

of Preservation Historic Winchester, Inc.



Winter 2016

Volume 39, No. 1

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CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

As we promised last year, we listened to your feedback from the 2014 Holiday House Tour and tried some changes to improve the experience. We are happy to report the changes were noticed in our feedback this year. The most commented-upon changes were the tweaks made to the Bough and Dough Shop to improve the layout, item selection, and checkout experience. This change happened because YOU spoke up and told us we had a problem to fix. Thank you!

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP FOR IMPROVEMENT?

We've noticed a rising trend in the past two years of drinks being carried into homes, inappropriate footwear, and photography inside private residences without permission. We will be able to suggest trash cans be placed outside the homes by the house chairmen, and ask for your help as visitors to not take photos inside private residences (yes, even with your cell phones) and wear flat, soft soled shoes to help us prevent potential damage to soft historic wooden floors.

Additional feedback comments focused on the preparedness of the docents and the contents of the scripts. This portion will be much harder for us to change at a "top level" like the Bough and Dough Shop tweaks. However, as we know many of our readers are docents, we have the following suggestions to help you prepare:

- Docents should read through the scripts prior to their first shift. Don't be afraid to ask questions to clarify your script. Things that may be "obvious" to the script writer and home owner may not be obvious to the docent and visitors.
- Don't be afraid to improvise and enjoy yourself as a docent! It is much more engaging to visitors for you to be telling stories instead of reading a list of facts.

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UPDATES ON THE WLT RESTORATION CAMPAIGN

Winchester Little Theatre is so pleased to be supported by this vibrant, dynamic, organization. Photographed amid the construction at the theatre are PHW President John Barker, Executive Director Sandra Bosley, Bough and Dough organizer Debbie Johnson, and WLT President Henry Ticknor.

This year PHW's Holiday House Tour netted the largest turnout to the Bough and Dough Shop in 30 years. The final donation from the Shop proceeds was \$2,738.24, or about double last year's amount! WLT is grateful to be the recipient of the proceeds from this event again this year. PHW has been a significant supporter of our Restoration Campaign and we owe them the "roof over our heads" quite literally.

- Valerie O'Keefe, WLT Publicity Chair ♦



WLT RESTORATION CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

As a supporter of Preservation of Historic Winchester, I pledge \$ _____

- As a single payment
 In installments of \$ _____ over a period of 3 years
 Monthly Quarterly Annually

To the Winchester Little Theatre Restoration Campaign

Donor Information:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Acknowledgement Information:

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

- We/I wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to: WLT Restoration Fund

Return this form to:

WINCHESTER LITTLE THEATRE
RESTORATION FUND
Winchester Little Theatre
315 West Boscawen Street
Winchester, VA 22601

More information on the WLT Restoration Campaign may be found online at:

http://www.wltonline.org/winchester/Restoration_Campaign.html

Winchester Little Theatre is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NATIONAL AVENUE GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE

On February 4, Winchester City Councilman John Hill met with community members at Stephen's Restaurant and Jazz Cafe to introduce the interpretive signage for the local African-American community that will be placed near the National Ave. roundabout. Two additional signs authored by PHW will interpret the impact of industrial heritage on the neighborhood via the



Sandra Bosley presented the checks to Heather Foreman and Chief Kevin Sanzenbacher on at Stephen's Restaurant and Jazz Cafe.

Virginia Woolen Company, with the final sign noting the retreat of the Confederate forces through town after the Third Battle of Winchester. As of the end of February, these signs have been submitted to the Virginia

Department of Historic Resources for review. After some minor comments, the signs have been approved and will next be sent to the sign manufacturer for creation. An installation date is unknown at this time. (Cont. page 4)

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR (CONT.)

- House chairmen AND docents should read The National Trust's "Ten Tips for Being a Good Tour Guide" at <https://savingplaces.org/stories/10-tuesday-tips-good-tour-guide> to prepare for script writing and speaking to the crowds.

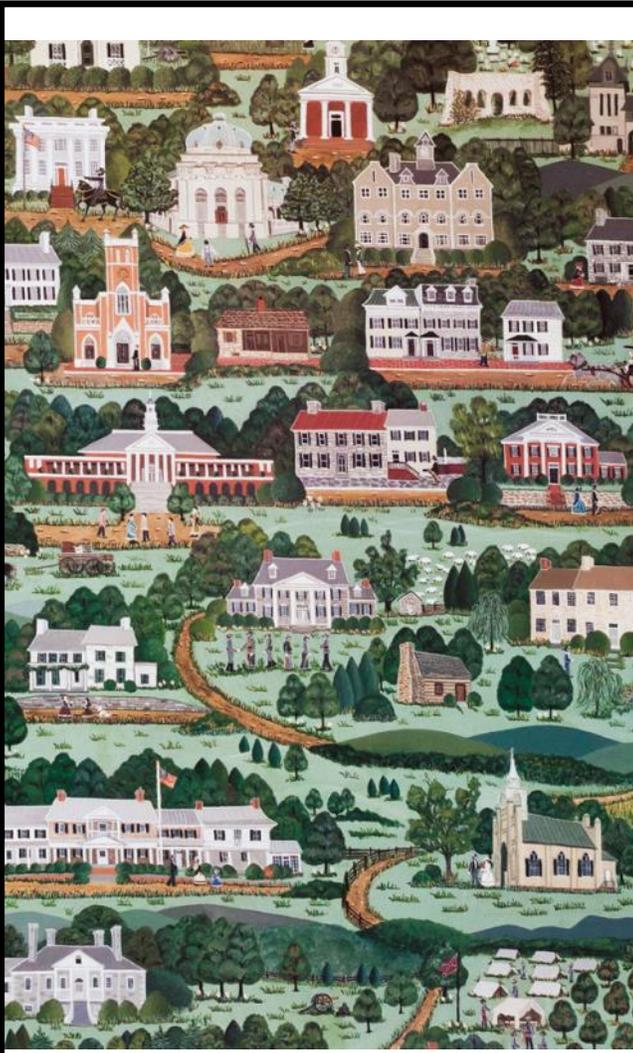
Wait times were not as commented on this year, most likely because of the excellent weather we had on Sunday.

