






OWEN FRANKLIN SMITH (1917-2012)

[Owen Smith](#) was North Carolina's oldest practicing architect. It is with much sadness that we learned he died on Wednesday at the age of 94.

He is survived by his sons, Sidney D. Smith, and his wife, Shirley, of Asheboro; O. Franklin Smith, Jr., and his wife, Marian, of Raleigh; sister, Sue Applewhite, of Jacksonville; grandchildren, Caroline Culpepper and husband, Paul, of Hickory; Catherine Friedline and husband, David, of Fairfield, CT; Courtney Smith of Wilkesboro; David Smith of Charlotte; and Gordon Smith of Carrboro; great-grandchildren, Rhett and Spears Culpepper, and George and Gaston Friedline; and his special friend of ten years, Betsy Hutchison.

Smith graduated from North Carolina State in architectural engineering and practiced architecture in Raleigh for over 65 years. His early design mentors were William Dietrick and Thomas Cooper, established Raleigh architects. During World War II, he supervised the construction of military facilities until his entry in the U. S. Navy.

He began private practice in 1946 and maintained his office until 2011. His work included office buildings, modernist homes, churches and over 200 school projects. He won design awards for the Farm Bureau

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Funeral services will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, September 7, 2012, at Hayes Barton Baptist Church. The family will receive friends in the church parlor following the service. Memorials may be made to Hayes Barton Baptist Church or The Tammy Lynn Center.

buildings, Lynn Road School, Bertie County High School and the sanctuary of Hayes Barton Baptist Church. His versatility was such that he could work with contemporary or traditional designs. He strived to balance good design, field practicality and the client's goals. He was fortunate to have a profession that was his passion throughout his life.

TMH's video interview with Owen Smith from early 2012 is [here](#).

Read more here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsobserver/obituary.aspx?n=owen-f-smith&pid=159681272#storylink=cpy>

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