



Frances Lloyd Shetley

Frances Lloyd Shetley is a 9th generation descendant of one Thomas Lloyd, a first settler in what is now southern Orange County and a distinguished colonial official in the 1700s. However, Ms. Shetley's numerous achievements and accomplishments came in the 20th and 21st centuries when she served more than eight years on the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and secured advancement on a number of fronts broadly defined as transportation, conservation, and environmental protection. Her civic career probably had a defining moment when the town manager declined to see her because he was "too busy." She was offended and determined to take matters into her own hands. With her "do-it-yourself" philosophy, she became more visible and vocal, and became part of the town's infrastructure, first as an appointee and later as chair of the Carrboro Transportation Advisory Board. When she tired of her role as advisor and sought a vote and greater voice, she ran for office and was elected as alderman. She came of age as a political leader in Carrboro's transition from a blue-collar mill town to the vibrant, diverse, and progressive community it is today.

Early on, she became sensitive to the rapidly growing student population and assertively addressed their needs for inexpensive and student-friendly transportation. She championed our unique and

one-of-a-kind no-charge system of public transportation serving Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and UNC. Equally important and perhaps particularly *her* ongoing enterprise was establishing bikeways, bike lanes, and bike paths throughout the community. The crowning touch occurred on her last day in office in 1995 when the Board of Aldermen surprised her and informed her that it had named the bikeway running from Carrboro Elementary School to North Greensboro Street as the “Frances Lloyd Shetley Bikeway.”

Ms. Shetley, although informed, assertive, determined, persuasive, and persistent, is also unfailingly humble and respectful, and always recognizes the contributions of others in the projects and enterprises which she undertakes and in which she perseveres. Although she declines credit, she is recognized as the person most responsible for saving the historic Carr Mill from the developer who was planning to demolish the mill and construct a strip mall. Although she may be the creative spark, she quickly involves others and becomes part of an energized nucleus which pursues change. She recalls that it was a student who alerted her to the problems for bike riders that the town’s grates covering storm and waste water discharge could cause. The steel bars were aligned with the streets and the distances between the bars of the grates were precisely the width of a bike tire. The hazard which was created for an unsuspecting bike rider was that his/her bike wheel could drop into the grate between the bars and cause an abrupt and jarring halt, possibly throwing the rider off the bike and into traffic. A simple 90 degree rotation of the grate would alleviate the hazard and this was accomplished. Ms. Shetley also wryly observes the lethargic pace of bureaucracies. She served as liaison to the NC Department of Transportation and notes that securing progress is like “dragging a cinder block down the street.”

Ms. Shetley was raised in the Calvander community but has lived with her family on historic Old Hillsborough Road in Carrboro for more than 50 years. Her husband was the long-time director of auxiliary services for UNC which administered student stores, food services, and many other departments. Together they raised five children, three of whom live in the family compound on Old Hillsborough Road.