

## ***Historic Landmark Properties*** (Locally Designated)

Historic landmark properties are designated by the town Board of Commissioners after a public hearing. In order to be eligible the property must be of special significance in terms of its history, pre-history, architecture, archaeology, and/or cultural importance and that it possesses integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feelings and/or association. In other words, a property does not qualify for landmark status simply by being historic. It must be of particular importance to the history or culture of Wake Forest.

Certain privileges and responsibilities come with such designation. The owners of landmark properties must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for any work to be done, exactly the same as properties in the locally designated historic district along North Main Street, North Avenue, and South Avenue. As long as the status is retained a portion of town property taxes are deferred. If the property is changed in such a way that destroys its eligibility, back deferred taxes will have to be paid.

Wake Forest has four locally designated Landmark Properties. They are the I. O. Jones House, the Battle-Purnell House, Oakforest, and the Purefoy-Chappell House.

### **I. O. Jones House**

538 South Main Street  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
Designated March 1991

**History:** Built in 1903 by Robert Freeman, a Confederate veteran, and his wife, Genoa Rox Hunter, the house was constructed as a wedding present for their daughter, Elizabeth and her husband Ira Otis Jones on a lot acquired from T. E. Holding. (Robert Freeman's wife, Genoa, was a descendent of Isaac Hunter, upon whose land the City of Raleigh was built.)

Mr. Freeman, his son-in-law, I. O. Jones, and O. K. Holding started the Wake Forest Supply Company, initially a general store and later named Jones Hardware. Mr. Freeman became involved with the business to keep him busy in his old age, whereas Mr. Jones had previous hardware experience with Briggs Hardware in Raleigh.

Around 1910 I. O. Jones built the Snow Jones house at 504 South Main Street for his elderly parents who could no longer live comfortable on their huge farm near Wake Crossroads.

The house was always filled with people, not only the children and their families, but friends and students from the college. Rooms were often rented to students. Elizabeth was known for her gardens. There were gardens on both sides of the house, a

rock garden in the back, a vegetable garden, and a grape arbor. Every spring the townspeople were allowed to tour them.

In 1964 the house was sold to Harold and Thelma Washington. They added aluminum siding to the entire exterior of the house. Through subsequent sales still remains as one of the visual highlights of the corridor entering the downtown Wake Forest from South Main Street.

**Architecture:** The I. O. Jones House is a good example of Queen Anne/Classical Revival transition style popular at the turn of the last century. The frame construction had aluminum siding added but still retains its asymmetrical massing, variety of roof lines and the wrap-around front porch with the turned columns and balustrade which is typical of this period of architecture.

The primary window treatment is one-over-one sash with simple post and lintel or architrave surrounds. The front door is a single doorway of one large beveled pane of glass flanked by sidelights and transom with decorative muntins. The roof is standing seam tin. The front of the house is 4 bays wide with a projecting bay area at the roofline that is capped by a pedimented gable with an oval window in the attic centered inside the pedimented gable. The red brick interior chimney on the south side of the main block has a corbelled cap. The gabled roof end on the north elevation has a centered oval window with delicate tracery.

### **Battle-Purnell House (1802-1803)**

1037 North Main Street  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
Designated August 2002

**History:** Built from 1802 to 1803 on roughly 300 acres by Josiah Battle, a prominent farmer, the Battle-Purnell House is one of the oldest in the Wake Forest area. By 1854 the house was owned by John Purnell, also a farmer. The property was rented out in the late 1800's to various occupants. In 1895 John Purnell died and left the house to his second wife and children. In the early 1900's the Jackson family purchased the property. The Jacksons were also farmers. During the Jackson ownership the accompanying acreage was reduced to 144 acres. In 1991 Julie Ellis and Daniel Safriet purchased the house and nine acres from the P.Y. Jackson estate.

**Architecture:** A great deal of information on the Battle-Purnell House is to be found The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina by Kelly Lally (1994). (See attached pages.) According to this book "the Battle-Purnell House is perhaps the largest and best-preserved late Georgian-style dwelling in rural Wake County. In its form, plan, and finish, it appears to be related to several other ca. 1800 regional houses in Franklin and Granville counties." "Set on a high stone basement, the house is clad in plain weatherboards and displays raised-panel doors with six panels, nine-over-nine sash windows, and window and door surrounds with three-part moldings." The three double-

shouldered Flemish bond chimneys are handsomely finished with paved shoulders and glazed headers.”

The interior is also worthy of note. The house, says Lally, “retains an extraordinarily intact Georgian interior, including robust paneled mantels, paneled wainscoting, six-panel doors, and original flooring and wall sheathing. The main block follows a traditional but uncommonly large hall-parlor plan – a plan shared with the other houses in the regional group – with an enclosed stair rising in the corner of the hall. The hall itself is the most elaborate room, with a dentil crown molding and an ornate mantel featuring crosssetted molding and a cushion frieze.”

### **Oakforest (ca. 1807, 1865)**

9958 Seawell Drive

Wake Forest, NC 27587

Designated October 2008

**History:** There are stories of the family during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. One of the daughters was home from school when soldiers from Sherman’s Army came by to loot the place. “She managed to save the hams by hiding them under a blanket and sitting on them while the looting soldiers were flirting with her.” Her father, Wiley Jones, was an officer in the Confederate Army and “had enough influence to have Union guards stationed at the college and his home after his family suffered the looting. He also traveled with Governor Holden to see President Andrew Johnson. It is suspected that due to his involvement with the key players in the Reconstruction period, threats from the Ku Klux Klan expressing intent to burn a cross at Oakforest were a direct result of his political activities. In 1891, the statement that Wiley had a “moderating effect on Reconstruction” was written in his obituary.”

Unfortunately, one of the most important symbols of Oakforest no longer exists. The Tryst Oak was considered the finest example of a white oak in the Southeast. It is believed that it grew from an acorn in 1215, the year of the Magna Carta. It finally died in 1992, after surviving 2 years following being struck down the middle by lightning.

English boxwoods line the original front drive. It is assumed that these boxwoods were planted prior to the Civil War. Other English boxwoods lining a kitchen garden and pathway to the north were planted in the 1930s.

**Architecture:** Oakforest is one of the oldest and most prominent homes in the Wake Forest area. According to the National Register of Historic Places it was built circa 1807 but at least one expert reports that there is evidence of an earlier date.

The house was originally a Federal style hall and parlor home. Various additions during the nineteenth century converted it into a Greek Revival house, the location of the front door was change from the south side to the west side, exterior chimneys were

replaced with interior chimneys, the delicate Federal baluster stairwell was moved to the rear of the hallway, the veranda was covered, and a portico and 4 Doric columns were added. A rear 2-story ell was built circa 1865. The L-shaped rear porch was added shortly after the ell and was screened around 1950. The kitchen wing was built by slave labor during the Civil War.

The overall floor plan of 1865 has remained true to its historical integrity. Due to this preservation of the floor plan “the evolution of the house is still evident on the interior.”

In the 1960s a number of improvements were made. The stone foundation was filled in with cinder blocks, the double columns were replaced by long square American Federal style columns, the upper porch was replaced by a balcony, the frame floor and steps of the original south front entrance were replaced with brick, and the 1865-1930 kitchen’s chimney was rebuilt.

The two historic outbuildings, i.e. the smoke house and the corncrib, date from the mid-nineteenth century. The US Agricultural Schedules of 1850, 1860, and 1970 show that Oakforest produced between 200 and 300 bushels of corn. The smoke house was originally at the rear of the kitchen ell. It was moved a small distance southeast from the house in the 1960s. The foundation for the horse barn remains behind the chicken house, which was built circa 1946. During the 1960s a garage was constructed at the rear of the kitchen wing.

