



Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc.

Membership Newsletter

Late Summer 2023

Volume 46 No. 2

HARVEST AT THE HEXAGON

Every Friday in
October, 4-6 PM

Visit the PHW Office at
530 Amherst St. to
renew your
membership or join
and receive a thank
you gift for free! Items
include pins, small
posters, books, and
more—while supplies
last!

“MORE DOORS” LAUNCH PARTY

Friday, October 6
4-6 PM

Celebrate the
completion of the new
“More Doors of
Winchester” poster at
our launch party
during our first
Harvest at the
Hexagon event!
Posters are \$15/each
plus tax.

CONTACT

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www.phwi.org

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL

We had an unexpectedly busy summer at PHW, filled with some ups and downs of preservation, new programs, and a new poster printing. Here’s our end of summer recap:

PHW’S ANNUAL MEETING

We kicked off our 59th year at PHW by the first official use of the Laidlaw Amphitheater and the first awarding of the Sherry Bosley Scholarship to local student Lucas Mamana. We were also delighted to bring Ben Ford on as a new member of the PHW Board of Directors. If you missed the event, we had a fantastic day filled with preservation success stories and many shared memories of people and places important to Winchester. We extend our congratulations again to the following award recipients for 2022-23:

AWARDS OF MERIT:

Winchester Public Schools, Old Frederick Douglas School, 598 N. Kent Street

The Clowser Foundation, The Clowser House, 152 Tomahawk Trail
Randy Sprouse, 115 E. Cecil Street

Vibrissa Beer and North Kent Properties, 2 N. Kent

Joshua Feltner, 309 N. Kent Street

210 South Cameron, LLC, 210 S. Cameron Street

KATHERINE G. ROCKWOOD AWARD:

JMMB Properties, LLC, 609 S. Cameron Street

BEN BELCHIC AWARD:

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum “One Story...A Thousand Voices”

PATRON’S AWARD:

Barbara Laidlaw

LUCILLE LOZIER AWARD:

Jennifer Wolgamott, 202 S. Washington Street

411 AND 514-520 SOUTH LOUDOUN

PHW was approached prior to the public hearing on the demolition on 411 South Loudoun St. at the Board of Architectural Review if there was a way to save the building. We made our statement at the public hearing on July 20, understanding the property was still owned by the Gavises and the initial purchaser whose family had constructed the building could not complete the sale. A number of people reached out to PHW about the property’s potential for purchase, and we worked with one



PHW President Bruce Downing and honorary council member Barbara Laidlaw pose for the dedication of the Laidlaw Amphitheater at the Hexagon House on June 25, 2023.



514-520 S. Loudoun St., partway through demolition on September 11, 2023.

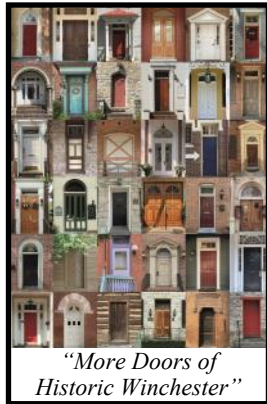
potential buyer to be ready to step in should the Gavises be willing to sell.

Unfortunately, a sale was not something the Gavis family wanted to pursue. Their desire was to demolish the entire building and retain ownership of the land. Judge Iden attempted to facilitate a sale with the potential buyer and the Gavises at the August 28 court hearing by explaining the potential purchaser was not affiliated with the City, but there was a refusal to enter any sale negotiations. It is a truly unfortunate loss, as the main block facing Loudoun could have been rehabilitated.

As of the time of writing, the townhouses at 514-520 S. Loudoun are in the process of demolition, and it was stated 411 S. Loudoun will come down as soon as the townhouses are demolished. By the time you receive this newsletter, it is likely both lots will be cleared.

MORE DOORS OF WINCHESTER POSTER

Last newsletter we teased a special secret project, and to balance the more disappointing preservation developments on South Loudoun Street, we're delighted to make the official announcement this newsletter. You might have seen some PHW faces peering at doors around downtown this summer. This was part of our next publishing effort, a new version of the popular "Doors of Winchester" poster created by Gerry and Bo Hughes. We received their blessing to proceed with a spiritual successor, using new photographs but following their same guiding principles from the original.



The sequel is a standard poster size of 18"x24", containing 36 doors on a black background. Some doors are the same from the original, but many are new for this edition. In a nod to our sister organization Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, we dubbed the second version "More Doors of Historic Winchester" as a nod to their sequel publication "More Images of the Past." Our first printing will be for 250 copies.

To celebrate the completion of this oft-requested poster, PHW is hosting a launch party on Friday, October 6, 4-6 PM at the Hexagon House. Stop by and pick up your own copy—they are affordably priced at \$15 plus tax, and a companion key will be available if the door locations get your stumped. The photographers will be on hand if you want a signed copy or to chat about the poster's creation.

HARVEST AT THE HEXAGON EVENT

We're excited to bring back a classic PHW event of yesteryear in a new format! Longtime members might recall Autumnfest activities held in the 1980s at the Hexagon House, which were later rebranded to Memberfest. We're reviving the fall festivities this year for a full four Fridays of fun. Visit the PHW Office at 530 Amherst St. Friday afternoons, 4-6 PM, in October to join or renew your membership and receive a thank you gift for free! Items include pins, small posters, books, and more—while supplies last!

You have four options to stop by the Hexagon House: October 6, October 13, October 20, and October 27. The first date will coincide with our launch party for "More Doors of Historic Winchester," while the last coincides with the wrap-up date for our 2023 Holiday House Tour booklet assembly. Stop by any or all of those days for fall fun! ♦

TIME TO RENEW?

Fill out this form and return it to
PHW, 530 Amherst St., Winchester, VA 22601.
All contributions above membership are tax deductible.

Individual \$30
 Family/Business \$55
 Corporate \$100
 I have included an extra donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MICRO GRANTS PROGRAM

Do you live in the Winchester National Register Historic District? Do you need to do some work to your property? PHW may be able to help! This summer, PHW finalized the Micro Grant Program, which is intended to fill a financial gap in support for homeowners to maintain their historic residences. The grant is intended as a one-time payment to subsidize repairs, maintenance, or restoration of missing historic features on the exteriors of buildings. You might qualify if your building is:

- ♦ An owner-occupied residence located within Winchester's National Register Historic District OR
- ♦ A structure owned by nonprofit, religious or educational institution
- ♦ The proposed work will preserve, restore, or maintain the exterior of the building

The first round of applications are due January 31, 2024. Learn more and download the application at www.phwi.org/grants.php