

of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.



Fall 2005

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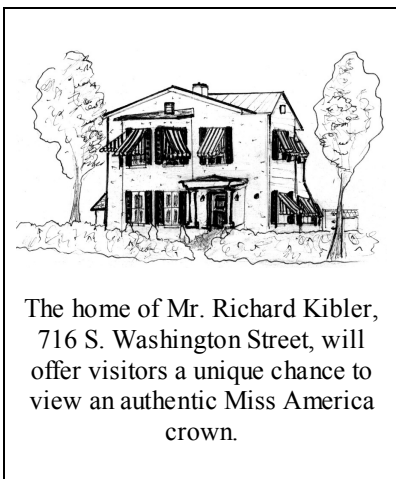
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CELEBRATING TRADITIONS WITH A WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS

PHW'S 2005 HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR: DECEMBER 3 AND 4



The home of Mr. Richard Kibler, 716 S. Washington Street, will offer visitors a unique chance to view an authentic Miss America crown.

The holiday season is all about traditions, and what better way to launch the season and keep tradition than the annual PHW Holiday House Tour. This year's tour, on Sunday, December 4th from Noon to 5:00 PM, will feature five spectacular historic homes in the Winchester Historic District decked out for Christmas. Dripping with greenery, festive with ribbons, glittering with heirloom ornaments, and scented with spices and candles, these homes will send us back to those days of holiday wonderment and magic. The five historic homes in this year's tour are centered along storied Washington Street with asides to Amherst and Cork streets. Each has been painstakingly restored and maintained by its owners and lovingly embellished for the holidays for your visit.

PREVIEW PARTY AND CANDLELIGHT TOUR

For an extra special treat, the houses will be opened on Saturday evening, December 3rd for a candlelight tour from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. In addition to the houses, a preview party will be held at one of the city's grand Colonial Revival homes where sumptuous food and fine spirits will warm and sustain tour goers on this late fall night.

Of course, the Bough and Dough Christmas Shop, a PHW tradition, will be open on Sunday during the tour. Visitors inspired by the decorating of the tour homes may stock up on greenery, decorations, baked goods, and handicrafts by local artisans to help them create their own Christmas fantasy at home.

PHW is proud to have the following partners helping to sponsor the 2005 tour: Wachovia Bank, The Adams Companies, First Bank, Virginia National Bank, MakeNest Interiors, and the Stonewall Division of Frazier Quarry.

Advance tickets for the tour are \$12 per person (ages 5 to 12 are \$6, and under 4 are free) and \$15 on the day of the tour. Advance tickets may be purchased at Kimberly's, The Door Mouse, The County Store, Shenandoah University's History and Tourism Center—The Knowledge Point, A Gift to Remember, and the PHW office in the Kurtz building. Preview party tickets are by reservation only and are \$30 per person; RSVP by December 1. For more information about the tours please call the PHW office at (540) 667-3577. ♦

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MEET TODAY'S PRESERVATIONIST: MARILYN FINNEMORE

BY HARTLEY SCHEARER

Marilyn Finnemore is the force behind the renovation of the old Leggett's building into the Bright Center. When asked how she came up with the name, she said her husband, Aldo Bello, and she are in the business of branding. Her first impression of the building was that it needed to be gold. Starting with that idea, her husband came up with the name -- a play on the bright people who would work there and the bright colors Marilyn foresaw. "Once we had a name, the decoration of the building followed."

Marilyn's company Mind and Media is located in Alexandria and does marketing, training, and communications campaigns for the federal government and other large concerns. One major campaign they produced was the 39 episodes of "Frontiers of Medicine" shown on P.B.S. She is eager to expand her company in the near future into a large portion of the Bright Center.

Marilyn's decoration of the building has also been influenced by the many people who have shared their memories of the old Leggett's building. Marilyn and her husband have had an artist paint nine giant views of Winchester architecture on the walls throughout the building. In addition, they have put graphic renditions of Winchester scenes in the halls.

"We weren't able to get historic tax credits for the building because much of the original building had been lost over

the years." Actually, there were three buildings incorporated into the old Leggett's building. Two of the buildings were over 100 years old, but the other had been torn down decades ago and rebuilt. In addition, much old material was lost over the last decade or two.

Two Winchester men were influential in getting Marilyn interested in Winchester. Strolling the mall, she first met Richard Orum rocking away on the downtown mall: "He sold us on Winchester and introduced us to P.H.W. board member Stan Corneal, who helped us with the purchase of the building and is helping us find tenants."

"Winchester's architecture brought us to town." Marilyn believes Winchester will attract many others who love historic buildings and are not interested in modern shopping malls. "People want neat shops and restaurants -- like Shepherdstown and Middleburg."

Marilyn believes that once the development ball starts moving, change will be rapid. She sees significant change within a year and major change in three years.

When asked if she were ready to do another building, Marilyn said she was eager but feared that soaring prices of real estate might limit her and others. ♦



Sandra Bosley poses for a picture at PHW's table for Opportunity Winchester, October 15, 2005.

PHW'S OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR— SANDRA BOSLEY

PHW is pleased to announce that this past June Sandra Bosley became PHW's Office Administrator. Ms. Bosley, or Sandra, is a Winchester native and a recent graduate of Shepherd University. She responded to PHW's employment ad along with 33 other candidates for this part time position. With her knowledge of the community, self motivation, computer skills, and outstanding references from the staff of Shenandoah University's History and Tourism Center (HTC), Sandra was a natural fit for the organization. Since June she has reorganized the office, cleaned out enormous quantities of outdated materials, fielded questions on the phone and in person, attended Board of Architectural Review meetings along with board members, and supported board-directed events and meetings such as mailings, the annual Membership Appreciation Night, Opportunity Winchester, and of course, the Holiday House Tour. The board and volunteers are all in agreement that we would be lost without Sandra. ♦

PRESERVATION OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC HOUSING NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY

Throughout the summer and late fall a strenuous debate was carried on in Winchester as to whether or not the city exercise its right to create a housing authority as provided under the laws of the commonwealth. There was considerable confusion about the advisability of such an action as well as a diversity of opinion. PHW as a concerned about the topic and its board reflected the same diversity as did the citizens of Winchester. In a step to help clarify the issue, on 18 October PHW sponsored a forum about the housing authority proposal. Board member Hartley Schearer organized the event held in partnership with the Friends of Handley Library. A video created by the Community Consensus Coalition was presented, and Jim Deskins, Director of Economic Development spoke about the authority and fielded questions.

Following the forum, the PHW board again debated the issue and decided that whatever the outcome of the November 8th referendum, the board was in absolute agreement as to the need for city policies and programs to support the preservation of the city's historic building stock and the historic district. In an Open Forum letter to *The Winchester Star* the PHW expressed its views. This letter follows:

To the Editor:

Over the past few weeks there has been considerable time, brain power, and ink spent on whether or not the citizens of Winchester should approve creation of a housing authority for the city. Certainly there are a number of challenging issues relating to housing that property owners and local government need to grapple with.

Providing safe, healthy housing, housing that is affordable for workers in Winchester and the surrounding area, creating attractive neighborhoods, and, a particular local challenge, increasing the rate of home

ownership have all been cited as reasons for an authority. However, another factor needs to be added into the mix: the maintenance and preservation of the city's outstanding stock of historic homes and buildings. It is this last issue that is of particular concern to Preservation of Historic Winchester (PHW).

Whatever decisions are made in the coming months concerning public or private initiatives to improve housing, PHW believes that these decisions must include policies and programs that encourage preservation of the city's historic buildings. Strong, preserved neighborhoods in the historic district surrounding and including Old Town Winchester will encourage home ownership, further investment in the downtown, attract new residents, and help maintain Winchester's position as the center of the region.

There needs to be a renewed commitment by the city for programs that encourage investment in historic buildings and the use of federal and state tax credits, that discourage demolition—both overt demolition as well as demolition by neglect, and that provide incentives to property owners—homeowners or investors—to restore the exteriors and interiors of historic buildings and keep them in active and productive use.

In the face of current and planned development in and surrounding Winchester, preservation of the city's historic core will be an essential element in keeping the city competitive as a destination, as a place to live, visit, shop, dine and experience.

Howard J. Kittell

President of the Board of Directors ♦

BEYER PRINTS

PHW has a limited stock of prints from the original Edward Beyer painting of Winchester. Unframed prints are \$190 while archival quality framed prints in mahogany and hunter green (courtesy of Gallery One in downtown Winchester) are available for \$280. A Beyer print will make an outstanding gift for anyone who loves historic Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley. Contact Sandra Bosley at (540) 667-3577 for more information. ♦

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NEWS

FALL 2005

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In June at the annual meeting, the members of PHW elected four new individuals to the Board of Directors. The new members include: Robert Lauer, Darla McCrary, M.J. Stinson, and Barbara Reese. In addition, in April the PHW Board appointed Franklin E. Wright to the board to fill the unexpired term of Scott Brown as Vice President for Development. Ms. Reese was elected as Secretary of PHW while Ms. McCrary was elected as Vice President for Special Events. Subsequently, Ms. Reese resigned from the board in July. M.J. Stinson graciously accepted the position of Secretary when nominated by the board and has been so elected in accord with the organization's by-laws. The board is now looking to fill Ms. Reese's unexpired term.

Interestingly, all of the new board members are recent transplants to Winchester – within the past five year or less. And for all of them a major factor for settling in Winchester was its history and historic buildings. Their fresh eyes on the city's historic architecture, on the historic district, and on PHW provide a tremendous complement to the longer-term board members and long-time residents of Winchester. Each has plunged into the work of PHW with energy and enthusiasm.

We are grateful to all of them for their willingness to take on the major tasks of PHW and add to its long history of being a major factor in the city's revitalization. ♦

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT

On a rainy and chilly Friday evening, October 22nd, PHW held its annual Membership Appreciation Night at the stately Thornhill Manor. The manor is the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Russell (Jay and Linda) on South Washington Street in the historic district. Thornhill is one of the oldest houses in the Winchester and provides an imposing backdrop for Apple Blossom parades. Its sloped front lawn also provides an outstanding viewing stage to the parades. Approximately 60 PHW members attended the apprecia-

tion night. Not only was the event an opportunity for PHW to say "thank you" to its members, it was also an opportunity for preservation-minded folk to mingle and network, and for our outstanding new board members to meet PHW members.

PHW is deeply indebted to the Russells for making their home the setting for such a wonderful evening! ♦

ARE YOU A PHW MEMBER?

Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc., is a 501 © (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Winchester's architectural heritage. PHW depends on income from membership and contributions to achieve its goals. *All contributions above membership are tax deductible.*



Join today by completing this form and returning it to PHW, 2 N. Cameron St. Winchester, VA 22601.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Business	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____