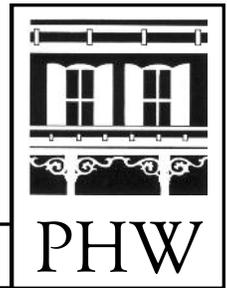


# of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.



Spring 2012

Volume 35, No. 2

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## DISCOVERING AMERICA'S HIDDEN GEMS BRINGING NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH HOME

Communities from coast to coast are filled with unexplored historic treasures—and May's the month to celebrate them! Winchester is undoubtedly one of the richest areas for heritage tourism and gems of history. This year's theme for National Preservation Month is a perfect chance to highlight our history, from the world-renowned to points of local interest.

Take this month as an opportunity to reach out to neighbors, friends, and business associates and promote our historic places in our community. PHW will be participating as usual in the celebrations by organizing our preservation award winners and working on some special projects (see page 5 for more details). In addition, this year we want to challenge you to find a gem to share with us via a photo contest in conjunction with the Old Town Development Board. (see below and the enclosed flyer for details).

We also urge you to [take a historic walking tour of Winchester](#) and visit one or more of our local museums, including the [Old Court House Civil War Museum](#), [the Feltner Museum](#), [the Godfrey Miller Home](#), the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society's museums (including [Abram's Delight](#), [Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters](#), and [George Washington's Office Museum](#)), or the [Patsy Cline House](#). For a broader view of local history, don't forget the [Museum of the Shenandoah Valley](#) and the [Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum](#).

The French and Indian War Foundation's [Fort Loudoun Day](#) also takes place this month on **May 19** and offers an opportunity for you to tour the site of Fort Loudoun and learn more about pre-Revolutionary War Winchester. There's so much to do and see in Winchester that you're sure to find a new historic treasure or two this month. It's time to get out there and celebrate!

## UNCOVERING YOUR HIDDEN GEMS



Did this doorknocker give you grief in last year's hunt? Turn the tables and stump us in this year's contest!

Last year for National Preservation Month, PHW hosted an architectural treasure hunt challenging you to find interesting architectural features in our historic downtown.

This year, it's your turn to wow us with something neat that you spotted and maybe win a little something, too! This event is open to all ages, skill levels, and places of residence — we just ask that your images be taken in Winchester or Frederick

County. See the enclosed flyer for full contest details. ♦

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## REVOLVING FUND SPOTLIGHT

### 1977-1979: THE POTATO HILL ERA

One of the most recognizable areas of PHW's influence in turning a neighborhood around took place on Potato Hill, the colorful local name for South Loudoun Street. In a two-year span of 1977-1979, PHW's Revolving Fund purchased and resold 15 residential properties. Seven of those fifteen buildings were located on South Loudoun Street.

#### 501 and 513 South Loudoun

These two c. 1800 log and frame residences were the quintessential target of PHW's efforts. 501 S. Loudoun has a connection to local history, having been owned by Godfrey Miller and his heirs from 1791-1871. 513 S. Loudoun is very nearly a twin to 501, also being a log structure clad in beaded siding.

#### 502 South Loudoun

This Folk Victorian delight, constructed c. 1882, is one of the few homes along South Loudoun Street that is set back from the street. Its later construction date and expansive use of the corner lot set it apart from the older Federal-style homes in the neighborhood.

#### 606 South Loudoun

This frame house, constructed c. 1906, was the youngest

of the properties purchased during this period. It is a simple workingman's house with a bracketed and turned baluster porch typical of Winchester.

#### 610 and 612 South Loudoun

These two early dwellings are attributed to Conrad Crebs, said to be a Hessian soldier brought to Winchester during the Revolutionary War. Crebs decided to remain in Winchester after his release, and is noted as having built several fine houses on Potato Hill before 1820. A cartwright by trade, he used 610 for his wagon-making shop and 612 for his residence.

#### 702 South Loudoun

Known as the Andrew Baker House, the c. 1805 structure has remained largely intact through the years. Baker operated a tavern (or ordinary) in Winchester, and the original trim, hardware, board and batten wainscoting, and a fine paneled and dentiled mantel inside the house evokes these early years of Winchester's history.

*View all of the Revolving Fund properties online at [www.phwi.org/rf.php](http://www.phwi.org/rf.php) ♦*

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## SPRING FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

March 17th heralded the first concerted effort of PHW to raise funds for several new projects in the works. Board member Nancy Murphy hosted a Saint Patty's Day Poker Party at her home as a fun event and a membership drive. Although no one really knew how to play, everyone had a fun time nonetheless. The results from the small gathering were tremendous — about \$600 was raised from the party itself, and new memberships were generated. Fantastic job, Nancy!

PHW was exceptionally pleased to host the "Manhattan(s) in Winchester" cocktail party at the spectacular homes and gardens of Dr. Peter Bullough on April 14. This fundraiser event playing on the theme of Dr. Bullough's former place of residence in New York featured cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres, as well as tours of his two homes — one very modern, one a historic home. All the attendees had a great time mingling and chatting preservation. In addition to a night of fellowship in a fantastic location, the event netted about

\$2200 for PHW's special projects.

