



# Historic Wilmington Foundation

## Most Threatened Historic Places List 2009

### Atlantic Coast Line/CFCC Building

*Location: Red Cross Street, Wilmington, NC*

Although this structure built by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was spared when Urban Renewal demolished much of the architecture associated with the city's transportation heritage, it is now threatened by increased vitality within the city's north side. Cape Fear Community College plans to demolish this historic building to make room for a new campus center which administrators claim will better fit the institution's needs. Unless the city takes forceful measures to maintain the community's historic character, other important structures will also likely be razed to create desirable real estate for new development.



### North End of the Central Business District

*Location: Downtown Wilmington, NC*

As PPD, the convention center, and the Cape Fear Community College expand on the north side of Wilmington's historic downtown, the community must be vigilant to ensure that the valuable historic identity of the city is not sacrificed. With proper planning and oversight, economic revitalization does not have to mean the demolition of the structures which give our city character and contribute to Wilmington's quality of life. City of Wilmington Planning Staff, the Historic Wilmington Foundation and others are thinking creatively about how to foster economic vitality while simultaneously protecting the historic fabric of the area north of Princess and Chestnut and west of the North Fourth Street corridor.



### Rosenwald Schools

*Location: Pender County, NC*

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Julius Rosenwald, a Chicago philanthropist who had made a fortune with Sears and Roebuck, supported the education of African-Americans by establishing more than five thousand schools in fifteen states.

Pender County retains a number of these structures as important reminders of the difficulties our region's residents have overcome. In other areas, many of these schools were lost following the desegregation of the public schools. Threatened by neglect, deterioration, and expanding



development, our local Rosenwald schools must be protected and reused if future generations are to be able to understand the American legacies of inequitable public facilities and private philanthropy.

**Wilmington’s Humble Historic Homes**

*Location: Wilmington, NC*



The destruction of Wilmington’s cottages, bungalows, shotgun houses, and other modest domestic structures, has slowed somewhat because of current economic conditions. However, once the economy rebounds these buildings will once again be threatened by development. The actions of the ABC Board, which recently razed most of a block of homes within one of the city’s historic neighborhoods, indicate that government officials and the general public may still not

recognize that these structures provide the bedrock of the city’s historic identity. Additionally, preserving Wilmington’s humble historic homes provides an efficient alternative to the construction of new low-cost housing to ameliorate the city’s crisis in affordable housing.

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**Threatened Historic Places Watch List**

**Former Topsail High School**

*Location: Rte. 17, Hampstead, NC*

This structure was built in the early decades of the twentieth-century as part of Pender County’s attempt to improve the physical plant of their education system. Located in an important commercial corridor, it is currently underutilized by the County. Although there are not any current plans to demolish the school, the changing character of the area in which it is located may make its future tenuous.



**Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church**



*Location: St. Helena, Pender County, NC*

First identified as worthy of attention by the 2006 HWF watch list, Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church continues to be troubled by a shrinking membership. If the congregation becomes moribund, the church building, with its characteristic golden onion dome, will be in danger of being lost. Efforts by the Historic Wilmington Foundation have resulted in donations and the church remains stable. However, as the congregation continues to shrink the future of this building continues to be unclear.