

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** May 13, 2024

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

**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Chris Murphy, Director of Planning and Development Services

**Council Action Requested:**

Request for a Public Hearing regarding the eligibility of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 82 and 83 for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**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 and districts worthy of preservation. Listing in the Register is predominantly an honor and does not negatively affect the rights of a private property owner. Unlike the Local Historic Landmark designation, there is no local property tax deferral associated with the National Register program.

The nominated property is located at 821 East 25th Street and is 2.46 acres in size. Federal and State guidelines for the Certified Local Government Program require that the City 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 City Council. The HRC and City Council are also required to submit comments to the State Historic Preservation Office relaying their findings as to the eligibility of the property under consideration for listing in the National Register, and whether they believe the property meets the criteria for National Register listing. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation are attached for your information. The Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission solicited public comments on this request at its May 1, 2024 meeting. The significance and integrity of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 82 and 83 are detailed on the following page.

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	<u>CD/H/GG 05/14/2024</u>	<b>Action</b>	<u>Approval</u>
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<b>For</b>	<u>Unanimously</u>	<b>Against</b>	<u></u>
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**Remarks:**

## **R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 82 and 83**

### **Significance Requirement**

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Buildings 82 and 83, erected in 1919 to provide tobacco leaf storage, are eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing because they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history, specifically our local industrial history. The company fueled Winston-Salem's economic prosperity and grew to become the nation's largest tobacco manufacturer in 1922. Due to spatial constraints at its downtown plant, Reynolds steadily acquired acreage in north Winston-Salem in proximity to the railroad corridor and erected manufacturing and storage facilities and nearby worker housing. Buildings 82 and 83 are the earliest identified extant tobacco storage warehouses in the city constructed per standard Reynolds' specifications. The one-story, very-low-gable-roofed warehouses have strong, durable, economical, and fire-resistant structural systems comprising formed-concrete foundations, brick end walls and firewalls between sections, corrugated-metal sheathing on heavy-timber frame walls, heavy timber posts and beams, and concrete floors. Open interior plans with high ceilings accommodated sizable equipment and tiered storage.

The period of significance begins in 1919 when the buildings were completed and ends in 1973 because their function after that date is not exceptionally significant.

### **Integrity Requirement**

Buildings 82 and 83 possess high integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship, a requirement for listing in the National Register.