Many thanks are due to our gracious host Dr. Bullough, as well as the team that pulled the event together: Frank Wright, John Baker, Bruce Downing, and Richie Pifer, Jr. Many thanks are due to our sponsor, Reader & Swartz Architects, who also lent us some architects to assist with the docent-led home tours at 120 W. Cork, and Nameeta Sahani of OakCrest, who led the tours through 122 W. Cork. Thank you for all your support! ♦



Wagering became desperate as the Poker Party night went on — Murray Shantz points out his belt and glasses in the pot.

#### Manhattan(s) in Winchester



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# UNCOVERING YOUR HIDDEN GEMS

## A PHOTO CONTEST TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH



Hosted by Preservation of Historic Winchester  
and the Old Town Development Board  
Sponsored by The Winchester Star



Last year for National Preservation Month, Preservation of Historic Winchester (PHW) and the Old Town Development Board (OTDB) sponsored an architectural treasure hunt challenging you to find interesting architectural features in our historic district. This year, it's your turn to wow us with your architectural finds and maybe win a little something, too!

### How to Play:

1. Take a picture of an interesting architectural detail in your home or visible from a public right of way in Winchester or Frederick County. Anything is fair game — a mantel, staircase, lock set, a window, trim, or something else.
2. Give your photo a brief caption to describe what you found and where it is. No technical terminology required!
3. Fill out the contact information form below and include it with your entry .
4. Send your complete entry to PHW at [phwi@verizon.net](mailto:phwi@verizon.net) or **530 Amherst St. Winchester, VA 22601**.
5. The contest runs from **May 1 to June 1, 2012**.

### How to Win:

1. Every person who submits a photo with complete information will be entered into a random drawing for a chance at one of four prize bags from downtown Winchester businesses. (More prizes may be available.)
2. A panel of PHW judges will also pick a "PHW's Choice" winner for an outstanding and eye-catching submission.
3. You may submit an unlimited number of entries, but your name will be entered just once for the random drawing.
4. Winners will be announced at the PHW Annual Meeting on **June 10, 2012**.

### Legal information:

1. This contest is open to the general public and all age categories. Minors, please have an adult help you with your submission!
2. PHW and OTDB employees, board members, and their immediate families are excluded from the prize drawings.
3. By submitting a complete entry to the contest, you consent to the use of your name and/or photograph in any educational materials, merchandise or publicity carried out or produced by PHW or OTDB without further notice or compensation. In turn, you still retain the rights to use and publish your photograph.

### Contact Information Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (daytime / evening): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Caption: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed form to Preservation of Historic Winchester, 530 Amherst Street,  
Winchester, VA 22601 or [phwi@verizon.net](mailto:phwi@verizon.net) **no later than June 1, 2012**.

*See the reverse of this form for a sample entry.*

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# THE MCCARTHY LAW OFFICES—A WINCHESTER GEM

## BRUCE DOWNING

While we had many interesting houses on the 2011 Holiday House Tour, from my point of view, the most interesting, both from a historical as well as architectural standpoint, was the McCarthy Law Offices located at 302 W. Boscawen Street. Thanks to the generosity of J. Douglas McCarthy, this house was open for the first time to the general public on a house tour. Constructed in the Queen Anne style, it is distinguished by its East Lake influences, seen in the interior in the fireplaces and the decorative accents, as well as the unusual fact that the molding on the outside of the front entrance matches the design of the fireplaces.

Historically, this building is significant as it was the original site of the Winchester Medical College of the Valley of Virginia which opened in 1826. This building was burned in May 1862 by the Union Army because of the rumor that the medical students had abused the body of a son of John Brown after his raid on Harper's Ferry.

The current house was built in 1881, at the height of the East Lake architectural and design style. When it was built, it would have been at the cutting edge of current design fashion in the United States - very unusual for a small rural Virginia town. The Cather family lived in the house from 1918 until 1948, and had boarders which were confirmed by ledger books showing a nightly rate of \$1.00 per night.

In 1948, the property was sold to Douglas and Mamie Fisher, who opened the Northwest Trail Tourist Home - the name under which this home was known to a generation of citizens of Winchester. From the late 40s until 1998 when it closed, the home was used as a tourist

home and temporary lodging for visitors to long-term patients at the Winchester Medical Center.

In 1998, Al Graber purchased the home and extensively renovated it - from constructing a reproduction of the original wrought iron fence to repairing the slate roof. The renovation and removal of all paint revealed a beautiful heart pine and lovely hinges and door hardware, both on the interior and exterior of the house.

One of the highlights featured is the built-in icebox made of heart pine in the kitchen and has an exterior door into which the ice was deposited. With no electricity, the construction of the icebox was such that the ice kept for many weeks. One of the other highlights was the basement which contained the original foundation walls of the 1826 house, which was repointed with new mortar. Once it was opened as offices, it became a model of careful and appropriate preservation - transforming what was once a dumpy building into a splendid example of Queen Anne architecture.

Thanks go to Al Graber for his patient and faithful renovation of the house and the loving care that went into its repainting and restoration, and the recreation of the house into a modern office building. It was truly resurrected from the ashes of the original 1826 building, and now is a fully functional, accessible, office building. The reaction of the large crowds that toured the house, especially the gasps of surprise when they saw the fireplaces and the "lady lamppost" on the bannister of the main staircase - testified to the quality of the renovation and the loveliness the house. ♦

### Sample Photo Contest Entry



**Caption:** This is my toilet paper holder, engraved with the plumber's name who probably put the plumbing in the house originally (1910).

### Contact Information Form:

Name: N. Murphy  
Address: 000 Lee St.  
City, State, Zipcode: Winchester, VA 22601  
Phone: 540-555-5555  
E-Mail (optional): noemail@email.com

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## HELPING HOMEOWNERS



PHW is assisting homeowners in the historic district who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes because of age, disability, or financial circumstances. Plans are in the works for our first project to begin in May. This fledgling program is in need of volunteers and funding. Donations graciously accepted on the PHW web site or via mail to PHW at 530 Amherst St. Winchester, Va. 22601. Persons interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy Murphy at [nvmurphy556@gmail.com](mailto:nvmurphy556@gmail.com) Thank you.

*Left: An image of one of the first projects underway on South Loudoun Street. ♦*

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## BEYER PRINTS AT THE EBS GALLERY

PHW was very fortunate to team up with the Eugene B. Smith Gallery to help us sell our last few prints of Edward Beyer's "A View of Winchester." Edward Beyer (1820-1865) studied art at Dusseldorf Academy in Germany before coming to the United States in 1848. Beyer traveled to Virginia in 1854 and spent three years painting landscape lithographs. The result was the *Album of Virginia*, a folio volume of forty lithographs of mountains and valleys, towns, falls, springs, and spas.

Beyer returned to Germany in 1857. In 1865, at the early

age of 45, he died in Munich. The oil on canvas *A View of Winchester*, signed and dated 1856, is one of only five surviving originals of the artist's works. The original is now owned by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley at 901 Amherst Street.

Prints remain \$190 unframed. You can have your prints framed at the Gallery to your specifications at an additional cost. Visit the Gallery at 25 N. Loudoun St., Winchester, or online at [www.eugenebsmith.com/](http://www.eugenebsmith.com/). ♦

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## SPOT BLIGHT UPDATES



Whole again! The completed façade was revealed in late April.

Since our last newsletter, the construction fence has come down at the former Blind Faith building. The unified façade now sports recreated decorative elements from the remaining Mesker tin façade panels. See if you can spot the replacement pieces!

property was identified as blighted and was threatened by demolition by the City. Instead the Pifer Companies has purchased the building for rehabilitation. In the coming weeks expect to see the faux Tudor stucco and timber treatment removed and a new façade plan more in keeping with our historic district formulated.

In more heartening Spot Blight news downtown, the beginning stages of work are taking place at the former Carper Cleaner's building. Like the Blind Faith building, this

The largest development of all is that in early April we learned the HUD funds for the Taylor Hotel project were approved and plans to retain the oldest portion of the building can at last proceed. In the meantime, stop by the site for a look at the art installation by the Shenandoah Arts Council on the construction fence at the Taylor. ♦

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## CLEAN OUT AND CLEAN UP SALE

PHW is preparing to host a closet clean out sale this summer to make room in the office closets, basement, and attic for fresh items. In addition to older PHW branded items, we will have some fantastic architectural salvage pieces, collectibles, art prints and more. To truly make this a member yard sale, however, we would like you to keep us in mind during your own spring cleaning this year.

**We are accepting in-kind donations of your unwanted architectural salvage pieces, antiques, and collectibles.** You get to clean out some unwanted items and make a tax-deductible contribution to PHW at the same time! To donate an item, please contact the PHW office at 540-667-3577 or [phwi@verizon.net](mailto:phwi@verizon.net). Thank you! ♦



# Preservation of Historic Winchester

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

## NEWS

Spring 2012

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 34  
Winchester, VA

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### May1-June 1: "Uncovering Your Hidden Gems" Photo Contest

See the enclosed flyer detailing how you can participate in this fun and free contest celebrating our local architecture. You could even win a prize!

#### May 19: Fort Loudoun Day

The French and Indian War Foundation is hosting their yearly Fort Loudoun Day activities at 419 N. Loudoun Street beginning at 10 AM. Visit [frenchandindianwar-foundation.org](http://frenchandindianwar-foundation.org) for more information.

#### June 3: Victorian Fashion Show & Benefit Luncheon

Join the Friends of the Old Court House Civil War Museum on June 3, 1 PM at the Barton House in Winchester. Tickets are \$60 per person. Contact 540-542-1145 for more information on this event.

#### June 10: PHW's 48th Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting, to be held this year at the Old Post Office building , 40 W. Piccadilly St. at 2 PM. More information will be mailed soon! ♦

### 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.

\_\_\_ Individual \$25      \_\_\_ Family/Business \$45  
\_\_\_ Corporate \$100      \_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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