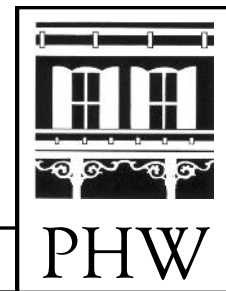


of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.



Summer 2013

Volume 36, No. 3

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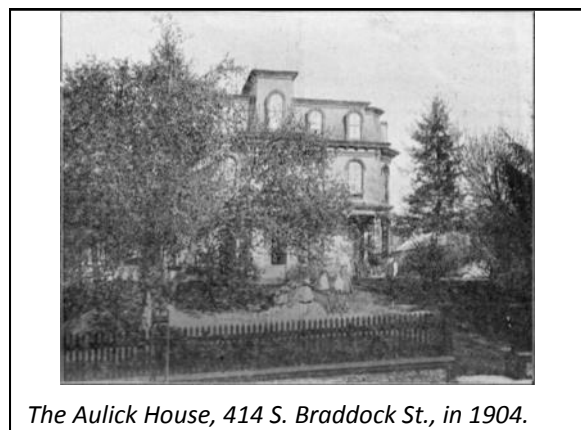
ADVOCACY AT THE AULICK HOUSE BY JOHN BARKER

With the recent flurry of activity regarding the Aulick House at 414 S. Braddock Street, here's an update with what we know right now.

A passerby noticed in March that a section of the house had collapsed and reported it to the City. In executing an administrative search warrant to gain access to inspect the property, City officials, along with structural engineers, discovered that an approximately 100 square foot section of the north side, including a bearing wall, had collapsed. The search warrant only allowed the officials access to the damaged area, not the remaining portion of the house, which is occupied by the homeowner. As a result of this inspection and the engineering reports, the City determined the structure to be unsafe, and in the interest of the public safety, health, and welfare, (including that of the homeowner) moved forward with an ordinance to declare the property a public nuisance.

At the City Council meeting on July 9, 2013, Council voted and passed the ordinance, which included two options of how to abate the public nuisance. Option 1 was to approve funding of approximately \$30,000.00 to be used to demolish a part of the north section of the house and to secure the remaining part of the house. Option 2 was to approve funding of \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00 to repair the north as opposed to demolishing it, along with other portions, to stabilize the house and remove the safety hazard. Council voted to pass the ordinance, and to move forward with Option 1, partial demolition.

Leading up to the Council vote, PHW Directors and members coordinated with Preservation Virginia, Historic Richmond Foundation, and The Virginia Department of Historic Resources to voice our opinions. We met with City Council members and City staff to lobby for the least drastic action to abate the public nuisance, which was Option 2, although the more expensive of the two options. At the Council meeting we spoke during the public forum, to again express our opinions. The homeowner was not present, did not speak on his own behalf, or have a representative present, and no



The Aulick House, 414 S. Braddock St., in 1904.

one else from the public spoke.

PHW has continued discussions since the vote, and we continue to lobby on behalf of this unique house. Right now we are confident that no action will take place immediately. The City will have to proceed with further motions to gain access to the house to determine how or if work can be done with the house occupied, among other things. Recently the homeowner hired legal council.

At this point, our hands are somewhat tied, since this is a private residence and currently occupied by the homeowner. To be clear, it is entirely the homeowner's responsibility to take action to remedy the public nuisance, to prevent the City from doing so. But stay tuned, we will provide updates as this progresses.

I would like to thank all the board members, PHW members, and those that have helped us with your ideas and support. PHW has been represented very professionally, and we are being listened to. If anyone has any questions, ideas, or comments, please feel free to contact one of the board members or myself. ♦

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PHW'S 2013 PRESERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Awards of Merit

- ◆ Celebrating Patsy Cline, 608 S. Kent St.
- ◆ Alec and Lindsay Bouldin and Richard Shannon, 120 E. Clifford St.,
- ◆ Tommy Beavers, 17 E. Monmouth St.,
- ◆ Bonnie Blue Southern Market and Bakery, 334 W. Boscawen St.

Ben Belchic Award

Pat Ritchie, Trish Ridgeway, Bob Grogg and the Handley Regional Library *The Handley Regional Library: The First One Hundred Years*.

Elsie M. Rosenberger Award

Debra L. Johnson for her work at the Bough and Dough Shop since 2010.

Patron's Award

John Chesson for his support of PHW during the renovation of the Samuel Noakes House.

Lifetime Achievement Award

John G. Lewis (see the article on next page).

Special Recognition

City of Winchester for efforts to improve the downtown.

