

MEDIA RELEASE

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Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development

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Walk through history – in a Mile. The Old Wilson Mile that is.

Take a stroll through the Old Wilson Mile - an area near Barton College that tells the Wilson Story with its rich heritage and unique architecture. The Mile is part of the Old Wilson Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places dating from the 1850's through the 1920's. You will see notable architectural styles such as Gothic Revival, Italianate, Victorian Cottage, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Wilson's famous Bungalows.

Soon the Mile will be marked with directional bronze medallions placed in the sidewalk to keep you on track. Start at any point and enjoy the pedestrian friendly neighborhoods in the Old Wilson Historic District. The City of Wilson is currently working on the installation of the medallions.

Preservation of Wilson is focusing on the Old Wilson Mile as a pilot area to gain better understanding of how to promote an economically strong residential historic district as they recruit new owners to revitalize properties that are architecturally unique. In spite of being one of the worst real estate times, the non-profit has been successful with their mission and word is spreading quickly about the outstanding available housing stock in the Wilson Historic Districts.

Ten historic homes have been sold since March, 2009, including a circa 1910 Greek Revival which was featured in the March 2010 issue of *This Old House* magazine highlighted as an endangered property. According to the article, “The house is an architectural knockout . . . and the new owner will be steps from downtown Wilson, which is seeing renewed investment with the opening of many locally owned shops and restaurants.”

Sold properties are located in the Old Wilson Mile, as well as within the Old Wilson Historic District and the Broad Kenan Historic District, both Local and National Historic Districts. Other properties sold include three Local Landmarks dating back to 1893, Victorian Colonial circa 1902, two 1920's Bungalows, Colonial Revival circa 1913, a 1903 frame house on a lot that goes back to 1897, and the 1940's Colonial Revival Sisters of Providence of St. Mary's Convent for the Catholic nuns. These homes have all been vacant and many in dilapidated conditions.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. It actively promotes historically, architecturally and culturally significant properties. For information call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694 or kfb@preservationofwilson.com