

## Historic Wilmington Foundation

### 2017 Most Threatened Historic Places List



#### **John N Smith Cemetery 225 E Leonard Street, Southport, NC**

The John N Smith Cemetery in Southport, is the only cemetery which interred African-Americans in Brunswick County. There is an urgent need to construct a fence around the property, restore grave markers, complete a ground penetrating radar study to identify the location of unmarked graves and place identifying markers so that new interments do not compromise existing burials.

**New Nomination -2017 MOST THREATENED**



#### **Rocky Point School Buildings 13991 Hwy 110, Rocky Point, NC**

The first of these two school buildings is a one-story brick structure designed by Leslie N. Boney in 1925, it was originally the Rocky Point Elementary school for white students. The second was built in 1917 when local African American families organized and raised funds in order to get a grant from the Rosenwald Fund. With the

grant they constructed the first building of the nearby Pender County Training School campus in 1917. These properties are historic examples of the concern for education in Pender County in the early twentieth century. The buildings are threatened by their poor physical condition and neglect, and they are also listed for sale. Potential redevelopment of this area should include these buildings. They provide a glimpse into the history of the people of this region, and their desire to educate their children.



**2015 MOST THREATENED List-Relisted for 2017 MOST THREATENED**



#### **Historic Wood Windows Lower Cape Fear Region**

A building's character is often determined by its windows. Frequently, however, historic windows are improperly removed when a structure is repaired or rehabilitated and are then replaced with inappropriate modern windows. Yet in most cases, wood windows can be repaired and upgraded in an environmentally friendly manner while retaining historic integrity. Well-maintained wood windows will typically outperform new replacement windows. **2016 Threat List-2017 MOST THREATENED List**





**Fort Caswell Rifle Range  
Oak Island, NC**

After five years of fundraising, trees that were compromising the north wall of the rifle range were removed. In addition, an engineering study and hydrological study with final reports was completed. The rifle range now has a web site for the nonprofit about the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range and Storage Room.

**2016 Threatened List –Carryover to 2017 MOST THREATENED LIST**



**Rosenwald Schools  
Pender County – First Listed in 2006**

Over the last several years’ public awareness of the region’s Rosenwald Schools has grown dramatically because of the hard work of Claudia Stack and other activists. However, these structures, built as forums for African American education at the beginning of the twentieth-century, continue to be threatened by neglect, deterioration, and expanding development. Unless dramatic action is taken, these important reminders of our state’s

history of segregated and unequal educational opportunities will disappear. The rehabilitation of the Canetuck School into a senior center a few years ago, demonstrated that these sites have potential for new purposes. Hopefully, this example will be repeated.

**Listed since 2006 on the Most Threatened List -2017 MOST THREATENED**

**William Rand Kenan House  
110 Nun Street, Wilmington, NC**



The Kenan House, built circa 1870, was awarded a plaque by Historic Wilmington Foundation and the *Make America Beautiful* program. It has been cited for neglect and secured by the City and it appears to be moving to foreclosure. While it is in steep decline, this house can be saved.

**New Nomination- 2017 MOST THREATENED**



## Thematic Listing of Public & Private Family Cemeteries of the Lower Cape Fear Region

**Flemington Oak Grove Cemetery** 612 Sampson Street Wilmington, NC 28401

**Wood Cemetery Markers**, Cemeteries Brunswick County

**Ferrell Coleman Cemetery**

5152 New Britton Loop, Ash, NC 28420

*Location:* Tri-Counties (Pender, Brunswick, New Hanover)

As writer Ruth Little suggests, an old graveyard or cemetery is an invaluable source of insight and information about the families, traditions, and culture surrounding that community. Slowly, time is erasing these memorials. These historic sites are threatened by neglect, vandalism, and development. As just one example, the Lillington Cemetery in rural Pender County is the burial site for the local Revolutionary War hero, John Lillington. However, the walls and markers of this cemetery are deteriorating and crumbling due to lack of attention and exposure to the elements.

**Carryover from 2016 THREATENED PLACES LIST**

## 2017 Historic Wilmington Foundation Watch List



**St. Peter and St. Paul Russian Orthodox Church,  
St. Helena, Pender County, NC – First Listed in  
2006**

Built to serve a community of Russian Orthodox immigrants in Pender County, this church with its picturesque golden onion dome has long been threatened by a shrinking congregation. Members of the church are concerned about preserving this community structure into the future. The site was on the **2016**

**MOST THREATENED List**, but a recent listing on the National Register of Historic Places gives the members hope. Move to the **2017 WATCH List to keep this historic structure in everyone's awareness.**

## Historic Downtown Wilmington/ Wilmington National Register District



A proposed new Cape Fear River Crossing bridge located at the existing Cape Fear Memorial Bridge would do irreparable harm to our historic downtown core and the larger Wilmington National Register District. This is the center of our Lower Cape Fear Community and it defines what is unique about the region. Other crossing options are available and a new bridge should not be built at this site. Everyone should take part in the discussions about a new bridge and its location. **New 2017 WATCH List**

Historic Wilmington Foundation – 2017 Most Threatened Historic Places  
2011 Market Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-910-762-2511  
[www.historicwilmington.org](http://www.historicwilmington.org) - [edwards@historicwilmington.org](mailto:edwards@historicwilmington.org)



**New Hanover County Library**  
**201 Chestnut Street Wilmington NC, 28401**

New Hanover County's redevelopment study places the downtown library in a precarious spot. The report could suggest that the library be relocated and the site redeveloped. This is a critical community resource that serves all sectors of the county. It provides the county with a landmark main library and an impressive array of services. The building is also a good example of mid-century modern architecture, and a wonderful adaptive reuse. The completion of the new *Story Park* adds emphasis to its importance to the citizens of the New Hanover County.

**New 2017 WATCH LIST**