Certificates of Appreciation

Frank Wright, Richard Bell, Mark Lore



Bobby Huntsberry, winner of the croquet tournament, brandishes his mallet and trophy. Photo by John Chesson.

ON OUTGOING PRESIDENT FRANK WRIGHT BY BRUCE DOWNING

Both PHW and the Winchester community lost a valuable resource when Frank Wright decided to move to a warmer climate – specifically Venice, Florida. He joined the board in 2005 as Vice President–Membership. In that capacity he initiated several successful Underground Winchester tours – highlighting Rouss Fire Hall, the Masonic Temple, Winchester Cold Storage, the buildings at National Fruit Products – and a highly successful tour of the Handley Library. “Hiding in plain sight” was how he described these Winchester gems!

Serving twice as President (2007-2009, and 2012-2013), Frank’s leadership was instrumental to several successful Holiday Tours, annual meetings and membership events. I first met Frank and Suzie when they served as docents at my home in 2004 on the Holiday Tour. He got me back involved with PHW and recruited several others to the board and to participation in our activities. He was never shy about asking a homeowner to open their home or asking a business to act as a sponsor for a fundraiser.

A retired attorney, Frank planned and supported PHW’s successful lawsuit in 2007 which blocked city council’s attempt to demolish several structures on South Kent Street – and later coordinated an open house of homes on the street to celebrate their contributions to the streetscape.

A transplant from Dallas in 2003, he had a passion for preservation – and a special appreciation for the unique treasure of our Historic District. He was an eloquent spokesman for PHW in many public forums – and a constant advocate behind the scenes, especially for the Taylor Hotel. He had a weekly happy hour beer (or two) every Friday at Union Jack with then city manager Jim O’Connor – educating him on the Taylor and other projects.

His jolly good humor and ready smile helped make all his PHW activities enjoyable. His energy and his role as a mentor to Sandra was key to PHW’s success in challenging times. Frank’s leadership and smile will be sorely missed – we wish him warmth and happiness in Florida! ◆

HONORING JOHN G. LEWIS

BY KAREN CLAY AND MARK LORE

"In spite of my somewhat jaded, if not acid observations of the (preservation) field and my experiences therein ... It is a real pleasure for the generations to work together and learn from each other." Thus John G. Lewis, an ardent preservationist, knowledgeable architectural historian and PHW board member wrote in the late 1980s. John loved sharing the knowledge he gained from years of restoring, researching and documenting historic architecture in the northern Virginia area and the Shenandoah Valley. As he approached his 70s he said he was pleased to let the next generation continue the never ending fight to preserve Winchester's historic architecture, and yet, John never retired from preservation work.

John and his family moved from Loudoun County, where he restored five residences from 1955-1964, to the Shenandoah Valley where he continued "his crusade to research and document historic buildings." His last restoration project was the Peter Miller House, 422 South Loudoun Street, which he purchased from the PHW Revolving Fund in 1979. John was a purist when it came to interpreting history through architecture and nowhere was that more evident than in his own residence. He believed that history spoke best to us when a building was allowed to represent its own time, not become an interpretation of what the current generation thought it should be. The Golden Rule was an anathema to John. He did not believe that he who had the gold ruled and thus he tried so hard to educate developers, wealthy entrepreneurs and misguided philanthropists from misinterpreting historic architecture.

To that end, John worked as regional representative of the VA Historic Landmarks Commission (now the VA Department of Historic Resources) serving Loudoun, Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William, Clarke and Frederick counties from 1970 to 1980. He worked closely on Historic Register designations, updating photographic files and documenting structures with line drawings. Among other things, as David Edwards of the DHR has written, "This role enabled him to identify, photograph and research over seven hundred historic dwellings, domestic out-buildings such as smokehouses and springhouses, barns, taverns, churches, schools, canal locks and mills throughout Loudoun County." He also served as chairman of Loudoun County's scenic river committee. (Cont. p. 4)



. . . AND A FEW MORE PERSONAL REMEMBRANCES FROM MARK LORE

I met John Lewis in the course of buying his house. That was in 1992; the property was the Peter Miller House, a late 18th c. structure at 422 S. Loudoun St. in Winchester.

My wife Sandy and I drove out from Vienna, VA in the spring of '92 to see the house and meet its owner. What we hadn't anticipated was John's style: a quick handshake followed by an extended architectural history tour. As we trooped from room to room, we were in a house museum with its curator. You get some of the flavor from John's description of the Peter Miller House on p. 196 of his and Virginia Miller's book, *Interior Woodwork of Winchester, Virginia*, i.e. "the original cooking fireplace in the kitchen, with its adzed wood lintel, had been reduced in size with a hand forged iron lintel over the opening", etc., etc.

