

Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.

May-June 2004

Carter Hudgins Elected President of HFFI Declares "Time to Move Forward"

Mary Washington College history professor Carter L. Hudgins has been elected the new president of the Board of Directors of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation.

Originally from Franklin, Virginia, Hudgins arrived in Fredericksburg and MWC in 1984. From 1993 to 2000 he took leave of absence to serve as Executive Director of the Historic Charleston Foundation. Upon his return, he was named Distinguished Professor holding the Hofer Chair of Early American Culture and Historic Preservation. He also is currently chairman of the History Department.



"I appreciate the support of the members of HFFI" says Hudgins. "We have a long tradition, respect in the community, and resources available to us. I intend to continue our many traditions, especially the Candlelight Tour. But Fredericksburg is facing change, bringing preservation challenges which only new programs and a stronger voice can address. It is time to put past divisions behind us and move HFFI forward to meet these challenges."

Carter Hudgins has been married for 31 years to wife Donna. Their three children include Carter, now pursuing a PhD at the University of London; Cary, who is with the Bank of America in Charlotte,

N.C., and Caroline, a graduating senior at James Monroe High School who will soon attend the University of South Carolina.

A graduate of Richmond University and a Vietnam veteran, Hudgins received his MA in history from Wake Forest, and completed his PhD at William and Mary.

NEW BOARD INAUGURATED

HFFI inaugurated a new 25-member board during the March 28 Annual Meeting, with nine new directors joining the HFFI Board for their first term.

New board members include Sue Bridi, Vice President of the National Bank of Fredericksburg; Georgia Sutton Buchanan, partner in the law firm of Gardner, Maupin, Sutton & Haney; Steve D'Lugos, Sales Center Vice President for AT&T; Dan Finnegan of Dan Finnegan Studio Pottery; Karen Hedelt, Tourism Development Manager for the City of Fredericksburg; John Hennessy, Assistant Superintendent of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park; Mari Lucey, local author and businesswoman; Bea Paulucci, Operations Officer of HGP Inc.; and Helen Ross, Cultural Resource Manager for VDOT.

Incumbents Carter Hudgins, Barry Kefauver, and Mike Naggs were also re-elected.

The following returning incumbent directors were not due to stand for election this year: Barbara Fant, Raymond Herlong, Maggie McCormack, Catherine Nottingham, Mary Jane O'Neill, Tomi Reneau, Cedric Rucker, Sandy Staley, Shaun Sullivan, Cathy Wack, Mary Ellen Wheeler, Bob Whittingham, and Barbara Willis.

Officers for FY-2004 are:

President - Carter Hudgins
Vice President - Shaun Sullivan
Treasurer - Cathy Wack
Secretary - Mary Ellen Wheeler

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Oral History Project Nears Milestone of 100 Interviewees

The Oral History Committee has elected Tomi Reneau, board member, as chairman of the 2004-5 Oral History Committee and Nancy Bruns as co-chair. Three interviews for presentation in 2005 are in progress and several others are planned. The committee's goal is to add 10 interviews to those already collected.

Sue Willis, new board member Helen Ross, and Judy Lamasure are returning as interviewers and there are three new interviewers.

The Historic Fredericksburg Foundation established an oral history project in 1997 with the goal of gathering information on the history of the Fredericksburg preservation movement. The early days for the fledgling preservationist group had been almost as memorable as the buildings and the ambience the organization was founded to protect.

From this beginning, the oral historians came to a quick realization that there was more to capture than the preservationists' struggle, and the Oral History project broadened to gather the story of the town and the area as it had been witnessed in wars, Depression, desegregation, integration and change of all sorts.

To date, the Oral History Project has produced 80 oral histories although in several cases a volume may include the remembrances of both husband and wife or in two cases the stories told by two sisters. In two instances, interviews have been withheld at the request of the subject. Three current interviews are works in progress. To date, project interviewers have interviewed 83 people which represents at least 2000 volunteer hours on the project.

