest counties in the state. His rendering of the sanctuary of the 1885 Bethel Presbyterian Church with its striking chestnut bead board is a delicate balance between geometric precision and poetic artistry. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

Bethel School with Students – Students of Bethel School from the 1920s are posed on the back side of the Bethel School building in a photograph donated to BRCO by Phyllis and Steve Sorrells. The photographer captured this portrait prior to the construction of the other two buildings that comprised the historic Bethel School campus. That fact allows the dating of the photo to the 1920s because the other two buildings were not added until the 1930s and 1940s. (No Longer Exists) (8" x 36")

Bethel School – Dominick De Paolo painted a watercolor of the three Bethel School buildings that comprised the heart of Bethel from 1921, 1930s, and 1941 until the 1970s when the structures were dismantled. The three-story center building transferred Bethel students from attendance at Bethel Academy which closed after World War I. Students attended classes on the bottom two floors of the center building while the Masonic/Eastern Star organization occupied the third floor. By the 1930s, a gymnasium surrounded by classrooms followed, and the classically designed white auditorium/home economics/agriculture classrooms building was constructed by the WPA in 1941. (No Longer Exists) (11" x 29")

Burton and Lucinda Moore Cathey House – A photograph, owned by Bill and Earlene Holbrook, is of the pre-Civil War era Burton and Lucinda Moore Cathey House that was located in Cathey Cove until it was dismantled a few years ago. The original portion of the home was built by Dred Blaylock in 1849. (No Longer Exists) (16" x 20")

Calvin Filmore Christopher’s Patent Application Drawing – Jack and La Nae McCracken own the original 1912 patent drawing of the computing scale, precursor of today’s modern market scales, by Calvin Filmore Christopher. The inventor lived in Bethel and is considered to be North Carolina’s most prolific inventor. Christopher’s computing scale invention is the forerunner of scales used all over the world. (Still Exists) (17" x 21")

Captain James Allen and Nancy Louisa Cathey Blaylock House – Wanetta Welch, in 1896, created the Blaylock House painting that is owned by Jack and Betty Lackey. The Blaylock House began as an 1835 two-room cabin

that continued to be encircled and expanded until 1890 when the house was essentially completed except for the third-floor tower improvements made in 1996 by owners Jerry and Nancy McFall. The Reverend Jesse Stalcup built the house. Blaylock was a Captain of the NC 25th Infantry Regiment, Company F. Intrigue, lost treasure, and murder at the house became the legacy of the five generations of the Blaylock family who lived there. (Still Exists) (14" x 20")

Colonel Joseph and Nancy Hyatt Cathey House – A late 1800s painting by Nettie Vance Penland is of the Colonel Joseph and Nancy Hyatt Cathey House, dated to the early to mid-1800s. The back of the painting indicates that the Cathey House was one of the first framed houses in Haywood County. Owners of the painting are Berry and Rosanna Rigdon. (No Longer Exists) (15" x 20")

Colonel Joseph Cathey Mill – A painting by Nettie Vance Penland of the Colonel Joseph Cathey Mill is dated to the late 1800s and is owned by Berry and Roseanna Rigdon. The mill began operation in the 1840s. In addition to his milling duties, Colonel Cathey was a state legislator, farmer, postmaster, and mercantile operator in the mid-1800s. (No Longer Exists) (15" x 21")

Joseph Turner and Martha Anna Iva Killian Cathey House – One of the earliest families to settle in Haywood County, NC, arrived in Pigeon Valley (Bethel) in 1798. Joseph Turner Cathey was the fourth child of Colonel Joseph Cathey, state Senator, and Nancy Hyatt Cathey. His marriage to Martha Anna Iva Killian in 1858 resulted in building what is considered to be one of the oldest remaining historic houses in Bethel and Haywood County. The family moved in by 1860. Builders were Fred and Willis Blaylock. Joseph Turner enrolled in the NC 25th Infantry Regiment, Company F, during the Civil War and died at Wilson, NC in 1863 at age 28. Martha Anna Iva remained to complete the house by 1864 and resided there with her three children. Six generations of the Cathey family, along with two ghosts, have resided in the Greek Revival style house. Art print is by artist Jason Hawkins, Bethel native and a 1995 cum laude graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art and Historic Preservation of the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia). Hawkins is a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, but is still passionate about painting historic Haywood County homes. (Still Exists) (24" x 24")

Inman Chapel – A 1965 painting of Inman Chapel by F. Seymore was captured from a photograph given to the artist by the Reverend Hannah Jewett Powell. The Reverend James Anderson Inman, brother of Inman of *Cold Mountain* fame, built the church which was dedicated in 1902 and was the first Universalist church west of Durham. During her tenure as pastor of the Universalist church (1921-1941) Powell became the first full-time female minister of a Universalist congregation in North Carolina. She started, via church initiatives, numerous social programs in Haywood County. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