Wow! Talk about a sales pitch. Sandy and I were completely smitten. To buy a piece of 18th c. Valley history (but with modern amenities)! Where do we sign?

In the years that followed, we got to know John better, both as our rent-back tenant at 422 and as a doyen of the preservationist community. He and his strange little Scout truck were a frequent sight in the downtown. His correspondence was done with an ancient typewriter on which he also composed his handmade holiday cards with decidedly wry and non-Christmassy sentiments. Our routines often put us at the downtown post office at the same time, a chance to catch up with John's often salty observations on the local scene and on local politics.

JOHN G. LEWIS (CONT.)

In 1994 John and avid Winchester historian Virginia Lindsay Miller published *Interior Woodwork of Winchester, Virginia, 1750-1850 With Some History and Tales*, highlighting historical information and detailed photographs of Winchester's architectural treasures. With the 250th founding celebration of Loudoun County he published a book, *Before Progress Came: An Agrarian Lifestyle in Virginia, 1940-1970*, and *Ladies, Liquor and Laughter – Mischief of an Architectural Historian, 1930-1970, Loudoun County, Virginia*, both telling of his years living and working in Loudoun County.

After downsizing, as John said, to an "apartment in the back of the rear wing of a three-story Italianate brick pile" on North Loudoun Street, John left Winchester to live with his daughter on Camano Island, Washington state. It seems that years of back problems had slowed him down physically, but not mentally. He "thanked God for his back problem so he could avoid the Organized Play Period of dances, lectures, tours and all kinds of sports events" constantly "conjured up" by the island populace.

John was above all a self-made, self-identified "Virginia gentleman." His ability to speak and write so authoritatively about regional historic buildings and sites belied the fact that his formal education was limited; as he writes in his entertaining memoir, in his teen-aged years, "[my brother] encouraged me to take a few years off from the education system that had tried its level best to drive a left-handed square peg into a round hole. Any attempt at further education for me would have been a waste of time and money."

We lost John the first time when he moved to Washington State to be closer to family and the second time when he passed away on April 14 of this year. For those of us who knew and worked with John, his knowledge and devotion to the preservation field has been sorely missed when he left Winchester. Harder still is the realization that his iconic typewriter (he never gave in to computer technology) will not be keeping up with the next generation by sharing his bits of wisdom, abundant knowledge and humor.

PHW has recognized John through the years with the Ben Belchic Award for contributing to the understanding of Winchester history, the Elsie Rosenberger Award as a selfless volunteer and in 2013 with the Lifetime Achievement Award. ♦

SANDRA BOSLEY ON LEWIS' LEGACY

I never met John Lewis. His last event at PHW, a lecture on dating your historic house, was held the year before I started working here. Even so, I feel I've gotten a sense of John and his humor through the many photographs, measured drawings, and letters in our files.

When I started at PHW, we were operating from one small office at the rear of the Kurtz Building. Our items had been so shuffled in the downsizing from operating the Kurtz Cultural Center that my first year at PHW consisted almost entirely of opening a drawer, box, or basket and seeing what was inside.

The best days were always when I found a John Lewis file. Just a simple thing, like seeing his crabbed handwriting on the back of a photo or the telltale crinkle of a file full of onionskin paper from his distinctive typewriter let me know I was in for some entertaining reading and insight into local preservation issues.

For example, he addressed correspondence on the Peter Miller House renovation to "Mrs. Pat Zontine, Head of the Hit Squad," and labeled a photograph of a leaning lamppost "Post is leaning, not the photographer!" His insights into the Millbank property during the construction of the water treatment plant were so invaluable they formed a large portion of my M.A. research into the Section 106 and EPA review processes.

On a practical note, it was John's measured drawings of the Hexagon House that made moving in painless. The men from Patton's Movers thanked me for knowing precisely where I wanted the furniture as they unloaded it from the truck; I told them to thank John Lewis.

Seven years later, I've barely scratched the surface of his contributions. His documentation of local buildings will only become more useful as time passes and the recent past is no longer "recent". John's immense body of work will be what seals his legacy at PHW.



422 and 424 S.
Loudoun St. during
rehabilitation, date
given as 1981.
Photo by John G. Lewis.

