



Preservation *of* Historic Winchester, Inc.

Membership Newsletter

Winter 2022

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CONTENTS

Winter Life at the PHW Office

Godfrey Miller Exterior Preservation



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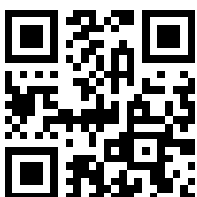
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WINTER LIFE AT THE PHW OFFICE

With the largest event, the Holiday House Tour, of PHW's fiscal year behind us, we have been able to take some time to relax and catch up on smaller projects in PHW's purview. We must start by noting this is the 45th year the newsletter has been published (at least under this numbering system). That this coincided with the 45th Holiday House Tour last December is not lost on us—it's an important marker of when PHW became a "grown up" organization hosting events and publishing updates on a regular basis.

In the wrap-up of our 45th Holiday House Tour, we were very pleased by a few factors—namely, the use of online advance ticket ordering through Eventbrite helped out the office side of the event. A number of guests commented at the end of the tour as they visited the Bough & Dough Shop that three houses was a perfect amount. We were initially a bit worried since five had been our standard number, but the quality of the homes and their superb decorations offset the lack of quantity.

As always, we are indebted to our volunteers who helped pull the tour together, the homeowners for sharing their buildings with us, our sponsors who helped us offset the costs to host the event, and the artists who participated in the Bough & Dough Shop. We are also thankful to have our talented crew of Winchester Little Theatre costumed carolers back in action to add to the festive atmosphere.

We had to drastically scale back the shop for 2021 due to a number of



WLT carolers returned to the House Tour to brighten the event with their beautiful caroling and costumes.

factors that took place over the summer at PHW. Many of you may have heard about the yellowjacket infestation at the Hexagon House. Exactly where they were entering the house was never determined, and we were playing “catch up” by spraying insecticide in the areas where they were congregating and closing the doors to keep them slightly contained. We were still struggling with invasions every time the temperature rose slightly in November and December, and for that reason alone we would not have felt safe having guests through the whole house, nor with having sweets on hand to tempt the little invaders to feast on the wares. We are waiting to see if a repeat invasion is in the cards for us come spring before we make further plans for the scale of the shop.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Undeterred by Covid-surges, Sandra Bosley spoke to two groups in January. First, she visited the Villages at Orchard Ridge for an overview of PHW and its relation to the historic district and current projects, sharing the event with Jason Gottschalk of the Godfrey Miller Center. Some faces familiar to PHW from as far back as the Kurtz Cultural Center days attended. It was fantastic to see and connect with everyone, and we hope we turned a few more people on to the existence and work of PHW.

Next, we set out to talk to the Fort Loudoun Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution about the creation and recreation of the *Winchester: Limestone, Sycamores & Architecture* book. We had a great time sharing our story and catching up with familiar faces and some newcomers alike.

If you have a group or club who might like to hear a presentation from PHW, just drop us

an email at phwinc.org@gmail.com with particulars. Our schedule is usually clear for morning to lunchtime engagements.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND DONATIONS

We are quietly continuing to accept donations made in memory of Dr. James Laidlaw (for, we hope, a future project in conjunction with the MSV) and funds in memory of Sherry Bosley for a local scholarship. We have surpassed \$9,000 in memory of Dr. Laidlaw, and \$4,000 in memory of Sherry Bosley.

In early February, we completed our pledge to the Godfrey Miller Center for \$10,000. The home has currently had windows repaired (including replacing broken glass panes with glass found in the basement of the Center), the shutters removed for repair, and wood elements scraped, patched, and primed. Jason told us the difference is already palpable with the window repairs making the home much warmer!

Be sure to stop by the house through the spring as work continues. We’re sure you’ll enjoy seeing the slow but steady refresh on this iconic downtown building.

You can make a pledge directly through the



PHW, Godfrey Miller Center, and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church members gather at the building for the check handoff.

Godfrey Miller Center website or use the form available at PHW's website (links available on the back page of this newsletter) to join us in supporting the restoration of this local landmark building.

HEXAGON HOUSE BROCHURE

You've asked for it for years, and we are finally preparing to print an informational brochure on the Hexagon House for guests. This pamphlet is expected to cover the history of polygonal construction, the original owner James Burgess, and the history of the building through the present day. No print date is set, but we are tentatively aiming to coincide with National Preservation Month in May. Linda Haile, whose work you may know through the Bough & Dough Shop and other venues, has graciously offered the use of her watercolor image of the Hexagon House for the brochure.

WEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE BLOG SERIES

We are about halfway through our retrospective of the Kurtz Cultural Center exhibits on the PHW blog. We've had a lot of fun looking through our historical files and images to bring a text narrative of this time period together. The digital format doesn't quite give the same feeling as walking through the galleries, and we fully admit we may identify some of our exhibit photos incorrectly, but this portion of PHW's history has benefitted greatly from an expansion and reworking (and in many cases, a first time for image captions). The "West of the Blue Ridge" exhibit was a high point in PHW's work and is probably one of the ways PHW reached some of the current generation of museum and history professionals now working locally (your Executive Director included).

Had we been able to produce a catalog book as we had hoped to do when the exhibit launched, it is likely we would have a second publishing feather in our caps to go along with *Winchester: Limestone, Sycamores and Architecture*. The blog may not quite be the format the work deserved, but we're happy that the posts have garnered so much praise, and we're excited to do a little more editorial polishing and further research on some of these topics with the new resources available to us today.

CITY MEETINGS

PHW has been keeping tabs on the City Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Architectural Review meetings. In addition to the drastic uptick of density-increasing residential applications over the past year, we have noticed one of the common refrains heard at Planning Commission specifically is the start time of 3 PM is burdensome for many people to attend. City Council may also be troublesome for some people, starting at 6 PM.

If you are impacted by a proposal and know you cannot attend these meetings in person, we urge you to submit your thoughts in writing in advance to the following email addresses:

City Council:

clerk@winchesterva.gov

Planning Commission:

plngdept@winchesterva.gov

You may also directly contact members of the city staff and City Council. The staff directory is available at www.winchesterva.gov/staff-directory and council members can be found at www.winchesterva.gov/government/city-council. ◆



Preservation of Historic Winchester

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

NEWS

Winter 2022

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GODFREY MILLER CENTER EXTERIOR PRESERVATION

There is still time to donate to the Exterior Preservation Fund for the Godfrey Miller Fellowship Center. You can find the online donation form at secure.myvanco.com/L-22G6/campaign/C-11TT9 (an “in memory” or “in honor” option is available online as well).

If you prefer to mail in a form and check, you can download the form from PHW’s website, available at www.phwi.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/GMEApledge1021.jpg and mail directly to Godfrey Miller Center, 28 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601.

While you are online, be sure to visit the revamped Godfrey Miller website at godfreymillercenter.org/ ♦

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

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