

of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.

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AMHERST STREET: AGLOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The first weekend of December marks the kickoff celebrations of the holidays in Winchester. Preservation of Historic Winchester has returned to its Holiday House Tour roots with this outstanding selection of six homes along Amherst Street. The tour locations this year are a walk through Winchester's history, encompassing homes built c. 1786 to the early 1900s. The Preview Party will be held in the home of Thomas (Wilke) Green at 703 South Washington Street (don't forget to make your reservations by December 4!) from 6 to 9 PM, while the daylight tour on Sunday takes place from noon to 5 PM.

Even better, PHW has been able to secure a true "block party" feel by having Amherst Street closed to traffic from Washington Street to Morgan Street during the tour hours for the safety of

our walking visitors. Musicians will serenade tour goers, including a choral quartet of graduate students from Shenandoah University, for additional festive atmosphere. The Bough and Dough Shop will return for all your greenery needs and local crafts and baked goods, along with the complimentary warm drinks for tour goers. This year the Shop will be located at the nearby Winchester Little Theater on Boscawen Street and open on Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM, and Sunday noon to 5 PM.



222 Amherst Street

Katherine Conrad House
Home of Robert and Genevieve Boxley
Linda Ross, House Chair
Genevieve Boxley, Decorator

This Italianate-style home was built c. 1889 by Robert Y. Conrad for his sister, Katherine Conrad. Although the home has passed through several owners since its construction, it remains largely unchanged since Katherine Conrad called it home. The house features attractive round-headed windows and offers a sense of privacy with the long brick sidewalk leading up to the house and brick wall in front. The Boxleys are avid collectors of model ships and glassware, which will be on display in the home.



223 Amherst Street

Ambler Hill
Home of Thomas G. and Robin Scully
Tom McCubbin, House Chair
Robin Scully, Decorator

This late eighteenth century home was built by John Hatley Norton. He arrived in Winchester in 1783 and constructed the earliest portion of the house in 1786. "Ambler Hill" is named for the widow Catherine Norton's second husband, John Ambler. Ambler Hill was the birthplace of famous Virginia novelist John Esten Cooke in 1830, and it has served as a boarding house once and a school twice, before the Scully family bought and completely renovated it. The house has a brick wine cellar, walnut paneling in the library and a collection of fireplace mantels. (Cont. p. 3)

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REVOLVING FUND SPOTLIGHT: 522-524 SOUTH LOUDOUN STREET

SANDRA BOSLEY

Following the purchase of the Simon Lauck House in 1974 (see the PHW Newsletter Vol. 32 No. 2 for the full story,) PHW set its sights on acquiring another house higher on Potato Hill, the home of Dr. Cornelius Baldwin (constructed c. 1795.) This building



The Baldwin properties, c. 1976

was sold to PHW without the immediate pressure faced in the instance of the Simon Lauck house; however, the house itself had been subject to many unfortunate exterior changes which covered the front of the house. (See image left.) Fortunately,



One of the original angled fireplaces at 522 S. Loudoun St.

many of the interior details such as the pine flooring, chair rails, cornices, molding, and some hardware were still intact. Tom and Katie Rockwood, now legends in the annals of PHW's history, purchased Dr. Baldwin's House (522 S. Loudoun) and undertook the bulk of the restoration.

Dr. Baldwin was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, graduated from Princeton College and received his medical degree from an unnamed school in Philadelphia, according to the *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*. He served in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon for the Third Virginia Regiment of the American Army and settled in Winchester after marrying the daughter of General Gerard Briscoe, who resided at "Cloverdale" near Winchester. Dr. Baldwin is said to have been the physician to Lord Fairfax and was known as a skillful doctor. Five of his ten children followed his chosen profession. His granddaughter, Mary Julia Baldwin, was one of the first students enrolled at the Augusta Female Seminary and she graduated first in her class. When the Civil War threatened to close the school, Mary Baldwin became its principal and remained at the helm for the next 34 years. The college was renamed in her honor in 1895 for her courageous and ingenious efforts to preserve and improve the school that is known today as Mary Baldwin College.



Photograph, after 1930, showing the double stacked porch arrangement on 522 S. Loudoun.

After Cornelius Baldwin's death in 1826, the house passed out of the family. Between 1857 and 1872, the house was used as a tavern or hotel, known as "The Valley Hotel" or "Wagon and Four Horses." T.K. Cartmell notes in his book *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants* that during this period, the house "became famous as a negro Trader's Jail;" rings found in the basement support this recollection. A double stacked porch – a later addition to the house – served as the sale location. (see image, right.)

Some discrepancy is present regarding the accuracy in 524 S. Loudoun as having served as Dr. Cornelius' office. Quarles asserts a now demolished stone building on the west side of S. Loudoun Street, directly opposite 522, was his office, and perhaps 524 was merely an expansion of his residence. In any event, 524 S. Loudoun was a "domino effect" property. PHW did not directly purchase this property for the Revolving Fund; rather, the covenants attached to this property were added at the sale of the

property in 1978 to prevent drastic exterior changes or use as anything but a residence through the encouragement of PHW. PHW is also charged with enforcing these covenants in a similar fashion to those of 522.



The Baldwin properties in 2008

Both 522 and 524 South Loudoun Street are in use today as residences. ♦

HOWARD KITTELL, MOVING ON

Howard Kittell, a PHW Board member since 2003 and President from 2005-2007, has accepted a new job in Tennessee as the President and CEO of Andrew Jackson's home, The Hermitage. Howard officially resigned his position on the board the end of October.

The news was bittersweet for all who know Howard, as we are excited to see him pursue this new opportunity, yet we will keenly feel the loss of his knowledge of preservation, architecture, and diplomacy in Winchester. He was instrumental in

PHW's reorganization process in 2003, starting the process to update the city's architectural survey, acting as co-chair for the Preview Parties and managing the presentations for the Annual Meetings, and most recently, lending his expertise to updating the "250 Year of Architecture" walking tour, among his many other contributions.

Farewell and good luck, from the Board and staff of PHW!

Visit The Hermitage online at www.thehermitage.com ♦

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR (CONT.)



226 Amherst Street
Daniel Morgan House
Home of George and Jeanne Schember
George Schember, House Chair
Jeanne Schember, Decorator

The southeast timber frame portion of this house was built by George Flowerdew Norton, John Norton's brother, in 1786. In 1800, Revolutionary War hero, General Daniel Morgan purchased it and built a large brick addition. Found throughout the house are the original Dutch elbow locks, doors, and red heart pine flooring. Most of the eight mantles are from the 1830s, when some upgrading to the house occurred. Other major architectural features, including the staircase, room layout, paneling and wainscoting, would have been familiar to General Morgan himself. The Morgan House currently holds an eclectic collection of art, family antiques, lead soldiers, and a cherry paneled library.



227 Amherst Street
Fred Glaize Jr. House
Home of David and Tonia Sweeney
Jenny Powers, House Chair
Tonia Sweeney, Decorator

The house at 227 Amherst Street was built in 1912 by the Barry family in the eclectic Colonial Revival style with Italian tendencies. It was the home of the Fred Glaize family until 1982 and was purchased by the Sweeneys in 2003. They have been busy renovating the house with special emphasis on the butler's pantry and the kitchen.

Of special interest is the Shenandoah Valley tall case clock and the Winchester mantel in the living room. Also of interest is the den which is paneled in wood from the Rock Enon Springs Hotel.



310 Amherst Street
Home of Jack and Mary Dale Jackson

Suellen Knowles, House Chair
Brookie Phillips, Decorator

This Italianate style home (built c.

1872) displays an inviting full façade porch, almost full length windows on the first floor, and interesting eyebrow windows and cornice detailing near the roof. The exterior has been left almost untouched and most windows retain their original glass. The interiors were extensively remodeled by a former owner who was a master carpenter at Henkel Harris when he added closets, updated bathrooms, and added many built in features to the home. The Jacksons are the sixth family to call this house home.



316 Amherst Street
Bessie McCann House
Home of James and Kendra Getaz
Vikki Lee, House Chair
Lynne Caldwell, Decorator

Bessie McCann purchased this lot from Jonah Cather in 1897, and this

Queen Anne style house was erected sometime between her purchase and 1902, when she sold the property. PHW purchased and resold this home through its Revolving Fund in 1980, making it the first of five buildings purchased to date on Amherst Street in our efforts to maintain the historic character of the Route 50 West corridor. Home to the young Getaz family since 1987, the house boasts two corbelled chimneys, a hipped slate roof, and welcoming front porch. The interior retains original oak and cherry woodwork, pine and oak flooring, double sliding parlor doors and five fireplaces. Family antiques and newly acquired pieces are throughout the home.

Special Thanks are due to our sponsors **The Adams Companies, Wachovia, BB&T, and First Bank**, and the printing sponsor **The Final Yard**. PHW is also pleased to thank the musicians who have agreed to make the Holiday House Tour atmosphere more festive, and we are grateful to John Taylor, Dr. James Laidlaw, and the quartet of Shenandoah University carolers who will be enlivening the tour. This year's house artwork was contributed by Sandra Bosley, F. Andrew Boyd, Julie Read, and Kate Schultz. ♦

THE OLD CHURCH WALL

PHW was invited to speak at the rededication of the Old Church Wall in September. Treasurer Mary Riley spoke on behalf of PHW. As part of the dedication, a new plaque honoring the contributors to the stabilization and restoration project was unveiled. The text reads: "*This 'Old Church Wall' of the original Lutheran church was stabilized and restored through the generosity of the members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and the citizens of Winchester, Frederick County, and Clarke County, with special acknowledgement to Boy Scout Troop 1, Mount Hebron Cemetery Board of Managers, Preservation of Historic Winchester, R. A. Restorations, The Shockey Companies, Woltz Charitable Foundation.*"

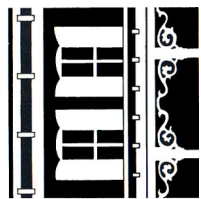
In the meantime, Mt. Hebron Cemetery Board of Managers has begun the process of listing the property on the Vir-

ginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. We wish them all good luck and good fortune during this process. ♦



The plaque is placed on the slanted portion of the southern wall.

Preservation of Historic Winchester



Hexagon House ♦ 530 Amherst St. ♦ Winchester, VA 22601

NEWS

Fall 2008

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday House Tour

December 6: Holiday House Tour Preview Party, to be held in the home of Thomas (Wilke) Green at 703 S. Washington St. From 6 to 9 p.m. Please RSVP to the PHW office or purchase your Party ticket by December 4. Remember to use the Germain St. entrance.

December 7: Holiday House Tour Daylight tour, noon to 5 p.m. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Amherst Street will be closed to vehicle traffic from Washington to Morgan St. during the tour hours.

Tickets are on sale now at Celebrate, The Country Store, The Final Yard, Kimberly's, Winchester Book Gallery, and the PHW office At the Hexagon House!

Lecture Series with Warren Hofstra

Each of these lectures will engage large questions in American history in the context of the communities we create in our localities, our states, and in our nation. The series will be a means of asking big questions of small places and of a large nation. Each will raise issues about how Americans across three centuries have viewed the proper sphere of government as what is public in public life. Answers varied from time to time and from the points of view of those who raised them. But their consideration will provide a forum for people in Winchester and the surrounding community to ask what can and what should be done at a time of significant change in American life.

Warren Hofstra is the Stewart Bell Professor of History and director of the Community History Project at Shenandoah University. His areas of expertise include the American frontier, Virginia history, culture of the Cold War, and vernacular architecture. For more information on the series call Sandy Snyder (540) 535-3543, or email ssnyder@su.edu. All lectures are free and open to the public.

January 28: Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the Progressive Ideal for a Better Life

7:30 pm, Handley Library Auditorium, 100 W. Piccadilly St.

February 10: The Age of Affluence or the Age of Anxiety: America in the Postwar Era

7:30 pm, Old Town Event Center, 403 S. Loudoun St.

March 5: Radical Republicans and the Idealism of Reconstruction

7:30 pm, Douglas Community Learning Center, 598 N. Kent St.

April 8: America's Manifest Destinies from the Age of Expansion to Today

7:30 pm, Handley Library Auditorium, 100 W. Piccadilly St. ♦

ARE YOU A PHW MEMBER?

Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc., is a 501 (c) (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, 530 Amherst St., Winchester, VA 22601.



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\$25

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