J.B. Rigdon General Store – The J.B. Rigdon General Store and mill house, originally built by the Plott family in the early 1900s, was a fixture in the heart of Bethel Community until the 1970s when it was dismantled. The painting was commissioned by Ozark folk artist, Granny Chicken, by Winifred R. McNeil and is currently owned by Richard and Evelyn Coltman. (No Longer Exists) (16" x 21")

Lenoir's Creek Farm – Award winning artist, Janice Swanger, captured the essence of Lenoir's Creek Farm, Haywood County's longest continuing farm (1807-present) with the county's longest continuing herd of cattle (since the mid-1800s when Red Devon cattle were brought to the farm by second owner, Captain Thomas Isaac Lenoir). The colored pencil medium brilliantly captures all of the historic structures remaining on the farm as well as the large variety of animals. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

Osborne Boundary Oak – The painting of Osborne Boundary Oak, Osborne Farm, and the original log cabin beside the tree was loaned to the Historic Preservation Committee by Jackie Stephens, Curator for the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts in Shelton House. The mid-20th century piece, painted by G.C. Monroe, depicts the tree that was used as a boundary marker in 1792. BRCO and citizens in the community have worked for decades to save the historic tree. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

Osborne Farm – Donated by Robert Cathey and Bill Holbrook, this mid-20th century photograph of the Osborne Farm on Highway #110 reveals a portrait of one of Haywood County and North Carolina's most prominent dairy farms. Under the oversight of Arthur Osborne and his two sisters, Mary Louisa and Florence, the farm's dairy and livestock interests were rated among the highest in the state. In this photograph, the farm encompassed space on both sides of the unpaved highway. Today's farm, known as the Triple R Farm (named for Reeves, Rudy, and Richard Reeves by their father), occupies only one side of the highway and pastures beef cattle. (Still Exists Partially) (12" x 15")

Passenger Pigeons - Artist Stephanie Grimes traveled to the Cincinnati Zoo to photograph a male and female stuffed passenger pigeon, considered by some scientists to have been the most prolific birds ever to have inhabited the planet. Before their extinction in 1914, the passenger pigeon roosted in oak and chestnut trees during their migratory passage through Bethel. Their stop-over journey served to forest the area with oak and chestnut trees, fertilize the soil, and create a legacy with the names Forks of Pigeon, Pigeon Gap, Pigeon River, Pigeon Street, and Pigeon Valley. Grimes utilizes a unique artistic technique known as "scratchboard" in which etching tools are used delicately to score the likeness on a dark kaolin surface. Some have compared the resulting intense, detailed, and striking likeness, meticulously fashioned, to the appearance of a finely embroidered design using delicate silk threads. (No Longer Exists) (11" x 14")

James Henry and Flora Kinsland Plott House – James Henry Plott was the fourth child of Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott. His 1900 marriage to Flora Kinsland, the daughter of state legislator, Marion DeKalb Kinsland, united two prominent family lines in Haywood County. On land inherited from James Henry's mother, Charity, in what was called "Garden Farm" or "Flowery Garden," the couple hired builder, George Smathers, to construct a Colonial Revival/Queen Anne style house in 1904. They reared six children there. The house stood on an original 260 acres that included the Garden Creek Native American settlement that dates to 8,000 B.C. as well as the site of the first white settlement in Haywood County in 1785. BRCO's HP Committee assisted the family with disbursement of Plott artifacts and memorabilia that were gifted to six museums when the house was sold in 2018. The art print is by artist Jason Hawkins who is a Bethel native and a 1995 cum laude graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art and Historic Preservation) of the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia. Hawkins is a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, but is still passionate about painting historic Haywood County homes. (Still Exists) (17.5" x 11.5")

Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House (with people) – This house has occupied the location on a knoll off of Lake Logan road since 1867. Built by the Reverend Jesse Stalcup, the house was one of four prominent houses constructed in Bethel by the Plott family. This early 1900s portrait of the family in a front-yard setting was donated to BRCO by Bill and Carolyn Nettles, caretakers of the James Henry and Flora Kinsland Plott House where the painted photograph was located. James Henry Plott was the son of Pingree and Charity Plott. Artist is unknown. Art piece was commissioned by Norman Buddy Plott. (Still Exists) (11" x 14")

Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House – Richard and Jimmie Ellen Henson own the 1980s drawing by Linda Anders Sizemore of the Victorian-style Pingree Priestly and Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House. The Reverend Jesse Stalcup built the house in 1867 off of Lake Logan Road on what grew to be a 1,311-

acre estate. Plott was a miller and farmer whose wife tended the children, one of whom suffered from tuberculosis. (Still Exists) (12" x 20")

