

## **Little Red Schoolhouse Preservation Proposal:**

**Request:** \$95,750 for phase one of the relocation and refurbishment of the Little Red Schoolhouse on the High Point Museum campus as called for in the Museum's Master Plan.

### **Rationale:**

- The Little Red Schoolhouse, which is owned by and under the care of the City of High Point, is in a precarious position in its current location, because it is too far away to be staffed by current Museum personnel.
- It has already been subject to vandalism—most notably the stolen HVAC system.
- In the past year and a half the roof, walls, and porch of Little Red Schoolhouse have further deteriorated, including a growing hole in porch floorboards.
- The Historical Society has already invested approximately \$8,000 in design and planning fees for this project.
- Further, the HPHS board has voted to raise the projected \$93,500 to complete phase two of this project, which covers the full restoration of the building once it has been relocated to the Museum campus per the Master Plan. The Historical Society has already reached 10% of this fundraising goal.
- Historical Society has always been a good partner with the city since its founding in 1966. Private Citizens raised the \$287,000 for the original museum building and gave it to the city. For the 1998-2000 expansion, the Historical Society matched with private dollars the city's \$1 million funding for construction. The Historical Society is grateful for the city's continued support over the years, which has

allowed the Museum to grow to what it is today.

- The Historical Society and Hayden Harman Foundation paid the \$70,000 for the cost of the Heritage Point/Museum Master Plan, all private money, which was developed under the auspices of the city with input from city personnel, Historical Society members, a Hayden Harman Foundation representative, and some neighborhood and community representatives.
- Little Red Schoolhouse is a huge part of High Point's civic memory. It housed first grade classes for 30 years (1930-1961), and its architecture is distinctive and iconic. It was designed by High Pointer and noted architect Louis Voorhees.
- It was the home to High Point's first Museum in the early 1960s before the Haley House was restored and the Lexington Avenue campus was developed.
- The Little Red Schoolhouse was designated a Guilford County Historic Landmark in 1988. At their June meeting, the Guilford Historic Preservation Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to move and restore the Little Red Schoolhouse on the Museum campus.
- Once moved to the Museum campus, staff can open it on a regular basis and conduct programming, including the "A is for Artifact" early childhood program developed by the Junior League a few years ago.
- High Point has lost two historic structures on Washington Street in the past year. We do not want the same fate to befall the Little Red Schoolhouse, so the Historical Society has committed to raising roughly half the funds needed to protect the city's investment in this valuable asset.
- *Time is of the essence, as we are concerned about "Little Red" going thru another winter in its current location & in its current condition. Thank you!*