



Preservation *of* Historic Winchester, Inc.

Membership Newsletter

Holiday House Tour 2019

Volume 42 No. 3

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PHW Celebrates 275 Years of History and Architecture with a Holiday House Tour Through the Centuries

Preservation of Historic Winchester's 2019 Holiday House Tour: Through the Centuries will showcase one home from each century of Winchester's development in celebration of our town's 275th anniversary. Experience the development of the area's history and architecture through four homes exemplifying each epoch of building history in Winchester while enjoying the festive holiday decorations.



After a brief hiatus last year, PHW members are once again invited to our Preview Party on Saturday evening to enjoy a sneak peek at the homes before general admission on Sunday afternoon. Enjoy a members-only Christmas Preview Party and Candlelight Tour on Saturday, December 7, 6 to 9 p.m. The Party will be held in the Obed Waite House, one of the oldest homes in Winchester still in use as a residence. Due to the special nature of this home, ticket sales will be limited to 100 PHW members this year.

The general admission Daylight Tour will be held on Sunday, December 8, noon to 4 p.m. Although the tour is themed for each century, you do not need to visit the homes in any particular order. As in past years, each house is a self-contained unit. You may visit the homes in any order you like, and we encourage guests to spread out among the houses. Read on to learn more about this year's locations!

The Preview Party

**The Obed Waite House,
214 West Cork Street**



The Obed Waite House contains a secret—behind the 19th century facade is one of the oldest inhabited residential homes in Winchester. The original part of the log and stone house was built in 1795 by Obed Waite, a lawyer who came to Winchester, married James Wood's granddaughter, and eventually became Mayor, State Attorney and President of the Bank of the Valley. As his prosperity grew, he added onto the house in 1806 and the 1820s, eventually building 119 South Washington when he outgrew his first home. The house passed in the 1830s to his son-in-law, Washington George Singleton, another attorney who was appointed Clerk of the U.S. Circuit Court by President Andrew Jackson. He was a unionist Democrat throughout the Civil War which resulted in federal court being held in the living room in 1864 and a series of salacious disputes with the Confederate supporting Byrd family across the street.

The Eberhardts, who appear to be the first non-attorneys to own the home, are fortunate that the prior owners cared lovingly for the house. Renovated in the late 19th

century and after the Second World War, the original woodworking, floors, and architectural details have largely been preserved. The Eberhardts have focused on additional restoration of features, such as the fireplaces, and accenting the Federalist architecture of the house by using period colors and removing some of the modern changes, like closets, to the house.

The 18th Century

**The Daniel Morgan House,
226 Amherst Street**



The Daniel Morgan House, home of the Revolutionary War General, was built in 1786 by London merchant George Flowerdew Norton on a slight knoll of Amherst Street known as Ambler Hill. It is one of the few surviving homes of the period to be built of timber frame construction and is among the dozen oldest non-log buildings in Winchester's Historic District. With nearly 7,500 square feet of living space, it also ranks among the Historic District's most spacious historic homes, including an unusually large lot for a city property.

General Morgan, famed rifleman, moved here as his retirement home in 1800 and

reputedly built the western portion of the house in brick. He died in the upstairs master bedroom on July 6, 1802. Found throughout the home are the original Dutch elbow locks, doors, and red pine flooring. Most of the eight mantels date to the 1830s when the house was upgraded by Alexander Tidball. Other major architectural features, including the staircase, room layout, paneling and wainscoting, would have been familiar to Morgan himself. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. Mr. and Mrs. Sember's eclectic collections of artwork, furnishings, and Christmas tree decorations have been acquired during their extensive foreign and domestic travels.

The 19th Century

421 West Clifford Street



Like many architectural trends, textbook-style Victorian-era dwellings were late arriving in Winchester, but when constructed, the buildings rank among the best in style and execution of those found anywhere in America. Built at the end of the 19th century, this home follows the traditional pattern of a Folk Victorian. Based on the richly ornate and polychromatic houses of the elites of society, the Folk Victorian was simplified and designed for the everyday family.

Colloquially known as “painted ladies,” these Victorian-era homes are often painted in color schemes that range from bold and bright to whimsical pastels or soft earth tones to draw the eye to key architectural details. The exterior retains its deeply shaded porch with delicate spindles, a pseudo-tower feature, and complex intersecting gable and hip rooflines. The Craftsman-inspired bay window and otherwise restrained decorative elements on the exterior hint at the coming return of architectural simplicity in the early 20th century.

Over the years this house was used as a boarding house and a private nursing home, hosting people known and forgotten in Winchester's history. It was returned to a single-family dwelling in the 1970s. Current owners Scott and Margie Cullers are in the never-ending process of updating and maintaining while taking great care to preserve the original architectural features of the home.

The 20th Century

512 Courtfield Avenue



Pat and Ellen Mason's 20th-century home features materials and styles from earlier eras, befitting this period of reflection on and

reinterpretation of American construction. In 1938, Raymond Saxe, a local antique dealer, took his builders to Williamsburg to learn about Colonial craftsmanship. They constructed this Georgian-style home with old bricks laid in a Flemish bond pattern.

The interior features mantels, woodwork and hardware salvaged from local buildings which were being demolished. Rich dark pine doors and woodwork create a warm and receptive atmosphere. Stairs rise from a center hallway, flanked by pine-trimmed front rooms used now as dining room and study. Distinctive chair-rail molding lines the walls. Of the six fireplaces, three are in corners, and all feature salvaged woodwork. The dining room is painted in a Williamsburg blue, and the shuttered windows evoke a colonial tavern style.

The Masons purchased the house from the Saxe estate in 1979. Local architects Reader & Swartz designed the addition to the rear of the home in 2005. The furnishings include numerous old pieces discovered when the homeowner was a child, searching at nearby auctions with her mother. Of special interest is a tall case clock made by Clarke County furniture maker Jeff Headley. It is a reproduction of a Christopher Frye-James Martin clock, circa 1795. Headley studied the old clocks and copied them using the same techniques as these renowned Shenandoah Valley craftsmen. The clock has a broken-arch top, hand-carved rosettes, turned finials, and reeded quarter-columns. The face was painted by Jeff's mother, Veda Headley.

The rear of the home opens into a bright and sunny upper-story addition, which functions as a breakfast and sitting room off the kitchen, well-appointed with Amish-made cherry cabinetry. The family tradition is to have a

Christmas tree in the corner of the sun room, which sits high above a terraced garden. Other Mason family holiday traditions include a large collection of nutcrackers, Moravian Star ornaments, and decorations of silver and of needlepoint. Visitors will enjoy seeing abundant greens and floral arrangements by friends from the Hawthorne Garden Club.

The 21st Century

163 Academy Lane



Built in 2006, this contemporary home was constructed for Richard Nanna by Joseph Mohr. It is now home to Bryan and Mary Rhodes. The brick façade, perhaps a tip to the brick and stone Winchester Academy that once stood nearby, shows Neoclassical and Palladian influences, as well as a Craftsman-inspired bay window. The complex and multilevel gable roof lines, however, are a hallmark of early 21st century residential design.

The house is an excellent example of the open floor plan concept, with the kitchen, dining and living areas combined into a single space. In a true post-modern style, the interior features a combination of elements from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The hand-hewn wood mantel calls back to a 19th century joist, but sits in juxtaposition to the large open

space that could only be achieved through its modern steel replacement. Throughout, neoclassical elements like curved pediments, columns, and crown moldings provide a backdrop for mostly modern amenities and interior design, creating what Robert Venturi might call a “calculated ambiguity of meaning.” The house truly brings you through the Centuries of Winchester’s history up to the modern day.

The Bough & Dough Shop

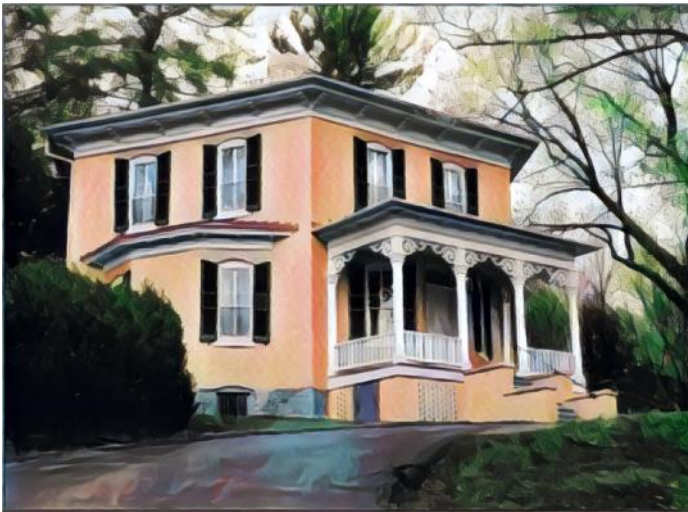
The Hexagon House,
530 Amherst Street

Open to the Public - No Entry Fee

Dates: November 22-December 15
Closed for Thanksgiving

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, noon-5 p.m.

Open until 6 p.m. for Grand Opening weekend November 22 & 23 and First Friday and Holiday House Tour weekend, December 6-8.



This unique six-sided house was built between 1871-1874 by James Burgess. No one knows for sure why he decided on a hexagon, but the house is the only one of its kind in Virginia. The interior is divided into three main rooms around the central hexagonal chimney, connected by smaller interstitial spaces. Today,

the Hexagon House is owned and maintained by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley as office space for Preservation of Historic Winchester and the Shenandoah Arts Council. The PHW office on the first floor will be turned into the holiday Bough & Dough Shop featuring fine artisan goods, foods and fresh greenery, while the Deck the Walls holiday market and art sale will take place upstairs with ShenArts.

The Bough & Dough Shop is a boutique-style holiday gift shop that has been held for over forty years in conjunction with Preservation of Historic Winchester’s Holiday House Tour. You will find unique handmade items by talented local artisans like pottery, jewelry, original fine art, soaps, scarves, handwoven baskets, furniture, ornaments, quilts, glass, greeting cards, and books on local history; baked treats, chocolates, honey, and canned goods, as well as fresh-cut wreaths, loose greenery, and premade bows for your holiday decorating. Be sure to look in every nook for delightful surprises!

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Holiday House Tour does not just take volunteer time and skilled artists; it also takes the support of community businesses which help us cover our printed materials and event costs. We are indebted to the Bank of Clarke County, our major event sponsor, as well as to all the committed advertising sponsors to date: Lisa T. McCoig, CPA; The Shenandoah Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; Dominion Real Estate Associates; Eugene B. Smith Gallery; Hunt Country Wealth Management; Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative; Virginia Dwelling; Belle Grove Plantation; Frederick Block Brick & Stone; and Maral S. Kalbian. ◆



Preservation of Historic Winchester

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

NEWS

Holiday House Tour 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22-December 15: Bough & Dough Shop at the Hexagon House, 530 Amherst St., Tues.—Sat. 10 AM-5 PM, Sun. (December only) noon-5 PM. Stop by for a relaxing atmosphere of boutique holiday shopping. Free hot drinks are always on tap. Food samples may be available throughout the event.

December 7: Preview Party at 214 W. Cork St. and Candlelight Tour of homes for PHW members (limited to 100 guests), 6-9 PM. \$50 for members. RSVP form is inside for reservations by mail; tickets are also on sale now at the Hexagon House.

December 8: Holiday House Tour Through the Centuries, noon-4 PM at 226 Amherst St., 421 West Clifford St., 512 Courtfield Ave., and 163 Academy Lane. Open to the public; advance tickets \$25. Tickets are on sale now at The Final Yard, Kimberly's, Winchester Book Gallery, Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center, www.phwi.org, and the Bough & Dough Shop at the Hexagon House.

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:



Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc.
invites our members to

The Preview Party and Candlelight Tour of the 2019 Holiday House Tour

Featuring four homes chronicling
Winchester's architecture and history
in celebration of our town's 275th anniversary

With a special candlelight reception
at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Eberhardt
214 West Cork Street, the Obed Waite House
Saturday, December 7, 2019
from 6 to 9 o'clock p.m.



RSVP by December 6
Tickets limited to 100

\$50 per person (current PHW members)
\$80 per person (non-members)

Preview Party Reservation Form

Preview Party Tickets are also valid for the Sunday Daylight Tour, Dec. 8 noon-4 p.m.

Adult Ticket _____ x \$50
PHW Membership _____ x \$30 (individual, one year)
OR
_____ x \$55 (couple/family, one year)

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to **PHW** and return this form to PHW, 530 Amherst St., Winchester, VA 22601.
Tickets may also be purchased in person with credit cards, checks, or cash at the Bough & Dough Shop at
the Hexagon House, 530 Amherst St., while supplies last.