Pingree Priestly & Charity Haseltine Osborne Plott House – Pingree Plott inherited land from his father, Jonathan Plott, that eventually included 1,311 acres. He married Charity Haseltine Osborne in 1866. In 1867, the couple selected a scenic knoll situated on the farm that looked toward his mill. They hired builder, the Reverend Jesse Stalcup, to construct the nine room Victorian home to accommodate their five sons and one daughter. Blue windows and a bedroom porch served the needs of their consumptive daughter, Annie Haseltine. Descendants of the Plott family continue to live in the house. Artist Jason Hawkins is a Bethel native and a 1995 cum laude graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art and Historic Preservation) of the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia. Hawkins is a resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, but is still passionate about painting historic Haywood County homes. (Still Exists) (29.5" x 23.5")

Sunburst Logging and Trail Site Map – Mack Ledbetter's hand-drawn colored map of Sunburst logging village, one of the largest logging operations in Western North Carolina in the early 20th Century, details the twenty-four logging camps, rail lines, and various locations that existed from the early 1900s until 1925. A devastating fire burned the village in 1925, and the area was subsequently inundated by Champion Paper and Fiber Company to become Lake Logan in 1932. Lorna Ledbetter Ashe and the Mack Ledbetter family own the map. (Map Still Exists – Sunburst Village No Longer Exists) (21" x 25.5")

Truss Bridge #79 – BRCO's Historic Preservation Committee commissioned artist Gary Woolard to produce an acrylic painting of North Carolina's oldest metal truss bridge which is located in Bethel on Lake Logan Road. Constructed in 1891 by Dean & Westbrook engineers, the bridge was formerly situated at another location in Bethel until the 1920s when it was moved by men in the community to its current location. This bridge is Haywood County and North Carolina's only remaining 19th Century metal truss bridge and, with its decorative elements, is the only ornamental metal truss bridge in NC. Its joint system is unlike any other in the state, and its Phoenix columns and cast-iron joining system make the bridge rare at the national level. BRCO's HP Committee member, Carroll Jones, wrote the submittal for the bridge to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation occurred in 2019, accompanied by an educational celebration with the community. (Still Exists) (16" x 20")

Woodrow Depot/Post Office – Bill Holbrook donated the black and white photograph from the Charles Cathey collection of one of the only known extant pictures of the early 1900s structure. The photo reveals only one end of the building but clearly shows railcars and people of the era who were there to collect their mail or else board the jitney that transported travelers from Canton to Sunburst and Spruce. Artist, Dominick De Paolo, utilized this photo, along with another photograph from Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center's collection, as well as extensive research about train station designs of the era in order to replicate a likeness of the entire building. (Still Exists) (8 1/2" x 11")

Woodrow Depot/Post Office – Artist Dominick De Paolo had only a historic photo of one end of the Woodrow Train Station from which to create an artistic rendering of the 1914-1927 structure that served as a depot for the T & NC Railroad in Bethel. Named for the President at the time, Woodrow Wilson, the structure simultaneously served as a post office, a designation that placed Woodrow on maps to this day. Passengers traveled from Canton to Sunburst and Spruce and all places in between on a small jitney bus that utilized rail tracks. Rail cars transported pulp wood and sawn lumber from Sunburst logging operation to the Champion paper mill in Canton. The nearby kaolin mine used a tram operation to transport clay to rail cars for shipment to Canton and beyond while returning to the mine with coal used to fuel steam-generating boilers. Local apple farmers took advantage

of the Woodrow railcars in the fall to transport produce. Today, NC Highway #215 covers the previous route lined by the T & NC railroad tracks. (No Longer Exists) (29.5" x 14.5")

ART PRINTS NOMINATION SUMMARY

Bethel Rural Community Organization's Historic Preservation Committee, since inception in 2005, has been diligent about its intent to research, collect, document, and educate about the history of the community. Since that initial mission was defined, the HP Committee has received numerous national, state, and regional awards for its historic preservation projects. In addition, the HP Committee has initiated awards, administered notable local historical endeavors and achievements, and directed several educational outreach platforms.

Among its numerous efforts to accomplish a conservancy mission, the HP Committee has utilized numerous resources to implement its acquisition of art pieces that serve to characterize and portray the community's past. The HP Committee has commissioned artists and borrowed or been gifted drawings/paintings/photographs from individuals, families, and a museum. The collection of 24 art prints includes a bridge, churches, farms, houses, a hand-drawn map, a grist mill, natural features such as birds and a tree, a patent drawing, a train depot/post office, schools, and a store. Paintings date from the late 1800s to present-day renderings by noted local artists. Mediums include acrylic, oil, watercolor, pencil, colored pencil, scratchboard, painted photograph, and black and white photographs. Beginning in 2012, the HP Committee has reached out by means of an art competition, through publicity, and via personal contact to locate appropriate art examples featuring a variety of subjects in order to add to our collection. As for education, the committee's art pieces have been showcased in four art shows, are featured on our website with contextual information, and are on display in our facility. In order to foster an appreciation for art and history, all art prints are available for ordering by the public. The procurement of the Bethel art collection has involved hundreds of hours and engaged dozens of people in an effort not only to foster an interest in art but ultimately to involve a greater audience in recognizing the importance of preserving a visual record of who we were.