Volunteer manpower to staff the sites for longer hours or open more sites remains a perennial concern. Please help us keep our list of volunteer docents up to date by contacting

PHW at 540-667-3577 to add yourself to the docent list, update contact information, or remove yourself from the list if you are no longer interested in being contacted.

DID WE HAVE A GOOD YEAR OVERALL?

Yes! This was our best year ever for the Bough and Dough Shop, and the best tour since we last visited Amherst Street. Attendance figures were also at a recent high for the tour, with, as best we can discern, over 400 visitors going through the houses on Sunday. Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, and homeowners who helped us make this one of the best tours in recent memory. We hope to continue that momentum in 2016. ♦



THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY TAPESTRY

cordially invites you to attend

A Stitch in Time™

an exhibit of artwork to highlight many of the talented people working on THE TAPESTRY - a large-scale, multi-year community project.

Attendees will be able to admire beautiful artwork, make a stitch in the tapestry and sign their name in the "Shenandoah Valley Tapestry – A Journey through Time" logbook. Those who attend the exhibit will see which historical homes and buildings are being stitched in the tapestry and also have the option to adopt one.

March 1 – April 30, 2016

VIRGINIA NATIONAL BANK,
186 N Loudoun St, Winchester, VA
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am -5:00 pm,
Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

This show is organized by the Winchester Chapter of the Embroiders' Guild of America (WEGA) and the Multicultural Club Collage.

Sponsors of The Shenandoah Valley Tapestry Project:

The Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, The Handley Regional Library and The Friends of Handley Regional Library, The Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild

NATIONAL AVENUE GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE (CONT.)

As part of the beautification efforts around the signage areas, engraved bricks will line the sidewalks. The bricks were ordered through PHW last summer and fall and engraved by Frederick Block, Brick, and Stone. The proceeds after the cost of engraving were split evenly between the Boys and Girls Club and the Timbrook House.

Due to the generous support of Frederick Block and the interest from the community, each organization received \$1,000 to put back into their youth community services. Winchester Chief of Police Kevin L. Sanzenbacher accepted for the Timbrook House, and executive director Heather Foreman accepted for the Boys and Girls Club. PHW was thrilled to be able to help the project to interpret our local history and simultaneously benefit two more worthy Winchester organizations serving Winchester's children. ♦

MOUNT HEBRON CEMETERY INTRODUCTION TO MOBILE FRIENDLY APP

John Lewis, Maral Kalbian, and George Sember will present an introduction to the GPS-based app and walking tours for exploring Mount Hebron Cemetery on Saturday, March 5, 2 PM in the Handley Library Auditorium. ♦

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC WINCHESTER AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Nominations should encompass work completed or expected to be completed within the past calendar year (ending in May 2016). You may nominate an unlimited number of projects and nominate your own projects. See a list of past winners at www.phwi.org/awards.php. Nomination should be submitted **before May 9 2016** for best consideration for a 2016 award. Return forms to PHW, 530 Amherst St., Winchester VA 22601.

Nominations may be submitted for the following categories:

- o Lucille Lozier Award: For the renovation of a significant structure retaining 75% of the historic architectural fabric.
- o Katherine G. Rockwood Revolving Fund Award: For outstanding renovation of a Jennings Revolving Fund property.
- o Elsie M. Rosenberger Award: For the unsung volunteer or volunteers who selflessly contributed to the activities of PHW.
- o Ben Belchic Award: For significant contribution to understanding Winchester's history.
- o Carroll M. Henkel Award: For outstanding leadership for historic preservation in the Winchester-Frederick County area.
- o Patron's Award: For that person or business who has been an outstanding supporter of the goals and programs of PHW.
- o Award of Merit: Houses or buildings whose renovation contribute to improving the character of their neighborhoods and maintaining the overall historic fabric of the city.

Nominee: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Briefly describe the project/activity for which the individual/organization is being nominated. Please include before and after pictures, if available, for rehabilitations.