### **Purefoy-Chappell House (1838, 1895, 1974)**

1255 South Main Street

Wake Forest, NC 27587

Designated December 2008

**History:** On December 30, 1837, James Purefoy with, apparently, the help of his father-in-law who proved the deed in court, bought one acre in the Alston’s Store community (named Forestville in 1839) from Jesse Kemp for \$50. (Kemp was memorialized for many years by the name of the stream running through his property, Kemp’s Spring Branch, but that has been shortened to Spring Branch.)

James Purefoy, son of John Purefoy, the Baptist minister and plantation owner who convinced the North Carolina Baptist Convention to purchase Dr. Calvin Jones’s 615 acre plantation as the site for what would become Wake Forest College, was listed for the first time on the Forest District tax rolls on Jan. 1, 1838, with his property having no value, just a squiggly line, and a tax due of 16 cents.

The original house was built by James Purefoy. James and his wife, Mary, lived in the house until 1853 when it was sold to Richard Ligon.

James Purefoy had a career as a Baptist minister serving several churches, a businessman and a 45-year trustee at Wake Forest College. He is credited with saving some of the college's endowment during the Civil War by refusing to invest it all in Confederate bonds.

Of the succeeding owners listed in the National Register application it is interesting to note that Peyton A. Dunn, the third owner and a superintendent for the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, designed the Forestville Baptist Church, which was built in 1860.

The house was owned by one family, the Chappells, from November 21, 1862, until late 1965. Dr. Leroy Chappell moved his wife, Eliza, and their young son, Leroy, to Forestville from Kinston to escape the federal blockade and occupation and to be closer to his family, which was from Granville County but had moved to land along what is now Falls of the Neuse Road about where St. Raphael's Catholic Church now stands. Dr. Chappell and all his descendants and family have been buried in the Forestville Baptist Church cemetery. Dr. Chappell was listed as one of the commissioners when the Town of Forestville was incorporated in 1879. He built the separate two-room office building south of the house soon after moving to Forestville. Henry Arthur Chappell, the second son born in Forestville, graduated from Wake Forest College and added a master's degree. He continued to live in the family home with his wife and son until his death in 1926. It was probably around 1895-1900, when the second-generation couple was living in the house with his parents that the large two-story addition was built on the south.

The Purefoy-Chappell House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 22, 2008. According to that application, "The Purefoy-Chappell House and outbuildings... including the ca. 1862 doctor's office, are rare survivors of once common forms." The house and outbuildings are also survivors of the once flourishing Town of Forestville.

**Architecture:** The house consists of 4 major sections; a c. 1838 one-and-a-half story side-gable main block with a rear shed wing; a c. 1895 two-story, side-gable addition built onto the south gable end of the original house; a two-room side-gable kitchen/dining building dating to c. 1838 that was connected to the main block and 1895 addition by a one-story hyphen containing a modern kitchen in 1974; and, a very small one-story c. 1960 bathroom addition added to the rear. The house has a stone foundation and a metal roof. Most of the exterior is covered by weatherboards while the kitchen/dining building has board-and-batten siding.

That original house faced the road that ran north from Raleigh. It had three rooms. The large main room had three large nine-over-nine windows, one facing south and two flanking the front door that faced west and opened onto a roofed porch. Two smaller windows, six-over-six, flanked the fireplace with plain mantel on the north side of the room. Many of the original glass panes remain in the windows.

The stairway to the second-story room with its high knee walls was in the southeast corner of the main room. The second-story room or loft had a finished fireplace with a mantel similar to that in the room below; it is flanked by four-over-six windows whose frames are cut by the roofline. There is a larger four-over-six window facing south.

The third room had a shed roof and was about the same size as the main room. It had a single four-over-six window next to the fireplace and a six-over-six window on the east. The door from the shed room gave access to the two-room kitchen/dining room building that was apparently built at the same time along with a small smokehouse to the south.