MARLENA SPENCER ON INTERNING AT PHW

My interest in restoration of historical architecture began with my high school, John Handley High. As I toured the high school in the summer before my freshman year, I fell in love with the neoclassical style, the red brick and white columns, and the marriage of the old architectural aspects with the new modern features. The architecture of my high school played a role in my decision to attend UVA as Jefferson's rotunda echoes the symmetrical balance and red brick and white column look that I am drawn to. Currently, I am a rising second year in the University of Virginia's Architecture School majoring in architectural history with an interest in classical Palladian architecture.

Interning at Preservation of Historic Winchester this summer has been an enjoyable learning experience in more ways than one. Although I had read newspaper articles about PHW, I wasn't aware of the significance of most buildings in the historic district and how difficult it is to preserve them. Since Winchester is an older city, it has an extensive history which took place inside the buildings we drive (or hopefully walk!) by in our daily routine. So I've found that the job of PHW is to document the historical events as well as preserve the historic structures that housed them.

Working with the interactive map on Wikimapia to list all of the historically significant sites in the area has been fascinating and I have developed a better sense of how Winchester was developed and the building patterns of the city. As I sorted through and cataloged the "Out of the Past" articles, I read Winchester's perspective of major events such as the Civil War, prohibition, the great depression, World War I and II, as well as many other events. It

was interesting to read how a small town was affected by or perceived these events as opposed to a big city.

Through working to preserve the history of Winchester by saving the places that are significant, PHW has created a huge collection of articles, books, and slides of various historic sites in Winchester and the surrounding counties. One of my jobs as an intern is to organize and classify the articles by subject or location and enter it into a Word document. As most of these are newsprint, I plan on copying them onto regular white printer paper to prevent any from deteriorating or fading after I organize them by topic.

As I sorted through the news articles on the subject of growth and expansion, I became familiar with when different parts of the city were built or developed. With this timeline in mind, I noticed the different styles of architecture and the blurred lines between each stage of development in Winchester became more clear and defining. I am not only learning of Winchester's architectural history but I have also been introduced to documentation forms that I wasn't familiar with before. I was not familiar with Wikimapia before my time interning at PHW but now that I have worked with it to offer descriptions of historic sites in Winchester, I am more inclined to include it as a resource in my research at UVA.

With all of the history that took place in the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester is rich with artifacts and architecture from many different periods. At the Annual Meeting, it was wonderful to see individual and corporate preservation efforts recognized and celebrated and I look forward to seeing future projects by PHW and its members. ♦

ON THE TRAIL OF THE LOCAL HISTORIC PLAQUES

PHW has received a numbers of calls this summer pertaining to the oval historic plaques. These bronze plaques have been placed on buildings in Winchester since 1967, starting with the Kurtz home at 21 South Loudoun Street. Since then, over 150 plaques have been approved for buildings in the Historic District.

While answering the questions about the plaques this year, we discovered a number of errors in the official list. PHW is working to update the list so that the street addresses are correct and verify the numbers on the plaques (if given) match those listed. To make matters somewhat

more complex, a number of properties were approved for a plaque but have not installed the plaque or have located the plaque in a hard to see place from the street (like the Hexagon House's plaque, which is placed at the main entrance at the rear of the building, or City Hall's plaque, which hangs inside the doors facing Cameron Street).

One final misconception is the PHW issues these plaques. We do not. To apply for a plaque, visit the Planning and Zoning office at City Hall, or download the application for the City's website at www.winchesterva.gov/planning/forms. ♦

THANKS FOR YOUR RENEWALS!

Your membership dollars keep PHW an active and vital organization. Thanks to everyone below for joining or renewing a membership to PHW from January-July 2013. ♦

Welcome, new members!

Steve and Deb Bauserman
The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Bayfield
Mary Bruce and Phil Glaize
Robert Denton
William McClellan
Nancy Tilson Sinback, Top of Virginia
Building Association
Beyond the Fringe - Linda and Phil
Zuckerman

Ann Brady and Gary Farrington
Patrick and Krista Farris
B.J. Fawcett
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Gale
Dr. & Mrs. H. Gaunt, Jr.
Ms. Susannah Godlove
Thomas (Wilke) Green
Phil and Carolyn Griffin
Mrs. Audrey O. Grimes
Kay Hallett
Marilyn Heath & Peter Johnson, M.D.
Betsy and Jack Helm

Roberta Munske
Nancy Murphy
Jim Vickers, OakCrest Companies
Kathy & Ron Oleska
Joline S. Orndoff
Mr. Wayne L. Patteson
Jack and Brookie Phillips
Dorothy T. Pifer
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Prusch
Reader & Swartz Architects, P.C.
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Riley
Tootie Rinker
Mr. Ben Ritter
Ms. Eleanor Rutledge
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Thank you for your renewals!