GET CRAFTY! CINNAMON COOKIE ORNAMENTS

BY SANDRA BOSLEY

Do you need some gingerbread men to decorate your tree or a holiday wreath? This Holiday House Tour, I tried out a simple recipe to create holiday scented ornaments for the Hexagon House. Here's what you need:

Applesauce (3 cups)

Ground cinnamon (3 cups)

Rolling pin

Wax paper

Cookie cutters

Drinking straw (optional)

Cookie sheet

Oven (optional)

Yield: Approximately 25 cookies.

Instructions:

- Mix and knead the applesauce and cinnamon in 1:1 ratio (suggested 3 cups of applesauce and 3 cups of cinnamon) thoroughly. Adjust with small amounts of applesauce and cinnamon if the texture is too dry or wet to roll smoothly.
- Roll the mixture in thick sheets between wax paper. Thicker is better to produce sturdy ornaments. Cut into the desired shapes with cookie cutters.
- To add holes for hanging ornaments, use the drinking straw to punch a hole in the dough.
- To cure the cookies, they may be placed in the oven between 200-225 F for two hours. I flipped the cookies at about the hour mark to help speed up the drying. Alternately, they may be left on a drying rack in a warm, dry location for several days.
- When dried, the cookies may be decorated with paint or glitter to produce the look of frosting and sprinkles. Use your choice of yarn, string, or ornament hangers and then decorate your tree.
- To preserve the scent after the holidays, place the cookies inside a ziplock plastic bag when not in use. To refresh the scent, you may add drops of cinnamon essential oil to the cookies. The cookie ornaments are said to be durable and remain scented for several years if stored properly.
- Remember, although they may smell delicious, the cookies are not edible! ♦

JOIN THE PHW BOARD!

PHW is in need of a few good souls to join our Board of Directors for the 2016-2018 election cycle, including a number of chairmen positions. At the time of writing, we are looking to fill slots for:

Vice President

Secretary

Assistant Treasurer

VP for Membership and Events

VP for Issues and Advocacy

VP for Revolving Fund Acquisitions

If you are interested, please contact PHW at 540-667-3577 or Bruce Downing, our Nominating Committee Chair and presumptive President for 2016-2018 for more information. ♦

SIDE SWIPED

BY WILLIAM CROSBY

There is no doubt that a "siding job" can, and often does, totally wipe out the original character of a historic building. In the worst cases, all the decorative wood trim is removed from the building, reducing even the most ornate Italianate masterpiece into a featureless box of plastic or aluminum. In the best cases, siding is applied only over existing weatherboards, but its application still decreases the projection of door and window frames, reducing the shadow lines and giving the building a curiously "flat" appearance.

Ninety percent of homeowners who buy siding do so because their houses peel and blister, and may have to be repainted in fewer than 10 years. They do not realize that peeling paint may be symptomatic of a house with too much moisture inside.

As warm, moist indoor air passes through interior walls and hits cold exterior walls, it condenses into water, causing the exterior paint to bubble and peel. Slapping siding on a weeping house can trap moisture, creating an ideal habitat for wood-destroying insects, and causing the material underneath to decay. It is like putting a hat on headache – it just does not fix the problem. Eliminating the major sources of moisture may be all that is needed to end exterior peeling: ventilate kitchens and bathrooms with exhaust fans, vent clothes dryers to the outdoors, install dehumidifiers, and vent crawl spaces.

Aluminum will corrode and dent. Vinyl can actually melt and crack and, like all plastic, it expands and contracts. If it is nailed tightly enough to hold through winter, it may expand in distorted, wavy shapes when heated in the summer sun. Once vinyl takes on new, unexpected shapes, it tends to stay that way. Imagine a vinyl record that warps when left out in hot sunlight.

No one likes to paint a house. It is expensive and bothersome, and artificial siding seems like a great alternative. But even though vinyl can be colored throughout, it can still fade. Once it fades – despite the claims of paint manufacturers who are marketing specially formulated paints for vinyl siding – it is very difficult to paint. And once a homeowner begins painting the vinyl, what has he really achieved?

These concerns make it clear that a regular painting schedule and maintenance of wood siding is far preferable to the synthetic stuff. The cold, hard truth is that no material is completely maintenance-free. ♦



Before and after siding changes.



Preservation of Historic Winchester

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

NEWS

Winter 2016

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10: Opening Reception to "A Stitch in Time"

You are invited to an exhibit of artwork to highlight the people working on the Shenandoah Valley Tapestry Project. See page 4 for details.

April 7: Lunch and Learn Lecture

Join PHW Board member John Flood as we learn about Winchester and its frontier origins. Lecture will be held at OakCrest, noon-1 PM.

April 23-30: Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Garden Club of Virginia's Historic House and Garden Tours come to Winchester on April 23 and 24. Find out more at www.vagardenweek.org!

May 14: Kidzfest

PHW plans to set up a booth with family-friendly architectural activities at this event for our National Preservation Month 2016 activities. Please contact PHW if you can take a shift at our table!

June: PHW's Annual Meeting and Awards

Join us for PHW's 52nd Annual Meeting. Don't forget to nominate projects for the 2016 Awards! A nomination form is printed on page 5.♦

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 \$30 ____ Family/Business \$55
____ Corporate \$100 ____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

GET YOUR NEWS BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS;
FIND PHW ON:

