

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: May 21, 2019

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager
Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Regarding the Eligibility of the Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House for the National Register of Historic Places. (West Ward)

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods
Strategic Objective: Preserve Historic Resources
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The National Register is a federal program administered by the National Park Service and is the nation's official list of historic buildings worthy of preservation. Listing on the Register is predominantly an honor and does not negatively affect the rights of a private property owner. The owner of this property initiated preparation of the nomination amendment and supports having the property listed on the National Register. Unlike Local Historic Landmark designation, there is no local property tax deferral associated with the National Register program. However, National Register listing does allow a property owner to utilize federal and state investment tax credits for qualified rehabilitation work to a property.

Federal and State guidelines for the Certified Local Government Program require that Winston-Salem participate in the process of nominating properties to the National Register. This participation involves the review of nominations by the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) and the City Council. The Commission and the City Council are required to submit comments to the State Historic Preservation Office relaying their findings as to the eligibility of the properties under consideration for listing in the National Register. The HRC and City Council are to comment as to whether they conclude a property meets the criteria for National Register listing. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation have been included for information.

Committee Action:

Committee	CDHGG 5/21/19	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House

Located at 200 North Stratford Road on a 1.93-acre parcel, the Bunyan and Edith W. Womble House was designed by architects Keen and Wallace. The residence is one of four imposing 1920s dwellings facing east toward Stratford Road in the exclusive Stratford Place subdivision platted by Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears. Members of the Chatham and Hanes families erected three of the four homes in the Stratford Place subdivision.

The locally significant Bunyan S. and Edith W. Womble House meets National Register Criterion C for architecture due to its Classical Revival design rendered by the Philadelphia-based firm Keen and Wallace. Although abodes influenced by those on European country estates are plentiful in Winston-Salem, with Tudor, Georgian, and Classical Revival styles being the most typical throughout the city's early- to mid-twentieth-century subdivisions, the Womble House is distinguished by its scale, sophisticated execution, and estate-like setting. The hip-roofed dwelling encompasses a two- and-one-half-story seven-bay-wide main block with a one-story flat-roofed south sun porch, a one-and-one-half-story north service wing, and an inconspicuously sited two-story 2013 garage and guest suite rear addition north and west of the service wing. The main block's exterior is characterized by white stucco walls, a Ludowici-Celadon tile roof, and classical details such as a molded modillion cornice and flat-roofed east entrance portico. The formal spaces-reception hall, dining room, living room, and library-feature classical cornices, wainscoting, paneling, door and window surrounds, and mantels. Single- and double-leaf raised-panel wood doors and wood-framed multi-pane French doors and transoms possess original hardware. Intact finishes include smooth plaster walls and ceilings, tongue-and-groove oak floors, and molded baseboards and chair rails. The period of significance is 1927, the house's construction date.