

Preservation of Historic Winchester



PHW's Membership Newsletter

Fall 2017

Volume 40, No. 3

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North End Engagement Plan

Edward Acker

To some extent Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. (PHW) is a victim of its own success within the historic district, as many properties have now been rehabilitated and prices have gone too high for our limited revolving fund to keep up as an effective force. PHW board members have wanted to see PHW become more active and visible again. We think one way to do this is to become more involved with our more diverse communities, such as the North End, that the preservation movement has traditionally bypassed.

The modern historic preservation movement is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Nationally the preservation movement, particularly the National Trust for Historic Preservation under its president Stephanie Meeks, is seeking to broaden the movement's mission into preservation of communities rather than just individual structures, and to also widen the definition of significance to be able to include less architecturally or historically important places, but nevertheless of cultural significance within their communities. The current National Trust theme, This Place Matters, looks to cast a wider net for historic preservation in the next 50 years. This is becoming increasingly important as we are in a nationwide affordable housing crisis, and preservation and rehabilitation of our older communities and housing stock is an important tool in resolving this crisis.

PHW has laid out a two-year plan for engagement with the North End community of Winchester. Centering on community involvement, an open process, and a desire to preserve history; this plan will be conducted in three phases. During the first phase, a series of community outreach events will be held to listen, learn, and develop a more defined set of long and short term objectives and a plan to achieve them. This plan is not cast in stone and subject to change as the community engages.

Basically the first six months (Phase I) will be a get acquainted, meeting and listening period to establish trust, needs, priorities, and steps to move forward as determined by the community. This will be a bottom up, not top down initiative. From PHW's standpoint the North End does have small scale streets with unique character and rhythm of modest vernacular worker housing that ought to be preserved.

PHW would like to stimulate and support good preservation practice in the upkeep and maintenance of this building stock, perhaps lend financial support and technical expertise to some individual rehabilitation projects, recognize those places with special historic or cultural significance that have been obscure, and move forward on other community objectives within the purview of PHW's mission that might come up in the Phase I listening period.

PHW recognizes the strong (and quite justifiable) fear of historic preservation leading to gentrification in poor and underserved communities. To be clear, we do not want to promote a traditional buy-flip to new owner-rehab/restore-program that displaces original owners or tenants from their homes. We are aware that a high percentage of homes in the North End are occupied by renters, many with out-of-town ownership. We also understand that the neighborhood has changed demographically in the last ten years and has become younger and more diverse.

Eventually PHW hopes for a win-win situation: to increase diversity and outreach within and by our organization:

- We hope to grow and diversify PHW membership and leadership.
- We hope to increase the backgrounds represented by PHW and our work
- We hope to jointly make real improvements to the North End.
- We hope to hold Holiday House Tour events in the North End. ◆

Come to the Clowser House!

You are invited to join us at the Clowser House, 152 Tomahawk Trail in Shawneeland on Saturday, September 30 at 1 PM for a PHW "Walk and Learn" tour. This free event will help introduce you to the Clowser Foundation and their efforts to save the ancestral home of one of Winchester's pioneer families. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Directions to the Clowser House from Winchester: Head west on Rt. 50 (Northwestern Turnpike) and turn left onto Back Mountain Road (State Route 614). Proceed until you see Tom's Market on your right. Turn right at Tom's Market onto Rosenberger Lane (State Route 753). Take a left at the intersection entering Shawneeland onto Tomahawk Trail. The Clowser House is the brick house on the right side of the road. There is a small gravel parking lot for visitors. ◆

Holiday House Tour Approaches

PHW is looking forward to a fantastic Holiday House Tour and Bough and Dough Shop on December 2 and 3, 2017. Robert and Tina Marie Scully will host the Preview Party at their home 102 South Stewart Street on Saturday between 6-9 PM. The tour homes include the Strader house at 21 South Washington Street, open for the first time since it has been restored by its new owners Richard and Melanie Lewis, and well as the Dr. Cornelius Baldwin House at 522 South Loudoun Street, known as the home of Lord Fairfax's personal physician and one of the first homes saved through PHW's Revolving Fund. Several other intriguing homes that have either never been on the Holiday House Tour or were last opened more than twenty years ago are in the works at the time of this publication.



At the Bough and Dough Shop, we will have some friendly faces returning with goods you know and love, as well as some fresh faces and products for 2017. As in past years, the proceeds from the Shop sales will be split 50/50 with our wonderful hosts at the Winchester Little Theatre to continue their ongoing restoration of the old Pennsylvania Freight Station.

Keep your eyes out in early to mid-November as the full lineup of houses and ticket information is finalized. Tickets will be sold at Kimberly's, The Final Yard, Wilkins' Shoe Center, Winchester Book Gallery, Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center, www.phwi.org, and the Bough & Dough Shop (December 2 and 3 only) .

In the meantime, we could use your help as we start gathering materials:

Shopping Bags Needed

PHW is once again accepting donations of plastic and paper shopping bags for use at our Bough and Dough Shop. Please drop off any bags at the PHW Office at the Hexagon House, 530 Amherst St. If the office is closed, the bags may be tucked between the back doors to prevent them from flying away. We are especially looking for the larger than standard size plastic shopping bags, but all donations are needed and appreciated.

Greenery for the Bough & Dough Shop

Do you have trees or bushes that need a trim this fall? Don't cut your evergreens quite yet! Below is a list of the types of greenery PHW volunteers will help you trim for the Shop around Nov. 29-Dec.1. Please contact us at the PHW Office to let us know what greenery you have and if you need help cutting or directions on where to bring the trimmings at 540-667-3577 or phwinc.org@gmail.com.

Some desirable evergreens include:

Magnolia, holly (especially with berries), nandina (especially with berries or bright red foliage), cedar, pine (scrub pine with pinecones was popular last year), fir, juniper (especially with berries), boxwood, laurel, Osage oranges, and anything with red or white berries ◆



Preservation
of Historic
Winchester

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

NEWS

Fall 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now-Dec. 1: Donate used shopping bags for the Bough and Dough Shop to PHW.

September 30: Please join us at the Clowser House, 152 Tomahawk Trail in Shawneeland on Saturday, September, 30 at 1 PM for a PHW "Walk and Learn" tour. This free event will help introduce you to the Clowser Foundation and their efforts to save the ancestral home of one of Winchester's pioneer families. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. See driving directions to the location on page 2!

October 31: Deadline for Holiday House Tour advertisers to turn in ads to PHW.

December 2 and 3: The Holiday House Tour and Bough and Dough Shop return for the 41st year! Help out now by making sure your information is current in our volunteer contact list by dropping us a line at phwinc.org@gmail.com or 540-667-3577.

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: _____

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