Interviewees for 2002-2003:

Davis Cooper, Helen Ross, interviewer
 The Rev. Ted and Tomi Cunningham, Tomi Reneau, interviewer
 Jimmie Forbush, Nancy Bruns, interviewer
 Warren Forbush, Tomi Reneau, interviewer
 Lana Brooke Sneed, Judith Lamasure, interviewer
 Carlton Onderdunk, Tom Lyons, interviewer
 Frances Buckley Pratt, Jane Kosa, interviewer
 Dr. David William Scott, Jr., Sue Willis, interviewer
 Judge J. M. H. Willis, Jr., Carolyn Carpenter, interviewer.



Thomas Hart Named New HFFI Director

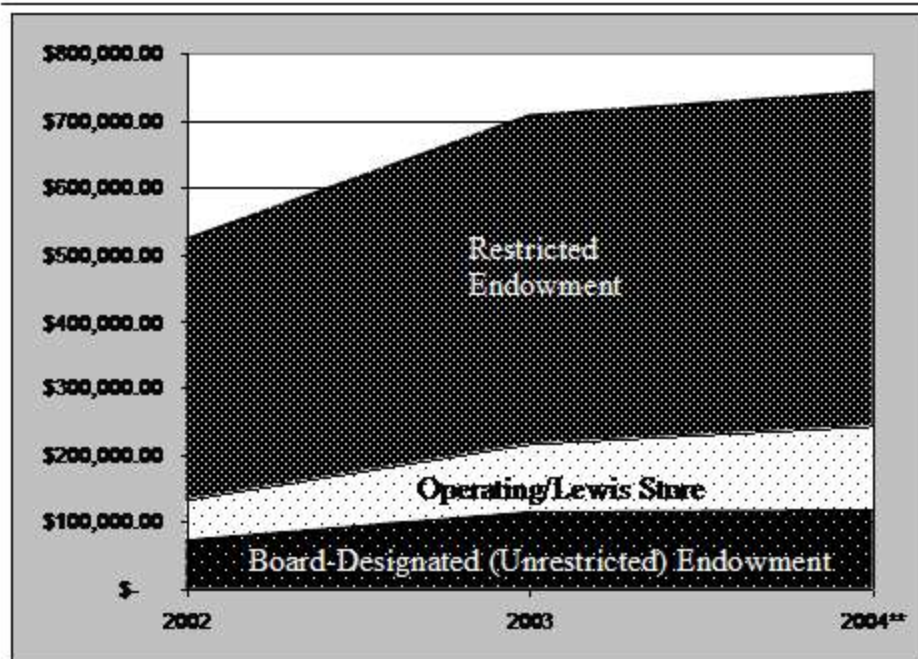
The HFFI Board of Directors has selected Thomas Hart as the new Executive Director of the foundation.

Tom earned an MA degree in Historic Preservation in August 2003 from Goucher College in order to change careers. "I am amazed and delighted to have landed at HFFI" he says.

Until this past October, he had spent 27 years in the State Department as a Foreign Service press and cultural officer. He has served in several African posts as well as Tel Aviv and Bangkok.

Originally from Connecticut, Tom lives in Alexandria but has been looking for a home in the area.

Tom has been married for 21 years to Beatrice, and they have two children: Andrew is 15 and 'a skateboarder,' while Sandra is a sophomore at Princeton.



ENDOWMENT REBOUNDS

HFFI's endowments and other accounts have rebounded from 2001's downturn in the financial markets.

According to the foundation's financial management firm, Legg Mason, HFFI accounts totaled \$744,300 on March 31, up from a total of \$524,400 at the end of 2002.

The foundation's long-term accounts include the Restricted Endowment, consisting of monies which have been donated for specific purposes of the Foundation, the Board-Designated Endowment, which lacks any such restrictions, and the Lewis Store/Operating account, which provides a combination of liquidity and earnings.

According to HFFI financial advisor David Eubank of Legg Mason, "the success experienced by HFFI in the growth of their investment accounts can be attributed to a formal investment policy requiring a diversified portfolio of stocks and fixed income. It has been a pleasure to watch the growth of the two endowment accounts and the Lewis Store/Operating account."

Incoming Board President Carter Hudgins comments "One of the strengths of HFFI is a strong resource base due to the extraordinary past generosity of members of the community. We will make sure this tradition continues and work to grow the endowment. At the same time, we will draw on endowment income — without invading our capital — to expand the programs that serve our preservation mission. After all, that is the purpose of the endowment."

Marker Program Approaches 200 Plaques

Historic Fredericksburg's Research and Marker Program is about 20 years old. After some basic training by John Pierce of Mary Washington College, a small group of dedicated researchers began the program, which to date has turned out 234 reports for the owners of various buildings in Fredericksburg. To date, there have been 193 markers hung.

From rather humble beginnings, where we handed to the homeowner a two or three page typed report, the program has evolved through the years. Many of the researchers are now computer literate, and we often hand the homeowners reports that are fifty or more pages long.

According to returning Marker Committee Chairwoman, Sandy Staley, "We really owe everything to our researchers. They are fantastic." Their reports include not only the chain-of-title, but maps, photos, insurance policies, news articles, and any other articles of interest that tell the tale of the building and its occupants."

The bronze markers that are attached to the front of the buildings that have been researched tell the construction date of the building, as well as the original owner.

The National Bank of Fredericksburg donated the first thirty markers, which were attached to the facades of prominent public buildings in town, including museums, churches and government buildings.

Garage Task Force Tours Other Examples as Debate Continues

The "Historic Preservation Task Force" for the proposed new municipal garage, with HFFI participating, met on April 19 and May 20th, with a tour of new garages in Charlottesville and Staunton on May 10.

The task force met after debate before the City Council on April 13 on the suitability of the proposed garage design for the site behind the municipal tower at Sophia and Wolfe St.

The original design (below right) would have appeared as a four-story structure actually containing five parking levels, with vertical elements to give the impression of a series of smaller buildings. A revised design presented May 20 reduced the plan by one apparent story and one level. Thus the current proposal is lower than the illustration at right.

April 19 discussion at the Historic Preservation Task Force focused on the level of detail in the façade. Use of the proposed modular "double T" unit construction reduces costs and building time, but as the illustration shows, offers a reduced level of detail and a flat façade. An alternative is the more expensive and slower "poured in place" method presented May 20.

On the May 10 tour, attended by Tom Hart for HFFI, task force members and city officials saw two excellent examples (pictured) of a third method. In Staunton and at the Darden School, modular construction is faced with a detailed hand-laid brick façade.

At the May 20 meeting, the architects (Wisniewski Blair of Alexandria) and developer (Donley's Inc. of Cleveland) produced new sketches and a model showing the scale of the structure in the neighborhood. Monroe Museum director John Pearce also presented a computer simulation of the massing of buildings on the block.

Even planning and preservation-minded citizens attending made favorable comments on the reduced mass, the lower roofline from the Caroline street perspective, and the sympathetic façade intended to evoke 19th century shop buildings.

Discussion ensued as to whether the "shop front" look was the best for the (now largely lost) historic context of Sophia Street, and whether this would set a precedent for the style of future development along Sophia. The architects were asked to return with alternatives with industrial, 18th century, or tobacco warehouse design cues. The tenor of the meeting was clearly to proceed with the three-story, four-level, 300-car concept.

Nevertheless, concern was voiced that the garage was being undertaken at the initiative of the developer rather than in the context of a city plan for Sophia Street, and separately from, or without, a new traffic/parking study.



Top to bottom: Neoclassical Garage at the University of Virginia's Darden Business School, garage with mock-shopfronts echoing street style in Staunton, Virginia, and photomontage of proposed garage on Sophia Street.

HFFI Annual Financial Statements



The Board of Directors received the following financial statements showing a strong year financially for the Foundation with a net increase in assets from activities and investments. The foundation owes its thanks to Kitty Fahey, Sandra Regelbrugge, Cindy Reenolds and Russell Roberts for their work to ensure and document this success.

HISTORIC FREDERICKSBURG FOUNDATION, INC. STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION		HISTORIC FREDERICKSBURG FOUNDATION, INC. STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash—Donor Restricted—Lewis Storr			
Cash—Donor Restricted Other			
Cash—Board Designated Endowment			
Cash—Board Designated End. Excess			
Cash—Operating			
Accounts Receivable			
Inventory			
Prepaid Expenses			
Total Current Assets			
Property & Equipment			
Less Depreciation			
Total Property & Equipment			
Other Assets			
Restricted Endowment Investments			
		<u>2/28/03</u>	<u>2/29/04</u>
	REVENUE		
	Unrestricted Donations	\$ 54,025	\$ 812
	Restricted Donations	60,303	16,410
	Special Events	118,706	117,522
	Membership Dues	32,260	31,605
	Merchandise Sales	4,615	5,183
	Rent Income	7,315	7,145
	Market Program	2,900	2,440
	Net Investment Income	(11,294)	118,513
	(Loss)		
	Non-Cash Contributions		450
	State Grant Income	12,057	
	Other Income	<u>170</u>	
			407
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ <u>281,057</u>	\$ <u>300,487</u>
	EXPENSE		
	Salaries	\$ 54,327	\$ 55,502
	Special Events	57,134	56,223
	Administrative Operations	25,806	29,045
	Insurance	5,003	6,333
	Payroll Tax Expense	4,156	4,265
	Depreciation	6,193	6,039
	Market Program	2,047	1,430
	Cost of Merchandise Sold	<u>4,593</u>	<u>2,453</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ <u>159,259</u>	\$ <u>161,290</u>
	INCREASE- NET AS-	\$ <u>121,798</u>	\$ <u>139,197</u>
	SETS		

VOLUNTEER CORNER

HFFI Wants YOU!

PLEASE call Mary Kay at 371-4504 - she needs help!!

And our
Thanks to:

Bobbie Blacklock	Pat Carmine
Pat Corbett	Joan Diener
Corra N. Earley	Sarah Hill
Nancy Hayden	Nancy Hoch
Nancy King	Janet Moss



BAKE SALE

MARKER HOLDERS!

Is your house being painted this summer? If so, please call the office at 371-4504 for our FREE bronze marker removal and reattachment service. Foundation volunteers will remove your marker, keep it until the painting is complete and then reattach it.

Idlewild Update

It now has been a little over one year since the devastating fire raged through Idlewild, the Gothic-revival style estate once used by Robert E. Lee as his headquarters. The fire destroyed all but the four brick walls and one parlor room. Idlewild will pass into the hands of the City of Fredericksburg within the next few weeks and, from that point on, its survival will depend on the decisions made by our local government officials as to who will take stewardship and what the final plans for usage will be.

The mansion is holding up remarkably well at this time. The exterior walls are still standing after Hurricane Isabelle and the small earthquake last year. Vandals have been at work on a regular basis, but HFFI members have been watching the property, calling in police reports to document the latest violations of the site, and repairing and replacing items damaged by pot hunters and vandals.

The property is on the site, soon to be developed, behind Home Depot. With

the new construction nearby, the roads to the mansion are more open than ever before and pose a new threat to security to the property.

A recent trip to the site resulted in repair of damage to the kitchen and of a portion of fence cut by trespassers. Such piecemeal preservation is keeping the site vi-



April 14, 2003: Idlewild Burns

able at this point, but Idlewild is in need of serious help very soon. The mortar on the dependencies and at places on the mansion needs immediate attention with some of it actually turning to powder in your hands. Cracking is also very evident and needs immediate repair. Bricks above windows in the mansion are sag-

above them. The tops of the mansion walls need to be either capped or a roof structure of some sort needs to be erected to protect the remaining structure against future water damage. Most importantly, the site needs a security system to protect it from trespassers and vandals.

Membership Update

Historic Fredericksburg Foundation welcomes the following former and new members:

Rob Allen
 Kristin Burns
 Clare Cote
 Nicky & Steve Cymrut
 Paul Cymrut
 Josh Duncan
 Dan Finneegan
 Carol & Ellen Fortunato
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Helfrich
 John Holloway
 Sara Johnson
 Kenny & Allison Johnson
 Mrs. William O'Donoghue
 Penny Parrish
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Scaife



604-A William Street • Fredericksburg, VA 22401
 540 371 4504 • Fax 540 371 4505
 hff@earthlink.net
 www.hff.org

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #257
 Fredericksburg,
 VA 22401

Inside This Issue:

New President, Board, and Executive Director

Parking Garage, Idlewild, Endowment