The Adams Companies - Richard Bell,
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Calvin H. Allen Jr.
Will and Frances Averitt
BB&T c/o Danna Doyle
Beavers Carpentry LLC
Lawrence and Blair Belkin
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Robert & Genevieve Boxley
William "Mac" Bozman
Bill & Cookie Britz
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Charles and Kelly Hyre
Wil and Nancy Johnston
Kee Construction Inc.
Kern Motor Company
Llew and Donna Kitchin
Patrick and Mari Kofalt
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kula
Fran Kysela, Kysela Pere et Fils Ltd.
Dr. & Mrs. James Laidlaw
Pam Lamborne
Richard and Melanie Lewis
Vintage Renovation - David Logan
Sam and Gail Long
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lore
R. A. Magill
Richard and Dorthea Malsbury
B. J. Manuel
Scot and Susan Marsh
Dan and Lisa McCoig
Frederick & Joyce McKay
Dwight and Doris Miller
Mrs. Eleanor P. Monahan

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

PHW's intern for the fall had to bow out due to a schedule change. We are looking for volunteers to assist Sandra with the following tasks:

1. Continuing to update the Wikimapia of Winchester's Historic District
 2. Following up on research requests (may include deed research, trips to the Archives, etc.)
 3. Assisting with ticket sales/answering questions during peak Holiday House Tour times (Nov.18-Dec. 6) by being on hand in the office (mornings preferred).
-

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As the holiday season draws nearer, your friends and neighbors at PHW are busy planning the 37th Annual Holiday House Tour. For many of us this event officially begins the holiday season with its guided tours of the festively decorated historic properties in Winchester. The Holiday House Tour generates the monetary foundation for the financial stability of the Preservation of Historic Winchester. The funds from this event allow us to educate the public and actively pursue preservation efforts in our historic district.

William Faulkner offered a definition of the past as being “the past is never dead. It’s not even past.” As supporters of the PHW we cherish tradition, choosing to embrace and live the history of Winchester. As guardians of the traditions that define Winchester we work diligently to preserve the founding structures allowing future generations of Virginians the opportunity to enjoy the uniqueness of Winchester, where we so proudly reside. In order to continue our mission of Preservation of Historic Winchester we need your support, specifically financial sponsorship of our upcoming Holiday House Tour.

This year we are suggesting the following levels of support all of which include community recognition of your generosity:

Major Event Sponsor: \$1,000.00

Advertisement Program Sponsors – Programs with your ads will be given to all ticket purchasers

Front Cover/Back Cover Included in Major Event Sponsor

Full Page ad: \$250.00

Half Page ad: \$150.00

Business Card ad: \$75.00

We sincerely hope that we may count on your support to continue this cherished local tradition.

Sincerely,

Sharon Collette
Board Member

Please fill out the form below and return to PHW, 530 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA 22601. *Please enclose a copy of your ad.* Call Sandra at 540-667-3577 or email phwi@verizon.net if you have questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Major Event Sponsor: _____

Ad size: _____

Payment Enclosed: Amount: _____



Preservation of Historic Winchester

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

NEWS

Summer 2013

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Photos

Watch the PHW blog for photos from PHW's collection each Friday through the summer and fall.

Sept. 17: Bill Buettin, How to Finance Your Historic Preservation Project

PHW "Lunch and Learn" lecture starting at noon at 126 N. Kent St., main conference room.

Sept. 27 & 28: Rouss City Hall Murder Mystery Tour

Enjoy an educational and mysterious guided tour through the historic Rouss City Hall in Old Town Winchester. Be amazed as you travel through time, discover clues and solve the mystery of who committed the murder in City Hall. Buy your tickets early at the Visitors Center starting Aug. 23 to reserve a spot!

Oct. 3: Chuck Swartz, How to Green Your Historic Preservation Project

PHW "Lunch and Learn" lecture starting at noon at 126 N. Kent St., main conference room.

Oct. 29: Maral Kalbian, How to Research Your Historic House

PHW "Lunch and Learn" lecture starting at noon at 126 N. Kent St., main conference room.

Nov. 12: David Logan, How to Restore and Repair Historic Windows

PHW "Lunch and Learn" lecture starting at noon at 126 N. Kent St., main conference room.

Dec. 7 & 8: PHW Holiday House Tour Events

Mark your calendars for a weekend of activities to kick off the holiday season from PHW. There's something for everyone! ♦

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: _____

GET YOUR NEWS BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS;
FIND PHW ON:

