



Nancy Preston

Nancy Preston conceived the idea of a flag to serve as an identifying feature for a newly expanded Town Hall. As a Town Council member (1983-1991) and chair of its building expansion committee, when lack of money eliminated a clock tower designed to set off the new building, she recommended a flag showing the unique characteristics of the town be designed in its stead. The now familiar town flag was adopted in 1990.

This building project was also the genesis of public art for Chapel Hill. When money was not available for decorating the new space Nancy thought of having local artists hang their work in Town Hall. She found private monies to buy equipment to hang the art and formed a working committee to identify, select and display the artist's work. Nancy served as chairman of this endeavor for many years. It is known today as The Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

Nancy dedicated herself to conserving the character of what was once called the Village of Chapel Hill. Becoming involved in early preservation efforts she worked with others similarly concerned to protect Chapel Hill's historic and unique built environment. These efforts resulted

in the establishment of the first Historic District governed by the town's Historic District Commission of which she has been a member.

Nancy's understanding of Chapel Hill as a special and unique place spilled over into other endeavors in the town. She is an advocate and long time Board member of the N. C. Botanical Garden Foundation supporting its goals of preserving, protecting and promoting our native ecosystems and the Evelyn McNeill Sims Native Plant Lecture series in honor of her mother. Following her co-chairmanship of Chapel Hill's Bicentennial Celebration with its many special activities and products produced, she helped establish the Chapel Hill Museum in 1996 to collect and display many of these artifacts for public benefit.

Having far surpassed its original size, Nancy remembers the openness and freedom of Chapel Hill in the late 1960's when she and her family moved here—an aspect she still enjoys while walking in her downtown neighborhood. Attention to and appreciation of its history and its community charm are qualities Nancy continues to support. With a hopeful eye forward, she is committed to and will continue to work for a Chapel Hill that respects and reveres its very unique history and the wonderful people who made Chapel Hill what it is today.